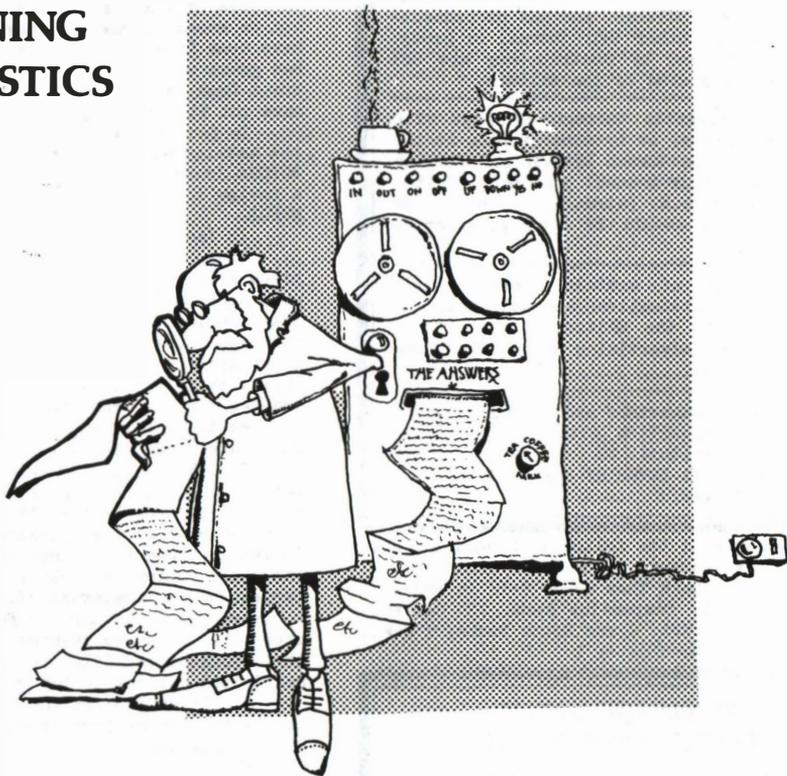


MUFON

New Series 12

Autumn 1978

RE-EXAMINING THE STATISTICS





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editorial notes

The familiar brown envelope was posted in Fylde; the BUFORA Journal inside claims that its distributor lived in Burgess Hill, 250 miles away... another great mystery of ufology.

But that was as nothing compared with the mystery awaiting me on page 6 of the latest BUFORA Journal. Here I find a review of Stuart Holroyd's Prelude to the Landing on Planet Earth. I wasn't terribly impressed by the book when I read it, so was curious to see what the BUFORA reviewer made of it.

"Chronicling the very limits of human credulity and gullibility..." he writes, "it is the account of a series of hypnotic-state communications with representatives of a galactic civilisation... Holroyd attempts to make out a case to prove that information in the messages could not be known to Phyllis (the medium) and must have come from some other source... the book has great value as a warning of how far the retreat from reason can go..." Very good, couldn't have put it better myself.

In fact I didn't put it better myself, for the astute reader will have noticed that the BUFORA Journal review bears a strong likeness to a review I wrote in the Spring 1978 issue of MUFOB.

In fact, it's exactly the same thing!

True, BUFORA's mystery reviewer begins his piece with the words "Stuart Holroyd has given us a book that will make you think!" (I like that, incidentally: "given us a book that will make you think!" Our phantom filcher is evidently incapable of thought.) And ends the piece with the stirring words "This book is compelling reading for all researchers in ufology". But in between these outbursts of creative writing the words are mine, all mine.

I look in vain for some acknowledgement, but nothing. No mention of me or MUFOB. Not even a coy "(JR)" (maybe they thought that might get confused with another prominent British ufologist!). Nowhere is there any indication that the whole review is stolen, lock, stock and barrel from a fraternal UFO journal.

Are BUFORA so hard up for literate contributors that they are reduced to scavenging through their back-number files to find material of a sufficient quality to pad out their Journal?

Should we look at the old clichés? "Imitation is the surest form of flattery", or "great minds think alike". How about "Fools seldom differ"?

Or patch together a new one: "Imitation is the surest form of foolery"?

RE-EXAMINING THE STATISTICS

DONALD A. JOHNSON

In the Autumn 1977 (new series 8) issue of MUFOB Alan Sharp puts forth the hypothesis that car stoppages related to UFO encounters might be caused by weather conditions at the time of the sightings. In support of this hypothesis he supplies a statistical summary of 44 UFO related vehicle stoppage reports gathered from the literature. By rank ordering them by month-of-year, he finds that 30 cases out of the total occur within a 4 week period falling between October and November. He suggests that "vehicle malfunctions in the UFO context are intimately related to the time of the year". And from this further concludes that this correlation can be explained by damp autumn weather and reductions in the hours of daylight which "put considerable strain on auto electrical systems".

Two things immediately disturbed this reader when confronted with this evidence. The first was over the small size of the sample. The second centred on the observation that by far the largest proportion of the sample was drawn from the 1954 and 1957 waves, which readers will recall peaked in the months of October and November respectively. It became apparent that an alternative explanation for the high incidence of reports in October and November (in this small sample at least), was the impact of reports from these two spectacular UFO waves.

It seemed in order to obtain a larger sample especially one that encompassed a greater time span, and independently verify whether or not a seasonal variation does indeed exist. Secondly, we should test to determine whether the variation (if any) remaining could be accounted for by the impact of the more important UFO waves.

A computer generated listing was obtained from Dr David Saunders of all possible cases currently in the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) computerised catalogue of UFO reports (UFOCAT). The list included all electrical interference reports that occurred in close proximity to motor vehicles. It initially contained 369 cases. After a lengthy screening process 200 cases were verified as reports of true vehicle ignition system interference. The remaining 169 cases were either cases that could not be confirmed because an account of the event could not be located, or some other EM effect was being described. A note should be made here that reports mentioning radio interference only were not included in this

sample. Because radio interference cannot be directly linked to a vehicle's electrical system, because it frequently results from a wide variety of natural causes, and because the reports themselves were generally vague about the nature of the interference, it was felt it would be better to omit them from this study.

When these reports (*) are categorised by month-of-year we observe a sharp peak in the frequency of reports during the months of October and November (see figure 1, "solid" plus "shaded" areas of the bar-graph). This is generally in accord with Mr Sharp's observations. However, the frequencies for the other months now reflect numbers approaching respectable quantities, so we must conclude that UFO related car stoppages are not exclusively an autumn phenomenon.

Applying a statistical measure to this distribution (with a null hypothesis of equal likelihood of occurrence throughout the year), we obtain a Chi-square value of 98.44, which is significant at probability values well beyond the .001 level! (see Table 1) In other words, we can be practically certain that the variation is not the result of sample bias alone. Autumn months have produced more than their share of stalled cars.

TABLE I

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
19	6	17	13	8	10	9	15	4	36	43	11

Car Ignition Failures by Month

Total Frequency = 191 Chi-square = 98.44
Degrees Freedom = 11 p = .001

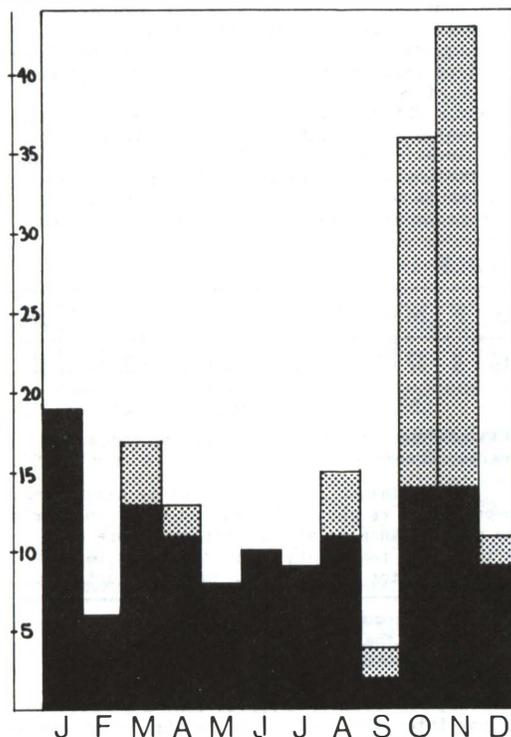
The variation could be caused by many things however, and we should not be too hasty to attribute significance to any one factor. There is certainly no reason why there could not be more than one factor contributing to this fluctuation

(*) The full computer print-out, which has been provided by the author, is in an unsuitable form for reproduction here, and is longer than is practicable to give in full in this magazine. However, we shall be happy to send a photocopy to any interested reader, on receipt of a stamped envelope or International Reply Coupon.

between months. Bearing this in mind, we are still free to test the alternate hypothesis that the influence of the major UFO waves could account for this variation.

In an attempt to devise some reasonable criterion for defining the influence of UFO waves a search was made through the literature. Only two articles in addition to Mr Sharp's were found that addressed the issue of frequency of reports by month— an article by Leon Davidson in a 1973 issue of *FSR* (2), and a section of David Webb's book *1973 - Year of the Humanoids* (3). What appears to be a good approach to testing our alternative hypothesis is suggested by Webb in his statistical treatment of humanoid reports. He removes those reports that fall within months of documented wave activity, then recalculates the sample to obtain a distribution of activity in none wave months. A list of months for major waves of humanoid activity is found in his book on page 43, table 5. While certainly far from being exact, this table at least provides us with an independent assessment for the months of increased low-level UFO activity. It is also somewhat balanced in the number of reports it removes from each season of the year, even though the preponderance of UFO

FIGURE 1



waves have occurred in the fall and late summer months. A list of the months can be found in Table 2 below:

MONTH REMOVED	YEARS AFFECTED
March	1966
April	1897, 1966
July	1965
August	1965, 1967
September	1954, 1957, 1965
October	1954, 1957, 1965
November	1954, 1957
December	1954, 1957

Removing the months provided by Webb, we obtain a new distribution of vehicle stoppage events during non-flap months. This is represented on the bar-graph by the "solid" area only. We now observe a much more even distribution. Our highest frequency month is now January, and the pronounced peak for October and November is gone, due mostly to the removal of October 1954 and November 1957. Again, applying the same statistical test as earlier, we obtain a chi-square value of 19.71, which is barely significant at the .05 level (see Table 3). We can no longer be as sure that the remaining variation is not caused by sample bias. Only two months seem to be contributing to the significance that remains: January, with its relatively high number of reports, and September with its puzzling low number of reports.

TABLE 3

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
19	6	13	11	8	10	9	11	2	14	14	9

Car Ignition Failures by Month (Non-flap)

Total frequency = 126 Chi-square = 19.71
Degrees freedom = 11 p = .05

Since the changes in weather that we are concerned with are basically seasonal, there is good justification for regrouping our sample data by season. This allows us to include six more cases where the season of the occurrence was known, but the month was not. The results, shown in Table 4, are quite definite and show a marked drop in statistical significance after the wave months are removed.

TABLE 4

Total sample	42	32	33	90
Nonflap months	38	30	27	37

Car Ignition failure by Season

Total sample (N=197) Non flap months (N=132)
Chi-square = 50.72 Chi-square = 2.61
df = 3, p = .10 df = 3, p = .10

letters

Dear MUF0B

I was surprised to read Roger Sandell's reactions to *Horizon's* programme on "Chariots of the Gods". (MUF0B NS 10) whilst agreeing that Von Daniken did a pretty good job of demolishing himself, I feel that the programme was far from being a fait accompli.

Contrary to the impression given by Roger, that we were confronted by a succession of open minded original thinkers to answer Erich's claims; excepting the two mentioned by the programme— Maria Reiche and Thor Heyerdahl— the experts were painfully orthodox and their replies would have been torn asunder by a laterally-thinking twelve year old. Take, for example, the case of the Palenque 'astronaut' which was shown to be "composed of themes and images common in Mayan art". It certainly was— but with so much computerised inversion and further amendments of already stylised symbols of dubious origin, that the expert matched Von D himself for sheer audacity.

Maria Reiche somehow managed to change the subject of her reply to Von Daniken's theories of spaceports amongst Nazca's lines and figures into an exposition on her research on a remarkable ley-like system of religious parading which occurs nearby, but whose origin remains unexplained.

Thor Heyerdahl's reply was surely the most convincing to the unbiased viewer. He showed how the Easter Island statues could have been raised

Continued from Page 4

Seasonal variation in the total sample is quite significant. Expressed in terms of odds, there is less than one chance in a million that the population of UFO related car stoppages would match a distribution of reports that occurred with equal frequency for each season of the year. Seasonal variation for the non-flap month sample is insignificant, and shows no discernable preference for any particular season of the year.

In conclusion, it would appear that the influence of major low-level UFO waves, especially the French wave of 1954 and the American wave of 1957, is sufficient to account for the observed seasonal variations in reports of UFO-related vehicle malfunctions.

REFERENCES

- Alan Sharp, "More Ghosts in the Machine; Examining the Statistics", *MUF0B*, new series 8, p.5 (Autumn 1977)
- Arnold Davidson, "UFO Activity in Relation to Month of Year", *FSR*, Vol.19, no.5, pp.25-26 (September-October 1973)
- David Webb, *1973 - Year of the Humanoids*, pp.41-44 (MUF0B, 1974)

and transported by mere humans. But as with all his work he merely demonstrated the possibility and not, as some would have it, the actuality of the case.

No, I feel that in his zeal to discredit not only Erich von Daniken, but also the ancient astronaut theory as a whole, Roger has fallen foul of the gullibility which he despairs of in those lesser mortals, the general public, elsewhere in his article.

Yours sincerely

Ian Lawes
Brighton
Sussex

Dear John

Thanks for the copies of the first part of the Paul Bennett article. The only objection I have is with the Editorial which in the last paragraph mentions Paul's 'guru'. I think Paul has got enough of a mind of his own not to be dramatically influenced by this gentleman.

He has known him for some time, so this is not a "disturbing development" as Peter put it, but merely part of Paul's background interest in the unknown (as are his books).

Yours

Nigel Watson
Scunthorpe
South Humberside.

Dear John,

In the old days I was very impressed by MUF0B, and I am equally impressed with the Spring 1978 number you enclosed. You and your associates seem to be fated to play something of the same role in British ufology as I do in the American counterpart—though I have the impression that your fellows have been more effective at it over the years than I have.

At this point I really don't have any hard and fast opinion on the nature of UFOs and my own interest these days tends to be in trying to deal with the nature and meaning of what can be termed the UFO mythos, which is interesting (and possibly important) regardless of the objective nature of the UFO problem. I found your comments and reflections on "10 years with MUF0B" very interesting and revealing, and it reconfirms my feeling that there is a fundamental difference in *social outlook* between the "official ufology" faction and what has come to be called here "middle ufology"— your description of the informal setting of MUF0B staff gatherings reminds me of what I have experienced (and loved) over the years in middle ufology. Half or better of what I've done of value in this field has been done over a pint of beer with Jim Moseley or Gray Barker or whoever...

Cordial best wishes

Alan H. Greenfield
Tucson,
Arizona.

Anatomy of a Percipient

Part 2

NIGEL WATSON

Since my first record of Paul Bennett's experiences I have received further information regarding his experiences with the unknown.

On February 1st, Roger Hebb and myself visited Paul for the third time, and a lot of the following record is derived from our interview. Unfortunately my tape-recording was ruined - except for a few words which are only just audible - because the tape recording head was in need of cleaning, so I have had to rely on notes. Another major source has been the material written by Paul. For his age he is something of a prolific writer.

In February 1978 the Daily Express published a series of articles on UFOs, linked with the release of Spielberg's "Close Encounters of the Third Kind". Paul wrote a long letter to the Express, and in this he described the first UFO sighting, and gave information on his robot sighting (he called the robot the 'Wrose Monster'). The details in the letter relate well to the information he has given me, and he has written it in an original manner, and has not copied directly from his past writings on his experiences.

It is worth quoting some further information he gave the Express regarding his first UFO sighting of May 13th 1972, a Sunday (in his letter he thought the sighting took place on a Wednesday, otherwise everything else checks out). He wrote:

At about 10.30 - 10.45 pm on the given date I was lying awake in bed and simply gazing in the air. Then I heard a slight whistling noise and the next thing I knew a gleaming white disc went hurtling past the window at approximately 350 mph. This is all I saw of it, but it was real and no hallucination or hysteria.

Also regarding his robot or 'Wrose Monster' sighting he supplies more specific information about the traces left by this phenomenon. Paul writes that he:

saw several things. a) a large burnt patch in the grass (17 ft by 9 ft). b) two perfectly circular impressions in the ground, about a centimetre deep, and each 'landing pad' - as I call them - were exactly a foot in diameter. c) there were lots of 'scoop

marks' in the ground and each mark was warm. So were the two landing pads.

On my February 1st visit Paul told me that he had been in postal communication with one of the women connected with the famous Cottingley Fairy photographs, which were taken between 1917 and 1920. His correspondent - possibly Elsie Wright - wrote at the bottom of her letter: "They are something to do with flowers". Paul plans to visit Cottingley in the summer of 1978 to find out more.

Another comment by Paul was that the Swastika stones on Ilkely Moor are said to indicate entrances to the hollow earth. Linking this with Cottingley, he notes that fairies are said to live underground. This theory, according to Paul, "could revolutionise modern ufological beliefs."

Whilst on the subject of Ilkley Moor he claimed that there were about 82 cup/ring markings on it. A few days before I had had a dream in which I vividly remember obtaining a job which paid exactly £82.00 a week. It was the first memorable dream I had had for some time. On waking I was puzzled as to why I was so pleased in the dream to get the job, as £100 would have been a more desirable and rounder figure! These sort of small coincidences also crop up in other elements of Paul's experiences (see section on Sigma - some notes).

Paul is very keen on finding out about UFO sightings in his area, which he has dubbed the 'Metro Triangle'. He has filled one exercise book full of his own experiences and local happenings. This was used as a source in the first part of this article. Now he is working on another book which he has entitled 'UFOs are Magic' and he hopes this will be published (this too contains many local UFO reports from newspapers, friends, etc). So far he has about 70 UFO reports on file for the Bradford area.

In the letter to the Express, Paul wrote that his ambitions in the UFO field are "to become well known and get on in the field". This is also borne out by a letter he wrote to Mrs Susan Stead, in which he stated that in the next few years the Bradford area would become a "new Westminster".

More UFOs

On Wednesday 16th November 1977, Paul and his friend John Tilleard saw a UFO over Idle Moor at 7.06 pm, shaped like a "two headed tadpole". It appeared greyish-white at first, then the front part became brown or white (there is a discrepancy on this point) and the rear became black. It moved in an erratic fashion at about 200 ft. The back end of the object fell slowly to the Moor. About three seconds later the remaining UFO disintegrated, "above a 15th century graveyard".

At the beginning of 1978 Paul accidentally fell into a crater on the Moor, near Clairmont. He attributes the crater to the black part of the UFO which floated down to earth.

Paul commented that he did not bother to record all his UFO sightings. He mentioned that

intcat

AN INTERNATIONAL CATALOGUE OF TYPE I UFO RECORDS

Compiled by Peter Rogerson

Information for, and comments on, this catalogue should be sent to:
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MANCHESTER, M31 1UE, ENGLAND

PART 17

- 765 6 November 1957 2320 hrs
MONTVILLE (OHIO) Olden Moore (28), a plasterer, was driving along Route 86 from Painesville to his home in Huntsburg, when he noticed a bright starlike light approaching, apparently following the line of the road. As the light got closer and brighter. Moore stopped at the side of the road to watch. Within seconds the object was hovering over a long field at the Hart Road intersection. While still at some altitude the light seemed to split, one section moving up and away, the other descending slowly into the field. The machine was shaped like two superimposed saucers with an inverted conical dome on top. The main part of the object was 15m diam, and 4.5m high (6-9m high counting the dome). It had a mirror like surface surrounded by a blue-green mist through which it glowed like a luminous watch dial, then began to pulsate rhythmically. Moore sat in his car for 15 mins. before getting out to take a closer look, feeling no fear. As he got closer he heard a humming sound. He decided to go and get more witnesses, but when he returned 20 mins. later the object had gone. A lady nearby noticed strange interference on her TV. Civil Defence workers examined the site and discovered markings 4cm deep arranged as three holes in a triangle and a fourth outside, and an area of radioactivity about 15m diam. Press sources also mentioned unusual footprints in the area. Moore later claimed to have been interrogated by the air force. (UFO Evidence p.169 - C W Fitch first hand :: Michel II p.252 - Mebane - [Lake County Republican Herald 12 Nov 57 - Paul Colebrook] + Goauga Record 21 Nov 57 + Cleveland Plain Dealer 8 Nov 57 + APRO Bulletin Jan 58)
- 766 7 November 1957 0725 hrs
HOUSE (MISSISSIPPI) Dyersburgh truck driver Malvin (or Malvan) Stevens (48) was driving along state highway 19 between Memphis and Meridian, when at the small village of House, 25km from Meridian he found his way blocked by a large, light grey, egg shaped object which extended right across the highway. Getting out to inspect it he realised it was not a downed Good-year blimp but a contraption with a single blade propeller at each end, and one on top. Through a door opening in the side emerged two men and one woman, 1.35m tall, dressed in grey, with dark hair and pasty white faces. They appeared friend-

dly and spoke in incoprehensible "chattering" sounds. One of the men tried to shake his hand. After a few moments the beings returned to the craft which rose vertically, disappearing from sight in a few seconds. The entire episode was over in a few minutes, a fact confirmed by his tachograph. An 8 year old girl in the village had seen a sphere moving through the sky at sunset. Stevens had an excellent reputation and declined all publicity. (Michel II p.272 - Mebane - Meridian Star 7 Nov 57 + Jackson State Times 8 Nov 57 :: Humanoids p 56 - Coral Lorenzen - El Paso Times 8 Nov 57 :: Lor IV p.177)

- 767 8 November 1957 0200 hrs
SLOANVILLE (NEW YORK) A truckdriver (name not given) was driving up a hill outside Sloanville when he saw a 60m long cigar shaped object hovering about 6m above the ground. (Michel II p.264 - Mebane - Albany Times Union 9 Nov 57)
- 768 8 November 1957 1430 hrs
HOLLY (WEST VIRGINIA) At this tiny hamlet about 15km from Flatwoods, Hank Mollohan and 8 other members of his family saw a 12m long object "the shape of a hot dog bun" with 5 or 6 "portholes" on each side, from which fire and blue smoke seemed to be coming. It was hovering over a wooded ridge and appeared to be in difficulty and suddenly dropped to the ground. They could see movement in the area as if people were moving around, and definitely saw one figure, although they were not sure whether it was from the machine or was a hunter. A search that evening by police and by the witnesses next morning proved fruitless (Michel II p.265 - Mebane - Gray Barker first hand)
- 769 8 November 1957 Night
WATERLOO (IOWA) Paul Rutledge, a packing-house worker, saw a 15m long object with a shiny underside and glass top, hovering over his garage. Two moving shapes could be seen inside glass area. Rutledge ran to get another witness but when they returned the object had gone. (Michell II p.265 - Mebane - UFO Digest Jan 58 - UP, Saginaw Mich.)
- 770 9 November 1957 0100 hrs
LAKE CITY (MISSOURI) A man driving home from work saw an elongated object 16m long hovering 15m above ground. His car engine died as he neared the object's position, and it only restarted when the object left (M439 - Atic :: Vallee 1b)
- 771 10 November 1957 0125 hrs
MADISON (OHIO) A young kennel owner, Mrs Leita Kuhn had been experiencing difficulty with a stove in her kennel on this snowy, windy night. She stepped outside to find that it had stopped snowing and that the sky was very bright. The illumination came from a huge glowing phosphorescent object 12m wide, about 3m thick, with a dome which seemed brighter than the rest, with vapour visible on the left of the object. From the dome came brilliant orange sparks which forced her to shut her eyes. Despite the cold she felt no chill, though she was wearing only a light sweater with sleeves rolled up. Her hand

kept coming involuntarily to her face and her head kept falling forwards. She felt almost 'hypnotised' In fear she ran back into the house to get other people, but when she looked out again the craft had gone. Within a few days she was suffering from sore eyes, a rash on her arms and legs, and loss of sleep. These developed in to a general decline in health which lasted two years. She also developed psychological problems and gave up her kennel to devote her time to UFO research. (UFO Evidence p.98 - correspondence with Mrs Kuhn :: Michel II p.266 - Melane - Pain-essville Telegraph 27 Nov 57 + Cleveland Plain Dealer 1 Dec 57 :: Maney and Hall p.112)

772 11 November 1957 Day
N.E. OF LOS ANGELES (CALIFORNIA) Robert D Hahn, a jewellery designer, was flying on Western Airlines flight 61 from Minneapolis to Los Angeles, About 30-45 mins before landing, and 7-10 mins after passing Edwards AFB he saw a large, roughly elliptical, dull metallic object apparently on the ground at the base of a shrubbed hill. At first he thought it was a building, then saw it was moving. It went up and over the hill at about 60m and never rose above 300m during its erratic zig-zag flight. Its speed was estimated to be about a third of that of the plane. Richard Heiden calculates from a map that it was travelling between 75-100 kph. It was 50-75m long. (Heiden - UFO Evidence p67 - NICAP)

773 12 November 1957 0930 hrs
WOODFORD, NEAR BRAMHALL (CHESHIRE, ENGLAND) Herbert May was looking in a SE direction toward the AVRO aircraft factory on a daylight morning when he saw a golden-yellow sphere the apparent diameter of the moon, seemingly rise from ground level to 225-300m and descend again in a loop, as if landing on the airdrome runway. (DIGAP files)

774 15 November 1957
CACHOEIRA (BRASIL) Several car engines stalled as drivers attempted to approach an object hovering low above ground. (UFO Evidence p.75, 167 + Maney & Hall p.192 - J Escobar Faria :: FSR 11,5,p.27 - Paul Norman - UFO Evidence)

775, 16 November 1957 2230 hrs
BAGE CITY (BRASIL) A blindingly bright red & yellow object landed twice; first at the jockey club, where it stayed on the ground for a while took off then landed again at the Rural Exhibition, the ascended vertically some time later. (#441 - Quincey :: UFO Critical Bulletin 2,11, p.19)

776 17 November 1957 2000 hrs
VALPARAISO (INDIANA) Donald Dodge, art teacher at the local high school, was driving to town on a Sunday evening when he observed some revolving lights descending over a snow covered field alongside the road. Thinking it might be a plane in trouble he stopped and got out. The object hovered about 3m above the field, turning on a brilliant white light. Dodge hastily re-ur-

ned to his car and drove off paced by the object, which then banked across the road ahead, forcing him to brake. It hovered for a moment then streaked off up into the overcast. (Edwards Ib, p.22 - first hand) DATE GIVEN IS APPROXIMATE.

777 18 November 1957 1030 hrs
DE TOCA NEAR MARACAJA (SANTA CATARINA, BRASIL) Pedro Zilli (53) & Joao Ernani (57), were building a tobacco hothouse when Ernani called Zilli to see an unusual object. They saw two 'aluminium' objects 200m away which they thought were parts of a wrecked airplane. As they approached six people emerged from behind some trees. They were tall thin men dressed in dark grey suits of a strange cloth They divided into two groups, one for each of the round wingless metallic objects, 3m diam, hovering 1m above the ground. The beings quickly entered the crafts, which took off, accompanied by 3 other objects which had been hidden by the trees; the 5 then vanishing out to sea. Both men recalled that they had heard a strange buzzing noise for some minutes before the incident, and that cattle had been disturbed. Hilde Klien and some other people also saw the objects in the air. (FSR 4,4,p.27 - Hulvio Alexio :: Humanoids p 36 - Creighton - Jornal de Rio 24 Nov 57 - Floreano Correia + Tihuna Criciumens + SBEDV Bulletin 9 & 27 + UFO Critical Bulletin :: Lor V p.150)

778 18 November 1957
CRICIUNA (BRASIL) Occupant report. No details at present. ("Les ET's" no.102 - SBEDV Bulletin 30)

779 18 November 1957 1500 hrs
ASTON NEAR BIRMINGHAM (WEST MIDLANDS, ENGLAND) Mrs Cynthia Appleton (27) had put her daughter Susan (3) to bed, and her baby Janet in the front room of her house, when she heard a cry from the baby. Going into the front room she was struck by an oppressive atmosphere, as if before a thunderstorm. As she looked out of the window, a figure of a man materialised by the fireplace on her left; blurred then coming clearer, like the picture on a (1957) TV. She felt her terror overcome by a 'calming influence', was able to recall a whistle she heard "like a radio being tuned" when the figure appeared, and noted that he was tall, fair, wearing a tight-fitting silver-plastic garment with wrist length sleeves and high "Elizabethan collar". The man materialised on a piece of newspaper on which scorch marks could be seen later. The man's lips were moving soundlessly, and he appeared to communicate something about mining titanium from the sea bed, and that man was approaching space-travel in the wrong way. He moved his hands and a kind of image of a circular craft appeared. It had a transparent dome from which several figures were looking out. After more homilies the figure "just wasn't there any more". Mrs A. claimed to have a "new sense of awareness" and her baby grew five teeth in a week. She claimed to have had 6 further contacts on January 7, Feb 7, Feb. 10 or 11, August 18, November 25 and Dec.

ject simply vanished leaving no trace. (#446)

785 28 November 1957
HAKALAU (HAWAII) A car engine failed and the driver felt numb as a bright flash of light appeared in the sky 6m above the ground. (UFO Evidence p.75+Maney & Hall p.196 - Honolulu Star-Bulletin 29 Nov 57)

786 December 1957 0030 hrs
COMPEIX (CREUSE, FRANCE) while driving along the D8 road from Royers to Bourgneuf a motorist saw a light resembling a motorcycle headlight, & the apparent size of the full moon in the sky. In a fraction of a second this globe came close to the car, surrounding the vehicle with an orange glow and slightly interfering with the engine. The object followed the car from Compeix to Bourgneuf, moving back and forth a lightning speed. At the end of the incident the witness was able to see that the object was cigar shaped with a slight cupola at the centre but generally flat. It was noiseless, and disappeared at high speed. (Bonabot - OVNI INFO 1, p.12, case 41 - Phenomenaux Spatiaux, no.10)

787 December 1957 night
EL CAJON (CALIFORNIA) Edmund Rucker was awakened by a roaring noise and saw a strange object land near his house. He saw strange looking heads through lighted windows. An opening became visible and four creatures with large heads, domed foreheads and bulging eyes emerged. They delivered a message in English stating that they had philanthropic and scientific motives. (#447 - Flying Saucers, July 1958)

788 2 September 1957 1715 hrs
TORNADO (W. VIRGINIA) Clyde C Rust was driving home when he saw a large, bright, starlike light to the south, which he continued watching after his arrival home. After a while it turned into a white ball, then a cigar-shape, then an upside-down oblong dish with a gold-coloured base and finally a boat. The boat was 30m long and 15m wide, and approached within 45m of the witness at 15m alt. At times it travelled so fast that it was only a streak of light. The boat came back on successive nights. (Heiden - Flying Saucers, Oct 1958, p 67)

789 8 December 1957 1730 hrs
NORTH WEST OKINAWA (RYUKYU ISLANDS) A close encounter of the second kind. No further details at present. (Hynek Ib, CE2 - 10)

790 8 December 1957 1750 hrs
WOODWARD (OKLAHOMA) Between Oakwood and Seiling, 12km from the latter, an unknown flying object took control of a car with 3 passengers. The driver, employee of an aircraft co., had turned the heater, windshield wiper and radio on. He was nearing a hill in this wooded area when a bright light appeared ahead. It reminded the driver of the light from a mercury lamp. As a crash seemed imminent the car slowed down and stopped by itself, as if the entire electrical circuit had failed. Over the vehicle was a disc 16m diam. with portholes around the periphery. It

16, 1958, in which being both "materialized" & arrived in a normal manner; one being apparently burning his hand on a car exhaust. They claimed that Mrs Appleton's next baby would be a "son of space". When the baby arrived it was a boy, as predicted, and had some unusual features. At one point the beings seemed to be in communication with one group of investigators. (FSR 4,2,p.5 - Rev William Catmel + Rev G E Tilley + Gavin Gibbons + Brinsley le Poer Trench :: DIGAP Review 1 - James Dale :: Allen I p.139 :: Humanoids p.4)

780 20 November 1957 2000 hrs
NEAR MCMINNVILLE (TENNESSEE) A flashing red light passed low over the sherriff's car. Calling other police officers he tried to give chase, but was unable to catch the object. (UFO Evidence)

781 22 November 1957
GESTEN (DENMARK) Shopkeeper Hans Haugeard Hansen was delivering some goods when he saw a triangular object flying low across a field and road. The bottom was solid, the upper part transparent, through which two figures could be seen, sitting one behind the other. (#444 :: FSR 4,4,p2 - Major Petersen - Familieblad)

782 22 November 1957
JORDRUP (DENMARK) Two people saw an object identical to the above, with beings inside. (References as Case 781)

783 23 November 1957 0610 hrs
TONOPAH (NEVADA) An Air Force 1st Lieutenant returning to Newcastle Country AP Delaware after completing an advanced survival course at Stead AFB was about 50km west of Tonopah, going towards Las Vegas at 130 kph, when his car engine suddenly stopped. Getting out to investigate he heard a steady high-pitched whining noise which drew his attention to four discs grounded about 300-400m west of the highway. He walked for several minutes until he was within 15m of the nearest object. They were identical, disc shaped 15m diam. brilliantly self-luminescent. Top centre was a transparent dome made of a different material, and underneath was a landing gear of three dark hemispheres 60cm diam. The objects were 3-4.5m thick from bottom to the top of the dome. They were surrounded by a dark, rotating outer ring. When the witness approached the first object the hum increased in pitch until it became almost painful. As the objects lifted the landing gear retracted, and they rose to about 15m, moving away north across the highway at about 15 kph. They followed the contour of the ground until disappearing behind some hills. The only trace left was an equilateral triangle of bowl shaped depressions 20-30 cm apart. The whole observation lasted 20 mins., after which the 1956 Chevrolet worked perfectly. (Hynek IIa p.182 - Atic :: Vallee Ib, p.138)

784 25 November 1957 1430 hrs
UGINES (FRANCE) Two engineers were driving about 200m from a railway crossing in Faverges when they saw a nearly spherical object at ground level. They stopped, and were amazed when the ob-

emitted a current of hot air and a high pitched sound. There was a dome on top and below. As it rose the car started by itself. The car was a 1954 Dodge Coronet without automatic transmission. The witness spent 4 hours with 2 Kirtland AFB officers who told him of similar observations. The case was never reported to Blue Book. (M448)

791 10 December 1957

JABOTICABAL (BRASIL) A farmer reported that a watermelon shaped object 3m high, 4m long, landed 20m away. On the spot authorities found broken glass. (UFO Critical Bulletin II, 2 p.10)

792 10 December 1957 2200 hrs

BARRO DE PIRAI (BRASIL) The occupants of a truck on the Barro to Dourandia road saw a bright gleam illuminating the road. As they switched their lights out a luminous disc 12m diam. approached and hovered just above the ground. When the truck lights were switched on again the object left at high speed leaving a luminous trail. (UFO Critical Bulletin, as above)

793 11 December 1957

TODOCANHA (BRASIL) An object was seen, as if trying to land. As the witnesses approached it they felt a strong heat as the object ascended. Grass at the spot was scorched. (UFOCB as above)

794 11 December 1957

CHESTNUT (LOUISIANA) Mary Louise Tobin, a schoolteacher, was driving on state highway 1 when she saw an object that she compared to the rising sun in the vicinity of a smoking car. The driver of this car, an elderly lady, came out with a child who seemed to have suffered burns. The unknown object went away and the disabled car did not catch fire. (M449 - Flying Saucers July 1958)

795 11 December 1957 1600 hrs

ELM WORTH (WISCONSIN) Many cars stopped to observe a silent reddish glowing disc about 15m in diam., which flew 6m above ground at 50kph.. A small windowless cabin was visible on the underside of the object. (M450 - as above)

796 16 December 1957 0230 hrs (appx)

OLD SAYBROOK (CONNECTICUT) Mrs Mary M Starr, holder of two degrees from Yale, was alone, asleep in an upstairs bedroom on the SE corner of her cottage. She was awakened by a brilliant light shining in through her window and saw what she thought was the fuselage of a plane pass by. She feared it was going to crash. The object stopped, and she saw two men she took to be stewards passing each other, their right arms raised, although their hands were not visible. They wore yellowish jackets and square helmets of a red-orange colour. One of the beings appeared to have a red bulb on the centre of his head. A third man appeared and Mrs Starr leaned forward to get a better look. As she did so the light went out and the exterior began to glow like burnished brass. An antenna 15m long rose from the top of the object at the end nearest the witness and moved about as if signalling. After 10mins. this withdrew and the object backed off southwards in the direction

from which it had come, then made a sharp angled turn to the left. She could now see the dull blue grey fuselage resembling an old fashioned oval mirror, surrounded by small round blue lights. It dipped over a tidal stream then shot up and disappeared. Only now did she realise that she had not seen an aircraft but a totally unconventional object 6m long by 1.8m which had hovered only 3m from her house at 1.5m alt. The beings had been 1.1-1.2m tall and of quite non-human appearance. (Humanoids p.57 - Coral Lorenzen - CSI Newsletter July 15 1959 :: FSR 6,3,p.7 - Mary Starr :: New Look p.37 :: Moseley 1 p.37 :: LorV p.179) FSR ARTICLE GIVES DATE AS 18 DECEMBER

797 19 December 1957 1600 hrs

COLATINA (BRASIL), An extremely luminous round object was seen resting in a pasture 200m from witness, who went to fetch others. When they returned the object had gone. A circular mark 15m in diameter was found on the grass. Samples of the soil were collected for analysis by 'Holy Spirit' Technology Institute. (UFO Critical Bulletin II, 2, p.19)

798 21 December 1957 1830 hrs

PONTA PORAN (MATTO GROSSO, BRASIL) Mrs Ivonne Torres de Mendoca, her 3 children, servant and driver were driving by jeep to Ponte Poran on a road near the Paraguayan border on a dark, overcast night. They saw a ball of light near the ground to the south. As it neared they saw it was two spherical 'Saturn-shaped' objects, fiery red on top, silver underneath. They manoeuvred round the jeep, sending beams of light out to it, and approaching very close. The terrified witnesses drove on fast, the objects pacing them for about 2 hours. As they entered the town, they climbed away, after approaching very close when the jeep stopped. Returning to where they had last seen the objects, the witnesses saw a luminous haze which dispersed in the wind, and a sphere moving away in the west. (Lor Ia, p.146 - APRO Bulletin March 59 - Fontes :: Lor.IV p.148)

799 30 December 1957 Night

DRAKESTOWN (NEW JERSEY) At Schooley's Mountain, near Drakestown, George Chowanski, (36) was cutting firewood after the evening meal when his two dogs started barking, and he heard a noise like an electric razor. After a minute he became aware of a glow emanating from a saucer shaped object 4.5m wide, 1.5m high, hovering c.65cm above ground in a grove of trees, 30m from his back porch. He called to his wife, but she fled on seeing the object. As he stood he saw three individuals emerge from the craft and walk in the clearing. One bent down to pick something of the ground, and moved back to the craft apparently carrying a heavy object. After 2-3 mins. the craft rose slowly, spiraling through the tall trees. (Lor IV p.88 :: M453 - Flying Saucers Oct. 58) SECOND REFERENCE SAYS ONLY TWO BEINGS.

sometime in 1977 he saw a satellite cross the sky. A few seconds later a 'meteor' followed it. Several of his friends also saw aircraft or satellites in the sky, which were then followed by meteors. He feels the sightings might be more than coincidence

Mystery men & invisible walkers

On my third visit to Paul's home he told me the following story, which he said he had not told anyone before. One night near the end of 1977, (perhaps late November) Paul was playing about with a tennis ball in the living-room. The time was about 1am. and his parents were out for the evening. His tennis ball rolled into the dining room, and as he went through the door to collect it, he saw an apparition in the opposite corner of the room. It was a man 5ft 6ins to 5ft 8ins tall, dressed in a greyish suit. The face and hands were a glowing white, and he was holding the telephone receiver in his right hand. Paul only saw this man for a second or so, and he admits he might have imagined it.

From 31st November 1977, "I heard, literally every night; footsteps!... but whenever I look out of my bedroom window no one is to be seen... these steps sounded as if they were walking up the road in front in front of our house, then veering left and coming up the garden path. The invisible walker immediately came to mind. Yet what reason had he/she/it come here?", wrote Paul. These steps stopped their patrol on the 23rd December, 1977.

On the 21st December 1977, John Tilleard, Harvey Caswell and Paul visited 'The House' only to find the haunted section of it completely demolished. Apparently three days after Paul's last visit - which was on the 26th November 1977 - this destruction was carried out. Paul spoke to a male occupant of the house on his last visit, and the man agreed that it had been an evil area.

Considering the fact that he had had visitations from the invisible walker since the demolition of the 'haunted' section of the house, he linked the two events together and asked: "Did the invisible walker think he/she/it could take refuge in our house? After all, I had been to The House to seek the invisible walker.."

SIGMA the Angel

Before telling me about the sightings of this 'angel' Paul told me that he had seen something so fantastic that he could hardly believe it himself. He only gave me a short verbal account of this series of events, but he wrote about them in detail to Ian Cresswell, and I reproduce his written description.

30th December 1977, 8.05 pm. "My younger brother, Phillip, 7, came downstairs claiming he had had a nightmare. Being interested in nightmare phenomenon I asked him what he had dreamt about, but because of his state of mind he was unable to tell me; so I forgot about it."

9.27 pm. After doing a stunt ghost act on my

brother (by flashing a torchlight on the bedroom window and playing music) it turned into reality. By crouching on the edge of the bed and looking at the reflected light on the wall, I saw a faint silvery-white transparent figure, which at first appeared very faint and got fractionally brighter. The apparition was an angel, complete with wings, and an astronaut's helmet. I instantly shook Phillip and he saw the same thing and became hysterical. Phillip saw the angel's wings but not the helmet; although he described it as wearing an astronaut suit. There were two other witnesses, Paul Davis and... John Tilleard.

The figure was approximately 2ft 6ins high and not too well built. The wings on the back were folded in, and the whole of the body was silvery-white in colour. The astronaut suit had no special shading; (it) appeared astronautical, even though it may not have been one. The helmet I saw disappeared as the sighting continued and the angel simply hovered several inches above the bed at the side of the wall." Paul gave this apparition the name 'Sigma'.

"I put my hand through Sigma and when I did this the angel became invisible to me, yet John Paul and Phillip claimed that as my hand passed through... the angel rose up a few more inches. Sigma could only be seen from one specific corner of the room. If you were at other positions then the outside streetlight would block out the dull light which emanated from Sigma. (The angel) made no sound or gestures; there were no physical effects anywhere in the room."

"The three others were scared by Sigma yet I felt very calm and was not frightened in the least. My attempted contact with Sigma lasted for about 9 minutes, yet each time I approached it the angel simply faded away, yet every time this happened the 'terrified trio' said that the Sigma stayed there and they could still see it."

The boys waited on successive nights to see if 'Sigma' returned. This did not happen again until the 4th January 1978.

"This time the body was further above the bed, perhaps several inches or more. This time the body had no wings attached and as John stated '...it looked like a side view of a human leg, but it was a transparent silvery white.' The angel this time appeared much more like a human on the first view as if in a monk's robe. John saw no arms, but I did. On the second view the angel appeared to have some wings but they simply looked like protrusions... As I went to shine the light against the window John saw 'These bright lines of light, like neon lights, around the angel's head and half way down the left side of its body. It reminded me as if he had a trilby type hat on its head."

This sighting only lasted about two minutes. After trying on five subsequent nights they gave up further attempts to see the apparition.

More on angels

There is a reflective element to Paul Bennett's 'angel' phenomenon. MUFOB ns.4 published an article of mine on the subject of

'Winged Beings'. It is very doubtful that Paul has ever seen this article, and besides his own observations I have not discussed the matter of winged beings with him at all.

Over the past few months I have dealt with several cases which have involved angel type apparitions. On August 1st 1977 Roger Hebb and myself interviewed Roger's maternal grandmother who has long been a member of the Spiritualist Church, and has observed many aspects of the unknown.

On one occasion she had been visiting a neighbour whose husband was very ill. She had seen the figure of an angel about two feet from the man's head, but had said nothing to the neighbour, except to warn her not to leave her husband for the night, because they were 'real chapel people', and did not believe in spiritualism. The man died at about 2 o'clock that night.

On behalf of John Rimmer I have visited a person in Sheffield who claims to have received mental impressions from extraterrestrial beings. (A full report on this case is to be published in MUFOB at a future date. It contains fascin-

THE AIRSHIP & OTHER PANICS

ROGER SANDELL

The study of pre 1947 UFO waves has been hampered by its isolation from a general study of the historical and social background to these events. For the most part the general historians have ignored such matters; and ufologists who have chronicled them have paid little attention to the context in which they took place. However there has recently come to light a book entitled Six Panics, by F W Hirst, published in London in 1913, which not only offers a contemporary account of the British 'mystery airship' wave of that year, but contains some interesting observations on the background to the wave.

Mr Hirst, a contributor to The Economist, sees the 1913 wave as the last of a series of panics concerning the alleged threat of foreign invasion. He looks at similar invasion scares in 1847-48, 1851-53, 1859-61 and 1881, when these fears centred on France, and 1909 when they centred on Germany; and he shows how the 1913 airship became a political issue, leading to calls for increased military expenditure.

Surprisingly he does not seem to be aware that the invasion panic of 1909 was also accompanied by a wave of mystery airship reports, which recent research by Nigel Watson has shown was connected with foreign spy rumours.

ating background to the psychological aspects of the UFO enigma - Eitor) Repeatedly he has had mental impressions of three different "men", as if they were trying to seek his attention. One of the figures is like a crusader in chain mail and wearing a tunic with a red cross on it. The percipient explained that he received the impression that this figure was some sort of guardian angel. In this context it should be noted that in a biblical sense the angels are important messengers between God and mankind. With Paul Bennett there is the concept of each child having a guardian angel. Both percipients have read the Bible and von Daniken's Miracles of the Gods, but have no strong religious convictions.

Lastly, about April 8th 1978 I got a UFO sighting report from a witness who had seen a light at a distance above the horizon from a point near St Michael's Church Grimsby. The Sheffield percipient gave the name MIK-AEL or MICHAEL to his 'crusader'. I might add that all these happenings were dealt with in isolation, and the wider implications were not discussed with the witnesses.

This interpretation of the 1913 wave suggests a parallel with the great US wave of 1897, which coincided with the US-Spanish crisis over Cuba which was to lead to war the following year. (In fact some of the airship 'pilots' in 1897 are reported as saying they are going to Cuba to fight the Spanish) Another interesting parallel is suggested when Mr Hirst accuses the newspapers of Lord Northcliffe, Britain's first modern press tycoon, of being particularly influential in whipping up the panic around the 1913 airships. In America in 1897 the mass press was likewise just emerging, and to judge by the number of cases that appear to be newspaper hoaxes, it played an important part in the creation of the wave.

A possible line of approach that Mr Hirst does not pursue would be to link his invasion panics with internal social conflict. 1847-48, the year of his first panic coincided with the height of the Chartist movement (not to mention an interesting ariel phenomenon described in MUFOB no. 8) and the panics of 1909 and 1913 with several simultaneous social crises including mass strikes, the suffragette movement and the Irish Home Rule crises. These correlations have been noticed by the historian George Dangerfield whose book The Strange Death of Liberal England has an account of the 1913 airship wave. He sees it as a symptom of the social hysteria of the period. Again, we have an interesting link with 1897, when American society faced economic depression and the rise of the Populist movement.

Another similarity between invasion panics and UFO waves is the way both seem to be generated by technological development. Just as the first UFO waves followed the appearance of nuclear weapons, so each new development in naval

warfare precipitated invasion scares. The mid nineteenth century waves were touched off by fears of the potentialities of the steamship, while the ironclads played a similar role in 1884, the dreadnought in 1909 and the Zeppelin in 1913.

Just as in modern times we find SF and allegedly factual UFO stories dealing in the same ideas and images so the social fears and tensions behind the airship waves also found expression in the fiction of the period. The late nineteenth and early twentieth century saw a whole literature of novels depicting the complacency of British society of the period being shattered by invasions from France, Russia or Germany (This whole genre is examined in I.F. Clarke's Voices Prophecy War and examples are reprinted in Michael Moorcock's two anthologies of early SF Before Armageddon and England Invaded).

The study of pre-1947 waves is a valuable field of research. However it is becoming clear that the ufologist who hunts in old newspapers for reports of ariel phenomena is getting less than the full picture unless he is prepared to look at what else these papers are reporting at the same time.

Postscript:

Since writing the above I have read a fascinating paper entitled "Analogies of the Propagation of the Great Fear in France 1789 and the Airship Flap in Ohio in 1897" by Andrew Rothovius, printed in Pursuit (1). The Great Fear dealt with in this essay is the mysterious mass panic that gripped rural France three weeks after the outbreak of the French Revolution in 1798. Apparently from nowhere rumours arose throughout France that armies of bandits or foreign mercenaries were at large pillaging all in their path. Lights were seen in the sky and interpreted as the glow from burning towns. As Mr Rothovius points out, the similarities between these events and the airship waves (and for that matter, modern UFO waves) are most interesting and certainly reinforce the possibility that these events are all responses to social crisis.

Andrew Rothovius also points out that although the panic of 1789 was baseless, all the events that were rumoured to have happened — massacre, foreign invasion, armies of bandits in the countryside — were to become reality in revolutionary France, and suggests that the Fear could be seen as an outbreak of mass precognition. Similarly, within two years of the 1913 panic, real German airships were to be dropping bombs over England, an event which must have come as a surprise to F W Hirst, who concludes his look at the events of 1913 with the comforting thought that it was out of the question that Zeppelins would be of military value!

RIGHT: A cartoon from John Bull (1913) illustrates British fears of being eclipsed by Germany's airship strength.

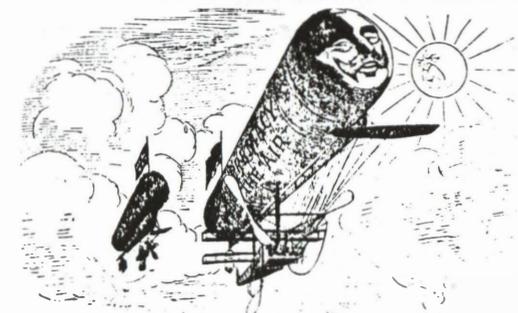
THE CONCRETE DREAM

PETER ROGERSON

Anyone who has studied the UFO records carefully cannot but note that we are presented with a paradoxical situation. These records appear to relate to a 'phenomenon' which has both physical and psychological properties; and these seem to form a continuous spectrum, from the 'hardest' to the 'softest'. Faced with such a paradox it is hardly surprising that quite a few researchers have concluded that we are dealing with at least two classes of phenomena; one of them psychological (eg. 1), and the other one physical, perhaps related to ball lightning and forms of plasma (2 & 3)

In such a scheme, we would assume that accounts of 'craft' with detailed structures and occupants would fall into the former category, while stories of formless, luminous, balls would fall into the latter. However, when we start to examine some of the cases in the so-called "physical phenomenon" category, we begin to find some puzzling features, which do not readily conform to the characteristics we would expect such a natural phenomenon to possess.

Take for example a case which Klass ascribes to ball-lightning. In November 1960, a young man is standing with his girl-friend outside his house when they see a 'beautiful' orange-red sphere, hovering at about 15 meters altitude. It appears to have no solid structure, and its edges are blurred. It swells in size as it comes down to about one-and-a-half meters above their heads,



'A PLACE IN THE SUN' -
The military aerial strength of Germany is supreme, being about ten times that of Great Britain.
— and one 'in the shade'

then descends to ground level about ten meters away from them. As the boy runs to the back of the house, the girl hides in the porch. When the object was low over them, the boy said that he felt a 'sort of dome' was enclosing him, and that something in the air was "attacking his body".

So far so good, this sounds like a plasma or a physical phenomenon of some sort. Unfortunately, there are complications — the young man turns out to be a 'repeater' percipient. In the September of the following year he is out driving with his father, when they get lost, and he has to get out to direct the car around a difficult turn. Suddenly he sees an identical sphere above the car. It appears to be transparent, and he can see the stars through it. Diving back into the car, he points it out to his father, and they both watch it for a few minutes, before deciding to drive on under the object. When they had passed it, and turned to look back, it had vanished.

Several other points emerged from the interview that Phillip Klass had with the young man. He had suffered a psychological trauma, and was afraid to go out at night, in case the sphere returned. He felt that "I cannot judge upon science... but it was something of a higher intelligence".

Here we now have a classic all high-strangeness close encounter case with associated psychological effects; the sort of circumstances one has begun to associate with psychological states such as metachoric experiences.

Or take the following case from a recent APRO Bulletin (4). A woman, out walking with her two children sees, in a front garden about six mts. away from her, an object resembling three concentric rings. It was "incredibly beautiful", of indescribable whiteness and brilliance. Again, this suggests some kind of plasma phenomena. But a man hosing the lawn over which the object is apparently hovering seems totally oblivious to it and the witness. When the witness tries to speak she is unable to open her mouth; the cats and dogs which normally infest the area are absent; and there is not even the sound of insects.

"I lost all track of time", the witness said, "It seemed as if all life had stopped except for the three of us, as if we were somehow frozen in time." She felt a sense of panic, as if she were being watched, but upon walking away felt a sudden euphoria. When she arrived home, it seemed "later than it should have been". She thought of going back to the sight of the incident, but she "knew that the UFO would have gone", and suddenly: felt sad.

Here we are again projected into the area of psychological phenomena. The time suspension is the classical hallmark of the metachoric experience, which occurs throughout the UFO literature. Even more curious is the sense of "everything frozen in time", regarded as symptomatic of schizophrenia. One of the strong indicators of schizophrenia in the 'Experimental World Invention'

test (5) is a positive reaction to the statement "Time seems to stop altogether, everything is suspended and dead". Therefore, could it be that the dream-like character of the metachoric experience is a form of temporary incursion into the world of the schizophrenic?

Returning to the two incidents described above; we are left with the problem of tying up the insight we have been developing into the psychological aspects of such events, with the superficial nature of such incidents. The possible methods of doing this include:

- The psychological effects are the result of shock or cognitive dissonance, the result of encountering a novel, 'shocking' physical phenomenon. If so, will we encounter similar reactions amongst victims of road accidents, for instance? Have any such studies been performed?
- There may be physical phenomena which can induce psychological reactions directly. Again, are there any known phenomena which are known to do this in other contexts?
- Or are the incidents largely or wholly subjective in character?

In favour of the latter hypothesis we should note how unlikely it is that anyone could ignore such a strange 'object' as that in the second incident and just carry on hosing their lawn. Equally unlikely is the possibility that such a presumed physical phenomenon could be the focus of 'repeater' experiences. However this is not an impossibility, as witness the example of the forest ranger allegedly struck by lightning five times (always assuming this is not a 'whale tumour' story, as described in our book review section).

It will be noted that not included in the above analysis is any reference to the ETH or other extra-mundane intelligences. Such hypotheses, in any cautious study of the UFO problem, must be treated as refuges of the last resort, seeing that (saving the most naive 'nuts and bolts' spaceships from Mars' theory) they are fundamentally incapable of being either proved or disproved, or subjected to any test. The three hypotheses I have outlined above could all be tested, and the first could be subjected to an experimental test.

1. Basterfield, Keith. 'A possible psychological explanation for certain close encounters...' To be published in a forthcoming MUFOP.
2. Klass, Philip. UFOs Identified. 1968
3. Stenhoff, Mark. 'A projected study of fluid vortex rings and plasma as explanatory hypotheses for the UFO. BUFORA Proceedings, 1976
4. APRO Bulletin, 26, 10, p.1.
5. Meligi, A.M. et al. The Failure of Time. Hogarth Press, 1972.

THEATRE AND book reviews

ALL ALONG THE WATCHTOWERS. By Colin Bennett, directed by John Ashford. ICA Theatre.

Once, at a talk I gave at Kensington Central Library in London, I was told by a prominent BUFORA member and antique dealer that I should think of becoming a theatre critic, because I apparently had a 'marvellous turn of phrase'. Since then I have been longing to put this dormant faculty to good use. It is therefore with considerable pleasure that I present MUFOP's first ever theatre review.

All Along the Watchtowers is a study of the impact of the UFO myth on a small group of people — a journalist who is working on a piece that will be the 'answer' to the riddle of the UFOs; a police officer investigating rumours of a plot to assassinate a major public figure; and a 'cultist' figure who links the two.

It is a remarkable play, which at times seems like a dramatisation of Flying Saucer Review, (which is actually seen onstage) and many of the incidents and people depicted will be familiar to our readers. Particularly interesting is a dramatisation of a very bizarre MIB encounter reported in FSR about a year ago. Much of the background explanation of the complexities of the UFO mystery is supplied by an American journalist, who is very obviously John Keel.

As the play progresses we see how the forces behind the UFOs move and manipulate the characters; the deeper they involve themselves in the mythos, and the more they depend upon its revelations, the greater is their personal disintegration. In the Keel tradition, they are surrounded by a force which leads them on by predictions and apparent omniscience, but at the very end pulls the carpet from beneath them! Interestingly, it is the police officer, the most ostensibly 'cool' and 'rational' character who is least able to come to terms with the irrationality that grows about him, and in a dramatic closing scene surrenders himself entirely to the UFO 'forces'.

Counterpointing the complexity and increasing paranoia of the other characters is a strange 'Elemental' figure, whose relationship to the UFO forces is equivocal; is he the origin of it, or the one person who has seen behind it and therefore remains untouched by it?

A remarkable play, and one we urge all our readers to see if it should emerge at any local 'fringe' theatre. It is the most realistic portrayal of the UFO phenomenon we have ever seen in

fiction; yet that realistic portrayal of the strangeness of the phenomenon probably led most of the audience at the ICA to think it was an elaborate political allegory! It presents a terrifyingly accurate image of the mental and emotional strains that can result from too literal an interpretation of the phenomenon, and the failure to appreciate its predominantly reflective and symbolic nature. (JR)

BALLESTER-OLMOS, Vicente-Juan. OVNI; el fenomeno aterrador. (UFOs; the landing phenomenon) Plaza y Janes, 1978.

This book by one of Spain's leading UFO researchers is recommended to anyone who can read Spanish. The book comprises, firstly, of selected cases from Sr Ballester's catalogue of two hundred Iberian 'type one' cases (which is published as an appendix), and secondly reviews the various scientific discussions of the subject; including the author's own work on 'The Law of The Times', and biometrical studies of UFO occupants.

The only major omission which strikes me is the lack of an index.

If or when an English edition appears (publishers please note!) we hope this omission will be corrected. I hope to be able to review such an English language edition in more detail. I suspect it will be the definitive text for some time on physically-oriented UFOlogy, commenting on its arguments. (PR)

BRIGGS, Katharine M. The Vanishing People; a study of traditional fairy belief. Batsford 1978. £5.95

EVANS-WENTZ, W.W. Fairy Faith in Celtic Countries. (foreword by Kathleen Raine) Colin Smythe, 1977. £4.50

The appearance of these two books on fairy lore, one a new work, the other a reprint of a book first appearing in 1911, will prove useful to anyone studying the relationship between traditional fairy beliefs and contemporary folklore. The work by Briggs is probably the most authoritative readily available, and covers all aspects of the traditional fairy lore of the British Isles.

Read as a dusty old tome in a mock-gothic library building, Evans-Wentz's book seems fairly impressive; however, read as a paperback on a commuter train it appears much less so. E-W seems to have had little patience with drawing on traditional sources; and all too obviously he appears to have moulded into his own Theosophical-cum-Celtic Twilight belief system. Thus he quotes extensively from Theosophists such as George Russell (Æ) or W.B. Yeats. The whole of the second part of the book is devoted to such topics as "A comparison between New Grange and the Great Pyramid" and "The Celtic doctrine of rebirth."

Little evidence emerges that a living 'fairy mythology' existed outside the far West

of Ireland at the turn of the century, and even this was possibly an already decaying folklore given dramatic new life by the catastrophe of the great famine of 1845-6.

From the statements by various writers from Chaucer onwards, to the effect that fairy beliefs were dying out; and from their continued persistence up to the present day, one might suggest that a body of folklore existed which could 'flare-up' into a genuine myth at times of social crisis. (PR)

DALE, Rodney. The Rumour in the Whale. Universal Books, 1978. 75p.

This extremely interesting book is a collection of contemporary apocryphal anecdotes and rumours, ie. the tales that one constantly hears as having happened to "friends of friends". The overall effect is that of a contemporary "Arabian Nights" as these tales take us into a world of grotesque and terrible accidents, mysterious and sinister figures roaming the cities and elaborate machinations which 'they' hide from the public. A man escaping in his car from hooligans finds one of his pursuers has had his finger amputated by the car bumper (fender). In the early morning the Queen walks the deserted West End streets window shopping. The US moon landings were really staged in a film studio.

Rodney Dale records these tales with little comment, although with some ventures into not really relevant areas such as jokes and popular

fallacies. It would have been interesting to see these tales put into a social or historical perspective by discussing for instance the many racist tales current, or famous historical rumours such as the Angels of Mons. It would also have been interesting to see a discussion of the way that, like UFO reports, some of these tales appear to be twentieth century versions of traditional fairy-tale and legendary themes. One tells of a black baby abandoned in a carry-cot on a doorstep. The woman who finds the child wants to adopt it, but her hard-hearted husband refuses. It is only when a policeman arrives to take the child away that the couple see that its pillow is stuffed with £5 notes. Here we quite clearly see the traditional motifs of the changeling or fairy child fostered on humans, and the person who refuses to aid the fairies, unaware that they have lost a rich reward.

As with UFO reports the question arises: what is the reason for the presence of these mythic elements? Do they spring from dimly remembered hearings of the original tales, or are modern rumour and ancient legend both reflections of archetypes present in all minds?

Anyway, this book is recommended not merely to the student of modern folklore but to anybody who would enjoy using it to point out to the next person who retells a story contained therein as having happened to (in the author's words) "the wife's brother or the cousin of the man who does the washing machine". (RS)

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