

PHENOMENA

THE SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION OF THE UNEXPLAINED

ISSUE 35 - MARCH 2012

MISSING TIME

TWO CASES FROM NORTH YORKSHIRE

**THE JOHN KEEL INTERVIEW
PILOTS AND UFOS**

**THOMAS FRANCIS &
THE PUZZLE STONES**

**SHADOWS ON THE WALL
KISS THE SKY
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This last month has been about completing investigations, updating records and construction of a number of new documents. More recently I have begun filming for a new TV documentary in regards the subject of the paranormal in the Manchester area of the UK. This will be available to view sometime late spring. Details of which will be advertised within the pages of Phenomena Magazine. Once again, a special thank you to our contributors. We hope you enjoy of March issue...

SUB-EDITORIAL



A most odd month. And unfortunately one spent mostly away from the paranormal world. Our sister site, introduced last month – The Paranormal review, has received some excellent feedback and interest. We have received a dozen books, with the Amberley publishing Paranormal series and Centre of Fortean Zoology publishing featuring prominently. Again the main news has centred around two "expert" amateurs, backed by the Sun newspaper, swamping us with claims of animal mutilations in Gloucestershire.

If said experts were to have analysed their finds correctly and not decided to hit the money trail, they would have found their mutilations to be in fact, a lot more obvious and explainable. We have received a substantial number of images for analysis regarding alleged animal mutilation cases in Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, and East Anglia. All which we have been able to offer a rational explanation, fitting with probable events. Thanks to Big Cat Monitors for utilising our analysts skills.

www.paranormalreview.org.uk

'The Paranormal Review' has been developed to offer a direct location where all book, DVD and equipment reviews from the world of the paranormal and its related subjects will appear. Related matter will not be the only subjects reviewed and promoted. We would also like to offer reviews for History and Archaeology as well as the paranormal sphere. Mysteries, UFO related, Cryptozoological, Exopolitics, Esoteric, Beliefs, Ancient Earth, Conspiracy theories, The Occult, Witchcraft, Demonology, Ghosts, Haunting, Poltergeists, Crop Circle Phenomena, Alien Abduction, Alien Interaction, ESP (Extra Sensory Perception), Time Slips, Missing Time Incidents, Secret Experiments, Secret Facilities, Spontaneous Human Combustion, Astronomy, Animal Mutilations, Spirituality, Near Death Experiences and much more....

And dont forget. The same subjects are offered in this very magazine, so lots of areas for interested authors to submit their articles.

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The Official UPIA & MAPIT Update
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Association of Paranormal Investigation and Training.
Originally scripted as an in house journal, Phenomena's circulation and format
was altered due to the large number of persons interested in the publication.
Phenomena looks at the whole realm of the unexplained: Paranormal, UFO's,
Cryptozoological and much much more. Guest writers and reviews of books and
documentaries add to the content as does recent news from the paranormal world.
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Page 2: Missing Time: Two cases from North Yorkshire.

This article discusses two missing time cases. Case 1 dates back to 1982 and involved just one witness, with whom I've had no personal contact. The setting was a stretch of the A65 road, several miles west-north-west of the town of Skipton. With Case 2, the principal focus is an incident that occurred in January 2005, involving four family members, two of whom I've met. Peter Mccue explains...



Page 5: Kiss The Sky: Brooklyn Bridge Alien Abduction Case.

For one particular woman, the world around her came to a screeching halt when she admitted to being abducted by what appeared to be extraterrestrials in her Manhattan apartment in New York City. She recounted her experience to controversial abduction researcher, Budd Hopkins. But what made her case all that more interesting is the startling events that followed... By Ryan Sprague .



Page 9: Shadows on the Wall.

This article is but one more attempt to help rationalise a subject, that is by its very nature, rather like religion, irrational. There have been many books written about the subject, each with its own 'spin' on aspects of the phenomenon, this is my brief contribution. What is shadow phenomena, or shadow people? Are there really such things?; and if so, is it something paranormal? Brian Allen Investigates...



Page 13: Thomas Francis and the Puzzles Stones.

It is my opinion that the UFO subject cannot be solved or explained without looking at the whole subject. It would appear that the UFO subject directly relates to other phenomena: synchronicities, dreams, symbology, psychic and other paranormal and spiritual phenomena. For those looking exclusively for a "nuts and bolts" answer to the UFO subject... I ask that you now open your minds. By Lorin Cutts.



Page 11: The Nights Sky.

During years of investigation and research into the UFO phenomena. Countless times it has been necessary to have a reasonably good understanding of the night sky and what you can expect to see on a clear night. That is... If you can find a patch of sky in the UK where it isn't raining. By request, this new monthly feature by Dave Sadler will give you a brief rundown what you can expect to see...



Page 19: Pilots and UFOs: Death in the Skies.

The phrase "unidentified flying objects" suggests that UFOs have an affinity with our terrestrial pilots – both fly and share our airspace. Thus, terrestrial pilots should have seen and reported a goodly proportion of UFO events. There have been several UFO incidents that have resulted in the death or disappearance (and presumed death) of the pilot(s) and sometimes crew too. John Prytz investigates...



Page 23: Spookology - Who Put The Norm in Paranormal?

In the way-back-when of my time editing Paranormal Magazine, I jokingly coined the term 'Spookology' in one of my editorials. I was writing in response to a certain amount of reader confusion regarding the likes of the Owlman, Black Dogs and other weird things that inhabit the twilight world of the paranormal. In this regular feature Richard Holland will be looking deeper into Spookology...



Ever since I was about 11 years old and read Keel's first book, 'Jadoo', I was obsessed by him. Others felt like that too apparently, as I later came to find out. He's one of the few people to have revolutionised how we think about ufology and strange phenomena generally and I'd long wanted him to speak at a UK UFO conference. Eventually, he came to the UK. The IUN Conference and I grabbed my opportunity to interview him. By Andy Roberts.



Also included:

Latest News Items - String of 'alien' videos leave experts baffled / Ghostly image causes a stir / Mystery Train is driving us Loco / Mystifying footage of a flickering orb claimed to have been filmed over the Thames Estuary has left UFO watchers mystified / Snapper Spooked by Ghost Photo / Knights Templars Quest for Members / Enfield Poltergeist film set for Halloween 2012 release / 'Witch's cottage' unearthed near Pendle Hill, Lancashire.

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MISSING TIME TWO CASES FROM NORTH YORKSHIRE

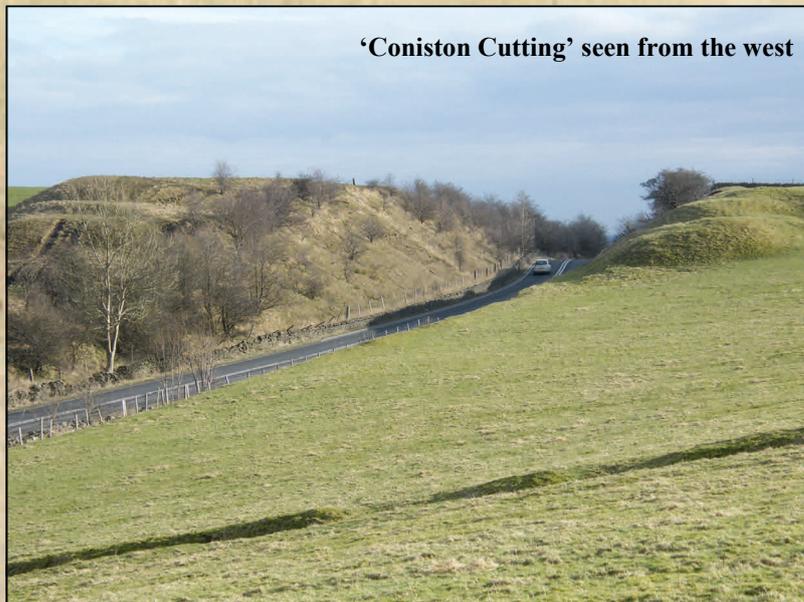
Missing Time:

Missing time is a proposed phenomenon reported by some people in connection with close encounters with UFOs and abduction phenomena. It also can happen in cases of Poltergeists, Time Slips, and Paranormal events. The term missing time refers to a gap in conscious memory relating to a specific period in time. The gap can last from several minutes to several days in length. The memory of what happened during the missing time reported is often recovered through hypnosis or during dreams.

This article discusses two missing time cases. Case 1 dates back to 1982 and involved just one witness, with whom I've had no personal contact. The setting was a stretch of the A65 road, several miles west-north-west of the town of Skipton. With Case 2, the principal focus is an incident that occurred in January 2005, involving four family members, two of whom I've met. The event occurred close to the A65, but about 15 miles north-west of where the witness in Case 1 had her experience.

On the whole, missing time and alien abduction cases seem to be 'person-centred' rather than 'place-centred'. In other words, the events appear to have more to do with those concerned than with the geographical location. But regarding the general area around the A65, there've been a fair number of other UFO reports over the years. For example, Dodd (1999, pp. 15-17) describes a sighting that he and a fellow police officer had one day in the late 1970s, in the early hours of the morning, as they were driving on the A65 from Skipton towards Gargrave. (This would have been only a few miles from where the witness in Case 1 had her experience.) There was a lot of snow about. Suddenly, the men saw a large light below them, to their left. At first, the object looked to Dodd like a bungalow with all its lights on, but there wasn't a bungalow at that spot. He saw it begin to move. His colleague, who was doing the driving, stopped their car. They looked on, fascinated, as the large, dome-shaped UFO slowly moved away into the distance. They heard no sound from it. It had what looked like windows, from which white light was coming. After meeting another police car in Gargrave, to exchange internal mail, Dodd and his colleague drove back to where they'd first seen the UFO. They got out and checked the ground, but the snow was undisturbed, which confirmed their impression that the object had been hovering above the ground.

It might be tempting to think of this part of North Yorkshire as a UFO hot spot. But it's hard to know. We don't have reliable comparative statistics. And judging from his book, the late Tony Dodd was a magnet for anomalous events. If so, it's conceivable that he and his colleague would have had a UFO experience even



'Coniston Cutting' seen from the west

Case 1: Incident on the A65 between Hellifield and Coniston Cold.

I'm aware of three sources for this case: Devereux (1990, pp. 112-113), Dodd (1999, pp. 62-66; p. 119), and Nagaitis and Mantle (2002, pp. 45-53). They differ regarding some of the details. I've drawn mainly on Nagaitis and Mantle's version. I haven't commented on each and every way in which it differs from the other two, but hopefully what follows is a reasonably accurate portrayal of what happened. The witness is given the pseudonym Christine Smith by Nagaitis and Mantle. She was 36 at the time.

It was 4th March 1982, and Smith was driving home to Skipton after visiting her mother in Morecambe, Lancashire. The unusual events began around 10.15 p.m. (or about 10.30 p.m., according to Devereux). Nagaitis and Mantle mention "Coniston Cutting" on the A65 (see photo above), but they don't specifically state that Smith had reached the cutting by the time her unusual experience began. However, I understand from Philip Mantle (e-mail, January 2012) that she had.

Smith noticed that the right side of her car seemed to be illuminated with a soft, bluish light. Then, in her right-side wing mirror, she saw two strange lights, behind and just above the height of her vehicle. They were about the size of car headlamps. One was royal blue. The other was a vivid red. They seemed to be following her car, and, at times,

she thought she could see smaller lights behind them. However, when she looked in her rear-view mirror, she saw only blackness. Her family's sheep dog was with her in the car, but was asleep. As she drove out of the cutting, a beam of pure white light shot down from above, illuminating the road on her nearside. A circle of light fell on to the fields and then moved on to the road, and suddenly the car was encircled. (It's not clear from Nagaitis and Mantle's account whether this circle of light was from the beam that had had lit up the road on Smith's nearside, but I presume that's what they mean.) Although the heater was on, Smith suddenly felt very cold, and the engine of the car seemed to be revving much more than it should have been. Eventually, the headlamps of an oncoming heavy vehicle appeared on the horizon, whereupon the beam from above flicked out and the red and blue lights vanished. But Smith's feeling of terror persisted for a while, since she wondered whether they'd return. Dodd (*op. cit.*, p. 64), on the other hand, states that she *didn't* feel afraid or panicky during the journey.

When she got home, Smith felt greatly relieved, but physically and mentally drained; and she felt completely exhausted for a further week. Although she hadn't been held up by traffic, her journey had taken 95 minutes instead of the usual hour. (However, according to Dodd, she reported that she was *an hour late* in arriving home.) And the next day, she discovered that she had a

Wikipedia.

It's time to change the clocks again this month – forward, this time – and since we are likely going to lose some snooze, we may be shuffling around in a bit of a daze for the next week or so. This could mean that we are not quite as alert as usual when we get behind the wheel of a vehicle and there are crash stats to prove it. According to averages in a five-year study (2005-2009) done by ICBC, on the Monday following the springtime change, there were 850 crash incidents, compared to 690 incidents the Monday of the week before, a 23% increase.

The time change usually results in our circadian rhythms (our body clocks) being out of whack for a few days. Combine that condition with the longer hours of daylight, the warm temperatures, more early-morning cyclists, joggers and walkers and you could have a recipe for disaster!

rash on her back and chest. She eventually underwent three hypnosis sessions, in the course of which she mentioned contact with aliens who had supposedly been visiting Earth for centuries. During one of the sessions, an entity, calling itself Zeus, supposedly spoke through her. But there's controversy about the use of hypnosis in UFO research, and some might argue that 'Zeus' was really Smith herself, putting on a theatrical performance (albeit, perhaps, unconsciously). Similar considerations arise in relation to claims that discarnate spirits can communicate with the living through spiritualist mediums, although some researchers believe that mediums can provide cogent evidence for survival after death (see, for example, Fontana, 2006).

An interesting, and easily overlooked, facet of this case is that Smith reportedly heard her car's engine revving loudly. At the time, there was a light coming down from above. Was the car's clutch slipping, or was Smith's perception being affected by some sort of energy field? Alternatively, was something (a UFO?) exercising an antigravity effect on the car, making the wheels lose contact with the road surface or have less traction? If so, was the car also being propelled forward, at the same time, by a mysterious force?

Case 2: Incident near High Bentham.

The small town of High Bentham is located about two-and-a-half miles south-south-west of Ingleton. To the south of High Bentham, across the Lancashire border, there's an area of hilly moorland, known as the Forest of Bowland. The High Bentham area was the setting for a UFO sighting on the evening of Sunday, 16th January 2005. The witnesses were Ann (then aged 58), her daughter Rachel (then aged 35), and Rachel's two sons, Alex and Benjamin (then aged 11 and 9, respectively). I'll refer to them, collectively, as 'the family'.

The next day, Ann notified a local radio station of their sighting, and it appeared that at least four other people – two in Clitheroe, one in Feniscowles, and one in Leyland – had also seen the UFO the previous day. Ann informs me that these sightings occurred after 6.30 p.m.

Ann also reported the family's sighting to Joe McGonagle, a Staffordshire-based UFO researcher. He referred the matter to the Lancashire Anomalous Phenomena Investigation Society (LAPIS), which investigated the case. But along with a companion, McGonagle also visited the family at their then home, a couple of miles south

For this summary, I've drawn on several sources:

- (1) Information from Ann and another member of the family.
- (2) Information from Joe McGonagle.
- (3) A television programme, recorded in 2005, featuring the case

(see: <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=179777715596340503#>).

- (4) An Internet article by Sam Willey ('The High Bentham Incident', available at:

<http://www.ufodigest.com/news/0107/bentham.html>).

He gives his source as the "LAPIS UFO Group", although I gather that he wasn't personally involved in the LAPIS investigation.

The family had a meal at a Little Chef restaurant (now closed) on the A65, and then set off for home. (In the TV programme, Rachel explained that they left the restaurant between about 5.20 and 5.30 p.m., and Ann stated that the journey should have taken about 20 minutes.) With Rachel driving, they headed up the A65 to Ingleton, a distance of approximately three miles, and turned left into Tatterthorn Lane (see photo below). The lane goes south-west for about a third-of-a-mile and then bends sharply to the left. At the bend, there's a row of terraced houses projecting out to the right (see Photo on the following page). In the car, there was some mention of how the chimneys were silhouetted against the sky. But it's unclear precisely what happened during the next stage of their journey, before the family found themselves driving into High Bentham. (I retraced the route from the restaurant to High

to the area at the end of January 2012.)

The TV programme showed the family members describing their positive emotional reaction to the UFO. For example, Rachel commented: "*We all felt that it was like just this absolutely overwhelming love that you just felt from it*", and Ann said that they felt a sense of loss when it had gone. Rachel also described how things returned to normal: "*Then it was like*" – *snapping her fingers* – "*all of a sudden, and then I was driving, and the noise was back.*" Presumably, then, up to that point, they'd experienced a period of silence, or relative silence, which is a fairly common accompaniment of paranormal experiences.

As explained above, three members of the family tried to retrace the route they'd taken. In respect of the original incident, they recalled that at one stage they'd been on a straight, wide road that was high up. But instead, they found only a country lane. They tried a different route, but it, too, seemed wrong. Around that time, they experienced a tingling sensation. It eased off to some degree, but then increased again when they turned round and drove back along the part of the road where they'd first experienced it. At that point, the engine of the car cut out! Two of the party got a lift home. Rachel, who'd been doing the driving, managed to restart the car and get it to a garage. She was told that the coil had burnt out.

Regarding the evening of 16th January 2005, if we assume that the family left the restaurant between 5.20 and 5.30 p.m. and didn't get home until 6.50 p.m., a period of an hour or more is unaccounted for. But in the fourth paragraph of his article, Sam Willey states that LAPIS thought that the

Tatterthorn Lane



experienced 20 minutes of missing time, although he goes on to say (in his sixth paragraph) that it eventually became clear that they'd experienced over an hour of missing time. His initial reference to 20 minutes of missing time is puzzling. But perhaps he misunderstood something he'd read or heard about the case, or maybe someone had mixed up the expected duration of the homeward journey (approximately 20 minutes) with the period of missing time (which, as noted, seems to have been an hour or more).

Willey's article notes that LAPIS kept in touch with the family and learned of other developments. For example, Ann began to recall events in her childhood, such as seeing a strange triangular-shaped craft; and the boys reportedly saw UFOs from outside their home. Ann informs me that the family have indeed experienced a good many strange things over the years. She indicated, for instance, that on 26th January 2005, the day when three of them tried to retrace their route home from the restaurant, the unusual events went beyond the tingling sensation and the car breakdown. But she said that for the time being, at least, they don't want to publicize further information about their unusual experiences.

In connection with the TV documentary, Rachel underwent hypnotic regression. A snippet of the regression session is included in the TV programme, but it's so brief that it's not very informative. However, according to Sam Willey's article, Rachel mentioned the "missing road" that LAPIS had been trying to find, describing it as a stretch of road in the air.

So what really happened when the family drove home on the evening of 16th January 2005? Did they come under the influence of an external intelligence that was able to 'edit' their memories? If so, their recollection of being on a wide, straight road may have been a paranormally imposed false memory. That could also explain Rachel's recollection, under hypnosis, of a road in the air. It's also conceivable that their recollection of when they arrived home was a deliberately imposed pseudo-memory. If so, there may have been *no* missing time, or less of it than they thought, even though their overall experience would still have been decidedly paranormal. But, as noted above, Ann is convinced that they *did* arrive home late. Of course, it would help if there were independent evidence of when they left the restaurant and got home. Joe McGonagle informed me that their restaurant bill was paid by credit card, and that he asked whether they had a

The Chimneys



informed me that subsequent to the incident of 16th January 2005, they were provided with a copy of the receipt or credit card slip by someone at the restaurant, although that item of potentially corroborative evidence was also lost or discarded. This could be construed as a classic case of the alien abduction type, with different generations of the family being targeted for attention. It's certainly an interesting case, given that there were four witnesses to the events of 16th January 2005 (or eight, if we include the people in Lancashire who reportedly saw what may have been the same UFO). In many abduction cases, the participants find the events traumatic, but with this family, positive emotions have been reported as well as perplexity and fear. It's also worth noting that the manifestations have included physical effects. For example, when three members of the family were having strange tingling sensations, their car broke down, although it's conceivable that this was purely coincidental.

Concluding comments.

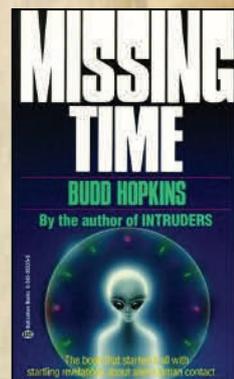
Of course, cases of the type discussed here raise intriguing questions. For example, if a driver experiences missing time, what happens to his or her vehicle during that period? Regarding Case 1, did Christine Smith park her car somewhere and sit in it for about 35 minutes in some sort of trance state? Similarly, regarding Case 2, did Rachel park the car somewhere and sit in it, entranced, along with her mother

experiences have been induced by impersonal magnetic fields related to the local geological conditions? If so, was it just good fortune that neither driver crashed her car?! If the UFO seen by the family near High Bentham was a collective hallucination induced by an impersonal magnetic field, what about the four witnesses in Lancashire? Were they attention-seeking hoaxers? Did they witness a different phenomenon? Or did they see an objectively real aerial object, one that had first been seen by the family near High Bentham?

If a higher intelligence played a role in these two cases, was it extraterrestrial, from 'another dimension', or from 'another time'? Or has it always been here, manifesting itself in various ways on different occasions, and keeping a low profile in between? Whatever its origin, it may not operate in accordance with our moral values. It may be decidedly capricious and 'tricksterish', sometimes seductive, sometimes benevolent, and sometimes downright malevolent. Whatever its ultimate objectives, it may take some delight in bamboozling us with UFOs, poltergeist manifestations and other strange effects!

Acknowledgements.

I'd like to thank Philip Mantle and Joe McGonagle for responding to my enquiries. Regarding Case 2, I'm grateful to the family members who have kindly provided me with information. I'm also grateful to David



The arrival of extraterrestrial visitors is one of the most momentous events of our time. In Intruders Budd Hopkins explored the shocking truth about the contact between earthling and alien: that human beings are temporarily abducted and taken aboard UFOs. But Hopkins could not have told the stories of those victims without first having discovered the one experience common to all who report alien encounters -- the phenomenon known as "missing time."

Available at Amazon.

KISS THE SKY

THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE ALIEN ABDUCTION CASE

One has to take the UFO phenomenon for what it's worth. And with strange sightings and encounters occurring almost every day throughout the world, it seems that we are making great strides in what these sightings may be. But for one woman, the world around her came to a screeching halt when she admitted to being abducted by what appeared to be extraterrestrials in her Manhattan apartment in New York City. She recounted her experience to controversial abduction researcher, Budd Hopkins. But what made her case all that more interesting is the startling events that followed...

When Linda Cortile first came to Hopkins, she was hesitant to tell him of her experience. Mostly because of the sheer volume of impossibility it held. She vividly recalled that terrifying night on November 30th, 1989, when she was taken, against her will, by what appeared to be 'greys', a popular form of alien, usually short and skinny in stature with a large head and black orbital eyes.

These beings seemed to be floating her out of her closed bedroom window and up towards a massive craft that hovered above her apartment. This was the first indication to Hopkins that this wasn't just any abduction recall. Most abductees seem to have a memory lapse between their abduction and being returned, details only surfacing with sessions of hypnotic regression. But Cortile seemed to remember everything right off the bat. This made Hopkins a bit skeptical. But he would take on her case nonetheless. And on December 2nd, 1989, Cortile would have her first regression which was audio recorded. Cortile recounted the following:

"There's something there... something in the room. I can't move my arms anymore. Now one, two, three, there's four and five. They're taking me outta bed. I won't let them. I won't let them take me outta bed. They took me to the window. And there was a bright light. Blue-white. I'm outside. I'm outside the window."

She went on to explain in more detail about how the beings had somehow floated her through the window, despite the window being locked. They levitated into the craft outside, and began to examine her. The beings questioned her about her family before she was allowed to leave the examination room. As she made was out of the room, she suddenly found herself back in bed at home. Again, this all may be a little hard to swallow, but Hopkins was akin to hearing such outrageous claims. It was the incidents that followed that really began to make him wonder how much more strange this case could possibly get.

Hopkins started to receive letters from two men who claimed to have witnessed the abduction. What was astounding about these claims were that their story matched perfectly with that of what Cortile had remembered. The two men claimed to have been bodyguards to a senior UN statesman. They were escorting him through Manhattan when they witnessed the dramatic event. They saw the beings and a woman floating up towards a UFO. The men were trained to remain stable in the most of unstable situations, but this event left them shaking and completely dumfounded. The event would affect them more than they cared for. One of the bodyguards became psychotic, subsequently driven



Cortile. He was somehow convinced that she had contrived the entire event and that it was a hoax. The man became obsessed with her and even kidnapped her at one point, interrogating her, in hopes that she could ease his mental anguish. Clearly, this case was becoming a bit more than Hopkins could chew.

Further witnesses started to come forward about the case. Some of these witnesses claimed to have viewed the entire event from the Brooklyn Bridge. Hopkins hadn't gone public on the case just yet, but saw that as more witnesses came forward, he could no longer deny the importance of getting it out to the public. Things became even more interesting when Hopkins identified the statesman as Javier Perez de Cuellar, former Secretary General of the United Nations. Unfortunately, at the time of the case, Cuellar wasn't willing to reveal his identity in public. Because of the supposed absurdity of it all, Hopkins was hesitant in including all the information in his book about the case, entitled, *Witnessed: The True Story of the Brooklyn Bridge UFO Abductions*. Because as well all know... the more outrageous it sounds, the less credible

it becomes. But Hopkins stayed true to Cortile and didn't censor any of it, in which she had great respect for him.

This case, although amazing in its content, still remained in question for some time. It was debated that more people would have seen the event occur on the busy streets of Manhattan, even at 3.00am in the morning when it all happened. It was also debated that more people would have seen it from the bridge as well. But the real debate comes in the form of the bodyguards who witnessed the event.

They were later recognized as government agents, prompting an entirely new theory that the incident could have been perpetrated by the U.S. government itself. It could have been done to undermine actual dealings with extraterrestrials and to continue the long strain of disinformation the government was so professional at dishing out.



Cortile and Hopkins have remained close throughout the years, lecturing together on several occasions. They both have always remained open to theories about the case, and have also remained genuine in their stories, never veering off the facts they hold dear to them. Whether the case goes down in the ufological history books as genuine or not, we may never know. But then again, when has it ever?

As always...
Keep looking up dear readers. Just keep your eyes on where you're going.....

Alien Abductions.

The terms alien abduction or abduction phenomenon describe "subjectively real memories of being taken secretly against one's will by apparently nonhuman entities and subjected to complex physical and psychological procedures." People claiming to have been abducted are usually called "abductees" or "experiencers." Typical claims involve being subjected to a forced medical examination that emphasizes their reproductive system. Abductees sometimes claim to have been warned against environmental abuse and the dangers of nuclear weapons. Consequently, while many of these purported encounters are described as terrifying, some have been viewed as pleasurable or transformative. Due to a lack of any substantial physical evidence, most scientists and mental health professionals dismiss the phenomenon as "deception, suggestibility (fantasy-proneness, hypnotizability, false-memory syndrome), personality, sleep phenomena, psychopathology, psychodynamics and environmental factors."



Unknown Phenomena Investigation Association

This blog has been developed to offer interested parties a honest and unbiased account of modern day paranormal investigation. Analysis of media reports and images and re-education regarding the likes of the 192 reports. It is also hoped we may change the mindset of most modern day paranormal investigators, and fans of Media driven paranormal tv shows, that all is not as it seems.

Natural, medical, physiological, psychological and other areas of known means can result in most reported Paranormal and UFOlogical instances
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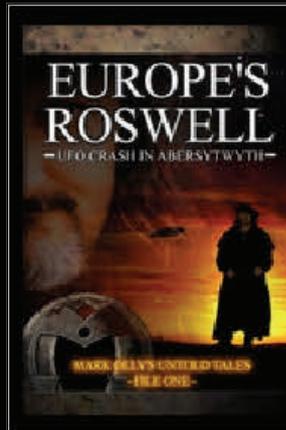
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Paul Kimball is one of Canada's leading UFO and paranormal researchers, both through his work as an award-winning documentary filmmaker (2005 EBE Awards for Best UFO Film and Best Historical Documentary for Aztec: 1948, 2007 EBE award for Best Historical Documentary for Best Evidence; nominated for a total of seven other EBEs from 2005 to 2007), and as a researcher, writer, and speaker. He has appeared on television, radio (Coast to Coast, CBC Morningside, Binnal of America, Strange Days Indeed, The Paracast) and in person at conferences and symposiums in Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States, to discuss the UFO phenomenon and the paranormal. Paul also stars with Holly Steven's in the TV series 'Ghost Cases', assisted by UPIA.

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SHADOWS ON THE WALL

Ghosts, Interdimensional Visitors or Optical Illusions?

This article is but one more attempt to help rationalise a subject, that is by its very nature, rather like religion, irrational. There have been many books written about the subject, each with its own 'spin' on aspects of the phenomenon, this is my brief contribution.

Shadow People.

Shadow people are supernatural shadow-like humanoid figures that, according to believers, are seen flickering on walls and ceilings in the viewer's peripheral vision. They are often reported moving with quick, jerky movements, and quickly disintegrate into walls or mirrors. They are believed to be evil and aggressive in nature, although a few people consider them to be a form of guardian angel.

There have been many attempts to explain the possible existence of entities that sometimes appear in our reality. In bygone days they were traditionally thought of as angels and demons, but now with changing mores this paradigm has altered to include greys, reptilians and Nordics. In other words these beings seem to have been with us throughout recorded history and left an indelible mark on the psyche of humanity, whether regarded as emissaries of some deity or as the inhabitants of other star systems.

In more recent times however a new species of being has emerged and they are the enigmatic, mysterious and ephemeral 'Shadow People'. Of all the beings and creatures that have appeared to human beings, these strange entities share much of their rationale with what are, by convention, deemed as ghosts, apparitions, spectres, demons and even extraterrestrials, which in this context refers to them in their literal sense, viz. not of this earth as opposed to the inhabitants of other planets. While this is true to a degree there are clear differences, e.g. ghosts etc can be transparent, wispy images, or, equally, seemingly solid beings sharing all the attributes of humans. In addition they occasionally seem able to interact to the point of actually conversing with those who see them; although this is extremely unusual, and in addition there are reports that a few individuals have had physical contact.

This at first seems something of a dichotomy, something physical being 'touched' by something that is by definition non-physical. Perhaps the sense of contact is entirely induced in the mind of the person who is having the experience and might be similar to the tactile impressions experienced while dreaming. Or is the sensory experience created by an energy field exuded by the entity, rather in the manner in which an electromagnetic field can produce physical sensations in someone in its vicinity? This is a phenomenon that is demonstrable and we shall return to it a little later.

Although the study of 'conventional' supernatural and paranormal phenomena is well documented, there is considerably less information concerning the aforementioned 'Shadow People', also known as 'Shadow Men', 'Shadow Folk', and in German as 'Schattenwesen'. These unique entities, in terms of the alarm they produce in those who have fleetingly seen them, is second only to the infamous manifestations of so called 'poltergeist' phenomena (another German contribution to the lexicon of the supernatural).

The Shadow People, although relatively recent in terms of modern folklore, are

well known in the beliefs of the Native Americans whose legends mention them from the earliest times. When noticed they appear as featureless, dark, shapes on the edge of the witnesses' vision, then, as if realising that they have been spotted, quickly disintegrate or move rapidly to another area. There have been no recorded instances where they directly communicate with the witnesses, but they have been known to chase after, or on rare occasions physically attack the people who have seen them.



Multiple witnesses have on occasion observed the Shadow People and in every instance the observers have reported feelings of dread as if the entity was some kind of ill-starred omen. Whether their existence in the folklore of the Native American tribes is related to the fact that the tribes lived in simple dwellings illuminated by open fires and therefore more likely to produce shadows anyway is one factor to take into account. However, since this type of heat and light source was also ubiquitous in the more developed nations of mainland Europe prior to the colonisation of America one would expect similar accounts, but these do not seem to exist. Ghosts and spirits yes, but no Shadow People, one is then drawn to the question, what are they? We shall return to this a little later.

Eyewitness Accounts

As an investigator of the paranormal I have encountered a variety of strange phenomena, including what may well have been one of these Shadow People and what follows is taken from a personal experience. During one case involving a series of quite dramatic hauntings I visited the site, a small, old, hotel to interview the people who had encountered the haunting. After being shown around the building I sat discussing the next stage of the investigation with the owner of the hotel (who was also the main witness).

As I sat facing her while she phoned her daughter who had also experienced some of the events, suddenly my ears 'popped'. The feeling was identical to the physical reaction one experiences when an aircraft takes off and the cabin pressure changes. In spite of a blazing coal fire and the central heating (it was during the winter months) the temperature in the room abruptly dropped and, bizarrely, the quality of acoustics in the room changed, which is something I have noticed many times during a variety of cases. My gaze was drawn to the wall behind the woman where I noticed a tall, dark, shape forming, it looked human but with no detail and no features and as I watched it became increasingly opaque. I blinked rapidly and glanced away, but the dark shape remained. Not too sure of how to react I concentrated with all my being on mentally commanding it to leave, which it did, one second it was there and the next it had gone, the transition was instantaneous. With its disappearance the temperature in the room immediately rose and the sound quality, which had become slightly 'hollow', returned to normal. Everyone in the room had experienced a subtle change, although not everyone felt the same thing.

If this was indeed a 'Shadow Person' I can entirely empathise with other witnesses, for I experienced a rapid sense of unease while it was visible, no one else saw the figure although the rapid change in room temperature was commented upon. Intriguingly, there was one more incident during this case where I observed a hazy, featureless, black amorphous shape descend a short flight of stairs leading to attic bedrooms, it was the same flight of stairs that were at the epicentre of one of several manifestations in the hotel. In this instance the shape resembled a vertical cylinder approx four feet high. Whether these were both examples of Shadow People is hard to say, but they had most of the necessary attributes.

The Mechanism?

Another belief is that they are the inhabitants of alternate universes that very occasionally impinge on ours allowing them fleeting access. This idea has a variant suggesting that they exist directly in parallel with us but only allow glimpses of themselves at times of their own choosing. There is, perhaps typically, a school of thought suggesting they are in some way part of the UFO paradigm and are related in some manner to the entities who pilot these craft.

Equally it might be argued that as with some categories of 'visitor' and I use the term deliberately, they are time travellers, in effect they are us. Before taking up some of these ideas it would

would be unfair to wilfully ignore other more logical explanations such as the phenomenon of 'pareidolia' where the brain can misinterpret random patterns of light and shade or shadows and textures and create familiar images such as faces and the human form. This sometimes happens when an item of furniture in a poorly lit room is mistaken for a living person, perhaps this shares features with the common perceptual phenomenon of seeing 'faces in the fire'.

There is also the neurological condition known as 'hypnogogia', which is experienced in the process of falling asleep (the same can happen while awakening and is called 'hypnopompia') allows the experiencer to be awake but still 'see' images from their subconscious mind, rather like a waking dream.

Perhaps the most telling effect of the condition is the feeling of dread that some people experience while having the experience, something that exactly mirrors the encounters with Shadow People. While plausible for some encounters what it does not do is explain the multiple sightings. There are also the effects reported by those who have consumed various recreational chemicals such as LSD, cocaine and amphetamines, which can also, in some instances, produce human shaped hallucinations. Quite typically we find that altered states of mind are the source of these sightings, what it does not tell us is whether the altered states of perception act as keys allowing these sightings to take place, or whether the visions are entirely spurious and artificial due to the action of the chemicals on the brain itself.

Yet another possibility is the action of external electromagnetic (EM) fields on the temporal lobes of the brain, something that had been exploited under test conditions by Professor Michael Persinger at the Laurentian University in Ontario, Canada. Prof Persinger, whose work is internationally known and recognised, has induced feelings of 'presence' and occasionally vivid optical effects in volunteers simply by creating quite low levels of EM radiation in specific areas of the brain. These feelings and impressions have, in some cases, been quite alarming and produced feelings of impending doom, an exact parallel with the Shadow People.

It should be noted that the effects produced by artificial EM fields have also been encountered in naturally occurring areas of EM radiation where reports of paranormal events have frequently been reported. This does not of course preclude the reality of Shadow People, but it should be born in mind. While often used to demonstrate or insinuate that ghostly sightings may not be genuine and are purely the result of the

brain reacting to external stimuli, debunkers and sceptics frequently claim that the visions of shamans and mystics who are under the effects of a variety of psychoactive substances are equally bogus. What the deniers and blinkered rationalists fail to realise is that the nature of consciousness is not fully understood and in all probability never will be and specific drugs and EM fields may open unsuspected doorways in the mind permitting glimpses into hitherto uncharted and unexpected levels of reality.



Conclusion

There appears to be no consensus on the ethnicity, type or age of those who have seen the Shadow People, although the descriptions are remarkably similar within the known parameters of their appearance. Nor does there seem to be any prior ritual involved in their appearance, neither are they a facet of communication with the dead via the usual means of mediums and psychics. The only possibility regarding their nature seems to lie in a belief in the astral plain and the entities that allegedly exist there. Once again we are hampered by our vocabulary, or perhaps our lack of it, when discussing beings like the Shadow People, it is an identical situation to that encountered when dealing with almost any aspect of the paranormal and how it relates to the 'spirit world'.

The use of the term, which I have italicised deliberately, is both regrettable and unfortunate because it is encumbered by the redundant baggage surrounding the uneasy memory of the charlatans and cynics who subverted it for their own ends, usually financial. I have kept them quite separate from the merely deluded who acted in good faith and gave messages of comfort that originated entirely in their own subconscious minds; they were wrong but harmless. There is, however, a quite separate type of communicator whose talent lies entirely within the right hand side of

their brain, in the creative, artistic, free, questing mass of neurons, electrical charges and chemicals that is the antithesis of the logical, sensible, calculating, left brain. It is the ability of those fortunate enough to be able to disengage the left and right sections of the brain and retune their minds to what lies alongside us displaying their existence under our very noses. This, I am becoming increasingly convinced, is the domain of the Shadow People; it is likely that those who see them have, just for a moment, experienced a few seconds of clarity when, for whatever reason, their right brain 'retuned' and allowed an unfiltered glimpse of what is there around us.

There is just one more possibility that involves one more paradigm shift in our thinking and it is that these dark, menacing, ephemeral Shadow People might just be the reverse of the entities known as the 'Beings of Light'. To be sure there is much in the New Age movement to suggest that we are creatures of light and that light is fundamental to our existence, which of course in terms of sunlight it is. Although this might at first sight seem rather bizarre, as the ancient alchemical and Gnostic truism says, 'as above, so below', and so it is, for everything, irrespective of what or where it is, there is an opposite. This is in the law of natural balance, Yin and Yang, high and low, salt and sweet, kind and cruel, love and hate and light and dark; it is also precisely (and some might say hypocritically) mirrored in a line from The Lords Prayer: 'On Earth as it is in Heaven'. This means exactly the same thing and for the same reasons. Whether or not this is the case I cannot be certain, but it makes sense, although why the opposite of these 'beings of light' (if that is what they are) should emanate an aura of malice is a matter of opinion. What would happen if these beings of light and darkness were to meet, might the reaction be the same as is predicted for that of matter and anti-matter, the utter annihilation of both in a fearsome explosion? Perhaps it is better that we do not know and just accept their existence for what it is, an enigma that has no ready answer.

While they may well have some basis in reality, equally they may be a figment created by defects in our psychology and physiology and there are persuasive and powerful arguments for both points of view. However, in the end the judges will be those who have encountered and still encounter these remote and apparently hostile beings. Unfortunately, until we do find a rationale to explain their existence they must remain in the lost universe of their cousins, the ghosts and spectres that have been with us since the beginning of time...

Shadow People.

In 2010, these apparitions were described as one of the most regularly reported paranormal phenomena in the United States. This is attributed to occasional reports on the Coast to Coast AM show, where paranormal researcher Heidi Hollis has been interviewed several times on the subject of shadow people. Hollis believes that shadow people have always existed, that they feed upon emotions of fear, and that they can be repelled by thinking positively.^[2] Others believe that shadow people may be the extra-dimensional inhabitants of another universe, or two dimensional beings.

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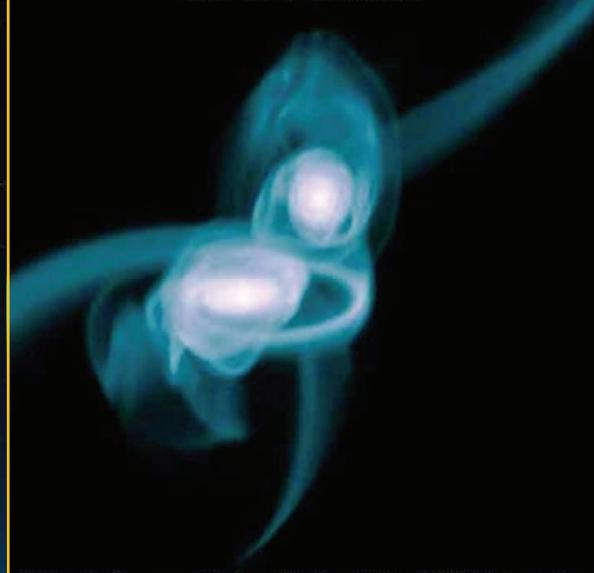
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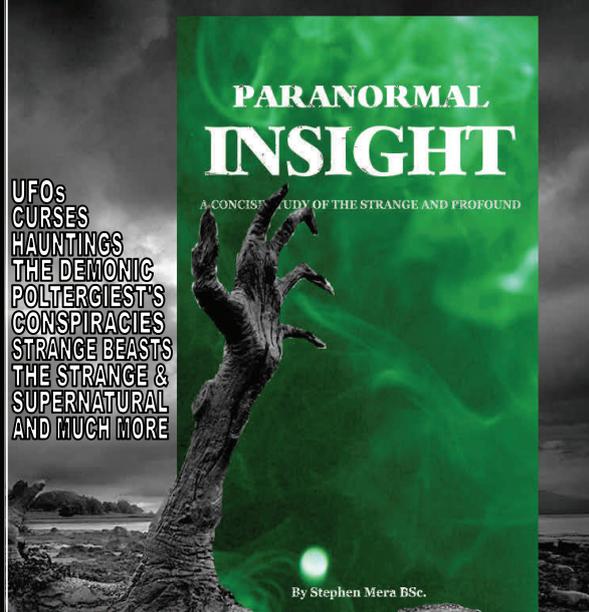
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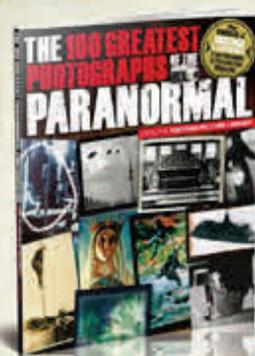
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THOMAS FRANCIS AND THE PUZZLE STONES

For many years a house at the bottom of Heath road in Bebington, Wirral, confused and yet intrigued passersby. The house was notorious with the locals and many had mixed views on the man whom resided there. He was Thomas Francis, an eccentric and fun loving gentleman. Nathaniel Hawthorne, a visiting American Consul wrote:

"In the village of Bebington we saw a house built in imitation of a castle, with turrets in which an upper and under row of cannons were mounted. On the wall there were eccentric inscriptions cut into slabs of stone, but I could make no sense of these. We peeped through the gate and saw a piazza beneath which seemed to stand the figure of a man. He appeared advanced in years, and was dressed in a blue coat and buff breeches, with a straw hat on his head. Behold too, a dog sitting chained. Also close behind the gateway, was another man seated. All were images, and the dwelling with the inscriptions and queer statuary was probably the whim of some half crazy person".

Thomas Francis was born in 1762 and lived in Bebington for many years. He was a man and made his money from stone masonry and contractors. His warped sense of humour impressed many, and yet angered just as many. He would often play tricks on people, and enjoyed seeing the reaction of people in certain situations. He would invite guests to his home in promise of a large banquet. He would seat them at a table covered with huge silver tureens. Then when his guest were starving and rubbing their hands with delight, he would whip off the tureen to reveal a tiny trussed sparrow in each.

Locals also knew of a strange ritual he would perform each year. After ordering 2 wooded coffins from Mr Walters in Birkenhead he would spend each birthday reclining in the coffin. He insisted fully that his wife must join him in his charade. Thomas Francis even refused to pay Mr Walters for the coffins, arguing that the job was not completed until the lid was screwed down!! He had a strange fascination with death, and unlike many he seemed at ease with it. He was the first person in Bebington to get permission from the rector to dig his own grave. The residents at the time reported seeing him at the weekend cleaning and sweeping out his grave, and then relaxing in it smoking a fine cigarette. It was for quirks like this that Francis became a synonymous resident of Bebington. His house was a clean and neat home, no work was left unfinished



it were maintained all year round. In line with his sense of humour, he decided to mount cannons on the turret of his home. What was more interesting is that he did this at the beginning of the 19th century when Napoleon had threatened to invade. Despite this being another practical joke by Thomas's the Martello tower commanded a good view of the road from Birkenhead and would have made a good strategic point. Luckily for the residents, the guns that Francis hoisted up were only made of wood.

Upon setting foot into his house into the porch way you would notice a large sculpture made by himself. The sculpture was of a large figure almost certainly representing himself and a woman drawing water, and finally a small steam ship. Below the sculpture were the words:

"The people of Bebington murmured for want of water; I cut the rock; an god gave them plenty".

This is said to be refereeing to a well to which Francis allegedly gave the general public the use of. However today no existence of the well has been found. The steam ship in the sculpture shows us that this must have been made in the late part of his life, as steam ships didn't appear until 1815.

However all of the above is not the reason why he is remembered. The most interest arose from the wall puzzles which Thomas Francis inscribed into the walls of his house. They give us a much greater detail of his complexity and the state of his psyche.

The first puzzle /and most recognisable is a disjointed inscription which reads:

"A rubbing stone for asses".

Thomas inscribed the words into outside wall of his house. His purpose was quite practical. He put up the rubbing stone to rid himself of the worry which anyone can understand who has lived in one of those old country towns where window sills in the lower storey, right on the pavement, invite noisy talkers to take a seat and 'argue'. The loungers of Bebington, strong in their right to say what they pleased and where they pleased, leaned against the brick wall of the little forecourt, chattering noisily.

It is a problem that many modern people have today except this time it is usually by drunken jobs or teenagers looking for somewhere to gather. It has also been suggested that when the gaps are filled in they create an inscription of a genuine raid by the plunderers Ingvar and Hubba of Bebington, resulting in them being driven out by inhabitants. There is no evidence of this however.

Another stone reads: SUBTRACT 45 FROM 45 THAT 45 MAY REMAIN. The way of solving the mathematical problem is to write the figures 1 to 9 in reverse order, over the same figures in ordinary order and subtracting the two lines. Mathematical problems were something that Thomas excelled in. Another famous puzzle begins, "From 6 take 9, From 9 take 10, From 40 take 50, and 6 will remain". The answer being that if "six" is spelt, and

Thomas Francis.

Thomas Francis was born in 1762 and lived in Bebington for many years. He was a man and made his money from stone masonry and contractors. His warped sense of humour impressed many, and yet angered just as many. He would often play tricks on people, and enjoyed seeing the reaction of people in certain situations.

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*http://
www.oldwirral.com/
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The Puzzle Stones.

The original worked stones consisted of several sandstone blocks with carved inscriptions set into a wall adjoining Thomas Francis' house (now demolished). They were later moved into one of the boundary walls of the adjoining Mayer Park but suffered badly from weathering of the lettering. They have now been moved into nearby Bebbington Civic Centre where they have been built into a low wall in the Library Foyer.

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Roman numerals are substituted for the remaining figures, the puzzle is solved. IE are substituted for the remaining figures, the puzzle is solved. IE

**SIX = S
IX = I
XL = X**

Another slab is carved with a representation of a small inn from which hangs a sign which is unknown in the district, the Two Crowns, with these words:

"My name And sign is thirty shillings just, and he that tell My Name shall have a Quart on trust, for why is not five the fourth of twenty the same in all cases?"

The explanation is as follows. The values of a mark and a noble were 13/4d and 6/8d respectively, and two crowns equalled ten shillings. Totalling these three we get thirty shillings. The inn keepers name was Mark Noble, and the inn was called the "Two Crowns" which is where we get the 30 shillings just from. The original worked stones consisted of several sandstone blocks



with carved inscriptions set into a wall adjoining Thomas Francis' house (now demolished). They were later moved into one of the boundary walls of the adjoining Mayer Park but suffered badly from weathering of the lettering. They have now been moved into nearby Bebbington Civic Centre where they have been built into a low wall in the Library Foyer.

death Thomas Francis lived an extremely full life and managed to avoid death for 87 years.

One can only imagine what this eccentric character would have said to Saint Peter when he reached the gates of Heaven Thomas Francis died in 1850 and is buried in the nearby church yard at St Andrews....

The Night Sky - March 2012 - By Dave Sadler

This month we bid farewell to Jupiter as it sinks into our west evening twilight. As it does so, though, the largest planet meets and passes its smallest sibling, Mercury, as the latter begins its best evening apparition of the year. Another encounter occurs when Nasa's Messenger probe enters orbit around Mercury on the 18th. Jupiter shines brightly at mag -2.1 but its altitude in the west 30 minutes after sunset tonight to only 5° by the 20th and we soon lose it as it heads for solar conjunction on 6 April.

On the evening of 6 March, the very slender, and strongly earthlit Moon stands 6° to the right of Jupiter and 13° directly above Mercury which, at mag -1.4, might just be visible through binoculars in the early twilight. Look for the Moon 10° above Jupiter on the next evening and watch Mercury climb to lie 2.0° to the right of Jupiter on the 16th and 5° above Jupiter on the 19th. By then Mercury sets 109 minutes after the Sun and should be an easy naked-eye object at mag -0.6 if our west horizon is clear. Later in the month, it starts to fall back into the twilight and fade quickly to mag 2.0 by the 31st.

Orion is still resplendent in the south at nightfall but by our map times it is sinking in the west as Leo reaches the meridian. Following Leo is Virgo with its bright star Spica and the slightly brighter Saturn which improves from mag 0.5 to 0.4 this month. The latter, some 10° Northwest of Spica, rises in the east and crosses the meridian in the early morning. When the just-gone-full Moon forms a triangle with Spica and Saturn on the 19th/20th, Saturn appears 19 arcsec wide through a telescope while the rings are 43 arcsec wide and have their north face inclined to us at 9°.

Venus, brilliant at mag -4.1 and alongside the waning Moon tomorrow, is very low in the east southeast to southeast just before dawn.

March Diary

**1st 04h Moon 1.6° N of Venus / 4th 21h New moon / 7th 05h Moon 7° N of Jupiter / 13th 00h First quarter.
16th 17h Mercury 6° N of Jupiter / 19th 18h Full moon / 20th 23:21 Vernal equinox / 21st 00h Moon 8° S of Saturn.
23rd 01h Mercury farthest E of Sun (19°) / 26th 12h Last quarter / 27th 01h GMT = 02h BST Summer Time begins.
31st 14h BST Moon 6° N of Venus.**

Ghost Finder London

Over 300 haunted sites accurately mapped and tied into your GPS!

Ghost Finder London is the new application for iPhone that allows users to locate and read about more than 300 haunted sites throughout Central and Greater London.

Each location has been meticulously plotted on Google maps, tied in with your phone's GPS.

The database has been researched and written by Richard Holland, former editor of Paranormal Magazine, author of five books about ghosts, and editor of www.uncannyuk.com.

The database can be browsed or searched. Information on each location can also be accessed straight from the map. Use the GPS to find the nearest spooky sites to your own position, then zoom in on them one at a time or expand to see even more locations in a wider area. It's really easy to use.

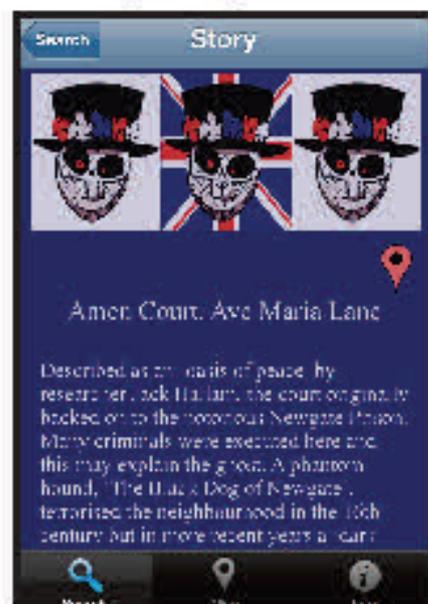
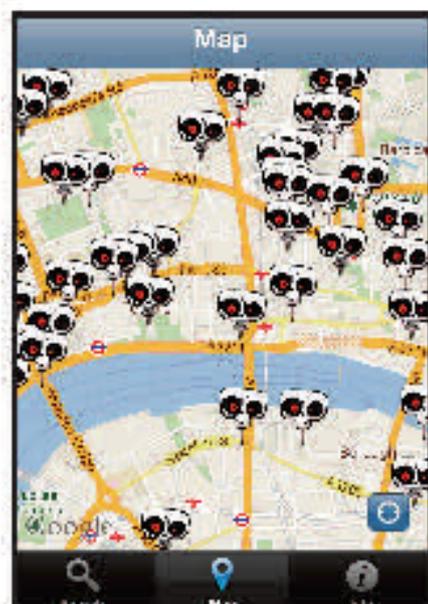
This is the most comprehensive gazetteer of haunted sites in London available digitally or in print - not just famous tourist attractions but also pubs, parks, churches, streets and modest homes throughout the city and the suburbs. You'd have to buy a good many books to gather the same information.



Whether you are in Westminster or Wimbledon, Hammersmith or Hampstead, **Ghost Finder London** is a frighteningly good resource for residents and visitors alike!

Just £1.99!

Download it now from the iTunes Store: <http://is.gd/sKQ8TJ>



Antony Milne

Fireballs, Skyquakes and Hums

Probing the mysteries of light and sound

This book guarantees a grand tour of the 'fireball' mystery and covers all aspects of science to help the reader understand the wide range of natural objects and unexplained phenomena that can be seen so often in our skies. It includes a discussion of comets, ball lightning, anti-matter explosions, disc-like clouds, strange sunsets, plasma balls and 'spooklights'. No scientific theory or hunch is left unexplored. The mystery sounds from irritating 'hums' heard in urban areas are also explored in detail here. Indeed, there is perhaps more mystery attached to these strange sounds echoing across the hills and from the oceans than there is to fireballs. Antony Milne doesn't shrink from listing the paranormal evidence of phantom planes and battlefield ghosts that local people have often reported, along with the mystery voices and radio messages that scientists and the military have recorded. This groundbreaking book also deals specifically with the huge defence files that have now been accumulated on UFOs around the world and tries to explain - using the latest in scientific theorizing about energy physics - what this weird phenomena actually is and why we should be worried about it.

PM: It's been a number of years since I have enjoyed reading a book so much. All I can say is ... WOW!, One of the most informative books on the subject I've ever come across. Not only will it appeal to those interested in such phenomena, but it is also an excellent research book for all those interested in the investigation of UFOs, Atmospheric Phenomena and Unusualities. I certainly will be making reference to the book and keeping close at hand. A MUST READ!
Steve Mera: Editor.

Available at Amazon.

At £15.29... It's a Bargain!!!

Hardcover: 288 pages / Publisher: Robert Hale Ltd (31 Aug 2011) / ISBN-10: 0709092784
ISBN-13: 978-0709092780 / Product Dimensions: 21.6 x 14.4 x 3.4 cm

PARANORMAL STAFFORDSHIRE

Title: Paranormal Staffordshire
Author: Anthony Poulton-Smith
Publisher: Amberley Publishing
ISBN: 978-14456-0336-0
Price: £9.99

Another welcome addition the Amberley's canon of paranormal areas of Britain arrives, this time about Staffordshire. In it the author Staffordshire born Anthony Poulton-Smith presents an alphabetical selection of all that is uncanny and haunted in his native county from Abbey Hulton and its 'Deal with the Devil' to Yoxhall and 'The Blacksmiths Apprentice'. Along the way we meet Josiah Wedgwood, the Rudgeley Poisoner, the Kidsgrove Boggart (one of the more worrying tales,) the exotically named 'Lady Tempest Vane' and the 'Crafty Cockney' (no, not the darts playing Eric Bristow). We also encounter a whole selection of characters like the Gunpowder Plotters, assorted pilots, clergy, doctors, a variety of the traditional grey, white and blue ladies plus the unlikely 'monkey man'. Also mentioned is the major British theme park of Alton Towers, although this section is confined to the stately manor house that gives the associated theme park its name and another theme park at Drayton Manor also appears. As one might expect we also find powerful evidence of hauntings and apparitions at such ancient fortifications as Stafford, Tutbury and Tamworth. The other staple fare of haunted pubs, inns and similar hostelries also grace the pages. However although that is all interesting it is the revelations concerning Shugborough, Ranton Abbey and 'The Green Stone' that make especially compelling reading. We discover information about the quest to discover the whereabouts of The Green Stone and its sibling Eye of Fire, both jewels set in the legendary sword 'Excalibur'. Evidently the seekers did find The Green Stone (which, confusingly, is a small bell) and were panic stricken by the events that immediately followed its discovery.

ANTHONY POULTON-SMITH

The artefacts are now stored away safely in undisclosed location. For some unknown reason the writer, who up till then makes a decent job of digging out the information, fails to mention one of the most remarkable and enigmatic features in the county which is located at Shugborough Hall, i.e. the so-called 'Shugborough inscription'. This curious engraving, which is mentioned in the iconic book, 'Holy Blood, Holy Grail' (HBHG), is a sequence of as yet un-deciphered letters, O U O S V A V V, set between the letters D & M and carved on the 18th-century Shepherd's Monument in the grounds of Shugborough Hall. It set is below a representation of Pousin's equally enigmatic and HBHG referenced painting of The Shepherds of Arcadia. In the humble opinion of this reviewer this was a golden opportunity missed, but perhaps the author might revisit this enigma at some point. The rest of the book uncovers still more of the supernatural lore associated with Staffordshire and is a must buy for anyone interested in the more unusual side of the county. In the main the book is a credit to both Amberley and its high standards of publishing and the writing skills of the author, but although it does list its sources it does need an index and there is no list of contents. That aside the book is a worthwhile addition to the bookshelves of those of a paranormal turn of mind and a useful reference work for anyone who wishes to take a look at the area for themselves.

Brian Allen.



A GHOST train is driving residents in a rural parish round the bend, waking up sleepers with its constant rumbling along the rails.

And the really scary thing is, the nearest railway line is 15km away in Killarney.

Now frustrated locals in rural Beaufort, Co Kerry, are pleading with the Government to **STATION** investigators in the area in a bid to **TRACK** down the source of the sound. Tradesman Barry Lynch, 43, said: "The first time we heard it was in April 2011 and it has been there 24/7 ever since.



"We are nearly gone out of our minds because we can't get a decent night of sleep. "It is very hard to describe what exactly we are hearing. "It is as if an old ghost train is passing through the parish all day and every day. "It is a real haunting noise and we are baffled. "There are no mobile phone masts, windmills or generators in the area and the ESB has assured us that the problem is not due to high-tension wires. "We thought it might be coming from water pumps installed by Kerry County Council but an engineer switched the pumps off for a trial period and the noise was still there."



Whistle-stop ... Barry has had enough of the noise . Mr Lynch said more than a dozen neighbours in a 7km radius had complained about the noise and said his own house sometimes vibrates. The low-pitched hum sent one neighbour to the doc's fearing a problem with his hearing. Mr Lynch continued: "It is placing a huge strain on my own partner who can't sleep at night, even when she wears earplugs, "We are pleading with the Department of the Environment or some other organisation to help us before we are driven out of our homes. "Not everybody in the parish has heard the noise but just because they can't hear it doesn't mean it isn't there.

"Our neighbours and ourselves can hear it the minute we step out of our cars and it's there all the time until we drive off again." But the Beaufort residents are not alone in being haunted by ghostly grumbings. Mr Lynch has researched mystery noises on the internet and found similar sounds have been reported around the globe. The most recent was in a parish in Durham in north eastern England which has become known as 'The Hum'. But nasty noises described as 'a persistent and invasive low-frequency hum' have also cropped up in New Mexico, New Zealand and Indiana. Research into possible causes in universities in Florida, Oklahoma and Auckland has proved inconclusive. *Mr Lynch said: "The way it's being described on the internet is exactly what we are hearing. "It's absolutely wearing us down and we are crying out for a good night's sleep before our health starts to give."*

MYSTIFYING footage of a flickering orb claimed to have been filmed over the Thames Estuary has left UFO watchers mystified.

By Laura Caroe / Published: 07th February 2012

The video filmed by a motorist driving through London in the dark appears to show a small UFO with flashing lights around the outside. Space99dude, who uploaded the 53-second clip on to YouTube two days ago, said: "I took this from my car but had to go because of where I was parked. Seems too bright for a boat and looked like it was above the water. "It was a very long way off and I was at full 40x zoom hence the shaky footage. I always carry a camcorder in my car as I saw something a few years ago and think more people should be looking and keeping cameras at the ready."



Video: UFO sighted in London

A MYSTERY orb has been filmed hovering over the Thames Estuary. But while the footage has sent the UFO community buzzing, others have dismissed the sighting as a prank. One disbelieving viewer called ukloci wrote: "Why stop filming after 53secs? That's the first sign of a hoax. Indoor lights reflected in the window is my guess." Stephen Silvestri posted: "Sorry dude, but on video, that could be anything." And ibodhidogma said:

"It's too bad you didn't have time to zoom in and out for a sense of perspective, distance and size of the craft."



The Sun By Conor Sheils

A recent spate of bizarre alien videos have left UFO experts scratching their heads.

Villagers in northern Brazil got a scare when a one metre sphere landed just inches from a family home. The bizarre object weighs around 50kg and nobody has seen anything like it before. But locals were on the ball - and managed to film the mystery find before it was taken away by police. Local resident Valdir Jose Mendes, 46, said: "I heard the noise and I went out to see what caused it. I thought it was a plane that had fallen, or an earthquake". Locals and experts alike are clueless about the origins of the shadowy object.



Having a ball ... locals are puzzled by the bizarre sphere discovered on the ground. But it isn't just South America that's caught in a UFO frenzy. An eagle eyed sky watcher copped an eyeful of a spooky cloud UFO hovering above a Russian town. However not everyone is convinced by the video. One YouTube sceptic said: "I want to believe." Another added: "It is just a cloud." Experts have so far failed to explain the origin of the far-out footage.

Ghostly image causes a stir.

A photo that appears to capture a ghostly image of a nun on The Long Walk has been causing a stir in the city this week. Local photographer Jonathan Curran was taking a series of 13 photographs of the picturesque area in an attempt to create a panoramic view when he came across something very unusual in one of his shots. One of the images, which were taken less than a minute apart, appears to show an isolated female figure with the appearance of a 19th century Claddagh nun. Mr Curran said he was "freaked" to discover the strange appearance on the camera and checked the other 12 images but the elderly woman did not appear in any of the other pictures.

"The image was not visible either before or after the photograph was taken and was not captured in any of the other photographs, either going or coming. She just seemed to appear for a moment and then disappear. There were other people on the Long Walk that day, but they seemed oblivious to her presence," he explained. The unnerving photo obtained by the Galway Independent clearly shows a distinct ghostly female figure and speculation has been rife since the photo emerged as to whether this is simply an optical illusion or a representation from beyond the grave. Galway historian William Henry said there had been many stories of hauntings around the Claddagh, Wolfe Tone Bridge and Long Walk over the years and stories of the 'Lady in White' were told regularly in the past. "An elderly man once described seeing a lady dressed in medieval clothing near the bridge one night, long before our festivals began. Other stories of hauntings were told in the old Claddagh and many young people were warned to avoid Wolf Tone Bridge after mid-night. This had the added advantage of ensuring that they were home before 12 bells," he said. Mr Henry said the image at the end of Long Walk is striking and "certainly stands out as clearly out of place in a modern context." "She appears to be looking directly at the camera indicating an awareness of her surroundings," he added.

View the image at : <http://galwayindependent.com/stories/item/1110/2012-7/Ghostly-image-causes-a-stir>

A STUDENT photographer was left seriously spooked after he inadvertently snapped this ghostly image looking out to sea from the end of a pier.

Matthew Hales, 17, was on the deserted pier at 6:30am to catch the incoming tide for his A-level coursework using time-lapse techniques. He knew the pier at Clevedon, Somerset, was deserted because it does not open until 10am and he had to ask permission to be allowed on early. But he captured the ghostly apparition as one moment the pier, is empty, but in the next image a figure appears before vanishing again. Matthew said: "When I went through the pictures I was surprised to see the figure of a man standing on the pier — it was almost like he was looking straight at me.



"The technique I was using captures everything which happens for 30 seconds, so he must have been stood there for at least that long to appear in the picture. "However, when I checked the frames before and after there was no sign of him or of the figure walking to or away from the location where I saw him." Matthew, with two friends, never left the pier as the time-lapse camera took photographs of the Victorian landmark every 30 seconds over a 15-minute period. It was not until Matthew, of Yate, near Bristol, checked the individual frames from his Nikon D3000 camera that he spotted the male figure staring back at him from the pier. Matthew, a student at Brimpton Green and Chipping Sodbury Link Sixth Form, was puzzled until he saw a local newspaper story about early morning anglers seeing ghosts on the pier. A mystery figure has been reported by several anglers as they cast off from the pier. Matthew added: "It did freak me out a bit when I saw the figure appear on the pictures. "I then checked the pier opening times and saw that it wasn't due to open until 10am so there would have been no one on the pier at that time in the morning. "It was only when I saw the story in the newspaper that I thought I may have caught the ghost on camera." The area of the estuary around Clevedon has been dubbed the "ghost coast" because of the number of unexplained sightings.

Knights Templars Quest for Members.

Sunday February 19, 2012 / By Steve Lumley.



The Knights Templar were persecuted by the Pope. For more than 700 years they have been the subject of myth and legend after an angry Pope ordered their destruction and drove them underground. Now the Knights Templars are back in the open and have launched a recruitment drive.

Last night an extraordinary public meeting took place to show potential recruits what the Order is about and what can be expected of them. Membership is open to men and women. Russ Kellett, who is starting a new legion of Templars, said: "The idea is to attract fresh blood into what is an excellent organisation whose aims are to live a pious life and help in a charitable way people who may need our help.

"People believe that the Templars were destroyed between 1307 and 1312 but most of the knights involved simply disappeared and carried on with their work." He is reluctant to reveal too much about The Order of the Knights Templars but says many knights in other branches have carried on a family tradition stretching back generations. His legion isn't the only one to be created in the past two years. He said: "We are still very popular and people are very interested in what we do. The Order does good work in many ways but doesn't boast about it." The Knights' official title is The Poor Fellow-Soldiers of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon and they became famous for their role in the Crusades in the Middle Ages. They built castles and temples around Europe and enjoyed affluence and influence as well as a reputation for their fighting skills. Their rising power led Pope Clement V to order them to disband in 1312, which led to knights being executed or fleeing. Mr Kellett said: "The Knights Templars did carry on, in this country and elsewhere and we will be meeting regularly and visiting fellow branches as well as having guest speakers." Members can expect to learn about medieval battle techniques and swordsmanship and undertake charitable work. Those at the first meeting in Filey, North Yorkshire, heard about the order's origins, myths and legends and some of the secrets surrounding its creation. Mr Kellett said: "Our work now is more necessary than ever before. We have attracted some quality applicants from varying backgrounds."



FILMMAKERS are targeting a Halloween 2012 release date for a new horror movie about the world-famous Enfield poltergeist story. Pre-production on the film, which is being produced by Brimsdown-based company Dead House Productions, is nearly complete, with filming due to start early next year. The big-screen production will tell the story of the alleged paranormal activity in a Green Street council house in 1977, but will be set in the present day. Recordings at the house captured a variety of unexplained incidents that plagued mother Peggy Hodgson and her four children, including banging on the walls and moving furniture – witnessed by police and journalists.

Executive producer Jay Stewart said that he wanted the film to be the "rebirth of British horror", and was aiming to break the American market. He said: "We are just wrapping up the financial side of the film, and tying people down to contracts. "There's not been anything out there for British horror since Danny Boyle made 28 Days Later, and went to change that. "We've had 500,000 hits on our Facebook page and people from all over the world have been getting in touch telling us 'it's about time that this story was told'." Although the last recorded incident at the house took place in 1980, the story has continued to receive widespread media attention and inspired the BBC's infamous paranormal mockumentary *Ghostwatch* in 1992.

Mr Stewart added that he had a group of "A-list celebrities" that wanted to take part, but that he wanted to offer technical and manual jobs on the film to Enfield residents, in a bid to help the area after August's 2011 riots.

'Witch's cottage' unearthed near Pendle Hill, Lancashire

By Nick Ravenscroft

Engineers have said they were "stunned" to unearth a 17th Century cottage, complete with a cat skeleton, during a construction project in Lancashire. The cottage was discovered near Lower Black Moss reservoir in the village of Barley, in the shadow of Pendle Hill. Archaeologists brought in by United Utilities to survey the area found the building under a grass mound. Historians are now speculating that the well-preserved cottage could have belonged to one of the Pendle witches. The building contained a sealed room, with the bones of a cat bricked into the wall. It is believed the cat was buried alive to protect the cottage's inhabitants from evil spirits. 'Carl Sanders, United Utilities' project manager, said: "It's not often you come across a fairytale cottage complete with witch's cat. "The building is in remarkable condition. You can walk through it and get a real sense that you're peering into the past. "Pendle Hill has a real aura about it, and it's hard not to be affected by the place. "Even before we discovered the building, there were lots of jokes from the lads about broomsticks and black cats. The find has really stunned us all." Simon Entwistle, an expert on the Pendle witches, said: "In terms of significance, it's like discovering Tutankhamen's tomb. "We are just a few months away from the 400th anniversary of the Pendle witch trials, and here we have an incredibly rare find, right in the heart of witching country. This could well be the famous Malkin Tower - which has been a source of speculation and rumour for centuries.

"Cats feature prominently in folklore about witches. Whoever consigned this cat to such a horrible fate was clearly seeking protection from evil spirits." United Utilities routinely brings in experts before turning the topsoil in areas believed to have archaeological significance. Frank Giecco, from NP Archaeology, who unearthed the building, said: "It's like discovering your own little Pompeii. We rarely get the opportunity to work with something so well preserved. The engineering project has been put on hold while archaeologists investigate the site. "As soon as we started digging, we found the tops of doors, and knew we were on to something special. "The building is a microcosm for the rise and fall of this area, from the time of the Pendle witches to the industrial age. There are layers of local history right before your eyes." The engineering project has been put on hold while the archaeologists complete their investigation of the site. The building also contains a 19th Century kitchen range, still in its original position. Many artefacts from the building's latter years, such as Victorian crockery, a tin bath and a bedstead, were discovered around the site.

PILOTS AND UFOs DEATH IN THE SKIES

The phrase "unidentified flying objects" suggests that UFOs have an affinity with our terrestrial pilots – both fly and share our airspace. Thus, terrestrial pilots should have seen and reported a goodly proportion of UFO events. And that indeed is the case. There's been many an interesting close encounter between military, commercial and private pilots. No great news there. However, there have been several UFO incidents that have resulted in the death or disappearance (and presumed death) of the pilot(s) and sometimes crew too. That ratchets up the seriousness ante quite considerably.



Hynek Classification System

Possibly the most famous UFO classification system, this is a system which does not classify reports based on the nature or behavior of the observed object, but instead simply on the visibility or proximity of the object. As such, it is significantly less useful than either of the Vallee classification systems.

Class Name Description

DD (Daylight Disc) Metallic or whitish object seen in the day.

RV (Radar / Visual) Observation supplemented with radar.

CE-I (Close Encounter I) Observation of an object in close proximity to the witness (i.e. within 500')

CE-II (Close Encounter II) Observation of an object in close proximity to the witness, where physical traces (impression, burn, medical effect, etc.) are left or (electrical effect, heat) are felt

CE-III (Close Encounter III) Close observation with animate beings associated with the object.

CE-IV (Close Encounter IV) Abduction of the witness or other direct contact.

Some organisations like MAPIT and many others even go as far as splitting CE-IV into two categories...

1. Abductio / Abustees.

2. Interaction / Contactee's.

UFO sightings by airline pilots (military, civilian, and private) now number in the thousands. Unfortunately, there have been instances of pilots who have died or who have gone missing (presumed dead) while witnessing, pursuing or otherwise involved with some form or other of UFO-related activity. That alone suggests that UFOs are not only a serious business, but also at times a deadly business.

The list of pilot encounters with UFOs is now so extensive that it would take several book length volumes to adequately cover the subject. There is however that deadly subset of those pilot-related encounters. Here are a few of the better known case histories and fortunately, to the best of my knowledge, they are relatively few.

MAURY ISLAND INCIDENT (1947):

This incident is only indirectly related to 'pilots and UFOs' insofar as it involves an alleged UFO incident and the death of two military officers piloting a military aircraft, but there was no direct encounter between the UFO and the aircraft.



While there is a massive amount of material related to the Maury Island Incident, from conspiracy theories and cover-ups to threats by the Men in Black, to the disappearance of witnesses and evidence (photographs), even something approaching an outright hoax that ended up involving several of the early pioneers in the 'flying saucer' business, most of that story isn't relevant to the deaths of the military officers and is omitted here.

The basic tale revolves around Harold A. Dahl, his son Charles, and a dog. They were all out boating near Maury Island in Puget Sound near Tacoma Washington on or about the 21st of June 1947 (which actually precedes the 'official' beginnings of the modern UFO era by a few days). They claimed to have spotted an overhead fleet of what we'd now call (doughnut-shaped) UFOs flying in formation and surrounding another UFO which seemed to be having some sort of difficulty. The object that was in some distress or that was malfunctioning ejected some solid slag-like material

which, obeying the laws of gravity, fell earthwards, struck and damaged Dahl's jointly owned boat, caused some minor injuries to himself and his son, but alas killed the dog. Samples of the 'slag' were recovered. Via a roundabout route, two military (Army Air Corps) intelligence officers were ultimately called in to investigate. The two investigating officers, Captain William L. Davidson and Lieutenant Frank M. Brown of Army A-2 Intelligence, arrived and conducted interviews and obtained samples of the 'slag' before boarding and piloting their B-25 aircraft, destination Hamilton Field in California. The plane carrying the two investigators and the slag crashed near Kelso, Washington, shortly after leaving Tacoma, killing both men. Two others on board, one an aircrew the other a military 'hitchhiker', Sergeant Elmer L. Taft and Technical Sergeant Woodrow D. Matthews survived by parachuting from the airplane after it lost its left wing and the tail section due to a fire in the left engine.

An FBI report into the incident noted that investigators from McChord Field near Tacoma had investigated the wreckage and were convinced there was no sabotage involved. It's noted that one of the leading USAF UFO investigators, Captain Edward J. Ruppelt, chief of Project Blue Book in the early 1950s, wrote in his 1956 book "The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects" that he was convinced that the entire UFO sighting story was a hoax. The initial FBI field report concluded the story was a hoax as well. Regardless whether the incident was true (as some still believe), the cover-up of an advanced, classified but nevertheless terrestrial aerospace craft, or a hoax, the death of Capt. Davidson and Lt. Brown was real enough.

MANTELL INCIDENT (1948):

If there was ever a case of being in the wrong place at the wrong time, then the Mantell Incident qualifies.



On the afternoon of the 7th of January 1948, Godman Army Airfield (at Fort Knox, Kentucky) was notified by the state highway patrol of a strange circular object they could not identify some 250 to 300 feet in diameter that was flying along a westward course. Being conscientious officers, they saw it as their duty to notify the nearest military

base – Godman Field.

Military personnel, including the Commanding Officer, spotted the unknown object in question from the airfield's control tower. It was also witnessed from other Army Airfields (Clinton County Army Air Field and Lockbourne Army Air Field, both in nearby Ohio). Witnesses collectively described the movement of the object ranging from stationary to 500 mph; ranging in altitude from near ground level to 10,000 feet. The lone object appeared to be white, but with a reddish fringe on the bottom.

Unfortunately, a formation of four P-51 Mustangs of the Kentucky Air National Guard just happened to be in the air and in the vicinity – that vicinity being the wrong place; wrong time for one of the pilots, the flight leader, Captain Thomas Mantell, an experienced pilot (over 2000 flying hours) and veteran of World War II. Anyway, the P-51 flight was directed to get up close and personal and determine what this unknown object was.

Not all of the P-51's were able to comply with that order to the maximum extent possible. One was low on fuel; two others didn't have an adequate oxygen supply and had more sense than to climb too high though they kept pace with Mantell for as long as they could. Mantell, without an oxygen supply, however, being the flight leader and no doubt an alpha male, threw caution into the wind, boldly went ahead, outdistancing his wingmen when he shouldn't of. He kept in hot pursuit, stating the object was moving at only half his speed and he was closing in for a better look. He allegedly described the object as metallic and of tremendous size, in contrast to some of his wingmen who described it as small and indistinct.

To make a long story shorter, Capt. Mantell climbed too high, blacked out from lack of oxygen, and the rest, as they say, is history. His plane began spiraling back towards the ground. A witness later reported Mantell's Mustang in a circling descent. His plane crashed at a farm south of Franklin, Kentucky, on the Tennessee-Kentucky state line. Some interested parties have suggested that while Mantell was an experienced pilot, he was rather new to the P-51 Mustang, and that this relative inexperience could have been a factor in the crash. Regardless, Captain Mantell was, as of 3:18 p.m. that date, the late Captain Mantell.

So what was the object that ultimately led to Mantell's death? Well the first half-hearted explanation was that everyone had sighted, and the P-51's had chased, the planet Venus! It's obvious that no plane can climb high enough to get up

close and personal with a planet that's millions of miles away, so if Venus it was, it's no wonder Mantell failed to close in on it. Desperate in the attempt, he climbed too high and passed out from lack of oxygen, that being the major factor in the resulting crash and his death. So went explanation number one.

Now Venus, depending on where it is in its orbit, can be seen in daylight, if one knows exactly where to look. However, it's going to be quite faint as a daylight object at the best of times, and 99.999% of people, while quite familiar with Venus as the celestial object called the morning or evening 'star', have never seen the planet in broad daylight. I know I haven't. That all of a sudden so many people, the highway patrol, other civilians, ground based military personnel, Capt. Mantell and his wingmen, zeroed in on Venus is absolutely astounding – too astounding to be credible. In any event, what Venus would look like in the daytime sky, and the description of the object in question, just don't mesh. Scratch Venus.

The next best option was, at that time, a top secret US Navy Skyhook weather balloon. Why a weather balloon should be top secret is beyond me, but classified it was. The general characteristics of the Skyhook are reasonably consistent with the appearance and movements reported by Mantell and other witnesses, the sticking point being no particular Skyhook balloon could be conclusively identified as being in the area in question during Mantell's pursuit according to some; facts disputed by the skeptics who said that multiple Skyhooks had been launched that day about 150 miles away. Regardless, if the object was a Skyhook, it's little wonder nobody could identify it as such seeing as how it was a classified project and object. Of course it wouldn't have been very politically correct to admit that a secret American military program resulted in the demise of an American military pilot!

The cause of Mantell's crash remains officially listed as undetermined by the Air Force.

In 1948 flying discs or saucers were still pretty unique and so the first death directly attributed to a flying saucer was Big News and it was widely reported in the press. Unfortunately, some more lurid sections of the press suggested that Mantell had been shot down by the UFO and/or that his body was riddled with holes and/or his P-51 aircraft was found to be radioactive. These reports were false.

In the end, it matters little what the object was – bona-fide hardcore UFO or something more prosaic like Venus or a Skyhook weather balloon – Mantell was

just as dead.

KINROSS INCIDENT (1953):

On the 23rd of November, 1953, First Lieutenant Felix Moncla (pilot) and Second Lieutenant Robert L. Wilson (radar operator) were scrambled from Kinross Air Force Base in their United States Air Force (USAF) F-89 Scorpion to investigate the incursion into American air space, just on the American-Canadian border and over Lake Superior of an unknown aircraft that had been detected by Air Defense Command radar at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.



At roughly 8000 feet elevation, after being guided by ground radar tracking that was also required for an intercept, an intercept was accomplished. Ground Control tracked the F-89 Scorpion and the unidentified object as two separate blips on their radar screen. The two blips on the radar screen grew closer and closer, until they seemed to merge as one return blip. Assuming that pilot Lt. Moncla had flown either under or over the target, Ground Control thought that moments later, the Scorpion and the object would again appear as two separate blips. There was little actual fear that the two objects had struck one another in collision.

To their astonishment, rather, the now single blip disappeared from the radar screen, and then there was no radar return at all. The F-89 apparently merged with the other mystery radar return. Its IFF signal also disappeared after the two returns merged on the radar scope. Attempts were made to contact Lt. Moncla via radio, but this was unsuccessful. A search and rescue operation was quickly mounted, but found not a trace of the plane or the pilots and radar officer.

The USAF reported that Lt. Moncla and Lt. Wilson had crashed and that the 'unknown' object was only a misidentified Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) aircraft. The official USAF Accident Investigation Report identified the unidentified second aircraft as a RCAF C-47 Dakota VC-912, crossing Northern Lake Superior from west to east at 7,000 feet en route from Winnipeg to Sudbury, Canada, that had traveled off course.

But, on multiple occasions, the RCAF refuted their involvement in the intercept

incident, in correspondence with members of the public asking for further details on the alleged encounter.

So, like the Valentich case below, did a bona-fide UFO make off with an aircraft and crew? No trace of the F-89, Lt. Moncla or Lt. Wilson has, to this day, been found despite the alleged 'crash' in the official report.

SCHAFFNER INCIDENT (1970):

United States Air Force (USAF) pilot Captain William Schaffner was on an exchange program serving with the British Royal Air Force (RAF) in September 1970 at RAF Binbrook. On the 8th of that month an unknown object was picked up by radar at various locations, and aircraft from various bases in Iceland and Scotland were directed to take off and investigate it. However, the object in question kept playing hide-and-seek, appearing on and off radar scopes as various aircraft approached, thus forcing them to ultimately abandon the chase and return to base.



When it became Capt. Schaffner's turn to investigate and intercept, piloting a Lightning, the object quit playing games allowing the officer to make visual contact. He spotted and described a dazzling blue conical-shaped object minutes before his plane then disappeared off the radar. It would seem at first glance that his plane and the object merged, the object then moving off at high speed, but that was only apparent as the disappearance of the Lightning aircraft off the radar was because for one reason or another Capt. Schaffner was flying way too low and actually flew directly into the North Sea. And that's when the real puzzles start.

The aircraft was located (within three weeks) and recovered from the bottom of the North Sea shortly thereafter (within three months) of the incident. The Lightning aircraft was largely intact with minimal damage; no explosion, in fact no signs of any mechanical failure that would have led to the crash. The canopy was in place and closed. Unfortunately, there was no body of Capt. Schaffner within the plane. Capt. Schaffner's body has never been found – and he did not eject from the cockpit into a survival dinghy.

Airline Pilots See 'Mile-Wide' UFO.

In 2007 a brilliant white cigar-shaped object was sighted by airline pilots over the Channel Islands. The mystery object was seen by the pilot and passengers of an Aurigny Airlines flight and was also spotted by a nearby Tri-Lander aircraft.

"It was 2,000ft up and stationary. I thought it was about 10 miles away, although I later realised it was approximately 40 miles from us... It could have been as much as a mile wide," said Aurigny Airlines captain Ray Bowyer.

A second similar object was also seen. Not all data on the incident has been released. A senior CAA source said that "certain parts of the report have not been published. I cannot say why."

<http://www.shortnews.com/start.cfm?id=63204>

Wednesday 22nd
February 2012.

Sender: Ivana,
Melbourne West
Suburbs, Australia.

If anyone was watching the sky that night? There are masses of flying saucers, all flashing red, blue/green and yellow lights. They are hovering over the western side of Melbourne and there seems to be a larger saucer which is not flashing, but solid bright yellow lights. They are everywhere. I've spotted at least 15-20. It's now 12.23am Wednesday 22 February 2012 and I just have to tell someone as I don't think anyone will believe me! Please check the sky now!!

http://www.onlymelbourne.com.au/melbourne_details.php?id=13389

So was the missing pilot snatched by aliens? The Board of Inquiry came to the conclusion Capt Schaffner manually abandoned the aircraft, but because he has not been found, he was presumed to have drowned during or after his escape. But, since the aircraft canopy was in place when the Lightning was lifted out of the sea (and pictures confirm that), how did the pilot exit the craft? So, regardless of what the unknown object was, and some say it was nothing but a slow moving Shackleton maritime reconnaissance aircraft that had lost radio contact with the outside world that Capt. Schaffner was trying to intercept and not a bona-fide UFO at all, you still have a UFO incident and one missing, presumed dead pilot. Of course if aliens did somehow manage to abduct Capt. Schaffner while in the air, that would explain why his now unmanned jet landed in the drink!

VALENTICH INCIDENT (1978):

America, the U.K., so why not Australia? One of many, many highly unexplained UFO cases is the events surrounding Frederick Valentich on 21 October 1978. It's more a case of where there's smoke, there's smoke, but smoke there certainly is, and lots of it.



In a nutshell, on the evening of that date, in perfect weather for night flying, Mr. Valentich piloted a private plane from Melbourne, intended destination, King Island in Bass Strait. He took off only to shortly thereafter radio in repeatedly asking if there was another aircraft in his vicinity. That was a negative according to air traffic control. This 'aircraft' ultimately started hovering or orbiting over him. Let's now call a spade a spade here and state the 'aircraft' was a UFO. The UFO was also spotted by several independent witnesses. While radioing in his observations, ultimately acknowledging at the end that the mysterious 'aircraft' was not an aircraft, all contact ceased; all communications abruptly ended. Mr. Valentich, plane and all, vanished without trace. An extensive air and sea search failed to find any sign of Mr. Valentich, or his plane. No oil slick, no floating wreckage, no body – nothing, zip, bugger-all. No trace has ever been found of pilot or plane – not then, not since, not ever. One obvious explanation was that Mr. Valentich staged his own disappearance, although



friends and family could offer no reason why he would do so. Of course many people voluntarily disappear themselves for various reasons; many eventually are found, are caught or reappear voluntarily. But keep in mind; it wasn't just Mr. Valentich who disappeared. One entire aircraft vanished as well, never to be seen again. Surely if Mr. Valentich wanted to 'drop out', there were easier and way less conspicuous ways of doing so. If he had deliberately gone walkabout, in these decades since of security cameras and computer facial software recognition technology, it would be hard to remain an unknown walkabout in any populated area.

Was suicide a motive? Again, no wreckage or body was ever found, and who would go to all the bother of reporting a non-existent UFO overhead – a non-existent UFO that happened to be independently reported by others. Anyway, no suicide note was found. And what of the plane since no wreckage was ever found floating on the surface of Bass Strait; washed up on beaches, or

found on the ocean bottom – Bass Strait isn't that deep. It's a mystery, and while it doesn't prove aliens nicked off with Mr. Valentich and plane, there's not that much wriggle room. Interestingly, despite my (and others) asking for a copy of the Valentich 'accident' case report in an official capacity related to my employment at the time, the Department of Transport (Air Safety Investigations Branch) refused. To this day, to the best of my knowledge, that report has never been publicly released. A summary report was issued mainly giving the transcript of Valentich's final conversation with air traffic control with the conclusion being that they could not determine the exact cause into the mishap.

In conclusion, there really is no common high strangeness thread here (though I'd suggest a few of the above incidents are individually in a high strangeness category), just a UFO incident and a dead pilot, sometimes pilot and crew. But that alone is enough to strongly suggest that UFOs are a serious business indeed....

SPOOKOLOGY

WHO PUT THE NORM IN PARANORMAL?...



Richard Holland is the editor of the ghosts and folklore website *Uncanny UK* and the former editor of *Paranormal Magazine*. A journalist of more than 20 years' experience in newspapers and magazines, he is the author of five books, including *'Haunted Wales: A Guide to Welsh Ghostlore'* and has just developed an iPhone app called *Ghost Finder London* (see advert elsewhere in this magazine). To read more of Richard's articles, and those of other authors on the subject of the supernatural in Britain, please visit ... www.uncannyuk.com

I've developed an iPhone app called *Ghost Finder London* that has plotted all the haunted sites I could find in Central and Greater London (over 300 of them!) onto Google maps so that ghost hunters, interested residents and tourists can find them easily, with notes on each written by myself. Obviously, this entailed a lot of research and it also brought to my attention some obscure haunted sites previously unknown to me as well as reminding me of many classic cases.

Of the latter, one stood out as a perfect example of a 'spook' – a ghostly phenomenon that don't quite fit the 'norms' of the paranormal – and a case that deserved revisiting. This is the so-called 'bird elemental' of Lincoln's Inn.

Lincoln's Inn is an historic series of barrister's chambers in the City. According to this now famous story, one of the properties – since demolished – became badly haunted and two journalists decided to investigate. They stayed overnight in the haunted chambers on May 11 and 12, 1901. One of these was Ralph Blumenfeld, editor of the *Daily Mail*, the other was probably, but not certainly, Max Pemberton, a well-known magazine editor and writer of fantasy fiction. What happened that night has become the stuff of legend.

The version of events I know best comes from J Wentworth Day's 'Ghosts and Witches' published in 1954. He describes how the investigators stripped the room of furniture and placed chalk dust on the floor so anyone trying to play a trick on them would leave behind tell-tale footprints. Then, according to Day, midnight struck the hour and following occurred:

'The outer door flew open. The two windows, bolted and shut, flew wide open. The lights went out. A strong rushing wind filled the room. Great wings beat through the rooms as though a mighty bird were passing. An overpoweringly evil presence hovered for a second.'

'Then the lights went on. The two men looked at each other with dead-white faces. Suddenly, their eyes went to the floor. There, across the white, chalk-strewn surface of each room were the enormous three-toed footprints of a gigantic bird – a bird which had taken six-foot strides.'

I live in North Wales and rarely travel to London, and when I do I tend to visit the museums and galleries and rush about on the Tube, so my knowledge of the capital's street plan, boroughs and suburbs has been fairly limited. Over the last six months I've been working on a project that has improved my knowledge of London considerably, however...



RALPH BLUMENFELD: One of the two journalists who investigated the Lincoln's Inn haunting. Later in life he continued to maintain that the events happened as he described them back in 1901.



LINCOLN'S INN: Scene of the so-called 'bird elemental' haunting. This is the 16th century Gatehouse. Picture by Mike Quinn / Wikimedia Commons.

When one compares this account to the one originally published in the *Daily Mail* in 1901 (reprinted in '50 Great Ghost Stories', edited by John Canning and published in 1966), most of this drama is missing. There was no 'evil presence', no 'rushing wind', no beating of wings, the lights didn't go out and the windows didn't fly open. Two doors did, however, open by themselves four times, each time with a click of the latch. This is what the men then found (at 2.30 am, not midnight,

incidentally): "The marks were clearly defined birds' footprints in the middle of the floor, three in the left-hand room and five in the right-hand room. The marks were identical, and exactly 2¾ inches in size ... the footprints of a bird about the size of a turkey. There were three toes and a short spur behind. The footprints converged diagonally towards the doors of the big room, and each one was clearly and sharply defined, with no blurring of outline or drag of any sort."

So, hardly the six-foot stride of a 'gigantic bird' described by Wentworth Day. But weird nonetheless, decidedly weird. I'm not sure when the phrase 'bird elemental' was attached to this story (I'm not even sure what that means!), it certainly wasn't in the original report, which is sober and sensible and avoids drawing conclusions. I really like Day's work but it shows how important it is to trace stories back when you can. I'm guessing Day was relying on memory when he wrote his account in 1955. According to author Tony Parker, who reprinted the 1901 report in 'Great Ghost Stories', there was an odd follow-up to this story. On the same night as the Lincoln's Inn investigation (May 11), a Mrs Verrall was practising automatic writing many miles away in Cambridge. Among the usual scrawls and scribbles associated with this pastime, she found she'd sketched 'a very strange-looking creature, rather like a child's drawing of a turkey'. Underneath this was 'carefully written' the following Latin text: 'Calx pedibus inhaerans difficultatem superavit'. And this translates (I'm having to take this on trust!) as: 'Chalk sticking to the feet has got over the difficulty.' Now, that's spooky!

In the way-back-when of my time editing Paranormal Magazine, I jokingly coined the term 'spookology' in one of my editorials. I've started using 'spook' as a handy word for any really weird and inexplicable ghostly phenomenon. At a time when the supernatural, an area of research in which we still understand very little, is becoming increasingly codified, the bizarre nature of the spooks recalled in this column may serve as a reminder that it's way too soon to start normalising the paranormal...



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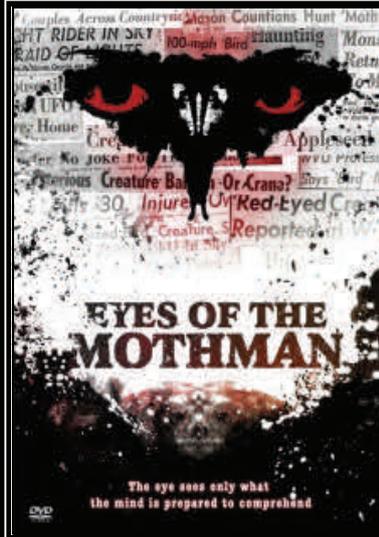
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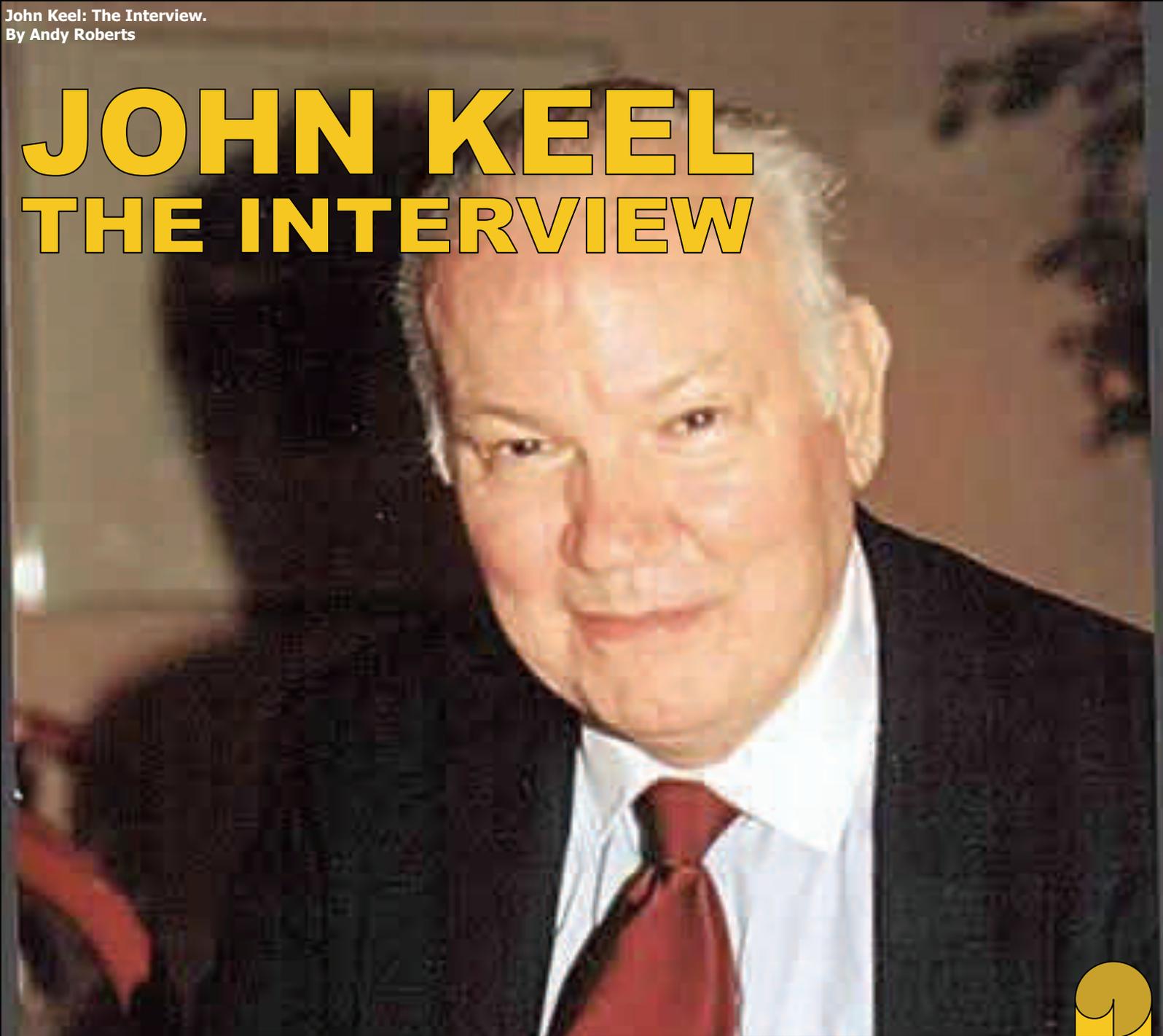
GHOST VOICES

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JOHN KEEL

THE INTERVIEW



Ever since I was about 11 years old and read Keel's first book, *Jadoo*, I was obsessed by him. Others felt like that too apparently, as I later came to find out. He's one of the few people to have revolutionized how we think about ufology and strange phenomena generally and I'd long wanted him to speak at a UK UFO conference. It took three years to get him here but as many of you know Keel spoke at the annual IUN conference. Although debilitated by jet-lag, the effects of diabetes and the unwanted attentions of the Men in Black from BUFORA Keel still managed to give a stirring Speech to the troops which left many people leaving the hall shaking their heads and muttering "that's wiped the floor with Bill Moore's explanation for Roswell". This was the first time he had ever publicly spoken in the UK and he may not come this way again. If you missed it, it just serves you right. I spoke to Keel at length over the three days he spent in Sheffield and learned many things, some of which I agreed with, some I didn't. But what struck me overall was Keel's grasp of ufology, the perspective he has and his sense of humour. When the conference was over I managed to get a 'formal' interview with John - here it is...

The Ancient Ram Inn is a Grade II listed building and a former pub located in Wotton-under-Edge, a market town within the Stroud district of Gloucestershire, England. It is believed to be one of the most haunted hotels in the country. This famous inn is owned by and the home to John Humphries. It has been owned by many people since 1145 to present date. Many people lived here either as a tenant or over night guests. This inn was said to have also been owned by the local St. Mary's Church when first built.

AR: John, could you tell me how you first became interested in Fortean subjects, and UFOs in particular?

JK: It was so long ago. You know, I read Charles Fort when I was very young, when I was about 14 or 15 years old. So, I was reading *Amazing Stories*, in those days too and they were getting letters to *Amazing Stories* about things people had seen in the sky - this is before 1947, and I was writing a newspaper column at that time for my home town newspaper and I did a couple of columns on that kind of thing, lights in the sky and people would see contrails high over head and they would think that that was some kind of spaceship or something and they'd write to *Amazing Stories* about it. In those days, in the '40s contrails were very rare; an airplane usually has to be high altitude to leave a contrail. Anyway, I was around when the whole UFO thing broke and I remember I was standing in a carnival in my home town and I was standing in the middle of the Midway in the carnival and a friend of mine came up and said "Hey Keel, have you seen this newspaper story about this guy out West who saw some strange things over the mountains", and it was like a shock to me I thought "Oh my God, it's starting". I remember thinking that, that it's starting now and of course that was the beginning, that was the Arnold story but I hadn't yet seen it in the papers. The Kenneth Arnold report did not get much play in the papers in the north-east; it was mostly in the West. It took a while for it to reach the East in the magazines and so on.

AR: Do you think the Arnold sighting and the subsequent UFO hysteria was a bit of a reaction to WW II? The world had been used to Earth-threatening excitement for several years and then peace broke out. Do you think we were waiting for 'something' perhaps and that the Arnold sighting triggered that 'something'?

JK: Yeah, but it was also what we called the silly season. In the newspaper business in those days the summer months were very slow news-wise, there wasn't much news. So they would seize on something like that. One year it would be Loch Ness Monster sightings, the next year it would be UFOs. We don't really have a silly season any more we have a silly season the year round now.

AR: What did you believe UFOs were at that time?

JK: I assumed, after reading Fort, that they must be spaceships. Fort didn't really come right out and advocate the ET thesis but he said there was something there and that it had been



around for a long time because he'd traced reports all the way back and Fort was very persuasive if you could get through his style. He had an odd style of writing, a humorous style which a lot of people to this day don't quite comprehend.

AR: Do you think you've copied your style in any way from Fort's? You have also got a very distinctive writing style which I think 'tricks' people intentionally into believing....

JK: I sort of sometimes satirise on Fort. Fort used to use certain phrases like 'I have a theory, that the stars are hanging from strings and the sky is only 800 feet up' and that would be a joke and people would seriously quote that and say "well Charles Fort thinks the stars are hanging on strings". But I think my own style sort of evolved over the years. I was writing a humorous column as a kid. The way I got into the -writing business was I wrote a letter to the editor of my hometown newspaper, I was about 12 years old, he thought it was a very funny letter and he called me into his office and he asked me to write a column and we called the column 'Scraping the Keel' and so it was a column of alleged humour and I would make little kind of childish jokes and it was quite popular so in my little hometown was about 5000 people so in a very short time I was the most famous person in the town. Then I started the high school newspaper there and I called it *The Jester* because I was making fun of the school, let's face it. Then when I turned 16 I got so bored with school because in this town there was no course for me to take in this school. I took all the science courses in one year, courses that were considered the toughest courses, chemistry and physics and so on. I passed them like that and the only

courses left were, they had an agricultural course but I wasn't about to become a farmer, and they had a business course but I wasn't really interested in business and so I left school when I was sixteen and I started writing full time, or as much as I could, I was working on the farm too. I started sending stories to the magazines in New York City and sooner or later people started sending me cheques! My first cheque was for two dollars! And I was really thrilled by that and by the time I was 17 I had sold quite a few short pieces for a very small amount of money and I decided that I was going to go to New York and make my fortune. So I left my family - they didn't believe I was going to go to New York they thought "Well, he'll be back tomorrow". I arrived in New York with 75 cents, didn't know a soul except editors that I'd corresponded with but I didn't know them well enough to socialise with them. I was just a country bumpkin in the big city but there was one magazine editor that owed me some money and I went to see him and I thought I'd be able to live on this money for a while because they owed me quite a lot of money. Quite a lot was like 30 dollars.

But they were going broke and they paid me off 50 cents at a time and so I would go up there every day and get my 50 cents and I slept on park benches, I did all the homeless things but in those days you were safe, today you'd get murdered the second day. Can you imagine a 17 year old boy in a big dangerous city like New York?

I quickly settled in Greenwich Village where all artists and writers and within two weeks I everybody and I became editor of a poetry magazine, had a little office there in Greenwich Village, and that's how all started.

AR: When did you start traveling?

JK: That was years later when I was drafted into army in the Korean War. Instead of shipping me to Korea they shipped me Germany which was a very good move on their part, 'cos they were shooting people in Korea! They assigned me to a radio station in Germany, I done some work in radio New York and TV was just beginning in New York and I'd done a little TV and the army, believe it or not, they saw my record there and they assigned to a radio station – in fact the biggest r station in the world at that time, American Forces Network. I started writing radio programmes for them and within one year I was promoted to the chief of productions for the whole network, at 20-21 years and I'm practically running the whole network! Then when my two years in the army were up they offered me a civilian job and I had a choice – return to New York or stay with the army, and I stayed another year as a civilian in Frankfurt and they gave me a nice apartment and a very good salary and so on. But I used to dream up my own assignments. I sent myself off to Egypt to do a broadcast from the Great Pyramid! We had a soldiers' singing contest where I had to go around to all the army camps in Europe and pick out the best singer in each army camp and so I took a tour of France! I had a chauffeured limousine that took me around France and I judged this singing contest, but that was just one of the many, many scams that I had going.

AR: Sounds like Sergeant Bilko!

JK: I also did a radio broadcast from the Castle of Frankenstein, there really is a Castle Frankenstein, I did a Halloween broadcast from there, which was a very big success, the newspapers and magazines like *Time* compared me to Orson Welles because Orson Welles had pulled off this famous Halloween programme of 1938. So by now *Stars and Stripes* was always writing about me and running pictures of me and I was suddenly the most famous soldier in Germany! But after being there as a civilian for a year I'd saved almost all of my salary during that year -they offered me a better contract to stay on and then I had a big decision.

Whether to stay there, forever - I could still be over there! But I decided that I would take a wild chance and take the money I had saved and go around the world, which I had always wanted to do. I especially wanted to visit India. So I took my savings and I left Germany and I went first back to Egypt where I'd done the broadcast from the Great Pyramid.

AR: Any particular reason why you went back to Egypt?

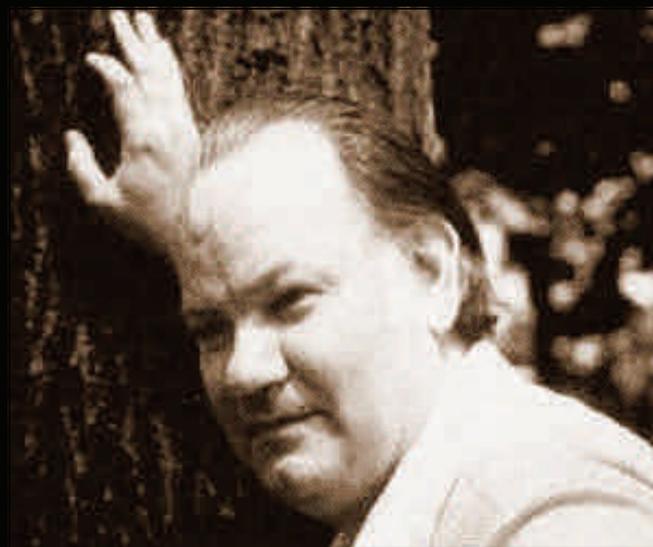
JK: Because I felt a strong relationship to Egypt, a lot of people feel that, it's rather mysterious, you almost feel like your ancestors are from Egypt and I wasn't the only one to feel that. I've heard other people talk about it too, although I felt no kinship at all to the modern Arabs, the modern Egyptians, but I felt something about the land of Egypt. I really felt a strong relationship to it. So I lived there for almost a year.

AR: Was it during this time that you saw the UFO at the Aswan Dam?

JK: I saw a UFO at the old Aswan Dam, they later built a new one, but there was an old Aswan Dam and I was down there and there were a lot of people around there must have been a scattering of like a hundred people all visiting the dam and so on and we saw this circular thing that was spinning. It appeared in a clear blue sky and this was in 1954. Later I found out there were sightings all over the Middle East at that time in 1954 and of course 1954 was a very big year in France and think Britain was also included. That was a major year. This thing that I saw was like the Saturn--shaped objects you've seen drawings of. In other words it appeared the centre of it was not moving but the outside was spinning. A very odd thing and various people were looking at it with me and I asked some of them what they thought it was and what the altitude was.... and everyone had a different answer. You had 200 witnesses and you had 200 different answers! I thought it was about 200--300 feet in the air, but some people thought it was 1000 feet, 5000 feet and because you don't know the size of the thing you can't judge the altitude of it. Right there, in two seconds I was convinced that flying saucers existed! There was no way anybody could ever tell me after that that there's no such thing as flying saucers.

AR: Where did you go from Egypt?

JK: I lived in Egypt for a while, and then I moved on across the desert. I went to Baghdad and I arrived broke in Baghdad which had become my normal condition because I had an agent in New York who would send me money and sometimes the money would be delayed or some SNAFU. I was broke in Baghdad and I quickly learned, whenever I was broke, to check into the most expensive hotel and because I was an American and had that famous green passport they never questioned me and just though "Hey, he's an American, he must be filthy rich!" So I would check into the best hotel and eat in their restaurants until the money came through and I never got questioned once! From Baghdad I took the long trip down through the Persian Gulf on



some kind of funny boat and ended up in India and then I spent a great deal of time in India because it's a fascinating country.

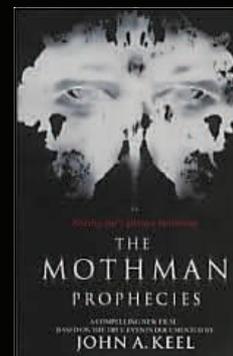
AR: Yeah. In *Jadoo* you traveled through India, sort of debunking the so-called paranormal events such as life burials, snake charmers, and the rope-trick and so on, could you tell us a little about that?

JK: I always had a childhood interest in magic and I continue to this day to have an interest in magic, and I wanted to find the famous street magicians of India and when I did find street magicians they were all doing card tricks! Which they had bought by mail from London! It was very hard to find anyone doing the famous Indian tricks. I searched for the Indian Rope Trick and I found various forms of it being performed but the were not the authentic Indian Rope Trick. They were little faked tricks for the tourists.

AR: What was so special about our snake-charming?

JK: Snake charming had always fascinated me as a kid on the farm. I started studying herpetology and reading books on the subject and I had a neighbour who used to go out and catch rattle snakes and sell them to some company that needed rattlesnakes. I used to go out with him and so at a very early age I learned quite a lot about snakes and reptiles so I actually studied snake charming with some of these snake charmers except there's not much to study because the charmer is owing a pipe and moving his hands back and forth and the snake is trying to strike at his hands. The snake can't hear so it's all showmanship, the people watching think the snake is dancing to the tune of the pipe but the snake is just trying to kill the piper!

AR: Did anything unusual happen to you whilst in India?



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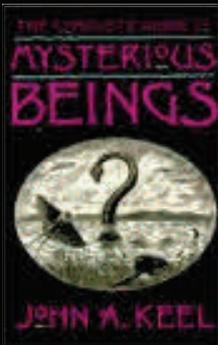
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JK: I had many fortune type experiences in India, one strange thing that happened more than once was strange people would come up to me and say that they'd been waiting for me to appear - this was probably baloney and they'd say, "There's an American tourist, let's take him for big bucks". I got very sophisticated very fast and I went into the Himalayan Mountains because at that time in the '50s there was a lot of publicity about the Abominable Snowman. There were a number of expeditions into the mountains looking for the Snowman, I think the *Daily Mail* in London sent a 'Big' expedition, and I figured I might be able to get a photograph of the Abominable Snowman and sell it to *Life* magazine or something. So I went into the mountains and to the little country of Sikkim and I crossed the border into Tibet, not very far though 'cos I'm six feet tall and Tibetans are four feet tall and the Chinese were in there and they would see this six foot tall guy and say "That is not a real Tibetan". At least I could say I'd been to Tibet.

AR: Whilst in *Jadoo* you debunk all the common or garden yogic tricks, when you get into the Himalayas you seem to become less sceptical and have some experiences of the 'remote viewing' which the monks do. Any comment on that?

JK: I was very impressed with what some of these monks, lamas, were doing. They seemed to know every move that I was making. It was like I was being watched through the whole trip and so I would arrive at a monastery and they were expecting me and they had dinner ready! I was quite impressed with a lot of that.

AR: How do you think they did it - was it because of the time they spent training their minds?

JK: Yeah - what else is there to do there!? I had the experience of running into a lama on a snow covered mountain and he was almost stark naked and he didn't mind the cold at all. They weren't surprised to see me and in some of these areas, this is in the '50s, they had never seen a white man before. I think in Sikkim at that time there had only been 400 white men 'throughout their history in that little country. Nepal was practically inaccessible and Bhutan was inaccessible. You could cross into Bhutan and never come out again.

AR: Did you actually see the

Yeti?

JK: I was with some natives, I hate to use the word natives, I was with some of the people who lived there, and I was the stranger. And across the lake we saw a brown figure; a large brown figure moving around in the brush across the lake and the natives with me said that was a Yeti. Now it could have been a bear, or it could have been anything but they told me it was a Yeti because they knew it would make me happy and so that was my Yeti! I saw the Yeti footprints a couple of times, the famous Yeti footprints which are huge. If you see the footprints you say "Well maybe I don't wanna meet this guy".



AR: Do you believe the Yeti exists in the physical realm?

JK: Then I did, yes. Although all of the stories about the Yeti which I heard from different people seemed very demonic. They believed it was bad luck to see one of them. Everybody had a story to tell about the Yeti in those days, everybody who lived in those areas. But now I'm not so sure the Yeti is a real animal. At that time I was absolutely convinced.

AR: I know you don't want to talk about the Mothman but I'll just ask one question. I'm still puzzled by one bit of *The Mothman Prophecies* - the chapter entitled *Beelzebub Visits West Virginia* where you relate the story of how you called at a house to make a 'phone call and because you were not from the area people misidentified you as the Devil?! Is this part of your tricking device which continues through the book - to make people

see that everything isn't as it seems?

JK: As you know the was written several after the events and it was very difficult to get a New York publisher interested in it and I needed a strong opening and this was a true story my car had run of the on a very rainy night and I was dressed in a neck tie and a full suit. You didn't see that very often back road in West Virginia, a black suit, and I went around pounding on doors to get somebody to call a truck for me. It turned that the people finally made the call people that were on the bridge that later collapsed.

Next day told everybody they knew that a strange man in a black suit, and a beard, which were rare in those days, called and he must have been the devil so that made me part of folklore and I found years later that people were still telling that story that the devil had come around to these houses on this back road.

AR: I think that says a lot about human beings. The majority of your Virginia sightings seem have been just odd blobs light into which people have read something else- are you saying then that we live in an environment which still has many hidden, but natural mysteries with which we interact and interpret?

JK: Yeah, we seem to be surrounded by almost invisible world that can manipulate us in any way. In fact I just had a letter before I left New York. I had a letter from a man named Henry Belk. His family are very rich, they own a chain of 400 stores in

the south and Henry for many years has been investigating psychic surgery, that's his thing and I was astonished to get this letter the other day, he said that after these years investigating psychic surgery he had decided that the psychic surgery was being done by invisible force. The surgeon was just an instrument for it and Henry is evolving now a whole theory about invisible entities and so on and for him, he's very scientifically oriented, it's a surprising thing for him to come out with.

AR: Do you think that this phenomenon, the one behind the lights, helping psychic surgeons and so on, do you think it is conscious or merely reactive?

JK: When I was investigating UFOs I realised that somebody was playing games with us in fact there's a chapter in *Operation Trojan Horse* about the cosmic Jokers, a phrase which caught on by the way and people all over the world are using that phrase 'cosmic jokers' now, You get involved in a situation which seems very real at the time and then as it progresses, if you're smart enough, you realise it's really a joke and somebody's playing a joke on you and it has no meaning at all. Now some people are too dumb to realise that and then it just keeps growing and developing because this phenomena sort of feeds on it.

AR: Can you give us an example of how that manifested itself to you?

JK: Yeah, 'They' had me running around New York looking for a mysterious gold cross (AR:shades of psychic questing!) that if I could find this gold cross I would save the world! And for a while I was playing these games. A very well known American ufologist named Ted Bloecher, well Ted spent 30 years of his life, he's in the theatre, he's a song and dance man but he spent 30 years of his life spending all his spare time researching UFOs and he would be with a dance troupe in a small town he'd go to the newspaper and go through their files and get all their UFO reports. Well he finally got involved in some contactee stories in New York state where there were landings and UFOs supposedly contacting people and so on

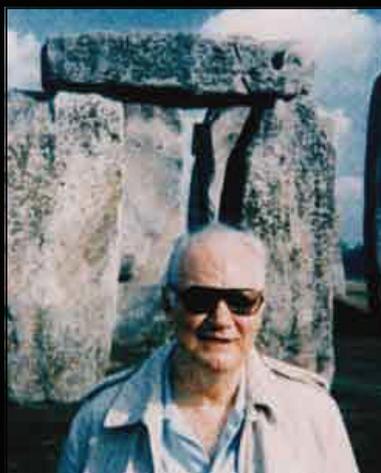
and he got deeper and deeper into these and then it finally occurred to him that 'somebody' was playing with him, that it wasn't real, that it was a joke that they were playing on him and that whatever his interpretation was the phenomenon would then mould itself to it. So he quit ufology and he's made statements to people that he's very sorry that he spent 30 years on it, he regrets now that he wasted 30 years when he could have been out chasing women or whatever.

AR: Do you think there was any connection between the collapse of the Silver Bridge in *The Mothman Prophecies* and what was going on.

JK: Well some of the people who died on the bridge were people who'd seen the Mothman and it was all very strange, there were millions of coincidences and strange, interrelated events for example there was a family in West Virginia with the rather unusual name of Walmsley. Now the Walmsley family was an integral part of the Mothman mystery because several people in this family had seen the Mothman and as you know in small towns in America one family will have three hundred different units in the area, cousins and grandparents and so on. Well in Budd Hopkins' first book he talks about the first UFO sighting in New Jersey that he got interested in and it's the Walmsley family in New Jersey! And a couple of the Walmsley people in West Virginia went down with the bridge. There does seem to be a lot of things interacting with us on this planet that we don't ...

AR: Why that particular area, why West Virginia for so many strange occurrences?

JK: We're not smart enough to figure it out! Some of these things of course have no meaning at all and some of them there may be real meaning like these two men who materialised on a street to a women, dressed in clothing that was way out of fashion, clothes from the 1940s and these men seemed very odd and sinister to her - they may have been on a special mission of some sort. Their mission was to go to a store and buy all the Keel books and take 'em back to the



next dimension!

AR: In several of your books you mention that you've been contacted by witches and magicians who've had similar experiences to you. Do you think that's perhaps because witches and magicians can manipulate, 'call up' if you like, these energies by the power of emotion?

JK: They have studied the same thing but they haven't studied it from a ufological point of view. They've studied in from almost a religious point of view and incidentally in Point Pleasant where the Mothman was appearing, after all the, publicity that Mothman received, the town was inundated with witchcraft cults and things and the power plant where the Mothman was first seen, the walls inside the power plant are now covered with graffiti from witches and magicians, pentacles and that kind of thing.

AR: Do you think that as a result of an interaction with an invisible environment that humans are actually meant to understand the universe and its mysteries or are we fighting a losing battle doomed to play, as you say in one of your books, "It's the only game in town"?

JK: I think the human race is going very slowly, step by step, towards some goal that we don't understand and I think you can see in the last forty ears how we have evolved with our new age movements and things, now this doesn't mean the whole human race it means a fragment of the human race has gotten an understanding they didn't have before and it really started in 1848 with the Fox sisters and spiritualism. That was the first real new age movement. A lot of other things happened in 1848 but it was like that one was the beginning and whatever the

Andy Roberts: Books.

Catflaps: Anomalous Big Cats in the North, Brigantia Books, 1986/CFZ 2001

Phantoms of the Sky (with David Clarke), Robert Hale, 1989/90

Earthlights Revelation (contributing author), Blandford, 1991

Ghosts & Legends of Yorkshire, Jarrold, 1992

Twilight of the Celtic Gods (with David Clarke) Blandford, 1996/97

The UFOs That Never Were (with Jenny Randles & David Clarke - Feb. 2000)

Out of the Shadows (with David Clarke), Piatkus, 2002

Strange Secrets (with Nick Redfern), Paraview, 2005

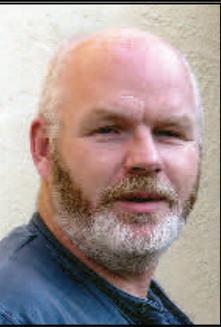
In addition Andy has contributed chapters to the following compilations:

UFOs 1947-87, Fortean Tomes, 1987

Phenomenon, Macdonald & Co., 1988

Fortean Studies 3, John Brown Publishing, 1996

Fortean Studies 5, John Brown Publishing 1999



phenomenon is it's outside of us so each generation is carried a step further but our generation doesn't matter. As you know many of our ufologists are now dead and they died without knowing anything about all of this. Some of them carried it a little step forward. It may take another hundred years or another five hundred years before we know what this ultimate goal is.

AR: Have you any ideas what Mans' 'ultimate goal' may be?

JK: Well, a very smart 'fellow, an Englishman by the way, named Arthur C. Clarke, wrote a book called *Childhood's End* which is about is very thing, about the evolution of the human race until the logical end of evolution is a spiritual state and no longer a physical state and that's in his book. I have come to think that that's true too, that our physical bodies are very limited and very fragile and not worth very much, but our spiritual existence, whatever it is - we don't understand it, is the key and if there's such a thing as evolution and reincarnation and so on it's the endurance of this fragment of energy that we each carry around with us.

AR: Do you think it's connected to the Earth in any way. In your talk last night the first slide you showed was of the Earth from space and that's the first time I've ever heard a spontaneous round of applause during the lecture at a UK UFO conference.

JK: Yeah I think it's the Earth. The American Indians you know believed that they were part of the Earth, that the Earth owned them, and that they didn't own the Earth and I think that's probably true. I think the Indians and a lot of these so-called primitive people had a great understanding of all this and it was unfortunately lost when the white man came over. Look what happened to the Indians in South America, we destroyed their written records in the name of religion. On Easter Island they had written records and the first thing that the Spanish priests did when they arrived there was destroy the written records as being the 'work of the devil'.

AR: A long time ago, I don't know if you can remember it, you once said in the pages of *Fortean Times* that "We are the source of the phenomenon". Have you anything to say on that, for instance about contactees, are we contacting ourselves?

JK: It's like do you hear the sound of a tree falling in a forest? If we weren't here would there be UFOs here? I think the UFOs are definitely connected directly to us and we're only seeing what they want us to see, what we think we're seeing.

AR: Who are the 'they' then?

JK: It's a force. I tried to define it in very simple terms in my book *The Cosmic Question*. I also went into the problem of mystical illumination which has always fascinated me because it happened to me when I was eighteen. When I was living in New York as an eighteen year old I was living in a furnished room and I woke up one night and the whole room was bathed in this very peculiar light. I thought the building was on fire! Then I started having, you can't call them hallucinations, a flood of Material was coming into my mind and suddenly I understood everything. I swear I understood the meaning of everything, how the world was created, how it was going to end. I knew it all! And I said "This is terrific, boy I'll write this all down tomorrow when I wake up", and the next day of course when I woke up I couldn't remember anything! I remember the experience and I remember the room being bathed in this light but I couldn't remember any of this material, it must have entered into my unconscious mind.

And for thirty years I thought I was the only person in the world that had had this experience, I never mentioned it to anybody and then I started reading some of this stuff about cosmic illumination and then I started meeting other people who'd had the same experience and I realised that many people in each generation has this experience and many of them don't necessarily do anything with it and other: it changes their whole life.

AR: In what way?



JK: They become teachers, scientists, politicians. I think John F. Kennedy had probably had that experience and I think also that if someone like JFK has the experience it dooms them - he got into his position of president too soon. He would have changed the world. If he had lived there would have been no Vietnam, there would have been a major space programme because he would have devoted all of move' for warfare into the space programme which was his plan, and we would be of Mars now.

AR: Do you think this is why contactees often "self destruct", because they have 'the secret' and want to do

something with it, they try to do it too fast and they burn out.

JK: No, contactees only get part of the experience. For contactees it's like false illumination. They only get part of it and they get crazy, they misinterpret it. There are a lot of people in religion who have this experience and put it to good use. There are a lot of priests and nuns and holy people who've, that's why they get into religion, they have this experience and they spend their lives helping other people. Mystical illumination is a very important key to this and there are books on it, books written by people who've had the experience, books by people who've studied the experience. A Dr. Bucke wrote the first book on it in the early 1900s and after he wrote the book he slipped on the ice, hit his head and killed himself. There are many people who have the experience and don't necessarily remember seeing a light or seeing anything, it just happens to them and they change overnight and they don't know why.

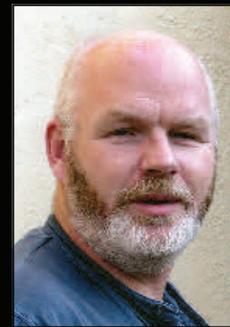
AR: What do you think about the current fascination in the USA for the extraterrestrial hypothesis?

JK: Well, it's been a propaganda campaign, it's been a very small group of people propagandising this, proselytising a new religion and the new religion is this notion that there are extraterrestrials out there. Now science on the other hand has backed away from the whole extraterrestrial thing. In the 60s many scientists thought that there was a very good chance that there were extraterrestrials. Carl Sagan for example founded exobiology and now these scientists, including Arthur C. Clarke by the way, who has made a number of statements in the past few years saying that he no longer believes there is any chance for extraterrestrials to exist. The ET premise has been promoted by the movies and by the UFO buffs and the average person in the street now sort of accepts it, because they haven't given much thought to it and they've seen the movies or they've heard UFO buffs on the radio or TV and they say, 'well that makes sense, we're being visited by extraterrestrials' - they just simply accept it. New religion is this notion that there are extraterrestrials out there. Now science on the other hand has backed away from the whole extraterrestrial thing. In the 60s many scientists thought that there was a very good chance that there were extraterrestrials. Carl Sagan for example founded exobiology and now these scientists, including Arthur C. Clarke by the way, who has made a number of statements in the past few years saying that he no longer believes there is any chance for extraterrestrials

Andy's position statement on UFOs is: Humans have witnessed unexplained aerial phenomena for millenia. Each generation has it's own interpretation of what these phenomena are, from flying dragons to phantom airships to extraterrestrial craft. As no physical evidence for any of these interpretations has been found it is a reasonable assumption that all UFO phenomenon is a mixture of witness perception and belief, together with the processes of folklore and mythology, well stirred by a compliant media.

Besides a dedication to the subject of ufology Andy is also active in the field of Fortean research and has written widely about such diverse subjects as The Big Grey Man of Ben Macdhui, Screaming Skull Legends, the Genius Loci and the telepathy experiments carried out by the Grateful Dead, among others.

When not answering the call of the weird he manages several hostels for homeless young people in Wrexham and pursues many other interests including hill walking, kite flying and UFO hoaxing.



Andy Roberts.

Has been interested in strange phenomena since he was a child. He began active investigation and research of UFOs in 1983. He has been active in many investigation groups, including BUFORA and the IUN and is one of the country's leading ufologists.

His main fields of study are: the social history of ufology in the UK, UK contactees, UK UFO crashes, specifically the Berwyn Mountain UFO crash, foo-fighters, the Warminster phenomenon, UFO hoaxes, and witness perception.

and you can ride in a submarine and all that but nobody can really do that with a UFO. So if a UFO landed tomorrow in Trafalgar Square, who would the British government call in to study it? It would be a big problem. As I said they would probably have to call in first of all aeronautical designers- you wouldn't call in physicists and astronomers, and if there were beings on board you would call in your very best medical people, forensic pathologists, and biologists. The last person you would call in would be a ufologist, cos he'd be useless, he'd stand there and stare and say 'my god, it's real!'

AR: Are they real then?

JK: I'm talking about the lights and things. People do see something because I've seen them myself, but I don't think they are machines.

AR: One final question John, which I'm sure an awful lot of British ufologists have wanted to ask you for a long time. Just *why* didn't the moon come up on the night of April 3rd 1967? (note to baffled readers – consult your copy of *The Mothman Prophecies*).

JK: (laughs) Yeah, I got the information from the local newspaper; I put that in almost as a joke because it was a humorous incident. I'd seen the moon the night before and then that night there was no moon – and also one night I saw the moon come up and I thought it was a flying saucer. A lot of people have done just that I'm sure...

AR: In *Operation Trojan Horse* you issue a warning to people wishing to become ufologists, warning them off the whole idea. What brought this on and do you still advocate that caveat?

JK: Yeah, in a lot of my speeches I usually end up with a statement like that. I usually point out that individuals and civilian organisations don't have the expertise or the money to do anything and that it's a waste of time to try to investigate these things. The best they can do is go and sit on a hill and watch the lights in the sky, and say 'hey, there goes one!' In order to really investigate this you might need twenty million dollars, to build the right instruments. This is a big project and I don't think even the government has ever undertaken that. I don't think any government has ever undertaken that. The governments around the world all assumed the American government was gonna do it. You may remember in the 1970s Idi Amin - remember good old Idi Amin? Well in Uganda they were seeing UFOs all the time and Idi Amin had his ambassador to the UN stand up in the UN and say 'hey, do something about this', and it was a famous speech at the UN, and of course the UN officials said 'what are we going to use for money?' and 'where are we going to find the experts?'. When you think about it there isn't a single real expert on UFOs in the world because nobody has had that kind of experience to be an expert. You can be an expert on submarines, because it's tangible, you can study the structure of submarines

to exist. The ET premise has been promoted by the movies and by the UFO buffs and the average person in the street now sort of accepts it, because they haven't given much thought to it and they've seen the movies or they've heard UFO buffs on the radio or TV and they say, 'well that makes sense, we're being visited by extraterrestrials' - they just simply accept it.

AR: Do you think the US government has the faintest idea about UFOs or is the only cover up one of ignorance?

JK: I think they're pretty dumb about this. I've spent a lot of time trying to find files that would really have significant material and I've known a lot of people in the government and in the military and there are a lot of people who are interested in the subject but there's never been no unified effort to study it or discover anything, and how do you study it without actually making contact with the UFOs? So the UFO buffs have kind of dreamed up a whole fantasy world where they think the government has made deals with the UFOs. That's just the UFO buff's way out, of protecting himself, otherwise, if he didn't think that then he would be in a very vulnerable position as a UFO buff, so he says that the reason that we don't know anything about UFOs is because the government is keeping it quiet. And the alternative to that is the reason we don't know anything about UFOs is they don't exist.

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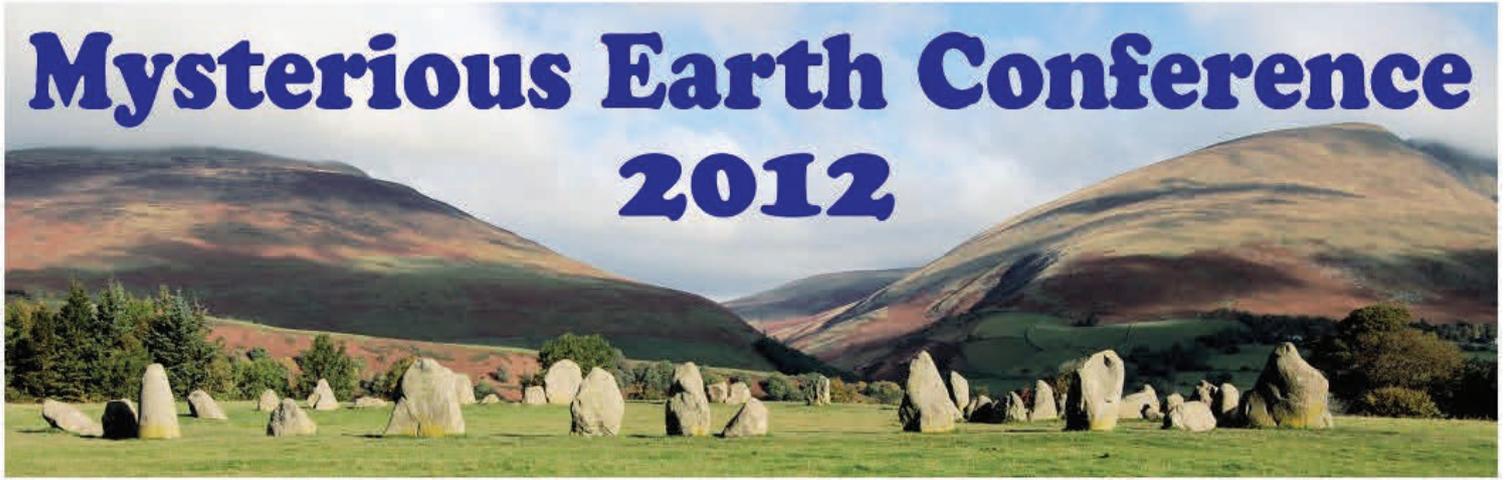
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Preston Road, Grimsargh, Preston, Lancashire, PR2 5JS

£16 per day in advance - £17 per day on the door. Please use the Tours Booking Form and state which days you are booking by visiting <http://www.megalithictours.com/Conference%202012.htm>

Contact - Neil McDonald - 07799 061991 - 01772 728181 - neil@megalithictours.com

Follow up Tour - Five days in the lake District from Monday 12th March

Stalls available.

Speakers Information Page

Timetable Saturday

09.30 - Doors open / 10.20 - 10.30 - Opening Welcome / 10.30 - 11.30 – Kevin Goodman – The Warminster UFO Phenomenon

11.30 - 12.00 - Coffee Break / 12.00 - 13.00 – John Turkington - Long Meg from the Antiquarians to Geophysics

13.00 - 14.00 - Lunch Break / 14.00 - 15.00 - Marcus Allen – Technology of Ancient Egypt / 15.00 - 15.30 - Coffee Break

15.30 - 16.30 - Neil McDonald - The Lake District, A Megalithic Journey / 17.30 - Doors Close

Timetable Sunday

09.30 - Doors open / 09.55 - 10.00 - Opening Welcome

10.00 - 11.00 – Mary Frankland - Sacred North: the Nosterfield Ritual Landscape (Yorkshire) / 11.00 - 11.40 - Coffee Break

11.40 - 12.40– Rev Lionel Fanthorpe - The Mystery of Rennes-le-Chateau and the Cromlechs of Rennes-les-Bains

12.40 - 13.45 - Lunch Break / 13.45 - 14.45 - Duncan Harpur - The prophecies of 2012 and their astrological symbolism

14.45 - 15.50 - Coffee Break / 15.50 - 17.00 - Lindsay Campbell. BA (oxon) - Earth Energies & the Web of Consciousness

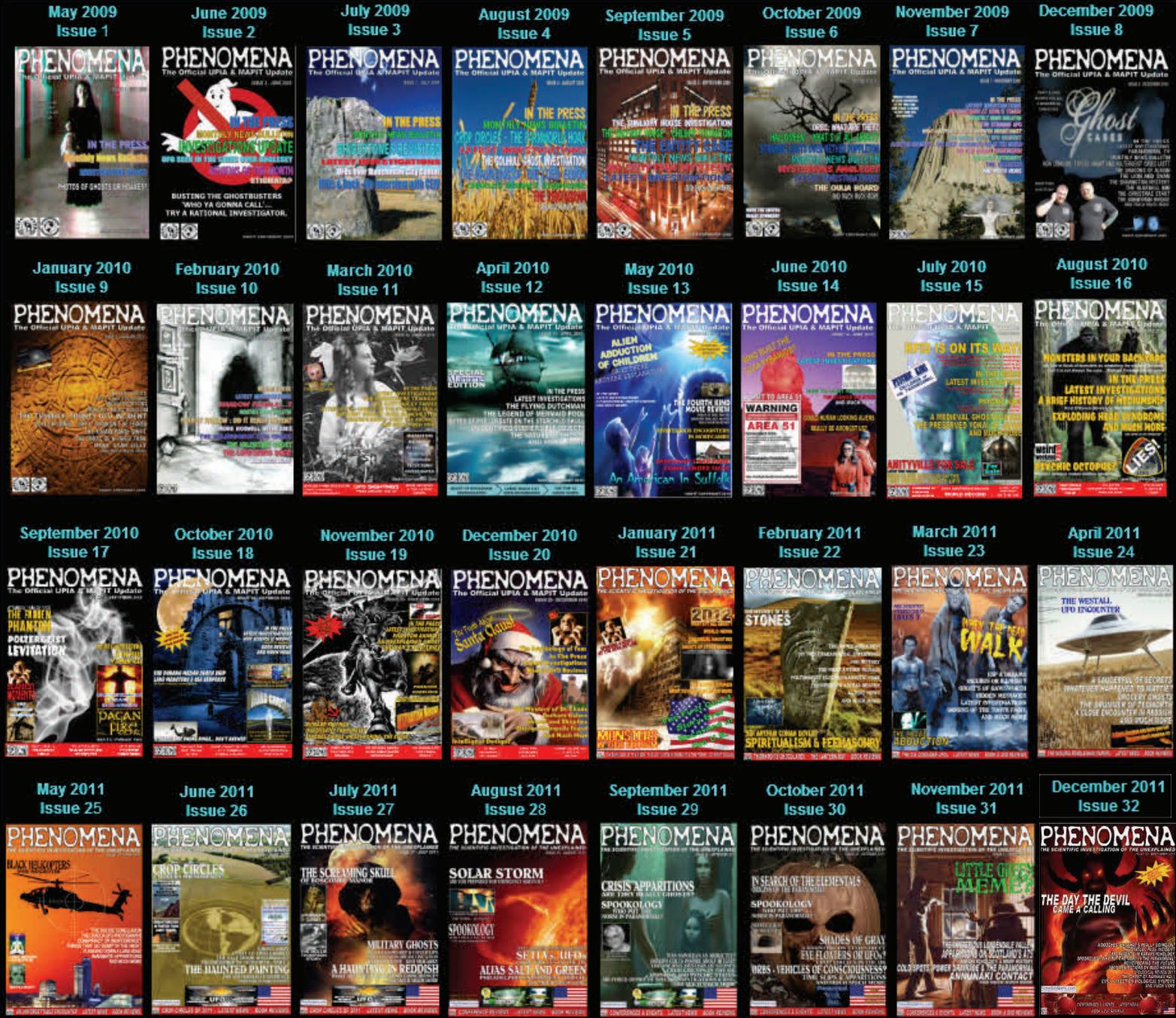
17.30 - Close

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PHENOMENA MAGAZINE

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