

# OKAWI

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## CHINA FUTURE SHOCK

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## ANTI MATTER

I. W. Whiteside may be eighty-three years old, his vision dim, but as far as he's concerned, he can still see the obvious, in this case the varied patterns of an alien code.

“Sharon's UFO code,” named for Whiteside's granddaughter Sharon, reportedly arrived unbidden on the night of May 2, 1981. Sharon, then age nine, was paying a visit for the night. She had just gone to bed across the room from her grandfather when she noticed a peculiar pattern of lights.

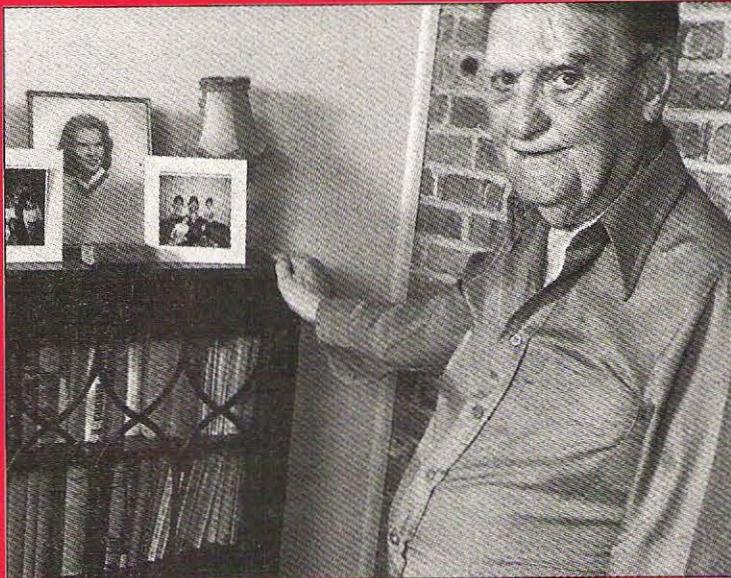
As Whiteside recalls, Sharon said, “Look, there are pretty lights on the wall.”

“I just told her to go to sleep,” Whiteside says, his firm voice dissolving into a chuckle, as it often does. “But she persisted, so I turned to look.”

Whiteside, a former Bell Labs communications engineer from Glenview, Illinois, was amazed to see a white, perfectly formed trapezoid. It flashed slowly four times, he says, and then rotated slightly. After a while, he adds, the light shifted to the bookcase (shown next to Whiteside, above), forming discs two inches across. “The discs formed five patterns, all beautifully colored, like jewelry,” Whiteside notes. “Each pattern was repeated four times.”

To the former engineer, a pattern could only be a message. And thanks to “Sharon's photographic memory,” he says, he managed to record literally dozens of patterns, composed not only of trapezoids and discs, but also triangles, rectangles, and squares.

After weeks of interpretation, Whiteside had his conclusion: The patterns portrayed a simple number system. An



orange disc with a white triangle in the center stood for zero; for instance, any white figure stood for one, and rectangles of blue or red signified the number two. “I had already concluded that if anyone were trying to give us a code,” Whiteside comments, “the digits zero to nine would be the best place to begin.”

Though bizarre, Whiteside's tale has already won a vote of confidence from J. Allen Hynek, ufology's leading scientist, now residing in Scottsdale, Arizona. “Mr. Whiteside is a stable, intelligent man,” Hynek says, “and there is no doubt of his hon-

esty. I am sure he is describing exactly what he saw.”

But Hynek, an old friend of Whiteside's son-in-law, a conservative Chicago attorney, does not buy the idea of an extraterrestrial code. “I have to put this incident down to the paranormal,” Hynek says. “It seems related to psychic phenomena, poltergeists, and that sort of thing.”

Others voice greater doubts. Says space scientist James E. Oberg, a noted debunker of UFOs, “It isn't the explanation I doubt so much as the report.”

Whiteside himself feels the incident merits action. “What we need,” he believes, “is an organization with stations all over the world to flash lights in this code at night. NASA would be perfect for it. They might attract UFOs and begin to talk with them. Just think what wonders they could give us if communication occurred.”

Despite several letters from Whiteside and an inquiry from his local congressman, though, NASA has shown no interest in such a program.—OWEN DAVIES

## UFO UPDATE