

# Skywatch

QUARTERLY OF "CONTACT" (S A)

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## EDITORIAL

Once again we have started another year of UFO research and investigation. No doubt we will be hearing about sightings over the wireless and reading press reports, as the veil of silence seems to be lifting slowly. We cannot ignore these reports as something that does not affect us - they do concern us, for this is our planet of which we are an integral part.

Are we to continue being like the chicken in the eggshell that can see no further than the shell, or are we going to be like the chicken which has broken through the shell and now realises that there is a world greater than that contained within the eggshell?

Let us approach this subject like educated beings, realising that life extends beyond the confines of our own small planet - small indeed is Earth in comparison to most other planets. We acknowledge that there is varied life on our planet - can there not, therefore, be life on other planets, life that is perhaps more advanced than that on Earth? Are we going to remain bigotted and be like the chicken inside the eggshell, which cannot possibly conceive of a greater and more wonderful life?

The time has come for humanity to break through their shell of complacency and indifference and acknowledge the fact that our Maker conceived worlds greater than ours.

Spacecraft are not something new; these were referred to many times in the Bible and have been written about by many ancient and modern authors. If there is a standard of intelligence on Earth that can produce craft that fly many thousands of miles around our planet, and in fact to the Moon, could there not be life of a higher intellect on other planets, who could produce craft for inter-planetary travel?

Some will argue that the atmosphere around other planets is such that it could not support human life, but then once again, we are being like the chicken inside the shell, for they know no different. But, once the shell has been broken, vistas of life open up and although the chicken could breathe inside the shell, yet that same chicken can exist in the different atmosphere outside the eggshell.

Perhaps because of our perpetual wars, we have come to think in terms of war and are afraid that these spacecraft come not in peace, but to conquer. We hear remarks to the effect that our world appears to be heading for disaster - through man's greed and selfishness. This, we must admit, could be so. Nature maintains balance in all things and if this planet were to be destroyed would it not throw out the intricate balance of our solar system? Then is it not plausible that beings on other planets are interested in preventing disaster on this planet in order to maintain the balance of the solar system?

The time has surely come for man to think and act constructively and not destructively. Let us, therefore, welcome these spacecraft as something produced by beings of a higher intellect than Earth dwellers, and that they come in peace to help us. Let us not think that we are the greatest and most perfect product of the Mind of the Great Architect, for once we break through our shell of ignorance, greed, selfishness and complacency, greater worlds will open up for us - worlds as yet undreamed of.

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BETWEEN YOU AND ME

By Brinsley Le Poer Trench

Many theories have been advanced as to where UFO's originate. This is really the most important aspect to be resolved, because until we know the answer, then it is not possible to know why this planet is being visited by those elusive craft.

It is, of course, possible that UFO's emanate from many areas, both from other worlds, other solar systems, other galaxies in our physical universe, as well as from invisible universes situated in other orders of matter from our own.

In my earlier books, notably in 'Forgotten Heritage', it was postulated that humanity was created by the Elohim (gods), and that this was a breeding experiment on their part (1). In another book, 'Men Among Mankind', I maintained that aeons ago our planet was in open contact with the Sky People. Then, after the final sinking of Atlantis, the visitors withdrew from our scene, and have made only occasional contact with us mortals since (2). I still adhere to everything that was written in those earlier books.

What we are most concerned with today is the vast number of UFO's that have been seen in our skies, and the considerable number of landing reports since 1947. These, I suggest, are not the Sky People who were in original contact with us aeons ago.

Most leading ufologists consider that these UFO's (or the majority of them) come from an area pertaining to our planet, and that they are not exactly friendly. There have been many incidents reported that support this view. For instance one has just reached me from Ian Norrie - International Committee Member for Contact International (Mexico). He writes: One very strange episode did occur in May this year. A truck carrying a load of asbestos sheets along a Veracruz highway suddenly encountered a small posse of 'little men', who apparently held it up, and the truck and the load was then virtually incinerated by a vivid blue ray, asbestos and all.

More incredible, a second similar episode occurred a week or two later, but this time the non-inflammable asbestos was burnt, but the inflammable material (such as plastic seat covers, etc.) was left unscathed! Not exactly friendly actions!

Incidentally, Norrie also enclosed a photostat copy of a drawing by a Spanish painter from Madrid, called Fernando Calderón (a friend of both Norrie and the well-known Spanish ufologist Antonio Ribeira). This drawing is of the head of a humanoid that suddenly intruded on the TV screen for a few seconds right in front of the camera, while astronauts were operating in the background on the Moon. Calderón states that not only did he see this weird happening, but sundry other witnesses elsewhere, including some in New York, did too. This incident, according to Calderón, concerned the Apollo 15 team of astronauts.

Readers of my last book, 'The Eternal Subject', will recall that I wrote: "The general public may not realize it, but conversation can be censored out of transmission between astronauts and ground control by the delayed tape technique, which allows for a lag of up to two or three minutes between Mission Control and the continuing broadcast into your home. Actually, amateur radio operators, or radio 'Hams' as they are popularly known, who operate on different frequencies can pick up these censored pieces of dialogue. In this connection, there is a story going the rounds concerning the Apollo 11 team that Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin saw something very spectacular on the Moon, and that their conversation about this was deleted from the live broadcast by the delayed tape technique just mentioned, and that some radio 'Hams' picked this up ..." (3:4).

Students of ufology will recall the book by Trevor James called 'They Live in the Sky' (5). James stated that there were ufonauts on the Moon. Furthermore, that both those pertaining to the Earth and on the Moon were hostile.

The late Dr. Morris K. Jessup, who was alleged to have committed suicide, also postulated that most of the UFO's came

from what he called the Earth-Moon binary system (6).

John A. Keel, the noted American UFO writer, has frequently emphasised the point that the UFO's are dropping artifacts on our planet. These are mostly ignored, as ufologists have been looking for "out of this world" artifacts. The fact is, Keel asserts, the ufonauts have been dropping very "earthly" artifacts - substances like aluminium, calcium, and silicon (7).

Now, this is very interesting and possibly a valuable lead. Incidentally, apropos what Keel has brought to our attention, here follows something quite fascinating. You will, no doubt, recall the Maury Island episode back in 1947, when a coastguard patrolman called Harold A. Dahl was out in his boat on the east bay of Maury Island (8). This is an old story, so I will try and be brief; however, I would also like to make the point that, although it is always interesting to know about the latest sightings, much can be learnt by referring back to old ones in the light of new information. The Maury Island affair is a case in point.

Six doughnut-shaped objects appeared in the sky over the bay (this was three days before Kenneth Arnold's classic sighting of nine gleaming objects near Mt. Rainier, Washington State on 24 June, 1947). The central one of these objects appeared to be in trouble, and discharged a large quantity of light, whitish-coloured metal pieces. This was followed by what seemed to Dahl and his companions as a hail of blacker metal, having an appearance similar to that of lava rock. Dahl's son had an arm injured by one of these falling fragments and another piece killed his dog which happened to be with him at that time. When this extraordinary deluge of metal ceased, all six 'aircraft' (Dahl's name for them) rose and drifted out of sight over the sea. The central object which had jettisoned the metal did not seem in any way disturbed.

Early the next morning something strange happened to Dahl. One of those rather frightening things that seem to come to people who know too much about certain aspects of flying saucers. A man dressed in black, called at his home and invited him out to breakfast. Dahl was used to lumber buyers calling on him early, and at first thought nothing

unusual about his visitor. That is, until over the breakfast table, the man described in full detail everything that had occurred to Dahl and his companions the day before. It was quite uncanny. The man in black told Dahl that if he valued his own welfare and that of his family, then he should not discuss his experiences with anyone.

Nevertheless, news of the affair of the six doughnut-shaped objects reached Ray Palmer shortly afterwards, and he immediately authorized Kenneth Arnold (who had then made world headlines with his own classic sighting mentioned above) to investigate the case. Ray Palmer, of course, was later to edit the magazine 'Flying Saucers'. Arnold flew to Tacoma, and sent for Captain E. J. Smith, a United Airlines pilot, to come and join him. Captain Smith had himself observed a gaggle of 'saucers' from his airliner shortly after Arnold's own sighting, and his story, too, had become front-page news.

Arnold and Smith conducted their investigations from the Winthrop Hotel in Tacoma. However, as the affair began to take on strange overtones, they decided to call in two military intelligence officers - Captain William Davidson and Lt. Frank Brown. Both Arnold and Smith had been interrogated by these officers after their own sightings, and had a high regard for their capabilities. Soon after these officers arrived at Tacoma, the two principal original eyewitnesses - Dahl and his chief Chrisman - appeared to make the whole matter out as a hoax. Davidson and Brown threw their hands in and decided to fly back to California in their B.25 bomber. Half an hour after take-off the plane crashed near Kelso, Washington State, and both Davidson and Brown were killed.

Subsequently, another intelligence officer, a Major Sanders, interviewed both Arnold and Smith, and, after seeing the material that had been dropped from the object over Maury Island, pronounced it to be slag.

The late Edward J. Ruppelt, former chief of Project Blue Book (investigating UFO's), in his book 'The Report on Unidentified Flying Saucers', dismissed the Maury Island affair as a hoax (9). The late Harold T. Wilkins, who actually entered

into correspondence, without success, with Dahl and Chrisman, however, reached other conclusions and advanced several reasons why he believed the whole affair to have really occurred (10).

Like Wilkins, I personally do not believe that it was a hoax. The only people who were hoaxed were the two military officers who came to such a tragic end. You see, back in 1947 ufologists did not know that UFO's were in the habit of dropping earthly substances!

There are a lot of other points in favour of this early sighting being no hoax. Dahl described the objects as 'aircraft'. He probably did not know of the existence of 'flying saucers'. Certainly that name had not then made world headlines, for his sighting occurred three days before Arnold's, which gave rise to the term. He also said they were doughnut-shaped. This is a rare type of UFO shape, although it has occasionally been reported much later. If you or I were going to perpetrate a hoax at that time, we surely would not have picked on doughnut-shaped objects. I doubt it very much; and, surely, we would not have had one of them dropping common-or-garden slag all over the bay. This does not make sense today, let alone when the report was first made.

I believe the reason why Dahl began to make the whole affair out as a hoax was when, with the arrival of the military intelligence, the investigation had escalated; and you will recall that the man in black had warned him not to discuss the incident with anyone.

A nagging question keeps running through the little grey cells as this article is being written: most ufologists seem to think that most of the UFO's seen from 1947 onwards come from some invisible area pertaining to our planet. If that is so, then why do they drop slag, silicon, aluminium, calcium, and other earthly substances onto our planet's surface?

Perhaps we should take a look at some other area. A more Earthly one. Have the ufonauts a base, or bases, on Earth in some little explored area? Brazil, for example, is

a very large country, and much of it is still completely unexplored. Incidentally, there has probably been more recorded UFO activity in Brazil than in any other country in the world.

Food for thought!

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6. Jessup, Morris K. 1955. 'The Case for the UFO'. Citadel Press, New York.
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8. Arnold, Kenneth & Ray Palmer. 1952. 'The Coming of the Saucers'. Published privately by the authors at Idaho and Wisconsin.
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Skylab, manned, costs four million dollars a week, so who are we to complain about our increased motoring costs?

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## AT LAST A S.A. PEACE RETREAT CENTRE

Late last year, a small group of people formed themselves around a common goal to purchase a farm to build a spiritual peace retreat centre.

It took time to find the right place, but in December the farm was found in the Thornville area, 75 km from Durban on the way to Richmond. It comprises nearly 230 acres, has three dams, a good flowing natural spring and many trees to enhance the beautiful setting of the rolling terrain. Most parts look out over a fertile valley onto the escarpment south of Pietermaritzburg.

The work so far done, is the laying out of an extensive vegetable garden, a good start on the planting of a sub-tropical fruit and nut tree orchard. Very soon 1 000 trees, plum, citrus, peach, paw-paw, macadamian, pecan nut and others will have been planted in three different layouts. The plans are to have all the varieties of sub-tropical fruit and nut trees suitable for Natal, growing on the farm, so that the tree nursery, which will be started almost at once, can draw its bud and graft wood from its own orchards. Needless to say, the orchards will supply all the fruitarian needs of the permanents and visitors.

The name of the farm is 'Aquarian Estates', expressive of the purpose of the Aquarian Age in which the waters of enlightenment will be poured out over humanity (So far the waters have poured down from heaven as well as from broken underground pipes, but faith in the name remains!).

The centre will be built on a quiet elevated spot, overlooking the valley. When fully completed, it can accommodate 100 people - people of kindred thoughts. The kitchen will be run on vegetarian lines and most of the food will be grown on the farm by organic means and no poisonous sprays.

The organisers have dug deep into their private resources and apart from the initial purchase and bond responsibilities, they are courageously shouldering massive development costs.

"Aquarian Estates" is naturally a non-profit organisation so that revenue from the tree nursery and accommodation will be used to further its spiritual aims. The Aquarian Trust is being formed to accept donations of cash, building materials, furniture, etc., anything that is useful to a farmer, a builder and a homemaker. Anyone who is prepared to donate his or her time is welcome indeed - there are many jobs waiting.

In future, seminars and skywatching week-ends can be held in its wide open spaces, where in steady progression, the vibes will be increased to reach that particular radiation where "contact becomes a natural".

The route from Durban: Take the freeway to Pietermaritzburg, turn left to Richmond. Ten and a half km. along this road is a signpost to Eston and Mount Pleasant - take this road for 1,6 km. and on the right you will see the turn-off to Aquarian Estates.

The address is: Aquarian Estates,  
P.O. Box 2,  
Thornville Junction. Natal.

Telephone: 1821 Thornville.

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#### SIGHTINGS OVER SOUTH AFRICA

We have received no reports of any UFO sightings over South Africa over the last couple of months. Perhaps everyone was far too busy with holiday preparations to spare time for skywatching!

There was, however, one letter written to the Editor of a local newspaper by Mrs. M. Hanley, reporting that she watched a bright shining ball moving over the airport at 1 p.m. on 16 February. This object moved higher up in the sky, remaining over the airport for half an hour. Her husband surmised that this was a weather balloon. Her comment: "Will the people who send them up write on the side - 'this is not a UFO'".

INSTITUTE OF NOETIC SCIENCES

Captain Edgar D. Mitchell startled the world with the first E.S.P. experiment in outer space during the flight of Apollo 14 to the moon. Briefly, the E.S.P. experiment consisted of trying to transmit columns of numbers and assign to each number an E.S.P. symbol, to four people on earth. Collaborating in analyzing the results, were Dr. J. B. Rhine of the Foundation for Research on the Nature of Man in Durham, U.S.A., and Dr. K. Osis of the American Society for Psychic Research in New York.

Since then, much groundwork has been done, and now Edgar Mitchell's new Institute of Noetic Sciences in California, was opened officially in August, 1973. This institute was formed because of the growing interest in noetics (the study of consciousness) and transpersonal psychology, and Mitchell seeks to relate psychic events to the broader fields of altered states of consciousness and expanded human potentials.

In the planning stage are courses, lecture series, films, a probable nation-wide TV show and a counselling service to help persons with psychic problems. Mitchell has approached the National Science Foundation in the hope that grants may be received for specific projects.

It seems that much is being done to make the scientific community recognise parapsychology.

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Dr. M. K. Eriksen, an aerophysicist and a top space expert, states that he and two assistants are presently working on various communication systems designed to establish contact with a UFO. "We intend to move into an area where heavy sightings are reported and send out various patterns of radio signals", he said. "Any response will be recorded. And I am thoroughly convinced that there will be response", he added.

IN PASSING ....

On March 7th, 1973, an astronomer named Lubos Kohoutek, working at the Hamburg Observatory, discovered a faint fuzzy point of light on two photographic plates taken of a part of the sky which he had been searching by telescope for minor planets and asteroids. A few days later Kohoutek exposed more plates showing that part of the sky, and then he knew from its movement and appearance that this point of light was a new comet.

Soon astronomers in Tokyo, Harvard, and England, confirmed his finding and the world was agog at the news of the discovery of Comet Kohoutek. Suddenly, certain religious groups were claiming that the appearance of this comet heralded the end of the world, and a "repent now" theme of fear was spread amongst the gullible. So, once again, as it has been throughout the ages, the fear and superstition surrounding the appearance of a comet has come to the fore.

The poet Homer reflected the general view of comets when in the Iliad he compares the helmet of the hero Achilles to "the red star that from his flaming hair shakes down diseases, pestilence and war."

The Australian Aborigine believed that a comet was the firestick of some mighty shaman (magician or priest), or perhaps a powerful sky spirit on its way to harm Earth. Hawaiian mythology sees the comet as a powerful god. Certain South American Indian tribes called a comet "the spirit of the stars" and believed that it was a warning of disaster. Ancient Egyptians associated comets with the storm-god Set, the evil deity who was a forerunner of Satan. Aztec priests predicted the downfall of the Aztec empire after the arrival of a comet in 1517 and this proved correct with the landing of Cortes and his conquistadors.

Comet Kohoutek was proclaimed with a fanfare, but interest in the event fizzled out somewhat once it was realized that we would not be treated to a startling display of fiery lights.

It now remains to be seen whether it has been the forerunner of disaster (although, with disaster being so widespread at the moment, one would always be able to 'prove' as much as 'disprove' the theory). But it seems in the light of other predictions made, that Earth will still be around to witness the arrival of Halley's comet in 1986 - and here too, predictions abound that gloom will surround this event.

What is a comet? Briefly, it consists of three parts, the nucleus, the coma and the tail. The nucleus is a fairly dense, compacted area within the comet, but what it is made of still remains unsolved. There may be a core of a hard chunk of matter like an asteroid, but some comets split up as though they have no solid core at all. It is thought that the nature of the particles of the nucleus are predominantly ice.

Around the nucleus is the fuzzy luminous cloud called the coma (meaning long-haired)! This is composed of a gassy cloud of very minute particles, immensely widely dispersed. Some of these are dust specks, but some are far finer; they are in fact molecules of many different substances in gaseous form.

When a comet is far away from the sun, it possesses no tail and looks like a faint fuzzy smudge. However, as it begins to come close in towards the sun, the ice and other materials begin to melt and give off gasses which form the coma which surrounds the nucleus. Pressure of radiation from the sun drives the tiny particles from the comet out into space, giving rise to the tail which, because of this pressure, always points away from the sun.

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"QUOTE"

"I conceive of nothing, in religion, science or philosophy, that is more than the proper thing to wear for a while".

Charles Fort.

Book Review

THE GOLD OF THE GODS

By Eric von Däniken

Eric von Däniken is again at war with established thought patterns in submitting well-presented indications that the earth had extra-terrestrial visitors in pre-historic times. 'The Gold of the Gods' is the result of a world wide expedition which has taken the very determined investigator through Ceylon, Singapore, Malaysia, Guam, Polynesia, Easter Island, Chile, Taiwan, Brazil, Columbia, San Salvador and various states of North America.

In Ecuador he meets archaeologist Juan Morioz, who shows von Däniken his discovery in the form of a mysterious system of caves and tunnels 700 foot underground, some of them gigantic and richly decorated. By whom, and for what purpose was this complex town of tunnels built? Why does it stretch far out into the seabed? How could the builders have achieved the rectangular and glazed finish? Who could have had the technological know-how to construct thousands of miles of these underground passages and halls? What is the meaning of the two or three thousand metal plate library, the numerous solid gold objects?

As most of us know, Eric von Däniken has acquired a worldwide reputation with his previous books, 'The Chariots of the Gods' and 'Return to the Stars'. With his experience gained by his past researches, he is well-equipped to discriminate the evidences and to compare and evaluate his finds.

He advances the possibility that in the universe there are rival evolutionary races with the same mathematical knowledge, comparable standards of experience and a common stage of technological development. Cosmic wars between these parties were not uncommon, with the difference that the remnant of the defeated party could only retreat to another planet. To prevent detection on the retreating planet they dug themselves in by way of elaborate tunnel systems.

Naturally, at this point, the reader cannot escape a despondent feeling that advanced civilisations still have wars on their hands.

Whatever substance this theory may hold, we accompany von Däniken into Taiwan, where in Taipeh he familiarises himself with Chinese mythology and gives new extra-terrestrial meaning to old symbols, Chinese vessels and decorations. It is very thought-provoking that throughout this book the author connects identical ancient presentation in different parts of our world. For instance, a Chinese jade axe had engraved on it the divine symbol of the dragon with a trail of fire, and this he also found on Assyrian cylinder seals. There are many such comparisons in his book.

Perhaps the message he wishes the reader to absorb is best expressed when he points out that Oswald O. Tobisch, in his book 'Kult symbol Schrift', has shown in tabulated form that rock drawings in Africa, Europe, Asia and America are related. A very important statement. At the end of his comparative studies, Tobisch asks in amazement: "Is it possible that once there was a unified concept of God on an international scale simply inconceivable to our present way of thinking, and that mankind in those days was still 'in the field of force' of the 'primordial revelation' of the one and almighty Creator to whom mind and matter, the whole universe with the heavenly bodies and living creatures were, and are, subordinate?"

This book is certainly another valuable contribution and help to anyone determined to unravel the mysteries of the past, the important role the space people have featured in this, and the future that will undoubtedly unfold more gloriously when the scales of ignorance will be lifted.

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Have you changed your address recently? If so, kindly notify The Secretary, 'Contact', P.O.Box 743, DURBAN, 4000. Failure to do so may mean that you will not receive future copies of 'Skywatch'.

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MEETINGS FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS

DURBAN:            March: Wednesday, 27th, at 8 p.m.  
                         April: Wednesday, 24th, at 8 p.m.  
                         May:      Wednesday, 22nd, at 8 p.m.

Venue:            The Centre, 3rd Floor, Progress House,  
Hermitage Street, Durban.

JOHANNESBURG:    March: Monday, 4th, at 8 p.m.  
                         April: Monday, 1st, at 8 p.m.  
                         May:      Monday, 6th, at 8 p.m.

Venue:            Kindly contact Mrs. E. Klarer, at  
1, Murray Gordon Mansions, 67, Jan Smuts  
Avenue, Johannesburg, for details.

CAPE TOWN:        March: Saturday, 30th, at 8 p.m.  
                         April: Saturday, 27th, at 8 p.m.  
                         May:      Saturday, 25th, at 8 p.m.

Venue:            Kindly contact Mr. Andre Nestel, at  
16, Poplar Avenue, Bergvliet, 7800, for  
details.

PRETORIA:        Kindly contact Mr. Walter Beck, postal  
address: P.O.Box 4226, Pretoria, 0001, for  
details of the new 'Contact' group which  
is starting in Pretoria.

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