

Mystery of the Silpho Saucer



What happened to a 'UFO' on the moors?

A saucerful of secrets still has UFO researchers in a spin 31 years after claims that a mystery object landed on the moors near Scarborough.

They want to know what on earth happened to the 18 in diameter "saucer" recovered

**Report by
Iain Meekley**
from Silpho Moor — and the strangely-inscribed copper scroll said to have been found inside it.

The saga of the Silpho Saucer began in December 1957 when two

men — after leaving a pub in Harwood Dale — saw a red glowing object descending to earth.

After driving back to Scarborough to kit themselves out with wellies and torches, they went to investigate the spot where they saw the object come down. They met a man who said he had found the saucer — and would hand it over for £200.

From then on, the story becomes rich farce reported with majestic scorn by the Scarborough Evening News — involving "parties combing the moors at night with large sums of money in their pockets, some of them, according to reports, armed with shotguns; a message scribbled on a cigarette packet thrown out of a moving car to people on a lonely roadside; an "agony column" advert in the Evening News — everything, in fact, but a beautiful foreign spy."

The Evening News reported that, after a series of elaborate transactions, the "saucer" — shaped like a flattened spinning-top with a copper base and a raised white dome — ended up in the Scalby home of a man styling himself "Antony Avenel".

He was, in fact, Scarborough solicitor Anthony

'Sarcastic and libellous'

The next day, the Evening News carried a long letter from Mr Avenel/Parker objecting to the "sarcastic and probably libellous article".

So far as I know, no-one involved in this incident has suggested that the object is a flying saucer. They have merely referred to it as an object of interest," he wrote. "I particularly object to the suggestion that attempts have been made to interest Sunday newspapers who might be expected to part with currency."

Alongside the letter, the paper reported with a straight face: "A 17-page inscribed copper 'book' was revealed inside the unidentified object.

"Inside the object was what looked like a roll of copper, which had a coil of hollow tubing wrapped closely around it. Ashes and a white powder covered the inside.

"The scroll measured about 6 in by 5 in, and had a thicker piece of copper as a back cover, which looked as though it had been under intense heat.

Transcribe writing

"Each piece of copper foil is stamped with about 14 lines of 'writing', which is made up almost entirely of Ts and Vs at different angles. Efforts are being made to transcribe the writing."

Where the "saucer" and its mysterious scroll is now is unknown.

But Andy Roberts, editor of the magazine UFO Brigantia, is anxious to find out more about the close encounter.

"Whilst we are certain that this incident was a hoax," said Mr Roberts, of 84 Elland Road, Brighouse, "if anyone connected with the original event, or anyone who knows the current whereabouts of the 'crashed saucer' would contact me, I would be very grateful."