

UFO

Brigantia

THE JOURNAL OF THE INDEPENDENT UFO NETWORK

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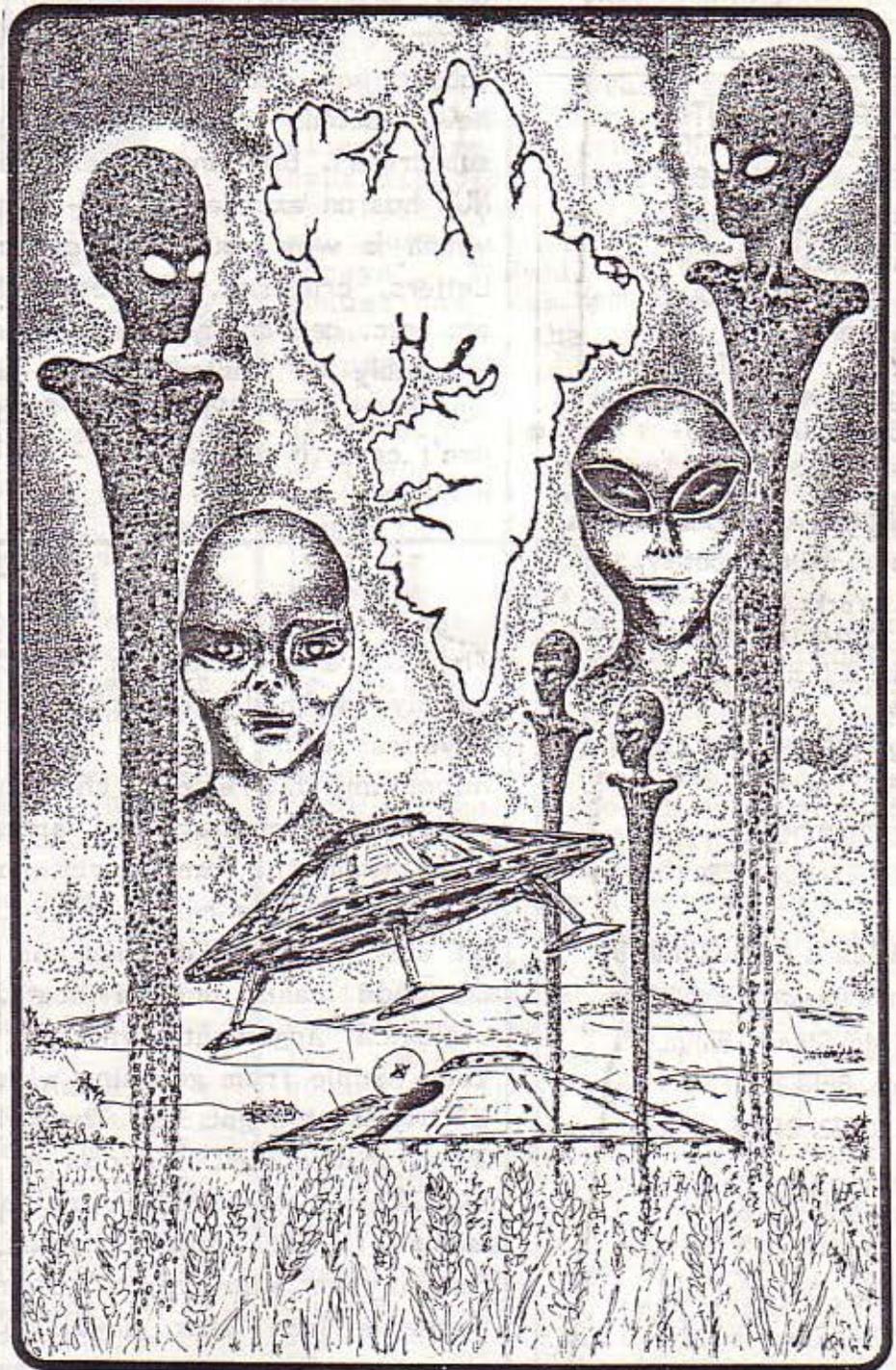
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THE JOURNAL OF THE INDEPENDENT UFO NETWORK

SPRING 1992 No.51

**'TESTED ON UFOLOGISTS
FOR IRRITANCY'**

UFO BRIGANTIA

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UFO BRIGANTIA

UFO BRIGANTIA is published quarterly, in Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter. We also operate a joint subscription deal with Jenny Randles' Northern UFO News (details upon request if you are not already a subscriber). Both magazines provide news and gossip. NUN has an excellent round-up of current case reports, which is why you won't get any in UFO BRIGANTIA. Letters, criticisms, articles, artwork, news clippings, etc. etc. are always welcome and owt you send will invariably be printed. If you have something to say, say it in UFO BRIGANTIA. Bizarre, controversial, we don't care. If you send it - we will print it. (but keep it clean!)

THE I.U.N.

The IUN are UFOlogists. At the moment we are a loosely defined network of interested ufological voyeurs who like to keep an eye on what's happening UFO-wise in this country. It provides us with hours of harmless amusement and keeps us away from the real world, so it can't be all that bad, can it? My mum thinks the whole subject is a bit silly - but what does she know? We investigate the odd case, publish stuff, enter into all the ufological arguments we can, and generally try to keep people from guessing what our real purpose is. UFO files? We got 'em. The UFOIN files, much talked about in the past and now in the hallowed pages of BUFORA's - UFO MITES are in our possession along with WYUFORG and IUN files, bags of information for anyone who wants to see them. Copies also available (see back page). Actually we're holding them to ransom and if UFOlogy doesn't give us what we want - the files get it!!

EDITORIAL



Welcome to the first UFO BRIGANTIA of 1992 and the first of our 'new look' issues. As the government money we get paid for spreading disinformation floods in we've decided to spend some of it on making the 'zine look better on the eye. Hope you like it. But what's this?

SHOCK, HORROR, PROBE. In a fearsome TV encounter late last year two government disinformation agents appeared on the Clive Anderson TV show to undermine belief in the non-existence of UFOs by spreading excellent propoganda about the TRUE nature of alien beings!

You didn't see it? Awww c'mon you missed a gem. Made Doug'n Daves crop circle disinformation look like, well, information really. Bootleg copies are bound to be circulating so if you didn't see it it shouldn't be too difficult to get a copy (we may print a transcript in a future issue).

That nice Mr Anderson didn't actually have to say much, he just let Arthur and eager pal (a charcter called Jeremy Barnyard or something) dig themselves deep, real deep. What did they say? Nothing much. Only the contemporary UFO mythology, in plain English with no frills to speak of and the audience just wet themselves.

Yes folks ufology is that funny to outsiders. Makes you think doesn't it? Mind you I suppose the bit where Arthur described having seen a UFO with windows all down one side as he brought the milk in one morning did it for most of the audience. That type of UFO is called an 'airplane' Arthur, an airplane...

The pair informed the viewing public that over 70 types of aliens were visiting the Earth for hybridisation purposes. Seventy eh? Well slap my thigh and here's us just thinking it was the 'greys'. They'll be pre-booking abductions next so two lots don't turn up in the same poor sods bedroom.

It was all strangely familiar, depressingly done and, when told by two 'serious ufologists' a rather drab exposition of a wonderfully intriguing subject (as long as you don't step too far into the water).

As the audience hooted Arthur looked slightly pained, as though he couldn't quite understand what they found amusing. Suddenly, as if to counter this, he proudly produced an artefact the aliens he once met had bestowed on him. 'It looks like a stone' quipped Clive. And it did - but doesn't Clive know that aliens have stones too? Stones just like ours. Exactly like ours. In fact indistinguishable from them. But then Clive isn't a UFO initiate like Arthur and Jerry, so he wouldn't know the difference, would he?.

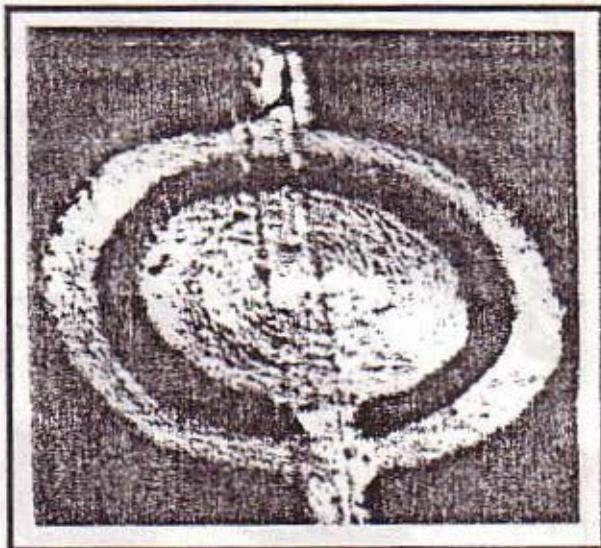
Still. Laugh? We couldn't stop. If Arthur and his buddy Jeremy weren't working for the government then they at least ought to put an expenses claim in for trying. And didn't I notice the words 'MBF Services' as the credits rolled? (New crop circle fanciers 'in' joke). Perhaps not. But I think these two and others like them

trying to spread the word about hybrid races and greys are either, ahem, 'wrong' or they have to be working for someone pulling their strings (or something). Now that's what I call a conspiracy theory!

Ok, so that's a bit of fun at some ufologists expense but there is an important point to be made here. If a TV programme 'phones up and says they want a ufologist, should you go on? Well basically unless you are an ego freak or two tracks short of an album the answer is no, unless you think about it very carefully first. It's axiomatic that if a researcher from the Clive Anderson show, James Whale show, Jonathan Ross show or any other 'light' chat show gets in touch and wants a ufologist they are looking for someone they can make fun of in a big way.

Now this might give the likes of Arthur and Jerry their five minutes of fame but it makes them look prats and does the subject no-good, reinforcing all the stereotypes about 'anorak' train spotter type ufologists so beloved of the press and certain UFO magazines. The simple answer when dealing with the media is do it on your terms or tell them to shove it!

Speaking of paranoia, it has come to my attention that a Sunday Times journalist is of the opinion that the IUN are responsible for the Ilkley Alien photograph hoax, and presumably this is why the story about the case he wrote never ran in that paper. We spent a whole afternoon last February painstakingly detailing why we thought it was a hoax to this guy so obviously using journo-logic we must have hoaxed it! Simple really, I only wish we'd thought of it first. It wasn't us, honest guv, our hoaxes are far subtler.



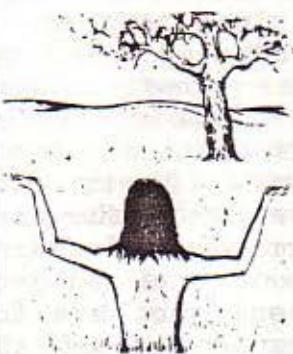
THE CEREALOGIST

The latest issue of the leading (in sales that is) crop circle journal The Cerealogist has gone a long way to reinventing ufology in its own image. Issue five is full of government-centred paranoia by men desperate to have something to fight against, desperate to think that the government (other than the Inland Revenue service) would be so stupid as to bother with them. They should be so lucky. When in doubt kick-start a conspiracy theory eh chaps?

Finally, editor John Michell tries to make much capital out of the (alleged) resurgence of wild flowers in the south of England as if in some way that is pertinent in any way to the subject. He is clearly an afficianado, as are so many others, of Fotherington Thomas from the Down With Skool books whose favourite expression was 'hello trees, hello sky'. Bloody old hippies! Still it's a good magazine and if you are interested in crop circles worth sending £2.50 for a sample copy to, The Cerealogist, 20 Paul St, Frome, Somerset, BA11 1DX. You won't regret it.

Geoff Fulstone of Swansea tried out the T-shirt from Aquarius UK and gave us this report, 'Having seen the Prudential TV advert in which the hippy says 'I want to be a tree', I couldn't wait to get my hands on this shirt. After wearing it for two days solid whilst searching for a crashed saucer on the Brecon Beacons I found it to be warm, hard wearing and resistant to most personal stains. The logo on the front caused more than a stir in the lounge bar of the 'Sheep and wellington' in Brecon and I'd recommend the shirt to anyone.' Can't say fairer than that Geoff.

I WANT TO BE



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Please allow 28 days for delivery.

HOW DO YOU REVIEW CLOTHES? EASY.. YOU WEAR THEM

UFO BRIGANTIA WERE SENT TWO GARMENTS, A T-SHIRT AND A SWEAT SHIRT AND ASKED TO REVIEW THEM FOR THE MAGAZINE

Secondly we asked Allan Staithes to review a sweatshirt from Jupiter Powerwear. Before I sent it to Allan I wore it myself for a few days and 'luxury' is the word which springs to mind. The XL size actually was- which is a rarity as sizes are usually too small, and the logo on the front consisting of several circle designs in gold was eye-catching enough for someone to stop me in the street and ask me where I got it. It is in fact a quality item!

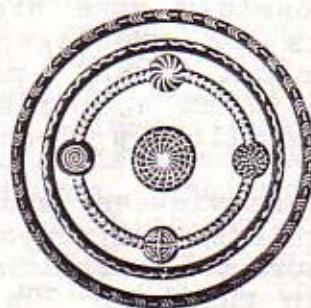
Anyway, here's Allan's comments; 'Being on the run from the CIA can be pretty hard, cold, work as you probably know so when Andy handed the sweatshirt to me at a remote and secret moorland location I was thrilled. The sweatshirt was extremely warm, soft and well fitting but best of all, light to wear. The design of crop circle patterns made me laugh a bit but what better way to display a modern myth than on your chest?'

JUPITER POWERWEAR

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UFO CRASH AT ROSWELL

A REVIEWTICLE by TERRY JONES

The mention of Roswell is always bound to cause some heated discussions between ufologists as they all like to get on their soapboxes espousing their own personal theories and shouting others down. So it was refreshing to read a book on the subject written by two people who have for the most part stayed out of the arguments over the past few years.

UFO Crash at Roswell began life in the autumn of '88 when a CUFOS associate member was discussing the subject with Don Schmitt. He said that the investigation was incomplete as not all the witnesses had been interviewed and he raised questions on the known sequences of events and the reactions of the military as reported through the published material on the subject.

Schmitt teamed up with Kevin Randle (an ex-air force Captain and intelligence officer) and with CUFOS backing, began a complete reinvestigation of the events of July 1947.

Rather than building on what had gone before the authors interviewed all the witnesses involved again and also took the unprecedented step of doing a complete survey of the debris field where the initial find was made. Some might think that this would be fruitless but the terrain could possibly have hidden small fragments of wreckage; remember Bill Brazel found pieces and collected them a couple of years after the military clean up of the area.

The interviewees (and there are many) included the video and press interviews made with Major Jesse Marcel in the late '70s and early '80s, his son Dr Jesse Marcel jnr.

who viewed some of the wreckage when his father brought some home, Bill Brazel, Walter Hault the Roswell P.I.O. who issued the authorized press release on the recovery, Thomas DuBose the Chief of Staff to General Ramey and the men or their families involved variously in the operation to recover the wreckage and bodies from the crash sites, guarding the wreckage and bodies at the Roswell Army Airfield, and those who flew them to 'higher headquarters'.

In the course of their research they located further witnesses many of whom still refused to talk, even after some 43 years, but two of the most important witnesses located were the Provost Marshall of Roswell A.A.F., who was responsible for the cordoning off of the crash site and one of the archaeologists who came across the main body of the object and its dead crew. Understandably this witness does not want to be identified, or the educational establishment he belongs to know, for fear of ridicule.

Both Randle and Schmitt have put a lot of time, effort and their own money into researching the Roswell event and it certainly shows. They give a clear account of the whole incident from the thunderstorm on the night of 2 July and Mac Brazel finding densely packed wreckage (which covered an area approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile long and two to three hundred feet wide) the next day, through the events after his reporting it to the county sheriff George Wilcox and the military action to recover the wreckage, the authorized press release and the subsequent cover up of the crash.

The most telling part of the all this is how things were handled at Roswell, then Fort Worth and the differing attitude that prevailed in the intervening hours. Marcel returns to the base with a C.I.C. man, a car and a jeep full of wreckage. Blanchard then authorizes the press release that is flashed round the world and all hell breaks loose. A matter of hours later General Roger Ramey at his office, with Marcel present at the base poses with substituted wreckage of a Rawin Sonde balloon and foil target and asks what the fuss was about- nothing but a downed weather balloon. Whils all this is going on the special flights from Roswell begin transporting the real wreckage.

If it was a weather balloon that crashed then the military were going out of their way to

Again a downed balloon would not create a large gouge in the hard ground, nor would it cover a large area. Indeed both Marcel and Bill Brazel said that Mac Brazel hauled a piece of wreckage TEN feet in diameter into a cowshed, wreckage that could not in any way be mistaken for a balloon. But the media accepted the explanation and nothing more was reported.

Randle and Schmitt also look at the Circleville Ohio story, this was genuine recovery a weather balloon whcih happened on 1 July 1947 some two days before Brazel found the wreckage of the object at Roswell. In that instance the Sheriff identified the balloon wrecakge as just that. Interestingly enough there is more written in the Blue Book files on the Circleville balloon than there is on Roswell. In fact there is

Leased Wire Associated Press

Roswell Daily Record

RECORD PHONES
Business Office 2388
News Department 2387

CLAYTON, NEW MEXICO THURSDAY, JULY 3, 1947

Movies as Usual



GRAND

Claims Army Is Stacking Courts Martial

Indiana Senator Lays Protest Before Patterson

RAAF Captures Flying Saucer On Ranch in Roswell Region

House Passes Tax Slash by Large Margin

Distant Amendment By Democrats to Remove Maps from Rolls

Security Council Paves Way to Talks On Arms Reductions

No Details of Flying Disk Are Revealed

Roswell Hardware Men and Wife Report Disk Seen

Ex-King Carol Weds Mme. Lupescu



keep Mac Brazel quiet. First he is flown to indentify the area of the crashed object for the clean up vrew (necessary as there are few identifying landmarks, Brazel's knowledge of the area would be vital) he is escorted round Roswell by military personnel after being held in custody for over a week and made to tell a different story after being sworn to secrecy about what he saw. A bit of an overreaction for returning a weather balloon?

only the newspaper cutting from the Roswell Daily Record.

Their speculation that Washington ordered Ramey to use the weather balloon story was confirmed by DoBose in recent interviews and it seems that the Circleville story was the inspiration. This is when the 'posed' pictures were taken of Marcel (one of which was cropped and used in The Roswell Incident, proclaiming to be one of the less spectacular pieces of wreckage)

ROSWELL

and in turn with Roger Ramey and Thomas DuBose.

The authors also looked for possible explanations for the crash such as a weather balloon, failed V2/A9 test, (the only test launch made within the possible time frame exploded on the pad and sprayed some technicians with acid. The whole incident was reported in the press), crashed secret aircraft, a dummy atom bomb and a Japanese Balloon Bomb(!) They found no evidence to support that the crashed object was any of the above.

One of the best features about the book is that there is only one reference to the MJ12 document. In the opinion of the authors (and myself) the document is a hoax. But there is an interesting post scrip; Brigadier General Arthur Exon who was at Wright Field in July 1947 when the wreckage and bodies were brought in and later became the commanding officer at Wright Patterson, said in interviews that there was a control group in charge of the recovered craft and its crew; a second group made up of aides and a third group made up of technicians who studied the object.

PROJECT BLUE BOOK

The appendices contain information on Project Blue Book, other crash/retrievals and they list the hoaxes (Aztec and Paradise Valley- sorry Tim!), the other retrievals (Del Rio Texas, Kingman Arizona, Keksburgh Pennsylvania), press accounts of the incident, the witnesses reluctance to talk, the interviews, the intelligence group at Roswell in July 1947 and a list of people involved in the incident.

The book as a whole is well written and is well structured in its presentation, both authors have approached the subject with a healthy air of scepticism as neither gives much credence to the crash/retrieval stories. As I said in my opening remarks, Randle and Schmitt have stayed for the most part out of the MJ12 debacle, the only time they wrote about it they said it was a hoax. Since entering the Roswell area they have come under attack from Moor and Shandera in Focus magazine. In one instance Moore and Shandera levelled charges of copyright theft and plagiarism at Randle and Schmitt and tried to subpoena their material, but Moore dropped the action. This action smacks of hard cheese and sheer jealousy.

In my humble opinion UFO Crash at Roswell is a fair representation of the better research methods used by the authors. Forget the Berlitz and Moore book, if you want the definitive item buy UFO Crash at Roswell, your bookshelf will love you for it.



WANTED

Names and addresses of active UFO groups and/or UFO publications. I am in the process of trying to compile a comprehensive directory of all UFO groups from around the world. No group is too small or too large. I would also like to include UFO publications, from news stand magazines to the more simpler form of newsletters. If you are involved in any such activities please send as much detail as you can to:-

Phillip Mantle, 1Woodhall Drive, Batley, West Yorkshire, England. WF17 7SW

"ABDUCTIONS ARE REALLY SOMETHING"

by HILARY EVANS

Hopkins offers us two options on abductions: "Either we are being visited by some kind of alien intelligence, equipped with a technology and purpose beyond our present understanding - or the power of human invention, delusion and self-deception is reaching critical mass. Do these experiments describe actual events, or are they some new, pervasive, world wide form of fantasy?"¹

Although I think he expresses them in exaggerated terms (for reasons which will emerge in this paper) the options are surely as he presents them. As we know, he is convinced abduction stories describe actual physical events, and in support of this view he presents us with a number of very remarkable cases, which he states - and I don't doubt his word - are representative of very many more.

(Eds note: all underlinings were italics in Hilary's original text)

This is not to say that we belittle Hopkins or ridicule his decision. His case is ostensibly a strong one: and if additional support for it were to be presented, perhaps many of us sceptics might defect to the believers. But as things stand at present the probabilities, so it seems to me, favour an explanation in purely human terms. I feel that Hopkins overstates, on the one hand, the strength of the case for alien visitation, and on the other, the degree of delusion and self-deception required to sustain an abduction fantasy.

I cannot prove Hopkins wrong, nor do I propose to try to do so. All I can do is set out the aspects of the abduction phenomenon which discourage me from seeing them as physical events. None of these is sufficient to invalidate the

ALIEN VISITATIONS AND MASS DELUSIONS ARE BOTH IMPROBABLE

Whatever abductions are, they present a very extraordinary phenomenon, so it is not surprising that the only available explanations are each in their own way extraordinary. Since the information currently available is insufficient to decide, conclusively, that abductions either are or aren't taking place, we have no choice but to make our provisional choice on the basis of probabilities. Alien visitations and mass delusions are both improbable: so the question boils down to: Which is the least improbable? For Hopkins, Jacobs, Sprinkle and many others, it is the face-value explanation, that abductions are physical events: for some others of us, the alternative choice is the more probable.

Abductions-Are-Real position (AAR from here on): but together, they do, I think, show it to be weaker than it appears at first sight. Equally, none of them is sufficient to establish beyond question a psycho-social scenario (PSS): but together, I suggest, they show it to be a more plausible interpretation.

HERE'S ANOTHER INFORMATIVE LITTLE DITTY FOUND WHILST READING THE TOILET PAPER IN THE LOCAL COLLEGE.

(source-SUN
3/2/92)

BT hang-up for virgins

CHASTITY belt makers have got the boot from British Telecom's new Yellow Pages.

Other oddball entries dropped include tripe dressers, UFO information - and glass eye suppliers.

A LACK OF PERSPECTIVE

* When we see the abduction stories paraded en masse as they are in Bullard's amazing catalogue², the impact is stunning. Many would be remarkable enough as individual stories; the cumulative effect leads overwhelmingly to the thought: If so many people are independently having such similar experiences, how can those experiences be anything but real?

None the less, it is a fact that those who are reporting abductions - hundreds, even thousands, though they may be - are only a tiny percentage of the population as a whole. And (without wishing to imply any correlation) there is at least an equally large proportion of the population who are, say, fantasy-prone; or subject to epileptoid or temporal lobe seizures or other neurological disabilities; or schizoid; or more than averagely suggestible. In other words, other categories exist, no less large, of people who are distinguished by one or another specific psychological profiles which could result in a-typical behaviour of the kind supplied by an abduction fantasy³. The population of abductees is, for example, smaller than the population of those who claim to have seen the Virgin Mary.

NO PSYCHOLOGICAL EXPLANATION

* Hopkins has frequently stated that no psychological model exists for abductee behaviour: one such statement reads: "None of the five psychological consultants who have worked with our group of abductees has come forward with even a tentative psychological explanation for their recollections"⁴.

As an argument against the PSS this is meaningless: a disease is no less a disease because there is no record of it in the medical literature. The literature of mass delusion is rich in parallels to the abduction phenomenon. Here are just some:

- the witch mania
- outbreaks of demon possession (Loudon was just one of scores)
- dancing manias, convulsions, preaching epidemics, outbreaks of flagellation, self-mutilation, castration, suicide
- religious visions and apparitions
- mass psychogenic illness (eg office staff get sick due to non-existent bug etc)

In addition, anomalous behaviour by individuals often conforms to culturally defined patterns, so that it is legitimate to see it as a one-off manifestation of a communal behaviour-pattern. eg Eskimo women are liable to a violent but short-lived outbreak named pibloktoq which happens to each one individually, but each has it in the same form, displaying the same symptoms and passing through the same phases⁵.

In each of these instances, a sizable number of people - again, often many more than are currently reporting abductions - are afflicted by behaviour which, though anomalous so far as the individual is concerned, nevertheless matches behaviour displayed by others in the community, group or milieu. Just as in the case of abductees.

But Hopkins is speaking of explanations: granted that these other phenomena present parallels to the abduction experience, have they been sufficiently explained that we can apply that explanation to abductions also?

There is a school of thought within the abduction 'movement' which proposes that what is

happening to abductees is something it labels Experienced anomalous trauma, and that in thus labelling the experience, it has identified something hitherto unknown to the behavioural scientist. The leading exponent of this view, Rima Laibow, has distanced herself from Hopkins; she has set out her reasons at some length, but leaving aside any personal grounds for disagreement, they seem to be largely a matter of the professionals distancing themselves from those they see as unqualified amateurs poaching on their territory. The proponents of TREAT are as prone as anyone to take the view that abductions are physically real.

However, if the PSS proponents are right in seeing the abduction experience as only one of a range of anomalous experiences, then the only think which is new about the abduction experience is outward form: those who were subjected to demon manifestation and other such afflictions were, no less than the abductees, victims of experienced anomalous trauma. Consequently, any way of dealing with the experience which was valid for those earlier anomalous matters could be expected to be valid for the abduction experience also.

Of course, in the past no less than in the present, those whose responsibility it was to treat the experiences were divided as to the best way of going about it. At one time the preferred treatment was to first torture the patient and subsequently burn him alive. At a later date this was replaced by less drastic treatments: from being attributed to Satan, such outbreaks began to be seen as the results of mental affliction, and this in turn led to a diagnosis in terms of personal psychology. Drawing on Janet's work with hysterical patients⁷, and Jung's theories about flying saucers⁸, a model has emerged in which the experiences of seeing an

apparition of the Virgin or undergoing an abduction by extraterrestrials can be seen as a kind of fantasy drama, in which the individual exteriorises his/her situation within the framework of a culturally accepted myth. Thus, Betty Andreasson¹⁰, Kathy Davies¹¹, Whitley Strieber¹² et al would be seen as individuals unconsciously working out their personal problems in terms of an abduction scenario.

Even if I was competent to express an opinion on these cases, the libel laws would effectively keep me quiet; nevertheless I suggest that anyone who reads any of these case histories - even as they are presented to us by investigators who believe in their physical reality - will share my view that each of these persons had an abduction experience which was consistent with a psychological situation specific to them; and you will perhaps go on to share my view that this is a good reason for believing that the experience is best understood as a private fantasy expressed in public terms.

The fact that Strieber has backed down from his former "This is my true story" position¹³ is hardly evidence of anything except how mixed-up he is. His defection hasn't cleared the waters, it has only muddied them farther. But this very fact, in itself, adds further encouragement to adopt a psychological alternative to the AAR view.

So long as it was believed (as indeed some medical specialists still believe) that behaviour such as hallucination was symptomatic of mental illness, it was reasonable to suppose that anyone who could be shown to not be mentally ill was not hallucinating, and therefore if he reported something then it must have been physically real.



Today that view has been effectively undermined thanks to the efforts of Szasz¹⁴, Ring¹⁵, and others. We now recognise that what should always have been obvious: that hallucinations can and do occur to mentally healthy people if they happen to be in a suitable state - usually an altered state of consciousness such as being hypnotised, terrified, sensorily deprived or overloaded, drunk or drugged.

Consequently, the often-quoted findings sponsored by the Fund for UFO Research¹⁶, to the effect that abductees are as 'normal' as you or me, are irrelevant. What is more, Ring's recent findings indicate that the abductees - while by no means meriting classification as mentally ill - tend to conform to a psychological profile which is not typical of the population as a whole. That is, abductees are drawn from a specific sub-section of the human race. The implications have yet to be explored, but even in their unexplored state, these findings effectively destroy the argument that the abductees could not be fantasising because they are mentally healthy.

NEGATIVE TRAUMA

* One argument used by AAR proponents against the PSS relates to the negative trauma which often characterises the abduction experience. If the witness is responsible for the fantasy, why would she inflict on herself so unpleasant an experience as rape, enforced pregnancy and abortion, and the rest of it?

The first thing to be said about this is that not all abduction experiences are unpleasant: many abductees regard their experience as enjoyable, beneficial, even as a privilege to treasure.

However, it is certainly a fact that many abductions are unpleasant. But so are many other anomalous: an obvious example is demon possession. Why, it is equally valid to ask, would anyone choose to imagine his mind and body have been taken over by the devil?

There are still people who believe demon possession to be a fact, but the more widely-held opinion is that it is a self-induced behaviour which the individual enters into as a means of evading a psychological problem, typically to avoid responsibility for his behaviour, as when a killer claims to have been driven by Satan to murder prostitutes. Similar explanations are offered for other anomalous behaviours which cause the individual distress, such as paralysis or anorexia.

If these other disagreeable experiences can be accounted for in such terms, couldn't a similar rationale explain the unpleasantness of the abduction experience?

This parallel is also instructive as regards the format of the experience. If you study the literature of demon possession, you find that cases run to type: there is a pattern for the experience, just as there is for pibloktoq, running amok, and other cultural behaviours, and indeed for related phenomena such as visions of the Virgin. In all these cases, the experience comes to be formalised, even ritualised: isn't it therefore reasonable to account in the same way for the fact that the abduction experience tends to run to a more-or-less standard scenario?

INNOCENT AND IGNORANT?

* People who claims to be possessed by the devil usually start with a belief that the devil exists; but is it frequently

asserted by AAR proponents that an abduction witness has no interest in or knowledge of ET intervention, alien visitation etc, which would supply the necessary trappings for his story, so how could he have invented it? This is a strong arguments, if true: but while it is probably impossible to show that it is not true, it is certainly open to question.

SCIENCE FICTION?

First, consider the matter in the broadest terms. Anyone who studies the American SF pulps (Amazing Stories etc) of the 1920s/30s will quickly discover that there is virtually not a single theme of current ufology which was not anticipated there - domed discs overflying Earth; visits by aliens, some concerned for our welfare, others with less benevolent intentions; humans drawn up into spacecraft by beams of light; abductions and physical examinations by aliens (women laid on their backs on tables in spacecraft while aliens surround with probing devices etc). Even the 'Bermuda Triangle' was anticipated many years before the name was coined..^{18,19}

At the same time, the idea that humans would soon venture into space was widespread: Amazing Stories in 1938 gave its readers detailed drawings of spacecraft, orbiting satellites, spacesuits etc. A French kids' magazine of the same years shows a cutaway section of a moon rocket with the caption 'Oui, le voyage a la lune est possible'. The effect was to induce a state of mind which accepted and expected space travel to happen any day; hence the extraordinary response to the famous Wells/Welles broadcast in that same year of 1938. And hence - after an interval of a few years during which mankind was preoccupied with a more tangible danger -

the equally extraordinary response to observations of anomalous aerial phenomena which resulted in the Flying Saucer myth and ultimately, to the abduction stories with which we are here concerned.

This does not mean that each and every individual will have a clearly defined image of an ET encounter ready to hand: but it does imply that there exists, at least among a large section of the American population, a pre-disposition to fabricate such a scenario when an appropriate trigger is pressed. Such a predisposition was triumphantly demonstrated in the notable Lawson/McCall experiment²⁰, which



blake

for all the critical attacks directed at it is still and unequivocal demonstration of the ability of ordinary people to fabricate an imaginary ET encounter. For it was a precondition of Lawson's

experiment, that his subjects were neither interested in nor knowledgeable about the subject - just as abduction witnesses are claimed to be by AAR proponents.

Well, but this still leaves unanswered Hopkins' assertion that the similarities go beyond these generalities to specific details. This is undoubtedly the greatest strength of the AAR position: how often it is by showing that they ought, if innocent, to know, that Lieutenant Columbo gives his victims their comeuppance! Such claims are not easily explained away. Invoking Jungian archetypes and the collective unconscious will doubtless take us some of the way: cryptoamnesia might account for individual instances; but ultimately, we would need to examine each such claim individually and in detail.

Once again, though, it is important we consider such evidence in perspective. When we speak of an abduction experience, we are speaking not of an established fact, but of an item of witness testimony, as reported to us by a third party, the investigator. Even given total sincerity on the witness's part and total integrity on the investigator's part, we cannot rule out the possibility of misreporting, misremembering, omission, unconscious cueing etc, which might emerge from a greater knowledge of the context and the circumstances.

proponents cannot sidestep it; nevertheless their position generally is that the contactee manifestation and the abduction manifestation are two entirely separate things.

This is a shoddy evasion. If there is no connection between the two manifestations, it is surely a most remarkable coincidence that two outbreaks of experiences, both of them involving alien visitations to selected individuals on a clandestine and non-evidential basis, should occur within the same narrow time-span of human history, and within the same culture. AAR proponents have sought to draw clear-cut lines of distinction between contact cases and abduction cases, but their arguments are as academic as those of theologians arguing whether the wafers used in the mass have truly or only symbolically been transformed into Jesus' flesh; in the one case as in the other, it is a safe bet that the man or woman in the street would regard the distinctions as trifling compared with the similarities.

The fact that contact cases have so much in common with abduction cases does not of itself rule out the possibility that the latter are physically real: but if the contactee phenomenon is now dismissed as devoid of physical substance, we must surely wonder whether the same may be true of the abduction phenomenon.

ON THE HEELS OF CONTACTEES

* A circumstance which AAR proponents keep as quiet about as they can is the remarkable fact that abduction stories used to be told shortly after there had been a long and highly visible epidemic of contactee stories in the United States. This sequence is so blatant that even the AAR



Psychic Channel U.F.O.

* There is one further point to make about the contactees: let us not forget that they were active (and highly evident mediawise) during the lifetime - indeed, in many cases during the impressionable years of childhood - of many of today's abduction witnesses. Here, surely, is another fruitful source for the predisposition already mentioned?

was here!", or even a casual "...as I said to the children back at Fatima, back in 1917..."

Such improbabilities - and there are many of them - detract from the veridicality of the abduction experience and put it into the same category as dreams and fantasies.

CONTRADICTIONS AND INCONSISTENCIES

the stories told by the contactees was their sheer nonsensicality: the stories told by Adamski, for example, were implausible to begin with and soon shown to be impossible into the bargain. Compared with them, the abduction stories are certainly more plausible: nevertheless they too are crammed with contradictions, inconsistencies and improbabilities. Any of us could ask a hundred awkward questions such as: Why is alien medical technology so crude? Why are memories of the experience so incomplete: why not remember all - or nothing? Have the aliens so perfected the art of raising a human body through the air with a beam of light that they never drop one accidentally? and so on.

Why - to take just one of these contradictions - has no abductor, or team of abductors, (except in some contactee accounts which don't merit serious belief) ever referred to any other abductions they have carried out, or to any other team of abductors who may be operating in the same line of work? A similar paradox is found in the visions of the Virgin Mary: though she is said to have paid many visits to Earth, to call on people like Bernadette and the Medjugorje Seven, she has never made any reference to her other visits on the lines of, "Gosh, what a lot's been happening on your planet since the last time I



WHO GETS ABDUCTED?

* If the stories themselves discourage belief, so do the circumstances of their occurrence. Particularly as to who gets abducted. Hopkins calls the phenomena "worldwide", and no doubt there is a sufficiently global scattering of abduction cases for the adjective to scrape by: but the fact is that abductees are as overwhelmingly a United States phenomenon as crop circles are overwhelmingly as South-West England phenomenon: and though explanations for this have been proposed - some of them quite sensible - it remains an improbability. Spanish investigator Ballester-Olmos has reviewed abduction cases in Spain, and found every one to be a deliberate hoax or susceptible of a more alternative explanation: here in Britain - though I won't risk libel suits by naming names - I don't think there is a single serious investigator who believes



MUTUAL UFO NETWORK

Hilary Evans

there is a single abduction case which he would classify as unquestionably physically real. And so on in France, Italy, Sweden...

Not only is it improbable that the ETs would confine their research to so limited a pool of samples, but the ones they select are frequently improbable choices. Let us give Strieber the benefit of the doubt and suppose that he was chosen - as were Lord George King, Professor Adamski and other celebrities - for his special talents or sympathetic personality; but why, in heaven's name, Kathie Davies¹¹? No doubt she's a delightful warm caring person and all: but her medical background is a matter of history and a less promising subject for the alien's genetic experiments it would be hard to find.

On the other hand, even in the light of what Hopkins tells us

about Davies - and bear in mind there must be a whole lot more than he has told us, or even she told him - it is not difficult to find traits which would support the kind of psychodramatic fantasy suggested earlier in this paper.

PERSONAL PROBLEMS

* That abductees have personal problems was strikingly highlighted a few years ago at one of Leo Sprinkle's Rocky Mountain Conferences. A lady named Christy Dennis had previously told her abduction story: then in 1983 she revealed it had all been a fabrication - "I have spoken to many concerning my alleged contact with extraterrestrials, so much did I want the world to hear what I had to say! (my underlining - H.E.)²².

How many others, we must consider, also fabricated their stories - because they wanted the world to hear what they had to say - and either knew it all along, or later came - as Strieber seems to have done - to a realisation that they had been deluding themselves?

THE INVESTIGATOR EFFECT

* Elsewhere in science, researchers have learnt to beware of the 'experimenter effect', whereby the results of an experiment may be warped simply due to the contamination of being observed by the person conducting the experiment. It is significant that we are now finding something of the sort occurring in the conduct of abduction investigation. Yet so it is: Leo Sprinkle had been researching the phenomenon for some years before he realised that he, too, had had an encounter with aliens in his childhood²³: more recently Raymond Fowler, notable for his in-depth investigation of the Betty Andreasson case, has announced that in the course of his

investigations he has moved "from being an independent observer to that of a participant in the UFO abduction phenomenon. Personal hypnosis sessions confirm youthful memories of encounters..."²⁴.

These and other similar revelations are doubtless made only as the result of intense conviction; yet we must speculate as to the statistical chance that an investigator would also turn out to have had an alien encounter. Or is there more to it than coincidence? Perhaps Sprinkle and Fowler were led to become investigators because they were themselves abductees?

If so, you'd think the abductors would have provided against such a possibility in some way...Or do we have here yet another psychological event, a knock on consequence whereby the 'doctor' succumbs to the contagion which has affected his 'patient'?

INVESTIGATING THE INVESTIGATOR

* I have no intention of engaging in ad hominem attacks on Hopkins, Jacobs & co, however dismayed I may be by what I see to be the consequences of administering therapy from within a belief system. But it is important we not, and weigh in the balance with the rest of these comments, some aspects of abduction investigation.

First, it is evident that Hopkins, for all his good intentions, is prone to a somewhat naive acceptance of what he is told. he is on record as having affirmed his belief in the Gulf Breeze photographs, before he had conducted any investigation²⁵. While he has of course as much right to his opinion as anyone else, those of us who are not

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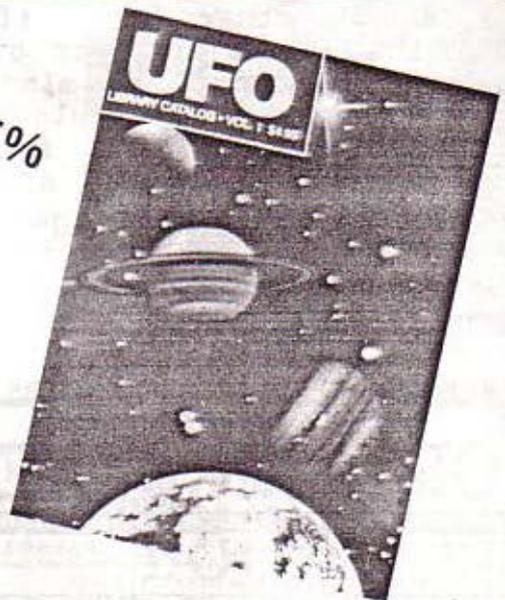
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convinced of the authenticity of the Walters photographs must doubt his prudence in other matters. Readers of his books will have noticed other examples of naivety.

Moreover, it must be remembered that Hopkins is not the only investigator of the phenomenon, albeit he is the most prominent and the most articulate. Those who have read Edith Fiore's revealing account of her work as a consultant psychotherapist²⁶ will be aware of the depths of irresponsibility to which some of those involved can sink. If we conclude that Fiore's cases are fatally flawed, does that mean we have to regard them as being in a different category than those of Hopkins? And what about Sprinkle, who gets such a different set of responses from his witnesses?²⁷ If the abduction experience was physically real, surely the reality would manifest in an overall similarity, no matter who was conducting the investigation?

On the other hand, if the experience is an artifact of the witness's subconscious mind, as the PSS suggests, it would be by no means surprising to find it varying according to the approach of the investigator, just as Freudian patients have Freudian dreams,, Jungian patients Jungian dreams, and so forth.

*** REPORTING FROM WILD FRONTIERS ***

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HOW DUMB IS THE ESTABLISHMENT?

* We should perhaps not place too much significance on the lack of interest displayed by other behavioural scientists; but it is worthy of note that those who do offer an opinion, are apt to be sceptical as to the AAR position. When the Journal of UFO Studies conducted a forum on the subject²⁸, every participant inclined towards some version of the PSS (Hopkins had been invited to participate, but declined.)

If Hopkins & co are right, then what is happening to the abductees is the most remarkable thing that has happened to the human race: but how do the rest of us hear about it? We pick up a book on the subject in W.H. Smith's, which a publisher's reader recommended the publisher to publish on the grounds there could be a reasonable degree of profit in it. Even the Bible, the Koran and the Book of Mormon came to us under more belief-encouraging circumstances.

Under these circumstances, it is not perhaps surprising that abductions are not high on the agendas of 'Things I Must Do Today' of those who run our world for us. Should we blame them for this? No doubt many of us will have reservations about the political, scientific and medical establishments, but their continued lack of interest in the amazing claims of the abduction witnesses cannot be attributed wholly to the head-in-the-sand syndrome, the what-would-the-voters-say? syndrome, or simple old-fashioned stupidity. Our governors may not be the brightest people in the world, but neither are they entirely stupid; if they don't think abductions are a threat to mankind, that is an additional reason for doubting the reality of the experience.

ONLY STORIES....

* The fact remains - and this is really the ultimate problem with the AAR position - that abduction stories remain what they were from the start: stories. Told in all sincerity, no doubt, and with a wealth of corroborating circumstance, but nonetheless first-person stories with not a scrap of supporting evidence. Hopkins is able to produce one very dubious instance of a witnessed abduction: the fact that the account was published by Wendelle Stevens does nothing for its credibility.²⁹

True, there are a handful of cases where independent witnesses reported anomalous lights etc coincident in time and place with the alleged abduction. But such facts do nothing to support the AAR as against the PSS interpretation, for the anomalous lights could just as well have been the trigger for a psychological event as the evidence for physical one.

In the end, what we have is a lot of improbable stories, told to us by strangers whose credentials we have to take on trust, containing much extraordinary detail which is unquestionably impressive, but also much that is contradictory and inconsistent and ambiguous.

And even the extraordinary detail does not point inexorably to the physical reality of the experience. It has to be accounted for somehow, and to take the stories at face value is ostensibly the best way of accounting for them. But, as I have tried to show, there are problems.

To say that abductions are really something is not to say that they are something real.

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Where observation is concerned, chance favours only the prepared mind.

Louis Pasteur

'SEEK AND YE SHALL FIND'

A SOCIAL HISTORY OF PSYCHIC QUESTING

by CLIVE POTTER & DAVID TAYLOR

Ed's Note: So what has Psychic Questing got to do with Ufology you ask peering up from your Donald Keyhoe book? Lots. Many of the active participants came from a UFO investigative background in the late '70's (Andy Collins - the Aveley Abduction case investigation etc.), and others were actually percipients such as Gaynor Sunderland.

Whatever it is it's odd and methinks it will be big in the 90's. Who better to give an overview of the subject than Clive Potter and David Taylor who have been involved for quite a while in the subject and as readers of this magazine will know Clive has also psychically found objects himself. Is he barking mad or what? So turn on, tune in and dig something up. Here we go.

Ask, and it shall be given you;
seek and ye shall find;
knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

(St. Matthew 7:7)

Earth mysteries researcher and questing authority Andy Collins has offered a tentative description of the subject (or should that be art!) of psychic questing as: "A series of interlinked events and incidents where visions, dreams and supernatural manifestations lead a psychic on towards a specific goal; usually the recovery of a concealed artefact or the solving of a landscape mystery".¹

One could conceivably allocate to psychic questing a kind of academic respectability in that, holistically speaking, it is the marriage of psychic sensitivity to archaeology; archaeology has always been an art by virtue of the human elements of deduction, excavation and assessment which often, despite the increasing usage of scientific technology in detection and dating procedures, is often a mixture of intuition and intelligent and reasoned guesswork based on known facts. Dowsing as a means of detecting and even dating

archaeological remains has long been used, even by so-called 'respectable' archaeologists who follow the well trodden paths of orthodoxy.

However, psychic questing, as a separate entity, is less of disparate incidents but a continuous ride of events that are, on occasion inexplicably linked, serving to lead the quester to the retrieval of an artefact or mystery as already pointed out by Andy Collins. The use of ESP by archaeologists has spanned from the USA to the USSR, but its use is limited to uncovering remains and amenable to the pursuit of information which, by its very nature, is deemed superfluous or supernatural. Psychic archaeology, however can be approached by many directions and questing is really one, as we see, not a new phenomenon, amongst others.

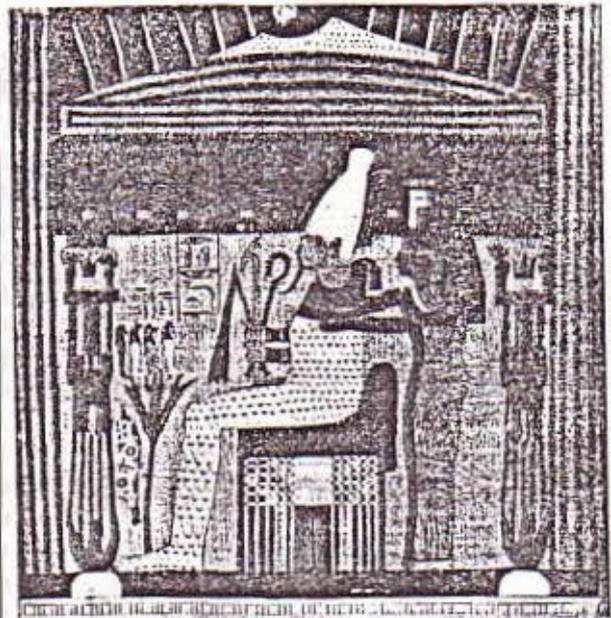
The history of psychic questing, if indeed it has a history at all, can be traced back to ancient Egypt and probably further. According to

Psychic Questing

Egyptian mythology, upon hearing that Osiris had been killed and cut into fourteen pieces, Isis went on a quest to recover the parts of her husband, so that she could bind him back together so he could give her a son. The symbology is evident here. The quester finds what she is looking for, and becomes whole, a theme which appears to be one of the underlying principles of psychic questing as we shall see.

Shamanic cultures all over the world also have their own questing lore. Within these primitive, but complex cultures, the shaman or medicine man is considered to be the guardian of the tribe. The shaman is attributed with being able to converse with the tribal gods, cure illness, detect evil spirits, fly, bilocate and recover lost objects³. This shamanic tradition is even more remarkably evident within Tibetan Buddhism. According to the Terma tradition, sacred artefacts were, according to the Nyingma teachings, hidden by the Indian Buddhist master Padmasambhava, during the 8th century AD, and which were to be retrieved at set times in the future by Tertons, or treasure finders. These artefacts were allegedly concealed and protected by supernatural forces, until, almost like a time-lock device, enlightened Tibetans would be made aware of their existence and they would subsequently fulfil their mission. It would seem probable that other artefacts were similarly concealed in subsequent years, and their purpose was to transmit the original teachings unadulterated during the course of history. According to such traditions, such physical artifacts could be removed from the physical plane into another dimension, and only retrieved by the right person at the right time.

A central theme to questing lore is the belief that these concealed artefacts are guarded by spirit guardians. This is a basic underlying theme in occult philosophy. A ghost



Osiris enthroned as Judge of the Dead



Isis and the infant Horus

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Psychic Questing



The sigillum dei ameth, a ponsacle made by Dr John Dee.



John Dee



Edward Kelley

of a knight in golf armour was said to haunt the site in Mold, Flintshire, where a golden cape was discovered. To recover treasure from its burial place occultists believe that supplication and sometimes sacrifices had to be made to the spirit guardian. In the occult grimoire, 'The Key of Solomon', it suggests the correct day, date and governing planet that should be considered in raising a spirit to lead one to buried treasure⁴. Dowsing from a hazel twig, cut from the tree on St. John's Day was, like today, used to find hidden treasure, as was the art of Dactylomancy, dowsing with a ring suspended over a table with the alphabet on it - the ring spelling out the location of the hoard.

In 1577 Robert Mantell, an Essex alchemist, was in trouble with the authorities for having in his possession "a familiar in a ring", who guided him in his treasure hunting exploits. In April 1582 John Dee, the Elizabethan magus, mathematician and scholar, notes in his diary that his friend and scribe, Edward Kelly delivered to him a curious cipher and map. Dee indicated that the map and cipher were found by Kelly and an associate Muteos Cross, together with a book of magic and alchemy, having been guided there by a spirit. As to the hidden treasure indicated on the map, Dee suggests that Kelly looks towards Newbury in his quest. Later, through the intervention of spirits, Dee was told that it would be sufficient to obtain earth from the ten location on the map to bring treasure to light. There is no record of their success in this endeavor⁵.

In the 1970's Uri Geller, together with his mentor Andrija Puharich, were contacted by a source terming itself 'The Nine'⁶. Apart from Geller's alleged ability to bend metal, this particular episode was marked by many alleged occurrences of discarnate voices, apport, UFOs and teleportation. Both Uri and Puharich

Psychic Questing

along with others were requested to assist in averting another world war by travelling to certain locations and sending out 'good vibes'. When placed into context alongside the Meonia affair or 1979/80 the parallels are evident, albeit in cryptic form.

The case of Joseph Smith also parallels many modern cases of UFO contacteeism, particularly Uri Geller. Although the founder of the Mormon faith was already an established dowser it was as a result of a visitation from angelic entities in 1830 called Mormon and Moroni that Smith was instructed to retrieve golden texts from the highest hill in the area. Similarities with the Terma tradition spring to mind when Smith's source instructed him not to retrieve the texts immediately but that he was to visit the site on the fourth anniversary of their discovery. When the golden book was finally discovered Smith was told to wear a breast plate made to angelic instructions to protect himself. Again similarities can be seen with the elaborate occult rituals used to find buried treasure.

Both the aforementioned 'contactees' are preceded by another early quester, following in the tradition of receiving guidance to seek artefacts and use them to fulfil a mission. Jeanne D'Arc (Joan of Arc) received her visions in 1425 at a local church in the form of clairaudience, as well as visions of the four main Christian saints. These sources instructed her to help save France from the invading English and when the authorities granted consent for her to participate she requested that the sword that she was to use would be found behind the altar at the chapel of Fierbois, dedicated to St. Catherine whose vision had revealed the sword to her. These voices, just as with Geller, still guided Jeanne until her death at the hands of the English. Again, an interesting analogy where the source appears to use the channel, or

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*Interrogata quod si dixerunt
unde quod dicit mandatum filii per sanctos habitum et magister
gna peccata illius grande prodromum et quia per signa
simpliciter faciendo abusionem et reuersionem pro plumbis
in suam et quia per damnum et plumbis ad sua peritiam.
per quod ante die pome bene sine filii dixerunt illud quod ipse
dicit faceret. et quod per ipse per dicit vicia. per dicit sine filii
quod dicit in ipse in profecto per amorem coram populo et
dicitur responderet illi per dicitur qui tunc per dicitur dicitur et
dicitur dicitur quod illi esse falsum per dicitur et per plumbis dicitur
ferre per ipse ad faceret per dicitur dicitur dicitur et dicitur no missit
et ipse dicitur se. et per dicitur dicitur ipse unum.*

*Responsio
mortifera*

Interrogata quod si dixerunt

Joan of Arc's retraction of her confession, which brought about her condemnation as a relapsed heretic and consequent death by burning alive. In the right-hand margin, the words have noted her "fatal words"—"Responsio mortifera." From the Bibliothèque nationale, Paris.

"Questioned what her voices had said to her, Joan replied: That through St. Catherine and St. Margaret, God had shown her the most wretched mistake she had made by this great treason, by agreeing to abjure and revoke her former confession in order to save her life, and that in so trying to save her life she had damned herself, similarly she said her voices had told her, before last Tuesday, what she would do and what would be done to her, at this time. She said furthermore her voices told her, when she would be on the scaffold before the people, to reply courageously to whatever the chaplain said. And Joan said also that he was a false preacher, and that he would reproach her for doing many things she had not done. Finally, she declared that if she said that God had not sent her, she would damn herself, for it was the truth that God himself instructed her.—I translate the above-written Boisguillaume."

Psychic Questing

psychic, for a particular task and then discards them or allows them to be killed; Joseph Smith was murdered by a mob. Today it would seem that some contactees are either unable to take the mental and emotional strain or channeling and mentally deteriorate or succumb to the quicksand of the media and are publicly destroyed.

With the birth of the Mormon religion, psychic questing had ceased to be a religious myth, as it had done through Isis and Osiris in Egyptian mythology. It had even progressed from the quasi-sub-culture or sub-myth underlying in Joan of Arc. Psychic Questing had been incorporated into a religion. This however did not make questing any more acceptable amongst other 'orthodox' religions. In 1907 an English architect called Frederick Bligh Bond was commissioned by the Church of England to undertake excavations at the ancient remains of Glastonbury Abbey. Bond decided to take the unusual step of consulting a psychic friend about the matter, and what was to follow would change Bond's life. What resulted, through automatic writing, appeared to be communicative links with the monks of the Abbey, who called themselves 'The Company of Avalon'. From these communications Bond was able to make considerable progress in his work, much of the automatic writing contained detailed ground plans of the ancient Abbey. When the Church authorities discovered Bond's unorthodox methods of archaeology they ceased his operations at the Abbey and banned him from conducting any further work there.⁹

The experiences laid down in the Green Stone surely do not need explaining here, but just in case, here is a brief resume. In 1979, following a series of independent messages from psychic all over the country, a group of researchers from Wolverhampton in the West Midlands were sent off on a quest for a sword buried in Worcestershire, that would,

when discovered, lead them to a mystical green stone of power. Once the sword was recovered it was taken to certain places of power around the countryside to 'charge' it¹⁰. Events took a more dramatic turn a few years later when the same group claimed that they were sent off on another quest to discover the magical 'Eye of Fire', a red gem stone from the hilt of Excalibur¹¹. Things however do not seem to have stopped there. Angela Reeve and Charles Topham, along with some of the members of original 'Green Stone' team had gone on to discover various other mystical gem stones, of various colours and magical properties. Unlike the other quests the group had gone on, these stones did not have to be looked for, they simply apported on request! This obviously raises the question of why are people sent on quests if the object is apparently able to apport to them¹².

Apports would also seem to be the explanation for the discovery of two swords, identical to the one discovered in The Green Stone, and found in August 1985 by Colin and Gelly Paddon in a wood in Milton Keynes, following a dream¹³. Before Reeves and Topham became involved with the apporting of gem stones they too acquired two swords, identical to the one found in the Green Stone. This obviously raises the suggestion that the swords act as some form of 'invitation' to join the questing fraternity. Andy Collins has this to say about the discovery of swords: "In all my experience as a psychic researcher I have only come across six swords which have been discovered by psychic means. One of those was discovered five hundred years ago by Jeanne of Arc. One is a scimitar found by Gaynor and Marion Sunderland. Another is a copy of an 11th century Spanish sword found by Bernard, and the other three ARE ALL IDENTICAL. Surely this shows some sort of significance in this particular type of short sword. So what is the answer?¹⁴

Psychic Questing

Those who have been instrumental in retrieving/acquiring what have been termed 'Meonia' swords feel that the swords and other artifacts will be brought together in the near future for some important ritual. Research into the 'Meonia' swords indicates that this type of sword was manufactured around 1870 as replicas of Tudor and 17th century designs for wall display. Pondering over the question of where the swords had come from Andy Collins and Graham Philips concluded that the vast majority of psychic artefacts were apports.¹⁵

In the case of the so-called Apport maker, Margo Williams, of the Isle of Wight, here we find a spiritualist who attunes sympathetically with spirits and aids them in their post-mortem existence by locating and retrieving lost or hidden artefacts that meant something to their past owners. Again, according to field work carried out by Andy Collins it would seem that these artefacts are 'placed' at the locations prior to their discovery, in other words, they are apports.¹⁶ However, despite the suggestion (and observed facts) that apports are placed out of sight prior to their immediate retrieval (thus leaving some room for rational explanations), there are instances of apports actually being seen to materialise. With the Topham-Reeve apports, this Coventry-based team communicated with alleged spirits via the Ouija board and received apports on request. It would also seem that one of the team was potentially a physical medium as she reported that her solar plexus ached and she felt physically ill after the apport sessions - a typical physical reaction that is often reported by physical mediums.

The witnessing of a materialising apport in the field has precedents during the 'Eye of Fire' episode when Graham Philips was witness to the materialisation of a mystical red stone (from what could be termed a UFO - a strange light form, itself witnessed by several others some distance away).

PSYCHIC QUESTING

*This article will be concluded in the next issue. Now, where did I put that apport?
(Quest Continued...perhaps?)

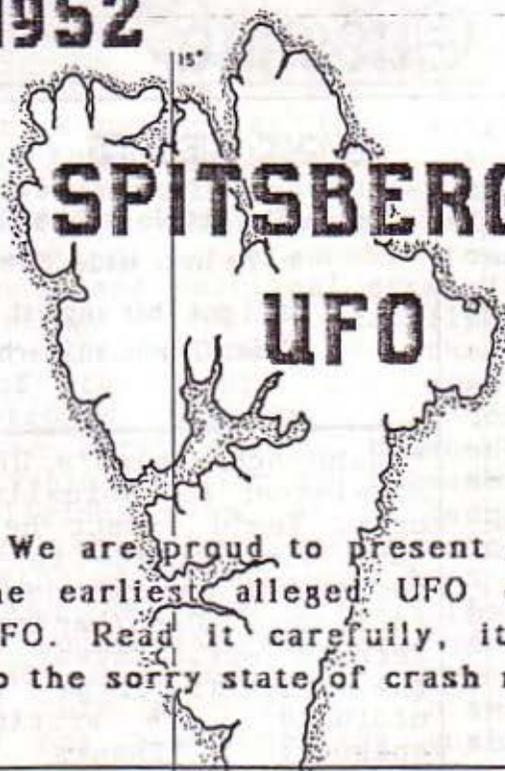
* John Schuessler's UFO Potpourri Newsletter is basically a bunch of crap. You'd expect better from a guy who tried to get legal recompense for the people involved in the Cash/Landrum affair. Perhaps not. Anyway, typical of the sort of tripe 'serious' US ufologists are writing is this snippet; "Thanks to the cooperative nature of several prominent researchers I was able to review the data resulting from laboratory analysis of three artefacts. each was alleged to be an implant taken from a human being. While the reports were exciting, they were also puzzling, resulting in more questions than answers." That told you a lot didn't it? and is typical of the sort of waffle coming out of America about 'implant' discoveries. Time to put up or shut up dudes.

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The 1952



SPITSBERGEN UFO CRASH/RETRIEVAL INCIDENT

Eds Note: We are proud to present Ole Jonny Braenne's research into one of the earliest alleged UFO crashes, that of the Spitsbergen crashed UFO. Read it carefully, it contains many clues, hints and pointers to the sorry state of crash retrieval folklore today.

FLYING SAUCER LANDED ON SPITSBERGEN

THE PUZZLE FINALLY SOLVED? - "SILVERY DISC WITH DOME OF PLEXIGLASS AND 45 JETS AT THE RIM" - SOVIET ORIGIN? NARVIK. MID-JUNE.

For almost 40 years rumours have been around concerning a crashed flying saucer on the remote island of Spitsbergen. As the story goes the saucer wreckage was discovered by jet pilots - later it was transported to Narvik where an investigation allegedly uncovered a composition of unknown alloys of an extraterrestrial origin.

But what did really happen, if anything at all, on this remote island in or around June 1952? In this article we will follow the story's development through the years, with all the surrounding rumours, changes and misunderstandings.

Some of you are certainly familiar with the basic factors of the story, but for all of us to get well acquainted with it, we'll start off with the original source. We believe the first mention of a saucer crash on Spitsbergen is probably an article in a German newspaper, Saarbrucker Zeitung, 28 June 1952, entitled "Auf Spitsbergen landete Fliegende

Unterasse", and we will give you an English translation of it here;

Norwegian jet planes had just started with this year's summer maneuvers over Spitsbergen. A squadron of six planes was approaching Nordaustlandet at maximum speed, where units of the supposed opponent had been reported. The jets had hardly crossed the Hinlopen Straits when crackling and rustling noises could be heard on all ear phones and radiophones. Radio contact among the jets was not possible any longer. All means of communication of the jets seemed to be disturbed. The radar reading which had been showing 'white' since the flight from Narvik, was now showing 'red', indicating an alert and also the approach of a metallic alien object with a radio direction finder that had a frequency of oscillation which was different from that of the fighter planes.

SPITSBERGEN

Nevertheless, the highly experienced pilots were able to communicate with each other by circling and diving, so that each of them was aware that his fellow pilots had had the same experience, each one of them searching the horizon with the utmost attention. The six fighters were circling for some time without finding anything out of the ordinary. Flight Captain Olaf Larsen happened to look down and immediately started to dive, followed by his squadron. On the white snowy landscape, whose crusty surface showed an icy glitter, there was a metallic glittering circular disc of between 40 and 50 metres in diameter, which was even brighter than the icy snow. Between wires and a tangle of supporting struts in the middle the remains of an apparently destroyed dome-shaped cockpit protruded. While circling for 60 minutes, the jet plane pilots could neither detect any signs of life nor determine the origin or type of that flying object. Finally they took course for Narvik, in order to report their strange findings.

Only a few hours later, five big flying boats equipped with sleigh skis were on their way to the place of the discovery. They landed safely next to the bluish steel disc which was sitting in a bed of snow and ice of more than a metre deep.

"This is undoubtedly one of the infamous flying saucers", claimed Dr. Norsel, a Norwegian rocket specialist, who had insisted on joining the searching party. He also established the reason why all means of communication of the fighter planes had stopped on entering the surroundings of the landing spot and why the radar equipment had signalled alarm: a radio direction finder equipped with a plutonium core had been undamaged and was transmitting on all wave lengths a frequency of

934 Hertz which is not known in any country. A precise inspection of the remote-controlled flying disc that had landed on the Nordaustlandet of Spitsbergen due to interference problems has lead to the following indisputable information:

1. The flying object, which has a diameter of 48.88 metres and slanting sides, is round and was unmanned.

2. The circular steel object, which is made of an unknown metal compound resembles a silver discus. After ignition, 46 automatic jets, which are located at equal distances on the outer ring, rotate the disc around a plexiglass ball in the centre, containing measuring and control devices for remote control.

3. The measuring instruments have Russian symbols.

4. The action radius of the disc seems to be over 30,000 km and the altitude over 160km.

5. The flying object, which resembles on of the legendary "flying saucers", has sufficient room for high explosive bombs, possibly atom bombs.

The Norwegian specialists assume that the disc had been started in the Soviet Union and had gone down over Spitsbergen due to a mistake in transmitting or receiving, being incapacitated because of a hard landing. The strange, remote-controlled, unmanned jet-plane will be brought to Narvik on board a ship for further investigation. After listening to the description of the disc, the German V-weapon designer Reidel stated: "That's a typical V-7 on whose serial production I have worked myself".

J.M.M.

The author of the "Zeitung" article - J.M.M. - has not been possible to trace. The newspaper archives do not have any information which can help us

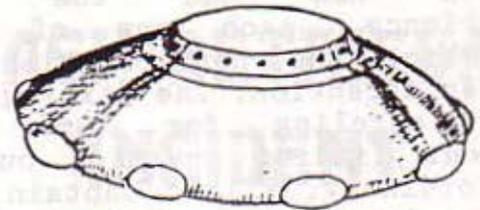
SPITSBERGEN

here. The same article appeared in another newspaper, Berliner Volksblatt 2. 9 July 1952. In early August 1952, the story gets a mention in the German periodical der Flieger³. by a Dr. Waldemar Beck. This mention probably spread the story to a far greater audience, even being carried by the AFP news service⁴, since later authors often refer to him.

There are several points in the "Zeitung" article which are quite interesting. They include the speculations of a possible Soviet origin, and the fact that we get the names of two persons involved in the discovery and investigation of the disc itself - Flight Captain Olaf Larsen and Dr. Norsel. This we will keep in mind as we continue our investigation.

A few books appeared in 1953/4, briefly mentioning the Spitsbergen story^{5,6,7}. Additional information comes to our attention when yet another German newspaper, Hessische Nachrichten⁸, published this account on 26 July 1954;

any country on earth. The materials are completely unknown to all experts, either not found on earth or processed by physical or chemical processes unknown to us".



According to Colonel Darnbyl the board of inquiry is not going to publish an extensive report until, "some sensational facts" have been discussed with experts from the USA and Great Britain. "We must tell the public what we know about the unknown flying objects. A misplaced secrecy may well one day lead to panic!"

The North Pole base for unknowns?

The Norwegian fighter pilots, Lts. Brobs and Tyllensen, who, since the Spitsbergen event have been assigned as observers of the polar area, claim that, contrary

FLYING SAUCERS ARE NO FABLE

NORWEGIAN MILITARY REPORT OF 'UNKNOWN OBJECT ON SPITSBERGEN'

Only now a board on inquiry of the Norwegian General Staff is preparing a publication of the report on the examinations of the remains of a flying saucers crashed on Spitsbergen presumably some time ago. Chairman of the Board, Colonel Gernod Darnbyl, stated during an instruction lesson for Air Force officers: "The Spitsbergen crash was very rewarding. True enough, our science still faces many riddles. But I am sure that they can soon be solved by these remains from Spitsbergen. A misunderstanding was caused some time ago when it was stated that the flying disc was probably of Soviet origin. It has - this we must state emphatically - not been built by

to American and other sources, the flying discs have already landed repeatedly in the north polar areas. "I think that the north polar area is an air base for unknowns. Especially during snow and ice storms, when we with our machines must retreat to the base, I think the flying saucers take advantage of this to land. I have, shortly after such bad weather conditions, seen them land and take off three times", said Lt. Tyllensen. "I noticed then, that having landed, the execute a very speedy rotation around their axis. During flight and take off or landing, a brilliant light prevents any view of the events behind this wall of light and on or inside the flying object itself".

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ENOUGH PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Col. Darnbyl thinks, that within the next twelve months a solution to all these technical problems will be found, or at least science will be on the right way to solving the UFO problem. "We no have material at hand, on which we can start. That means that laboratories can start the work right away, and might give us preliminary results shortly. Norwegian scientists think that the material from Spitsbergen can only give away its secrets by atomic crushing; this is because it does not change either at absolute zero, where air is liquid, or at the highest temperatures technically possible with our technology. Also every chemical treatment had been tried. Scientific results will only be released subsequent to a UFO conference in London or Washington.

The communication of Swedish TV set owners that their reception was interfered with every time flying saucers were reported above northern Sweden, caused sensations in circles of the Norwegian board of inquiry. Consequently Col. Darnbyl hopes sooner or later to track down the communication system of the unknown flying objects. Sven Thygesen.

A lot of people will think that this is definitely a change for the better! The wreckage is no longer of a possible Soviet origin, but extraterrestrial. And we also get additional named persons involved, Chairman of the Board Col. Darnhyl (misspelled Darnbyl by later authors), and the Norwegian Lts. Brobs and Tyllensen. We have not been able to track down the author of the Nachrichten article, Sven Thygesen, either. But at least here we have a name, and not just initials.

Later this same year a new twist to the story appears in the Norwegian newspaper Verdens Gang, published 19 December 1954, which went like this;

SOUTH-AMERICAN REPORT OF FLYING SAUCER IN NORWAY

CONTRADICTS INFORMATION OF IT HAVING RUSSIAN WRITING.

The Uruguayan newspaper El Nacional of Montevideo have recently with big fuzz, brought a message "about the Norwegian scientist Hans Larsen Loberg's discovery of a flying saucer in Heligoland". It concerns, says the newspaper, the same flying saucer that "was reported to have fallen down into the mountains of Spitsbergen in August 1952". Mr Larsen Loberg is saying that this saucer in reality crashed on Heligoland which is a small island in the North Sea, used as a submarine-base by the Germans during the war. Of Hans Larsen Loberg it is said that he won a prize in physics in Hungary. The newspaper also features his picture.

Larsen Loberg also retracts the rumour that the saucer was supposed to have Russian writing. It had, he says, a diameter of 91 feet and a thickness on the middle of 70 feet. In the spaceships control room they found a number of push-buttons, and it was deduced that it could travel by the help of magnetic forces holding the planets in their positions in space, and these forces were controlled by said buttons. They found no motor in the spaceship, nor could they discover any rivets, fuses or bolts. The outer surface was shiny and transparent.

SPITSBERGEN

PILLS AND HEAVY WATER

The material used was as light as aluminium but very much harder, and probably very heat-resistant. Of the things they found in its interior, were noticed a little water which was three times heavier than normal water, and a few pills which were taken to be food. There was also an apparatus which was probably a radio. It was quite small and without antenna. They also found some books, probably navigational instructions, in a completely unknown writing. The doors of the spaceship were open. Just inside of the doors were seven bodies, burned beyond recognition. Scientists are of the opinion, according to Larsen Loberg, that the bodies were of men of the age of between 25 and 30 years, about 1.65 metres tall. All had a perfect set of teeth.

BEAM-CANNON

Dr. Hans Larsen Loberg could also tell about the finding of a completely unknown weapon, a beam-cannon which used magnetic rays. This cannon, he thinks, gives the explanation of a number of strange incidents in the USA. In Wyoming, Oklahoma City, Pittsburg and New York, windows were broken by an unexplained reason on thousands and thousands of cars. And it must be obvious, he says, that the young pilot Mantell who during a flight reported over his radio that he had encountered a flying saucer and just after this crashed in pursuit of it, had to have been shot down by this laser-cannon.

CREW BURNED TO DEATH

The reason for the crash of this saucer he though had to be it being affected by the American hydrogen-bomb explosion. The material of the spaceship and its apparatus resisted the enormous

heat, but the crew burned to death.

The newspaper, which picked up the story in Brazil, admits it is sounding fantastic, but draws attention to it not having been officially denied!

We have investigated in Oslo about there being a scientist by the name of Hans Larsen Loberg but everyone that has been asked, and who should know, says that the name is totally unknown.

Obviously somebody is mixing two different stories here. We are being told that the saucer didn't fall down on Spitsbergen, but on the German island of Heligoland, in the north Sea. We are also being given information on a magnetic beam cannon, heavy water, pills, books with unknown writing, and dead bodies. None of this has previously figured in our sources. In addition we get another named person, the Norwegian scientist, Hans Larsen Loberg. He is our number 7 in this jigsaw. The Verdens Gang article refers to a Uruguayan newspaper El Nacional,¹⁰ which again has a Brazilian source. Our South American contacts have not yet been able to get hold of this article, but we have managed to track down the first mention of the Heligoland story, as published in Sir¹¹, September 1954.

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This article continues and concludes in the May issue with the continuing story of how the Spitsbergen crash mutated and developed, featuring further evidence, explanations and general insight into how crashed saucer stories do their thing.

JUST · 4 · U

LETTERS

Dear Editor,

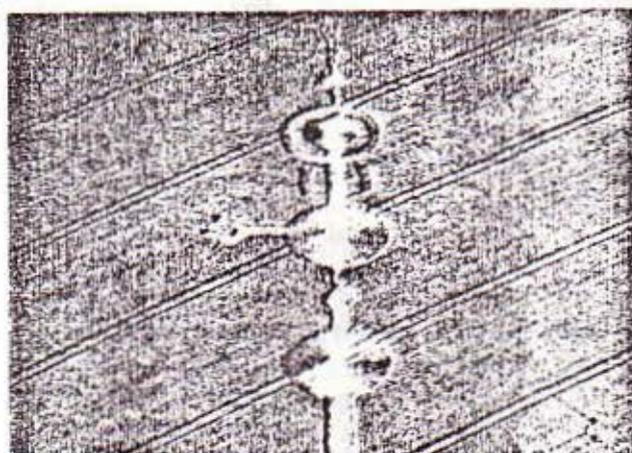
Many in the Centre for Crop Circle Studies would share your sense of amusement (though perhaps more wryly!) at the recent turns and twists in the crop circle saga. But I think you may be writing off the phenomenon itself too soon.

The extravagant developments of 1990 and 1991 are tending to make us forget the history of the subject during the preceding ten years, beginning in 1980. At the start of that decade Terence Meaden was taken to see some surprisingly regular circles in barley at Bratton, Wiltshire. I say 'surprisingly' because they surprised him, a man who was jointly running the prestigious Tornado and Storm Research Organisation and who probably knew as well as anyone in the world what atmospheric vortices could and couldn't do. He was forced to invent a new kind of vortex to explain the observed fact.

In every one of the ensuing nine years to the end of 1989 (with the possible exception of 1982, which the literature describes as "dull") Meaden encountered a new surprise and was obliged at each stage to elaborate his original model. Nonetheless (though sometimes with an audible gulp), he valiantly embraced each new peculiarity and claimed it firmly for atmospheric physics. By the end of the decade he had taken aboard not only singleton circles, but diublets, ringed circles, double-ringed circles, treble-ringed circles, combinations of ring-and-circle, circles with spurs and tails, and even an event in which the circle was divided

into quadrants with linear "combing" of the grain.

By this stage Meaden's model had developed from the simple "stationary summer whirlwind" of 1980 into the "descending plasma vortex" possessing remarkable properties, all of them needed in his view to account for what he was observing. Are we to assume that this ingenious development of the atmospheric model over ten years took place mistakenly in



response to a sequence of equally ingenious hoaxes, designed to lead Meaden on from superfluous refinement to superfluous refinement? If so, we have witnessed the most remarkable and scientifically-informed practical joke in history - and one to which jokers in Japan, Australia, Canada, the US and (with less firm evidence) other countries have thought it amusing to contribute.

I find it more plausible, myself, to assume the sequence of events from 1980 to 1989 (a tally of about 1000, according to Meaden) reflected on the whole a real phenomenon (accepting that a degree of hoaxing was undoubtedly

LETTERS

taking place from time to time). Meaden certainly thought so. I assume he still thinks so. The fact that he (and, alas, others) can be caught out by a faked circle is not in itself sufficient to dismiss the 1000 events of the 1980s or the remarkable sequence in which they occurred.

The events of 1990 and 1991 (totalling about a further 1000 over the two years) certainly present a puzzle. Hoax is beyond doubt in some cases, but it seems very unlikely as a general explanation. Many events have been very large and very elaborate; they might have occurred widely about the country (sometimes on the same night in counties far from each other); there have been very few cases of detection of hoax, despite massive surveillance in the Marlborough/Devizes area, where so many of the events took place; circles (including a dumbbell formation) occurred within visual and radar range of a hi-tech watch mounted by Meaden and supported by anti-hoax equipment without a trace of human action. It is clear that hoax cannot account for all we have been seeing.

Very recently, laboratories in the US, acting in collaboration with CCC's Crop Research Panel, have reported interesting physical changes in crops and soil collected from circle formations as compared with control samples.

Other "hard" evidence is accumulating for the action of some short-lived force in the formation of genuine events, and its nature seems to be such that human activity cannot account for it. It may or may not be evidence for the operation of Meaden's "plasma vortex" (in whatever further form he decides to develop it). The only thing to add at this stage is that if the "plasma vortex" is in question, it seems capable of far more elaboration in

the creation of crop formations than Meaden has yet allowed. For sheer exuberance and inventiveness there has been no force in scientific history to match it!

CCS will be publishing its information and research results as quickly as possible, probably in a sequence of monographs early in 1992 if we can find the funding for them. In the meantime, however entertaining the behaviour of "cereologists" may be, it is too soon to dismiss the events of the last twelve years as "all hoax and vortex".

Ralph Noyes, London.

Eds Note:

Thank's Ralph. I think that's what is known as being 'gently chided'! But.....

* Meaden is a theorist and therefore has to adapt his theory to accommodate facts. This is usually the job of theorists of the "one theory fits all" type. It seems more likely that simple circles are weather caused (and have been for centuries if records are anything to go by) and that the rest are hoaxes.

* Invoking those which have been discovered elsewhere in the world won't work for the simple reason that new spreads fast and hoaxers exist everywhere - and everyone wants to be in on the latest thing, even hoaxers.

* The simple facts are that crop watchers cannot distinguish hoax from genuine. Nor are they to be recommended for catching hoaxers at work - as sadly most are committed believers and not bright enough to do this. See also the many ufological hoaxes that were pulled off in front of the watching believers, with clues, such as the famous Warminster Dave Simpson hoax- clues galore and it fooled FSR (not hard to do I'll admit) and photographic analysts.

LETTERS

What makes the average circle fancier any more sophisticated now than the standard Warminster anorak was then?

* Hoaxers are thick on the ground and are in fact competing with each other. Doug 'n' Dave proved publically that circles could be created quickly and on the large scale. No one knows how many this team have done. I personally am aware of two further groups who have been 'at it' for a number of years and have heard rumours of several others. There are, Ralph, a great many people who have the time and the trouble to do this. If I had access to people and equipment in the north I'd do it myself quite happily just to confuse people. It's the sense of pure mischief that drives hoaxers. Not money, fame or anything else. Just knowing you've pulled the wool well and truly over people's eyes and helped alter their thinking - you know - a bit like Thatcherism.

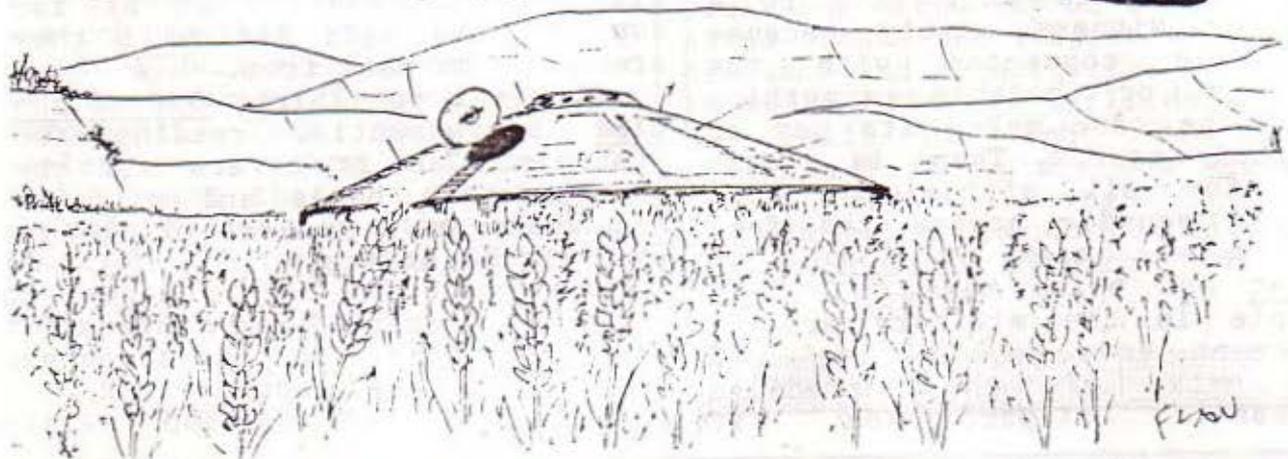
* If you think long-term, large scale hoaxes which can fool scientists can't and don't exist then you should (and no doubt have) peruse the latest issue of Strange magazine which details how Doc Shiels has been fooling people for years with his sea-monster photos. It's the same thing.

* The tests on crops, soil etc are interesting and fit the parrallels with ufology. It's physical trace testing time now. Soon people from

the military will be coming forward and claiming to have seen the 'energy' creating the circles. Cerealogists are re-inventing the ufological wheel and apparently loving every minute of it but ignoring the history of anomalous phenomena. Tests on crops will prove about as much use as tests on ufological 'implant's.

* The media response is largely all, in that no circle reports will very probably equal no circles. In 1991 it was slowing down, Doug n Dave provided the necessary bubble bursting event and the press will now no longer concentrate on either the artwork or the circles. Therefore my crystal balls tell me that circles etc will fade out slowly over the next few years as the hoaxers/artists move on to other ideas, leaving the small core of genuine siimple, single circles.

* Rumours reaching me about enforced job-losses, alchohol consumption and general weirdness among 'leading' crop circle figures (can't print 'em here because they'd definitely litigate - but work it out people) only fuel my own theories about the nature of belief and how gullible people are. It is a great pity that sensible people get sucked in.



BOOK REVIEWS

FROM OUT OF THE BLUE

by JENNY RANGLES

"The Bentwaters affair is many things, but it is, after all, at the very least a fascinating scientific detective story" (p. 154)

All ufologists are familiar with the alleged events at Rendlesham Forest over the Christmas period of 1980. None of them, no matter what they may say, know what happened. As with all such cases this has to a long, drawn out investigation into which some very intelligent and some very half-witted people have put their two pennorth. Jenny's new book on the subject, and the first to be written entirely by herself on the subject supercedes SKYCRASH and is an exhaustive study of each event, rumour and piece of paper connected with the case. Ufology at its best really. But for what purpose?

The case is complex, there is no doubt about that, but then so are a great many other UFO cases which have the mundanest of explanations at root. Rendlesham shows off ufology's strengths in that people such as Jenny are prepared to go to great, and I mean great, lengths to trace people and information. It also shows up one of ufology's greatest weaknesses, in the credence that many ufologists will give to a case or witness merely because they are connected with the military or because something about the case makes its way to official records. There is a case here for all ufologists being slapped soundly across the face with a wet copy of Above Top Secret and being made to recite 'people in the military are no different from anyone else' (cf the myth of the 'credible witness'). Misperception, if

misperception it be, can happen to anyone, any group of people at any time and I would venture to suggest that a Suffolk forest is as good a place as any.

More time is given over to analysing the official utterances on the case from the MOD etc.

Waste of time.

This is just the sort of book which will bring fresh and intelligent people into the subject and unlike the weak attempts last year by John Spencer it actually tells you something about how the subject works both from a ufologists and a media point of view. What it won't offer, unlike books by Tim Good and the Crop Circle Crew, is easy answers. Brains are needed here and analytical thought. In some ways this lets the case and the subject down a little as the book can be used as a Rocsarch blot to project your favourite theory onto- the evidence can be seen to support anything from complete misperception to alien intervention. But with the sheer amount of information Jenny gives the answer must be contained in some permutation of the facts.

For me at least after reading the book the lighthouse theory looks far and away the best origin for the story, or maybe a disinformation trick to mask a test flight of something (not alien I haste to add), whilst the alien/UFO probability is as far away as the Zeta Reticulli they are meant to hail from.

Whatever you think, Out of the Blue is essential reading for ufologists as it covers all the investigative bases and pitfalls and whatever the cases origin it is a thrilling story.

BOOK REVIEWS

FROM OUT OF THE BLUE

by JENNY RANGLES

NOTE: This book is unlikely to ever get published in the UK but can be obtained from the following sources. 1. By sending a cheque or PO for £15 payable to S. Stebbing at 41 Terminus Drive, Beltinge, Herne Bay, Kent, CT6 6PR. - please be prepared to wait if they are being imported 2. By writing to Arcturus Books, PO Box 831383, Stone Mountain, Georgia, USA 30083-0023- they sell it for \$10.95 but you would have to contact them first to determine postal charges etc.

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THE UFO REPORT 1992

by TIMOTHY GOOD (Ed)
(Sidgwick & Jackson 1991)
164pp. P/back £10.99.

UFO Report 1992 is edited by the Man Who Met Aliens, Tim Good (it's true!- see page 187 of his George Adamski), so the discerning ufologist already knows what he is going to get. The believer however gets what he is going to know!

George Wingfield opens with an overview of crop circles in 1990. The usual unsupported claims about 'energies', and strange 'trilling' noises are displayed for newagers to coo at over their crystals, but the absolute nadir in circle research is hit when he applies the old EThers standby and invokes the mysterious forces of the government. This he does by baselessly writing "There is little doubt that the Government is embarrassed by the Circles situation..." (who says George?), and imputing that all hoaxes (and by implication hoaxers) are of government origin.

His chapter was obviously written before the revelations

from hoaxers Doug n' Dave, the Wessex Sceptics and others, and reading it now in the light of these exposures Wingfield's child-like naivety shines with an energy as unexplained as he believes the phenomenon to be.

The old chestnut of Government Documents is reviewed by Nicholas Redfern and he does a workmanlike job of detailing the content of documents pertaining to the 1952 Topcliffe sightings and others. But why? No particular conclusion is derived from this, other than offering, "we may now be getting closer to the truth - a truth which could prove startling for us all". Wrinkly readers will note that this is almost word for word the sort of statement which occurred frequently in the editorials of FSR during the 50s and 60s. The inference here seems to be that because they were government documents they must be of significance - because they were government documents. A circular, hermetically sealed argument which will not progress ufology further than the insight of the average MOD paper pusher.

Chapters on the UFO scene in Russia and Puerto Rico display the obvious fact that Russia is still in the 1950s UFO-wise, and South American UFO sightings occupy pretty much the same territory as that continents magical realism literature- interesting but fanciful in the extreme. At least Paul Dong's roundup of the Chinese scene treats the subject with some distance and objectivity. At least in China UFOs are still described as 'balls of light' and it's possible here to see the western UFO myth being slowly superimposing itself on natural phenomena and misperception in that country.



BOOK REVIEWS

THE UFO REPORT 1992

by TIMOTHY GOOD (Ed)

Gulf Breeze case is heated up and presented as "a continuing saga", despite the exposure of both photographs and proponents in the papers published (but repressed in the US) by Dr Willy Smith (see the May 1992 issue of UFO BRIGANTIA for these). Gulf Breeze is the ETHers Alamo and is being bitterly defended at great cost to any integrity the subject still has in the USA.

Sadly this book is itself a hoax, attempting to pass itself off as representative of ufology in the world today whilst ignoring the work done into the psychosociological or natural phenomena based sources for UFOs. Ignoring, in fact, anything which detracts from the barely hidden agenda that these 'things' come from elsewhere.

Moreover, the premise of the book turns on two points. One, the credulity of the readers it is aimed at; ie believers. Two, the curious myth of the 'credible witness', in that the testimony of airline pilots, faceless MOD file compilers etc. is to be believed without question, because, well because they are who they are and so on. The whole tone, especially of Good's foreword reminds this reviewer of nothing more than Graham Lister on the Vic Reeves Show who demands respect because he "knows doctors dentists and architects".

All in all a sad, retrograde treatment of a subject, which in its potential for the study of human perception, belief, myth-making and self-delusion is second to none. Very poor indeed.

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AVAILABLE FROM:

Enigma Design & Publishing, 15 Rydal Street, Burnley Lancs. BB10 1HS. £10.99 POST FREE.

The Quest for the Omphalos by Bob Trubshaw (Heart of Albion Press £1.50 from 2 Cross Hill Close, Wymeswold, Loughborough, Leics. LE12 6UJ

Earth Mysteries stalwart Bob Trubshaw's Heart of Albion press has brought out some excellent grass roots folklore and Earth Mysteries texts and reprints over the last couple of years and Quest for is another goody. 'Finding the mystical middle of England' is the idea and if this sounds a bit, well, 'girly' think again because it is a solid work of folk history, melding fact with folklore and speculation. These small booklets are invaluable for anyone interested in the mystical side of England's folk heritage and UFOs are even mentioned on page 17. The location of the mystical middle? Well, you'll have to buy a copy to find out - but it isn't where you think it is! Altogether a reasonably priced excellent read- buy it and ask for a Heart of Albion Press catalogue at the same time. Highly recommended.

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* SCOOP- In the May issue of UFO BRIGANTIA we have something of a ufological scoop. Our Russian colleagues have supplied Philip Mantle with an alleged UFO photograph taken at the town of Vorozneh which eagle-eyed readers will remember from being in the news a while ago for sightings, landings and goodness and all manner of ufological what have you. Well, we are printing a photograph taken there along with comment and analysis from famed UFO photograph analysers Ground Saucer Watch in the USA and also words from famous (but often wrong I'm afraid) NASA scientist Bruce ('Gulf Breeze') Maccabee. You don't this sort of stuff in other UFO magazines now, do you?

Cropcircle communique

A video by John Macnish
£14.99 from Circlevision,
The Paddocks, Whitton, Ludlow,
Shropshire. SY8 3DB

Crop circles, glyphs in the grain, whatever you want to call them were bound to end up as video stars. Hoax, descending vortex or extraterrestrial ground trace they can be beautiful and the sight of a pictogram from several hundred feet is quite breathtaking. Books can't quite replicate this thrill but a video sure can and several have been made.

John Macnish's Cropcircle Communique is a comprehensive overview of the circles phenomenon with all the leading figures giving their view point to camera, and it is a very professional job. Graphics often accompany the 'experts' theories and there is a remarkable absence of sniping and bickering between the many camps. All the significant events are on video; the famous KLF hoax; the BBC odd 'noise'; the army video of a curious blob (flare?) and the German tourists video of a small white 'something' which flits among the crop (butterfly, anyone) and it really is indispensable viewing.

Look out for Pat Delgado arguing against hoaxes and for circle diversification by saying "Along will come a circle that doesn't comply with all that you have seen so far" - a statement which will have hoaxers everywhere wondering what odd patterns they can fool him with this year! And thrill to the footage of snow circles in Turkey, showing that nature is indeed wonderful and we should all worship her, toot sweet.

It also has its funny and informative bits in that you can actually see the major crop personalities. Terence Meaden, Colin Andrews and Pat Delgado all have a serious bri-nylon shirt and freshly scrubbed features problem. They are serious, serious men, and what's more men with THEORIES so watch out. Busty Taylor comes over as an avuncular chap with a 'plane



and George Wingfield looks like a member of the very secret services he alleges was behind the Doug 'n' Dave extravaganza.

And yes, there they are fitter than a pair of butchers dogs and keen to admit to hoaxing any and all circles. The problem is the 'hoax' they do for the cameras doesn't look half as good as some of the 'real' circles. A bit tricky that but see for yourself.

communiqué

Michael Green is the best though. Seemingly unable to look at the camera and then only through closed eyes he delivers some total and utter tripe about energy points and messages to be found in the circles, especially the one at Milk Hill. It's a scream, it really is. Buy it for this bit alone.

Watching Meaden ramble on about stone circles being based on crop circles and Andrews dribbling about alternate dimensions was a great hoot and in fact not one of the personalities featured, from Meaden through to Leonie Starr the astrologer is even vaguely convincing and all are erring toward murky waters if you ask me.

The end is curious and a bit New-Agey with quotes from the Kogi Indians followed by shots of world disasters cut with crop circles. But it's fairly subtle and not overkill. But will it convince you? Well, it convinced me that they were all, bar a few, hoaxes and (I have to agree with John Rimmer here), a type of modern art comparable to the works of Christos, Richard Long and Andy Goldsworthy. The basic Meaden theory accounts for the rest. sad but true.

Rather than the soundtrack circle vision have used they would have been better with PM Dawn's 'Reality Used to be a Friend of Mine'. You'll see what I mean!

Wonderful phenomenon, wonderful video. Buy it and invite your friends round. Satisfaction guaranteed.

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UNDENIABLE EVIDENCE A video produced by Ark Soundwaves, available from PO Box 1395, Glastonbury, Somerset, BA6 9FE £17.20 inc. p&p

Undeniable Evidence is very much the Colin Andrews show, and what we have here is one mans personal ideas about the crop circle phenomenon. Colin narrates the video from a comfy position in a flower-filled field somewhere in crop circle country and takes us through the usual spectacular aerial photography whilst insisting that the circles have "purpose and meaning" and the circles "must have meaning". That they are not naturally caused Colin is most emphatic - he is convinced of this because of the exponential rise in varied patterns. Hmmm.

Being a personal view we are treated to such things as the time old Col dreamed of a 'celtic' cross circle and lo and behold one appeared within spitting distance from his home. The fact that what he describes as a 'celtic' cross is really a central circle with four satellites connected to a ring seems to be neither here nor there and before you can say "projection of the investigators belief system" we're talking to a farmer who is equally convinced that they cannot be natural- why? 'Cos he's dowsed them! Luckily they don't dwell too much on the dowsing aspect as it is presented as fact with no controls of any kind.

Lab evidence that the 'energy' structure of grain taken from a circle is different from ordinary samples is presented by glossed over and it's a bit like a Radion advert. Men and women in white coats peering into microscopes tell us - so it must be true. An interesting case of croppies using science to back up their theories

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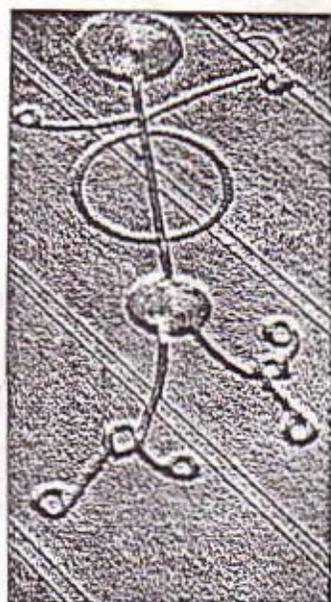


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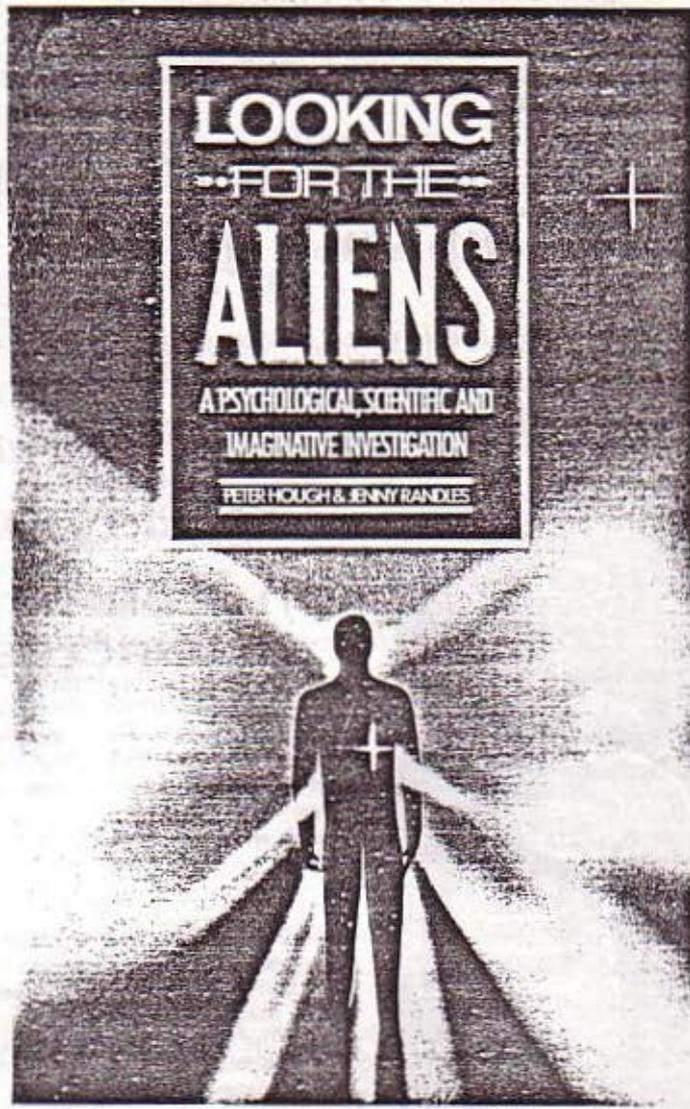
LOOKING FOR THE ALIENS

PETER HOUGH & JENNY RANGLES

Meeting creatures of other worlds – aliens – has been one of our dreams ever since early science-fiction writers like Jules Verne and H. G. Wells told their tales of epic voyages into space. This dream has spawned a whole genre of alien contact stories: blockbuster movies, novels, abduction revelations and TV series. Science, too, has been influenced by this dream; we have sent our probes deep into space and radio astronomers continue to search for tell-tale signals from somewhere 'out there'.

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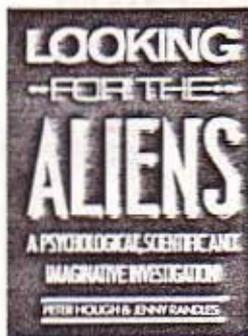
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Jenny Randles has an international reputation as an expert and authoritative UFO researcher and writer. Included in her dozen or so books is the best-selling Blandford title *The UFO Conspiracy*. She lectures on both sides of the Atlantic and, with her co-author, has conducted scientific, investigative and educational seminars.



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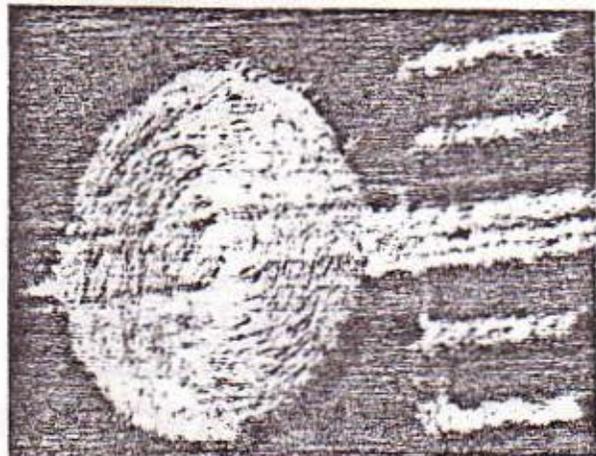
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VIDEOVIEW

when it suits them but ignoring it when it doesn't. But that's the new age for you.

As far as I'm concerned Andrews talks complete and absolute gobbledygook most of the time, new age dross transposed to the latest band wagon. Sure, as he says, the earth is in trouble and yes humans may be the cause, but the



relevance or meaning of crop circles in all this other than the purely psycho-social is never explained. It's all hints and nods.

By the time we reach the end Andrews has almost done a David Eyck and in a biblical tone he pronounces that there will be a "manifestation of a physical kind which will unite all mankind". Yeah, and the Beatles will reform too Colin (actually that probably would unite all mankind!).

The film finishes with an excellent audio visual sequence of circles and pictograms fading in and out with some good spacey music in the background.

The video is extremely well made, the end sequence is fab but I'm not so sure about the content. Essentially an episode of 'One Man and his Theory', Andrews misses herding us all into the pen but if you like his ideas or just want a biased view of the subject then this video is for you.



* Our oft-used two cocoa tins and a bit of string connection with America rang the other day and told us that Budd Hopkins has been involved in an Intruders mini-series. The show is to be aired on the CBS network during May over three nights. Budd is played by actor Richard Crenna, famous for his role in the 'First Blood' films, who apparently portrays Budd as a psychologist(?!). Probably a heap of alien droppings with glossy females having their tanned bodies probed by long.....alright that's enough (cont. Ufologist & Pervert Weekly). We can't wait for the tapes to arrive. Our source tells us that Budd has been beavering away (it's quite legal) with the TV people all winter in the studio.



* Hip BRIGANTIA readers may have seen comedian Bill Hicks on TV at Christmas. This was taken from an interview he did in the NME of 18/1/92, where he (seriously) relates a UFO experience he had and which intimates some shared psychological origin for the experience.

"Without going into too much detail, me and two friends had a shared vision, while not being together physically, of being taken up in a UFO. When we got back together, none of us remembered it and one friend said, 'Do you get the impression that we're meeting a lot of new friends tonight?' And all three of us remembered the experience.....Well, with a five minute UFO experience I got a taste of holiness I never got in 20 years of religion...."

POSTBAG

Dear Andy,

I write regarding the letter from Nick Brown in November 1991 UFO BRIGANTIA regarding the secret storage of steam engines in tunnels.

A friend of mine was also given information last year about this subject. He met, through a mutual friend, two gentlemen who had been employed as intelligence agents for the Dept. of Transport for a two year period in the early 1980s. The said gentlemen would only identify themselves by their code names, which were SPARROWHAWK and SHITEHAWK.

Their story was that the Government had not only ex-B.R. steam engines in secret locations, including tunnels, but also several ex-London Transport Routemaster buses. The purpose of this secret project was to try to establish a hybrid form of transport which would also include secret unknown technology and the code name for this project was designated T R A M.

The project was so secret that no other information has ever been obtainable from the authorities.

I hope this information will give people a feeling of "some

light at the end of the tunnel".
Yours faithfully, Peter Wilcok,
Blackburn, Lancs.

Thanks for that insight into the deepest machinations of B.R. Peter. Personally I think it's all connected with the development of that other secret government device currently being tested to cause 'train stops', - the fiendishly cunning 'leaves on the track' weaponry range. Actually I know what the light at the end of the tunnel is - it's another bloody train!

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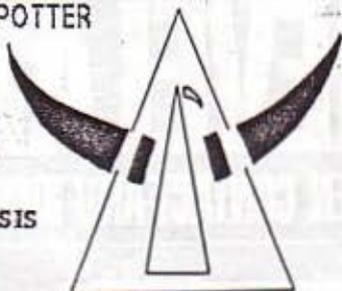
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