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CONTENTS

Editorial	3
Far North Queensland	4
Tasmania	6
South Australia	8
Forum	9
The American Search for Government UFO Documents	10
UFOs and Synchronistic Events	13
Australian Physical Evidence Study Group	19
Entity Cases Emerge From the Past	21
The Vela Satellite Mystery	23
Book Review	30

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editorial

UFO Research Australia Newsletter {UFORAN} fulfils two functions, one independent, the other co-operational.

Independently, the magazine presents the average reader with a broad cross-section of UFO research activities.

UFORAN is written by active objective researchers for serious minded people who share a genuine curiosity in the subject.

Ours is not a commercial magazine, there is no reason for us to sensationalise events and very much against our principles to do so.

UFORAN is not a closed publication, our readers are invited to express their views on anything relating to UFOs in our FORUM section.

Co-operationally, UFORAN interchanges information with the Australian Centre for UFO studies. The Centre has its own specialised publication - The ACUFOS Journal, which is technical in content and written by UFO researchers specifically for UFO researchers.

UFORAN and the ACUFOS Journal are complimentary publications covering every aspect of present day research.

UFO Research Australia Newsletter and the ACUFOS Journal are objective magazines.

Research often reveals the spectacular sighting to be misperception of a mundane object, but surely this is better to know than not, for there are sightings, events and evidence that cannot be explained. This is the true mystery to explore. Unfortunately some pieces of the puzzle lay hidden amongst the beliefs and prejudices of those determined to see extraterrestrial visitations in every report. These people generate sufficient confusion to further conceal the pieces, but consistent rational research is gradually unearthing them.

For every argument there is a counter argument and we are presenting these to you in an unbiased manner. There are numerous theories of what unexplained UFOs are not and remarkably few intelligent theories of what they could be, we are also exploring this rather neglected approach to the subject.

UFO investigation has come a long way in recent years. Researchers of member organisations of the Australian Centre for UFO Studies co-operate and unselfishly exchange information and have the knowledge and experience to objectively assess UFO events.

This high level of co-operation is evident each year at the UFO Conferences held in the various states of Australia. It is here that researchers present and discuss the results and conclusions of their investigations during the past year. The general public are welcome to attend and observe Australian UFO research at work. The 1981 UFO Conference will be held in Adelaide, South Australia, October 10-12. Further information will be published at a later date in UFORAN.■

The following event occurred on December 3, 1980, but was not fully reported to UFOR(FNQ) until March this year.

Only one of the two witnesses involved agreed to complete a detailed report of his experience, the other percipient who was the owner-driver of the vehicle involved, wishes anonymity.

Prior to the report being made, the investigator was acquainted with the reporter who is 18 years of age.

It is not UFOR(FNQ) policy to publish witnesses names, we shall therefore call our reporter Gavin.

THE INCIDENT

The close encounter occurred on the main road through the Murray Upper district 20km south-west of Tully.

The two witnesses were travelling north along this road in a late model Valiant. The surrounding area is rural and relatively isolated, mostly open paddocks upon which horses and cattle graze.

At approximately 7 pm the witnesses drove across the Murray River floodway. At this point Gavin (in the front passenger seat) noticed a "strange light" through the open car window. It was in the sky to the left of, and behind the vehicle.

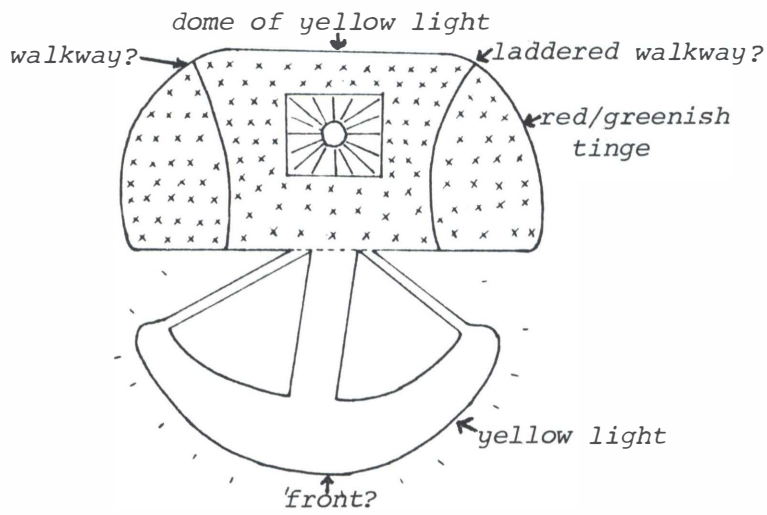
The witnesses continued to travel north, the "light" became brighter and approached closer to the car. Gavin began to steer (from the passenger side) so the driver could observe the object through the open passenger window. Whilst travelling in this manner the car's engine stopped completely, as did the radio. The car lights began to "flicker," after approximately six seconds the radio began to emit a combined "static and beeping" noise. With the car completely immobilised neither Gavin nor the driver were "game enough to get out of the car."

The object was now "hovering" above and "the car and its contents were vibrating" whilst the object emitted "a high pitched drumming sound." Gavin estimated that the object was above the car for 20 minutes or more, during which time he and the other witness "just sat there and looked at it!"

The object then moved away (without turning) at a steady speed to the left of the vehicle (passenger side) and stopped 750 to 800 metres away. It momentarily "hovered" again, and then turned (horizontally) and took off at a 45° angle towards the north-east.

Once the UFO had gone the witnesses left the car, they noticed an absence of "insect noise" and could not see or hear any animals nearby, which they considered unusual. Examining the car's engine the witnesses found no apparent damage and managed to start the car "first pop."

The witnesses continued to their intended destination near Innisfail.



Underside view of the object

(as drawn by Gavin)

THE OBJECT

Obviously the witnesses were in a good position to view the underside of the object, in fact this is the only section seen clearly by them (possibly due to the brightness of the lights and their angle of view). The upper section, if any, was obscured or perhaps not as brightly lit as the bottom.

Gavin stated that the "curved piece" (see diagram) seemed to be the front of the object (however, when it moved away it travelled slightly sideways). This section and the "large square sided dome" centrally positioned on the trailing section, were composed of "brilliant yellow light."

This rear section of the UFO was "red overlaid by a green tint." There also appeared to be "laddered walkways or enclosed catwalks" (like those used at airports) crossing it on both sides.

The witnesses were unsure of the object's size, but were certain it was "very big." The UFOs altitude was estimated as tree-top level.

VEHICLE EFFECTS

The radio was silent for approximately six seconds, as the object approached it emitted static itermittent with a beeping noise until the UFO departed. When later inspected the internal components of the radio were found to have shorted out.

While the object hovered above the car it gave off a "constant high pitched drumming sound" which caused the car and its contents to "vibrate" slightly.

The witnesses did not notice any down drafts of air while the UFO was overhead.

The vehicle's electrical system has not given any trouble since the incident.

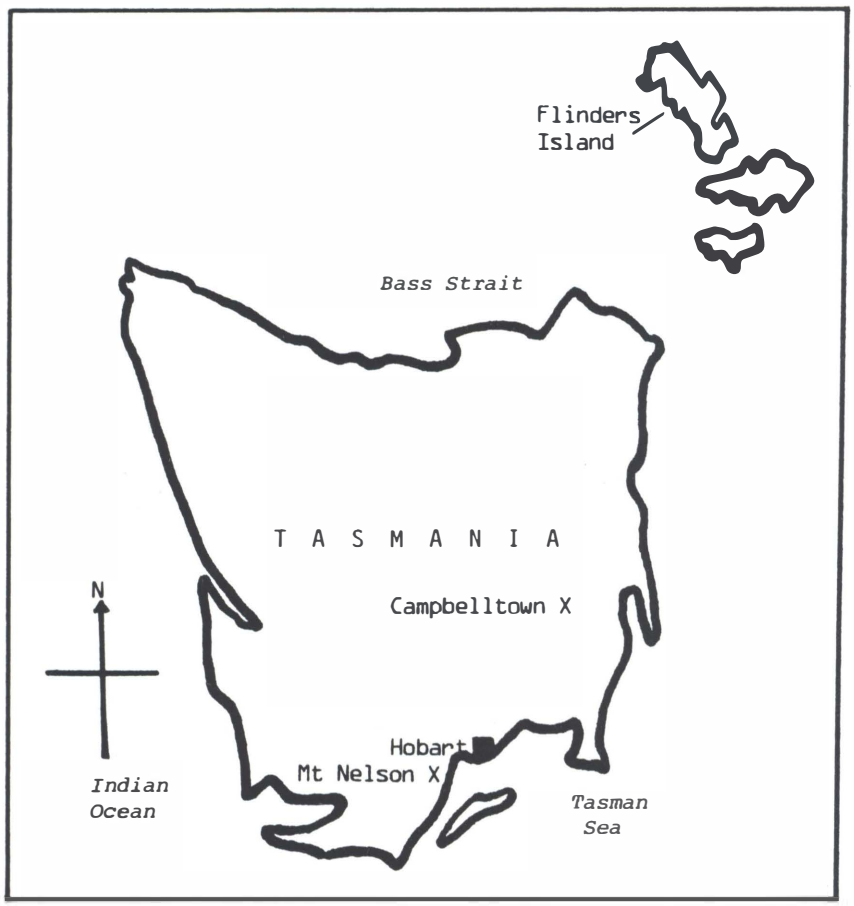
EVALUATION

No aircraft or helicopters would have been flying at this altitude, in this area, at this time (note the lack of down draft).

The witnesses have suffered no psychological or physiological problems since the event.

Gavin related his story to us in a consistent manner which we have not been able to fault.■

tasmania



During the last 18 months there have been remarkably few reports received by the Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre.

Three cases only recently reported to the centre are, however, of interest.

February 9, 1981. North east of Flinders Island.

Two witnesses saw two flashing lights and a puzzling glow whilst sailing their yacht across Bass Strait. They were 140km north-east of Flinders Island running in rough conditions on a heading of 190 to 180 degrees. At approximately 2300hrs on February 8, two white lights were noticed either side of the yacht's heading at a few degrees elevation. A beam of light pulsed irregularly between these two lights from left to right.

The second witness noticed during his watch that a 20 metre area about the yacht was illuminated (no moon was seen). Because of the rough weather he was unable to study the glow or the lights, at about 3 am he noticed the lights were no longer visible.

At 9 am the witness's turned on their radio to check on the weather but found the yacht's battery was flat, despite having been fully charged the previous day at Gabo Island. A battery operated clock bought in Sydney had also stopped, and a car clock running off the yacht's battery had stopped at the unlikely time of 18.18 am/pm, it has not worked since. The yacht motor had to be started by hand and over the next day or so its battery recharched. Despite being in the Hobart dock for some weeks without the engine running it has not lost its charge.

The lights, glow and other effects could all be unconnected, but strangely, they seem to have all happened at the same time.

February 20, 1981. Campbelltown.

Two witnesses were travelling south to Hobart from Launceston at approximately 8.30 pm on the evening of February 20. They had just passed the town of Campbelltown and were 130km from Hobart when they noticeda huge white ball with a silver blue edge stationary about 200 metres away suspended 100 metres above a paddock.

While the witnesses were wondering what the ball could be, it seemed to explode into a large area of intense light, brighter than day. The interior and exterior of the

car were brilliantly illuminated by a light painful to the eyes. The light then contracted back to the original ball which became a spherical shape and began falling to earth, it was still white in colour but the edge had become red. The witness departed at once and did not look back. The sighting lasted 10 seconds approximately.

February 21, 1981. Mt. Nelson.

On February 21, at 2 am , two witnesses at Mt. Nelson saw two large white lights approaching from the east at 60 degrees elevation. The two lights, one behind the other, passed away to the north and gave the impression of curving to the south.

Within seconds four white lights appeared from the south. Heading south-east they moved steadily away in a row and disappeared into the distance after some minutes.

The Department of Science and Technology (Canberra) advised that no satellites were visible over Tasmania at that time, they suggested that the lights may have been debris re-entry because some fifteen objects were due to re-enter in February.

We received a number of calls regarding two lights crossing the sky at the same time the Mt. Nelson witnesses had their sighting.

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south australia

Very few reports have been made to UFO Research (SA) Inc. during the last two months. Various circumstances influence the number of UFOs reported to the group. The weather is a dominant factor as far as identified objects go. On fine hot nights when people sit out on their lawns seeking relief from the heat we receive a lot of calls reporting UFOs which turn out to be aircraft and satellites, even people living near the West Beach airport misidentify weather balloons and report them to us as UFOs.

On May 13, a Felixstow man called to report a soundless light travelling eastwards that was visible in clear sky for three minutes at 6.05 pm. The light was identified as an aircraft.

Meteors or shooting stars are widely reported because most people think any light lasting more than a second or two must be a UFO.

On April 30, at 6.08 am a spectacular meteor passed over Adelaide. Two calls were received about a soundless blue object travelling west to east on a horizontal trajectory that disintegrated after turning red.

There are, however, two events recently reported for which no satisfactory explanation has been found.

On April 7, a young man was driving along the Golden Grove Road in the north-east of Adelaide between 7.05 pm and 7.10 pm when he saw a very bright light which he estimated was much larger than a star in angular size. It was stationary in the sky and faded from view where it hung. The evening was clear.

On April 8, a woman resident in Honey Pot Road, Hackham West, telephoned the group to report an unusual morning object. At about 4 am she heard a humming sound, and saw an extremely bright light moving slowly, this she watched for approximately one minute.■

AN OLD ENTITY REPORT

In approximately 1965, at Gumeracha in the Adelaide Hills, a young girl named Christine told her father that she had seen a "small man" following her.

Details of this account came to us in the form of a letter from a lady now resident in Port August who had been informed of the circumstances by the girl's father.

The story went that one day Christine came running home all agitated and excited and said: "Dad! I was walking along the fence and suddenly I looked up and saw a strangely dressed man about two feet tall watching and following me. I started to hurry but he kept following and kept pace with me, so I started to run and he did the same until I was nearly home."

Although there was no UFO associated with this event, reported observations of "entities" of various descriptions from around the world have been included in the overall UFO phenomena by some researchers. The story as reported to us is therefore recorded here.■

NATIONWIDE LOOKS AT "THE BASS STRAIT TRIANGLE"

by Rocky Wood, ACUFOS Investigator (Sydney)

For those who missed the ABC Nationwide program on May 15 - don't worry too much. What you didn't see was hardly worth viewing anyway! For the record, I videotaped the section relating to the so-called Bass Strait Triangle, popularised (if not created) by Lester and Killey in their book, "The Devil's Meridian."

The ABC clip was compiled by one Gaynor Thomas. It involved a vague discussion of whether or not the Bass Strait is a disappearance prone area and centred on the Valentich case, which is basically the only case to support the argument.

A number of quotes from the clip will probably be of interest to the reader. The Nationwide frontman began the clip with, "Can Bass Strait be the centre of some weird, even supernatural force? Well, I know that to any intelligent person that does sound, well, almost silly." Gaynor Thomas stated, "Claiming to see UFOs is almost equal to claiming to be insane." Indeed! This is an outrageous comment and shows a lack of investigation of the subject by the reporter. Perhaps it should be given an award at the next Logies* presentation for most misinformed current affairs statement of the year.

While there was an attempt to be balanced, the sceptical element in the ABC towards UFOs nonetheless kept breaking through. A pilot of no particular background stated categorically that Valentich was disorientated and flew into the sea. He was not questioned about his reactions to the arguments which have eliminated this explanation long ago. Theories about Valentich's disappearance (UFOs, drug running, selling the plane, hoax and suicide) were all put forward with the question "who started these rumours?" I don't know, but am certain that the ABC has managed to perpetuate them.

The pro-UFO attitude of the program was put forward by the Victorian UFO Research Society and Guido Valentich (father of missing pilot) and I hope I am not biased in saying they did not help the cause enormously.

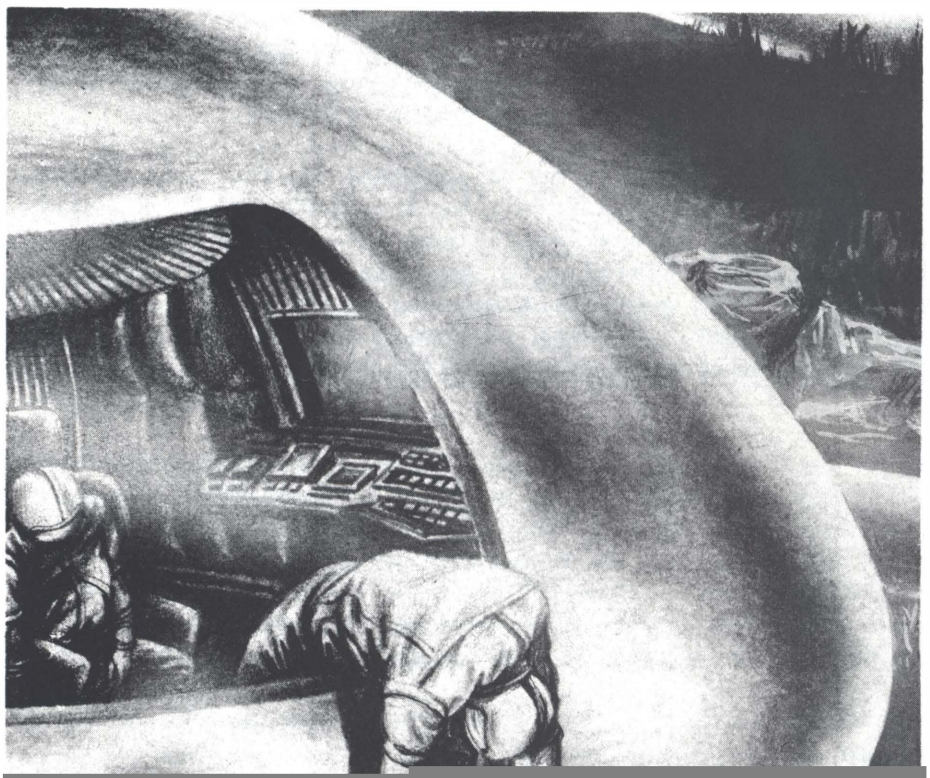
The whole point of the program came back to the fact that it was unnecessarily superficial. Rhetorical questions such as why the RAAF does not monitor UFO reports, and why officialdom denies the existence of UFOs were put forward. It may seem a little naive but I wonder why such questions were not put to the RAAF and a Federal Minister !

To those of us dedicated to finding the answer to the UFO phenomenon, programs such as this are an annoyance. Misinformation of this type does not help ufologists or sceptics, serves only to confuse the public, and lowers the credibility of organisations such as the ABC.■

* *Australian television awards.*

THE AMERICAN SEARCH FOR GOVERNMENT UFO DOCUMENTS

A RESEARCH ARTICLE BY THE AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES



Crashed UFOs?

The UFO literature presently available reveals the widespread opinion that the United States Government and/or its intelligence community has more information concerning the UFO phenomena than has been revealed.

Of late there have been a number of researchers, amongst whom Leonard Stringfield features prominently, who have begun the first tentative revelations on "crashed" or "retrieved" UFOs. Most, if not all, of these accounts have been relayed by word of mouth from first or second hand sources. What has been lacking is the production of papers, files, books, tapes, films etc., i.e. written or visual documentation on the subject.

US Government revelations result from leaked memos, telexes, papers etc. To date none have been leaked about UFOs.

The search has been on for documentation of crashes, reports and government policy, since 1976. In that year William H. Spaulding, Director of Ground Saucer Watch (GSW) and State Director for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) in Arizona, wrote to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) with specific questions concerning their involvement with UFOs. In summary their reply was that the only CIA involvement was concerned with the Robertson panel in the early 1950's.[1]

An American researcher Larry Bryant sought documents relating to the September 19, 1976, Iranian jet encounter from the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) in March 1977,

but was advised that the DIA did not collect UFO informantion.[2]

In the meantime, also in 1977, Bruce S. Maccabee MUFON State Director for Maryland, obtained 400 pages of documents which had been in the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). In a series of articles[3] he described the documents which were of UFO reports (both known and unknown) and internal memoranda. The main years covered by the papers were 1947 to 1955 and the documents showed that the FBI was officially involved between July 30, and October 10, 1947, although apparently still collecting material up to 1964.

Having met with little real progress with Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests to the CIA, in 1978 GSW filed a federal court suit against the CIA. GSW was seeking under the FOIA to prevent the CIA witholding certain reports and photographs allegedly involving UFOs. An organisation calling itself Citizens against UFO secrecy (CAUS) headed by Director W. Todd Zechel took over management of the GSW suit during the year. Through negotiations and then a stipulation ordered by the US District Court, CAUS succeeded in forcing the CIA to search for UFO related material. Peter Gersten an attorney with a New York firm acted as a legal consultant to CAUS.

Later, in July 1978, CAUS filed a FOIA request with the United States Air Force (USAF). The request concerned documents relating to a "crashed" object. The next month, following a USAF pro-forma denial of the existence of documents, CAUS filed an appeal but the USAF position was stated as:- there are no such documents therefore you can not file a request for non-existant papers.

Also in August 1978 CAUS was notified by the CIA that it had located "1000 pages of additional material related to UFOs,"[4] and was then to review them to ascertain if they could be released.

Close to 1000 pages were released in late 1978 by the CIA. These documents related to (1) the use of UFO sightings as a psychological warfare device, (2) the vulnerability of the US due to an inability to distinguish between real threats and UFOs, and (3) various sightings.[5]

Some of the documents produced told of extremely interesting sightings from various European and African countries. Details of reports had apparently been collected by the US embassies in those countries and forwarded to the US State Department. The State Department had in turn disseminated copies to various government agencies, including the CIA, which is where they surfaced.

In September 1979 CAUS and the CIA met before Judge Pratt of the US District Court to act on the CIA's motion for a summary judgement in the matter of the CIA admitting to holding back 57 documents and whether it had conducted a real and adequate search for papers. The judge agreed to allow CAUS 60 days to respond.[6]

A summary of successes at this time was made at a press conference in the office of GSW's counsel, Peter Gersten in October 1979. A six page summary of events recapped that an aggregate of 3000 pages of UFO related documents had been acquired from the Departments of State/Army/Navy/Air Force, the FBI, the CIA, the NSA and the DIA. In Gersten's words: "CAUS can now report that the documents expose the policy of this government to debunk reports of UFO sightings by the public and thereby succeed in minimising their significance."[7]

May 30, 1980,[8] brought Judge Pratt's memorandum of opinion. The CIA succeeded in having the case decided in their favour. However, on June 24, 1980, Gersten filed a notice of appeal. At issue was the veracity of the CIA and whether they had conducted

a real and adequate search.

On June 24, 1980, three new suits were filed against the NSA, DIA and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) by Gersten on behalf of CAUS.

Bryant[8] reporting the NSA suit states that on September 3, 1980, in the chambers of Judge Gesell, the NSA advised there were 135 UFO related documents in question, which probably include a teletype from the US Defence Attache's Office in Lima, Peru on June 2, 1980, relating to a UFO/jet incident in Peru.

The CAUS action sets out to stop the DIA from preventing access to its supposedly non-existant UFO records.

Action against the FAA is on the grounds that it failed to make an adequate search of files, although a few dozen documents had been released.

This is the progress of the search todate. The main points which have come to light, apart from some very interesting reports, have been that the areas collecting information at home in the US and abroad, continue to channel copies of reports to various government agencies, either through requests or sheer inability to know who to report to.

1. "Information retrievals: a case for UFO cover up" W.H. Spaulding, 1979 MUFON symposium proceedings pp 25-35
2. "UFO secrecy in the courts" L. Bryant MUFON Journal 153 p 16
3. "UFO related information from the FBI file" B. Maccabee -
   Pt 1 MUFON Journal 119 pp 13-15 & cover
   Pt 2 Ibid 120 pp 12-14 & 19
   Pt 3 Ibid 121 pp 10-14 & 16
   Pt 4 Ibid 123 pp 10-15
   Pt 5 Ibid 124 pp 7-11
   Pt 6 Ibid 130 pp 7-12
   Pt 7 Ibid 132 pp 11-16
4. "CAUS to file FOIA lawsuit against the Air Force" W. Todd Zechel MUFON Journal 129 pp 17-18
5. "Information retrievals: a case for UFO cover up" W.H. Spaulding, 1979 MUFON symposium proceedings pp 25-35
6. "UFO secrecy update" L. Bryant MUFON Journal 140 p 13
7. "UFO secrecy update: the UFO paper chase" L. Bryant MUFON Journal 144 pp 12-15
8. "UFO secrecy in the courts" L. Bryant MUFON Journal 153 p 15

Soil samples from Rosedale {Vic.} and Mt. Garnet {Far North Qld.} are still undergoing analysis.

UFOs and Synchronistic Events

By Mark Moravec

"When I pray, coincidences happen; when I don't, they don't." - Archbishop William Temple.

Prepare to enter the murky world of synchronicity. A world where paranoia and irrationalism are ready to engulf the unwary investigator. Synchronicity, a term coined by Jung, refers to "meaningful coincidences." In the more complex UFO cases, there sometimes occur apparent coincidences which can be startling to percipient and investigator alike. In this article, I will look at some case studies involving UFOs and synchronistic events, and explore the possible significance of these occurrences.

The first case example involves Dr Andrija Puharich, an electronics engineer, parapsychologist and UFO contactee. Over the years, Puharich has been associated with several famous psychics including Brazilian psychic surgeon Arigo and spoon-bender Uri Geller. It was in the latter's biography that Puharich first announced that he and Geller were in alleged communication with extraterrestrial entities. After splitting with Geller in 1974 due to personality conflicts, Puharich re-initiated his "cosmic connection" through other psychics acting as channels for the alleged extraterrestrial communicators. The story of these more recent communications has been recorded by Holroyd (1979). A number of synchronistic events occurred and were, in fact, interpreted by those involved as constituting supportive evidence of the objective reality of the extraterrestrial intelligences. For example:

WHAT DO YOU MEAN... "INSERT ANOTHER 20¢ !!"
(John Miels)

(1) When the group began to experience "technological difficulties" in the communication sessions, the "Management" (as the extraterrestrials were sometimes referred to) indicated that communications would improve if they were held under conditions of electromagnetic shielding. The following day, Puharich received a call from a company that was going bankrupt and wanted to dispose of a Faraday cage cheaply and quickly. The group bought it and held improved communications inside the cage. (The Management intimated in subsequent communications that this was not merely a fortunate coincidence).

(2) When Holroyd was in America staying with a friend, he learned that Sir John Whitmore, whom he had previously met in England at a parapsychology conference, resided just across the river. Holroyd decided to pay a social visit and this was when he first learned of Whitmore's involvement in the Puharich communications. Two days before Holroyd's visit, Whitmore and Puharich were told in a communication: "There will be those that will come to you this weekend that will be of benefit. There will be a time when they will walk away moving their heads back and forth and will not understand. But then they will sit and they will think and they will have an experience and they will begin to understand, and they will work with you." Holroyd was, in fact, the only person

to visit Ossining that weekend who would later become involved in the work. Additionally, he experienced a poltergeist type of event not long after having received the first parcel of specimen communications from Whitmore and at a time when Holroyd was debating whether or not to undertake the book.

(3) At one stage, Phyllis, the medium, was encountering "opposition entities" when she went into trance. Puharich complimented Phyllis on her bravery in handling this apparently dangerous situation and added that neither Lyall Watson nor "Bobby" (two others who had been involved in some of the communications sessions) would have had what it took to do that. Ten minutes later, Phyllis' daughter called from Florida and said that some poltergeist-type phenomena had just occurred in the house. For example, Watson's book, "Supernature," had jumped out of the bookcase and into the middle of the room. (The Management explained that it was due to "the anger and the frustration of those that are opposing").

.....MUST HAVE GOT A WRONG NUMBER.....
(John Mieles)

(4) One of the more bizarre pursuits of the Ossining group was their Middle East peace junkets whereby the group's meditations supposedly averted war. At one remote Israeli village they attended a festival, only to be surprised by one item in the entertainment which was rife with symbolism uniquely salient to the Puharich group. Puharich had written a book about the "Sacred Mushroom". His group was in communication with the "Nine Principles and Forces" and each group member was "surrounded" by three of these beings. Their communications were aided by the use of umbrellas, or "mushrooms," as they were referred to in the communications. And now up there on the stage they were looking at a painted screen showing nine slant-eyed and unearthly-looking beings, arranged in groups of three, and above which were illustrated mushrooms of the "Sacred Mushroom" type. And to cap it off, nine children danced out from behind the screen carrying umbrellas! Once again, the Management took credit for "preparing" the event.

My second example concerns the strange case of Stella Lansing which was extensively investigated over several years by psychiatrist Berthold Schwarz (1972, 1974, 1975). Stella Lansing has sighted, tape-recorded and photographed many puzzling, UFO-related phenomena. Her films show clock-like UFO patterns, "craft," entities and other anomalous images reminiscent of the Ted Serios "thoughtographs." Some of her UFO sightings have been corroborated by other witnesses, including the investigator. Several seemingly synchronistic events have occurred:

(1) On the night of April 15, 1971, Mrs Lansing, a lady friend and Dr Schwarz, drove to an isolated rural area. Within minutes, they saw and filmed two, pulsating, white-yellow-orange discs which merged into one, separated again and noiselessly glided away. Schwarz's cassette recorder suddenly failed to operate at this time, despite new and recently checked batteries. Immediate replacement with a second set of similar mercury batteries was of no value. However, the tape recorder worked well the next morning. While Mrs

Lansing and Dr Schwarz were filming the strange lights, a large, noisy car seemed to appear out of nowhere and apparently signal the UFO by flickering its headlights. The car then speedily left the scene.

(2) On the evening of January 3,1973, Mrs Lansing took some film of a television program. After processing, she was shocked to find the film had anomalous images superimposing or replacing that which had been filmed. On one frame there was an image of a bearded, cowled monk-like figure with a death-agony expression. The previous night, Dr Schwarz had had a horrible "presumptive telepathic death dream" which involved the imagined death of a former teacher and a man with a Spanish name (the monk?). Immediately after dictating the notes on Mrs Lansing's monk picture and his dream, Schwarz turned on the radio and heard the then breaking news of former President L.B. Johnson's death. (Interestingly, Mrs Lansing later obtained film of clocklike UFO images when she filmed President Johnson's funeral on TV).

(3) On January 30, Mrs Schwarz received a telephone call with the message that her father was in a critical condition. While trying to decide between booking a flight out right away, or sitting tight, she and Mrs Lansing (who had arrived the previous day) were startled by an extra large coffee cup and saucer which had crashed to the floor. One of the saucer fragments pointed towards the word "Dad" inscribed on the unbroken cup, everyone was shocked. Mrs Schwarz decided to leave at once. Her father had died that afternoon. That same morning, Dr Schwarz had received a rare letter from Dr R. Leo Sprinkle in which he commented on the Lansing case.

(4) On September 21,1973, Stella Lansing and Dr Schwarz visited a photographic laboratory where Mrs Lansing made some audio-videotapes of known objects. When played back on the TV screen, the tapes showed a herringbone pattern never previously noted on this equipment. Control filming of the same scenery by Schwarz failed to produce the pattern. The same herringbone pattern was later discovered on film taken by Mrs Lansing on September 19. An additional coincidence was that Schwarz was very familiar with the herringbone pattern since for years he had used a similar pattern in studies of epilepsy.

And to complete our catalogue of the weird and magical, there is the incident which befell Jerome Clark during a radio interview on the American "Big Bird" creature sightings. Comparing Big Bird with the "Mothman" reports of ten years earlier, Clark stated: "Very definite similarity. Now, John Keel, of course, is the man who did the research on Mothman. Keel claimed that there is a connection between these sightings and UFOs. If there is any such connection with the Big Bird, I was unable to prove it..." (Clark and Coleman, 1978, p.194). At the time of the interview, nothing out of the ordinary was heard at either end of the telephone link. However, on the tape, immediately after the word "sightings" in the third sentence, there was a loud, unmistakeable and very startling "EEPPP!" sound - precisely the sound Mothman reputedly made.

What do these events mean? Are they simply coincidences? Do they imply paranormal effects? Is the "UFO intelligence" manifesting in some bizarre and covert way?

Let us first look at the mutterings of synchronicity. Carl Jung conceived of meaningful coincidences as indicative of an acausal ordering principle in nature. Extrasensory perception and synchronistic events are conscious manifestations of the hypothesised collective unconscious, which is universal and independent of time and space. However, as I have pointed out elsewhere (Moravec, 1978), the collective unconscious is itself an

unproven hypothesis, and only succeeds in "explaining" one unknown in terms of another.

More recently, the nature of coincidence has been re-examined by a group of British researchers (Hardy, Harvie and Koestler, 1975). They conducted a mass experiment in telepathy in which subjects were required to re-draw targets which they had (hopefully) telepathically perceived. There was an insignificant number of "direct hits" - but in the same sessions there occurred "coincident thoughts" which had nothing to do with the targets. As a control test for spontaneous telepathy, the experimenters randomly matched target drawings and subject drawings made in response to other targets, only to find that a similar number of coincident thoughts occurred in the control series. Yet the odds were 100 to 1 against these results having occurred by chance.

Subsequently, Harvie matched random numbers from random number tables with random numbers generated by a computer. Once again an unexpected result was obtained - a significantly smaller number of digits were identical when matched than would be expected by chance. (There was a negative deviation of 211 in the sequence of 49,600 digits; giving p=.0008). Errors in scoring and abberations in the random number tables appeared to be ruled out. This leaves the hypotheses of paranormal causation, or non-randomness of the target digits due to the presence of subtle and unsuspected patterns in the order in which the digits occur (i.e.: the synchronicity factor). Harvie leans towards the latter hypothesis. If the results of nonrandomness are due to "synchronicity," then this casts doubt on the validity of parapsychology's quantitative experimental evidence, not to mention the statistical findings of science generally. Obviously, we could do with some replications of the Hardy-Harvie experiments.

Koestler postulates the existence of an "Integrative Tendency" in nature; complementary to the tendency towards entropy. The phenomena of parapsychology would then appear as the highest manifestation of this Integrative Tendency. As support for this idea, Koestler cites Stewart Kaufman's studies of the behaviour of computer-simulated, randomly-constructed "nets" of binary (on/off) elements. Nets containing 15-2,000 elements (and thus having $2^{15-2,000}$ possible states) unexpectedly cycled through a very small number of states despite an arbitrarily chosen initial state. Furthermore, despite arbitrarily reversing one element (from on to off or vice versa) as the system cycled through successive states, the system returned to the cycle of states from which it had been disturbed in 90 percent of the cases. According to Kaufman, if a living thing is a richly connected net of chemical reactions, then the behaviour of simulated nets displays the stability characteristic of, and necessary, for life.

In Vaughan's (1975) view, psi and synchronicity are indistinguishable at the basic level - synchronicity is thus the basic particle of psi. As psi experiments become more qualitative, there is less synchronistic effect and a greater role for psi. Each human being interacts with his environment on a psi-synchronicity level that distorts so-called random chance. Vaughan further implies some kind of cosmic design: an organising life force that uses psi to activate its plans.

Obviously, if there is such a thing as an intergrative tendency or an acausal connecting principle which is an integral part of nature, then we have a ready explanation for the coincident events which occurred in the Puharich, Lansing and Clark cases. Perhaps, through some unknown manipulation of the integrative tendency, the UFO event orders previously random events. However, the operative word is "if."

An alternative hypothesis to synchronicity is that "meaningful" coincidences are caused by psi processes. Jule Eisenbud (1975, p.61), of "thoughtography" fame, cautions against placing theoretical limitations on psi abilities: "...there would be nothing in any of the types of events put down as synchronistic that would be beyond accomplishment

by the most innocent looking oberver or happenstance bystander. At the most he would be doing unconsciously, and with no manifest effort at all, what a movie director goes to great pains to do on a conscious level, that is, deploying props, natural surroundings and events, and the wide capabilities of "central casting," to achieve any desired effect. Rex Stanford has suggested (Vaughan, 1975) that people continually scan their environment by ESP, and unconsciously use this information to bring about coincidences, both good and bad, depending on their psychological motivation. He terms this action a Psi-Meditated Instrumental Response (PMIR).

In the UFO context, there is ample precedent for the occurrence of paranormal events in close encounter UFO cases (see Moravec, 1979). It appears, that in the cases we have been discussing, a telepathic or psi link may occur between investigator and percipient. A matrix of psi experiences may be set up in the entire system of people involved, drawing on material especially salient to the participants.

In the case examples presented earlier, at least some of the incidents can be explained as due to psi processes. In the Puharich case, the Faraday cage episode, the prediction of Holroyd's involvement with the group, and the psychokinetically-active bookshelf all suggest the operation of the participants' psi processes. The symbol-laden encounter at the isolated Israeli village may be an instance of the PMIR action postulated by Stanford - where the group unconsciously selected a town and festival which would be relevant to them. Or it could just have been a coincidence made meaningful by a Rorschach-like projection of current preoccupations. In the Lansing case, the cassette recorder failure, the anomalous film images, and the flying cup and saucer may all have been psychokinetic effects unconsciously triggered off by the participants. It should be noted that in both the Puharich and Lansing cases there occurred paranormal events in addition to the outlined "coincidences." Finally, in the Clark episode, the Mothman-sounding noise may have been a coincidental mechanical error (after all, how many interviews would Clark have given where no unexpected sound effects occurred?) or a psychokinetic audio imprint analogous to the so-called "paranormal voice" recordings. If we accept the psi hypothesis, then the Hardy-Harvie experimental results must he either spurious or due to a psi effect, probably involving the experimenters.

The role of coincidence in both UFO and everyday events is probably underestimated. After all, probability theory predicts that randomly spaced events are more likely to concentrate in apparent clusters than to occur in even intervals. We tend to pay more selective attention to those events which do coincide than those that do not. Also, those events which are most salient to us usually have the most subjective impact. And, of course, one of the basic findings of perception is that our minds tend to create patters out of random elements.

There may also be dangers in a blind belief in "synchronicity." It is possible that a person who has just undergone a traumatic, close encounter UFO experience is more prone to confuse coincidence with planned conspiracy, reality with fantasy. (Did someone just say "MIB"?) If the percipient's UFO experience is truly unsettling and disturbing, then perhaps in some cases "synchronistic" events are explicable in terms of psychopathology. Furthermore, if we unwarily accept the views of Jung and Vaughan that synchronistic events are outside the sphere of human causation, we are projecting our own responsibilities onto an external scapegoat, just as primitive man blamed events on magical objects or spirits and demons. Hence the seductiveness of synchronicity.

In conclusion, several items stand out. Firstly, we probably underestimate the role of coincidence in everyday life. We feel more comfortable when things seem to be

planned out for us. Secondly, since psi processes do appear to operate in more complex UFO cases, it seems reasonable to attempt to extend this explanation to some apparent "synchronistic" events. We can do this successfully by utilising Rex Stanford's idea of an unconscious psi-meditated instrumental response. If, as Vaughan suggests, synchronicity and psi are indistinguishable at the basic level, then there is no need to introduce the mystifying hypothesis of synchronicity. And on purely ideological grounds, the synchronicity hypothesis has the disadvantage, indeed danger, of projecting away our responsibilities. The most reasonable conclusion is that "synchronistic events" are actually a combination of(1) random coincidences, and (2) paranormal events.

References

Clark, J. and Coleman, L. Creatures of the Night

A P E S G

The aim of the APESG is to investigate reports where some sort of tangible interaction with the environment is apparent e.g.:

PHYSICAL TRACES & EFFECTS:	(ground marks etc.)
EFFECTS ON LIVING THINGS:	(physical, physiological & psychological effects on humans, flora & fauna)
EFFECTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT:	(includes vehicle effects, "EM" cases, instrumental interactions & recordings, etc.)
APPARENT INERTIAL & GRAVITATIONAL EFFECTS:	(includes apparent violations of physical laws)

The APESG is also very interested in receiving data on good examples of natural phenomena producing effects similar to those viewed as "physical evidence" for UFO reports (e.g. fungus rings, ball lightning & fireball interactions with environment, etc.).

Technically qualified evaluations will be undertaken on all data received, by consultants affiliated directly with the Australian Centre for UFO Studies and by others, enlisted because of their expertise in particular areas pertinent to the assessment of physical evidence.

The group will document and publish studies of such cases, with the eventual aim of providing the UFO research community with comprehensive and authorative data related to PHYSICAL EVIDENCE for UFOs in Australia. Copies of these publications will be distributed to interested parties at cost and forwarded to all member organisations of the Australian Centre for UFO Studies, free of charge, in exchange for their cooperation in providing data.

Your assistance is sought in bringing our attention to any "physical evidence" cases you may come across and investigate. Information can be directed to either of the following:

AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES:	PO Box 546, Gosford, NSW 2250.
AUSTRALIAN PHYSICAL EVIDENCE STUDY GROUP:	C/- PO Box 6, Lane Cove, NSW 2066.

PUBLICATIONS

Australia's first comprehensive listing of "physical trace" cases is in preparation. Entitled "A SOURCE BOOK OF AUSTRALIAN UFO RELATED PHYSICAL TRACE EVENTS AND OTHER RELATED SIMILAR PHEN@MENA," it is being compiled by Bill Chalker.

Copies of the paper, "PHYSICAL EVIDENCE FOR UFOs IN AUSTRALIA - a preliminary study of the Physical Trace Experience in Australia" by Bill Chalker, presented at UFOCON 4, 1979, are available from the author: C/- PO Box 6, Lane Cove, NSW 2066.

The APESG will concentrate on detailed "case documents" of Australian PHYSICAL EVIDENCE cases and as these become available they will be sent to all member organisations of the ACUFOS, free of charge, in exchange for their cooperation in providing material.

A periodic newsletter - "APESG UPDATE" - compiled by Bill Chalker, will be circulated to interested parties and all ACUFOS affiliated groups. It will carry updates on APESG research activities, Australian and overseas "physical evidence" cases, science/technology applied to "physical evidence" and literature reviews. The newsletter will hopefully encourage dialogue on the question of physical evidence for UFO reports in Australia, the results of which, shall of course be included in it.■

ENTITY CASES EMERGE FROM THE PAST

BY KEITH BASTERFIELD
OF THE AUSTRALIAN ENTITY STUDY GROUP

The Australian Entity Study Group (AESG) was formed in early 1977 and consists of a loosely knit group of individuals within Australia who are particularly interested in "entity" related cases.

The aim of the group is to investigate such reports, document them and publish both summaries and more extensive documents for distribution to interested parties.

An extensive review and analysis of 67 such Australian events was issued as a document by the Australian Centre for UFO Studies earlier this year.*

However, since the issue of this document several other cases have been unearthed from the past which should be of value to readers.

Our first case happened in Smithfield, New South Wales in 1968 and was rediscovered whilst the files of UFOR(NSW) were being sifted through in early 1981. It seems that a 21 year old machinist was walking home from work. Whilst crossing a small park he looked up and saw a very unusual thing in the sky. It was very close to him, only a matter of 200-500 feet away. The witness quickly ran home and got out his telescope and looked through it at the still visible object. It was saucer shaped, on the top half there was a square window at which stood a blackish figure silhouetted by yellow light with both arms outstretched on the window sill. On the underneath of what he called the "craft" were blue and orange pulsating lights rotating in an anti-clockwise direction.

Also in 1968 there was an entity observation reported from Wynyard in Tasmania. It was uncovered in 1979 by TUFOIC during an investigation into another case. The person who actually saw the object is now deceased but his wife recounted the story as follows: Early one morning her husband arose and went outside. Visible over the nearby Table Cape was a greyish shape hovering. He called it a "zeppelin" (suggestive of a cigar) shaped airship. There seemed to be windows along the "airship" and it moved as if there were people moving around inside. Although it remained visible the witness decided to go back inside the house. Later his wife was talking to an elderly neighbour who also said that she had seen an "aeroplane" object over the same Cape.

A possible close encounter type three event came to light in September 1980 when Keith Roberts of TUFOIC was investigating a report. The location of the event was on the road between St Helens and Ansons Bay, in NE Tasmania. The date was sometime in 1974.

One night an Ansons Bay resident was driving home from St Helens. When the witness stopped to light a cigarette she happened to notice an object in a nearby paddock at ground

level. There were a number of lights around the object and "men" were observed going up and down a ramp which lead into it.

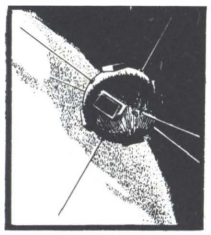
The lady made a hurried departure after only a quick look. It was subsequently revealed that a residual "burn mark" was supposed to have been found at the same spot. TUFOIC investigations have revealed that unfortunately the reporter died in October 1980 and so further details are unlikely to be obtained.

TUFOIC had many cases from this area in 1974, including low level nocturnal lights, car "paces" and "auto stops." There was a spectacular incident on September 16, 1974, near St Helens when a car driven by a lady was affected by very peculiar noises, odours and lights. Two other "traces" were reported in this area. One at Binalong Bay and the other two years later in a roadside paddock on the road to Ansons Bay.

NOTE:

* ACUFOS D3 - "AN INDEPTH REVIEW OF AUSTRALASIAN UFO RELATED ENTITY REPORTS," 110 PAGES, UBIX'D, SPIRAL BOUND IS AVAILABLE FROM THE AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES: PO BOX 546, GOSFORD NSW 2250, AUSTRALIA. COST: AUSTRALIAN $12 INCL. SURFACE POSTAGE BY PADDED BAG. PLEASE REMIT BY INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDER IF PURCHASING OUTSIDE AUSTRALIA.

"Harry, come see! Stephen Spielberg is at it again."



THE VELA SATELLITE MYSTERY

NUCLEAR TEST, METEOR, OR AN UNIDENTIFIED FLASHING OBJECT ?

By John Prytz

On June 30, 1908, something (meteorite, black hole, anti-matter, comet, nuclear-powered spaceship, etc.) exploded above the sparsely inhabited Tunguska region of the Russian Central Siberian Plateau. That mystery is as unsolvable and yet popular today as it was following the first scientific investigations back in the first third of the 20th Century.

Central Siberian Swamp
Site of Tunguska explosion

On September 22, 1979, something was detected by the American Vela satellite on or above the surface of the South Atlantic Ocean. What that something was may just prove to be as elusive as the "what" responsible for the Tunguska mystery, despite 71 years of scientific sophistication and evolution. To those knowledgeable with the Tunguska event, there will be some parallels with the Vela mystery. Whether they are real or apparent, remains to be seen. What follows is the evolution of the Vela Story.

In 1970, the United States launched a Vela satellite which was just one of a series designed to monitor the 1963 Nuclear Test Ban Agreements between Russia and America. To date, only three of the original series of eight satellites are still in a functioning state; the end of their useful lives drawing to a close.

Vela was equipped to detect various forms of radiation (X-ray, gamma ray, neutron emission) released when an atmospheric nuclear explosion takes place. Those particular sensors were either damaged (by nine years of exposure to the hostile environment of outer space, in particular UV radiation), turned off, or not sensitive enough to record, what was to transpire at 3 am (local time), when the satellite was some thousands of miles above the surface of the South Atlantic, and had in view an area of some 4,500 square miles (including parts of South Africa, the Indian Ocean, and Antarctica).

However, this particular American intelligence satellite was also equipped with optical sensors that could detect the light from an atomic fireball. These optical instruments were not only working, but working perfectly, as they had been calibrated

for accuracy a week before the "event," in addition to being checked immediately afterwards, without showing the slightest degree of trouble or abnormality.

It was these optical sensors on the U.S. Air Force Vela satellite which detected in the wee-hours of September 22, 1979, an intense two-stage burst of light that lasted for less than a single second, somewhere within the before-mentioned region. This flash of light (with two separate intensity peaks) followed the characteristic intensity patterns of other nuclear blasts registered by this same satellite, and those same optical sensors, in the past. It was noted that this particular event was the 42nd time this satellite had recorded a nuclear blast, and in the previous 41 registrations, the instrumentation had been spot-on! A nuclear fireball has a highly tell-tale signature, unlike any other known phenomena, characterized by this double-peak optical signature. American Defence experts calculated the flash, if nuclear (and to that effect they had no doubt) was in the 2 to 4 kiloton range, which would be akin to a low-yield nuclear blast, and some 10 to 40% below the level of most atmospheric nuclear tests carried out by those countries still engaged in such activity.

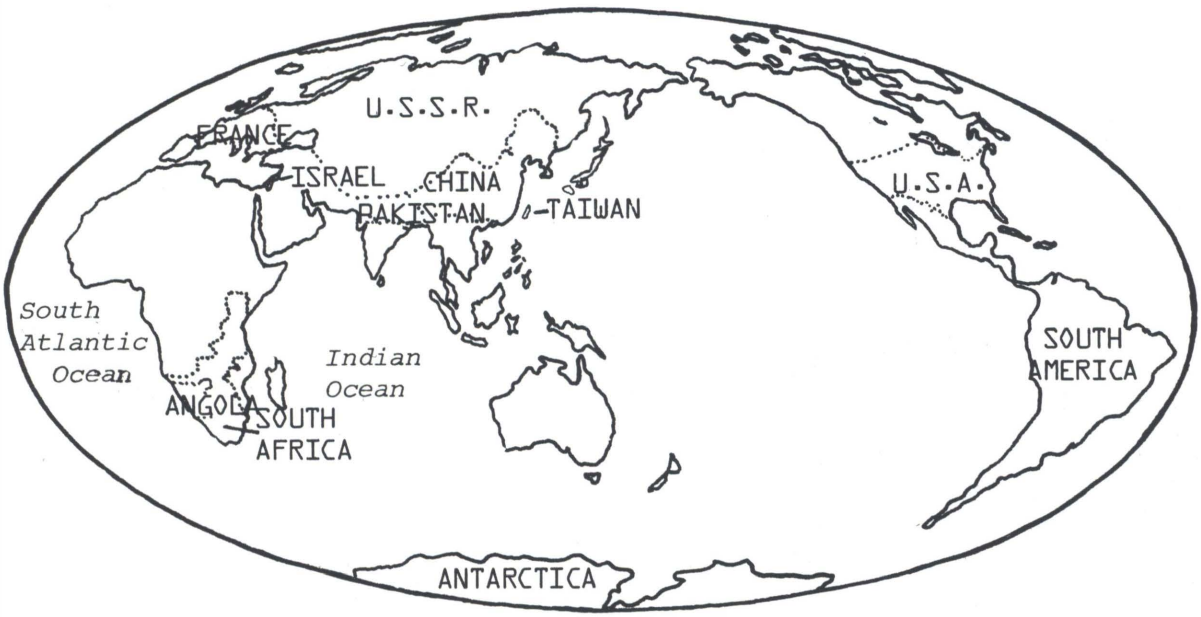
However, it wasn't until slightly over a month later that the Americans released the details of the "discovery" in a cautiously-worded statement to the press. The statement implied, but did not directly accuse, South Africa, of exploding a nuclear device either over the Indian Ocean or at a secret site in the Kalahari Desert, in the north-central region of that country. It had been believed, by intelligence experts, that South Africa was well advanced toward becoming the seventh member of the nuclear club. Given the geographical area, South Africa was the logical suspect. But, from the moment of the release of the American disclosure, things quickly got rater complicated, and mysterious.

The South African Atomic Energy Board, as well as senior South African Government officials, including the Foreign Minister (Mr. Pik Botha), quickly denied that South Africa could, or would, conduct an atmospheric nuclear test. Foreign relations between South Africa and the United States rapidly went from bad to worse.

The South African Naval Chief (Vice Admiral J.C. Walters) suggested instead that the most likely cause was an atomic mishap aboard a Soviet nuclear submarine, off the South African coast. Even though a Soviet Echo II class nuclear submarine was known to be in the vicinity of the Cape of Good Hope (some reports suggest no sub was in the region), the Russians denied that any of their submarines (nuclear or otherwise) were involved in a mishap; the Americans stated that they had considered that possibility and had rejected it in total.

South African officials further suggested that perhaps the Russians, Chinese, or even the Americans themselves had conducted the atomic test. Israel and Pakistan were suggested as countries responsible and that they picked a test site (on an unmanned ship) near South Africa in order to throw suspicion away from themselves and onto the Pretoria Government. Brazil, Argentina, and in fact the rest of the bona fide nuclear powers were suggested by someone, somewhere, at sometime. Needless to say, all countries denied any knowledge of the event, especially when someone else pointed the finger at them.

Meanwhile, back at the (American) ranch, Prof. J. Yan R. Smith of Westville University, suggested that the mystery blast was due to a Soviet nuclear ICBM, launched in 1963, which failed to explode when it hit the drink some 1900km south of The Cape. The salt water corrosion of the nuclear warhead caused the blast 16 years later! His theory was based around an American radar tracking of a UFO (not on Russian admittance of such a rocket/nuclear test) at that time, in that area. An investigation in 1963



had concluded in the absence of any evidence to the contrary that the UFO was a meteorite that had plunged into the Antarctic Ocean.

Upon the receipt of the Vela satellite telemetry, the Americans naturally tried to obtain confirming evidence that a nuclear blast had occurred. That final corroboration proved elusive, which is why the Americans never could directly accuse South Africa (or anyone else for that matter). Acoustical equipment was checked to determine whether a nuclear detonation had been heard - no luck! Seismic devices failed to detect any shocks caused by the mysterious blast. American reconnaissance aircraft (U-2's) were sent to the region to detect traces of radioactive debris in the upper atmosphere - nothing! The Director of the Australian Radiation Laboratory (Dr K. Lokan) said that Australian monitoring equipment had failed to detect any increases in radiation levels. And although the New Zealand Institute of Nuclear Sciences had reported some very slight increases in radioactive fallout early on in the investigation, this was not confirmed by New Zealand's National Radiation Laboratory, nor in fact could the Institute (in Wellington) produce their findings a second time.

Therefore,the U.S. Defence Secretary (Dr H. Brown) had to say publicly that there was no data that could prove that South Africa (or anyone else) had set off a nuclear explosion. Even the initial American release had stated that absence of confirming evidence (still being looked for) forced intelligence officials to concede that the Vela signals may have been caused by a freak combination of natural phenomena. The immediate ruling out of any single natural cause was due to the double-burst-of-light signature. The Americans launched into an investigation of such possibilities, for the obvious reason that there was a deficiency in U.S. monitoring of weapons testing. Such an inability of a super-power to decide within seconds, and to a 100% degree of accuracy, whether or not a nuclear weapon had gone off, in this day and age of push-button, hair-trigger, nuclear warfare scenarios, just could not be tolerated.

However, this Presidential panel of nine scientists, the best scientific advice the White House could buy or command, which reviewed independently all of the Government's data, concluded after a three-month analysis (in January 1980) that the cause of the Vela telemetry was "technically indeterminate" (that's bureaucratic jargon for "we havn't a bloody clue what's going on or what really transpired!"). Although a small nuclear blast couldn't be ruled out due to the finding of one small piece of supporting

evidence (see below), the panel did rule out as causes: a satellite malfunction; cosmic rays; solar flares; sun glint; meteor flashes; lightning bolts; and super lightning bolts. The panel, in exasperation, turned to what they termed "zoo animals" - strange signals received over the years for which no satisfactory explanation has ever been forthcoming. Signals? What the panel's report revealed was that the "flash" detected on September 22, 1979, was only one in thousands of signals received over the past 10 years that precisely fitted the model of a nuclear event, yet which were never made by a bomb! According to the American State Department, "We are not in a position to accuse anybody of anything" because the panel's technical report "now tells us that what we thought was a unique signal (from Vela) was a nearly (the Department's emphasis) unique signal."

Sun Spots?

The one supporting piece of evidence was detected by chance via the radio observatory at Arecibo, Puerto Rico. It detected an ionospheric ripple at the right time and from the right direction shortly after the Vela event, which could have resulted from a nuclear blast. It also could have resulted from an earthquake, sun spots, a solar flare, electrical storms, or other natural events. Further, the magnitude of the "ripple" was considered incompatible with the magnitude of the supposed nuclear test, but it was something to grasp at.

However, in the final analysis, the best the panel could do was invoke a "zoo animal" (the Government had to get something for their money; the panel had to save face). The "zoo animal" suggested was one of a meteoroid or a piece of space debris, rotating while floating past the Vela optical sensor, sending two sun-reflecting glints, hence duplicating an exact replica of a nuclear bomb flash. However, the Administration rightly concluded that the probability of that happening was equally as low as that of a nuclear test which failed to leave behind any physical trace.

But the matter didn't end there. The American CBS Television network reported that two Israelis (Mr Ely Taicher and Amy Dor-On) in an unpublished book said that Israel had exploded an atomic bomb off the coast of South Africa, at the time Vela had detected the nuclear test signature, with the full co-operation and knowledge of the South African Government. Further, Israel had obtained the raw uranium from South Africa, and had it processed in the Negev Desert where a nuclear power plant, supplied by France, had been constructed. The Carter Administration said there was no political or military intelligence available that would link Israel and/or South Africa with such a nuclear event. Now six months after the fact, there was still no secondary evidence to suggest the event really was nuclear in origin, but if it was, the CIA concluded that either Israel or South Africa would be the most likely candidates.

The next theory proposed was that the nuclear flash was a test of a neutron bomb! Although there was not a shred of past evidence to suggest that any country had ever tested a neutron bomb, it was not beyond the limits of several countries to do this. Further, the neutron bomb theory would explain both the relative low yield of the nuclear blast (if that's what it was) and the lack of recordable fallout. Of course the confession that hundreds of previous "strange" signals were on record suggested otherwise. Therefore, there was speculation that some country (or countries) deliberately flashed laser beams at the Vela satellite(s) (and no doubt other spy-in-the-sky

satellites) in order to confuse them. Although this had been considered by the White House panel (the possibility was set aside), there was still enough concern; enough mystery remaining, for the American Government to reconvene the original outside panel of scientists, in order to have another go at investigating the data.

But the battle lines were drawn. Contrary to the earlier White House panel reports, suggesting as most likely a "zoo animal" cause, a team of US military intelligence experts who also examined the data, concluded in a Defence Intelligence Agency report that the Vela flash could not have been due to natural causes, but was very probably a South African nuclear test, citing as evidence not only the Vela signal and the Arecibo radiotelescope data, but some (now revealed) slight increases in both acoustic and hydroacoustic instruments (the former at a remote Northern Hemisphere site, the later at an unidentified location; even though experts maintained no acoustics should have been detected at such a distant site given the intensity level of the suspected blast); a U.S. Air Force radar station detection of some sort of electro-magnetic pulse immediately after the September 22 event; not to mention a task force of South African warships which were engaged in some sort of secret exercise at sea, at roughly the same latitude and longitude, at roughly the same time as the flash was observed.

However, the scientific panel budged not one iota from their "zoo animal" beliefs, although they did change their tune slightly. Because of the low probability of the floating-rotating meteoroid theory (one chance in a billion), and the large number of previous events of a proven non-nuclear nature, the panel suggested that the Vela signal may have been triggered when a speck-sized meteoroid hit the satellite and sent particles flying off the satellite, of which two passed in front of the sensors. The evidence used by the intelligence experts was judged as "too incomplete to apply to the event" because it contained ambiguities in "signal identification and source locations." The scientific panel's second explantation was no more satisfying than their first, but more digestable than having the mystery utterly unresolved.

If by now you are utterly and thoroughly confused, hold on to your sanity, the worst is yet to come - you ain't seen nothing yet!

The American journalist Jack Anderson (in September 1980 - almost a year after the fact) quoted a secret CIA report (political/military leaks find no monopoly in Australia) which stated that a mini-bomb (type N for nuclear) had been jointly tested (but detected by Vela) by South Africa, Israel (nothing new there), and Taiwan! A strange political/military alliance. The CIA report (if for real) must surely rate "10 out of 10" for originality! How this theory explains the problems; would satisfy the White House scientific panel, is not either gone into by the CIA and/or by Jack Anderson.

Not to be outdone, ex-BBC reporter David Taylor, who headed a team of investigative reporters, explained on Granada Television's World in Action programme, how the South Africans, with the help of American scientists, Government officials, and companies, and in an international web of dealings and counter-dealings (which would make anything Ian Fleming's James Bond would be able to deal with something akin to a trip to the supermarket in terms of intrigue), secretly bought one of the world's most sophisticated atomic cannons and tested its nuclear warhead in the South Atlantic - and that was what Vela of course saw! In a nutshell, the South Africans obtained, hence tested, a long-range nuclear shell, fired from a howitizer gun on a warship. The CIA, through private American companies, set up the entire operation for South Africa back in 1975 in order to give South Africa military superiority over Angola (South Africa and Angola are not exactly the best of friends). If the flash was a terrestrial nuclear one, this is the only scenario which can explain why the blast was only some 8000 metres above the ground (sea) level; why no other satellites detected the blast at the same time (the device

was only a mini one - which also explains why not enough fallout was produced that could be detected); and why no rocket plume (if that was the transport device) was ever detected. The truth of the World in Action report has never been independently confirmed - which is perhaps not surprising if it is true! After all, the Pentagon, U.S. State Department, and American Government (at least the President), would have had to have turned a blind eye to the wheelings and dealings - which (if revealed officially) would make a farce of the American signing of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

"... As an eminent satellite 'zoologist' does it ever worry you that no-one will ever understand what you are saying?"

But dear reader, the story doesn't end there! If (as Ian Fleming once wrote) "once is happenstance, twice is coincidence, but three times is enemy action," then we have reached the "coincidence" stage! (Of course if previous reports are accurate we have reached the "enemy action" stage dozens, hundreds, even thousands of times over). For you see....

On December 15, 1980, an American surveillance satellite detected another "event" over the ocean near South Africa! But this time it was an infrared signal - the optical sensors saw nothing! Although "officially" the military and scientific communities are in agreement that this was not a nuclear detection (again no hard-core supporting evidence), the American spy-in-the-sky satellites are designed not to be fooled by natural phenomena. Yet the explanation (another "zoo animal") thought most likely, was a very natural reflection of solar infrared radiation off the condensation trail of a meteor! The obvious headache for the American Government is that obviously the U.S. detecting devices have failed (or are prone to failure); the Americans can never be sure if another country really has conducted an atmospheric nuclear test, with all the implications that holds for international nuclear agreements - if the satellite can not tell a nuclear explosion from a meteor, what good is the surveillance system at all, in particular if the satellite's data is used for a "go/no go" when and if it comes time to push the button that launches World War Three?

But what if the above two "events" were neither nuclear tests (and there is no supporting hard-core evidence to suggest they were), nor "zoo animals" (which have a very low probability and for which the satellites are designed not to detect). (There is no probability in things of this nature - either you know or you don't know - there is no "maybe"). And further, what about the other and numerous "zoo animal" signals detected over the years, as revealed by the White House scientific panel (chaired by Jack Ruina of MIT)? This breaks the back of not only the wildest nuclear test scenarios (as freely admitted by the U.S.), but also the probability back of frequent natural events (which the satellites would ignore anyway) not to mention the very rare events of a "zoo animal" nature (which the satellites should also be ignoring).

To say, as the Americans did in the initial analysis of the Vela "event" that "This

could remain a mystery forever" just isn't good enough - not in this day and age with the nuclear sword of Damocles hanging over our collective heads! And that is just about the only conclusion I care to reach.

But, as others have speculated so freely in this matter, I will allow myself to roam some mental corridors too. Could it be that perhaps, just perhaps, that the terrestrial watchers are being watched, not by each other, but by extraterrestrial watchers, who in turn have been watched by the terrestrial watchers, and that that detection maybe, just maybe, might have been the cause of the various "zoo animals?"

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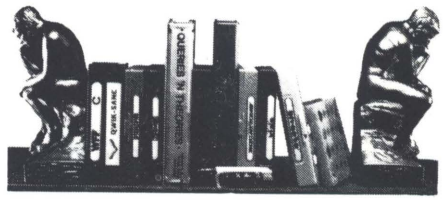

YOUR GUIDE TO THE BEST UFO BOOKS

by Michael Hough, UFO Research (N.S.W.)

If you are new to UFOs, you will probably be confused about which of the hundreds of books on the subject are the most reliable. The books listed below are the ones I consider to be the most accurate, yet also readable and original. The emphasis is on the known facts about UFOs, rather than on the origin and purpose of the phenomenon. The latter aspects are still very much an open question, and very few books exist that argue these aspects convincingly. The coverage is world-wide; no book that adequately covers the Australian UFO scene is yet available. (Books marked N/A are not readily available in Australia. Order it from overseas through your local bookshop).

If you have a deep desire for, or a spiritual commitment to, the existence of UFOs, you may be disappointed by this selection. We have no objection to religious beliefs - but we nevertheless think that such beliefs should be based on facts. It is an unfortunate inescapable fact that at least 90% of reported UFO sightings are misperceptions of common objects or natural phenomena - stars, planets and aircraft, in particular.

J. Allen Hynek. THE UFO EXPERIENCE: A SCIENTIFIC ENQUIRY (1972)
Corgi paperback edition, 1974 ($2.75)

This book still remains the best introduction to UFOs even though now a little dated. It is based on Hynek's 20 years experience of studying UFO reports as consultant to the U.S. Air Force. He describes his gradual conversion from a 'complete skeptic' to the realisation that UFOs are a new phenomenon reported by credible people. He then classifies UFO reports as follows: nocturnal lights (NLs) and daylight discs (DLs) close encounter of the 1st kind (UFO comes within 500 ft); 2nd kind (UFO lands); and 3rd kind (occupant seen). This order of description starts from the least strange and works up to the most strange. This technique should be effective in making even skeptics think twice. Hynek is also rightly critical of the unscientific and negative attitudes of both the Project Bluebook and Condon investigations.

Good supplements to Hynek's book are:

THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF UFOs (1979). Ronald Story, editor. Dolphin paperback (Doubleday) ($12.95 U.S.). The standard reference for some time to come.
THE HUMANOIDS (1969; Futura paperback edition 1974: $1.50) and
ENCOUNTER CASES FROM FLYING SAUCER REVIEW (1977; Signet paperback: $2.55).
Both books are collections of papers selected from the magazine 'Flying Saucer Review' by its editor Charles Bowen. Both feature high-strangeness cases not studied by Hynek (humanoid, abduction and teleportation reports, for example). Gordon Creighton demolishes the myth of the ancient Tibetan 'gramophone' library.

Allan Hendry. THE UFO HANDBOOK: A GUIDE TO INVESTIGATION, EVALUATING AND REPORTING UFO SIGHTINGS (1979). Doubleday paperback. (About $U.S. 11) (N/A)

Hendry is chief investigator and managing editor for INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTER, a journal published by Hynek's Centre for UFO Studies. (The journal now is incorporated within the future science news magazine PROBE). This hard-hitting entertaining book is based on 15 months of telephone interviews with the witnesses of 1300 UFO reports.

Hendry concludes that 90% are readily explicable - planets, stars, aircraft, balloons, meteors and satellite re-entries being the most commonly misperceived. His 83p on IFOs and 51p on UFOs shatter many myths. For example, only one person was seeing spots in front of his eyes, and none had been drunk. Yet highly qualified and sincere persons, who had read little UFO literature, were still capable of gross errors in perceiving shapes, distances and speeds. The emotional overlay was so apparent it becomes very difficult to seek out the true meaning of UFOs. The final 122 pages therefore evaluate various tools that are independent of witness testimony. He considers that animal reactions, hypnosis, lie detectors, multiple witnesses and binoculars are unreliable. Radar, photographs, radiation and magnetic detectors and statistics are more valuable, if properly used (which is rare - particularly statistics).

David M. Jacobs. THE UFO CONTROVERSY IN AMERICA (1974). Signet paperback edition, 1976. ($2.75)

Jacobs is an assistant professor of modern history. This book was the subject of his doctoral thesis. He traces the historical development of the UFO phenomena, organisations and personalities in the U.S. from 1896 to 1973. He draws on many published and unpublished documents in both USAF and private files. Covered are: the 1896 airship flap: the 1947 sightings, leading up to the USAFs Project Sign, and its downgrading to Project Grudge; its revitalisation as Bluebook, coinciding with the 1952 flap; the CIA-Robertson panel decision to debunk the subject; the rise of the contactees (Adamski and others); Keyhoe and NICAP's struggle to expose the air force cover-up, and to force congressional hearings; the independent 1966 Condon enquiry, and the deadening effect of its negative conclusions; and the resurge of interest caused by the 1973 U.S. humanoid wave.

James M. McCampbell. UFOLOGY (1976). Celestial Arts paperback, Millbrae, California. (About $U.S. 6) (N/A)

McCampbell is a nuclear engineer and technical manager. He assumes that UFOs are 'mechanical constructions', rather than 'obscure natural phenomena, hoaxes or psychic projections', and that most non-trivial UFO reports are valid. He extracts patterns from a worldwide collection of 1000 reports, and attempts to explain these patterns in terms of known scientific principles. His wide-ranging analysis includes the size, shapes, composition and luminosity of UFOs, sounds, electrical interference, physiological effects, flight and propulsion characteristics, types of occupants of UFOs - and their activities on Earth. He recommends an international study program on UFOs. Compelling reading for the technically qualified person - even though McCampbell claims his study is only preliminary, and he cannot be expert in all disciplines.

Jacques Vallee. PASSPORT TO MAGONIA: FROM FOLKLORE TO FLYING SAUCERS (1970). Tandem paperback edition, 1975 ($2.00)

Vallee explores the many intriguing similarities between modern humanoid-in-UFO sightings, and the folklore of fairies, elves, angels, devils and other aerial people that visit Earth from such mythical places as heaven, hell and Magonia. He simply documents these old and new tales - unfortunately not always from the original sources (e.g. the tale of the regiment that disappeared at Gallipoli on 28/5/1915 is now discredited: see Begg 1979). He does not attempt to impose modern scientific interpretations. He says: "UFOs provide a unique opportunity to observe folklore in the making .... Science has offered no answer to some basic needs in our hearts." He thinks that these UFO 'myths' could easily be manipulated to control human psychological and technological development - a theme he develops further in his two latest books INVISIBLE COLLEGE (re-issued as UFOs: THE PSYCHIC SOLUTION, Panther paperback 1977) and MESSENGERS OF DECEPTION: UFO CONTACTS AND CULTS (An/Or paperback, Berkeley, California, 1979).

THE BEST BOOKS ON RELATED TOPICS

Ronald Story. THE SPACE GODS REVEALED (1976). NEL paperback edition, 1978 ($2.25).
Peter White. THE PAST IS HUMAN (1978). Arkon (Angus & Robertson) paperback ($2.95).

Both books look closely at Von Daniken's evidence for ancient astronauts: the Piri Re'is map, Nazca lines, Easter Island, the Palenque astronaut, etc. They show how much of this evidence is based on inaccurate and selective research and loose argument. Old ruins and relics can be built by Man himself without the intervention of 'gods'. (White is an archaeologist at Sydney University).

For a contrary viewpoint, read Peter Krassa's ERICH VON DANIKEN: DISCIPLE OF THE GODS (1976; Star paperback 1978). This is a passionate defence of Von Daniken that reveals many insights into his character - including his ESP visions - and the campaign to denigrate him.

Lawrence Kusche. THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE MYSTERY - SOLVED (1975). NEL paperback. ($2.25)

Librarian Kusche has studied in detail about 50 disappearances of ships and planes that Berlitz and others claim prove that bizarre things are happening in the Bermuda Triangle. He finds logical explanations for most - especially hurricanes and other bad weather. Berlitz's data is incomplete, selective and often not based on original sources. Some disappearances did not even take place in the Triangle, but as far apart as Ireland, Brazil and the Pacific coast of Mexico (!). Most of the mishaps remaining unsolved (except for the classic Mary Celeste) were those for which Kusche could find little or no information. He also shows that the evidence for the Devil's Sea off Japan is also based on poor data.

This book should be read in conjunction with the somewhat sensationalist SECRETS OF THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE (Alan Landsburg: Warner paperback 1978). It lists 130 disappearances, and challenges some of Kusche's interpretations, but not always successfully. Short-lived magnetic and/or gravitational anomalies, with or without ball lightning strikes, are suggested as the cause of some mishaps. (Note: No one has yet done an adequate statistical study to show that ships and planes do indeed vanish in amounts greater than for the surrounding seas).

Paul Begg. INTO THIN AIR: PEOPLE WHO DISAPPEAR (1979). A.H. & A.W. Reed ($9.95).

A journalist looks at the many stories of people who vanished on land, sea and air. It includes a detailed account of the Bermuda Triangle, and of the 'missing regiment' at Gallipoli. Both are shown to have little basis in reality, the publisher's blurb notwithstanding ("..what is chilling about this book is that..there are still some disappearances that cannot be explained in terms of any natural force").

Francis Hitching. THE WORLD ATLAS OF MYSTERIES (1978). Large format Pan paperback edition, 1979. ($11.95).

A fascinating well-illustrated collection of oddities, ranging from respectable (continental drift) to fringe topics (UFOs, ESP). If you think that the mighty advance of science and technology has left little undiscovered, this book shows you otherwise. Enjoy it - but don't uncritically believe everything. Hitching tries to maintain a balance towards subjects that by their nature are invariably surrounded by heated debate. A sampling of articles: death of the dinosaurs; spontaneous human combustion; Velikovsky's theories; ley lines; dowsing; levitation; unknown writings; Atlantis; the Sirius mystery; Noah's Ark; Turin shroud; monsters; vanishing people; El Dorado.

A similar but less critical book is John Michell and Robert Rickard's PHENOMENA - A BOOK OF WONDERS (Thames & Hudson paperback, 1977).
'We accept everything; we believe nothing absolutely; we do not explain.'

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