

British UFO Research Association



THE EARL OF CLANCARTY:  
" A MOTION FOR DEBATE."  
*See ' British Authors.'*

*Photo:*  
*Courtesy of London Evening News.*

# before journal

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## Contents

From Ghosts to UFOs—2	2
British Authors: No 3— The Earl of Clancarty	5
Points from the Press	7
Report—Extra!	9
The Secret Commonwealth and Robert Kirk	21
Uforum	22
Sighting Summaries	24
Encounter at Rochester	26
Those Martian Moors	28

too facile and too difficult—facile because one doesn't have to reject anything and, indeed, too difficult for the same reason since, whether researcher or editor, investigator or 'armchair-ufologist,' one finds oneself enveloped in a plastic miasma of scientific and esoteric speculation—a sort of hazy twilight area where it becomes extremely hard to separate well, perhaps not the sheep from the goats, but certainly the vimanas from the yeti (or, maybe in view of the current topic in Uforum, the UFOs from the ponies!) No! The most any one researcher should be expected to acknowledge is that no-one (other than by a 'personal revelation') has solved the UFO enigma and that one cannot—or should not—close one's mind completely to any possibility. That said, so long as a good background knowledge is maintained, the oft-repeated message of Dr Hynek and many other researchers stands: Develop your own speciality in the field: specialise: if you try to diversify you will find—as I have written previously—that you will end up by learning less and less about more and more until you know nothing about everything! I only hope I'm not writing from experience!

*Norman Oliver.*

## Editorial

### Drawing the line

'Blue bands of light' ascending cliffs: 'eyes' on doorsteps: 'tree-like objects' descending from cloud. Just where do we draw the line both in reporting experiences as UFOs and in suggesting possible associations with other fields of study, be those associations scientific, mundane or arcane? The short answer is that since we really have no idea, we shouldn't attempt to draw one. However, this proves both

## Moving North?

The Isle of Anglesey appears rapidly to be rivalling the Pembrokeshire area reportwise. Readers will remember the *Rhos-y-bol* and *Bodorgan* cases recorded in earlier *Journals*: now under investigation are reports of sightings from Llanerchymedd and subsequent claims of "silver-grey suited men" being seen. Dare one make a (semi-serious) prediction perhaps and wonder whether this winter might see sasquatch reports from Snowdonia?

# From Ghosts to UFOs

Paul Devos

## Part 2—Borley

Let us now leave Warminster behind for the moment and proceed to the source of our comparison—Borley:

The hamlet of Borley lies on the borders of Essex and Suffolk, between the towns of Long Melford and Sudbury. Since 1863, when the house was built, argument has raged over the authenticity of the haunting of Borley Rectory, and indeed continues to rage unabated. Space here limits detailed discussion of the hauntings, so instead I will set out the main points in as clear a form as possible.

Borley Rectory was built in 1863 by the Rev H D E Bull, who was rector of Borley at the time, and who was to live there for 29 years with his family of 14 children. Even before the construction of the house, Borley was well-known in the surrounding villages as being a 'bad place' and there were legends of a phantom nun and coach-and-horses which were reputed to haunt the site on which the house was built—legends which caught the imagination of Rev Bull. He was particularly interested because the phenomena seemed to have transferred itself—partially at least—to his house; this phenomena was largely of a poltergeist nature, although several incidents of spectral figures and unexplained footsteps also occurred.

This seems to have been the formative period of the haunting, which was perhaps stimulated by the presence of so many adolescents. The phenomena continued, rising in intensity throughout the incumbency of the Rev Bull and that of his son, Harry, until it reached its first peak during the incumbency of Rev G Eric Smith, which began in October 1928.

In June 1929, the Rev Smith, disturbed

by inexplicable happenings at the Rectory as well as the frightened attitude of the locals, wrote to the Daily Mirror about contacting a psychical research society. Its editor promptly got in touch with Harry Price, a well-known 'ghost-hunter' of the period, who, when he visited Borley Rectory for the first time on 12 June, 1929, was embarking on what was to be the last full-scale investigation of his life—he died on 29 March 1948 having written two books on the haunting (*The Most Haunted House in England* and *The End of Borley Rectory*). After the departure of the Smiths in July 1929, Price continued his investigations—through the eventful Foyster incumbency which lasted five years (1930 to 1935) and during which, pleas for help were scribbled on the walls of the Rectory, allegedly the work of a phantom nun. In 1937, Price himself rented the house for a year, arranging a rota of investigators who reported phenomena back to him. At midnight on 27 February 1939, Borley Rectory was destroyed by fire. Even during the blaze, it seems, the spirits were not at rest, for strange figures were seen walking through the flames by reliable observers, including policemen. The manifestations continued, outliving (if that is the right word!) the final demolition of the house in 1944, and phenomena are still being reported from the site of the Rectory, the cottage beside it and the church directly across the road. The Borley Case has its critics (extremely forceful and outspoken ones at that), but, after reading and assessing all the available evidence, as well as carrying out some modest investigations of my own, I am personally convinced there is a very real case to be answered.

Having set the scene at Borley, I will try to substantiate some of the speculations aired in the first—the Warminster—part of this article.

When one studies the records of the Borley phenomena, particularly those of the last twenty-five years, a number of instances are to be found of electromagnetic and other phenomena which, anywhere else, would probably constitute evidence of UFO activity. Take the following examples:

The first record of what would seem to be E-M related phenomena occurred in March 1947, when Dr C P Hilton-Rowe visited Borley with the intention of taking photographs of the interior of the church. In order to determine the correct exposures he was using an 'Avo' exposure meter of the photo-electric cell type. This had been working perfectly all morning, but when Dr Hilton-Rowe used it to test the light on the Rectory site an inexplicable malfunction occurred.

The meter failed to respond at all, and only by tapping it very hard was Dr Hilton-Rowe able to jerk the needle to another position where it was again immobile. It was not until he left the immediate vicinity of the Rectory site that the needle behaved in a normal manner. Since then, Dr Hilton-Rowe has had no trouble with the meter.

A more remarkable E-M effect took place on 8 April, 1961 on the occasion of a visit by Mr St John Saunders and two friends. During the night, all three witnessed bright lights in the vicinity of the churchyard for which they could give no explanation. They also heard strange footsteps and, at one point, torches, car headlights and a flashlight camera all 'gave out' simultaneously. Mr St John Saunders and his friends were also puzzled by the appearance of a number of pin-points of light which hovered over the Rectory garden at a

height of ten to fifteen feet. Similar pin-points of light were to be seen nine years later inside the church by another trio of observers.

Another report, from a Suffolk JP, detailed the experiences of a friend who visited Borley and spent a night there with three companions in 1967. As it grew dark, all four were alarmed to see a 'luminous white figure' in the churchyard. After a moment, this figure seemed to change to a 'luminous white patch' that moved round slowly horizontally. Not unnaturally, they were extremely unnerved by this strange sight, but when they tried to start the car to leave, the engine, which until then had been working perfectly, refused to respond and the car had to be pushed a considerable distance before it would do so. In both these cases, it is interesting to note that when examples of E-M phenomena occurred, they were in conjunction with the appearance of 'strange lights' which the witnesses were unable to explain.

During the Smith occupancy of the Rectory, for example, Mrs Smith often stated in letters to relatives that she was baffled by the appearance of strange lights in certain rooms. These lights were plainly visible from outside, but when somebody went inside to find out what they were, the rooms in question were found to be unlit and often were locked up. During the seance held on the night of Price's first visit to Borley (at which Price, the Rev Smith and Mrs Smith were present), weird sparks of light were seen coming from the mirror, which 'tapped' in answer to questions posed by the sitters. At approximately two o'clock, a cake of soap on the washstand was lifted and thrown heavily on to a china jug standing on the floor—

*continued overleaf*

with such force, in fact, that the soap was deeply marked. All the sitters were at the other side of the room at the time.

More interestingly, during the war-time blackout (ie after the Rectory had been burnt down), lights were often seen in the ruins and the ARP authorities investigated the mystery more than once. On 20 August, 1949, a party of four members from the now-defunct *Ealing Society for the Investigation of Psychic Phenomena* reported the appearance of another strange light at Borley. At approximately eleven o'clock at night they saw '*a strong white light emanating from a branch at the top of the trees on the left-hand side of the road leading to the village.*' The light disappeared after a few seconds. At the time of the sighting, there were no trains passing on the Sudbury-Long Melford line, nor any traffic on the road past the Rectory site.

In April 1951, the Rectory was bought by Mr & Mrs R Bacon, who resided in the cottage with their two children, Terrence and José, and Mrs Bacon's parents, Mr & Mrs Williams. Mr Williams, a retired engineer, down-to-earth and matter-of-fact, reported that on more than one occasion he woke in the night to find a light (he described it as a '*glow*') hovering in his bedroom. On one occasion he saw whirling circles of light in his room.

Nineteen years later, on 20 June 1970, two of a group of investigators led by Mr G Croom-Hollingsworth, saw a light in one of the chancel windows moving towards the altar. The two observers were able to establish that the main door and the chancel door were locked and sealed. The same group were also fortunate enough to record on tape the sound of voices in the locked and empty church on a visit in May 1970. On another occas-

ion, during an all-night vigil spent in the church by Mr Croom-Hollingsworth and two friends, innumerable pin-points of light were seen which first appeared some four pews back from the front of the church, gradually moved forward, then separated and vanished.

Another report of strange phenomena at Borley, whilst not being at first sight connected UFO-wise is, I feel, worthy of inclusion. In July 1966, Mr Gerard Kelman spent a night at Borley with a few friends, and about 5 am all three witnesses heard footsteps and saw a curious figure near the Rectory site. Although the witnesses' reports tally in basics, details of the '*apparition*' differ substantially. For example, Mr Kelman stated that he saw '*a vaguely human shape*' and nothing more, whilst one of his companions, Miss Jane Connolly, reported that she saw '*a small head on broad shoulders, but from the waist downwards the figure was blurred.*' The third eyewitness, Miss Margaret Anne Connolly, said that she saw '*the lower half of a figure standing by the shed. It seemed to fade, then reappear gradually: . . . I could only see part of the figure (from the waist down): the garments were of pale grey or blue and long.*' These three eyewitness reports, differing as they do, raise the question of how subjective such an experience is—after all, how often have we come across this sort of thing in UFO sighting accounts?

The type of lights reported by the majority of observers at Borley seem to call to mind the presence of '*thinking-globes*' or '*thought-discs*' more than anything else. These '*thinking-globes*' have become, over the years, a well-attested, but nevertheless, I feel, largely-ignored part of the UFO phenomenon.

One last thought concerning Borley and Warminster. Both places have become a 'Mecca' for people interested in their respective fields of research—Psychic Phenomena and Ufology. Over the years, countless people have visited both locations in the hope of experiencing something out of the ordinary. Perhaps the forces responsible for phenomena at both places are able, in some mysterious way, to feed off the energies of these visitors.

When comparing the records of Psychic Research and Ufology, one thing in particular stands out: namely, that despite decades of concentrated re-

search and investigation by the leading societies in both fields (*Bufo*, *Nicap* and *Apro* for Ufology, and the *Society for Psychical Research* for Psychic Phenomena), nobody is really any closer to the truth than at the outset. I cannot help feeling that the situation looks like staying that way, and that in all probability the truth will not be known until the invisible forces that surround us decide to let us know.

*Paul Devos*

*Recommended further reading:*

*The Ghosts of Borley*, by Peter Underwood and Paul Tabori. Pub David and Charles, 1973.

### London Lectures

- Sat. 2 December 1978:** 7 pm: Annual General Meeting (members only).  
8 pm: Audio-Visual presentation of Close Encounter Cases by *Alan West* (non-members admitted).
- Sat. 6 January 1979:** 7 pm: Ley Lines, UFOs and Ancient Sites.  
*Speaker: Paul Devereux, BA.*
- Sat. 3 February 1979:** 7 pm: Close Encounters, Space and Sanity.  
*Speaker: Norman Oliver, FRAS.*

Meetings are held in the Lecture Theatre of Kensington Central Library, Campden Hill Road entrance, London W8.

**Important: please note that all meetings commence at 7 pm:** the starting time was unfortunately omitted from the programme card.

### British Authors

#### No. 3 The Earl of Clancarty (Brinsley Le Poer Trench).

*Former editor of Flying Saucer Review, July 1956 to September 1959. Founder President of Contact International. A Vice-President of Bufo. Honorary Life Member of the Ancient Astronaut Society. Honorary Life Member of the Hollow Earth Society, Australia. Regular contributor to Canadian UFO Report.*

**The books of Brinsley Le Poer Trench**, now Earl of Clancarty and an active campaigner on the subject of UFOs in Britain's Upper Chamber,

the House of Lords, have always been amongst the most sought after. The following is a complete list (overseas editions in italics):—

### **The Sky People—**

Neville Spearman, London 1960. Reprinted 4 times.

Tandem paperbacks, London 1971. Reprinted 3 times.

*Award Books, New York 1970. Reprinted 1974.*

*Editions J'ai Lu, Parish 1970. Reprinted 1972.*

*Edizioni Mediterranee, Rome, 1976.*

*Kadokawa Shoten, Japan, 1978.*

### **Men Among Mankind—**

Neville Spearman, London, 1962.

*Amherst Press, Wisconsin, 1963.*

Fontana/Collins, London, 1973.

(under title of Temple of the Stars). Reprinted 4 times.

*Ballantine Books, New York (under title of Temple of the Stars).*

*Kadokawa Shoten, Japan, 1976 (under title of Temple of the Stars).*

### **Forgotten Heritage—**

Neville Spearman, London, 1964.

*Kadokawa Shoten, Japan, 1978.*

### **The Flying Saucer Story—**

Neville Spearman, London, 1966. Reprinted twice.

Tandem Paperbacks, London, 1966. Reprinted twice.

*Ace Books, New York, 1966.*

*Edizioni Mediterranee, Rome, 1973.*

*Global Editora Ltda, Sao Paulo, Brazil, 1974.*

### **Operation Earth—**

Neville Spearman, London, 1969.

Tandem Paperbacks, London, 1974. Reprinted twice.

*Kadokawa Shoten, Japan, 1977.*

*Edizioni Mediterranee, Rome, 1977.*

### **The Eternal Subject—**

Souvenir Press, London, 1973.

Pan Books, London, 1975 (under title of Mysterious Visitors). Reprinted 1977.

*Stein & Day, New York, 1973 (under title of Mysterious Visitors). Reprinted 1977.*

*Sphinx & Nihil, Copenhagen, 1974.*

### **Secret of the Ages—**

Souvenir Press, London, 1974.

Panther Books, Frogmore, St. Albans 1976. (Reprinted same year).

*Pinnacle Books, New York, 1977.*

*Kadokawa Shoten, Japan, 1975.*

To date the Earl of Clancarty has asked five questions for written answer about UFOs in the House of Lords and has

the following motion down for debate (a debate which may have taken place by the time this appears) in the Upper Chamber:

'To call attention to the increasing number of reports of sightings and landings of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) on a worldwide scale, and to the need for an inter-governmental study of UFOs; and to move for papers.'

The Earl of Clancarty tells me that before putting the motion down he did quite a lot of lobbying among peers and found a surprising number of them interested and prepared to put their names down to speak, a scientist and Aerospace spokesman amongst them.

*Norman Oliver*

### **LENDING LIBRARY RESTARTING**

**Colin and Janet Andrews have kindly agreed to restart a book lending library facility for Bufora. It is anticipated that books will be available by mail or by collection on request from the London Lectures.**

**Please write for details to :**

**Mr & Mrs Andrews  
339 Eastwood Road  
RAYLEIGH  
Essex.**

**AWARENESS—**The Journal of Contact UK. Details from: The National Chairman, Contact UK, 59d Windmill Road, Headington, Oxford.

# Points from the Press

Valerie Martin

The *Surrey and Hants News* of 23 May had an article on student David Firmage who is taking a course in film and TV production and has made a film on the recent spate of reported sightings in the area. It is based on *Sigap* and the way which the group operates and includes his own interviews with witnesses. The most interesting fact he found, but hardly surprising, was that most people are reluctant not only to be filmed but to talk, because of fear of being ridiculed.

\* \* \*

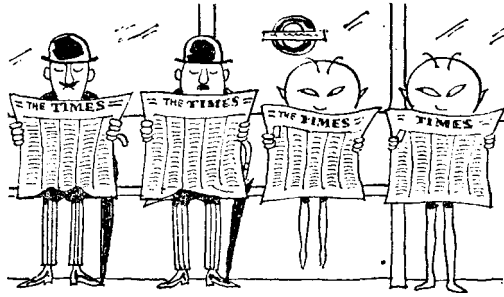
The *Evening Post* of 5 June reported that the *West Country UFO Research Association*, whose president, Ian Vinten, is also a *Bufora* member, had seen several odd lights over Worlebury Hill at Weston-super-Mare, around 11 pm. A bright intense light which flickered to bright red, ascended and descended at 3 to 5 minute intervals over a 20 minute period. Another light appeared stationary, and yet another moved off and disappeared.

\* \* \*

The *Evening Sentinel* of 14 June had a paragraph about a yellow disc seen moving across the sky the previous Monday at Gnosall near Stafford. It suddenly stopped, did a high speed manoeuvre and stopped again before moving off. About 20 minutes later another object was seen at Beech, then Clayton.

\* \* \*

The *Barking and Dagenham Advertiser* of 16 June announced that the *Dagenham Paranormal Research Group* was staging an exhibition at the Dagenham Town Hall and had invited BBC and ITV TV crews to interview them. (See report in last Journal).



In the *Kent and Sussex Courier* of 9 June, Doris Mason from a Tunbridge Wells nursing home had written a letter on the UFOs she has seen regularly in easterly and westerly directions over the past 2 to 3 years. The objects are like skeleton steel or glittering aeroplanes with 2 or 3 lights at the top, always upright, and like a 'grass-hopper' shape with slender backsliding wings. After much inquiry she was told they were satellites.

\* \* \*

The *Evening News* of 30 June had a report on a red and white light seen around 10 pm on several nights by a number of people in Sittingbourne. It hovered or moved slowly across the sky for about an hour before disappearing and on one occasion was joined by 5 others. Police passed the information on to RAF Manston who reported it to the MoD, and the latter said there were no military exercises in the area at the time, in the air.

\* \* \*

The *Observer* of 23 July mentioned that creation of a UN agency to study UFOs is on the provisional agenda for the UN General Assembly's next session.

\* \* \*

The *Dorset Evening Echo* of 4 and 5 July had accounts of UFOs over Wey-

*continued overleaf*

mouth and Portland. A holiday-maker saw a cigar-shaped object which changed from yellow to orange, and snapped it with his Polaroid camera. The result, not reproduced, showed a white ball low in the sky. A woman saw a white object 'like a big sheet the size of a house' take off from the top of Bowleaze the previous Sunday afternoon, and another holiday-maker saw a yellow egg-shaped disc too large for a helicopter. A spokesman at Portland Naval Base said they had been using flares on a night exercise, and a private blue and white Gazelle helicopter had been operating during the day.

\* \* \*

The *Evening Sentinel*, of Hanley, which regularly reports UFO sightings, ran a two-part series on the subject on 24 and 25 July. It interviewed Terry Shotton, *Nufon* investigator, who has had a few strange experiences himself and is interested in the psychic angle, and Dr Ron Maddison, senior lecturer in Physics and Director of the Observatory, Keele University, and regular guest on "The Sky at Night" programme. The latter considers that UFOs are unexplained natural phenomena and gave examples of amateur observers being misled by ordinary events happening in varying weather conditions, but admitted that one phenomenon, ball lightning, is still not easily understood.

\* \* \*

The *Halifax Evening Courier* of 24 July had an item on a mysterious 'blob of light' being investigated by Trevor Whitaker, *Bufo*'s Yorkshire Branch secretary. The previous evening before 10 pm, 2 boys saw over Norland Moor, a 'hook shape and another behind it like a round blob' pass through clouds reappear then disappear. They saw

another light a bit later. Mr Whitaker said sightings were regularly made in the area, helicopters did operate, but there was no particular explanation for this.

\* \* \*

The *North Devon Journal-Herald* of 20 July carried an article on UFOs and featured Harold Cobley, founder member of the *British Flying Saucer Bureau*, and brother-in-law of Albert K Bender, famous founder of the *International Flying Saucer Bureau*. Cobley's son had twice photographed large strange objects seen also by many other people in North Devon, but the slide reproduced in the newspaper was very poor. Also given coverage were *Bufo* investigators, David Painting of Barnstaple, and Nicholas Dart of Ilfracombe. All three have been busy with sightings along the coast which could be a spin-off from UFO activity over South Wales.

\* \* \*

*Weekend* of 2-8 August told the story of a Scottish farmer in Strathclyde, who was driving home with his teenage son when their car was bathed in a bright red light. He stopped and went on foot to investigate the source in a nearby field, but when he was within 100 yards it disappeared leaving the area in darkness. He said it seemed about the size of a football and was throwing light out in other directions. Later that night, when they were working in the cowshed, a high pitched squeal filled the air. It appeared to be coming from near the top of a hill behind the farmhouse and the two set out to find it, but both farm dogs refused to leave the cowshed. The sound suddenly jumped to a point several hundred yards away then faded out. Several neighbours also spotted a red light.

# Report—Extra!

Presented by Norman Oliver

Although a number of reports in this issue are somewhat—one or two rather more than somewhat—dated, they are all recently investigated accounts. Several—if the press is to be believed—high-strangeness cases are currently under investigation, but there is inevitably a delay of a minimum of two to three months before any detailed reference can be presented here. As will be seen from the sighting summaries in this and subsequent issues, there is certainly no shortage of reports.

Quite a proportion of the incidents reported as a result of the *Daily Express* Close Encounter articles earlier in the year have now been investigated and some of these will be featured in *Report—Extra!* in the New Year. *Contact UK* has kindly assisted *Bufo* with investigations into these in areas where we have had less than adequate representation ourselves and we are very appreciative of their co-operation. All reports investigated by *Contact UK* that are included in these pages in future issues will be clearly credited to their representatives.

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We commence with an outline of what is bound to become one of the most discussed claims in this country . . . .

## The Paul Grant Affair

*A Review by Norman Oliver*

### Report by Andy Collins—July 1978

In a recent editorial I commented on the unenviable position of a hypothetical UFO researcher who had the (mis)fortune to become a focus for UFO entities. Think about it, all you researchers and investigators—were the roles reversed YOU would be investigated, probed, disbelieved and generally regarded with deep suspicion: as Andy Collins puts it, “*A UFO researcher as a contactee is like a police detective with a long criminal record.*” It was to avoid the worst effects of this attitude that the pseudonym of *Paul Grant* was finally adopted for the researcher whose apparent experiences Collins was instrumental in uncovering and who is, in fact, well known to him personally. Several of Paul’s experiences have already been recorded—on occasion, indeed, in this Journal, but it was not until the element of hypnotic regression was introduced by Collins that previously seemingly unrelated incidents began to join up and form a most remarkable whole—

certainly one of the most remarkable experiences ever to be recorded in the British Isles.

Collins, who has painstakingly produced a 100+ page report of the *Paul Grant Affair*, anticipates this will form the centrepiece of a book involving the deeper aspects of contactee situations, but in the meantime he has made full details available to four well-known researchers in this country and three in the USA, including Dr Hynek at the *Center for UFO Studies*. Both he and Paul Grant have given full permission for a review to be published in this journal . . . .

### “Apparitions and Accidents”

The diverse nature of Paul Grant’s experiences makes it by no means easy to review them in just a few pages, but I will follow the chronological order of events adopted by Collins in his report. The hypnotic regression method

which finally brought the later contact experiences into the open was also used at times by Collins to confirm and elicit greater detail of some of the earlier incidents. As will be seen, at times a psychic element is also apparent.

Paul Grant has lived on the London/Essex border since he was born in 1952. His first brush with the unusual occurred when he was only four years old: he and other members of his family then saw a 'cloud-like mass' advancing upstairs and into the living-room where it disappeared. Then, when ten years old, playing on a piece of apparatus in a nearby playground, he was lying on his back when a large, round, dark object, seemingly solid, descended vertically towards him, then was gone.

In October 1968, he was walking through Barking when a 'man' ran straight into the path of an oncoming car. There was an extremely hefty 'thump': the 'man' went down, but immediately got up and ran off down a small road alongside a cemetery: Paul ran over to this road but the 'man' could not be seen, although there was no place he could have hidden. The car, meanwhile, had driven off.

### " MIB's and Poltergeists "

Paul commenced UFO investigations in 1966, since when he has acted for various UFO organisations. It was one evening in November 1970 that he first became aware of being under surveillance from a man and woman in a sports car. Oddly enough, the following week was notable for poltergeist activity commencing in the house—thumping: banging doors: the sound of objects being thrown around: 'presences' being felt: pools of water appearing from nowhere and other disturbing incidents.

The surveillance by the couple in the red sports car continued for seven months, after which a white Vauxhall took over—still with the same occupants: after a further few months the car was no longer seen and poltergeist activity also ceased. However, in late 1972, Paul was continually followed by a green Mercedes: this lasted some six months and Paul's own car was nudged off the road by it on one occasion: thereafter it appeared sporadically, but when in 1974 Paul checked out its registration number he found that no such number had been issued by the appropriate licensing authority.

### Barn Hill and other Encounters

On 11 May 1974, Paul, who was with another UFO investigator, was close to Barn Hill, Chingford, when two figures were seen in the direction of a copse; these were wearing black gowns and had long flowing white hair, but no facial details were visible. After watching for an hour, at 9.30 pm two other forms appeared much closer, and both became aware that an object was coming towards them over the trees shaped 'like two ice cream cones stuck together end to end.' This had red and white lights and a revolving blue light. An elderly man from a nearby bungalow was also watching. There was a pinging sonar-like noise as it passed over towards a reservoir: three photos were taken, then the object was gone. Subsequently it was found that the tops of trees over which the object had hovered were charred, twisted and stripped of bark. Unfortunately, however, the photos did not come out and the elderly gentleman declined to comment on what he had seen.

On 10 August 1974, at 1.30 am, Paul had been watching the Perseid meteor shower from his window when he saw a similar figure to those observed at Barn Hill standing next to the garden

shed: he then crouched on the floor for nearly half an hour and when he again looked out the figure had gone. Subsequently, Paul developed a severe rash on his face, forehead and hands which persisted for some months: nothing prescribed had any effect and he was told he would have to wear bandages at all times, but suddenly one morning in 1975, the rashes disappeared and never returned.

On 10 March 1976 at 12.50 am, Paul was alone in the living-room. He decided to make a cup of tea, lit a cigarette and was about to turn into the kitchen when he saw the same featureless figure standing inside, though this time it seemed somewhat taller and was seen to be light grey facially. His cigarette burned to his fingers and as he flicked the butt onto the table—something he had never done before, or since—the figure moved its head jerkily. Paul began to receive mental images, prominent amongst them being that of a night-time scene with a domed, disc-shaped object in the centre, whilst he himself was moving towards the craft held by two people. As this image came the entity again nodded its head jerkily, then it was no longer there.

### Odd callers and entities

For a while after this, Paul suspended his UFO activities, but by July 1977 was again actively involved in research, and on occasion in Hainault Forest (from whence have come a number of strange reports), he observed 'Bacofoil-clad humanoids.' He also received several strange phone calls, including one from a Mr Munroe who apparently knew of the earlier Mercedes incidents, but when the London, W5 address he had given was checked out, no one had heard of him.

### Hypnosis sessions

On 6 January 1978, it was discussed whether hypnosis would possibly bring to light any further information relating to his experiences or clarify existing information, and eventually it was decided at least to try. Paul agreed and under hypnosis the childhood experiences were confirmed. On the Barn Hill encounter being regressed, however, an extraordinary story began to emerge. Significantly, perhaps, the first additional detail was that the hands of Paul's watch started to spin, then, when the 'pinging' object was overhead, it stopped. Paul then recalled being in a 'dark room': everything was 'frozen,' but through an oblong 'eye camera' he could see the car and the lane outside. He could hear machines, voices, and though the phrases were mainly not in English, the words 'not to be afraid' and 'sands of time' came through to him. He started to describe the room's interior, but then it became cold and dark and he was back at the car.

Amazed at this result, both now realised the possible significance of Paul's other two encounters, and on the 'garden' incident being regressed it was found that the figure had actually moved towards the house, Paul following it with the beam of his torch: then, as he had crouched down, there had been a pounding in his head, which cleared, and he heard a voice say, "We have come—to bring you—prepare for next time . . ."

In a similar regression of the 'kitchen' encounter, Paul followed his conscious experience to the point where the cigarette burned his fingers, but there it diverged. A splitting pain was felt inside the head: it was dark: he was cold and dizzy: a 'thumping'

*continued overleaf*

could be heard. He found he was sitting on a large chair and was 'held' by small gowned beings with large heads and dark, round eyes. Eventually he became dizzy again and 'came to' back in the kitchen.

In his report on the affair, Collins tells us that '*hypnosis only acts as a trigger mechanism to release an incredible wealth of information hidden in the subconscious and this was certainly true of Paul Grant.*' From the hypnosis sessions (details of which are expanded on considerably in the report—references here are merely brief outlines), and verbal and written information from Paul subsequent to the sessions, a wealth of information on these apparent abductions, together with drawings by Paul of objects and occupants has been recorded. Collins had, in fact, told Paul when he was under hypnosis that he would subsequently recall everything. Some further details were also gleaned by hypnotically induced '*direct trance-mediumship*,' latterly supervised by a qualified psychologist and hypnotist.

**Briefly:** The '*weird faceless entities*' were found to be '*Gatherers*,' their specific function being to gather organic and inorganic specimens for examination and study. These '*Gatherers*' are part living, part machine and programmed to a central organic computer on board the craft from which they originate.

The short large-headed entities wished to be known as '*The Merak*,' though whether the suggestion is that their point of origin is the star Merak in Ursa Major is unclear: Paul was shown a star-map when watching a screen in the craft and had the impression he should add at certain points the words '*Home-base station*,' '*North Satr Polar*' and '*Merak*,' but these were not actually on the screen.

These '*Small Guys*' were quite pleasant and slender looking, about 4ft to 4ft 6ins tall and had large craniums in proportion to the body. They had no hair: no eyelashes or eyebrows: their eyes were small and round: the ears were small and '*odd-shaped*.' Mouths were just lines which did not move when they addressed Paul. They had '*childlike*' hands with four fingers and a thumb: their skin was grey.

After the '*eye camera*' episode in the '*room*' at the time of the Barn Hill encounter, a '*projector screen*' had been pulled across on a trolley which had several sets of spheres half-set into its base: on it were shown images like spires, towers or rocks, but Paul had decided to ignore this '*film show*' which was promptly discontinued. He had then been told, '*Like the sands of time we will come face to face again*,' and a metal device from the wall first gripped his shoulder, then retracted—Paul believed as a gesture of friendship.

During the '*kitchen*' encounter, the '*thumping*' proved a prelude to Paul being taken aboard the craft he had visualised—taken as before to a seat with an eye-camera. He then found that his glasses intrigued the '*Small Guys*,' who examined both these and his mouth. Again he was shown images on a screen—this time apparently of various places on Earth. Taken to a changing room, he was subsequently given a comprehensive medical, including blood, saliva and urine samples being taken, together with nail parings and possibly skin scrapings. Later he was told he had had a minute device—a Bio-monitor—implanted in his chest. He then dressed, was given various points of information and again shown a number of screen images.

Two items of information may perhaps be of particular interest:

Firstly, apparently a general statement on abductions.

“Abductions, or the taking of a person or persons from one place to another place forcibly and against their will, is false”—“Members of your species are, for the purpose of contact, invited aboard once they have been psychologically and physiologically scanned (for safety measures) so as not to cause conditions of fear with possible irreparable damage to the mind as could (and has) been the case without prior scanning.”

Secondly, information regarding the craft's ‘security’—as Collins comments, maybe to warn those who might venture too near.

“Each craft has a security/self defence mechanism . . . when this is on ‘safe mode,’ there is no danger in any area. But when switched on to ‘security mode,’ the effects are as follows:—

- 1 Up to 10 metres from craft: Molecular re-arrangement in metals, structures, and ‘fatalities.’
- 2 10-40 metres from craft: Electromagnetic effects, temporary paralysis, possible memory erasure.
- 3 40-85 metres from craft: Electromagnetic effects, tingling sensation, minor electrical shocks.

Collins comments that Paul and he feel that the appearance given throughout both encounters was one of total efficiency and a main concern for science and technology.

Subsequent incidents have included Paul receiving automatic writing on a number of occasions and reference has been made to the Travis Walton case. Indeed, some items in the Report—particularly as to the lay-out of the ‘rooms’ do strike a chord with Walton's experience and comparison might prove very interesting were Walton able to produce further details under regression of his experiences during his three-day abduction. In his case, however, the hypnotist, Dr Harder, arrived at a mental block enforced by a subconscious threat that Walton would die should regression be pursued.

The whole question of the validity of hypnotic regression in the ‘contact’ field is, of course, a subject for debate—a debate fuelled by Dr Alvin H Lawson's recent—and hotly-contested—paper *What Can We Learn from Hypnosis of Imaginary Abductees?*, the pros and cons of which will be the subject of review in a later *Journal*.

In this review, however, of necessity only a small proportion of the events detailed in the *Report* have been mentioned and, taken as a whole, the story related would seem difficult to explain away as a product of Paul's subconscious mind. I should add that original details of the three encounters—details that I cannot see have been changed in any way—were first made known to me by Paul over three years ago, and I can confirm that Paul was extremely disturbed about them at the time—and, referring to Time, one last point. On several occasions the Merak appeared to consider our conception of Time to be practically meaningless.

One hopes it will not be too long before Collins' anticipated book—provisionally entitled *The Contact Concept* finds a publisher. The case has many most intriguing aspects and associations, not only for the seasoned researcher, but for all interested in the subject of Ufology.

Norman Oliver

Refs:—

*The Paul Grant Affair*—Copyright A Collins, 1978.

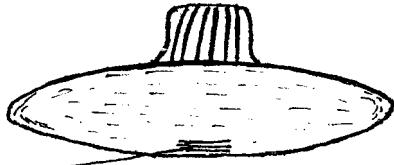
*The Walton Experience*—Travis Walton. Berkeley Medallion Books, 1978.

*What Can We Learn from Hypnosis of Imaginary Abductees*—Alvin H Lawson, PhD, 1977.

\* \* \*

## Strutted Stafford UFO

*Inv MKeatman*



GRILL

One night in December 1977, Mr Johnson, a Staffordshire farmer, left his home by car at 9.55 pm. Three hundred yards along the road he noticed two very large bright white lights one above the other. He pulled up, but could hear no sound through the open window: switching off the engine, he got out and as he did so, the object turned and came across the road from right to left some fifty yards away. It then banked slightly and moved along the line of a hedge and some telephone wires, finally banking to the right by a tree at the end of the hedge and becoming lost to sight as it moved towards Tittensor. Witness likened its movement to that of a submarine under water.

In shape, the object was like a cigar, tapering at both ends with a pill box shaped dome on top. Its length was that of 'about four cars,' ie: about 40 feet and at its widest point was probably about 10 feet across. The dome was an estimated 10 feet wide and high, being transparent and supported by five or six black struts. A very bright white light came from it. On the underside was a metallic-looking grill of no definite shape: this had uni-coloured bars on it through which very bright light was pouring in all directions: this grill was about three feet long.

The object, seemingly metallic, was illuminated by the light which also lit up the area below it: the light was

diffused and was not a solid light phenomenon.

\* \* \*

## Bingham 'Branches & Roots'

I have seldom come across more extraordinarily shaped 'UFOs' than the ones in this report from Bingham, Notts., indeed it brings to mind falls of 'Fortean phenomena' rather than UFOs and in this instance perhaps the nomenclature should be unidentified floating (or falling) objects!

Around noon one day in the summer of 1966, witness, then at school, was with about twelve other boys and teachers watching cricket when objects were noticed slowly falling down out of the clouds, floating down towards the ground and disappearing at ground level over various distances.

These objects were likened to 'trees bared of leaves with a spindly trunk.' The 'roots' of the objects seemed to be marginally smaller than the upper parts, but there was no orderly shape to any of the approximately fifty objects which descended steadily, not drifting at all, over a period of three or four minutes, around ten of them being visible at any one time.

\* \* \*

## Shildon 'Squares'

*Inv B Hartley*

A Shildon, Co Durham, housewife in her fifties, was standing in her porch doorway at 2 am on 23 July 1977 whilst her dog was roaming the garden. It was a beautifully clear night and looking to the north she saw what seemed to be a large light the size of a tennis ball, just above a bush or hedge near the top of a rising piece of grassland used as a children's play area. It glowed like a torch and she could make out small squares on it. The object

# BUFORA LIMITED

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Third Annual General Meeting of BUFORA Ltd will be held at the Kensington Central Library, Campden Hill Road entrance, in the Lecture Theatre, at 7 pm on Saturday, 2 December 1978, to receive the President's Address, the Chairman's Report, the Report of the Council of Management for the Year ended 31 August 1978, the Report of the Auditor, the Accounts of the Treasurer, and to elect the Members of the Council for the following year and re-appoint the Auditor, according to the Articles of Association.

*Signed on behalf of the Council of Management,*

7 October, 1978.

Miss B D WOOD, *Secretary.*

Please note that a Member entitled to attend and vote at this Meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy who need not be a Member of the Company to attend and vote in his or her stead. Instruments of proxy must be lodged at the Company's Registered Office, Hazlemont House, Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham, not less than forty-eight hours before the time appointed for the meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

### THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2 December 1978

#### A G E N D A

- 1 Notice convening the Meeting.
- 2 Minutes of Second Annual General Meeting.
- 3 President's Address.
- 4 Chairman's Report.
- 5 Treasurer's Report.
- 6 Director of Research's Report.
- 7 Adoption of the Report of the Council of Management, of the Report of the Auditor, and of the Accounts for the year ended 31 August 1978.
- 8 Re-appointment of Auditor.
- 9 Election of Directors to the Council of Management for the ensuing year.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT for the twelve months ended 31 August 1978

- 1 This Report and the attached set of Accounts and Report of the Auditor cover the twelve months period from 1977 to 1978 August 31.
- 2 The attached Balance Sheet shows the state of the Company's affairs at 31 August 1978; the financial position being an improvement over the previous year's Balance Sheet. The accompanying Income and Expenditure Account prepared by the Treasurer, Mr S L Smith, though showing a smaller net surplus than in the previous year, includes items where considerable improvements have been achieved thus providing more funds for publications and research and investigation. A significant proportion of BUFORA'S income is derived from Members' donations, and the Council expresses its thanks to all those Members who generously contributed to the total shown in the Accounts.
- 3 The principal activities of the Company during the Financial Period have been to encourage promote and conduct unbiased scientific research of unidentified flying object (UFO) phenomena throughout the United Kingdom, to collect and disseminate evidence relating to UFOs, and to co-ordinate UFO research throughout the United Kingdom and to co-operate with others engaged in such work throughout the World.
- 4 The Membership of BUFORA Ltd at 31 August 1978 was 731 (1977—763), the fall being due to the loss of some overseas members and the inevitable turnover of younger Members who join on the popular image of UFOs, but who find the real picture less like romantic science fiction than they thought. The Membership Secretary, Mrs S A Harcourt, reports that new Members joining during the present year have included many more qualified people genuinely wanting to help with research and investigation. This trend is most

encouraging for the future development of BUFORA's research and investigation programmes. The Registered Membership of the Company is 550.

The Chairman, Mr L E Beer, the Company Secretary, Miss B D Wood, and the Editor of the Journal, Mr N T Oliver, have all received during the year a continuing series of enquiries about BUFORA and UFOs, mainly from the public but also from Local Authority Information Centres, Technical Colleges and Universities, Reference Libraries and Museums.

- 5 A National Conference was held during the year in Nottingham on 15-16 April 1978. The event was organised by Council Members Mr C F Lockwood and Mr A R Pace and guests and Members were hosted by MURO, the Midlands UFO Research Organisation based in Mansfield. Speakers were headed by Dr R F Haines, PhD, from Los Altos, California, who emphasised the necessity of an interdisciplinary approach to discussion and research into the UFO phenomenon. Dr Haines brought greetings from individuals and organisations in the United States of America thus maintaining BUFORA's continuing links with that country as part of its promotion of international co-operation. This theme was further strengthened by a paper submitted by the Danish Skandinavisk UFO Information group and a contribution from Mr D Bosga, an investigator for the Centre for UFO Studies in the USA. The aim of holding the Conference was undoubtedly satisfied as it brought together ufologists from this country and abroad to discuss progress and ideas and it fostered good relations and co-operation between participants. It was also successful in financial terms as a bonus to the organisers. A full report on the Conference has appeared in the July/August BUFORA Journal and Conference Proceedings are in the course of preparation.

During the year BUFORA held 10 lectures at the Kensington Central Library in London, on the first Saturday of each month from September to June, arranged by Mr N T Oliver. The programme of talks covered most aspects of ufology and entertained and educated near capacity audiences. The success of the season in providing informative and social evenings, is reflected in the Income and Expenditure Account. Summaries of some lectures were published in the BUFORA Journal and during the coming year Council intends that coverage will be more complete for the benefit of out-of-London Members.

In addition, several Members and Council Members have been invited to give lectures to organisations, educational establishments, and local radio audiences as well as providing interviews and information to local and national newspapers.

- 6 Under the Editorship of Mr N T Oliver, the BUFORA Journal was published six times during the year and distributed to Members and exchanged with about 60 other organisations worldwide. Council are grateful to Mr A West and Mr B Hartley for distribution of the Journal. The Editorial emphasis over the year's issues has been placed particularly on developing the publication of sighting accounts and investigators' reports so that Members may be informed of UFO events throughout the country, and investigators can see the results of their work. A number of research papers and other general articles have also been included in the Journal. A regular feature has been Sighting Summaries giving brief details of cases investigated and catalogued, prepared by Miss P Grego and Report Extra covering abstracts of the more substantial sightings. Because of the improved finances of BUFORA, the Journal has been expanded to a regular 32 pages, including illustrations by Miss J Cook, and Points from the Press prepared by Mrs V Martin.

As shown in the Income and Expenditure Account, sales of BUFORA publications are less this year than last year but still substantially up on 1975/76. The drop is mainly due to the effect of publication of BUFORA's Investigators Handbook last year. Demand for this major publication has been met by three reprints during the year. BUFORA's other previously published booklets, the "UFO Guide," already in its third edition, and the three Science Papers, "The Use of Analytical Instruments in the Search for Extraterrestrial Spacecraft" by Mr D Viewing, "Investigations Procedures" by Mr T Whitaker, and "An Engineer's Look at UFOs" by Mr L Cramp, continue to be in demand. Two new publications have been launched, both arising from the November 1976 National Conference in Birmingham. The first is based on the illustrated lecture on humanoids given by Mr T R Bloecher of New York "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." The second is the full "Proceedings of the Second National Research and Investigation Conference." Both publications have been selling at a satisfactory rate and Council thanks Mr C F Lockwood for Editing the Proceedings and Mr A R Pace and Mr A West for handling distribution.

- 7 Research into Vehicle Interference Cases has been concluded and a report including an extensive catalogue of 420 cases compiled by Mr G Falla and others, together with detailed case studies, comments and conclusions is in the final stage before publication. Mr L Dale, Mr M Ford and others, in Kent have set up two electromagnetic noise monitoring stations at Gillingham and Ashford, funded by the Research Grant given in the previous financial year. Considerable experience has been gained in operating the stations, including taking part in an international skywatch operation, and a number of areas have been identified for future development. A progress report will be included in the Proceedings of the April 1978 National Conference.

Completion of the Vehicle Interference Case Catalogue has enabled Mr G Falla to begin work on Radar Cases. Some 150 reports from the last 35 years have been catalogued with assistance from Mr B Hartley. A report will be published during the coming year.

Two Members of the FUFOR UFO Study Group in Crewe are conducting preliminary studies of selected photographic material to establish any dimensional relationships under a BUFORA sponsored Orthographic Projection Project.

Following the November 1976 Birmingham National Conference, co-operation with Mr T Bloecher and Mr D F Webb of the Mutual UFO Network Humanoid Study Group and the Centre for UFO Studies, the Director of Research, Mr A R Pace, has received a copy of their Humanoid Catalogue, HUMCAT, for BUFORA research, principally for checking, correcting and revising the UK data included in it. A study of UFO reports from pilots has been initiated in conjunction with Dr R F Haines and information has been exchanged. The Director of Research has hosted a number of researchers who have consulted the BUFORA Research records for information required for their own projects.

- 8 Mr K R Phillips was National Investigations Co-ordinator at the beginning of the year, but retired at his own request in October. After a brief interregnum, Mr L W Dale was appointed to fill the vacancy. During the year approximately 500 investigations were initiated, a significant proportion arising from a series of articles in the Daily Express which resulted in their receiving about 1500 letters. These were shared between BUFORA and Flying Saucer Review (FSR), as both parties had assisted the Express in preparing their series. Approximately 40% of the 725 items examined by BUFORA related to sighting reports suitable for further study and BUFORA Investigators were given details for their respective areas. A number of cases were referred to CONTACT (UK) for investigation. BUFORA's Yorkshire Branch organised by Mr T Whitaker has followed up many of the cases and has initiated a record number of investigations during the current year. The National Investigations Co-ordinator has received an estimated 1450 press cuttings from UK newspapers over the year, a significant increase over the previous year.

A new physical data section has been formed, co-ordinated by Mr K R Phillips and staffed by Mr R Digby, Mr S Gamble and Mr R Lindsey in close liaison with Mr L W Dale, to examine all aspects of physical evidence including photographs, site traces, and environmental monitoring. Mr M Stenhoff has specialised in reports that indicate relationships with Ball Lightning.

- 9 The following Members constituted the Council of Management at 31 August 1978:

Mr L E Beer	Miss B D Wood	Mr S L Smith	Mrs S A Harcourt
Mr A R Pace	Mr N T Oliver	Mr S Gamble	Mr C F Lockwood
Mr L W Dale	Mr A West	Mr M Stenhoff	

In addition, the following Members have served on the Council during the year:

Mr R Nash                      Miss J C Randles

- 10 No Member of the Council received any remuneration during the year.
- 11 Under Sections 49 and 50 of the Articles of Association, the following Members of Council are retiring by rotation:
- |             |                 |               |               |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Mr A R Pace | Mr C F Lockwood | Mr N T Oliver | Mr M Stenhoff |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
- Mr Pace, Mr Lockwood and Mr Oliver, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. Mr Stenhoff has retired at his request and is not seeking re-election.

*Signed on behalf of the Council,*

7 October, 1978.

L E BEER, *Chairman.*

## BUFORA LTD

### BALANCE SHEET

	as at 31.8.78		as at 31.8.77	
	£	£	£	£
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Sundry stock at cost .....		132		197
Sundry debtors .....		451		480
Cash: Deposit Account .....	1462		984	
Current Account .....	162		413	
		<u>1624</u>		<u>1397</u>
		2207		2074
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Subscriptions in advance .....		1930		1468
Sundry creditors .....		184		600
Current Taxation (payable 1.6.79) .....		24		—
		<u>2138</u>		<u>2068</u>
<b>Net Assets</b> .....		<u>69</u>		<u>6</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>				
<b>Research Fund</b> —at start of period .....	57		87	
Less: Research Grant .....	—		30	
		<u>57</u>		<u>57</u>
<b>General Fund</b> —at start of period .....	(51)		(199)	
Add: Surplus of Income for the period .....	63		148	
		<u>12</u>		<u>( 51)</u>
Total of Research and General Funds .....		<u>69</u>		<u>6</u>

### INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	Year to 31.8.78		Year to 31.8.77	
	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>				
Subscriptions .....		2939		2159
Life subscriptions maturing.....		66		60
Publications sales .....	515		715	
Less: Printing and postage .....	285		663	
		<u>230</u>		<u>52</u>
Donations .....		449		392
Interest from Deposit Account .....		58		45
London Lectures .....	451			
Less: Expenses .....	402			
		<u>49</u>		<u>—</u>
Miscellaneous income .....		82		37
		<u>3873</u>		<u>2745</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b> inclusive of VAT				
Journal printing and distribution .....		2283		1537
Research & Investigation .....		834		427
London Lectures expenses .....			298	
Less: Income therefrom .....			248	
			<u>50</u>	
Administration expenses .....		611		442
Honorarium to Auditor .....		27		27
Conference expenses .....	719		628	
Less: Registration Fees .....	707		514	
		<u>12</u>		<u>114</u>
		<u>3767</u>		<u>2597</u>

<b>SURPLUS</b> of income over expenditure for period .....	106	148
UK Corporation Tax at 42% based on Deposit Account interest earned during 1976/77 .....	19	
Provision for UK Corporation Tax at 42% based on De- posit Account interest earned during 1977/78 .....	24	
	<hr/> 43	<hr/> —
<b>NET SURPLUS</b> of income over expenditure for the peroid carried to General Fund .....	<hr/> 63	<hr/> 148

- Notes :** (1) The Company is limited by guarantee and in the event of winding up the liability of each Member would be limited to £1.00.
- (2) Life Subscriptions are credited to income at a rate equivalent to the current Annual Subscription.

*Signed on behalf of the Council of Management,*

L E BEER, *Chairman.*

S L SMITH, *Director and Treasurer.*

7 October 1978.

\* \* \* \* \*

**REPORT OF THE AUDITOR to the Members of BUFORA Ltd.**

I have examined the attached Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account and Notes attached thereto. These have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

In my opinion these Accounts give, under the accounting convention stated above, a true and fair view of the state of the Company's affairs at 31 August 1978 and of the excess of income over expenditure for the year ended on that date and have been properly prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Acts 1948 and 1967.

Hazlemont House,  
Gregory Boulevard,  
Nottingham.

J C FOXON,  
*Chartered Accountant.*

9 October, 1978.

\* \* \* \* \*

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The main activities of the Association have been summarised by our Hon Treasurer, Stephen Smith, in the "Report of the Council of Management." As I interpret it, the role of the Chairman is to co-ordinate the Association's activities and ensure its financial viability. As we lack a Publicity Officer, I have assumed this role, and apart from this aspect, I do not regard it as part of my brief to become over-involved in the details of how officers carry out their duties. I am of course willing to investigate specific complaints and follow up suggestions. Part of our success as an organisation can be attributed to the relative autonomy under which officers are able to work.

On the publicity front, I issued three press releases during the year ended 31.8.78. The first commented on the success of our National Research Conference in Nottingham, and I am convinced that the choice of a town-centre venue easily accessible by both road and rail combined with reasonable registration fees ensured a good attendance of up to 175 people. Also the event broke-even financially. Full credit goes to Anthony Pace and Charles Lockwood for arranging an excellent programme, which made this our most successful conference to date. We have plans in hand for 1979 for the first truly international UFO research con-

*continued overleaf*

ference to be held in the UK. With London as the venue, this promises to be a memorable event. The second press release drew attention to the cash prizes being offered by Cutty Sark (UK Scotch Whisky) Ltd, including BUFORA's role as consultants, so that ufologists at home and abroad could learn about the competitions.

In terms of press coverage, the third release announcing the start of our 1978-79 London Lecture Season was highly successful. Consequently we got off to an excellent start on 2 September with an attendance of about 145. It has long been an enigma to me that Flying Saucer Review magazine (FSR) makes no editorial mention of the BUFORA lectures, even though these have continued regularly since the early sixties, and leading ufologists have presented some remarkably erudite papers. During 1977 I twice requested an informal meeting with the editor of FSR with a view to promoting closer co-operation. The editor declined both requests. On the other hand, I am pleased to say that we received some useful publicity in "Spacequest" while it was being published. Relations with Contact (UK) have been amicable and I hope will become more extensive in the future. Co-operation with a number of locally based groups continues to be good and mutual assistance with investigations is a prime objective. It is worth noting that this was the basis for the formation of the Association in 1962 when eight UK societies came together to promote co-operation. The oldest of these, the British Flying Saucer Bureau in Bristol, founded in 1953, is still with us today! At this point I must emphasise that we have no connection with the British UFO Society, run by an individual who has plagiarised our R2 sighting report form. He has irritated us on several other counts, not least of which is the confusion caused by the similarity in name.

At some expense, BUFORA is continuing to invite ufologists from overseas to speak at its lectures and conferences. Amongst these were Erling Jensen from the Danish group Skandinavisk UFO Information (SUFOI). He said that SUFOI has 2,500 members despite the small size of Denmark and the language barrier. Their success was directly attributable to the regularity, size and quality of the SUFOI journal. BUFORA can certainly learn from their example. Norman Oliver has done a remarkable job in rebuilding the quality and quantity of our BUFORA Journal, which we hope to maintain at 32 pages printed on art-paper. However we still need more scientific/technical articles from members. Our Director of Research, Anthony Pace, has plans for a special publication containing carefully selected articles and scientific papers. The intention is that this "Special" will be published in addition to research projects reports and conference proceedings. Donations will be needed to finance the capital cost of the printing. We would also like to be able to rent an answer-phone machine so that "UFO Hotline" messages can be recorded on those occasions when a human recipient is not available. For BUFORA's research and investigation side to operate with a reasonable degree of efficiency, we really need a donation of at least £5.00 from each member in addition to the £5.00 subscription which pays mainly for the Journal and general administrative costs.

Janet and Colin Andrews have now reopened the Lending Library, and donations of UFO-related books would be appreciated, particularly hardbacks. We also need cash to buy some rarer titles such as "The Scientific Study of UFOs," also known as the "Condon Report."

Largely as a result of the American film "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," the past year has produced a record number of enquiries. Many of these were from youngsters, who having been conditioned by television space dramas (I would be the last person to knock "Dr Who" or "Star Trek"), do not always appreciate that UFO research is not particularly glamorous. BUFORA makes no pretence to be a fan-club, unlike one such which peddles tee-shirts and George Adamski photographs. The occupations of new members show that we have been reaching a cross section of the community, and at the risk of sounding pompous or snobbish, it seems that the quality of our membership is improving. This augurs well for the future since we need people of a high calibre to co-ordinate research and investigation work.

Finally, I would like to thank all my colleagues on the Council for their continued and often unpublished hard-work in their respective posts. I make special mention of 'Larry' Dale, who as a new Council Member, has filled the onerous post of National Investigations Co-ordinator in a confident and reliable manner. On behalf of the Council, I should like to warmly thank all our members, particularly our investigators, who have given up their spare time to contribute to the work of the Association.

October 1978.

LIONEL BEER.

## DONATIONS

The Council of Management wish to thank the undermentioned for their generous donations to BUFORA Ltd Funds during the year ended 31.8.78:

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A W Park	P Cater	C Perry	P J Maccarthy	R Stacy

STEPHEN L SMITH, MA, *Treasurer.*

\* \* \* \* \*

### MINUTES OF THE SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**of Bufora Limited, held on Saturday, 3 December 1977, at Kensington Central Library, Campden Hill Road, London W8, at 7 pm.**

The meeting opened with approximately 30 members present.

- 1 The Secretary read the Notice convening the Meeting.
- 2 The Minutes of the previous Meeting were read and approved.
- 3 The President, Mr C A E O'Brien, then gave a brief address to the Meeting.
- 4 The Chairman, Mr L E Beer, said he had received apologies from Dr G G Doel, past President of the Company, who was unable to attend the meeting; also Mr T Whitaker, Secretary of the Bufora Branch at Halifax, and his wife, had also sent apologies for being unable to attend.

The Chairman, whose statement was basically reproduced in the Journal, emphasised that the well being of BUFORA greatly depended on members' generosity. During the past

*continued overleaf*

year a lot of investigation and research work would have had to have been abandoned without the aid of members' donations. He also briefly mentioned the forthcoming conference in April 1978.

- 5 Mr S L Smith, Treasurer, enlarged briefly on the accounts already presented to members. He was happy to report that BUFORA was in a much sounder position, mainly due to drastic cuts in the size of the Journal, although this was now back to its former size. Also Council members had held their expenses firmly in check which, together with members' donations and the raising of interest rates during the year, had helped increase our deposit account.

The 1976 conference, although a great success in the general sense, had incurred a £114 loss; however, lessons had been learnt which could be applied to the next conference in April 1978. We still had a small surplus of income over expenditure and there was no suggestion that membership rates would have to be increased. Members could encourage this trend by getting their friends to join. Mr Smith once again stressed that all donations, however small, were of immense help.

- 6 The Director of Research, Mr A Pace, then briefly outlined the year's activities in this direction. He stated that all BUFORA reports up to 1976 had been scrutinised by people getting together a catalogue of reports. This has been carried out in conjunction with NUFON Manchester and CONTACT UK. This catalogue would eventually be available for everyone.

By the time of the 1978 Conference it was hoped that the Vehicle Interference Project would be available, including some 420 cases of this type. Mr Pace emphasised that BUFORA should specialise in certain aspects of the UFO phenomena and went on to say that the next project of this kind would involve radar cases. He was also hoping to produce a paper on the Dyfed 'flap.' It was also hoped to produce shortly a report on the year 1976, when there were over 400 reports for the UK. 1977 appears to have been even more unprecedented in this respect. A new technical supplement may be published before the Conference, of a size similar to the present journal, but of a more technical nature.

- 7 Adoption of the Report of the Council of Management, Report of the Auditor and the Accounts for the year ended 1977 August 31.

It was proposed and seconded that the meeting should adopt the Report of the Council of Management, the Report of the Auditor and the set of Accounts presented by the Treasurer.

This resolution was carried unanimously.

- 8 Re-appointment of Auditor:

It was proposed and seconded that the Auditor, Mr J C Foxon, should be reappointed.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

- 9 Election of Directors:

It was proposed and seconded that the three members of the Council presenting themselves for re-election should be so re-elected. These were: Mrs A Harcourt, Miss B Wood and Mr S L Smith. The Resolution was carried unanimously.

This left three vacancies on the Council.

It was proposed, seconded and carried unanimously that Mr A West be elected a member of the Council.

It was proposed, seconded and carried unanimously that Mr L Dale be elected a member of the Council. Mr Dale, it was explained, had been the RIC for Kent for the past two years and had now been appointed NIC. It was felt preferable by the Council that the NIC should be a member of the Council of Management.

This left one post vacant on the Council, but there were no nominations.

This concluded the Company business. The Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

then zoomed up quickly towards her, growing in size till it looked like a small plate with lights pulsating from these squares. Witness then shut the door quickly, went to the front bedroom window and drew back the net curtaining to see what was at first thought to be a plane moving slowly along. She then realised it had no wings or tail, just a body with small windows along the sides dully lit in red, green and white: a round circle in the front was giving off rays of strong light. As it moved out of sight, there was the sound of a faint hum.

\* \* \*

### Salisbury Object

*Inv I Vinten*

Timothy Laishley, aged 16 and interested in astronomy, was watching the stars on 9 September 1977 from his Salisbury, Wilts home, when at 8.30 pm he saw a yellowish-silver object moving from east to west. It was moving along a road above the houses in front of him: having a pair of binoculars he observed the object—which was moving quite slowly—for some five minutes. It had a flat bottom and a dome-shaped top with what appeared like windows on it. The shape was sharply defined: it was 'brighter than Jupiter' and suddenly it 'just disappeared like a windscreen wiper going across a car.'

\* \* \*

### Swanley Zigzagging Ball

*Inv M Weaven, M Barron*

Mrs Eckhardt, of Swanley in Kent, was looking out of her window at 7 pm on 24 June 1978 when she saw a silver coloured ball moving very fast in an 'up and down zig-zag fashion.' She then called her daughter, who saw the object as well, going upstairs to get a

better view. Her daughter thought the object, which was sharply defined and had the brilliance of car headlights, to be rather more of an oval shape with round edges. After watching the object for several minutes, it finally turned behind some trees and houses and went out of view.

\* \* \*

### Smoking UFO over Kingsbury

*Inv C R Rowlands*

Five members of the same family were witnesses, at their Kingsbury, London, home, of a very peculiar incident on 22 May 1978.

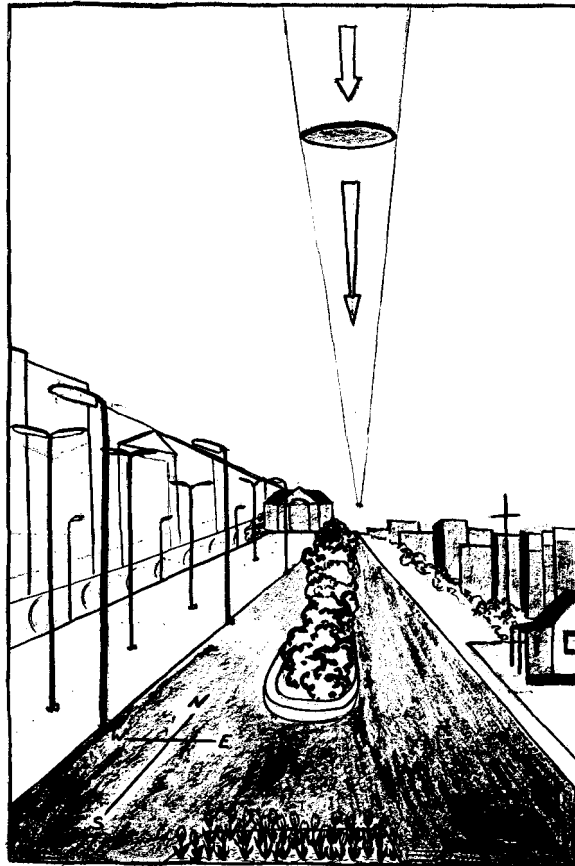
For a total observation time of about two-and-a-half minutes, they observed a glowing object first thought to be an aircraft on fire apparently moving quite fast from east to west. What seemed to be smoke appeared to come from it, and for several seconds it looked as though the object hovered above the house opposite, possibly being as close to it as three to five feet.

Descriptions varied from oblong to a diamond and a ball shape, but all agreed it glowed bright red to mauve and at one stage was very bright indeed. One witness thought the object broke up and burnt up, also believing that prior to this, 'little windows' could be seen on it. Another, however, said that it didn't so much break up as dive towards the ground. Local police and ITN were informed but nothing further was heard. There had been no noise, though at one point a 'crack' was heard by one of the witnesses which may or may not have been associated with the object. The investigator—a near neighbour—was not aware of anything unusual, though at the approximate time of the incident—10.10 pm, he and his wife heard a faint tapping sound on a back window, but no-one was to be seen.

## Gt Yarmouth Disc—1956

Mr Sidney Brighton, at the time of the incident 16 years of age, was walking north along the sea front at Great Yarmouth in the summer of 1956, when suddenly a silver-grey disc or oval object flashed into view directly overhead: presumably it had come up from the South as it travelled in a straight line at terrific speed and vanished in about four seconds. There was no noise, either of engines or of disturbed air, nor was there a condensation trail.

Witness looked at his father and asked: 'What was that?' To his amazement neither his father nor anyone else appeared to have seen anything out of the ordinary. As the object had been only some 500 feet up and had had a sharply-defined metallic appearance, he naturally expected many other people would have noticed it: however, no other witnesses came forward.



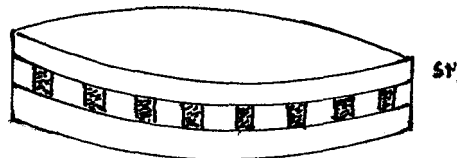
Subsequently Mr Brighton became a member of the *British Interplanetary Society* for fourteen years and comments that he has often wondered whether the object might have had some connection with the Lakenheath incident in 1956.

Brighton, Sussex, home at 5.15 pm, when an object was noticed gliding silently from north to south. They both watched this object—which was silver-grey and of a round tablet shape—for some thirty seconds. Its edges

\* \* \*

## Brighton 'Tablet'—1952

Mr Fox and his father (now deceased) had been gardening all day one Sunday in September 1952, and were waiting for the bus to take them to their



SHADED PARTS REVOLVING LEFT TO RT.

were sharply defined and around its centre was a band where darker sections appeared to be revolving very slowly from left to right. Distance from the object was estimated to be about a quarter of a mile. At the end of thirty seconds the object disappeared behind some buildings and their bus came along just afterwards. Neither had ever seen anything like it before or since.

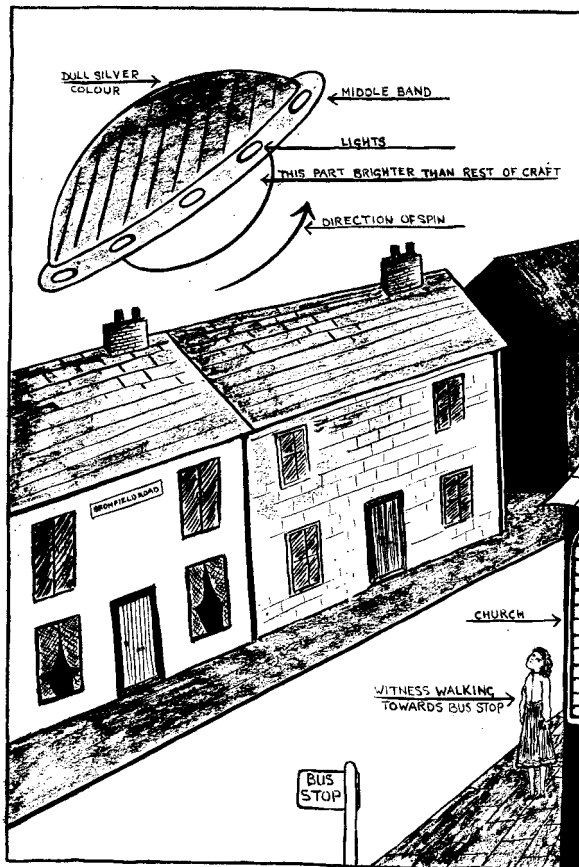
\* \* \*

## 'Buzzing Dome' at Wednesbury

*Inw M Pritchard*

Jacqueline Bradshaw, aged 13, left home at approx 7.25 pm on Sunday, 7 November 1976 to visit a friend. She was just passing a church on the way to the bus stop when she heard a 'buzzing sound'; this fluctuated in pitch. Looking up she saw an object, basically oval in shape, consisting of a middle band which housed a number of whitish lights extending around the object's circumference, appearing to stick out from it: a top section which was a large dome of a dull whitish-silver with vertical slanted 'lines,' and a third section which looked like a smaller dome protrusion extending from the bottom of the middle waistband: this portion was brighter than the rest of the craft though it did not appear to be a light. The object's shape was clearly defined and it revolved steadily on its own axis in a clockwise direction.

When first seen it was tilted up at an angle of about 25° and remained tilted as it moved. When the witness turned to her left to view the craft it moved quite quickly towards some houses in front of her, lowered slightly as it moved over them, and assumed a horizontal position. Continuing to travel round the witness it passed over and behind a modern single-storey church where it reverted to its tilted position, remaining thus whilst it completed a full circle: the entire manoeuvre was then repeated and as witness continued to the bus stop and waited it com-



*continued overleaf*

pleted five or six circles in all. The bus arrived, Jacqueline got in and as the bus moved off, she watched the object until it was no longer in view—it was not actually seen to disappear.

Duration of the incident was between three and five minutes. Jacqueline's mother was sure her daughter would not have made up such a story and a few years previously, Jacqueline and her older sister had seen a similar object in the same area, but had become frightened and ran home. The investigator, too, felt witness was being truthful—and a UFO sighting was also reported to Ufosis only a few streets away by a 17-year-old girl at 7.20 pm on the same evening.

\* \* \*

## Climbing Blue Band

*Inv R Jones Pugh*

Mary Mills, a trainee South London nurse was on a fortnight's camping holiday at Newgate, Pembrokeshire with her parents and elder brother. On Friday, 14 July 1978, she and her brother were bathing at a point almost directly opposite their tent: the time was 6 pm and both were kneeling in the sea when Mary suddenly rose to her feet, looked towards the base of the cliffs and called out to her brother: "Look, what's that?" He could see nothing, but she insisted that some 100 yards away she could see 'a light coming across the water' which she described as 'a very light intense colour of blue': this was about 12 inches wide and formed a band on the surface of the sea, gradually moving away from the spot where they stood. It passed close to the shore side of Green Scar, then neared some jutting, sharp-pointed rocks, until it reached the base of the cliffs. Here it slowly crawled over the smooth surface of the many boulders, maintaining its slow, steady progress and losing nothing of its

intensity until it finally reached the base of the cliff itself. Then, it climbed up until it reached the summit, where it suddenly 'snapped out.'

This sounded extremely bizarre, but the witness was adamant that it was no optical illusion or that it might have been the rays of the sun reflected on the water. She had been in the water with her brother for about 15 minutes: it was then 6 pm and at that hour of the day the sun would have been behind the bathers so there would have been no necessity for her to shield her eyes. I asked her: "Are you sure the light was not coming from under the surface of the sea?" No—she was definite it lay on the surface. When she first saw it, she said, the band of light was static, but then began to move away. She kept it in sight for a span of  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile to the summit of the cliffs before losing sight of it.

She was quite unable to describe the quality of the blue colour, saying that the best she could do was to call it a 'fixed colour' in contrast to the ever-changing bluish hues of sea water. Further questioning elicited that she suddenly became very frightened, thinking: 'Good God, I'm going to see God!' She and her brother then rushed out of the sea and made their way back to the tent.

Perhaps had the young girl looked directly above her she just might have seen something not of this world!

*R Jones Pugh*

\* \* \*

## Landing at Aische-en-Retail

*Inv—Sobeps*

The sky was clear, the wind moderate, it was a fresh day but normal for the season. A little after 4 pm on 24 January 1974, Mrs N D, driving her Volkswagen 'Coccinelle'—which was in perfect condition—was on her way home alone and, leaving Perwez be-

hind her, had just passed the Chausee Brunehaut. She was approaching a slight hill at high speed when she noticed a red-coloured 'form' maybe 150 metres from her car on the left side of the road and level with the ground.

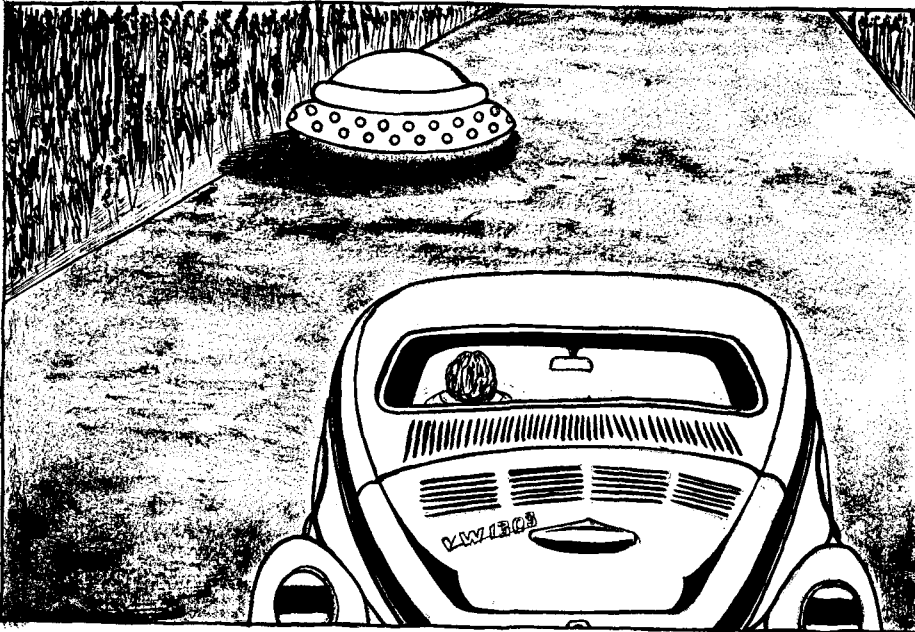
The witness knew this little country road running from Perwez to Liernu very well. The area is sparsely inhabited and mainly consists of fields and a few farms. This red 'form' was somewhat strange, but Mrs N D's attention was immediately taken up by the car's strange behaviour, for it unaccountably began to slow down. Witness's first thought was that she had run out of petrol but the gauge showed she was wrong. The car continued to lose speed and then the radio faded away also.

The *Volkswagen* was on a slight slope: it travelled another 100 metres, then stopped and the engine stalled. Wit-

ness had not touched the gear lever (which was in 4th) nor let in the clutch. The ignition was on and so was the light on the radio. Mrs N D was about to get out of the car when she instinctively raised her eyes—then she preferred to remain inside.

10 metres from her was an object on the left side of the road which looked like nothing she knew. It must have had a diameter of a metre and a total height of half a metre: it was circular. Three different sections could be seen clearly:

- 1 The lowest section (the largest), was in the shape of a dome section: it was white and sprinkled regularly with large round 'spots.'
- 2 The centre section was convex also, but of a smaller diameter: it was yellow, not luminous and no markings were visible.
- 3 The top was a flattened red dome and it was this that had first caught the witness's attention.



The whole gave the impression of a solid object—of unpolished metal without any reflection, brightness or brilliance. After four or five seconds the object began to move: slowly and steadily it rose up vertically about 50 centimetres, then immediately descended—much more quickly than when it took off. This was repeated two seconds later.

Then, for the third time the object rose up slowly and regularly some four metres above the ground, this time moving horizontally towards the car. At that point the witness lost sight of it: her impression was that the UFO must have hovered over the car's roof. However, she had time to see the underside of the object which until then had been hidden from view: this was flat and a uniform grey.

After a few seconds it reappeared to the left some metres up: then it moved off, following a curved trajectory, towards some poplars about 270 metres distant. Its movements had been steady—no zigzagging or oscillating: there had been no sound and no change in colour was noticed: nor was any trail left.

The startled witness then found the car restarted of its own accord, and, in fourth gear, it got under way, gaining speed slowly. As it moved off, Mrs N D could see the object now going away in an ENE direction without gaining altitude. She then drove straight home.

The case was reported by one of our members and less than 48 hours later, we were on the spot hoping to find some physical evidence. This hope was dashed, however, by the hard clay surface. Radioactivity and ionisation checks were made without positive results both on the car and at the spot where the object had landed. No other vehicle passed along the road during the two or three minutes of the

observation and no other witness could be found.

We don't consider this a hoax, but it is nonetheless regrettable that there was only one witness. We questioned this lady for almost six hours in two sessions and her story remained unchanged. She had nightmares following the incident which remained for several days and were confirmed by relations who also stated she had never shown the slightest interest in '*those flying saucer stories.*'

We asked the witness if she could remember what was on the radio at that time. She could and we checked with the broadcasting station (studio of Mons), and the correlation appeared very satisfactory (1). We wondered whether the stoppage of the vehicle resulted from inertial forces only or whether it was the '*by-product*' of high voltage from the object's presence. We had a car of comparable weight to Mrs N D's, so we drove up the short hill at 80km/h (50 mph)—the speed stated by the witness—released the accelerator, and in 4th gear let the car slow to a halt, finally stalling the engine some 200 metres from the top of the slope where the car stopped. The distance from the top of the slope to the alleged landing spot was only 110 metres.

The exact position of the occurrence was at the limit of the Wallon Brabant and the Province of Namur, NE of Gembloux, lat N 50° 36' 30": long E 4° 9' 23"—Military map IGM 15407.

(1) *Witness stated "It was a little past 1600 hrs—maybe three or four minutes. The radio was broadcasting 'Le Parapluie' by Brassens. At 1603 hrs the Mons studio was broadcasting 'Rendez-vous sous la pluie.'*

*Franck Boitte, Jean-Luc Vertongen*  
With acknowledgements to Sobeps bi-monthly review *Infospace*, No 16, 1974. Original translation by Carine Houbaille.  
*Sobeps (Societe Belge d'Etude des Phenomenes Spatiaux), Avenue Paul Janson, 74, 1070 Bruxelles, Belgium.*

## The Secret Commonwealth and Robert Kirk

Peter A Hill, AMR, MWSOM, FSS

Whilst holidaying in Perthshire, I paid a visit to The Cathedral Museum at Dunblane Cathedral. One exhibit of particular interest to those interested in abductions and the Magonia syndrome is a manuscript described as follows:—

“Photostats of 17th century doodles scrawled by the Rev Robert Kirk, MA in a notebook which is in the library of the *University of Edinburgh*. From 1664 to 1685 he held the parish of Balquhidder and from 1685 up to his demise in 1692 he held Aberfoyle (his father's old parish), each parish being part of the Diocese of Dunblane. Robert, born c1641, was the 7th son of the then incumbent of Aberfoyle. He studied at Edinburgh, where he graduated MA, and afterwards at St Andrews. An admirable Gaelic scholar, he was the first to complete the translation of the Scottish metric psalms into Gaelic published at Edinburgh 1684. In 1689 he was called to London to superintend the printing of the *Gaelic Bible*, prepared under the direction of Bishop Bedell and published in 1690. A stone near to the east end of his Aberfoyle Church, describes him as *Robertus Kirk, AM, Linguae Hiberniae Lumen*. In addition to his Gaelic scholarliness, he held a firm belief in fairy superstitions and wrote a work bearing the title of *The Secret Commonwealth: or an essay on the Nature and Actions of the Subterranean (and for the most part) Invisible people heretofore going under the name of Faunes and Fairies, or the lyke, among the low country Scots, as they are described by those who have the second sight*. 1961. The tradition linked with his demise in the following year, is that on 14 May 1692, he was walking on a fairy knowe when he

sank down and disappeared. He was married twice.”

I have not yet had the opportunity to see whether the notebook is still in the *University Library* but intend to follow this up. A number of questions are raised by this report:

- 1 Is the book *The Secret Commonwealth* by Kirk, 1691 in existence? Could one of our London members see whether it is in the *British Museum Library*? I will make enquiries of the *University of Edinburgh Library* and the *University of St Andrews Library*.
- 2 Were there eye witnesses to the alleged disappearance?
- 3 Can we find any evidence of the spot where the disappearance is claimed to have taken place?
- 4 I have no UFO report for 14 May 1692. Could other readers and groups check their files to see if any such report exists?
- 5 Is the reference to ‘. . . . (and for the most part) *Invisible* . . . .’ to be understood as meaning that they became invisible to all at will or does it refer to their being invisible to all but those ‘. . . .who have the *second sight*?’
- 6 Is invisibility to all but those with the ‘*second sight*’ the same phenomenon as the alleged cases of UFOs being invisible to some, but invisible to others?
- 7 What is the nature of this ‘*second sight*’ if it exists? Is it a physical mutation of the visual system, or is it of psycho-somatic aetiology? Can it be defined and can it be identified? Is it inherited or acquired?

*continued on page 23*

## Uforum

The importance of the principle of not assuming a mysterious explanation for an event until the mundane has been examined and discarded on valid grounds, is well emphasised in *Vol 7, No 2*. On page 14, Richard Colborne, with his usual well-balanced judgment, demolishes an alleged UFO film which was apparently of military flares.

On page 15, a logical explanation is given of the Dartmoor pony incident. If the UFO organisation concerned did state that this case might well have been caused by UFO activity, I trust that it will learn from this analysis not to make such statements without thorough investigation and professional advice. Now that *Bufo* has done that and arrived at a mundane explanation, a service has been rendered to our subject.

This brings sharply into focus a common weakness of some UFO research workers, which does great harm to UFO research and brings discredit on the subject as a science. It is indeed time that we outgrew such sensationalism and learned to make investigations before making assumptions. To do otherwise is scientific irresponsibility and is deserving of our strongest condemnation.

*Peter A Hill,  
AMR, MWSOM, FSS  
Edinburgh*

Reading the *Bufo* Journal (*Vol 7, No 2, July/August 1978*)—as always, highly interesting—I am bound to comment on one or two items therein. The item (page 15) headed *Those Dartmoor Ponies* contains the ‘answer,’ apparently given to Mr Randall Jones Pugh by the vet involved in the examination, that a ‘heavy worm infection’ was the culprit, whilst the high acidic content of the Dartmoor soil is

given as accounting for the reported rapid decomposition. May I quote, loosely, but nevertheless accurately, from my own newspaper files?

‘Mystery deaths of fifteen ponies’ and ‘all died, apparently at the same time’ and, further, ‘many had shattered bones.’

Again, ‘President of the Animal Defence Society, Mrs Ruth Murray believes they were probably stampeded downhill by vehicles of some kind’ and that she even found a ‘skid mark’ at the scene.

Is it really logical that a ‘worm infection’ would strike down fifteen ponies at the same time?

Since I would assume that this would be a gradual process of decline in health, surely these poor animals would not be found in a group, such an illness would eliminate the creatures, one by one, at various locations?

As a ufologist with personal experience of the ‘craft’ on some fourteen occasions since 1960, I am also interested in the ‘skid mark’: nothing strange about this since such a trace has been reported in a number of well-known UFO incidents.

The after effects of sightings, whether they be psychological or physical, open ones minds to hitherto ‘closed’ areas, and I am bound to say, rude or even tactless that it might sound, that it is not unknown for our own kind to reject, perhaps subconsciously, ‘facts’ that do not fit their own conceptions of what UFOs might be!

Thus, for some of us, such incidents as the abduction and/or slaughter of ponies, dogs, cows and humans, might not suit our sensibilities, and so we are inclined to colour our pontifications, no matter what capacity, official or otherwise, we may be in . . . .

May I also, in connection with the item on page 26, say that the photograph taken by Gordon Jones of a strange object near Highcliffe (New Forest area) was, in fact, published in the 12 April 1978 edition of the *Southern Evening Echo*, copies of which I have on file . . . .

In closing, may I comment that it is again apparent that the whole subject, because of its complexities, is difficult to cover in a form that is unable to 'tie up' geographically with separated yet similar incidents, made more difficult by reason of the known fact that we only see the tip of the iceberg in newspaper and other reports. Your *Journal*, as with others of its class, does a hard and very tedious job well, but I am driven to point out that the so-called 'Clapham Tin Helmet' sighting, plus the 'Huge Dudley Craft' and to some extent the 'Giant Object over SE London' as reported in the July/August Journal, bear not unremarkable similarities to the object which 'floated' and hovered and then sped off leaving short 'trails of light' during the early part of this year, as well as an isolated incident locally in November 1977.

This leads one to assume that we do have a set of craft that are alike—thus the general assumption, which I often see, that the very variety of craft and occupants tend to render null and void the 'reality' aspect of ufology, is, in fact, wrong.

Should we not, for instance, be looking at the 'time' aspect—a future race will almost inevitably solve 'time travel' by nudging from our own rapid rate of progress from sailing ships to space travel inside a century, thus such a race would be able to visit far distant worlds in space as well as our own: thus a weird assortment of creatures and craft would be enabled to 'tour' the

solar system at various stages of development having been 'taught' the correct way to do so.

The fact that we are not ready for such a technology must be admitted—just imagine what our greedy rapacious nations would do given the ability to go to other worlds and other times at will! As a further example, note the activities of reported occupants who spend time engaged in such obvious 'tourist' activities as picking up stones, flowers, water, animals and the odd human (usually returned!) and said occupants are frequently seen 'repairing' craft before hastily taking off when spotted. Others tend to 'freeze' onlookers, whilst performing their tasks—a situation which emphasises our human inferiority!

The more dramatic and frightening cases such as aircraft accidents, etc might very well be accounted for by the theory that some alien race might very well be 'afflicted' with similar delusions of power to mankind, or simply that their technology has drawbacks due to their inability to grasp the nature and purpose of 'time travel' . . .

E Sears  
Portswood, Southampton

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### continued from page 21

I suggest that Council might consider setting up a specialist group on the question of alleged psychic powers, second sight, selective observation of phenomena and associated matters: to include an Ophthalmologist, a Psychiatrist, a Psychologist, a Neurologist, a medical hypnosis practitioner and a worker on ESP research. We have talked too long about selective observation, psychic powers and ESP and made no serious attempt at a scientific research project on these phenomena.

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# Sighting Summaries

Presentation by Pauline Grego

Code No.	Date	Time	Place	Report	Class	Investigator/ Credit
1942	Aug	1400	Russia	Huge 'cigar shape'	C3c	—
1964F	Nov	2000	St Helens, Merseyside	'Orange top'	C3c	B HARTLEY
72N	Aug	0100	Newtown, Carlisle	Bright 'saucer shape'	C3c	—
72R	Nov	2300	Romsey, Hants	White light	C4c	—
74-	Aug	Dusk	Croydon, Surrey	Bright circular object	C4b	—
74-	Nov	2145	Bristol	Yellow circle	C3c	WCUFORA
75-	13.1.75	2240	Ellacombe, Devon	Black object with blades	C3c	J JEFFREY
75-271	Spring	0715	Kingswinford, W Midlands	'Egg-shape' to 'igloo'	C2c	—
75-278	Nov	2100	Rotherham, Yorks	'Tearshape'	C4c	—
76-421	Apr/May	2100	London, SE3	3 round objects	C4b	—
76-422	"	"	"	3 egg-shaped objects	"	—
76-424	6.5.76	2130	Buckland Filleagh, Devon	Large object	C3c	J WEBBER
76-427	16.11.76	1800	Doncaster, Yorks	Whitish circular object	C4c	—
76-428	Sept	1430	Salisbury, Wilts	Silver 'straight line'	C4b	WCUFORA
76-429	22.8.76	2158	Worlebury Hill, Avon	3 red flashing lits	C4c	WCUFORA
77-433	28.10.77	1900	Folkestone, Kent	White sphere	C4c	A HALL
77-434	14.12.77	1645	"	"	C3b	
77-458	28.8.77	0027	Bowness, Cumbria	Skate-shape with lights	B3a	R HALL
77-459	28.8.77	0030	Skelwith Bridge	Diamond kite shape	B3a	R HALL
77-460	28.8.77	0022	Bothel, Cumbria	Purring object	B3a	R HALL
77-461	28.8.77	0025	Bowness, Cumbria	Lights in kite shape	C3a	R HALL
77-462	28.8.77	0030	Bothel, Cumbria	'Shape' with lights	C3a	R HALL
77-463	28.8.77	0010	Bowness, Cumbria	Lights making dia- mond shape	B3a	R HALL
77-464	28.8.77	0020	Windermere, Cumbria	Triangular shape	B3a	R HALL
77-465	28.8.77	0035	Ambleside, Cumbria	Diamond kite shape	B3a	R HALL
77-466	28.8.77	0027	Bowness, Cumbria	White lights on 'shape'	B3a	R HALL
77-467	28.8.77	0030	Silverdale, Cumbria	Catamaran shape	C3a	R HALL
77-468	28.8.77	0010	Keswick, Cumbria	'Hang-glider' shape	B3a	R HALL
77-469	28.8.77	0030	Bowness, Cumbria	'Sting-ray' fish shape	B3a	R HALL
77-470	27.8.77	2347	Kendal, Cumbria	2 lights	C4a	R HALL
77-471	28.8.77	0020	Bowness, Cumbria	Very bright lights	B3a	R HALL
77-472	28.8.77	0025	Portinscale, Cumbria	Brilliant lights in triangle	C4a	R HALL
77-478	2.10.77	2130	London N16	Illuminated torch shape	C3c	K GRAYLING
77-479	4/5 & 7 11.77	2005	Edinburgh	High-pitched bleep	—	S CAMPBELL

Code No.	Date	Time	Place	Report	Class	Investigator/ Credit
77-480	2.10.77	0050	Denbigh, Clwyd	Hazy cigar	B3b	—
77-485	25.1.77	0045	Bristol Channel	Brilliant white disc	C4c	WCUFORA
77-486	27.7.77	2112	Bristol	Gold sphere	C4c	WCUFORA
77-488	10.7.77	2340-0010	Warminster, Wilts	6 silver objects	C4b	P HUDSON
77-489	"	2300-2310	"	"	"	"
77-490	8.9.77	2200	Weston-super-Mare, Avon	White object	C4b	WCUFORA
77-491	14.9.77	2130	Kingswinford, W Midlands	White cigar shape	C3b	M PRITCHARD
77-492	14.9.77	2110	Kingswinford, W Midlands	White oblong and star shape	C3b	M PRITCHARD
77-493	15.9.77	2145	W Bromwich, W Midlands	Red cigar	C3b	E HORTON
77-494	16.10.77	2230	Horsham, Sussex	Bright green oblong	C3c	—
77-495	Various	2300	Boston, Lincs	6 - 10 lits	C4b	P HUDSON
78-003	1.1.78	0005	Chatham, Kent	1 large, 5 small discs	C3b	J CASTLE
78-032	January	1145	Rhewl, N Wales	' Cigar with struts '	C3b	
78-033	"	"	"	Cigar shape	C3b	C BORD
78-034	"	"	"	Silver/red cigar	C3b	
78-035	17.4.78	0330	Bucknall, Stoke-on-Trent	Humming metallic oval	C3b	A PACE
78-044	8.6.78	2145	Dartford, Kent	Hazy round object	C4c	M WEAVEN
78-047	21.2.78	0615	Shepperton, Middx	Diamond shape	C3b	D J STONARD
78-048	7.5.78	0010	Gavinton, Berwick	Bright oval	C4b	S CAMPBELL
78-049	20.6.78	2050	Gravesend, Kent	4 intense lights	C4c	M WEAVEN
78-050	5.3.78	0200	Eynsford, Kent	Blue cigar shape	C3b	I CLOKE
78-051	25.6.78	2225	Dartford, Kent	Amber/red object	B3c	M WEAVEN
78-052	Early 78	(Night) pm	Tunbridge Wells	' Dull brown doodle- bug '	C3c	M WEAVEN
78-053	24.6.78	—	Tunbridge Wells, Kent	' Skeleton, grass- hoppers '	C3c	M BARROW
78-054	10.4.78	1600	London SW4	Box-kite with laser	C3b	S KELLARD
78-055	4.6.78	2330	London N10	Orange glow with lights	C4c	N OLIVER
78-056	2.5.78	2155	Sketty, Swansea	' Elongated star '	C4b	C EDWARDS
78-057	17.4.78	0100	Wrottesley, Wolverhampton	Luminous 'fir cone '	C3c	M KEATMAN
78-058	11.1.78	1830	Cimla, Neath	' Bleeping oval '	C3c	C E EDWARDS
78-059	5.4.78	2150	Weston Coyney, Staffs	Triangle-shaped lights	C3b	A R PACE
78-060	5.4.78	2205	Hanley, Staffs	Circular ' scorched ' object	C3b	A R PACE
78-061	5.4.78	2205	Hanley, Staffs	Circular object	C3b	A R PACE
78-062	5.4.78	2212	Hartshill, Staffs	' Light cluster '	C4c	A R PACE

continued overleaf—

Code No.	Date	Time	Place	Report	Class	Investigator/ Credit
78-064	27.5.78	2140	Abergavenny, Gwent	2 round objects	C4b	K LEWIS
78-065	"	"	"	2 silver objects	"	
78-066	19.6.78	2300	Dartford, Kent	Orange ball	B3b	M WEAVERN
78-068	3.6.78	2245	Worlebury Hill, Avon	4 white/orange objects	B3b	WCUFORA
78-072	24.3.78	1930-1945	Shipbourne, Kent	Round white light	C4b	I CLOKE

## Encounter at Rochester

In the last Journal brief reference was made to NIC Larry Dale speaking at The Rochester *Odeon* on the occasion of the general release of *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* on 6 August. This was an 'all-ticket' opening and Larry returned from his holiday in Somerset in order to appear on the platform.

An exhibition by *Bufo* was arranged in the foyer and it was originally intended that presentations by the Mayor should take place here. A change of plan, however, meant that presentations were made from the platform and resulted, appropriately enough, in Larry speaking immediately prior to the commencement of the film.

In his talk he first introduced *Bufo*, himself and the principle Kent investigators, going on to speak about

Vehicle Interference cases which, as most will know, are well featured in the film: amongst these was a Kent case in 1957 and also a 'police chase' in Indiana in November of the same year: the latter report included reference to a radio and TV blackout which proved an appropriate point for Larry to introduce the film.

Larry met various personalities in the ballroom prior to the showing of the film and investigators B Baster, J Castle, D Eakins, M Ford and M Weaven also attended.

**To facilitate answering enquiries, would members please remember to quote their Membership No on ALL correspondence—**

**Thank You.**

**A number of members** have written in concerning the activities of the *British UFO Society (Bufos)*, particularly with regard to a statement in many local and provincial papers by *Bufos* chairman Ken Rogers that "*The British UFO Society is responsible in this country for investigating UFO reports.*" *Bufo* is not associated in any way either with Mr Rogers or the *British UFO Society* and considers such a statement misleading since not only does it suggest that *Bufos* is the only UFO investigation society in Britain (there are dozens which have either national, regional or local coverage), but it would also seem to imply official backing, which is not the case. The position is being followed closely.

## Obituary

### Gavin Gibbons MA (Oxon).

We regret to announce the recent death of Gavin Gibbons at Shrewsbury, aged 56. Author of *The Coming of The Space Ships* and *They Rode in Space Ships*, he was prominent in the investigation of the Roestenberg case of October 1954 at Ranton, Staffs, where a craft with occupants was observed first hovering at an angle above the Roestenbergs' cottage home then circling around it.

Though not to the forefront of the ufological field in recent years, Gavin put in a great deal of sterling research from the early 1950s onwards, and addressed both *Bufora* and its London predecessor, *Luforo* on several occasions. His contagious enthusiasm for our subject will be well-remembered by his many contemporaries.

## SUCCESSFUL START FOR LONDON LECTURES

Nearly 150 people, more than were expected, attended the first *Bufora* Lecture of the 1978-79 season at the Kensington Central Library, W8, on 2 September.

The audience listened attentively as J Bernard Delair, editor of *Contact (UK)*'s magazine *Awareness*, proposed that UFOs should not be treated in isolation from other perplexing phenomena of a Fortean nature, and that UFOs were one of the pieces of a vast jig-saw, or to quote the title of the talk, "*The Tip of an Iceberg*." Bernard dealt ably with questions, and the

'crank' element was notable by its absence. Future meetings take place at 7 pm on the first Saturday of each month.

*Lionel Beer.*

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The Bristol-based *British Flying Saucer Bureau*—probably the first UFO Investigation Society ever to be formed in Britain—still require representatives in the UK and overseas. Write to: T Hooper, c/o 20 Vinny Avenue, Blackhorse Estate, Downend, Bristol, Avon.

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## Those Martian Moons—Artificial or Natural?

In 1971, Mariner 9, orbiting Mars, relayed back a great deal of information concerning its two small moons, Deimos and Phobos which, in view of their orbits and close proximity to Mars (Phobos 9,400km, Deimos 23,500km) were once considered by some as possible artificial satellite candidates. However, Mariner 9 showed that both satellites were roughly elliptical in form—very roughly, in fact, since both were extremely irregular in shape and, compared with our own Moon, their diameters—if such a term is really applicable—were infinitesimal, that of Phobos being about 27km and Deimos about 14km. Both moons were found to have numerous craters but, so far as Mariner 9 was concerned, Deimos seemed to possess a far smoother surface.

With the advent of Vikings 1 and 2 orbiting Mars from early 1977, many high-resolution pictures were obtained, and the surface of Phobos was found not only to be extremely cratered, but also to be covered by long and roughly parallel grooves over 100 metres wide and 20 metres deep. In the main, these grooves are most prominent near the crater Stickney which, with its 10km diameter, almost 'chops off' one end of this odd little satellite.

There is no suggestion that these grooves are of anything other than natural origin, and an age of millions, if not billions of years has been suggested. Deimos does not appear to have these grooves, and its much smoother surface seems to be accounted for by a sort of volcanic lava partly filling its craters.

The origin of these Martian moons, the existence of which was propounded by Dean Swift in *Gulliver's Travels* years before they were discovered, remains a subject for debate. In view of their size and shape, however, the most probable suggestion must be that at one time they were 'captured' by Mars from the Asteroid Belt. The artificial satellite proposition, though attractive, would—even from early pictures—appear almost impossible to sustain, and certainly later ones from the Viking probes do absolutely nothing to increase the chances.

For those interested, the magazine *Sky and Telescope*, 49 Bay State Road, Cambridge, Mass 02138, USA (\$17.50 yearly, single copies \$1.75) includes a most informative feature on the moons in its September 1978 issue.

Norman Oliver, FRAS.

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A1 & A2—£2.50 each. S1 & S2—£2.65 each.

Bufora's tape library, maintained by Robin Lindsey includes the majority of Kensington Lectures from 1966 onwards. An updated comprehensive list of those available will be included in the January/February 1979 Journal—some 100 titles are involved with many well-known speakers.

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## London 1979 Conference

We have pleasure in confirming that this event is now well and truly on the UFO Calendar for 1979, the dates being 26/27 August 1979 (Bank Holiday Sunday and Monday). Venue and a programme of speakers for both days are currently being arranged by Bufora in conjunction with Grand Metropolitan Hotels. Full details will appear in our next issue. A combined Rail/Hotel 'package' will particularly benefit those members with long distances to travel.

**This will be a really special event, so keep those dates free!**

## Books and Leaflets

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An Engineer's Look at UFO's <i>Leonard Cramp, ARAeS, MSIA</i>	30p	50p
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Guide to the UFO Phenomenon	45p	65p
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(In some cases, only photocopies of Journals can be supplied, at cost, plus handling and P & P).

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