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UFO Research Australia newsletter

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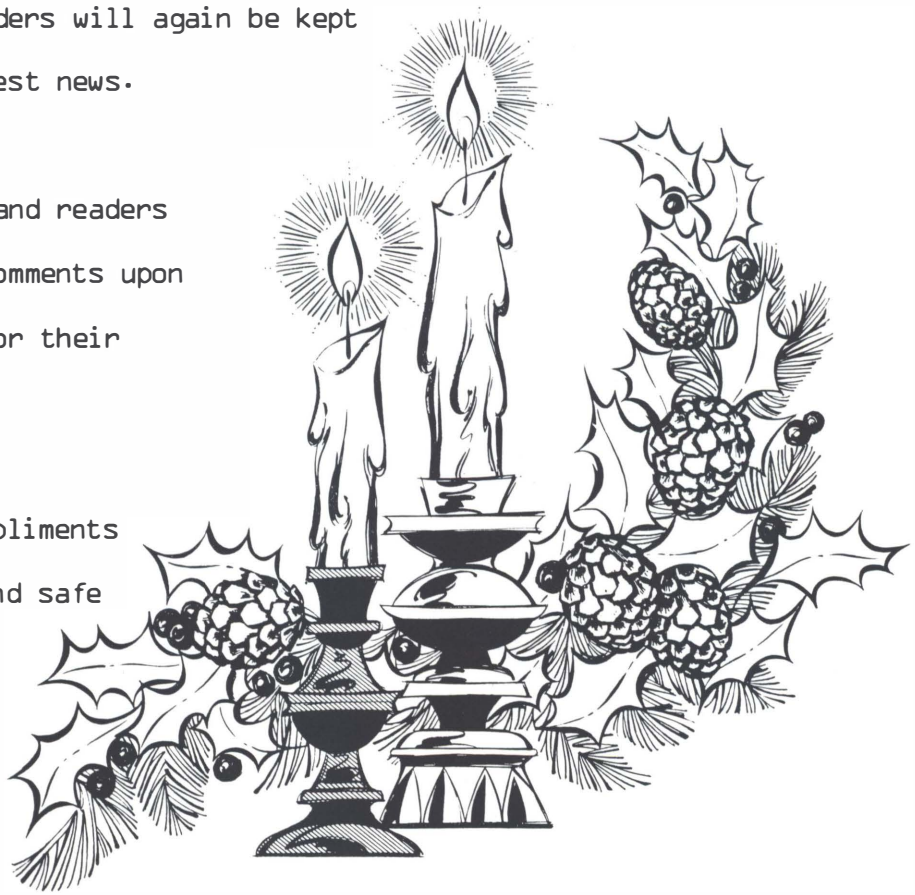
editorial

During 1981 there has been a wide expansion in the readership of the UFO Research Australia Newsletter. With increased overseas involvement in the magazine has come a broadened overview of UFO activity and research. This overview results from the interchange of information achieved through UFORAN and we thank all our contributors for their participation during the past year.

In 1982 we will publish articles on the involvement, and possible motives, of intelligence organisations in ufology. Major past UFO events will be re-examined from the wider perspective of present day knowledge and new ground will be broken with many research articles in previously unexplored areas. Of course, UFORAN will continue with all its regular features, and as in the past year readers will again be kept up to date with all the latest news.

We thank contributors and readers alike for their many kind comments upon the quality of UFORAN and for their support during 1981.

To all we wish the compliments of the Season and a happy and safe NEW YEAR.■



POSSIBLE CLOSE ENCOUNTER AT DARKEY FOREST N.S.W.

Source: Paul and Cassandra Sowiak-Rudej (Woolongong)

At 6.30 p.m. on Sunday, August 2, 1981, a coal miner travelling to work, from Woolongong towards Helenburg, saw an unusual object pass overhead at a distance he estimated to be 200 metres.

The object was described as "coffin" shaped with angular sides and corners. The witness estimated it to be the length of two full hands at arms length and said it was the size of "a house in the sky". In the top section there was a ring of yellow and white lights going on and off. At the centre of the object there was a large blue light, and a faint yellow beam swept from side to side.

The object travelled from north-east to south-west emitting a faint humming sound. No vehicle or radio interference was observed.

«»

UFO FORMATION OFF BUNBURY W.A.

By Jeff Bell (UFORAN Correspondent Western Australia)

On August 26, 1981, three independent witnesses reported seeing a formation of 15 bright objects flying about two kilometres offshore of Bunbury shortly after 4 p.m.

The Department of Transport and the RAAF could not explain the sighting. The Perth Airport verified that there were no groups of aircraft operating in the area.

Mr John Harvey, of Bunbury, said the bright silver symmetrical objects had hovered over the ocean then moved rapidly north and suddenly shot vertically upwards without changing speed.

«»

newsclips

From Venus with love . . .

ABDUCTION by UFOs (close encounters of the fourth kind) are analysed in some detail in the latest UFO Research Australia newsletter.

Reports by some victims indicate human/alien sex, the newsletter reveals.

Encounters don't get much closer than that!

'THE NEWS' (ADELAIDE SA)
OCTOBER 13, 1981.

And now for something completely different, that is, from what the author of the article "Close Encounters of the Fourth Kind - An Analysis" actually wrote in the last edition of UFORAN.

Examining Close Encounters from many angles, John Prytz at one point stated... "Some reports relate human/alien sex - impossible unless one believes in human/alien biological kinship".

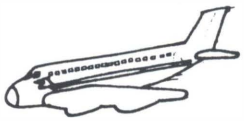
It appears "THE NEWS" journalist did not have a particularly Close Encounter with John's article. - Ed.

Unidentified Radar Targets

By Russell Boundy (UFORAN Correspondent Far North Queensland)

The following details concerning this incident were obtained first hand from the captain of the aircraft involved.

The pilot gave the details willingly but his name has been withheld because he does not wish to pursue the matter further. It should be mentioned that he is very experienced on the aircraft type flown.



DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT:

Date October 17, 1981 (Saturday).

Time: Approximately 02.00 hours

Location: Between Sydney and Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia.

Radar Type: L188 Radar, RCA. AVQ30. Maximum Range: 270 miles. Varying degrees of radar range are obtained by setting sweeps at the required distance.

An Air Cargo L188 (Electra) aircraft was flying a scheduled air freight run from Sydney to Brisbane (Queensland) on the above date.

After departing from the Sydney area the L188 crew of three (pilot, first officer and flight engineer) noted two targets on the aircraft radar. They were estimated at approximately 40 miles west of the L188's track (i.e. approximately north-west).

Both targets were confirmed with Sydney Air Traffic Control (ATC), who also had them displayed on the airport radar. Sydney ATC were unable to identify the two targets and stated that there was no other traffic in the area to account for them.

The two targets continued to maintain a similar position ahead of the aircraft on an almost parallel track, appearing on both the L188 radar and Sydney ATC radar until the aircraft was in the Newcastle area, where both targets vanished from the aircraft radar screen. It is not known if Sydney ATC continued to track the two targets after they disappeared from the aircraft radar scan.

The targets were estimated as being some 30 miles from the L188's position when they disappeared (i.e. they appeared to have been closing on the aircraft track). It t is estimated that the duration of the incident was approximately 15 minutes. At no time did the L188 crew have visual contact. The remainder of the flight was uneventful.

stop press

On Sunday, October 25, 1981, beginning at 10.35 p.m., a 22 year old dental nurse's car was paced for half an hour by "a huge and very bright oblong light" when she was returning home to Clare. Twice "it lit up the surroundings and I could see all the paddocks on my right hand side and all the road behind me". - *UFO Research South Australia is investigating and a full report will appear in the next issue of UFORAN.*

The Palma UFO — a comparison

By Russell Boundy

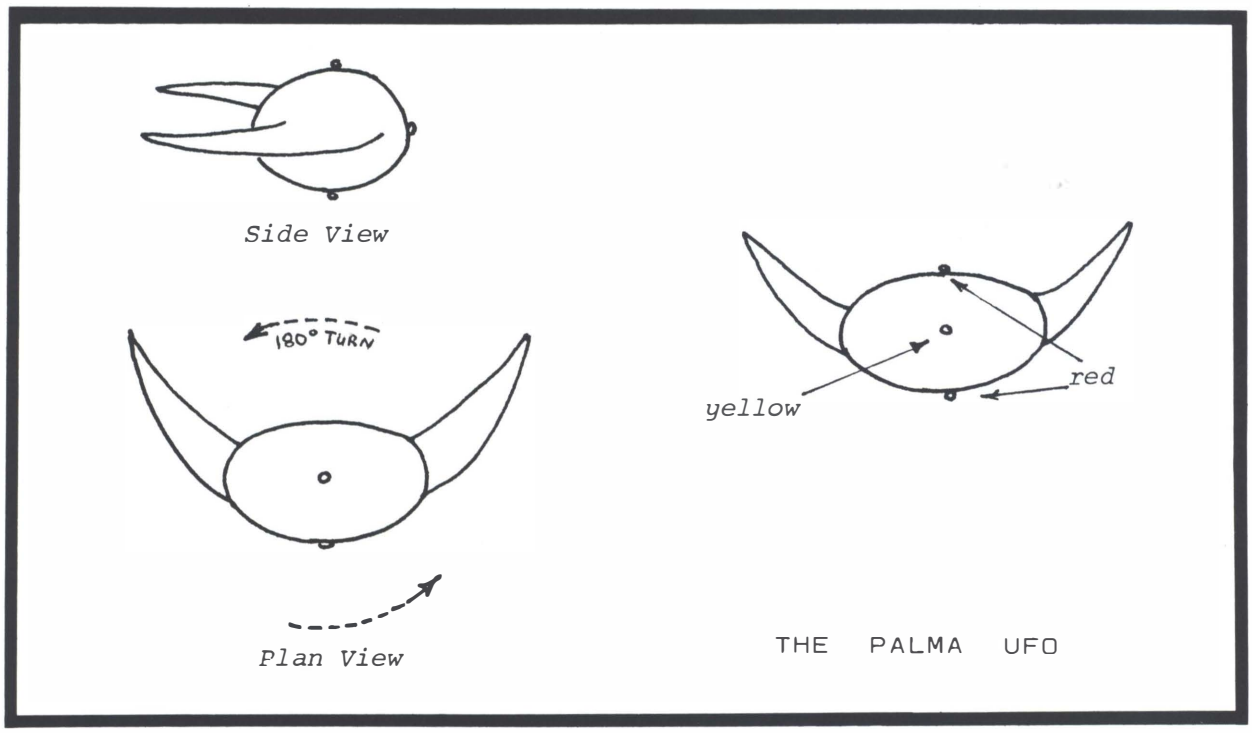
Each year many varying cases of unidentified (UFO) sightings are reported throughout the world and it is often a difficult task to find two or more particularly unusual object descriptions which, when compared, appear very similar.

However, such comparative likenesses do occasionally occur, though, admittedly in most cases it appears the description of an UFO depends a great deal upon the perception and interpretation of the witness describing it (this is easily noticeable in multi-witness cases).

So, keeping this in mind, let's look at one case which does have comparative similarities with another.

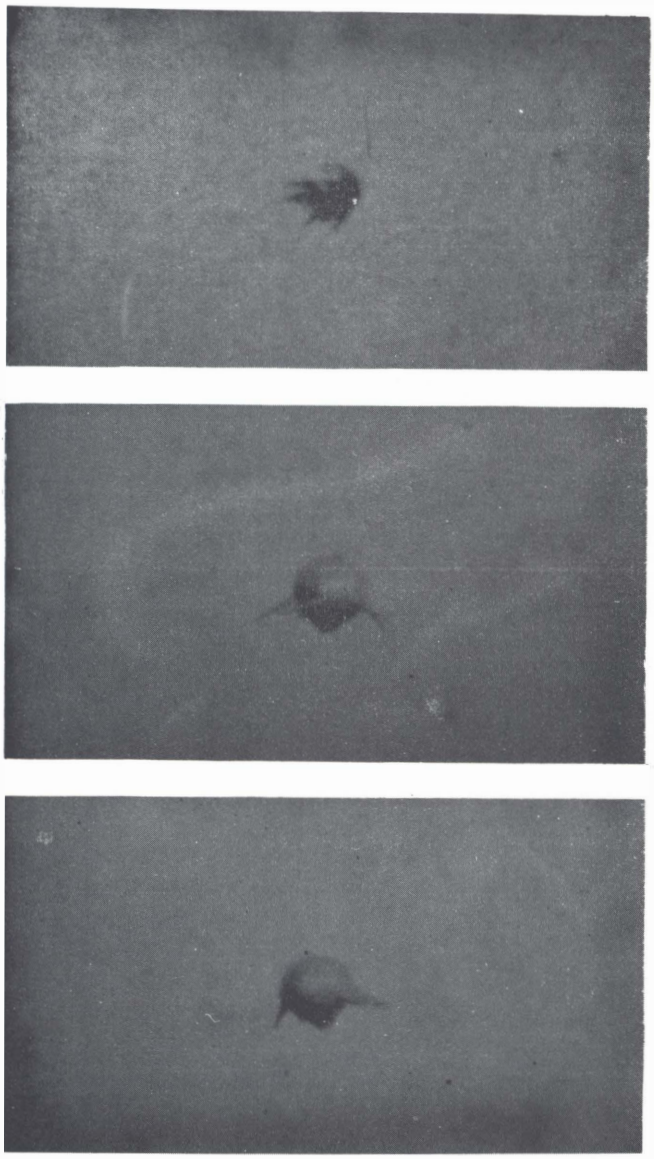
On April 26, 1980, at 7.45 p.m., several witnesses at Palma, Far North Queensland, began an hour long observation of a highly unusual object (see UFORAN Vol.2 No.2 p.15) described as oval, with curved "wings" on either side.

Every researcher in the back of his or her mind seeks a pattern of similar characteristics to other UFO events when assessing a report. Recently, thanks to the alertness of our UFORAN editor, a case involving an object bearing a strong resemblance to the Palma UFO was drawn to my attention.



The Palma UFO — a comparison

An account of this case was published in "The Apro Bulletin" in 1977 and also in the French Revue "Les Extraterrestres" in 1979. The incident related occurred on or about November 3, 1973, in Mexico, but unlike the Palma case the witnesses involved snapped three photographs of the object.



The Cocoyoc object

THE COCOYOC INCIDENT

A Mr and Mrs Jimenez (pseudonym) and their child were travelling in a vehicle between Cocoyoc and Caxtepec, Mexico, when Mrs Jimenez noticed an object at an altitude of 100 metres and brought her husbands attention to it. Mr Jimenez stopped the vehicle and they disembarked for a more detailed view of the UFO. Because he had a camera in the car Mr Jimenez decided to take some photographs.

Three pictures were taken, the first with a 50 mm lens, an aperture setting of f/4 or 2.8 (he is not certain of exact setting) and a shutter speed of 1/250. As the UFO seemed to withdraw two more photographs were taken with a 135 mm lens and an aperture of f/3.5 or 5.6 (again he was uncertain), the shutter speed was 1/250.

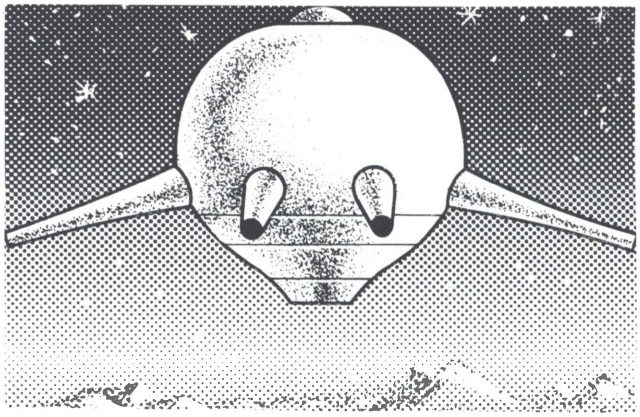
The UFO apparently then descended to the ground where it "sat" completely silent, resting on extremities protruding from the body, some 200 to 250 metres from the witnesses who estimated its height at 12 metres and its diameter at 8 metres. The duration of the observation, which began at 4.45 p.m., was estimated at eight minutes.

The witnesses also added that the object seemed to be "controlled by an intelligence".

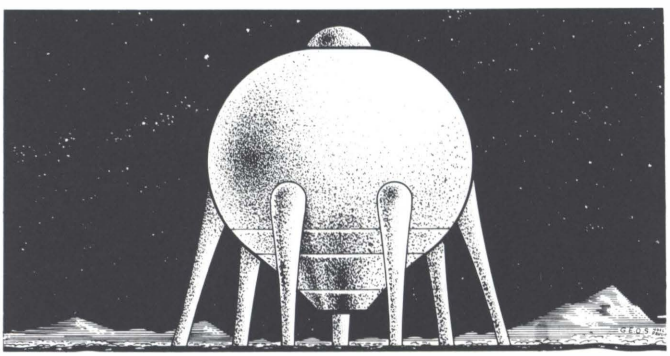
Mr Jimenez took only three photographs because he was occupied observing the object and trying to calm his wife who, understandably, had become quite hysterical. All the witnesses were very frightened and fled the scene once the object settled itself upon the ground.

Eventually in 1977, the incident came to the attention of an Aerial Phenomenon Research Organization (APRO) investigator in Mexico. The investigator, Fernando Tellez, organized an examination of the photographs by the Kodak Company (of Mexico) and they pronounced them to be authentic.

The Palma UFO — a comparison



Cocoyoc object in the air



and on the ground

IN COMPARISON

The basic appearance of the two objects is very similar. The "body" section of the Palma UFO was described as "oval" shaped, whilst the Cocoyoc body was described as "inverted pear" shaped. In both cases extremities extended from the central waist line of the body.

Differences occur in the descriptions of these extremities. In the Palma case they were said to be "two sickle like wings" protruding from each side. In the Cocoyoc case "tentacle like" extremities were used as supports when the UFO landed.

Of course, the Palma UFO did not land so we cannot assume it used its "wings" for similar purposes.

The other notable difference is that the Cocoyoc UFO was observed in daylight conditions (16.45 hrs) whereas the Palma incident occurred at night (19.45 hrs). The Cocoyoc UFO was described as being "dark-blue-green" in colour, whilst the Palma object was "glowing bright silver" with "three lights" attached.

I showed the Cocoyoc photos and details to the main witness involved in the Palma sighting and his comments were similar to those mentioned above, mainly that the object he observed looked similar but glowed brightly in comparison to the Cocoyoc UFO which apparently did not.

Well, what about that difference? Could it be explained away using that long held theory that possibly many of the "objects" observed in daylight, may in fact (appear to) glow under dark conditions?

There can be no denying that in the air both objects do appear very similar.

The article in "Les Extraterrestres" also compares the photos to another UFO photographed in France by a Mr Froidevaux. I would certainly be interested to hear from anyone with knowledge of this event.

References: *"The Apro Bulletin" Vol.25, No.11, May 1977, pp.1 & 3.*
"Les Extraterrestres", April 1979, No.10 pp.3 & 4.

Credit: *Cocoyoc photographs and illustrations - "Les Extraterrestres", April 1979, No.10, pp.3 & 4.*

UFO RESEARCH PUBLICITY BOARD

During October 1981, the UFO Research Publicity Board was founded by Vladimir Godic to work actively towards establishing accurate coverage of UFO events in the media.

To date journalists have quoted "experts" whose knowledge of the subject is often incomplete and hence the conclusions drawn are meaningless. Also consulted are those who are not sufficiently trained to evaluate reports. Often the conclusions reached by these people are made in accordance with their own personal bias either for or against the possibility of UFOs being real events beyond our present knowledge. Of course, not all untrained people are biased and likewise not all trained people are unbiased.

Fortunately, there are also some discerning journalists who research their material thoroughly, consulting the Air Force etc. and occasionally serious UFO researchers. Undoubtedly, if more journalists of this calibre knew of the existence and work of scientifically orientated UFO research organisations they would consult them more often when writing up an UFO event. Consultation with researchers would be of great benefit to journalists because of the long experience and broad overview of the subject that they have developed. Therefore, a report of a commonly misperceived object would soon be explained. If the sighting was uncommon and not immediately explainable there are study groups specialising in various aspects of UFO activity; and also highly qualified scientific consultants with whom researchers can confer before evaluating a case.

It is also to the advantage of researchers to communicate with the press for it will afford them the opportunity to educate the public through the media and establish a filtering system; for if the public awareness of often misperceived objects is high then there will be a reduction of these mundane reports. Investigators will then conserve time and be able to devote themselves more fully to the study of unexplained reports which warrant deeper investigation.

The Board will establish a communicating relationship with journalists who strive to comprehensively present the facts to the public. Imaginative, sensationalising reporters will be contacted when they inaccurately cover an UFO sighting and the inaccuracies and unfounded assumptions they have made will be pointed out to them via an explanation of the true facts.

The Publicity Board has three members: Vladimir Godic (Editor-Publisher UFORAN), Frank Gillespie (scientific advisor ACUFOS), Michael Hough (UFO Research NSW). None of the Board members have any personal tendency to agree or disagree with each other, hence fair administration is assured. As secretary, Pony Barenson (Assistant Editor UFORAN) supports the Board clerically.

Fair administration is obviously essential, particularly when working internally, for it may be necessary on occasion to point out to a fellow researcher that inaccuracies exist in information he or she has given to the media. Of course, it will be borne strongly in mind that what is said by a researcher and what is written by an imaginative journalist may be entirely different.

As agreed at UFO Conference 6, the Publicity Board is independent of any UFO Research organisation and the Australian Centre for UFO Studies, whose primary role is to receive and disseminate UFO information and where possible coordinate research. However, the Board will work for and benefit researchers within these organisations and all serious objective investigators.

Official Address:- *UFO Research Publicity Board,*
PO Box 229,
Prospect, South Australia 5082.

UFO CONFERENCE 6

From left to right:- John Prytz, Keith Basterfield and Harry Griesberg (Australian Centre for UFO Studies).

Cassandra and Paul Sowiak-Rudej (UFO Research South Coast).

Mike Hough and Mark Moravec (UFO Research NSW), Pony Barenson and Vladimir Godic (UFORAN).

Col Phillips (UFO Research Qld), Jim Atwell and Jane Brooks (UFO Research SA), Frank Gillespie (scientific advisor ACUFOS)

The sixth UFO Conference, advertised in the last edition of UFORAN, was held in Adelaide, South Australia, on October 10 - 12.

The conference was a great success. Papers in many new fields of research were presented as well as those further exploring established fields. Many administration and research topics were discussed towards the obvious end of further coordinating practical and theoretical research activities.

Unfortunately due to illness and unforseen business circumstances several delegates were unable to attend; we hope fate will treat them more kindly in early 1983 when UFO Conference 7 will be held in Tasmania.

Proceedings of the conference are now available at a cost of $ Aus. 15 (includes post and packaging) surface mail, from:
The Australian Centre for UFO Studies
PO Box 546
Gosford NSW 2250
Australia.

(Please note our photographer Ray Brooke, UFO Research SA, is missing from these photographs).

Classification Systems for UFO Reports

By Keith Basterfield

How does one go about attempting to place UFO reports which cover all types of objects into some form of systematic order?

In his 1966 book "Challenge to Science", Jacques Vallee divided sightings into four main categories:

Type 1: Events were defined as: "the observation of an 'unusual object' - spherical, discoidal or more complex in form, on or close to the ground (maximum: tree height). This image may or may not be associated with 'traces' - physical effects of a thermal, luminous, or purely mechanical order".

Type 2: "The observation of an 'unusual object' with vertical cylindrical formation, in the sky, associated with a diffuse cloud".

2A "Reports of objects answering the above description moving erratically through the sky".

2B "Accounts of a similar nature in which the 'object' is stationary and gives rise to secondary phenomena".

Type 3: "The observation of an 'unusual object' of spherical, discoidal or elliptical shape stationary in the sky".

3A "Those in which the immobility of the object occurs between two periods of motion and is associated with the object's erratic descent to the vicinity of the ground".

Type 4: "The observation of an 'unusual object' moving continuously through the air, regardless of its accelerations, variations in color, or rotations."

Vallee's classification system was the first to be accepted for general use but was superseded (for most people) in 1972 by one introduced by Professor J. Allen Hynek. This system was described in Hynek's book, "The UFO Experience".

Hynek's idea was to break reports down into two main types. Distant objects and close objects. Under distant sightings he subdivided into:

(1) Nocturnal lights - UFOs seen at night.

(2) Daylight discs - UFOs seen during the daytime, although they may not be oval or discoid.

(3) Radar-visual - UFOs seen on radar.

With close range events these became:

(1) Close encounters of the first kind - UFO seen at close range.

(2) Close encounters of the second kind - close range UFOs with physical effects noted.

Classification Systems for UFO Reports

(3) Close encounters of the third kind - occupants are seen in conjunction with close range UFOs.

Hynek's system has been generally accepted amongst the global UFO research community and indeed the public as the movie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" demonstrates.

In 1979 Jenny Randles and Peter Warrington in their book "UFOs a British Viewpoint" suggested an updated Hynek style system:

Low definition:-	only brightness, color and motions are discernible with any degree of certainty.
Medium definition:-	the object has a definite physical substance to it, e.g. clearly defined shape.
Instrumentally detected:-	radar, photographic etc.
Close encounters of the first kind:-	interaction between the phenomena and the witness, environment or both. Transient effects, e.g. physical or psychological reactions, animal disturbance during the event.
Close encounters of the second kind:-	same definition as for the first kind but effects last longer e.g. marks found on the ground.
Close encounters of the third kind:-	(a) Entity cases - with associated link with the UFO phenomena. (b) Contact cases - alleged contact.
Close encounters of the fourth kind:-	encounters with psychic effects, e.g. abduction claims, time lapses and other "non-real" elements.

As can be seen, trying to classify reports is difficult and there continue to be problems with even these three systems. However, in order to describe any type of report some kind of system is needed. The Hynek system is the one most commonly used today.■

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM THE AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES:

OVER THE YEARS THE AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES HAS COLLECTED DETAILS OF 560 AUSTRALIAN UFO OR POSSIBLE UFO EVENTS. THIS COLLECTION INCLUDES 70 ENTITY CASES, 20 PHOTOGRAPHIC EVENTS, OVER 20 OBSERVATIONS OF UFOS BY AIRCRAFT CREW MEMBERS, 60 VEHICLE INTERFERENCE CASES, AND, OF COURSE, CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF VARIOUS TYPES AND NOCTURNAL LIGHTS.

RECENTLY THESE CASES, WHOSE DOCUMENTATION LEVELS VARY TREMENDOUSLY, WERE SCRUTINISED TO ISOLATE THOSE WHICH DESCRIBED MORE THAN THE USUAL NOCTURNAL LIGHT. THIS RESIDUE OF 100 CASES HAS BEEN COMPILED INTO A 28 PAGE DOCUMENT TITLED 'A CATALOGUE OF THE MORE INTERESTING AUSTRALIAN CLOSE ENCOUNTERS'. THIS DOCUMENT WHICH IS PRICED AT $ AUST. 4, INCLUDING POST AND PACKAGING, IS NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES, PO BOX 546, GOSFORD NSW 2250, AUSTRALIA. PLEASE QUOTE DOCUMENT'S TITLE WHEN ORDERING.

Timepiece Interferences and Other Bizarre UFO Effects

By Bill Chalker (Australian Physical Evidence Study Group)

In terms of "physical traces" related to a possible UFO event, the experience of Deputy Val Johnson, near Warren, Minnesota, USA, at about 1.40 a.m., on August 27, 1979, must surely be regarded as extraordinary. The wealth of data is stunning. The International UFO Reporter (IUR), Vol.4, Nos.3,4 and 5 (Sept./Oct. and Nov. 1979) devotes over 15 pages of coverage to the affair. The inventory of damage to the police car is as follows: headlight smashed, dent on bonnet, cracked windshield, clock delayed, broken lamp cover, and roof and trunk antenna bent. Johnson received slight "eye burns" and his Timex mechanical wristwatch was delayed by fourteen minutes - a period of time identical to that of the car clock. The event has been described as a "UFO Collision" during which Johnson was ostensibly unconscious for some 38 minutes. One interesting aspect of the follow up investigation was the use of aerial infra-red photography which revealed a strong chlorophyll-a reflectance content coincident with the apparent path of the UFO. However, the coincidence is in itself not powerful evidence of a correlation with the flight path of the UFO. Another extraordinary coincidence related with the Johnson case is the rash of seemingly related reports of balls of light "attacking" automobiles in South Dakota, Illinois and Minnesota, from August 29 to October 6. Roland Wardell of the Materials Testing Lab of Honeywell, Inc. offered a serious "best fit" solution to Johnson's experience: "a highly charged electrical 'thing' with enough mass and momentum to create the effects". "Ball lightning" falls short as a possible explanation on several accounts: the sustained horizontal beam-like appearance of the light, the need for mass and the clear night. What of the other reports, at least five in number describing similar things. Only one occurred during a storm and another following rain. All six cases known to the Centre for UFO Studies occurred in three adjacent states and all involved "attacks" (at best a subjective interpretation) on vehicles!

The excellent Canadian Fortean newsletter, "Res Bureaux Bulletin", No.51, September, 1979, draws our attention to a further remarkable coincidence: three separate events, all within a period of ten days, describing unusual effects on timepieces. The three cases occurred as far afield as Warren, Minnesota, USA, over Ottowa, Canada, and down under at a point near Queenstown, Tasmania on the Murchison Highway! The Johnson - Warren, Minnesota case has been described. Brief details of the Canadian incident follow:

At about 9 p.m., August 18, 1979, a pilot and female passenger, were flying in a Cherokee Warrior aircraft, at about 4000 feet, some 40 miles north-east of Ottowa, Canada. The first hint of something untoward came as the wings started to glow red and the airspeed indicator started slowing down! The indicator went down to zero! The pilot found that the controls were jammed. The two then confirmed that a huge aerial object was above the plane. It then became apparent that the aircraft was rising with the UFO, which was described as "a rolling energy ball" with white and red radiant sides. Its diameter was estimated at 300 feet and its thickness at some 50 feet. The plane's controls had by now gone haywire - the propeller was windmilling, the compass was swinging about and the NDP beacon had flipped around. After some five to eight minutes, the UFO broke away and flew into cloud in the west. Soon after the instruments began to return to normal. As soon as the UFO had departed, upward movement of the plane stopped. It lost altitude for at least a thousand feet, before the altimeter began registering at about 5000 feet. It should be noted that the engine had kept running without stalling with the throttle left open. The pilot's springwound Timex wristwatch had stopped, apparently along with the aircraft clock for several minutes, however, the passenger's electric Timex with a second sweep hand continued to function!

The Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre are to be thanked for details of the Murchison Highway event. At about 9.28 p.m., August 20, 1979, a Queenstown woman (a former police

constable) was driving near Hatfield River, when the observation of a bright green light behind her, ushered in a series of unusual effects: the interior of ther car (a 1971 VW station wagon) was illuminated by a greenish light, despite the fact that there was no visible connection between the sky light and internal vehicle illumination (the road and countryside around the car was not bathed in a green colour); the car slowed down to a constant speed (according to the speedometer - 30 mph) despite gear changes, attempts at accelerating and braking over changing terrain; dashboard clock stopped along with the woman's mechanical wristwatch; an apparent excessive use of petrol. The light was apparently visible for a distance of about five miles and for a period of time first estimated as two to three minutes, but later considered to be more realistically ten to fifteen minutes. When the light suddenly vanished, the car immediately began to pick up speed. Although the car clock started again there was an eight minute discrepancy with the wristwatch which had stopped at 9.28 p.m. (the car clock was usually slow and had not been checked for several days). The mechanical wristwatch had apparently not started again, for when the woman reached Burnie a discrepancy of at least forty minutes existed, i.e. it was 10.40 p.m. when she reached Burnie. There was a crystal wristwatch left in the car which was battery energised, however, it is not clear whether any effects were noted on it. The car and watches have been operating satisfactorily since the encounter and the witness has not suffered any after affects.

Even a cursory inspection of the facts reveals contradictions which prevent resolution of a mechanism to explain the clockstopping experienced in these three cases. At Warren, the car battery powered dashboard clock and Johnson's mechanical wristwatch, stopped for the same period of time - fourteen minutes - although it appears that Johnson was unconscious for more than half an hour. Both time pieces began running after the event showing a discrepancy of fourteen minutes with the correct time. The Canadian event is not so clear, however, it appears as if the aircraft clock and pilot's mechanical watch were stopped for a period of several minutes and yet the passenger's electric Timex continued to function. The actual duration of the "plane control" was estimated between five to eight minutes. In the Hatfield River, Tasmania case, we appear to have the dashboard clock and the mechanical wristwatch stopping, however, only the dashboard clock appears to have restarted. The wristwatch was functioning after being corrected for time after the incident. Clearly one mechanism cannot adequately explain this cavalcade of clockstopping. A crippling magnetic field is suggested at Warren, however, a cursory magnetic signature mapping did not confirm this. This does not seem apparent in either of the other cases. In fact the selectivity of effects both on the time pieces and vehicles in all three cases prevents a satisfactory explanation. Either different phenomena were at fault or the phenomena involved are selective in themselves in the manner in which they interact with man's environment. One comment worth making is that in the U.S.A. and Australian cases the lights observed are without clear definition. Particularly in the Tasmanian case, the nocturnal light as described is hardly compelling and it is only the coincident phenomena of effects on the car and time pieces which make it interesting. Much further analysis and more data on each of these cases is in order.

SOURCES: Warren, Minnesota (IUR); nr. Ottowa, Canada (from the "Non-Meteoric Sighting File" at the Meteor Centre, National Research Council, Canada - N79/071 quoted in "Res Bureaux Bulletin"); Hatfield River, Tasmania (Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre).

Briefly it should not go unsaid, that the precedent for clockstopping exists within the existing UFO literature, and within Australia we have had further examples in the extraordinary Boyup Brook case and the flap activity in northern South Australia in the sixties and at Tyringham, New South Wales during 1973.▮

USAGE OF COMPUTER PHOTOGRAPHIC EVALUATION TECHNIQUES

AS APPLIED TO PURPORTED UO PHOTOGRAPHS

By William H. Spaulding & Fred Adrian

METHODOLOGY

The initial procedure, when performing computer aided photographic analyses of purported photographs of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) is the digitization of the pictorial data. This is accomplished by scanning the picture (*1) with a device that measures the density of the image(s) as a function of position. The data thus obtained are relative photographic densities, which are defined as logarithms of brightness ratios. The scanning process transpires with use of a sensitive TV-type camera.

The technology of Computer Image Processing is based upon the same fundamental principles as visual recognition in people. Although the actual visual process is physiologically complex, the basic mechanism of vision uses the eyes and brain as an automatic information interpreting system. The eyes receive stimuli in the form of visual light and the brain processes and interprets this input for the observer of the image. The human visual system can be simulated using an electronic scanner similar to a television camera, as the eyes, and a high-speed digital computer as the brain.

This type of system can "see" images through the scanner, and by means of the programmed capabilites of the computer, it can effectively manipulate the images. This manipulation, is contributory to the extraction of desired information. These Image Processing activities may then be categorized by two primary end-products:

1. An enhanced reconstruction of the original image or

2. a numeric or graphic report which relates specific information contained in the interrogated image(s).

After the UO picture, or a section of the photo has been scanned, the computer has stored in its memory a digitized version of the scanned area(s). This digitized version is comparable to a checker-board of squares known as picture elements, or pixels. The pixel is the basic element of picture resolution in the Computer Image System. The GSW

**1) The scanning is accomplished with a Computer Eye TM TV camera. Normal scans are approximately 2 mm. Any density range much larger than the noise level of the system can be divided into 256 discrete levels. This corresponds to an accuracy of 1 part in 256 or about a half percent, which equates to 0.005 density units.*

USAGE OF COMPUTER PHOTOGRAPHIC EVALUATION TECHNIQUES

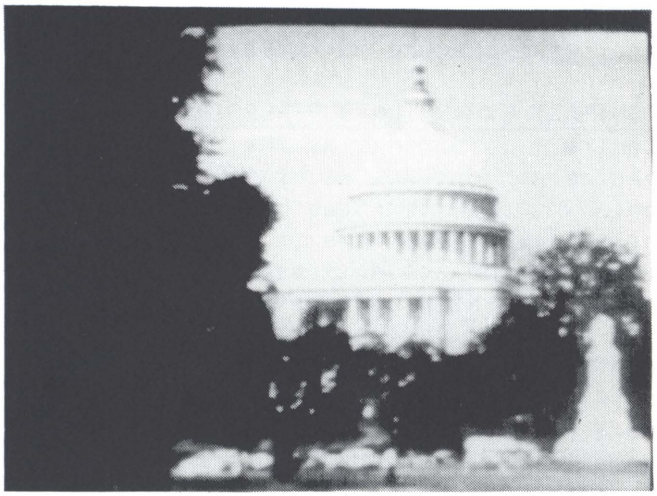


Figure 1

system is divided into an array of 640 horizontal columns and 480 vertical rows, thus producing 307,200 equal and discrete pixels. Each pixel is then assigned a value based on the average level of grey contained in that minute portion of the photograph which it encompasses. The grey scale, or Z-value of the pixels, ranges from 0 to 255, thus resulting in 256 levels of grey. All of these Z-values are available to the system along with X and Y coordinate data on the position of the corresponding pixels.

After the photograph of the area of interest in a photograph has been digitized an array of software programs can be utilized to extract specific information relative to the evaluation. These programs range from edge ehhancement to high resolution outputs. The following briefly critiques some of the more popular subroutines used in computer analysis of UO photographs.

EDGE ENHANCEMENT: For numerous applications, the most valuable information that may be derived from a picture is contained in the edges surrounding its various images and features. The edge enhancement operation delineates these edges and, thereby, makes the shapes and details comprising the image more conspicuous and much easier to analyze.

A computer algorithm for detecting and enhancing edges operates by shifting the original picture one or more pixel elements and then testing for a difference between corresponding pixels in the original and shifted images (see Figure 4). The program allows for edge shift in both the horizontal and vertical directions to optimize the analytical value. This capability, on many occasions, has located linear structures representing supportive devices above the model UO's.

SPATIAL FILTERING - Is a computer operation which allows a picture to be separated into high-frequency and low-frequency components. Low pass filtering eliminates hi-frequency interfering lines or textures in a photograph. Hi-pass filtering can be used to enhance picture details by removing low-frequency changes caused by vignetting or uneven illumination.

Figure 3 is an example of processing the hi-pass filtered image in Figure 1 with a spatial filter enhancement operation. Details in the photo are now enhanced, because the low-frequency data are removed, thus manifesting the hi-frequency details. The combination on contrast enhancement and spatial filtering produce very effective results for analysis of UO pictorial

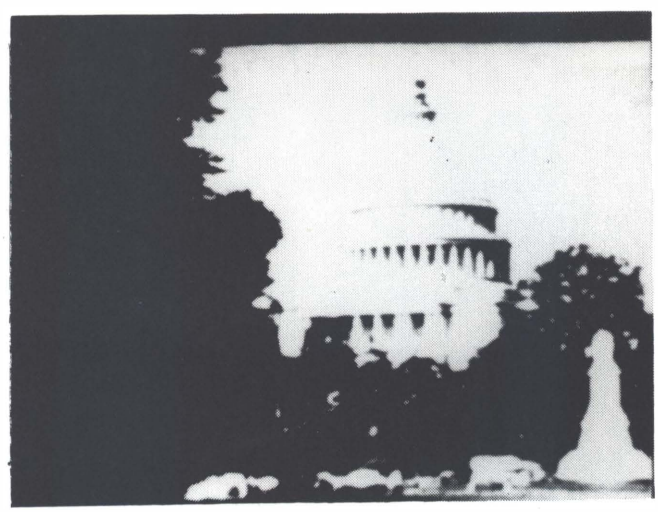


Figure 2

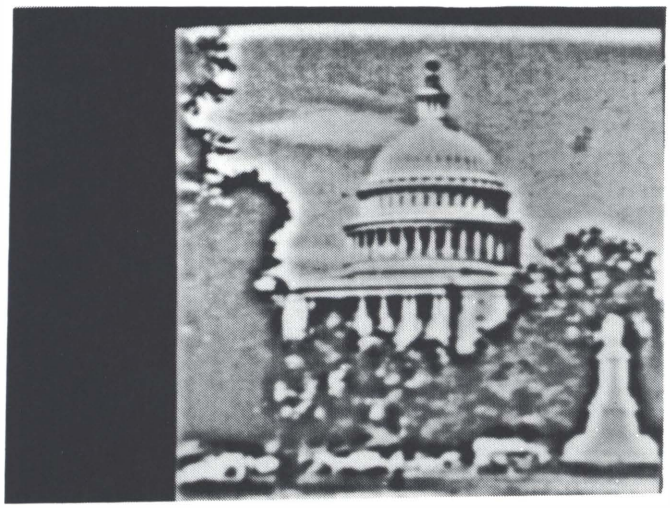
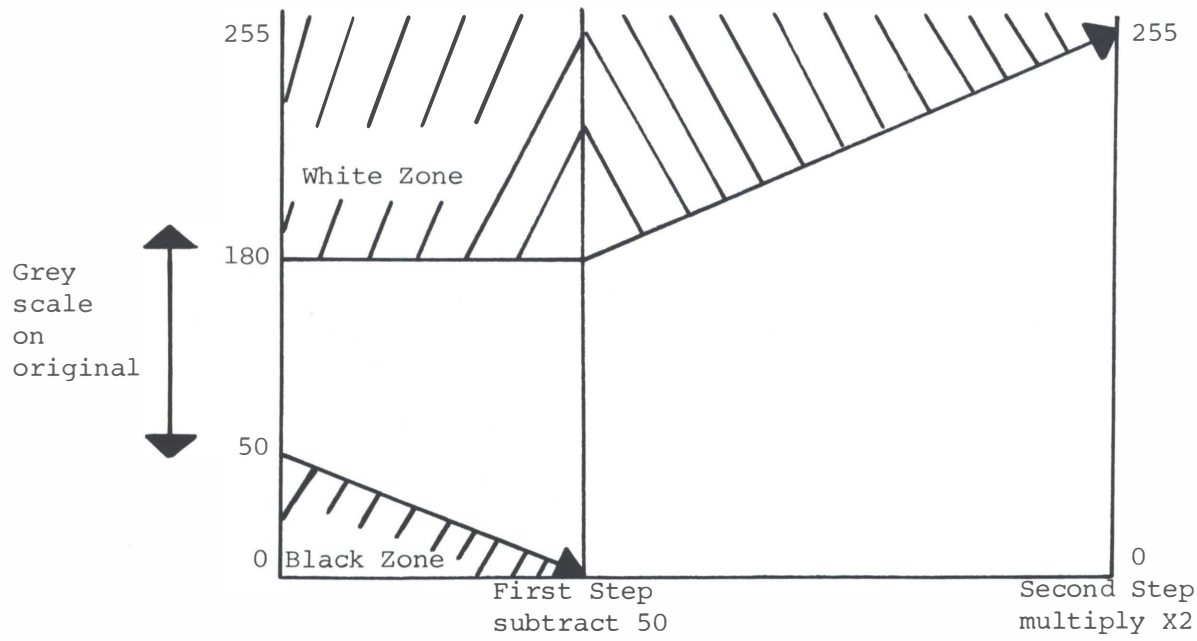


Figure 3

information by providing data on areas that were obscure in the original.

CONTRAST EXPANSION/SUPPRESSION (E/S) – Contrast is defined as the quality of a photograph determined by the magnitude of brightness differences between adjacent parts. The human eye is sensitive to contrast and actually sees images more readily in high-contrast picture than in low-contrast photos. The operation of contrast E/S can therefore be used not only to render very low-contrast images more readable, but also to bring out details that appear "washed out" in ordinary pictures.

The computer algorithm for contrast E/S is illustrated below in the drawing "A". Assume a low-contrast photo with density (Z) values in the mid-grey zone ranging between 50 and 200. This photo would be devoid of bright and dark highlights. This algorithm first lowers the darkest portion of the picture to a level of black by subtracting a constant value of 50 from each pixel element. The algorithm then multiplies each pixel by a factor of two, which increases the brightest pixels and the white zone to 255. All pixels in this high zone are displayed as white in the contrasted image. Hence, the effect of this operation is to "stretch" the grey scale from a relatively narrow, middle-range picture on the original to a full contrast image with grey values ranging all the way from 0 to 255.



DRAWING "A"

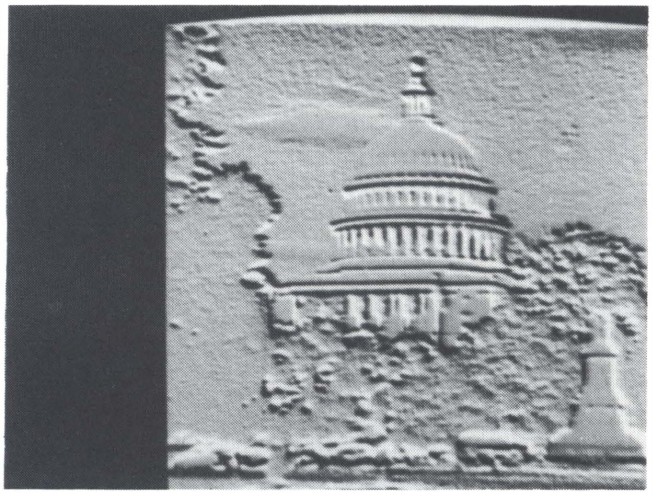


Figure 4

To obtain contrast suppression, the converse transpires and it is possible to produce a partial and/or total binary output (refer Figure 2). Simply stated, the photo becomes all black and white, devoid of grey areas. This technique highlights the UO image by effectively delineating the sky/background in the picture and offers more detail to the image being interrogated.

PIXEL DIGITIZATION (a test for image distance and distortion) - Is a derivative of the Gradient sub-routine that portrays the image's edges in white outline with a black (dark) background. To use this subroutine, the computer must calculate the difference between adjacent horizontal and vertical pixels. These difference values represent the rate of change of grey levels across the picture. Gradient is then calculated as the square root of the sum of the squares of X and Y derivatives.

Professional photographers and analysts know edge distortion can be attributable to the following:

A) slight defocus of the camera

B) atmospheric distortion

C) photographed images positioned "inside" the infinity setting of the camera

D) image movement

E) panning

F) veiling glare or any combination of the above.

Having the capability to measure the amount of edge waviness and comparing this quantity to other features, therefore, foreground and background data, can effectively determine an approximate distance from the camera. This provides valuable information concerning the validity of the UO photograph (refer Figure 5).

HI-RESOLUTION (Laplacian) - This unique function of the computer system provides a natural appearing edge image and brings out pictorial features with still greater detail.

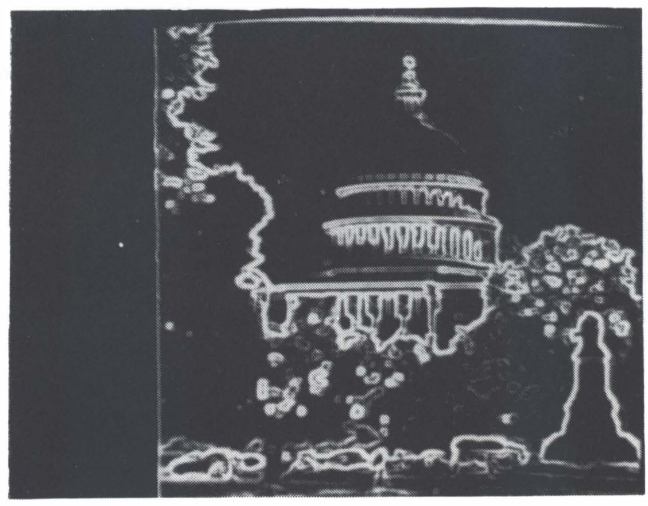


Figure 5

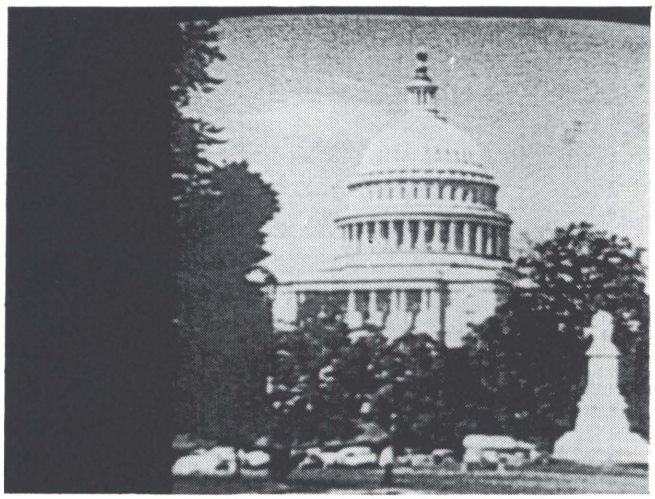


Figure 6

Another method of increasing picture detail utilizes the hi-resolution image and the original picture. They are added together to create a resultant image which has a resolution increase. Although the actual picture resolution is still 640x480, the amplified edges from the subroutine accentuate all images in such a way as to cause the eye to see an increase in attractiveness, ordinarily attributable to greater picture resolution (refer Figure 6).

ADVANTAGES OF THE SYSTEM

As of this writing, close to one thousand purported UO photographs have been analyzed utilizing the computer enhancement system. Approximately 2.5 percent of these pictures are considered to be "structured" images, therefore, one of substance. With this tremendous data base behind us, and during a constant learning curve, the following items can be determined during many interpretations of UO photographs.

DAYLIGHT PICTURES:

1. The time of day, as determined by shadows and reflections from the sun.

2. Proximity of UO image to camera/witness as established by relationship of foreground/background data points and the size of image in relation to the camera lens size and the film format used by the photographer.

3. Angular motion/direction as ascertained by sequential photographs or motion pictures and relationship of movement to common background images.

4. Density interpretations to establish if the interrogated image is reflecting light or producing its own light.

5. The determination of a supportive or suspended structure "holding" a model UO with high-resolution edge enhancement.

6. Effects of alterations on the photograph, such as montages (superimposed images) and identification of artifacts (false imagery attributable to improper processing).

7. Identification of natural phenomenon, such as clouds, effects of lightning, etc and positive identification of photographic anomalies, i.e., those related to lens flares and secondary reflections.

8. A histogrammic display (a profiling graph which measures the amplitude of the density) to relate, in some events, the shape of the image being analyzed.

NOCTURNAL LIGHTS:

Although many of the items mentioned in daylight pictures can be established in good quality detailed night photographs of UO images, many photographs of this category are of such poor quality that little, if any information can be obtained on the foreground/

background imagery. Many nocturnal UO pictures only contain an inarticulate light on a dark background, completely void of details. However, some information can be gleaned after a careful scrutiny of the photograph as follows:

1. Micro and digital densitometry to establish the light saturation of the UO image.

2. Pseudo-coloring (density slicing) to establish light distribution across the face of the UO image.

3. Dark density scanning areas of the photograph which appear totally devoid of imagery to the eye can be interrogated with special computer programs. These programs can "read" film emulsions that are as dark as 4.0 H&D Standard. This can be advantageous, whereas, during some previous analyses, light spill-over from the UO or UO light source were enhancing a minute portion of the superstructure of a conventional aircraft. In the same manner an individual, perpetrating a hoax, has been identified holding a flashlight, which appeared on a photograph as a bright unidentified flying object.

LIMITATIONS TO THE SYSTEM

There are those individuals who believe that computer enhancement can resolve all pictorial evidence of UO photographs. Conversely, there are many individuals that believe nothing can be gained using computer enhancement techniques. In reality, they are both half-right and polarity must go to the usefulness of this system. More photographs have been analyzed than ever before, more hoaxed photograph/movies have been identified and a computerized culling system has been established to sort the signal from-the-noise in the stacks of previously unprocessed data.

Since the effectivity of the analysis is solely predicated on the quality of the original photograph, limitations exist regarding the amount of quantifiable data that can be extracted from a "poor" copy photograph. Although great quantities of data can be achieved, as previously delineated, overly-cropped and low resolution pictures can not be effectively interpreted.

Computer enhancement methodology is not a black-magic science, rather it is state-of-the-art technology requiring good quality photographs for optimum results. Some obvious items that cannot be determined from computer enhancement techniques (CET) include; the exact manufacture/material of an "image", although in some daylight photographs densitometry can estimate a reflection similar to a metallic surface as opposed to a dull reflective surface, the exact distance-from-the-camera in a nocturnal photograph when void of reference points and the determination of "real" imagery from the sophisticated special-effects of expert camera operations under specific conditions.

FUNDAMENTALS - THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN UO PHOTOGRAPHS

The most common question asked regarding photographic interpretations is; "do you think a picture is worth an evaluation?" As a field investigator, let's turn this question around and let the researcher understand the basic fundamentals to approach this question. There are specific items, prerequisites, that must transpire with each purported UFO photograph prior to analysis. Some general considerations follow:

1. For all practical purposes, a nocturnal light appearing as a bright spot on a dark featureless background, affords no proof. It is an aircraft landing light, a flashlight, or a true unknown. Neither money or time should be wasted on this category of photograph.

USAGE OF COMPUTER PHOTOGRAPHIC EVALUATION TECHNIQUES

2. No photograph can be scientifically analyzed without the complete camera/lens/film parameters, regardless of the analyzing method.

3. If the photographs were taken sequentially it must be verified that the film is in proper numerical order as determined from the negatives or hard copy outputs. GSW has never seen a single negative or hardcopy devoid of the standard film manufacturing/processing number system, with the exceptions of incidents when it was advantageous for the witness to remove them or in the case of a hard copy reprint. Field investigators should verify this point by requesting to "see" the original(s).

4. In all cases it is better to have the original or first generations copies made from the original for analysis purposes. In many incidents the witness "believes" he is helping the photographic analyzer by highly cropping the photograph and magnifying the UO image. This is the worst thing that can happen, since the entire frame is required to properly evaluate the photograph.

5. As a minimum, complete the report section relating to a photographic incident on a GSW form which highlights specific information used for the analysis.

6. Photographs greater than second generation, copies from print media and matte-finish pictures are discouraged for computer work.

7. Do not submit original negatives without taking precautions with the mail service and make sure the pictorial evidence is protected from handling abuse.

In summary, computer evaluations are expensive. GSW is offering this service to qualified MUFON field investigators free-of-charge, with the exception of reimbursement for postage, especially to the foreign countries. All other organizations, researchers and interested parties must pay the $25.00 (U.S. monies) fee to offset these expenses. This service will provide a written critique and computerized output photographs. All computer work copyrighted to GSW, Inc. If these outputs are used for publication purposes, GSW, Inc. must appear in credit lines.

As an evaluation service GSW cannot sell any of this photographic material without permission of the witness(es). We envision a continuing evolution in computer enhancement techniques and further development to add further objectivity to photographic interpretations.■

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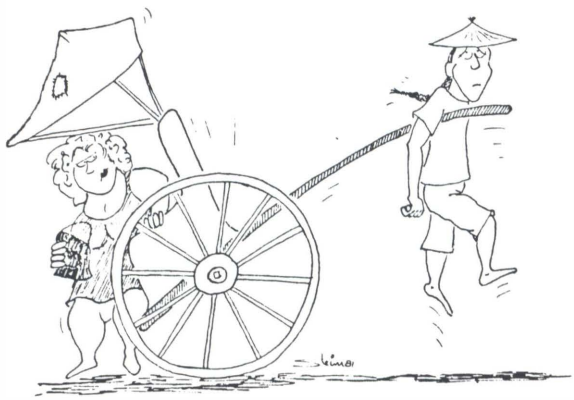

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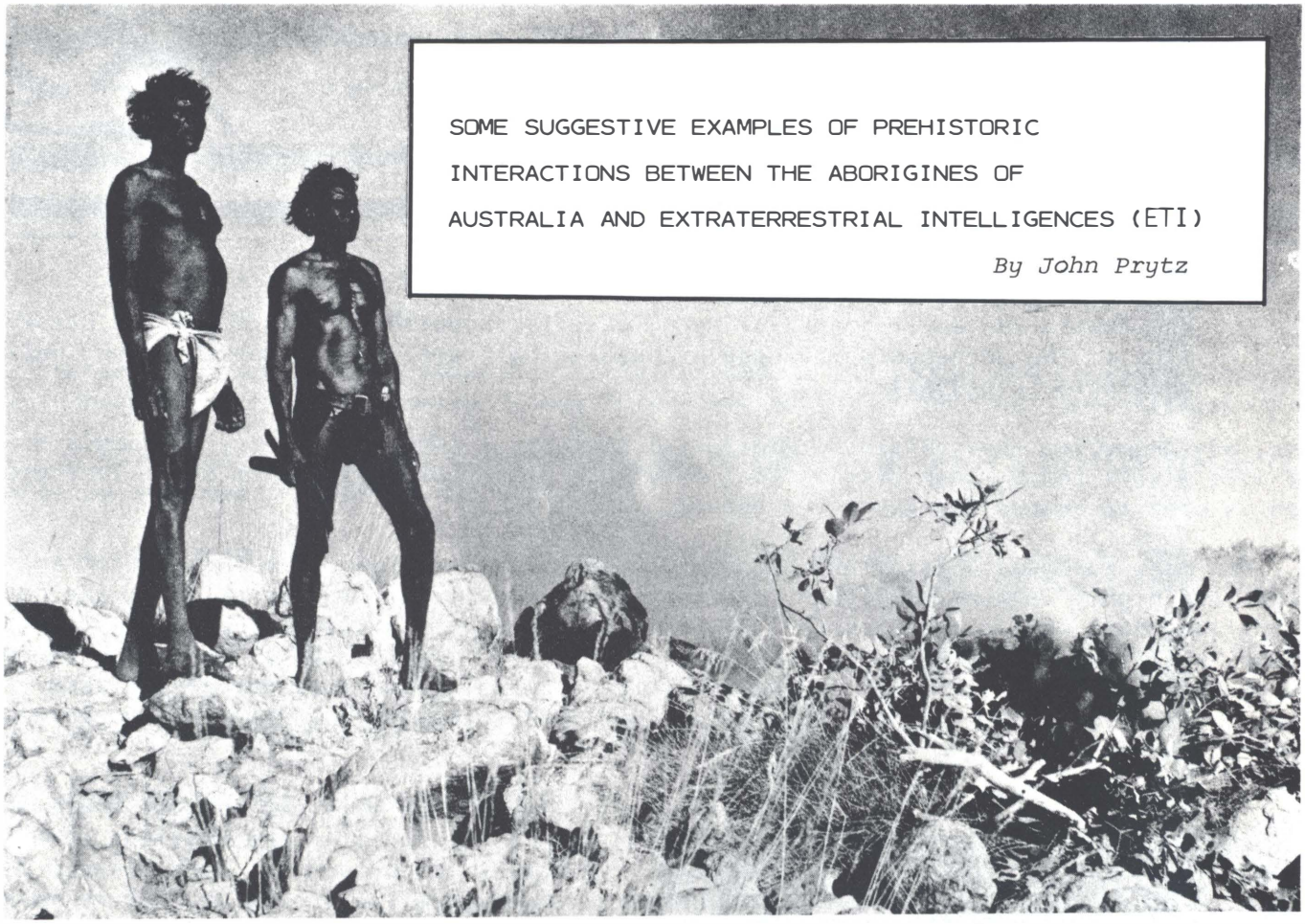


SOME SUGGESTIVE EXAMPLES OF PREHISTORIC INTERACTIONS BETWEEN THE ABORIGINES OF AUSTRALIA AND EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCES (ETI)

By John Prytz

The purpose of this paper is to complement and expand upon my UFO Conference 6 (Adelaide, South Australia - October 1981) paper titled "Aboriginal Myths & Legends: Possible References to ETI & UFOs". This effort serves to re-enforce my basic premise that enough information exists to suggest that at some time in the past, there could have been some degree of interaction, maybe major, maybe minor, between the Australian Aboriginal and "Ancient Astronauts". The information upon which this is based has not come from the speculations of Erich von Daniken, et.al., but has been culled and quoted from (for the most part) popular press articles. The speculations based on those articles are of course my own and not those of the authors of those press clippings, unless so indicated through their own words and quoted.

If there ever was contact between the prehistoric aboriginal populations and cultures of Planet Earth and ETI, Australia would be a logical place to look for it. Some of the reasons for this include the facts that:

1. a relatively small number of years has elapsed since Australia's native population has been influenced by advanced terrestrial populations and cultures;

2. the Australian Aboriginal has been present on this continent for many tens of thousands of years, and;

3. in apparent isolation for thousands of years from other aboriginal civilizations present on other land masses;

4. the modern Australian Aborigines have to a major extent a continuous social, cultural, biological, etc. link with their ancestors, which to a large degree is unpolluted, and:

5. the Australian environment, climate, etc. is favourable in terms of the preservation of the anthropological and archaeological remains that relate to her native population's history.

Thus, any anomalies that relate to Aboriginal historical life and lifestyles should stick out like a sore thumb, once discovered. Many such mysteries exist; only their interpretation is open to heated and extensive debate.

Now many European Australians (and more recently Australians from the rest of the globe) are highly lacking knowledge, understanding, and overall appreciation of the native Australian, both modern and ancestral. I know I was, and to a much-too-much inexcusable extent, still am. To those in the same boat as myself, I would suggest that some elementary overview of the subject is nearly mandatory. In that space does not permit such general coverage here, I suggest that interested bodies consult and read the two brief pamphlets by Baglin and Mullins (5, 6).

Aboriginal Elders preparing for a Corroboree (ritual dance)

Although in this day and age there should exist no racial misconceptions about the quality of human-ness with respect to the Australian Aborigine, let me make clear that when debating the issues raised in the following material, one fact can not be open to discussion - we are dealing with a human civilization and human beings with the same potential abilities to which we would credit ourselves. We are not talking about children, the mentally handicapped, "savages" or just plain dumb "niggers" who couldn't be relied upon to report accurately the fact that the sun rises in the sky, far less maintain an accurate oral and cultural tradition over countless generations. They can, and they do, for their culture is as important to them as our culture is to us; they treat it with respect. "Their myths and legends frequently have real and meaningful historical significance to the Aborigines, but to non-Aboriginal Australians they make little sense (16)". But studies of the Aboriginal way of life, for example by T.G.H. Strehlow, Professor of Australian Linguistics at Adelaide University, show "the Aborigines as people, not strange barbarians, and (reveal) the human and emotional appeal of their culture (23)".

Part of that cultural tradition is maintaining a high degree of accuracy in not only their oral literature where there is...

> *"...the richness of expression of the Aboriginal poetic vocabulary, meticulously passed on word-for-word over thousands of years ...(where)...So strict were the elders that every detail of the songs - names connected with ceremony and landscape - should be preserved exactly...(23)"*

but in their rock carvings where, for example, animal tracks (of emus, kangaroos, turkeys, wallabies, etc.), bird silhouettes, lizard designs, etc. are readily identifiable (7-13), and in their cave paintings, where, for example, prehistoric Aboriginal art works discovered

in the Northern Territory showed Aboriginal knowledge of the now extinct Tasmanian tiger, absent from the Australian mainland for thousands of years. Zoologists had no trouble recognising what animal it was, for...

> *"...the 10 paintings of Tasmanian tigers were perfect in every detail. There was one painting showing a female tiger feeding her young (24)".*

This issue of accuracy of representation takes on an obvious degree of importance in some of the items to follow.

Those items, the anomalies that relate to the Australian Aborigine, can be grouped into five broad categories, and touch upon both the physical and cultural anthropology of the Aboriginal, as they cover their origins, their remains, their isolation, their art works (including paintings and carvings) and their oral traditions (myths and legends). Some cross-pollination between these artificial divisions will be highly evident however, and can not be avoided.

ORIGINS: Both from where, and from what time, the first human beings walked upon this sunburnt country is open to some doubt. The best accepted evidence; educated guesses, suggest somewhere in South East Asia, at least 40,000 years ago. But...

> *"There is as yet no conclusive evidence to show where they came from. As a population group they are quite distinct from Caucasoids, Mongoloids, Negroids. And indeed from studies of the measurements and indices of the individual bones comprising the skeleton, of their blood groups, of their fingerprint patterns and a host of other biological examinations, including particularly the shape of their facial and skull bones, it is quite clear that they have no close affinity with any other living people. In other words they are a very distinct group (2)".*

But the Aboriginal is not the only distinct race which once roamed Australia. Aboriginal myths, backed up by the discovery of 40 skeletons from northern Victoria, are highly suggestive that Homo erectus, in the more popular guise of "Java Man":

1. lived in Australia as recently as 10,000 years ago, which would be some 150,000 years after they died out in Europe and Africa;

2. could have entered Australia as long ago as 500,000 years before the present;

3. lived side by side with the modern type Aboriginals (Homo sapiens) for tens of thousands of years; and

4. vanished after surviving here for such long periods of time.

Although the 40 skeletons range in age from 10 to 20 thousand years, they do resemble, and preserve, in almost unmodified form the non-Australian Java Man skulls of at least 150,000 years ago, and do not resemble Aboriginal skeletal remains which have been dated from between 10 to 20 thousand years old.

Were it not for the discovery of the Java Man skeletons, various Aboriginal myths and legends regarding Doolagarl or "Hairy Man" would have attracted no significance other than as fairy tales or oral bed-time stories for Aboriginal boys and girls. According to Roland Robinson, one of Australia's authorities on Aboriginal legends, there is a...

"...widespread myth of the ape-man among Aboriginals in southern Australia. 'I'm convinced the myth accounts for those mysterious fossils found in Victoria, which have the facial features of Java Man'... ... (There are) accounts given (to Robinson) verbatim by full-blood Aboriginals of the existence of an ape-like cannibalistic creature. 'The blacks from Nowra down to Orbost in Victoria all know of the existence of this "Doolagarl" - or "Hairy Man" - who, they say, has a low forehead, long spindly legs and hardly any neck'. What (Robinson) finds striking about the myth is that it is so widespread and so consistent in details, despite the wide range of tribes in southern New South Wales and Victoria. ...Could the myth be based in fantasy? ...'Never! The Aboriginal myths go back 60,000 years. They relate their versions of actual events or universal truths - the story of the flood, found in all mythology, the resurrection and the story of Prometheus and how man discovered fire'. It was stupid, (Robinson said), for scientists to scoff at mythology when Homer's Iliad led Heinrich Schliemann to discover Troy and Mycenae. 'In Australia, we have similar myths which have been proven by scientific fact. The Aboriginal Dreamtime myths tell of a time when central Australia was lush and fertile and covered with huge trees. The myths say central Australia in those days was filled with giant creatures. The myth accurately describes the Permian period'. ...'Right under our noses here is a fountainhead of knowledge in Aboriginal mythology about history, prehistory, psychology, extra-sensory perception, telepathy. I reckon this new find is confirmation of what the Aboriginals have long believed was true - but no one took any notice of their myth and just thought it was a fairy-tale. Except that their myths are no fairy-tales - they're rooted in deep and long experience over thousands of years' (27)".

Many mysteries surround this apparent discovery of Java Man in Australia. For example:

"...scientists are mystified by their 'time machine' survival as a distinct primitive-featured people for perhaps 90,000 years - long after they died out elsewhere. ...Could he possible have lived as a distinct type side by side with the Aboriginals for some 25,000 years? If so, how could this happen in an area where modern-type Aboriginals also existed? ...What, in the end, happened to the Homo erectus types? Were they absorbed into the general Aboriginal population, were they wiped out or did they die out? Mr (Alan) Thorne (research fellow in prehistory at the Australian National University) says these questions are impossible to resolve on the present evidence" (26).

(For a full account of the Java Man mystery, see the articles written by Graham Williams. 26, 27.)

Nor does this end the mysteries that surround exactly who was in Australia thousands of years ago. Modern type Aborigines - Yes. Java Man - looks like it. Someone else besides - judge for yourself, for...

In January 1970, Professor N.W.C. MacIntosh, Chairman of the Australian Institue of Aboriginal Studies and professor of anatomy at Sydney University, dug up a 6 foot, 2½ inch

skeleton of a male, which proved to be some 7,000 years old. The find was a unique one for the Australian continent, in that reassembly of the remains showed the man to be unusually tall for an Aboriginal, who has an average height of only 5 feet and 6 inches. Further, the skeleton was discovered in the Lake Nitchie region, 60 miles north of Mildura on the Darling River, some 550 miles west of Sydney - tall Aboriginal men are almost always found in the far north of Australia. On top of that, the man had been buried lying down - not in the traditional squatting position. And whoever buried him, buried him with a necklace of 180 Tasmanian Devil eye-teeth, which would have been as precious as diamonds, as the animal was rare on the Australian mainland even then (and the teeth of the necklace dated some 2,000 years older than that of the wearer's skeleton), and because none of the teeth matched it could be concluded that 180 Tasmanian Devils had been killed to supply the teeth for the necklace. One of the questions still unanswered is how 180 examples of an extinct animal on the mainland should occur in one solitary spot and not in any other part of the continent. So, "who was he?" Nobody knows. (1,15, 18) But I would personally speculate that he must have been somebody very very important, and probably not a bona fide Aboriginal!

REMAINS (archaeological): Australia has none of the great archaeological mysteries of other countries - Stonehenge, pyramids, Machu Picchu, Nazca lines, Angkor Wat, to name but a few. But greatness is in the eye of the beholder, and Australia does have some archaeological mysteries. Here is one example:

Simpson Desert

A husband and wife team of amateur archaeologists, Bob and Joan Rowlands, discovered an Aboriginal stone arrangement, or maze, near Birdsville (130 kms north-west of the town) on the edge of the Simpson Desert, in 1978. The complex of stones had remained untouched and forgotten by those who constructed the patterns in prehistorical times, probably up to 10,000 years ago, and locals in the area had no knowledge of their existence. Although dozens of such arrangements have been noted and logged thoughout Australia over the years, this particular arrangement is important because of its sheer size. A total of eight separate patterns, comprising geometric designs, totemic symbols and baffling combinations of curves and straight lines, are spread out over more than 400 hectares (four square kilometres) of ground. Such a size of course immediately suggests that total comprehension or meaning, the "Big Picture", would only be visible from the air, but the area is nothing but a harsh gibber plain. But next to nothing is known about the people who built it or why they built it or exactly how it was constructed, or how it served of use to those who went to a massive amount of time and effort to make the arrangements. The Rowlands refute any suggestion that the stone maze is an Australian Stonehenge, that it was built to attract spacemen or that it was a sort of primitive astronomical observatory. Their private pet theory is that at least a large section of the stone maze is an ancient Aboriginal map of the Simpson Desert, showing sandhills, water holes, natural landmarks, and other important features. The site was also probably used as a ceremonial aid in initiation rites according to the Rowlands. But as professional funding for a more detailed study, even the basics, has not been granted on the grounds "that the arrangement is of little significance to living Aborigines", the questions will go unanswered for the moment at least. Thus, one man's theory/solution is as good as another man's pet ideas at this point in time (17, 19).

ISOLATION: Few Aboriginal experts would doubt, based on the evidence, that the Australian Aboriginal must have been physically and culturally isolated from the rest of the outside world from over 10,000 years or so ago, up through and including the arrival of the Europeans several hundred years ago, and maybe the now and again contact with seafaring Polynesians, Micronesians and/or Melanesians. Once the sea level rise after the end of the last Ice Age made Australia the island continent it is today, the Aboriginal was trapped, as no evidence exists to suggest that the Aborigines were in any shape, manner or form a maritime peoples. So how does one explain the following apparent cross-cultural tid-bits?

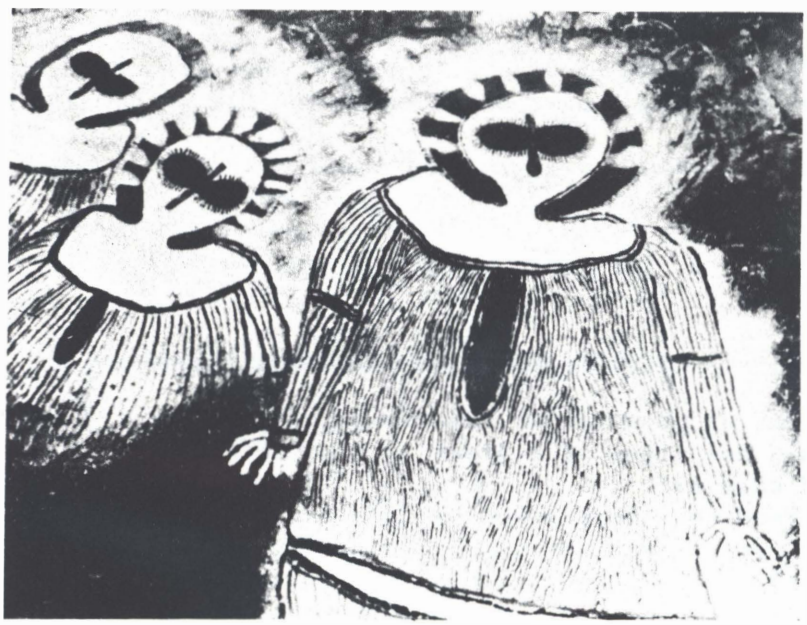
Aboriginal rock carvings in North Queensland, discovered in 1936 by four orchid hunters, resemble Egyptian hieroglyphics at the British Museum in London. They support the theory by Mr Rex Gillroy, curator of the Natural History Museum at Mt Victoria, New South Wales, that Australia was visited by ancient Egyptians (14). I doubt it any Egyptologists would go along with that idea, but von Daniken would have a field day!

Mr Chicka Dixon, of the Aboriginal Art Board, arranged a display of Aboriginal art to be shown in the United States, as Australia's gift for the American bi-centennial in 1976. Why? He was struck by the uncanny stylistic similarities between the work of the first Australians and the first Americans. For example:

"'We 've got traditional tribes that have been sand painting for 40,000 years and so have the Navajos.
...I visited the Cochiti corn dance festival and the rhythms and movements were similar to our Mowajan tribe. It frightened me - I was so far from home and these things kept cropping up.'
...Geometric designs like those found on early Pueblo Indian pottery and in Navajo rugs also abound in the Aboriginal poles and bark paintings (3)".

The third and final example comes from "The Australian" sponsored scientific expedition in search of Aboriginal rock art sites throughout Australia's great Red Centre, led by Robert Edwards, curator of anthropology at the South Australian Museum (7-13). That expedition explored remarkable face engravings in the Cleland Hills, west of Alice Springs. Edwards wrote:

"'It is a remarkable coincidence that face engravings, some almost identical to those in the Cleland Hills, have been found by Professor A.P. Okladnikov in distant Siberia...(13)'"



Rock painting

In addition to the discovery of "the mocking, cheerful faces" (also discovered at the Tukuinga Rockhole) with their "unique character...great antiquity and... mystery of their origin", "small human figures (and) star-like motifs" were also uncovered at Thomas Reservoir (in the Cleland Hills). Similar "small human bodies with large headdresses unique in Australian rock art" were found at N'Dahla Gorge, near the Ross River. The article further quotes Edwards as stating that the "'Aboriginals told us the engravings did not belong to their people but were made in the Dreamtime - a consistent belief, wherever we have been'".

ART WORKS: And while on The Australian expedition, findings were made of "'paintings of circles (a common form of Aboriginal design or artistic work), (more) small human figures and serpents'" near Jambijimba's cave, on the site know as Bingee (9). At the Ooraminna rock engraving site, in Central Australia between the Overland Telegraph and the railway, are to be found in addition to "the characteristic circles, tracks and linear engravings... several designs of little human figures wearing strange head ornaments (8)".

The constant discoveries of "small human figures" sometimes were connected to Cleland Hills faces, yet outside of that immediate area. With respect to one such finding, Edwards wrote:

"'Although only 12 inches high, the facial details were quite obviously of the same character as those of some of the larger Cleland Hills designs.

...The new find has a complete bodily outline, its legs spread slightly, and arms held out from the body...There appears to be a small mouth (and) there may be horn-like protrusions from the head, which would provide yet another link with the Cleland Hills engraving (12)'".

Tjukadia (who along with Jambijimba were two of the expedition's Aboriginal guides) led the party to extensive engravings at the Arinna site near Mt Edward which included "long, snakelike designs". "To Tjukadia, all were of non-human origin (12)".

Another Aboriginal guide, Walpitjiri, showed the expedition another unique Aboriginal carving, "a two-foot-long engraved cross" pecked out of rock long before Christianity swept the world, and which "represented a sacred head ornament (11)". However, upon seeing a photograph of this "cross", the immediate conclusion I jumped to was how very similar it was in appearance to an ancient European sword, something straight out of the days of King Arthur and Camelot. But, be that as it may...

In summary of what has been a very scanty overview of some of the Aboriginal mysteries discovered and explored by Edwards and his party, I present these quotations. First on the Cleland faces:

"When The Australian expedition left the intention was to solve the mystery of the few strange and weird faces in the rocks above the Thomas waterhole in the Cleland Hills.
The faces have been described by anthropologists as 'almost unbelievable'.
They are completely without parallel in ancient Australian art.
The heart-shaped faces, some with eyes like craters on the moon, some with hooked noses, creatures with horns and faces with laughter and sadness rest among the usual welter of totem tracks, circles, and lines (7)".

And secondly, in general:

"On the success of the journey and the discoveries Mr Edwards says: 'Over that great sweep of country there are all the signs of a break in time between the Aboriginal and the men who created this art.'
'It is as though primitive people recorded their rough beliefs and crude religion as a sort of bible in the rocks - then suddenly stopped living, and then another man came and adopted the art as sacred and holding it in awe began to build his own ritual and ceremony around the sites'.
From South Australia to Alice Springs, eastward into western Queensland, into the Northern Territory, and westward across the border into Western Australia the story was the same - of two ancient cultures, with the tribal leaders always protesting that the rock art did not belong to their people - that it was non-human in origin and belonged to the Dreaming when the mythical creators shaped the land (7)".

But just before leaving the topic of Aboriginal rock carvings, another interesting example unrelated to The Australian expedition is worthy of mention. A grant was given to an amateur archaeologist, Mr Enzo Virili by the Institute of Aboriginal Studies for his work in documenting the Aboriginal engravings in Gum Tree Valley near Dampier, Western Australia. Although many of the local carvings...

"depict animals and birds...there are also people and symbolic figures and designs. And there is one clear expression of the mischievous spirit man,

Kadaija.
'You see he has eyes but no mouth,' said Mr Virili (25)".

Another exciting find "was a tablet of rock with an accurate engraving of a Tasmanian tiger (25)".

ORAL TRADITIONS: The Aborigines have a complex mythology, handed down by word of mouth from generation to generation, that explains in vivid imaginative detail the legendary origins of the creatures, plants, sights and sounds that influenced their lives. Many of their stories have a unique fairy-tale quality to them. Some are also quite suggestive.

"A...collection of such stories, 'My Dusky Friends', ensures that many of the myths will survive as a matter of record, even if the word-of-mouth telling gradually is smothered by increasing Europeanisation of the people.
The book was written by Ethel Hassell...in 1878.
...Some of the snippets of information she picked up and recorded are fascinating. Here is an extract of a conversation she records: 'But Tupin', I asked, 'is the earth round like this ball (holding up a ball of crochet cotton) or square like the box I am sitting on'?
'Round like a ball', both the girls promptly replied (21)".

Mention was made above of the Kadaija, the mischievous spirit man with no mouth. Another (or maybe the same) semi-sacred figure of Aboriginal lore is the Kadaitcha or "red ochre" Man, who would have been a unique character even for an established science fiction writer to invent! This being is some sort of Aboriginal supreme judge, jury and executioner. A sort of Aboriginal revenge figure, or in modern terminology, a "hit man" from the stone age, whose name, even in the mearest whispers, can grip a modern Aboriginal settlement with terror and panic. And no wonder, for this thing has been reported as (22):

1. Giving off a golden glow at night.

2. Being able to produce atnarongara stones at will from his body which also glow when the Kadaitcha Man approaches his victim.

3. Being able to kill his victims, then bring them back to life, but only then to sicken and die for no apparent reason.

4. In more modern times killing his victims by using a .22 rifle where the bullet must have about one third of the charge removed and the point cut off.

5. Wearing special Kadaitcha boots that leave no tracks, although this aspect is under some doubt.

6. Still doing his ritual duty within the time frame of this current generation, even though the Kadaitcha custom is fading out and in some parts has disappeared altogether.

CONCLUSION: Apart from running out of space and time, there is very little need to relate as to how, sometimes by a stretch of the imagination, the above material could be related to "Ancient Astronauts". Anybody who is even slightly familiar with von Daniken et.al. manipulations of such pre-historical mysteries can have a ball engaging in various plausible scenario generations relating interactions between ETI and the Australian Aborigine. Further, such speculations, given the current state of "professional, expert, or scientific" knowledge about Aboriginal pre-history, would be no more out of place than

Aboriginal hunter

"expert" guesstimations as to the who , what, where, when and why's of things. Thus, I will let the reader alone to play whatever mental games they like, but if they should drift towards a theory which would encompass ETI, they would not have been the first to do so.

Many readers will recall the Australian explorers of recent times, the Leyland brothers, and their many television documentaries about this country. One such series of programs, "Off the Beaten Track", featured in 1972 an episode (which I recall seeing at that time) which showed, according to the Leyland brothers, Aboriginal rock engravings showing figures of men wearing breathing apparatus on their heads, similar to helmets worn by today's astronauts.

> *"Experts who have examined these engravings say they were done 10,000 years ago, probably by Aborigines who had seen the arrival of creatures from another planet (4)".*

Unfortunately, the "experts" aren't named in the above article from which this quotation comes. However, no doubt more information should be available in the series of books the Leyland brothers wrote which parallelled their television series Off the Beaten Track.

Finally, but unrelated to the main topic of this paper, is an aside which I can not resist putting in, having found reference, and not knowing what else to do with it! Professor Bob Dixon, head of the teaching department of Linguistics at the Australian National University, is one of the pioneers into research into Australian Aboriginal languages, and has written three books on the subject. Professor Dixon notes that the Aboriginal language has a very complex grammar and "thought how marvellous it would be to pit my wits against such a complex system". The upshot of this, and his defence of research into the subject of linguistics, is that among other things:

> *"One of the most exciting problems linguistics experts could be called upon to solve would be communication with extra-terrestrial races. The possibilities for communication would be too varied to even speculate on possible approaches, but if extra-terrestrials wished to communicate, linguistic experts would be spearheading earth's diplomatic team (20)".*

Thus, research into the Aboriginal language, still in its infancy, could produce results of value to those interested in contact and communication with ETI, even if all the other mysteries associated with the Australian Aboriginal should, in the final analysis, prove to have more down-to-earth solutions.

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"THE KAIKOURA UFOs"

BY CAPTAIN BILL STARTUP WITH NEIL ILLINGWORTH

Book review by Frank Gillespie

"The Kaikoura UFOs" is possibly the most outstanding contribution to UFO literature in recent years. Graphic, exciting, and well written, it sweeps the reader into sharing Bill Startup's experiences, without emotional tricks or sensationalism apart from an often repeated promise of bigger and better things to come. For the serious Ufologist though, this promise remains unfulfilled; the tangible object described in Chapter 1 is worth more than all the nocturnal lights which follow.

I have no doubt that Captain Startup would find it amusing if someone filmed his aeroplane on a dark night, and then seriously analysed the images on the film with the assumption that the shape of these images was relevant, and represented the shape of the plane. This misconception is very common, but I am surprised that Captain Startup, with all his experience as a pilot, did not avoid the trap. I am also surprised at his easy dismissal of the fact that the images on the film did not clearly relate to what he had seen. He is not the first witness in the case to make this comment; and it bears out a statement which I made some time ago - that there is, so far, no reliable correlation between the film and the event described by the witnesses. With Channel 10's current policy of keeping the original film under wraps, it is unlikely that any useful information will ever be derived from that source.

In the closing chapters, the authors describe the numerous pseudo-investigations which followed the Kaikoura incidents. Naturally they feel rather strongly about the incompetence of these investigations, but perhaps they over-react when they claim an official cover-up. UFO's, whatever they may be, represent a perturbation to normal ordered living; and the common response to such a perturbation is to turn it into a joke, which can then be readily considered non-existent. However, to the scientific or military mind, UFOs are a threat to that order which is an essential part of everyday life; hence, if it will not go away of its own accord, then it must be explained away by any and every means available. This creates a situation in which the scientist or soldier will believe anything necessary in order to rationalise events to his own satisfaction.

In the book's final paragraph, the authors express belief that an eventual solution to the riddle will be found. I do not share their optimism. Nocturnal lights are generally unrewarding to the genuine investigator; and the involvement of commercial interests is a most undesirable complication. Nevertheless, this book admirably achieves its stated object of accurately documenting the Kaikoura and related events. That it does so in such an interesting and exciting style should make it popular reading to all manner of UFO buffs.

Publishers: *Hodder & Stoughton Ltd. Auckland, London and Sydney.*

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AUSTRALIAN BOOKS ON UFOs

Reviewed by Mark Moravec

PART 2

Over the years, a number of Australian books on UFOs have been published. The books, which vary greatly in quality, are briefly reviewed below.

HARMONIC 33 by Bruce Cathie. Auckland: Reed, 1968. This is actually a book from neighbouring New Zealand. In this and his subsequent "Harmonic" books, the author advances his hypothesis that there is a world-wide grid system of energy being utilised by UFOs as a means of propulsion. Not only that, but earthquakes and atomic tests occur at points of instability in the grid system. Cathie's method of "proving" his hypothesis is by plotting the positions of UFO reports on a map, and relating the reports by mathematical manipulation of their time/space coordinates. Cathie's ideas have been justifiably criticised as being merely an example of "playing with numbers". His books should be read with a sizeable grain of salt.

UFOs: A SCIENTIFIC ENIGMA by D.A.J. Seargent. London: Sphere, 1978. An examination of UFOs, starting off with their history and classification into daylight discs, close encounters, etc. The book is at its best when it takes a critical look at the statistical patterns in UFO reports and the various hypotheses advanced to explain the phenomena. A fascinating exploration of the psychological and sociological aspects of UFO contacteeism is also included. Highly recommended.

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