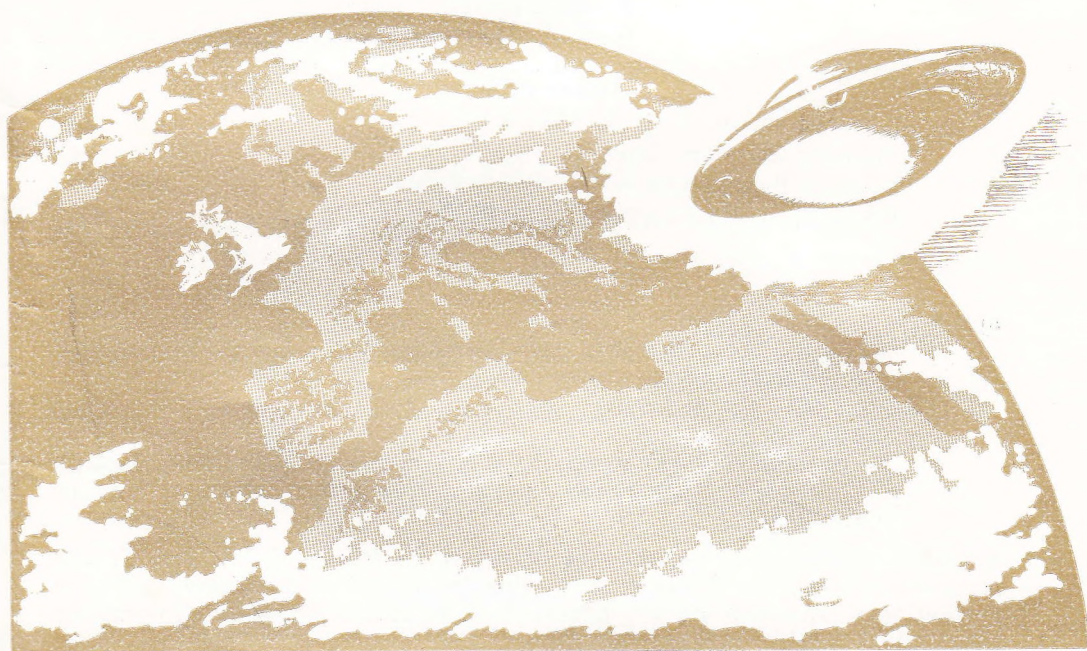


# BUFORA

JOURNAL

Volume 3 No. 11 Summer 1973



Published by The British U.F.O. Research Association

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### **AIMS :**

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

**MEMBERSHIP :** The annual subscription is £2.40, \$6 U.S.A. and Canada. Membership is open to all persons supporting the aims of the Association and whose application is approved by the Executive Committee. Application/Information Forms are obtainable from any Officer.

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# THE BRITISH UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

Founded 1964

(Incorporating the London U.F.O. Research Organisation, founded 1959  
and the British U.F.O. Association, founded 1962).

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## THE BUFORA JOURNAL

Volume 3      Number 11

Summer 1973

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### An Appreciation on 'Taking Over'

The first experience my predecessor—John Cleary-Baker—had of the Journal's challenge was when he took over the editorial reins with the Spring 1965 issue. As he wrote at the time, he had been 'pitchforked into the job at a moment's notice.' It speaks volumes (if readers will forgive a feeble pun) for John's determination and devotion to Ufology, that not only did he successfully produce that particular issue, but continued to do so at the requisite intervals for a further eight years—no mean feat by any standard.

As his successor I am delighted he will be remaining with BUFORA as the Association's Historian—no one is better qualified than he—and that his eloquent counsels will remain at our disposal for, I trust, many years to come. It is also a personal source of satisfaction to know that John's experience and knowledge appertaining to the Journal is available to me: he is a valued friend and one whose advice I have also valued since first I joined BUFORA.

For those eight years of unstinted effort, John, I offer a sincere THANK YOU on behalf of the Association and myself; may my own efforts not seem pale by comparison.

NORMAN OLIVER.

# EDITORIAL

The purpose of our Journal I regard as threefold:—

FIRSTLY, it should report Association events, lines of investigation, types of research and generally keep our members abreast of Association affairs. By doing so it also ensures that other Societies and outside bodies are made fully aware of our own aims and efforts.

SECONDLY, it should keep members informed of current ufological reports, events, ideas and speculation, both in Britain and Overseas.

THIRDLY, it should provide members with a vehicle in which to present their own opinions and ideas.

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Readers have a right to know their Editor's own ufological viewpoint: mine may be summed up as follows:—

Whilst I would like to consider—as would, I believe, the majority of ufologists—that the ETH approach is the correct one, it is impossible and wrong to exclude the many other theories that may account for part or the whole of the phenomena we are investigating. In this regard I would refer to the March/April '73 Flying Saucer Review editorial which made an extremely good point in advising us not to limit our horizons solely to the ETH and criticising those who would have us do so.

My own article "Calling All Researchers" in the Autumn '72 BUFORA Journal which advised ufologists not to abandon the ETH altogether also comes to mind, and it is only necessary to read both items carefully to discover they are not contradictory, but complementary: in Ufology, NO possibility should be ignored, and—quoting my own article . . . "What is required is a recognition that no type of approach can be ruled out, since if we knew what we were researching we wouldn't be researching to discover it."

The Flying Saucer Review editorial told us—and again I would commend the sentiment—that "We prefer not to plough our furrow so deep that we are totally incapable of seeing beyond the sides." However, I would also respectfully suggest, to paraphrase a well-known saying, that the furrow should neither be so deep that one discovers everything about nothing, nor so shallow that one ends up by discovering nothing about everything!

NORMAN OLIVER.

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

Articles and items for inclusion in the Journal must be sent direct to the Editor and not to other BUFORA officers. Requests for permission to reproduce material from the Journal should also be addressed to the Editor.

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# LET'S LOOK AROUND . . .

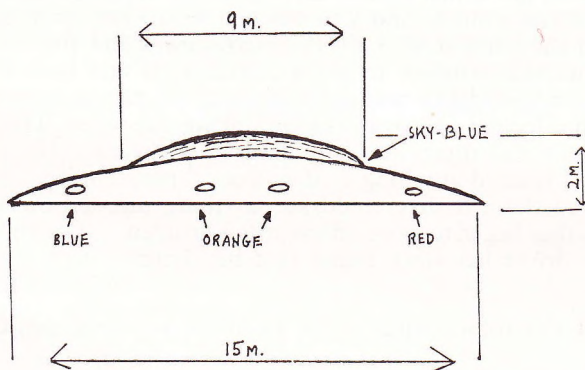
Our Investigations Co-ordinator tells me there is a dearth of interesting investigated reports at the moment, which gives me the opportunity to present what I consider to be some really intriguing past and present occurrences—how about this for a start?

## GIRL FLEES AS UFO DISSOLVES . . . . .

translated from the Danish by **Richard Farrow.**

This incident took place on October 4th, 1967 from 2211—2212 hours on the road from Taps to Odis about 1km from Taps, Denmark (55°15'N. 9°30'E.). The only witness was a 16 year old secondary schoolgirl, Miss Birgit Skovsgaard Nilsen, of Odis.

I have often heard ufologists and/or investigators say that one cannot rely on the details in reports by children or teenagers. I believe this to be a completely false idea and would say that children and teenagers are just as observant and reliable as the average adult, if not more so. I will give the account of this incident in the witness's own words as it is a good example of how observant and reliable a teenager can be.



“ I was cycling towards Odis and as I got to the top of a hill I noticed some light coming from behind and thought it was a car's headlights. I turned around and saw an object hovering silently above the road. It was in a dip about 20 metres in front of a farm and I was about 30 metres in front of the object. I dismounted and gave it some thought so that I would not become frightened, but just observe.

" I thought that I should try to estimate the details. With the help of the road's width, 9 metres, I could estimate the size and distance. Between two fingers I measured the object's length and compared it with the height above the ground. The height above ground was about 10 metres. The object was very flat, maybe only a couple of metres high. There were four different coloured lights which were pulsating. The top part was illuminated sky-blue. The object was a mixed blue-white, like a welding-flame.

" After I had ascertained all this, it looked as if the bottom part of the object dissolved and I became frightened and rode away at full speed. When I came to a sharp bend in the road I looked back and saw that the object had gone."

\* \* \* \* \*

The foregoing report had not, to my knowledge, previously been printed, but these next two—also supplied by Richard Farrow—appeared in GEMINI Vol. 1, No. 3 . . .

*Time* : Around 0400.

*Place* : Borregaard, Sarpsborg. (59°17'N. 11°08'E.).

*Witnesses* : Roald Stensrud, Sarpsborg. Taxi driver. Also two teenage passengers.

Roald Stensrud was driving two passengers from Skjeberg to Greaker in Sarpsborg. When they were at Borregaard Hill the car's headlights began to pulsate, becoming dimmer till they finally went out. He noticed that the ammeter was indicating a high discharge so he stopped the car and turned off the engine. (The engine did not fail whilst he was driving as was reported in the newspapers). He glanced out of the window and was shocked to see two enormous oval objects hovering one over the other at 45° only 150 metres away and about 150 metres high. He opened the nearside window to get a clearer view and hear if there was any noise. The objects looked like two airships about 40 metres long and 3 metres in diameter with what looked like oval windows along the sides. They were emitting a bright white light and there was no sound to be heard. Up to this time the passengers had not noticed anything as they were "preoccupied" in the back seat, so the driver asked them if they could see anything unusual outside. They saw the objects just as they began to move off towards Karbiden. The sighting lasted 3 or 4 minutes. The driver has since found that his dynamo does not charge as well as it used to.

SEE ILLUSTRATION.

*Source* : Norge UFO-Informasjon, Oslo, Postboks 132-Sentrum, Oslo 1, Norway.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Time* : 0413—1416.

*Place* : Kongsvinger (60°12'N. 12°E.).

*Witnesses* : Alfred Rundgren, Vingesjovn, Kongsvinger. 68. Retired railman. 8 friends.

*Installations* : Vardasen army installations. Kongsvinger fort.

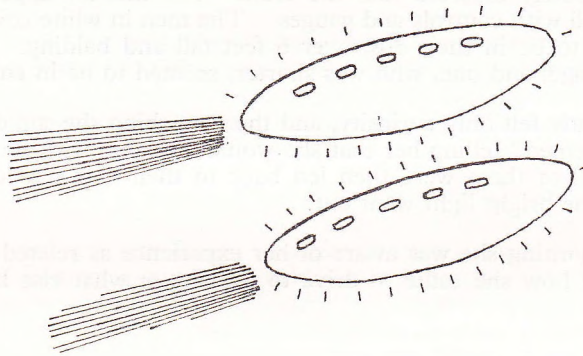
Alfred Rundgren and a friend went outside at 0410 and had stood talking for a while when a large cigar-shaped object floated silently over the nearby treetops. He told his friend to go inside and get everybody out to watch it. The object passed very slowly about 200 metres from the nine observers who estimated it to be 30 metres long. The whole object was pulsating and its blue colour could only be seen each time it brightened. A number of red things like pipes were hanging from the body, and from the rear came a long red-blue flame. It stood perfectly still for about half-a-minute, then continued until lost from sight in the south-east.

SEE ILLUSTRATION.

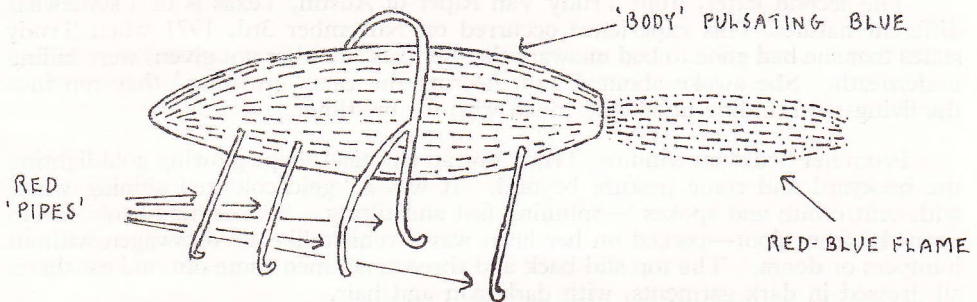
Source : Norges UFO-Informasjon, Oslo.

— 0 —

### THE SARPSBORG UFOs



### THE KONGSVINGER OBJECT





Apparently telepathically, one asked her, "Are there any pigs in that field? They are hungry." "They" being two erect animals covered with fuzzy hair near the small men. She shook her head 'no' to their question and was told to return to bed. She did so and on looking out the craft was airborne, travelling towards Austin, eight miles away.

As she works with a girl who raises pigs nearby, she later asked if any had been missing lately and was told a neighbour had recently lost several!

(From Trudy's description of the "erect alien animals" one would apparently conclude that pork will put hair on your chest!—ED.).

\* \* \* \* \*

Now to turn to a different part of the world—South Australia, where, towards the end of 1972 a Murray Bridge youth, Neville Maxwell, 19, an apprentice mechanic was driving his car along a narrow road towards Rocky Gully at night.

"I had just had some alterations made to the suspension the same day—I wanted to try it out on a dirt road and you don't get much traffic along it: I had travelled about 500 yards along the road and was doing 70 as I came to a small rise, that's when things started to happen," he said.

"As I topped the rise the motor started revving up and down and the lights started dimming and brightening. I put the clutch in and slowly applied the brakes so that I could coast to a stop, thinking that something was wrong with the engine. While I was coasting down the other side of the rise, the engine and lights kept going up and down, so I switched off and turned the key over to 'accessories.' As I came to a halt the radio started to make sounds like a computer would—you know, 'bleep-bleeps' and things. Well I stopped the car on the roadway, still thinking there was something wrong with it. I tried to start it but even my oil lights wouldn't come on. Then I noticed a funny glow on the inside of the car and looked outside: there in the paddock only about 40 feet away from the car was a 'flying saucer.' There was nothing I could do because the car just wouldn't start,—I tried to start it a few times but I got no reaction from the electrical system at all. I locked all the doors and just sat there."

Neville said there was some small shrubbery beside the roadway between his car and the object on the bare flat paddock. The shape was distinct against the hills well behind. It had three different coloured lights underneath the bulk of the body and would have been about as big as two family car bodies on top of each other. Its shape was that of a cut diamond standing up on its pointed end with a large flat top. No supporting tripods or legs could be seen. The lights were in three triangular bands about four feet long converging to a point at the bottom of the body: they kept flashing on and off, there were three distinct colours—red, green and purple. It stayed in the paddock for about 40 minutes with its lights flashing on and off as Neville sat in his car watching.

All the time computer-like sounds kept coming through the radio—nothing else electrical on the car would work, not even the horn. After 40 minutes a light at the base of the saucer started flashing faster and faster and he could hear a 'shirring' noise, like a big turbine increasing speed but a lot quieter. The saucer lifted about 20 feet off the ground and then headed towards the hills in seconds. As soon as it was out of sight Neville tried the engine and it kicked over straight away. At the weekend he went out with a photographer to inspect the site: here, there was later found a series of four small shallow holes in the ground that appeared to have been made by an air hose: the holes were situated near two rocks which Neville said he remembered were in the vicinity of the UFO whilst it was on the ground.

\* \* \* \* \*

A newspaper report dated 15th February 1973 tells us of a UFO sighting near Kimba, S. Australia which is unusual, to say the least:—

“The UFO was sighted by a Kimba man Brian Hunt, and his companion Sharyn Finckler, while travelling towards Kimba, about 32 miles from the town.

They told the police that at about 9.50 p.m. they saw an orange light which appeared to be about 10 feet high and 5 feet across about 30 yards from the side of the road.

Hunt said he had clearly seen the figure of a man who he described as looking like a modern-day astronaut, suspended 2—3 feet above the ground in the middle of the light. He was dressed in what appeared to be a white space suit. The couple drove to Kimba where they reported the sighting to the police.

Constable P. Summerton, who travelled back to the scene with the couple said a search of the area had failed to find any trace of the object or any marks to show where it had been.”

Now, before anyone criticises ME for printing newspaper reports (though I would entirely agree with Flying Saucer Review that there is nothing wrong in so doing), there IS more to go on than this—namely a photo-copy (by courtesy of Colin Norris) of P.C. Summerton's letter to the local UFO Society. This reads as follows:—

*“Brian L. Hunt and his companion Sharyn Finckler saw the UFO in question at 9.50 p.m. on Sunday 4/2/73. They were travelling from Iron Knob towards Kimba. Hunt reported the sighting to me shortly after arriving in Kimba . . . . . Both Hunt and Finckler are reliable witnesses.*

*Since the initial report, I have received one other confirmed sighting of the same light. This light was seen in the same position, at about the same time as Hunt's sighting, by a Mr. Max Inglis, a farmer, of Kimba. Inglis states that he saw a bright orange light, about 10' high and 5' in diameter, although he did not see the figure of a*

man described by Hunt. He slowed down, undecided what to do, and saw a vehicle following him (apparently this was Hunt). When this vehicle suddenly increased speed, Inglis also accelerated and continued on to Kimba.

Although I have not spoken to him personally, I believe that a truck driver, a Mr. Allan Degner, also saw the same UFO at the same time and at the same place. This person also saw the figure of a man standing in the middle of the light, about 2 to 3 feet from the ground . . .

As the paper article said, I returned to the spot with Hunt and Finckler, and S. C. I. G. Humphrys (O/C Kimba). We searched the area in the dark, but could find no evidence to substantiate the claim.

There were no fresh tyre marks on the dirt verge (we thought the UFO could have been a man standing in a caravan doorway, or in front of a camp fire).

I feel quite certain, however, that these people did in fact see 'something.' Hunt was still in a state of shock when he reached Kimba.

Incidentally, in accordance with normal practice, a detailed report of this sighting has been forwarded through official channels to where I believe it is eventually filed at Woomera . . . . . ”

Yours faithfully,

PETER SUMMERTON (Signed)  
Police Const. 1751.

\* \* \* \* \*

Finally, let me return to GEMINI 3 for another Scandinavian report, the source again being Norges UFO-Informasjon, Oslo and translation by Richard Farrow:—

This incident took place on Friday 21st January 1972 near Leknes airfield which is on Vetvag Island near Narvik, Norway, (68°7'N. 13°30'E.). The witnesses were the husband, wife, mother-in-law, three children and another man who have requested to remain anonymous. They watched the UFOs from their home in Napp, on the neighbouring island.

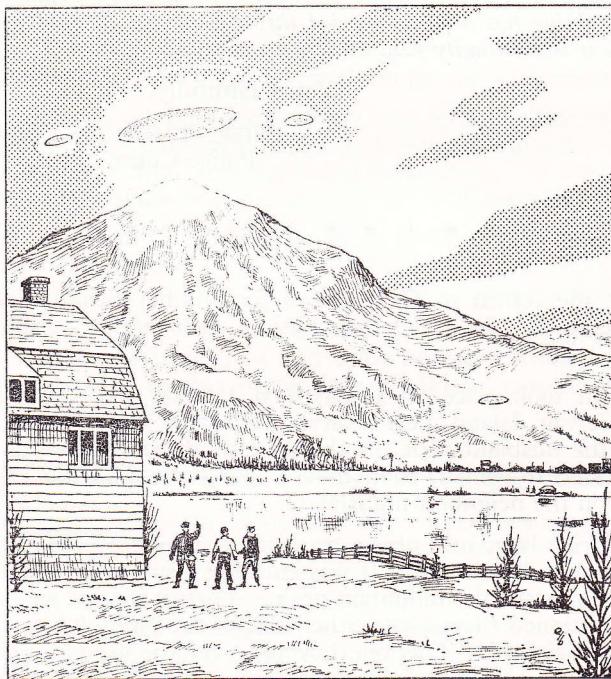
At 1806 hours a large oval object was seen hovering over the mountain which is about 4km. east of the airfield. It was emitting a blue-white light which was so strong that it illuminated the mountain peak. Then it ejected smaller oval objects of which two positioned themselves either side of the large one and the other flew down towards the airfield. This one hovered over the airfield a short while then returned to the large object and all three went back inside it. The large object then gave off two very bright flashes, went dark and disappeared towards the ENE. The sighting had lasted a total of seven minutes.

The family first saw the objects through the window. The 80 year old mother-in-law was frightened and ran from the kitchen to the living-room where she stayed throughout the sighting. The husband ran out to the barn to call his son to see the phenomenon. When the son saw it he went quite pale and said nothing. The wife was unable to sleep at all that night. The eldest daughter (15) went outside onto the steps to look at it through 7 x 50 binoculars. She cried out, "Oh, daddy, it's burning my eyes." The following day she had a red rash around her eyes where the binoculars had rested. She also had a very bad headache. She went to the doctor a few days later but he was unable to say what kind of rash it was. She did not tell him of the UFOs.

Three days later a large military plane circled four times round the mountain top where the UFOs had hovered.

**Presentation**

**Norman Oliver.**



**ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF SCENE**

## A Pot-Pourri of Association News, Notes, Quotes and Comment

### Association News

Betty Wood

It is with regret on one hand and relief on the other, that our London lectures have ended for the season, as somehow one doesn't feel quite "in touch" without the monthly get-together. However, it being a general holiday time may I wish you all a happy UFO hunting season with, I hope, plenty of close encounters!

\* \* \* \* \*

After my remarks in the Spring issue of the Journal regarding a 'UFO package kit,' I was intrigued to receive before the issue came out, two requests from Puerto Rico and Tenerife respectively, for tapes, photographs, literature, etc.—all to be in Spanish! So now I must add "languages" to my kit. Incidentally, when we first produced our "Guide to the UFO Phenomena" a reviewer made a rather unkind reference to 'fuzzy photographs.' Shortly afterwards we received a request from India House for a copy of the Guide, "complete with fuzzy photographs"!

\* \* \* \* \*

Several of us went along to the Erich von Daniken lecture "Was God an Astronaut," on the 4th June. Mr. von Daniken, an inexhaustible speaker, gave us an hour or so's briefing of his theories, with many slides. Having no particular convictions either way myself, I was somewhat amused at the display of fervent devotion on one hand, and bitter condemnation on the other, by the audience. During question time emotions ran high, Mr. von Daniken keeping his cool with remarkable agility. On the way home I caught up with two enthusiasts reverently holding autographed copies of CHARIOTS OF THE GODS; others left in seething fury. However, I'm sure a great time was had by all . . . .

\* \* \* \* \*

A member from Kenya tells me that the local press has been publishing a series of extracts from CHARIOTS OF THE GODS and these are causing quite a stir among its readers, in some instances provoking indignant reactions from those who do not like to think of God being an astronaut. However, here I think they do Mr. von Daniken a slight injustice—as in his lecture he maintained that he was not an atheist, nor was he confusing the Almighty with the "gods" and is, after all, only presenting a theory.

\* \* \* \* \*

Someone cheerfully tells me that Halley's Comet is going to bump into us in ten year's time—although I don't advise anyone to lose sleep over this! Perhaps one of our member/astronomers can explain how this story arose?

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## Round & About

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### Notes and Quotes

#### ABOMINABLE BLOBS

The London Evening News of May 18th reported that twice within a week black 'blobs' have floated over Slough, then plunged to the ground leaving no remains after exploding in flames and black smoke. Responsibility has so far been denied by The Radio and Research Station, Slough: The Admiralty Compass Laboratory: The Meteorological Office at Bracknell: The Pest Infestation Laboratory: The Road Research Laboratory and the National Foundation for Educational Research! Presumably the fact they were described as black and abominable will be taken up by the Race Relations Board!

#### VON DANIKEN AGAIN

On Saturday June 2nd, I received a complimentary ticket for Von Daniken's London lecture (see Betty Wood's comments). I was unable to make use of it as within the hour I was driving up the M1 to Yorkshire for a week's holiday. A friend, however, managed to obtain tickets for his talk at Sheffield City Hall on the following Thursday when he attracted an audience of some 700—800. Question time did not produce any serious opposition to his views as seems to have been the case in London. My main memory of the occasion—a rather irrelevant one—was that Von Daniken's writing was as perfect when he autographed the 200th (or thereabouts) copy of GOLD OF THE GODS as it was when he autographed the first!

#### CAVEAT EMPTOR

is the title of a U.S. UFO magazine. Apart from excellent articles it displays a delicious sense of humour and satire that is rare indeed: rare because they also laugh at themselves. Published by G. & G. Enterprises, P.O. Box 688, Coatesville, PA. 19320, USA at \$4.00 for 6 issues. G. & G. stands for Gene and Geneva Steinberg. Keep it up, G. & G.

#### WHAT ARE WE STUDYING?

I go along with my good friend John Cleary-Baker who, in the Autumn '72 issue plumped for "YOU-FOE": to me, the pronunciation "OOFO" when said by a man sounds effeminate, to say the least! When said by a woman it sounds as though she's calling her little pet dog!

#### THANKS!

" . . . . . I am enclosing this leaflets of U.F.O.'s I have seen, if you are not sure of some of them please don't hessitate in Wrighting to me and if you have a few photoes lying about please, could you send me them . . . . ."—From letter received by Ed.

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## Round & About

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### Norman Oliver

## STATESIDE

Doubleday by the time you read this. Donald Keyhoe's new book ALIENS FROM SPACE due for publication last year is now scheduled for this November—also from Doubleday.

An American edition of MYSTERIOUS BRITAIN, Colin and Janet Bord's well-received book should have been published by

## THE CATALOGUE

THE CATALOGUE — AN INDEX OF POSSIBILITIES will be published in five volumes over a three-year period commencing October '73. Aims: to reassemble, re-define and cross-reference information, compare and contrast alternative theories: generate involvement: suggest possibilities and to catalogue resources. Vol. 1 subject headings will be THE UNIVERSE: EARTH: BODY: MIND: GOD. THE UNIVERSE will include a UFO section. It is intended to list and review all British magazines that treat seriously the subjects of UFOs: the occult: earth mysteries and psychic phenomena.

THE CATALOGUE — AN INDEX OF POSSIBILITIES will be published in five volumes over a three-year period commencing

## REALLY?

“ . . . . I am glad to be able to say that I have had no experience with UFOs . . . ”  
Charles Bowen, Editor FSR.

## KOHOUTEK '73

Named after Lubas Kohoutek of the Hamburg Observatory who discovered it whilst searching for minor planets, this comet will be visible from November '73 to February '74. 'Visible' is in fact an understatement, as its estimated magnitude is expected to reach —10, which will rival the Full Moon for brilliance. The comet will be clearly visible in broad daylight.

Named after Lubas Kohoutek of the Hamburg Observatory who discovered it whilst searching for minor planets, this comet will

## THE EARTH WATCHERS

Brian Ford's ill-informed references to BUFORA in his book THE EARTH WATCHERS have not passed unnoticed and steps are being taken to ensure his being enlightened that we are NOT the best example of an “odd-ball quasi-religious movement.” Ford, born in 1939, is stated to have retired in 1968 to ‘relax and write books’ having been a guest contributor to The Times, Private Eye and OZ amongst other publications. As an authority and author of books on Microscopy one cannot help feeling he should pay more attention to detail!

Brian Ford's ill-informed references to BUFORA in his book THE EARTH WATCHERS have not passed unnoticed

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## “ A GUIDE TO U.F.O. PHENOMENA.”

The first of a series of BUFORA information booklets is available at 42p (inc. P.P.) from A. West, 49 Mill Road, Burgess Hill, Sussex.

To encourage wide distribution of this very useful booklet special rates as below:

1 copy 42p. 3 copies 84p (save 42p). 5 copies 126p (save 84p).

All post paid.

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## Round & About

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### Vice-Chairman's Notes

#### Dr. ALLEN HYNEK

A few months ago I made a tongue-in-cheek suggestion to a friend, Dr. Douglas Baker, that if he wanted a well-qualified speaker on UFOs for his esoteric lecture festival in August, he might try Allen Hynek. Imagine my surprise when Dr. Baker phoned back in June to say that Dr. Hynek had consented to come over for about three days in August. Further, Dr. Baker suggested that BUFORA members might like to have the opportunity of hearing Allen Hynek speak at the Bloomsbury Centre where the Festival is being held. Tickets for lecture sessions including light refreshments are priced at a maximum of £1 each (to defray air fares, etc.), but it is hoped to arrange a concessionary price for BUFORA members.

#### PUBLICITY

Prior to and subsequent to playing my part in founding BUFORA in 1962, I have acted as the organisation's Publicity Officer, although in recent years I have declined the formal title, but continued with the committee's blessing. In 1966 BUFORA received about 200 letters and enquiries as a result of our being mentioned in the SUNDAY MIRROR.

It was with some satisfaction that I was able to conduct the initial negotiations with the DAILY MAIL in connection with the BUFORA stand at the New Year Show in 1969, which resulted in about 100 new members and BUFORA's aims being made known to the younger set. Two recent successes are worthy of mention as they have broken comparatively new ground and enquiries have been pouring in as a result. The first was in the field of women's magazines when SHE—with a circulation of 300,000 plus—gave us a write-up in the May '73 issue. The second success produced quantity rather than quality perhaps, as it went to school-children—a 'market' we could not normally reach without spending disproportionate amounts on advertising or mailing. I produced a list of organisations for the book INVESTIGATING UFOs by Larry Kettlekamp, which has now been reprinted as a Tandem 'Target-series' paperback. The first 25,000 copies will probably be sold out and a reprint in hand when you read this!

We have recently brought our standard information leaflet up to date and reprinted, so if you require copies for your friends, please let us know.

#### OTHER MAGAZINES

A 5p magazine-cum-newspaper, THE POLICE REVIEW, which takes the 'St. Michael' out of the police in a way that you would think only PRIVATE EYE was capable of, carries a pro-UFO article by Sergeant Michael Davies in its May 11th issue. The NEW SCIENTIST, May 17th '73, has a three page "in person" article on Dr. Hynek entitled "The man who spoke out on UFOs." The item concludes with the comment that Dr. Hynek would not be remembered as an astronomer, but as the man who made UFOs respectable.

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## Round & About

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Lionel Beer

**Programme of Meetings**

Tuesday 11.9.73

**' Staffordshire Casebook '**

The first of a series of lectures on important UFO cases reported in Staffordshire. Mr. Wilfred Daniels will review cases he has been associated with during the years 1954-1955.

Tuesday 9.10.73

**' UFO Theories '**

A discussion on the various hypotheses which purport to account for the existence of UFOs in our atmosphere.

Tuesday 13.11.73

**' UFO Forum '**

A Branch open forum, in which members and visitors will have the opportunity of asking questions and expressing points of view on a particular aspect of the UFO phenomenon.

Tuesday 11.12.73

**' Christmas Story '**

" They set out at the King's bidding; and the Star which they had seen at its rising went ahead of them until it stopped above the place where the child lay." Matt. 2.9.

A STAR OR UFO . . . . ? Astronomical and Ufo-logical points of view.

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**Subscription Renewals**

Please may I remind you that all subscriptions are due for renewal on September 1st. The Annual Subscription is £2.40 and I shall be most grateful if all Members will renew without further reminders which are so costly in time and postage. Please post to Mrs. A. Harcourt, 170, Faversham Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent.

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To any member seeking accommodation in Brighton for short while, I can offer small single room with H. & C. Breakfast and Evening Meal. Moderate terms. Apply: Sylvia Shaw, 20A, Dyke Road, Brighton, Sussex BN1 3JA. Tel. 26785 (after 7 p.m.).

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For use of Skywatchers, a caravan has been sited at Warminster. The caravan is a four berth Eccles Bounty.

Cutlery, crockery, blankets and cushions are provided. Provision of bed linen, towels, etc., are the responsibility of the user.

The caravan is sited at the Woodcock Caravan Estate, Woodcock Road, Warminster.

For bookings and further information apply:—

Mrs. M. CAREY,  
61 Corton,  
Nr. Warminster, Wilts. S.A.E. please

or for information only:—

Mr. A. WEST,  
49 Mill Road,  
Burgess Hill, Sussex.

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The following article has been submitted by a member who does not wish his name and address published—for fairly obvious reasons. Our contributor has also sent in several interesting Libyan sighting reports which will appear in our next issue. We are glad to welcome him to our small panel of evaluators: he will be a most valuable asset on the meteorological and aircraft 'fronts.'

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## UFO Sighting by Mrs. Tickner, 6-2-73

These notes and the attached diagram offer a possible explanation for the above sighting which was mentioned in BUFORA Journal for Winter 1972/73. I would point out that it is an evaluation based on my knowledge as an Air Traffic Control Officer at Heathrow and based on my experience of seeing frequently aircraft with landing lights on in various stages of approach during darkness/twilight.

### THE MAIN DIAGRAM

The position of Heathrow Airport is marked in top left. The area of Blackheath in top right. It is difficult to mark the exact position of Blackheath as it is a fairly large area and Mrs. Tickner is not explicit in her letter. The two lines extending eastwards from Heathrow represent the final approach tracks to the two main runways—28 Right and 28 Left. These lines accurately portray the tracks flown on final approach as both runways are equipped with Instrument Landing Systems (ILS) and aircraft always fly the final approach in a very straight line. The position of Ockham VOR (VHF Omni Range) is marked to the South of Heathrow. Ockham is one of the two Southern Main Stacks serving Heathrow and is used by aircraft inbound from the West and Southwest.

## EXPLANATION

Firstly, to appreciate my reasoning, one must understand roughly the approach procedure at Heathrow. Basically, aircraft fly in towards the main stacks, reaching them at approximately six thousand feet (i.e. 6,000 ft. on a pressure setting of 1013 mb.). Before reaching the stacks the aircraft are told by the Radar Director at Heathrow a heading on which to leave the stack. After leaving the stack the aircraft is descended—usually to 3,000 ft. After a suitable interval—the Downwind Leg—the aircraft is turned by the Radar Director on to a heading around 90° to the final approach track (Base Leg). Further descent to 2,500 ft. is effected and shortly after the aircraft is turned on to a Closed Heading—usually the final approach track plus 40° and from that heading the aircraft establishes itself on the ILS. The exact heading from the stack, the point of turn on to Base Leg, the length of that leg, the position of the turn on to final approach, the height of the aircraft and the speed of the aircraft are all under the precise control of the Radar Director and so it is difficult to make a diagram which will be 100% accurate without reference to tape recordings of R/T, aircraft flight logs, etc. However, the diagram represents the approach path flown by a large number of inbound aircraft particularly early in the morning when traffic is quiet.

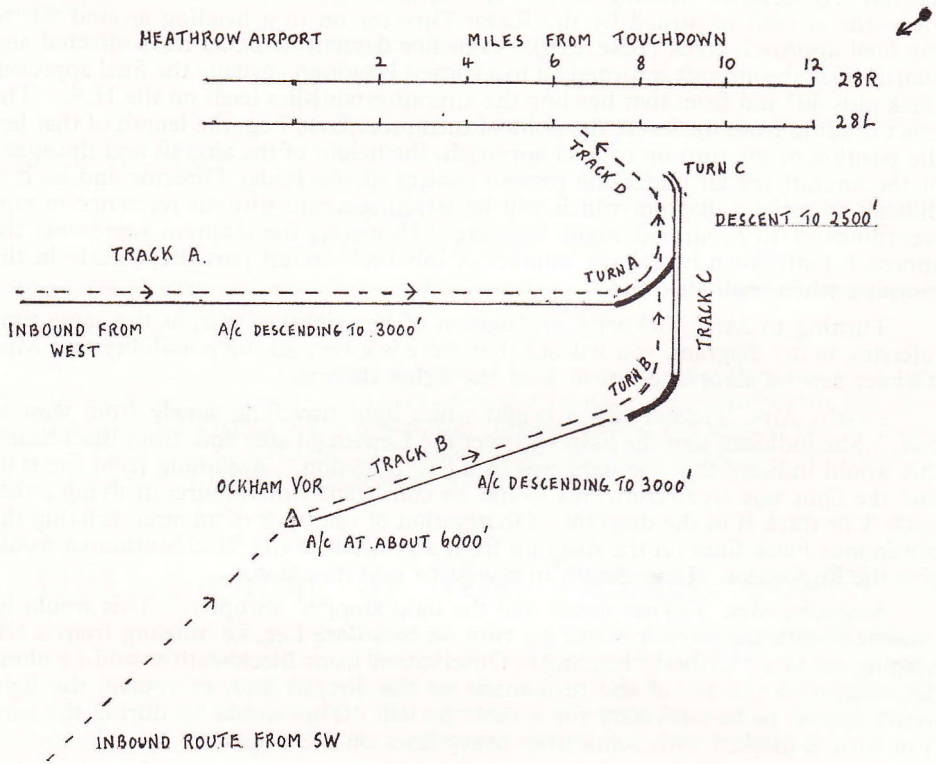
Turning to Mrs. Tickner's explanation of her sighting and, at the same time referring to my diagram, you will see that there is a very strong possibility that Mrs. Tickner saw an aeroplane—or at least the lights thereof.

*Firstly*, Mrs. Tickner saw a bright white light travelling slowly from west to east. She indicates that the light was over the Lewisham area and, from Blackheath, this would indicate that the light was in a SW direction. Assuming from the start that the light was an aircraft, this would be consistent with an aircraft flying either track A or track B in the diagram. Observation of the track of an aircraft flying the continuous black lines on the diagram from a position in the Blackheath area would give the impression of movement in a west to east direction.

*Secondly*, Mrs. Tickner noted that the light stopped abruptly. This would be consistent with the aircraft starting a turn on to a Base Leg, i.e. turning from a NE heading on to a Northerly heading. Observation from Blackheath would be along the tangent to the arc of the turn made by the aircraft and, of course, the light would appear to be stationary for a short period. This would be during the turn A or turn B marked with continuous heavy lines on the diagram.

*Thirdly*, Mrs. Tickner noted the change in size of the light. I suggest that this would occur as the light turned in to a direct line with the observer. The "flashing" could be attributed to the existence of patchy cloud and, at that time of the day, patchy stratus cloud could well be present—although reference to Met records would be needed to confirm or deny this.

*Next*, the light divided into two smaller lights. Aircraft of the size operating in to Heathrow are equipped with various combinations of landing lights on the front of the aircraft. Usually in the wingroots, under the wings or in the nose and these lights may be individually controlled by the pilot. Mrs. Tickner's observation would suggest the selection of two wing lights and deselection of one of the main nose lights. This is difficult to confirm without knowledge of the type of aircraft involved.

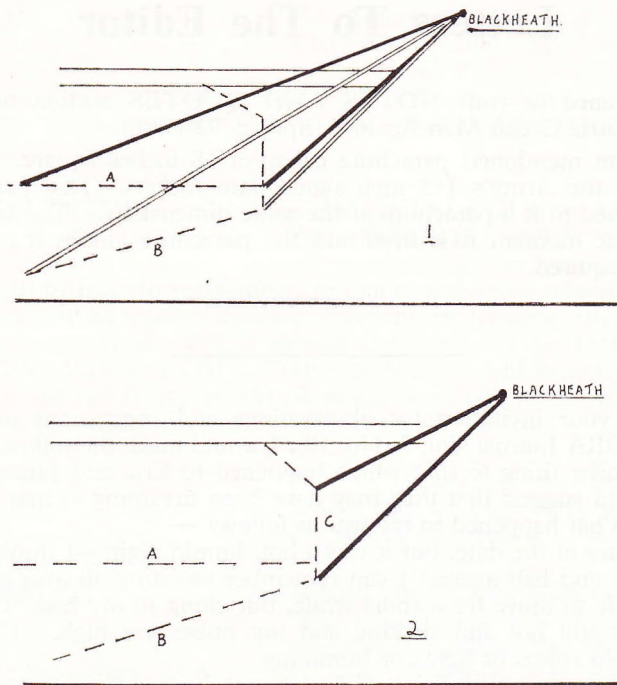


↙ = APPROX. POSITION OF BLACKHEATH + DIRECTION OF SIGHTING

DISTANCE ESTIMATING IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE AT NIGHT EVEN BY EXPERIENCED OBSERVERS. A LIGHT WHICH APPEARS CLOSE MAY BE 20 MILES AWAY

TRACK A-C-D = POTENTIAL PATH FLOWN BY AIRCRAFT  
INBOUND FROM WEST LANDING RUNWAY 28L

TRACK B-C-D = POTENTIAL PATH FLOWN BY AIRCRAFT  
INBOUND FROM SW ROUTING MIDHURST-OCKHAM



1. Observation of track A via the segment marked by heavy lines would appear as a movement from right to left—west to east. Equally, observation of B via the segment marked by double lines would present an easterly direction of movement.
2. Observation of track C from Blackheath along the segment marked by heavy lines would represent a movement from left to right—east to west—or a reciprocal of tracks A & B.

The lights then moved back along the original path. This would coincide exactly with an aircraft making the turn on to its closing heading—turn C in the diagram—at the end of track C. In fact, depending on the position of the observer, the entire path of track C marked in double lines would appear to be from east to west. *Lastly*, the lights disappeared. This would occur at some stage during turn C and track D depending again on the position of the observer.

For some years I have observed aircraft lights during the night, and, providing the weather conditions are good, these lights may be seen far in excess of twenty miles and, if one is observing an aircraft descending towards the point of observation the elevation appears constant. Also, because of the distance involved no sound will be heard.

I am convinced there was nothing at all unusual about Mrs. Tickner's sighting.

## Letters To The Editor

Dear Sir,

With reference to your NOTES AND QUOTES section of the Journal referring to " Little Green Men Again " (Spring '73 issue).

Mr. Surman mentioned parachute canopies 18 inches square. These sound very much like the Army's 1.5 inch signal flare rockets. This particular rocket does have attached to it a parachute of the same dimensions. The rocket gives off a white glow the moment it is fired and the parachute guides it across the area where light is required.

Cpl. P. A. D. SMITH,  
B.F.P.O. 801.

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Dear Sir,

Regarding your invitation for observations and suggestions on the " UFO Vision " (BUFORA Journal Vol. 3, No. 10), I would make the following points:—

Since a similar thing to that which happened to Eric and James happened to me, then I would suggest that they may have been dreaming at first but awakened a little later. What happened to me was as follows:—

I am not sure of the date, but it was a hot, humid night—I think I might have been half asleep and half awake: I can remember sweating all over and trembling. I was also unable to move for a short while, but clung to my bed. On awakening, however, I was still hot and shaking and my pulse was high. This is all that happened, i.e. No voices or lights or humming.

Therefore I suggest that Eric and James may have suffered something similar, but the dream may have prolonged itself thus causing an hallucinatory effect when they both awoke forcing them to cling to the nearest solid human body for security—their father. So far as Mr. & Mrs. Ardern hearing a humming noise is concerned, I can only suggest that since Mr. Ardern was a dreamer, he may have accentuated the circumstances, i.e.: making a plane noise seem higher to himself, thus also making his wife seem to hear it too, for fear of wife-husband ridicule.

The fact that Mr. & Mrs. Ardern were not affected by any force—nor Margaret for that matter seems to corroborate the above. To me the only uncertainty is that both Eric and James suffered the same ill effect. There is a way out, though, that being that the two may have E.S.P. and therefore suffered in sympathy with one another. As you no doubt know, this is not uncommon amongst the same kin.

A. J. BRINDLEY,  
Blurton, Staffs.

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Dear Mr. Oliver,

I have just received Vol. 10, No. 3 of the Journal and find it interesting as usual. At the same time I wonder if I might make the suggestion that the Journal could include details and information from time to time on the various types of UFO detectors and their construction, usefulness or otherwise as proved or disproved in experiment up to date?

Over the years I have read quite a lot of interesting UFO information and have always been impressed by the constant reference to powerful electro-magnetic forces emanating from these devices that even at some considerable distance can interfere with or stop internal combustion engines working on the ignition principle, stop radios, put car lights out, bend headlight beams, etc., etc. If all these claims are correct, then surely some type of instrument of a sensitive nature to electro-magnetic fields—even magnetometers or variometers—could give early warning of an approaching UFO or one in one's immediate vicinity? . . . . .

Concerning UFOs, I would say that the more I read up on the subject, and the more I learn, the more I am convinced without doubt, that their origin is extra-terrestrial (ETV viewpoint). All the facts seem to fit in with this viewpoint and it is the one which in my own opinion is most likely to supply an eventual solution whenever that may come. The phenomena described by various witnesses is exactly what we would expect from an advanced technology and science, superior to our own, developed by equally superior minds—or even a master-mind if computer evolved.

I deplore the leanings of some writers to the psychological/parapsychological view, which to me seems more of an expression of defeat in the presence of the Unknown. I agree that some UFOs might well have a psychological/parapsychological explanation, much depending on the type of witness involved, but I think the majority of UFO sightings are of real hardcore objects and the available evidence seems to fit this view, the evidence being quite abundant for anyone who cares to delve for it in the many publications on this subject and sort it out . . . . .

Some people who are interested in UFOs reject the ETV theory, some scientists even reject UFOs altogether, some science-fiction writers always make extra-terrestrial intelligencies bug-eyed monsters, and not humanoid as would most likely be the case due to laws of evolution being the same. Could this be due to Man's basic pride that he alone stands at the pinnacle of evolutionary development in the Universe and to realise otherwise would be too 'ego-shattering'?

DERICK SHELTON,  
Willerby Road, Hull.

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I see no reason why a future Journal should not include appraisals of the various types of UFO detectors so far manufactured: personally I would consider a basic defect of any UFO detector is that it does not detect UFOs, but the various 'effects' and 'phenomena' frequently claimed to be associated with UFO sightings.

Mr. Shelton comes down rather heavily on the side of the ETH, and I would be interested in members' reactions . . . Do YOU consider the ETH wholly explains the UFO phenomenon? Do you think the ETH is now discredited? Or do you think a 'mixture' of solutions is a possibility? If so, what solutions? Whatever your opinions, LET'S HEAR FROM YOU—a selection of readers' letters will be published in our Autumn or Winter issues. ED.

# BOOK REVIEWS

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## THE ETERNAL SUBJECT

by Brinsley Le Poer Trench

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In this, his sixth book on "the eternal subject"—UFOs—the author pursues his theory that our planet Earth has been "seeded" by those whom he calls the Sky People. Although this comes as no surprise to those who have read the other five books, Mr. Trench's innately civilised approach and breadth of thought continue to hold our attention. What, he asks, is the purpose behind the extraordinary persistence of the UFO phenomenon?

Are our new and changing behaviour patterns, which receive so much of their impetus from the young, connected with a completely different mode of civilisation, the groundwork of which is only just being laid? In considering the answers to these questions, we are asked to look at the possibility that various science fiction writers, whose work has been strangely predictive, have been influenced deliberately by our visitors elsewhere; also that these same visitors are even now beaming down certain lines of thought by which they hope to speed our progress.

In particular, the work and tentative conclusions of Professor Wheeler are of interest to the author, who feels that the Superspace hypothesis validates his own Cosmic Concept, first published in 1964, besides providing an argument in favour of interstellar travel.

Whilst the cynics may growl at some of the assumptions in this book, it is nevertheless refreshing to be carried along on a tide of optimism for once, leaving behind, high and dry, those tiresome Men in Black and all the other freaky fun-people of the "inner worlds" who clutter up the UFO scene. Mr. Trench is well aware that we do have hostile "intruders" but maintains that these are not the real Sky People whom, he avers, watch over our development and give us periodic 'shots in the arm.'

Mr. Trench pins great hopes on the young people of today, whom he considers are a new race being born and the advance guard for the coming of the Sky People. Whether these expectations are ill-founded or not, he rightly says we shouldn't be afraid of change—in fact adaptation is the only way to survive!

B.D.W.

Souvenir Press 1973 £2.50.

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**FROM STONEHENGE TO SPACE AGE**: Colin Bord reviews 'The Legend of the Sons of God' by T. C. Lethbridge.

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T. C. Lethbridge was an archaeologist who used dowsing and the pendulum as an aid in his researches, and who wrote a number of very readable books dealing with a wide range of subjects from witchcraft and parapsychology to the account of his discovery and excavation of white chalk hill figures of ancient gods at Wandlebury, Cambridgeshire. Basing his title on the well-known quote from Genesis 6, verses 1-4, the author in his last book turns his thoughts towards pre-history and UFO phenomena.

Here he explores a line of enquiry that stems from Brinsley le Poer Trench's *THE SKY PEOPLE* and was adapted by Von Daniken in *CHARIOTS OF THE GODS*?, that beings from space have paid visits to our planet for thousands of years and have had a profound influence on the way mankind has developed. He associates the visitors with the prehistoric stone circles, and is with the vanguard of thought when he suggests that they were constructed to be accumulators of bio-energy, that mysterious subtle force which we humans can generate and which some advanced scientists are beginning to acknowledge and investigate.

The first half of the book is concerned with megalithic constructions and artifacts, and delves into the very origins of mankind, examining worldwide myths and mysteries, from early America to Easter Island. The author then reconsiders these questions in the light of present-day ufology. As always, he brings originality, learning and an unprejudiced mind to bear on the problem.

In this far-ranging book, Mr. Lethbridge considers such possibilities as extra-terrestrial explorers (stranded on planet Earth because of a 'war in heaven' on their home planet), time machines from the Earth's own future, beings from 'other dimensions' who observe and help or hinder us, and the significance of avatars or saviour figures who occasionally appear among mankind and exert considerable influence.

Although his archaeological knowledge is sound and practical (he presents an original and convincing theory on how the bluestones were transported to Stonehenge), the author's knowledge of UFO phenomena seems to be somewhat limited. He discounts the reports of witnesses who have talked to entities from landed UFOs, and wonders why, if they wish to make contact with we Earthmen, they contact unknown individuals in remote locations instead of landing openly at some civil airfield. These are questions and doubts that all ufologists have attempted to live with and resolve, with varying degrees of success.

As an established scientist, albeit one with a reputation as an iconoclast (if that is a proper thing to say about any archaeologist), Mr. Lethbridge is often on the defensive. To those of us who have been immersed in ufology for years and can calmly discuss the latest crazy occurrence with cool detachment, this attitude may seem excessively cautious. But perhaps archaeology is one of the most hidebound disciplines and the author is wise to interleave his speculations with disclaimers.

This is a book of awkward questions and far-reaching speculations. As an honest scientist, Mr. Lethbridge does not evade the issues by ignoring them, and it is a matter of great regret that this is the last book that he wrote—he died shortly after the manuscript was finished. Had he lived longer, and read and researched more deeply into ufology, a further book could have been an even more valuable contribution to the subject. But as it stands, *THE LEGEND OF THE SONS OF GOD* provides a useful compendium of ideas and speculations for the ufologist ready to progress from a simple, space-age, nuts and bolts hypothesis.

#### **THE LEGEND OF THE SONS OF GOD — A FANTASY?**

by T. C. Lethbridge, published by Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1972 at £1.75.

## A Landing in Miniature

This is the second and concluding part of an apparent landing case which occurred on 19th December, 1972 in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs. Details of the witness and the recorded account appeared in the Spring Journal Vol. 3, No. 10.

### SOIL SAMPLES :

Examination of the soil sample taken from the depression in the lawn showed that this was no different in any respects from the control samples selected from the surrounding area. Although negative, this result neither detracts from nor supports an extraordinary origin for the depression. Of course there may have been some transient or temporary effects detectable for a short period after the event, in which case these had entirely disappeared by the time (two months later) the soil was analysed.

### AN EVALUATION :

Because of past experience in evaluating UFO reports one must unfortunately always consider the possibility of a hoax as "explaining" an unusual event like this one. Added to this we have only the testimony of one witness (discounting the cat!). However, considering the circumstances of how this report came to the knowledge of BUFORA, logic argues strongly in favour of a genuine experience.

Our first indication of the sighting was a long letter written by a friend of Mr. Stanway recounting the whole episode and enclosing a small glass container holding a sample of the soil taken from the depression in the lawn. It was only after receipt of this letter that Mr. Stanway came forward and volunteered his story.

The letter, which describes Mr. Stanway as having an interest in UFOs without taking part in any organisation, goes on to say, "but he did not report this phenomenon at the time because when he went to work that night his workmates gave him a 'right roasting.'"

Naturally we have attempted to find some normal explanation for the events of this sighting and of a number of possible candidates considered, the following appeared the most likely:—

### 1. REFLECTION OR REFRACTION PHENOMENA

If a reflection or refraction of light had been responsible, the source would most likely have been stationary at first then moved in some manner to give the impression of the UFO "taking off." For example the culprit could have been a vehicle on the road in front of the house. Taking into consideration the greenhouse located at the end of the garden (which in theory may have caused a reflection or refraction of some spurious light source) it was still difficult to see how a small, vivid and quite distinct extended image of the colours described by Mr. Stanway could have been produced in that particular corner of the garden. The witness himself stated that there were no lights in the neighbouring houses and in fact it

was pitch black that morning. This attempt at explaining the glowing object does not take into account the triangular burnt depression which may or may not have been directly connected with it.

## 2. BALL LIGHTNING

The most reasonable answer to our problem seems to be the manifestation of ball lightning. This idea is discussed, again without regard to the origin of the depression. The major factor against the ball lightning hypothesis in this case was the unsuitable local weather conditions. It had been clear for most of the night although Mr. Stanway could not recollect whether he saw any stars. He did remember, however that it was cool, that there had been no frost and the grass seemed relatively dry. Referring to ball lightning statistics in "The Taming of the Thunderbolts" by C. Maxwell Cade and Delphine Davis, we learn that less than 1% of the five hundred cases studied occurred in conditions of clear skies.

On the other hand, by comparing the characteristics of Mr. Stanway's "glowing ball" with statistics relating to size, colour, motion and duration, etc., of reported lightning balls, there are some very obvious similarities!

*Shape* : Ball lightning is as its name implies usually ball-shaped.

*Appearance* : Lightning balls may form as a floating ball in free air or attached to or resting upon some object.

*Size and Colour* : Lightning balls can vary in size from tiny beads to globes several feet across. The outline is often hazy but can be clear-cut. Although red or red-orange is the most common colour for a free floating ball, there have been a considerable number of reports of miscellaneous three-colour combinations. 3in. to 6in. appears to be the most frequently reported size for lightning balls.

*Duration* : The most commonly recorded lifetime of lightning balls is between three and five seconds.

*Motion* : Reported motion and velocity vary considerably. Balls have remained motionless for some time, and on occasions have been reported to move vertically and ascend into the clouds from where they originated.

From the above it would appear that there are a number of striking parallels to be drawn between Mr. Stanway's object and the natural phenomenon of ball lightning, and by considering the object alone this could well have been the correct explanation.

However we are then left with the burnt triangular depression in the lawn which certainly has characteristics suggesting an artificial origin. Mr. Stanway has already stated that he can think of no artifact in his possession which could have produced this effect and it seems to be a little more than mere coincidence that the depression should be discovered so close to the estimated position of the "glowing ball." Although burns have been recorded in connection with ball lightning, it is highly improbable that a natural phenomenon of this nature could at the same time produce such a small, distinct impression in the ground having the form of a perfect equilateral triangle! This case therefore remains unidentifiable on our files.

ANTHONY R. PACE.

# BUFORA Personalities

# No. 1

## DR. G. G. DOEL, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.M.R.E.

Dr. Geoffrey Gilbert Doel—"Geoff" to his friends, has been prominent in the affairs of BUFORA and its predecessor LUFORO since 1959, having been successively BUFORA's Vice-Chairman, Chairman, Vice-President and now President.



Dr. Doel demonstrating Peter Johnson's UFO detector at the 1969 New Year Show at Olympia.  
*With acknowledgements to SPACELINK.*

Since first joining BUFORA in 1964 I have come to know Geoff well, and at times it would not be exaggerating to say that he has held BUFORA together. A colleague extremely easy to get on with, I can recollect many an occasion when he has poured oil on troubled waters with effective results. No job has been too small or too menial for him to tackle: aside from commitments as Chairman and Vice-Chairman he has never spared himself and duties as varied as photographic analysis: provision of refreshments: acting Treasurer: arranging printing and proof-reading of the Journal and many others, have all at some time or other been in his capable hands. At present Geoff is busy ignoring the general idea that Presidents of any Society are only to be seen once a year at Annual General Meetings and are not heard of in between! He is active at committee meetings and deals with photographic analysis, apart from currently arranging our next lecture series.

In 1936 he became a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons (Eng.) and a Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians (Lond.), following this in 1937 with a diploma in Medical Radiology (Diagnostic and Therapy) and Electrology (Electronics) from Cambridge University. During the war he was seconded to prepare and organise X-ray services in Surrey hospitals under the Emergency War Medical Service. On demobilisation he was granted permanent rank of Major.

Aside from Ufological involvements Geoff has been Chairman of numerous medical committees and associations. He has read Papers to the British Congress of Radiology in 1950, and the International Congress of Radiology in 1959 and 1965: he has also had a number of Papers published in the British Journal of Radiology and elsewhere. Why did he become interested in UFOs and BUFORA, and what are his present views? In his own words . . . . .

“ Being always interested in matters scientific particularly as they affect the human environment I had always considered that our ‘ environment ’ was not only the immediate terrestrial surroundings but also the surrounding physical realities of our cosmos. The fact that so far we were only aware of an infinitely small volume of this cosmos seemed to me very sad—almost deplorable, but it was quite clear that in time we would push out our awareness into this immense field . . . scientific progress pointed this way (and still does).

The overwhelming probability that other thinking physical forms elsewhere were occupied in a similar struggle led to the expectation that, one day, such alien entities and ourselves would meet and communicate. It was a thought I could never completely rid myself of.

So, when in 1947 June 24th the Kenneth Arnold sighting was reported I was immediately alerted to the possibility that here at last was the beginning of the inter-cosmological dialogue. I collected all cuttings, reports, etc., and soon began to cast around for other persons of similar interest with whom to formulate some sort of investigatory body.

Eventually I heard of a certain Nigel Stephenson who was forming such an organisation with a Roy Stemmans which was to be called the London UFO Research Organisation or LUFORO. I caught up with them in 1959 at a meeting in Caxton Hall and from then on you probably know the story of my UFO activities. I had also heard of the ‘ British Flying Saucer Bureau and Flying Saucer Club ’ of Bristol founded in 1952 which proved that there were other persons of a similar ‘ nutty ’ conviction that something of importance was afoot. I am still convinced (more than ever) that something of utmost importance to the human race *is* going on . . . manifested by appearance of objects which resemble space craft,—intelligently operated, which so far have resisted all our efforts to fit into our present scientific category of physical three dimensional vehicles but which on occasion do appear to carry human-like operators.

Perhaps attempts are being made to communicate with us by means at present outside our scope of scientific knowledge and by mental means which we have no developed facility to register properly. The latter might account for the repeated claims of ‘ half-real ’ experiences occurring in the vicinity of UFOs. The inability to pin down the UFO phenomenon and apply scientific formulation to its parameters does not prove that the phenomena do not exist but rather that our present science is as yet inadequately advanced. This personally I fear to be the case. We can only soldier on and hope that in time all will be revealed, but it will not improve our effort if those scientists who ought to be throwing all their knowledge and imagination into the fray on our behalf continue to avert their eyes in case they might have

to re-shuffle their comfortably established scientific dogmas. However there is some indication that a few bolder spirits amongst the forefront of scientific research and some persons of high standing in public life who have studied the evidence are beginning to join the ranks of convinced ufologists.

I think it may take years—perhaps decades to solve the UFO enigma but perhaps when all is made clear a little thought will be spared for those of us who would not let the small flame of ufological research die out during the precarious lean years of the 50s, 60s, and 70s.”

I would echo the last paragraph and am sure that the name of Dr. G. G. Doel, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.M.R.E., will rank high amongst those for whom such thought is spared.

NORMAN OLIVER.

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## Annual General Meeting, 1973

In accordance with the provisions of Article 8(d) of the Constitution of BUFORA, preliminary notification is given herewith that the Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on Saturday, October 6th 1973, at 6 p.m. at the Kensington Central Library.

Nominations for the offices of President, Vice-Presidents, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, also for the eight elective remaining seats on the National Executive Committee, should reach the Hon. Secretary in writing not later than Saturday, August 25th 1973. Resolutions to be debated at the A.G.M. should reach the Hon. Secretary by that date.

Only members of the Association in good standing, i.e. in possession of a valid membership card, are entitled to be present and vote at the A.G.M.

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I am interested in an incident alleged to have occurred near Salisbury during the weekend of 18 through 21 May 1973. Anyone with knowledge of unusual air/ground events within a radius of 20 miles or so of Salisbury at this time is requested to write to:—A. WEST, 49 Mill Road, Burgess Hill, Sussex, all letters will be answered, and confidence respected if requested.

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<b>GEMINI 3</b>	Contents include ‘Banbury Round-up,’ ‘Norwich UFO,’ Flap over Scandinavia .....	30p
<b>GEMINI 4.</b>	Contents include ‘South African Flap,’ ‘North Kent Mini-Flap,’ ‘Australian Saucerama,’ ‘Saucers & Sorcery’ .....	30p
	Both issues .....	55p

*From :* Norman Oliver, 95, Taunton Road, London SE12 8PA. Regret that copies of GEMINI 1 & GEMINI 2 are now out of print.

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## Northern Regional Conference, 1973

Venue: The Albany Inn—a pleasant newly built brick-facade two storey hotel overlooking the M.1 motorway at Ossett about 3 miles west of Wakefield. Duration: 2-7 p.m., Saturday, 12th May 1973. About 70 delegates attended.

The proceedings were opened at 2.15 p.m. by BUFORA President, Dr. Geoffrey Doel who welcomed delegates and commented on the theme of the conference “UFO Milestones and Signposts for the Future.” He gave examples of the possibilities facing us:

“That in fact saucers don’t exist, and we have been duped these many years; and we might as well retire and take up gardening or whatever you like . . .”

“That UFOs are genuine independently operated objects coming from without our solar system from distant planets . . . being millenia ahead of us in technology . . .”

“That UFOs are manufactured on this earth by secret methods sponsored by the great powers, who have so far cleverly eluded our efforts to run them to earth.”

“That UFOs are the product of intelligences living in other dimensions, who at times can attune to our three dimensions and make transitory appearances in our skies.”

“That UFOs are exteriorised manifestations originating in our collective sub-conscious triggered off by escapist desires brought on by the awful state of our present environment.” Take your choice as to which signpost you follow! Dr. Doel supported the Extra-terrestrial theory, but thought the Aliens might be able to bemuse the minds of witnesses—as certain contactee stories suggest—and in this way make investigation along normal scientific lines extremely difficult if not impossible.

Dr. Doel was followed by Chairman, Roger Stanway, who spoke about the aims of BUFORA and the need to encourage scientific interest. Roger felt that despite the Condon Report, there was an awakening of interest. He then introduced Charles Bowen, editor of F.S.R., who had incidentally appeared on T.V. the night before in connection with the conference, and paid tribute to his services to ufology. (Trevor Whitaker had also appeared on T.V. on a later programme).

Mr. Bowen started with 1963, when he said it was assumed that UFOs must be E.T.Vs., although views differed considerably as to whether or not they were piloted, despite the French wave of 1954 producing scores of occupants. F.S.R. started in 1955 and was edited by Derek Dempster, who is still a director.

In the early days they had had problems with Lobsang, Menger & George (Adamski). The Hon. Brinsley Le Poer Trench edited F.S.R. from 1956 to mid 1959. In 1959, Waveney Girvan took over the editorship. Waveney said that George would not take any money for his photos, and he initially thought they were genuine, but was surprised and worried by the following that sprang up. However Waveney didn’t live to see the moon voyages which showed George Adamski’s claims to be false.

Mr. Bowen went on to say that if Dr. Menzel's alarm clock had gone off, he would have seen a diving-suited being emerge from a temperature inversion. Waveney was very open-minded and criticised young Jacques Vallee's attitude "that all witnesses should be trained observers." Mr. Bowen did however comment that the French are best organised as regards ufology (and I tend to agree—L.B.).

Dr. Hynek, with Maxwell Cade, Dennis Bardens and others put a subject into a trance at a private gathering and told him (the subject) that he would see something in the sky at 3.30 p.m., that would interest him. The subject duly went out into the garden at the appointed time, thinking he was doing so voluntarily, and proceeded to draw the attention of the others to "it," regardless of their being unable to see anything unusual. The point made by Maxwell Cade who conducted the experiment, was that if we can create an illusion so easily, how might the UFOs be able to influence people? Could they have influenced the Contactees into making their wild claims?

Palaeolithic symbols found in caves in France, which look like UFOs of modern times are close to Aime Michel's "BAVIC LINE," so we should not dismiss these as being irrelevant before looking at them more closely.

Flying Saucer Review has been criticised for using press reports, and it is agreed that some are inadequate, but some are quite good. "Press reports are the raw material of History" and can give us a lead for further investigations. Why don't they contact us? When explorers go out into the jungle said Mr. Bowen, they don't say to the apes "Take me to your leader." The directives to astronauts for landing on a populated planet are: "Land at night, in sparsely populated areas," just as the UFOs do! In answer to a question Mr. Bowen advised caution in respect to the theories of authors Andrew Tomas, Erich von Daniken and Peter Kolosimo.

As a final titbit we were told that there was an article on UFOs by Michael Davies in the POLICE REVIEW for this week—11th May (see 'Round and About'—Ed.). After the usual excellent buffet tea, Tony Pace spoke about Newchapel Observatory with the aid of colour slides. He pointed out how it would benefit BUFORA as the Research Headquarters. It is well placed relative to motorways and its low running costs would not be a burden to the Association. In fact £200 had already been donated to the Foundation Fund for equipment. Further slides included auroral displays seen from Newchapel and Tony mentioned that BUFORA even had in its files a few reports of "curtains" in the sky which must be auroral displays.

He mentioned the possibility—now under serious consideration—of engaging a part-time research assistant to man the Observatory, answering the telephone and co-ordinating investigations or helping with administrative tasks. He again demonstrated the sighting report card and pointed out its value as a quick reference source. He also described what a standard UFO investigation kit might consist of.

The next speaker, introduced by John Stear, was Alan Sharp, a university lecturer in the field of geology. Alan explained his reasons for his general scepticism to some of the more cultish aspects of ufology. He dismissed parallel universe and John Keel's theories. He pointed out how previous cult dictates had been proved wrong, such as Adamski's forests on the moon, and the moons of Mars being artificial satellites. He then proceeded to distribute around the audience a variety of fossils from the Jurassic (about 30 million years old) to more recent periods, which included an array of ammonites, trilobites, coral, coal and ichthyosaurus vertebrae, to illustrate how geology works. It was later remarked that the fossils must have been very heavy to carry to the meeting, and at this point Alan got rather carried away with himself. We learnt afterwards that the point he was trying to make was that everything slotted neatly into its particular period in the earth's evolution, and consequently there was no evidence for technological civilisations in prehistoric times as some authors have suggested. Mr. Sharp seemed to think that Dr. Hynek had overlooked Venus as an explanation of a sighting seen from Lake Falcon, in the U.S.A. He said the Loch Roven (?) Dam case which included a car stopping event, was probably a balloon carrying scientific instruments. The explosive charge was the instruments being released, he claimed. The balloon rose up fast after suddenly releasing its load. During questioning, Mr. Sharp's explanations came in for heated criticism, which mainly seemed to evolve around his admitted lack of attention to related details.

Dr. Doel spoke on the analysis of UFO photos using his regular slide collection. He pointed out that the touching up of polaroid photos is very obvious. He amplified the point (I feel that this can never be stressed too strongly—L.B.) about the need to examine the story behind a photo, in order to establish the authenticity of an alleged sighting. The comparatively recent disclosures by Alex Birch, that his Sheffield photo of 1962 was a fake, has shown that a good initial story makes it very difficult to discredit a photo, since a single frame can elude careful analysis. (Personally I would say that the Alex Birch story was exceptional, and founder members of the Association will recall the word-perfect and detailed exposition Alex gave us in September 1962—L.B.). Dr. Doel mentioned that camera film can produce "UFO," which may be a result of droplets of developing fluid, accidental overheating of the film which can produce wavelet effects, manufacturing imperfections, and old film may become the subject of "pin-prick" defects. He warned us to be careful of the reflection of lights through windows. Slides also included examples of "spindle-shaped" lens flares geometrically aligned to bright lights in the field of view, which have in the past been mistaken for UFOs.

At the end of the proceedings Trevor Whitaker, Secretary of the Yorkshire Branch gave details of a recent happening on Easter Saturday this year, at the Punch Bowl Hotel, Low Row, in the Swaledale area west of Richmond, Yorkshire. The lady witness saw a very bright red light shining through her curtains at about 4.30 a.m., and heard a noise like a main fuse blowing. Some burnt areas were found immediately in front of the hotel and soil samples are said to be undergoing analysis. However it should be noted that although Low Row is in a relatively isolated place, it is notably close to Army ranges.

The Yorkshire Branch held a private dinner party at the Albany Inn attended by 24 people including BUFORA officials and conference speakers. Besides being a valuable opportunity to discuss ufological research, and a social occasion, it marked 10 years of the Halifax Branch's existence, the Branch being renamed last year to take account of the wider area it now serves. On behalf of the visitors, I should like to thank Doreen and Trevor Whitaker, John Stear and all our other Yorkshire friends for organising the event and for their impeccable hospitality.

LIONEL BEER — May 1973.

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