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DECLINE AND FALL, TRA-LA: AN EDITORIAL

the future course of the UFO field

meanwhile, back on the twenty yard line

but 'witch' way is the wind blowing?

THE CURRENT STATUS OF PSYCHIC RESEARCH AND THE WORLD OF SCIENCE book review of: Science Looks At ESP by Henry W. Pierce and A Psychiatrist Looks At ESP by Berthold E. Schwartz.

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A SUGGESTION FOR A CRASH-COURSE IN THE UFO PROBLEM
CHANGES IN OHIO * * * AIRSHIPS * * * VANISHING BALLOON * *
* VANISHING AIRPLANE * * * MORE LIGHTNING DEATHS * * *

illustrations on pages one and eleven are by

— Mr. Glen Brock —

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DECLINE AND FALL, TRA-LA: AN EDITORIAL

Two topics you might see bouncing around these days in the UFO field (if you follow these things that closely) are (A) the alternate reality bit, Keel's Trojan Horse, parallel worlds or whatever-you-want-to-call- it (some might "call it" --- well, the word I have in mind has four letters), and (B) The current sorry state of affairs in the UFO field.

Regarding topic "B", UFOlogy may indeed be in one big mess, and I don't know that there's any law that says the field "has to go on"; it might just fall apart altogether, the world moving on to other things.

People may psychologically need their scapegoats, so you might see some talk about it being a bad time for UFOlogy because of the Condon Report or because of Project Bluebook's closing, or because of the manned lunar landings (Get it? The astronauts land a couple of times, don't see any little men running around so, OBVIOUSLY, flying saucers don't exist). All of this may have contributed to the decline, if decline there is, but you might do well to take with a grain of salt any claims that these are The Reasons for it all. I suspect that, had there been no Condon Report or lunar landing, and if Bluebook were still swinging along up at Wright-Patt, we'd still be more or less where we are today.

Of course, if (if, indeed) Condon had come out with a positive report things might be a great deal different. If further research had been called for, an attitude change in Establishment circles might have taken place, and the magic Missing Ingredient (money, nitwit: spelled \$\$\$) might have been forthcoming. But, to say that something didn't have a desired positive effect is something else again from saying that it had a distinctly negative effect. UFOlogy may have hit some kind of huge peak in 1966-67, and then fell off rather abruptly. The real reasons? Perhaps public and press boredom with The Same Old Flying Saucer Stuff over and over. UFOlogy, in short, is in the public and press mind a kind of Davy Crockett hat. Sort of Unknown Flying Hulla-Hoops (possibly pronounced "you-eff-hoo-hoo").

It may just be in the cards that way. The fact may be that, BECAUSE OF ITS NATURE, UFOlogy is doomed to remain in this type of cycle, because IN ORDER TO GET THE KIND OF RESULTS WE NEED FOR SERIOUS ATTENTION, WE FIRST NEED TO HAVE THAT VERY ATTENTION. UFOlogy as a field may not be alone in that boat, but we may be down in the bottom doing the balling: down in the bottom where the water covers first, blub-blub.

So, perhaps we are in a rear-guard cycle. In a sense, this may be the natural state-of-affairs in this field, with the "good" era of 66-67 being only a flash in the pan. This isn't necessarily a correct view of the situation, but it may be considered a rational contingency. If it is so, what, if anything, should be done by private UFOlogists? Throw in the towel?



Should we perhaps ignore it and go on as before? Should we rethink things in terms of this possibility, and act accordingly?

I'm not for throwing in any towels, washcloths, or so much as a little silk hankie. The field exists and can go on doing things of intellectual value as long as we have the will to do so. We may never accomplish anything in terms of the Scientific Establishment, the Political Establishment or The Public, but that ain't necessarily the whole ball game. On the other hand, I'm not in favour of going on as before, perhaps dooming ourselves to a continued fringe existence. If we're in a rear-guard action, we might do well to recognize it as such.

If such hasn't already taken place without my knowledge, I call for moving in the direction of obtaining a small (spelled "realistic") research grant, possibly from private enterprise. This grant would go not to some private UFO organization but to scientific personnel interested in continued UFO study. This grant would perhaps be to do a preliminary study related to the following questions: (1) What areas of further study seem most promising in terms of potential scientific discovery? (2) What range of funding would be needed to continue research in these areas?

I really don't know beans about what's needed to go about getting such a grant, but one impressive weapon might be a joint, conservative letter from interested scientists briefly stating the case for such a preliminary study. At that point, private UFOlogists might be of help by endeavouring to reach interested scientists the world over, and attempting to have them sign the joint letter. If said letter is conservatively worded enough, this need not be limited to "pro-saucer" scientists, but might include any who simply consider further research to be of value, or possible value.

From a research standpoint, at least some of private UFOlogy might now, in a sense, be well advised to more-or-less toss conservatism to the wind and stop worrying about "respectability". The ugly (?) truth, perhaps, is that UFOlogy today is not merely without respect from the world at large; it has become an "unthing" -- an "unsubject". So, while a few jacket-and-tie "front" groups may still be very much in order, the rest of us, hypothetically, can dig in and really try to dig out the truth about saucers, whatever that may be. And, when all is said and done, THAT is something of potential importance whether saucers are page one in the big city dailies or shlock for the lesser weekly tabloids.

meanwhile, back on the twenty yard line

According to a UPI item in the Atlanta Constitution, September 4, 1970; a tiny item on the page that has the obituary column, a man was killed by lightning at a soccer game at Ilkeston, England, while three others were injured. This took place, we calculate from the report, on September 2. Now, as my unabridged Random House hastened to inform me, soccer appears to be a synonym for "football" among our British cousins.

A few days later (issue dated September 9, 1970) the Atlanta Constitution contains another UPI item, recounting (A) three lightning-caused deaths in Ohio, apparently on September 8, including two Beachwood High School football players, killed at the football field, and a construction worker, who was killed at Columbus, Ohio; (B) the lightning-caused deaths of two Gibbs High School football players, St. Petersburg, Florida, apparently on September 7. These deaths also took place at the football field.

In the Scientific Sauceritis Review, edited by Brent Raynes, Perkins Lane, Hallowell, Maine 04347, it is recorded that a UFO witness, Earl Whitney, had been killed by lightning while on a golf course June 3. The article states: ".... Mr. Whitney had described to both me and Jim Carey many strange experiences he had had regarding UFOs, but often I tended to rule them out as subjective, however, I am no longer certain of this...." SSR goes on to quote John Keel on the topic of lightning. A number of items of interest may be culled from his comments, including:

* Perhaps quite a large number of persons are killed by lightning every year.

* Some of these are unusual, including incidents on clear days (cloudless).

* Commenting specifically on the Whitney case (see above) Keel considered it of importance that the incident took place on a Wednesday.

* A scientific project for lightning study was established last year in Socorro, New Mexico. (!)

Now, the incident at Ilkeston, England, according to the Constitution item mentioned, also took place on a Wednesday. According to the other Constitution article used in reference, neither the St. Petersburg incident (Monday) nor the Ohio incidents (Tuesday -- the following day after the St. Pete strike) took place on Wednesday. Columbus was the location of the 1970 Congress of Scientific UFOlogists. As I recall, I think perhaps one year (1968) St. Petersburg was considered by the present writer as a possible congress site.

NICAP's THE UFO EVIDENCE, edited by Richard H. Hall, includes the following comments on page 97:

" In addition to radar trackings, electro-magnetic effects, and photographs, there have been other indications of the physical reality of UFOs. These include markings or substances left on the ground, and physiological effects on the observers. (With a few exceptions, the physiological effects have been temporary and not severe.)

"A comparison with the listing of electro-magnetic effects (this section) will show that there appears to be a relationship between E - M cases and physiological effects....." (Copyright 1964, NICAP. See copyright statement.)

Some readers may recall that lightning was also a suggested factor in the Snippy case. Reference, Flying Saucers, February, 1968, page 8.

but 'witch' way is the wind blowing?

True magazine ran an article in their October, 1970 issue by Max Gunther dealing with witches and such today. According to Gunther, Timothy Green Beckley hypothesises that there are a minimum of 5000 active witches in New York, possibly double that number in L.A., with other groups elsewhere. I have some reason to think that there may be active witchery in Atlanta, too. Anyone for setting up an inquisition?

Allen H. Greenfield
Atlanta, Ga., September, 1970

BOOK REVIEWS

THE CURRENT STATUS OF PSYCHIC RESEARCH AND THE WORLD OF SCIENCE

SCIENCE LOOKS AT ESP by Henry W. Pierce - Signet

A PSYCHIATRIST LOOKS AT ESP by Berthold E. Schwarz - Signet

Dr. Berthold Eric Schwarz, M.D. has written UFO-related material as well as parapsychological and, as was announced in the British publication Flying Saucer Review, September/October, 1969, serves as a consultant to that magazine. The present work under consideration, however, is, as the title should imply, parapsychological in nature, though the format is perhaps quite similar to that used in UFOlogy-related articles by the same author published in Flying Saucer Review and Medical Times.

As in the case of the other work here considered, the author of A Psychiatrist Looks At ESP has an impressive set of credentials. According to a brief biographical sketch on the back cover of Psychiatrist, Dr. Schwarz has graduated Dartmouth College; Dartmouth Medical School; Bellevue Medical Center, NYU.

Psychiatrist is divided into three main sections, each devoted to one extent or another to an in-depth personal study of an individual involved in one way or another with alleged psychic phenomena. As I understand it, two of the three individuals are not identified by name; pseudonyms are used. The third is dowser Henry Gross, an individual previously identified publicly, including in the work Henry Gross and His Divining Rod by Kenneth Roberts, according to Schwarz.

The value of an in-depth look at a person with alleged psychic abilities, or a person unusually effected by such abilities may be tremendous. Suppose that there are common factors unique to such individuals. Might this not lead to picking out potential psychics at a very early age and bringing their abilities out to best advantage? And, if the phenomena are environmentally induced, might not such studies indicate proper steps that might have the effect of making a psychic?

A study of three individuals alone, one might suspect, would be perhaps unlikely to uncover any such common characteristics with very much authority, although it might have improved Psychiatrist considerably if a point-for-point cross-check had been included at the end. The situation may be further complicated by a switch in orientation in the middle section. Here, the center of study is perhaps a "victim" of extra sensory phenomena, whereas in the other cases the center of study is the psychic himself. This is possibly (very likely) due to the author's greater direct and/or professional contact, in the nonconforming case, with the "victim" (see page 93).

But, common characteristics or not, do psychic phenomena exist at all? After all the many years of psychical investigations, the very fact that this highly basic question is still legitimate may have a meaning all its own. In Science Looks At ESP Henry W. Pierce, a youngish newspaper science writer with a background in psychology (University of Montana, M.A., 1957), takes a look at the over-all parapsychological situation. Pierce, it would seem, is quite sympathetic to the "esp-is-real" hypothesis, but, four cheers for him, he still manages to write a conservative, as well as quite interesting, work.

Early-on in the book author Pierce frames the search for a psychic factor in terms of the search for something in man beyond the biological. If mankind has some extra-biological factor, some form of spirituality to provide a more lofty context for our existence, we may be much better off from both a moral and morale point of view.

I might attack this as an "approach" to the subject: Truth, pleasant or unpleasant, is still truth. However, as long as research is not unduly clouded by one's biases, one "might as well" be biased in favour of the more positive-seeming possibilities. But one might do well to be, in such situations, awfully careful not to let one's hopes distort his views of the objective evidence. (For an observation in this direction by Isaac Asimov, see Inner Space, November, 1970, page 53.)

Science Looks At ESP has a 1970 copyright, and one might therefore safely consider it as an (at least) pretty much up-to-date survey of its subject. So, then, what is the current status?

It would seem that laboratory research, while it has not yet reached the point of scientific proof of the existence even of esp, has nevertheless produced some rather interesting data. Pierce, on pages 111-114, details a remarkable experiment involving alleged astral projection, conducted under laboratory conditions by Dr. Charles Tart. Experiments with alleged "healer" Oskar Estebany by Dr. Bernard Grad (pages 96-99) also produced remarkable results. And then there are the spontaneous phenomena which occur hither and yon, it would seem, and which author Pierce has been no stranger to himself.

Here, then, are two works dealing with psychic phenomena from a scientific, apparently unsensationalistic but nevertheless quite readable ~~vanhage~~ package. Each is only about 150 pages in length, yet each covers its subject well, though, again, Schwarz's work might have included a cross-reference on case details, and both works suffer from the lack of an index.

What should UFOlogists make of all this? For one thing, they might turn six or eight shades of green at the amount of serious attention orthodox science gives to parapsychological subjects, or seems to. Parapsychology may be the skeleton in the closet of Established Science, but it at least is in the closet. UFOlogy, after a brief inspection at the door, never even made it into the house, I fear, to say nothing of making it as far as the closet.

But whether UFOlogy's case is as good as that of parapsychology is a question. So far as spontaneous field phenomena go, UFOlogy also has a considerable mass of data, perhaps rather impressive data, if anyone can be persuaded to look at it with an open mind. But, unfortunately, if parapsychology has problems with laboratory experimentation, I fear UFOlogy does too, and perhaps in spades. You can bring a psychic into a lab. Now how can UFOlogy match that? Send them a contactee? A contactee who may himself, in the end, be only a type of psychic? Perhaps so. This might accomplish a great deal in terms of understanding the nature of UFO contact, but does it accomplish anything in terms of evidence for the existence of a really-for-real UFO phenomenon?

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Individuals/organizations having unresolved business with the UFO Sighter should contact The Parafologist at the address listed above.

A LISTING OF SOME PUBLICATIONS

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SKYLOOK - Box 129 - Stover, Missouri 65078 - USA

PHENOMENOLOGY - c/o Universal Graphic Arts - P.O. Box 9234 - Cleveland, Ohio 44136 - USA

THE EMERGENCY PRESS - The Planetary Council - 27328 Cranford Ct. - Dearborn Heights, Michigan 48127 - USA

UFO BULLETIN - Auckland University UFO Research Group - Auckland University - Private Pag - AUCKLAND - NEW ZEALAND

MERSEYSIDE UFO BULLETIN - John Harney, editor - 53 Woodyear Road - Bromborough - WIRRAL - Cheshire - L62 6AY - ENGLAND

QUEST UFO REPORT - Kurt Glemser - 489 Krug Street - Kitchener, Ontario - CANADA

FLYING SAUCER NEWS - 346 West 45th Street - New York, New York 10036 - USA

SAUCERS SPACE & SCIENCE - (NOTE: Write directly to editor) - Gene Duplantier - 17 Shetland Street - Willowdale, Ontario - CANADA

UFO COMMENTARY - Patrick A. Huyghe, editor - 72 Jefferys Drive - Newport News, Virginia 23601 - USA

COS-MOS - Norman Oliver, editor - 95, Taunton Road - London - S.E. 12. - ENGLAND

FLYING SAUCER DIGEST - U.A.P.A. - P.O. Box 9811 - Cleveland, Ohio 44142 - USA

BUFORA JOURNAL - Mrs. A. Harcourt - 170 Faversham Road - Kennington - Ashford - Kent - ENGLAND

SCIENTIFIC SAUCERITIS REVIEW - Brent Raynes, editor - Perkins Lane - Hallowell, Maine 04347 - USA

FLYING SAUCERS - Amherst, Wisconsin - USA

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW - 49a Kings Grove - London - SE15 - ENGLAND

THE KANSAS NEWSLETTER - U.F.O. Research Associates, Inc. - P.O. Box 1672 - Topeka, Kansas 66601 - USA

UFO CHRONOLOG - (it is suggested that you write directly to editor) - Joseph M. Erhardt - 43 Richland Drive - Newport News, Virginia 23602 - USA

UNKNOWN - Paul Doerr - Box 1444 - Vallejo, California 94590 - USA

NOTE - While in the above listing we have mentioned writing directly to the editor in only two cases, it might be a good practice in the cases where we have provided this information to include the editor's name in your addressing.

A FIVE-LESSON COURSE IN UFOLOGY

As time goes by and the directions of UFO and unusual phenomena research become more complex, the advanced investigator may find himself increasingly unable to communicate to others easily the theoretical ramifications of the UFO problem. It is suggested that the following five-book course, presented to an interested but information-lacking layman, may provide the necessary "bridge" or some approximation of it. The books should be read in the order presented here:

- (1) The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects by Edward J. Ruppelt (ACE) (note- this should not be the revised edition of this work)
- (2) Anatomy of a Phenomenon by Jacques Vallee (ACE)
- (3) The Interrupted Journey by John G. Fuller (DIAL)
- (4) Passport to Magonia by Jacques Vallee (REGNERY)
- (5) UFOs Operation Trojan Horse by John A. Keel (PUTNAM)

Please report experimental results to the editor of The Parafologist.

RUMBLES FROM OHIO - There appears to be some shifting in the ranks among UFOlogists in the Cleveland, Ohio area. Cleveland was the site of the first Congress of Scientific UFOlogists back in 1964, and has served as the Congress site several times since. It is also scheduled once again for this function in 1971.

Ronald J. Pelger will now be serving as publisher of phenomenology. Phenomenology was formerly edited by Allan J. Manak, a Loftin Memorial Award winner. Mr. Manak will continue to serve as editor of Flying Saucer Digest. Rick R. Hilberg will apparently no longer serve as editor of UFO Magazine, but will in the future be associated with Mr. Manak.

A new professional publication dealing in the area of the unusual in what appears to be a highly responsible atmosphere is inner space. The first number, dated November, 1970, features interviews with authors Isaac Bashevis Singer and Isaac Asimov.

England's Flying Saucer Review has recently featured articles by John A. Keel on the subject of the unusual airplanes reported during the 1930s. (Part I FSR Volume 16, Number 3; Part II FSR Volume 16, Number 4) As in the case of the airship reports of 1896-97, we are at this date not yet convinced that the events described are not attributable to conventional human agencies. However, even if this is so UFOlogists may have good reason to take an interest in these earlier "flaps" from the standpoint of the similar reaction of people at the time to the given phenomena. And, if we are as yet unconvinced of any unconventional origin for the phenomena of 1896-97 and the 1930s, we also have yet to be convinced by any means that the phenomena are, in fact, the products of mundane enterprise. The investigator might ask these questions: 1) Do the phenomena exhibit technological abilities clearly beyond the state of the art for the given historical period? 2) Do the phenomena exhibit characteristics beyond superficialities which are similar to modern UFOlogical phenomena? 3) What evidence is there for alternative conventional explanations, including those offered at the time?

In the case of the first question, consultation with aviation experts not connected with UFO research might yield some results. SUCH INFORMATION SHOULD BE PUBLISHED IN THE LITERATURE. In the case of 1896-97, some comment has been made in this regard in the past, but at present the thusfar published information seems ambiguous to us. Could the airship have been the product of human invention? Was it? In the case of the 1930s aircraft, authoritative statements from non-ufological historians as to the interests and technical abilities of such countries as Germany and the Soviet Union at the time would be appropriate. Whether aircraft of the period could fly under the conditions extant would seem another open question. Again, outside aviation experts might be consulted.

The second question might more easily be dealt with internally by ufologists, particularly those who have delved deeply into individual cases. Some cases (Alexander Hamilton, Judge Byrne) do appear to exhibit detailed similarities to modern UFO reports, but how many do, and are they the best cases from the period? The Hamilton incident would seem to us from evidence thusfar presented to be a "good" case. The Byrne incident; more information needed. An extremely "otherworldly" incident, the Merkel, Texas affair, is very highly questionable in our view. Keel hints (FSR, Volume 16, Number 4, page 14) at

less conventional phenomena in among the 1930s cases. The whole sequence of events might be more UFOlogically interesting if, say, one of these aircraft had allegedly landed and issued forth an oriental-looking pilot. In the 1890s business, such was actually reported and might be construed as being similar to modern landing reports.

Some work has also already been done in the case of question three.

But, for us, the basic questions remain unanswered. Were these unconventional phenomena, or were they, in the case of 1896-97, the product of earthly inventiveness and, in the case of the 1930s, conventional aerial navigation?

Moving along to other aerial mysteries, there is the recent case of the disappearing balloon crew. According to a UPI item in the Orlando Sentinel for September 25, 1970, the three-member crew of a balloon attempting to travel from Long Island to Europe, Rodney Anderson, Pamela Brown and Malcolm Brighton were still missing after being searched for. According to the Mobile Press Register for September 27, 1970, the balloon's gondola was allegedly unsinkable (AP item). The (Jacksonville) Times-Union and Journal for September 27th announced (UPI item) an end of the Coast Guard search for the crew. Their last message indicated that the balloon was falling into the water, apparently because of weather conditions.

Also in the (Jacksonville) Times-Union and Journal for September 27th, 1970 is an article by Jessie-Lynne Kerr dealing with the only case of a Hurricane Hunter to have been lost: during Hurricane Janet, on September 26, 1955. The Navy hypothesized that the aircraft was destroyed by the storm. The Hurricane Hunters never before or since have had a plane loss during such operations. The P2V bomber vanished approximately 180 miles from Jamaica during the storm. It was manned by eleven persons, including a reporter and a photographer of the Toronto Star, Alfred O. Tate and Douglas Cronk.

In our earlier comments we discussed a series of events involving fatal lightning strikes and, of all things, football. Well, it happened again. Rick Hilberg sends us an item from the Cleveland Press for September 24, 1970, detailing the death of Zanesville High School football player Lee Vinsel, who was killed after a practice session while heading for his car. The incident apparently took place on September 23rd. Another youth, Rodolfo Garcia, was killed by lightning on the same day at Greenford, Ohio. From the wording of the article, one might gather that both youths were running when they met their end. One would conjecture that they were running to get out of the rain. Nevertheless, it is worth noting. We now have football-connected lightning death cases for September 2, September 7, September 8 and September 23, from widely scattered locations. The question may be asked: Can lightning be induced by outside manipulations? The Orlando Sentinel for September 25, 1970 includes a UPI item on experiments being conducted to do just that through the use of rockets. It should be pointed out that, as we understand it, these tests were to be conducted from Cape Kennedy and full-scale tests had not as yet begun when the item appeared, though a non-operational preliminary test under unfavorable conditions was made on September 24th.

A publication entitled Science and the UFO has been published by the National Amateur Astronomers, Inc., 1680 W. Hoye Place, Denver, Colorado 80223. The publication, which includes discussion by McDonald, Hynek, Saunders, Salisbury, Harder and Sprinkle, is edited by Ken Steinmetz.



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