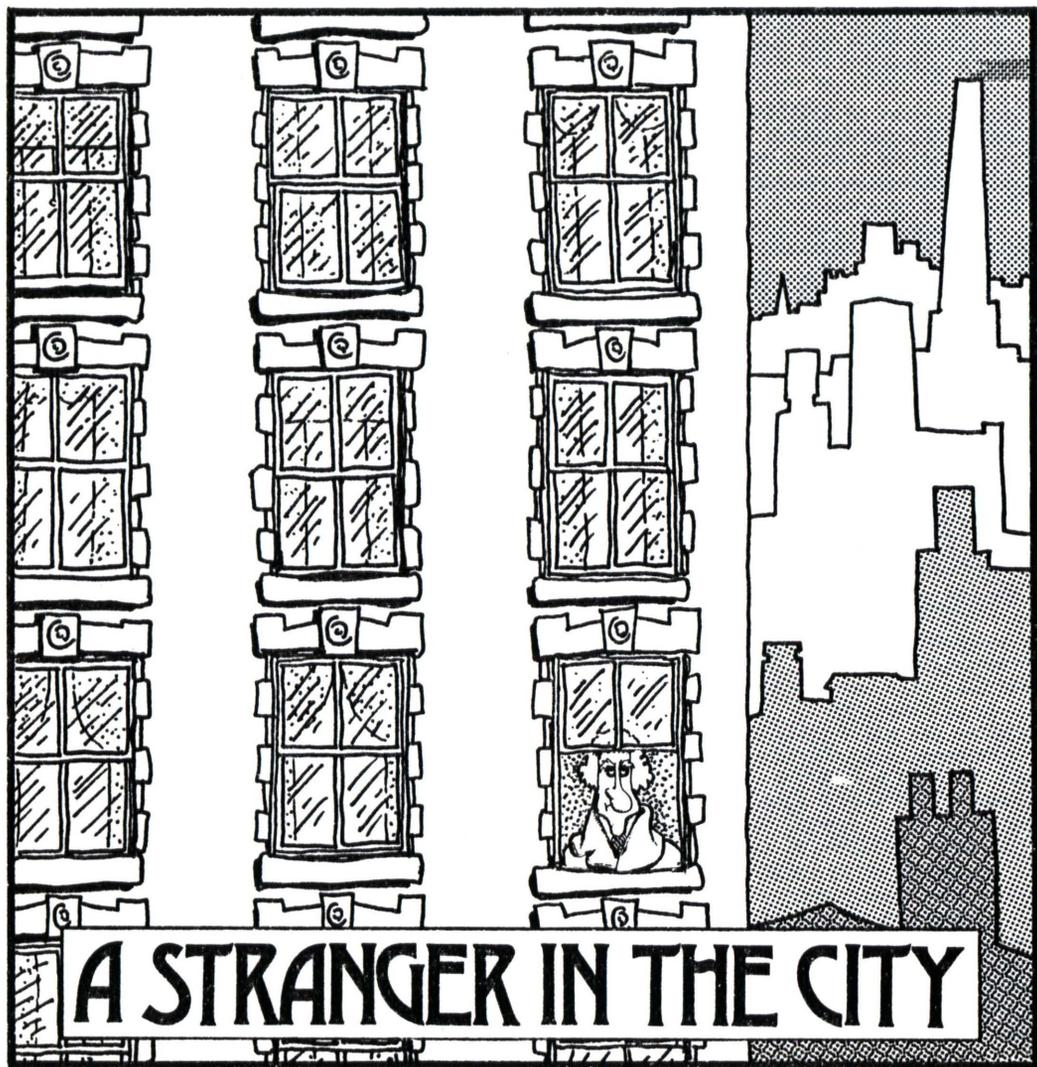


# MUFOS

New Series 14 Spring 1979



**A STRANGER IN THE CITY**

# MUFOB

New Series 14 (Whole number 48)

Spring 1979

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Contributions of articles, notes, and letters for publication are welcomed, and should be sent to the Editor at the address shown. Advertising rates available on application.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

From time to time it is our practice to take a general look at the various exchange magazines that we receive, and comment on some of particular note. In recent times it has become sadly apparent that the general standard of UFO magazines has been overtaken by publishing standards in various other related fields. In our last round-up of magazines we commented on the appearance of a new generation of Fortean/Earth Mysteries journals, most of which also give intelligent UFO coverage.

In contrast many of the purely UFO magazines are still putting out the sort of incoherent pseudo-science many of us hoped had died many years ago. Here is a representative sample from the latest issue of a Group journal, whose name I shall shroud in merciful obscurity:

"In spite of 31 years of research into the UFO phenomena, Ufology has still not yet declared the origin of our INVADERS... I personally believe space to be the area of their origin originally... They have also been reported as having stated that they operate in as many as 10 dimensions other than our three dimensional Earth.

This narrows the field..."

To which one can only say, Good Grief! Worse follows: "The cosmonauts are the only physical evidence of other life in the cosmos, therefore this question must not be brushed off; 31 years of research demands an explanation." So does nonsense like this, but we are unlikely to get one.

Fortunately, not all group magazines are at such an abysmal level, and we would commend UFO INSIGHT, the journal of Federation UFO Research (24 Cavendish Road, Crewe, Cheshire; 25p each). Although suffering from some of the drawbacks of most group journals, mainly a need to cater for the younger, more inexperienced members, it is an honest and level-headed journal that deserves support. It seems refreshingly unwilling to compromise.

Also preferring not to compromise its distinctive viewpoint is UFO RESEARCH REVIEW (443 Meadow Lane, Nottingham) which set up as standard bearer of the hard line Nuts-and-Bolts school; indeed its latest cover bears drawings of these items! Often infuriatingly wrong-headed in its dogged materialism, it is nevertheless worth reading as representative of an attitude that still commands wide support amongst many 'scientific' ufologists. Like many Group publications, it is apallingly printed, but this is mitigated by the very low cover price of 15p per issue.

# A STRANGER IN THE CITY

## Nigel Watson

### Messages from Beyond

"THIS EARTH is now under close surveillance and profound scrutiny by alien intelligences from distant star systems. I am not being silly, I know what I am saying and doing as well as you."

So wrote Norman Harrison (1) when he first wrote to John Rimmer, editor of MUFOB in a letter dated 6th January 1978.

Norman - at present living in Sheffield and in his early thirties - then went on to outline the different races of beings which inhabit this galaxy. The first race populate the fourth and fifth planets of Epsilon Eridani, and are "4ft tall on average, spindly and yellowish skinned and totally devoid of any hair. Their heads are disproportionately large due to further evolved brain capacity."

A second race inhabits three planets orbiting Canopus; a third race derive from Proxima Centauri III and IV. A fourth inhabits the two planets of Capella. Describing these latter races, Norman wrote that they are quite similar to each other and that they are "over 7ft tall on average, powerfully built and extremely agile, (have) fine blonde hair and (are) musically and artistically gifted. These three are of one Root Race type, corresponding to Earth Nordic."

The stars of Betelgeuse IV, V and VI in Orion are the location of the fifth race of aliens, and a sixth populates the constellations of Ursa Major and Cassiopeia. In particular this race occupies the solar systems of Merak, Alcor, and Dubhe in Ursa Major. The whole race is linked in a confederation and their colonies are densely populated. Other than being humanoid, Norman does not describe the appearance of these two races.

"All these aliens have spacecraft capable of exceeding light velocity several times over and have the facility to set up impenetrable force fields as well as invisibility shields. They make use of

unimaginably advanced energy propulsion technology and have extremely powerful electromagnetic-gravitic devices at their disposal, all capable of effecting vital changes in this world. Force fields and rays are extensively utilised at enormous distances: in spite of the long distance these are resolved to fine focus and can be intensified as required to influence the course of events on Earth.

"Many of their Earth contingents are military task-force or scientific field operatives. The remainder engaged in collating or compiling vital information, making regular operational shuttle trips and submitting data reports to their base planets."

Norman received this information about our galactic neighbours by way of telepathic communication from aliens. These communications began in 1975 and occurred with increasing frequency over the next three years. In a letter to me dated 17th March 1978 he wrote that: "these 'contacts' can occur virtually at any time... I still hardly know what to think about the whole business - if these are hallucinations, I don't see how they could contain information about the Universe which I never had before."

One communication which he received was a kind of poem as follows:

The 3 names EPAMINONDAS  
INONDAS  
EMPUSAS

are Keys of Communication  
Controllers of forces  
Gravitic waves Impulses  
Used in invocation by Initiates  
Who desired wisdom  
One such Master was Qobseuf" (2)

Apparently he does not hear or see things when having a "telepathic" communication, "the information comes through direct without any sensory impressions, vision or delusions whatever."

With regards to the above poem, he was rather tired and hungry when he wrote it

down, "my mind wasn't preoccupied with anything, I just felt more or less 'neutral' or indifferent. The words just flowed without any conscious direction on my part. This is always the case with either writings or drawings set straight down 'automatically'. Very often the physically weaker or hungrier I feel, the more clearly the contacts are received."

In fact, this poem appears to be the only example he has shown me of a literal form of "automatic" writing. The majority of his 'communications' are nothing more than impressions which he translates into drawings.

In order that we can get a full perspective of Norman's experiences, I intend quoting extensively from his letter of the 6th January 1978, sent to John Rimmer, as this describes in some detail the fate of humanity, as he interprets it.

He begins by writing about the "Observers, who on the whole think that "human Western society is rapidly falling into catastrophic decline and Mankind is now falling into chaos and absolute folly. They believe there is virtually zero survival probability as a result of mental degeneration and moral decay combined with political corruption, greed and militarism. These and other factors, they feel sure now will destroy all human civilization within another half-century.

"This isn't just pessimism or gloom-and-doom alarmism - these people are infinitely more intelligent, more truly civilized and more mature than any race on Earth, and have reached their conclusions via strict mathematical extrapolative calculus based in historical, social, psychological and economic FACTS. Most of these races have had an intimate exhaustive knowledge of Man for tens of thousands of years and the wisdom of their logic is undeniable.

"I have little to add, except that I am notified that a final terrible war will definitely take place (whether atomic or not) between East and West within three decades, and pollution poisoning will soon endanger all vegetation and animal species of the globe. All the most recent incidents positively indicate to me personally that the aliens are correct. We ignore and gloss over such dire warnings at our peril, and we have no-one but ourselves to blame for the destruction of our own world-home by our madness, ignorance and blind folly."

(3) These 'communications', 'transmissions' 'impressions', whatever we might label them as, were preceded by a UFO sighting, some time in 1974. (4)

Norman was then staying with a friend of his in the Beeston area of Leeds for a few days, when he saw his first and only UFO. His friend had just gone outside for a few minutes, the time was between 8-9 pm when Norman had a "distinct urge to get up and look out of the door."

Opening the door, he saw between the doorframe and the rooftops of the houses across the road, a box-like shape silhouetted against the night sky. Upon it were banks of multi-coloured lights. The object



was slanted at an angle towards the ground, and was moving from right to left in the direction of its central axis at slow speed. He heard no sound from this phenomenon, which he estimated to be gliding at a height of 1,000 feet. After twenty seconds it drifted out of view, although: "Why I did not step out into the street for a better look I don't know."

Norman's reaction to the sighting was interesting, as he wrote that: "I wasn't in the least bit frightened of it, but it did disturb me in an eerie way, as if hypnotic" He went on to speculate as to what it might have been.

"It must have been a huge carrier vessel of tremendous motive power, capable of containing a number of smaller saucer type craft or several hundred passengers. By proportion and distance, I feel sure it was anything up to 300 feet long. A massive vessel like that must be able to traverse the whole galactic radius at speeds far in excess of light velocity; who would logically build that big for merely planet to planet burneys. Who would employ that much propulsion and that scale of motive energy?

"My belief is that this "ship" was from a giant planet in the hub of the Milky Way (Bigger than Texas!!)."

## Early Psi Experiences

Having read Norman's correspondence with John Rimmer and having arranged to meet him, what could I expect on visiting his household? Norman had anticipated this question by explaining his circumstances in one of his letters.

"I must point out that I live in a working-class area and my house is not too beautiful, being a Victorian terrace Council house and rather decrepit now. (I was away when my parents died and the old place was left empty for a year and bad weather and neglect have taken their toll. I'd do a lot but I've been unemployed for a long time and live only on State benefit)

"So my surroundings are not ideal for social contacts; as you can imagine, I'm embarrassed about this! I'll probably sell the house before long and then I'd like to travel around - the Continent perhaps, who knows."

When I first met Norman on the 26th February 1978, he told me about how he had experienced distinct impressions from 1968 through to 1969. He felt he had been picked up thoughts that were being powerfully projected towards him. However he could not pick up any words or language or such, but it was a "kind of thought expression that doesn't rely on language. And not a true voice that you could hear... but the sensation of words virtually spontaneously," he said. Usually he had these experiences when in a state of meditation, when sitting down or before going to sleep. Norman described his condition as in a "diminished state" when he had these experiences, but not a condition like a trance or under the influence of drink or drugs. On most occasions he was on his own when this phenomena happened but once he was walking along a city street when he felt that he could tell what people were thinking.

On another occasion during this period he and a friend visited a Spiritualist Church in Sheffield, when he was "awakened to Christian faith". The Church was quite full when they entered and the minister was delivering a sermon. As the minister spoke Norman felt a knot of tension build up in himself. They stood to sing a hymn and half way through it he felt a distinct physical sensation of a twisting knot of tension in the area of the solar plexus.

"I felt this oppressive, almost hostile, presence in the church, I felt a strong hostility, a threat..." he explained At this juncture, a nearby usher approached

Norman and his companion, and said in a quite voice to them: "Would you mind leaving please, I'd like you to go".

"Just before he approached me this thing was building up to a real climax... as if something was tearing me inside out, literally", and he added that, "This man sensed that there was something amiss."

Norman's friend experienced nothing untoward in the church, and was no doubt puzzled as to why they were asked to leave.

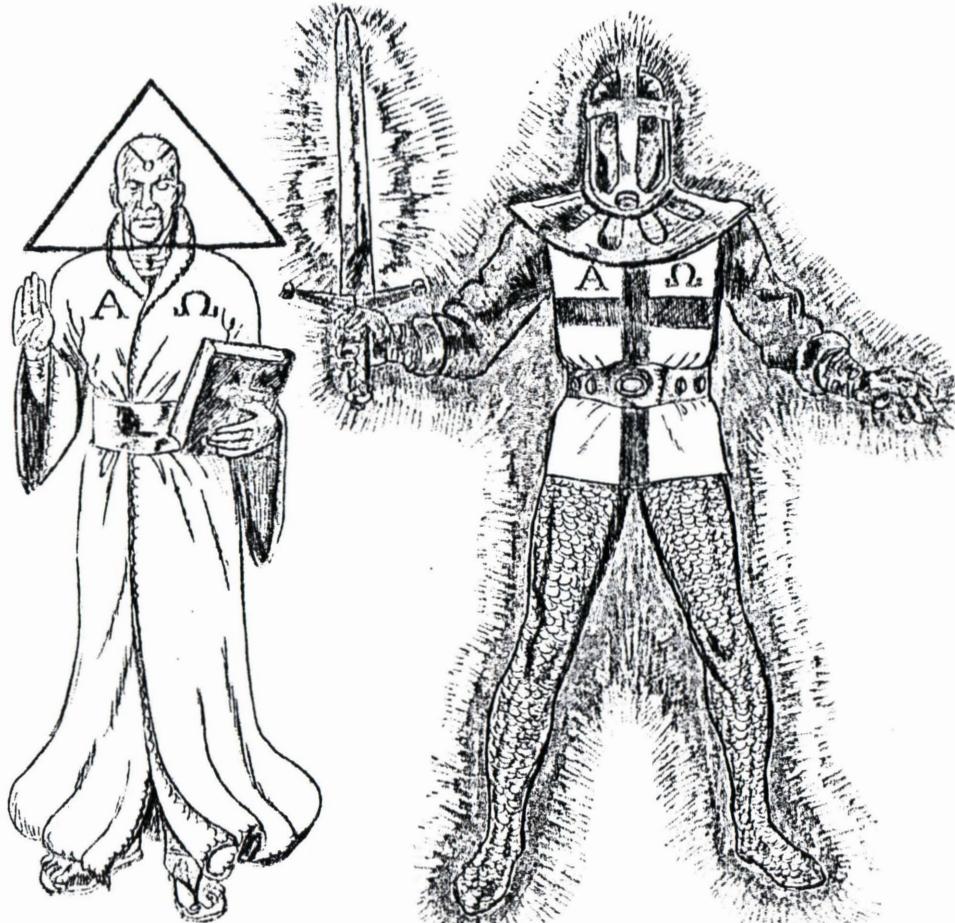
In 1966 Norman knew a girl called Angela who lived in London. He took her out for about four months, and was very serious about her, and "cared an awful lot for her" However, in due course they went their separate ways. Later in a period when he was feeling emotionally low, very depressed anxious, physically depleted and undernourished (6) he saw Angela's face distinctly in front of him, as he was lying down one evening. She seemed to be speaking to him, but he cannot now remember what she was saying, except that she might have been asking him what he was doing, where he was, had he been thinking about her, had he missed her, etc.

## Alien Intervention

After relating his experiences of extra-sensory type phenomena he then went on to tell of his UFO sighting of 1973. The details of this are essentially the same as described in his letter of the 4th February 1978. Then he went on to tell me about the extraterrestrial communications he had been receiving.

"I've had occasions, not just recently but I should say over the last two or three years, when I've been walking outside in the open, in a sort of park or recreation area (8) something like that. The more open air the better. If I was in a large crowd of people... nothing. But on occasion I thought "Oh, that's a daft idea, where did I get it from?", and then I'd suddenly realise that it's not an idea, but it's information. I'd have a sort of powerful influence to get a pen and notepad and jot it down. On some occasions I did this; I didn't keep the notes, but there have been times... when I've drawn pictures, and I've had these images which were very clear when I drew them, what I myself perceived was not very clear at all, but in the act of drawing it came through with clarity. And it seemed to me that I'd sort of acted as an unwitting unconscious intermediary and I've had this distinct sensation that someone is using me in order to transmit knowledge."

In particular there are three figures which he has recurrently had impressions of.



ARONIEL

MIK-AEL

"None of them sort of stand on the ground, they all seem to be just suspended in space, and there are no buildings or anything recognisable around them at all. As though they were suspended in vacuum. They all have a powerful projection and I've not been personally intimidated, it doesn't seem to me that they are threatening me or in any way warning me, but they have an air of warning or admonition, if you like. Sort of 'take care', or 'watch it', pay attention", he said.

The three figures are:

Aroniel. This personage is a "tall figure very straight, dressed in a long yellow robe, a flowing yellow robe with a high collar and he looks oriental. He wears a medallion in the centre of his forehead, and his own colour, his skin

colour, is yellowish or shall we say golden and he's like a sort of gold appearance generally.... He carries a book in one hand and the other is raised as if in greeting. The book looks like some sort of old book"

Mik-Ael. "This is an image of what you might call something like a Crusader or armoured knight figure; chain mail with a tabard or tunic. It's a white tunic with a broad belt which looks metallic and has buttons on, and the tunic has a... red cross on it. He's like a crusader, but the helmet is rather strange... it completely conceals the features, you can't make out the face. It's not like an ordinary visor but it's a solid, transparent sort of plate with a division in the middle. At the bottom (of it) there is a little round disc thing with a wire. He has... full sleeves



URIEL

and gauntlets, heavy gauntlets and he's carrying a sword in one hand.

"He sort of stands very powerfully with his legs apart. He presents either a challenging or shall we say an extremely aggressive, intimidating strength or just an image of strength. Its an intimidating sort of an aggressive image. His sword has a sort of red radiance... and he himself is surrounded with red, a deep scarlet or crimson. I should say it is crimson actually. It's like an aura or radiance all around him."

Uriel. The third figure "has long, flowing robes, blue and green, and has like a blue or greenish-blue sort of radiance around him.... this third one has white hair and apparently normal skin colour or

slightly blue tinge and a white beard and white hair, and he also looks big, powerful but not in a military or a Crusader knight in armour fashion, but he looks as though he's sort of... tremendously ancient, tremendously, you know, tremendous power at his disposal. He doesn't seem to carry anything, he's got like a sash around the waist and he wears something like... one of the old fashioned robes of the middle east."

Later during the interview he explained that the colours of the figures were directly linked with the type of energy they were emitting. He also claimed that he saw these figures in a kind of sequence, sometimes he would "see" them fleetingly for only 2-3 seconds, other times they would appear for 2 or three minutes.

Usually the first figure to appear is the one who has supremacy over the other two. They maybe a few letters or geometric symbols will appear.

"They seem to be attempting to express relationships, but as I say, some of it isn't in any sort of expressed language, but there seems to be a logical sequence or progression. It's not logical to me, I don't know it, but it's logical to them", he said

Many of the letters he has seen are from Greek and Hebrew sources

"I've seen the triangle over and over again," he said about the recurring image he has seen over the past four or five months, and has included in many of his drawings, "I've seen a triangle with an eye in the centre, and I've seen this as a visual image, quite literally as though it was suspended in front of my eyes, in broad daylight when I was fully wide awake and stone cold sober - I hardly ever drink." This triangle is seen as red coloured with an eye in the centre, which is not like a real eye, but looks effectively like a bright red line drawing of an eye.

He then went on to describe the population of the galaxy, how at the hub there are regions of incalculable amounts of radiance and electromagnetic energy, where disembodied "beings" of ultimate intelligence reside. Radiating outwards from the hub, the state of evolution, culture, civilization and society diminish until we reach the very fringes of the galaxy where Neanderthal type beings populate the planets. These lesser planets, including Earth (as our Solar System is much closer to the fringe than the hub) are watched closely by the more superior races who take a parental interest in their evolution. Apparently at the present time there has been a resurgence of interest in our planet.

This renewed interest might be

because: "Man is a ver disobedient wretch and keeps veering off, and getting side-tracked one way or another. The guiding hand keeps bringing him back to dead centre there's this guidance all the way. There is one definite path of evolution of the spirit and mind," said Norman.

According to him, mankind is being constantly helped by outside, alien forces. It was there influence which partly established some of the most ancient of all the Oriental religions. He claims that many early religious figures such as Buddha and Moses were inspired by the influence of the extraterrestrials. Even today, a small number of adepts, who have a profound understanding of metaphysical philosophy, and live in very remote regions of the world, are in direct telepathic communication with alien people.

Through alien intervention, and there are dozens, hundreds of alien races, some of which are almost immortal, the human mind has been triggered off to experience ESP, telepathy, clairvoyance, prophecy, predictions, etc. However, we have mis-used the forces and energy sources available, claims Norman, and distort things for our own greedy ends. We have probably, in the past, been punished for it afterwards. He quoted the examples, among others, of Atlantis and Babylon, and stated that global disasters are initiated from the outside and convey the alien moral standpoint. These purges occur because the behaviour of mankind can become offensive and mortally wrong.

Then he stated that: "Man has destroyed himself as a living specimen at least six times in a row, cataclysm after cataclysm. There have been several cycles of biological life, gradually slowly, painstakingly developing, then flourishing, reaching an apex then declining."

Regarding humanity now, Norman thinks that: "The Golden Age has long passed, none absolutely none of the 20th Century is anything like the Golden Age. It is a period now of the pinnacle of machinery, it's a pinnacle of mechanical contrivance, ingenuity is totally materialistic, physical things. It's a period of total stagnation, and decadence in what you might call things of the spirit. There is a complete decline in the ability to understand higher matters... in religious doctrine or philosophical things. Where are the people like Plato, Socrates, Aristotle? Where is the architecture, sculpture and art of Leonardo or Michaelangelo?" he asked; answering himself by explaining that the difference between them and modern contemporaries is "self evident."

## Premonitions

In the February of 1974, Norman had his first premonition. This was of a plane exploding in mid-air with people from the city of Leeds on board - an event which occurred three weeks later over France.

During August 1974 he was living in London when he had a premonition of the Moorgate tube disaster, which happened in April 1975. He also "knew" that the IRA would be posting letter-bombs to people in London in 1975.

"All these premonitions seemed to me personally that they are being transmitted to me from an outside source," said Norman, who related that he felt no conscious control over these premonitions.

He also felt certain that mankind would have some crucial contact with extraterrestrials in the near future. It will be with somebody like the Archbishop of Canterbury, or other such celebrity, and their reaction to the encounter will have far reaching consequences.

After my visit and interview with Norman, he wrote to me on the 17th March, and stated: "I feel quite sure now that these telepathic communications are only the beginning - there must be something more to follow in the future; I have a 'hunch' about it".

In the same letter, "Although there have been no new telepathic transmissions or impressions since you came over, I have received a warning in the form of one pen sketch which showed a big explosion. It involves highly inflammable chemicals and will happen in Britain within another month. I have no more exact location than that, but I do know this much - it will involve loss of life and will be caused by criminal negligence and carelessness. This forboding is very strong and I know it comes from an outside source. The accident must be connected with a big chemical company like ICI or one of the fuel firms like Esso, or North Sea oil." (9)

"I hope it doesn't happen because it will be a horrible tragedy - it could be averted if only there were proper precautions taken."

## Apprehension

On the 2nd April 1978, Roger Hebb and myself visited Norman. During this visit he gave me a book of sketches he had drawn and he showed me the book he had been writing. He had started the book several months previously and it was contained in three large exercise books. The contents consist of many different chapters on a wide range of occult, fortune and ufologi-

# 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 19

835 23 July 1958 daytime  
TABORDA (VENEZUELA) An object was seen at low alt. No details at present. (Petrovich)

836 August 1958 Daytime  
PARAIBA DO SUL (RIO DE JANEIRO, BRASIL)  
Mr L, who lived at a place 30km from Paraiba was near his house when his attention was caught by a shiny object which landed swiftly with a faint whining noise. As he got quite close he saw a small round porthole open in the lower part of the craft. From this a man emerged, who gestured at L and examined a stone on the ground. When L failed to understand the gestures, the man walked back into the object "as if in disgust". The machine rose slowly, then vanished rapidly, into the sky. The man was 1.75m tall, long fair hair, close shaven, with a pink complexion, dressed in a light coloured overall with no pockets or seams. The machine was yellow and gold, resembled two basins stuck together, with rectangular openings around the rim from which a faint white smoke was emitted. (FSR 13,3,p.5 - Brighton - SBEDV no 10 - Walter Buhler.)

837 August 1958 (appx) 1930 hrs  
MULHAGEN PEAK (SPAIN) 3 people on "Monjo Alto" (alt. 3000m) on a dry, clear day, temp. 10-15° c., observed for nearly 15 mins. an object on the ground, 4km away. It was silent, reflected light, and rose at increasing speed towards Africa. It was shaped like a rocket, about 8m high, apparently made of steel, with three legs. It was silent, reflected light, and rose at increasing speed towards Africa, passing over the peak. (B25 - FSR 17,4,p.10 - Ballester - CEI first hand)

839 8th August 1958 0127 hrs  
UNSUE (BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA) An official of the Buenos Aires Provincial Senate was driving along the Unsue to Bolivar road, when his engine suddenly stalled.

His dashboard clock stopped. He got out to examine his engine, but could find nothing amiss. He then noticed 400m away a machine moving slowly towards him. When he turned out his headlights he saw that it was faintly luminous, flattened at the rear, with a dome giving off a blinding blue light. It made a whistling noise like a fan which varied as it performed various manoeuvres. Finally it rose at staggering speed towards the south. (Vallee lc)

840 12 August 1958.  
LAS VEGAS (NEVADA) 19km NW of Las Vegas a round object giving off a diffuse light moved down and to the left at tree-top height, went back to its original position, repeated the performance and then disappeared. (Hynek IIa, p.43 - ATIC)

841 16 August 1958 1700 hrs  
LAC LEMAN (SWITZERLAND) A dozen people out on the lake in perfect weather saw a bright light descending. They stopped their boat as an object hovered 15m above them. It was saucer shaped, 10m diam. with a cabin showing several windows on top. The outer disc, below the cabin, was spinning. As it came down towards the water a noticeable current was created. No noise or occupants were noted. After several leaps in mid-air the craft flew off at "unbelievable speed." (M469)

842 Autumn 1958 Daytime  
LIGNEROLLE, LE MONTE (ALLIER, FRANCE)  
Two little girls aged 8 and 10 saw a non-luminous heavy object with a painted orange surface, 2m diam., descending slowly and silently with a rotating motion, above a field. (Bonabot - C E OVNI M, no.70)

843 September 1958 0500 hrs  
(FRANCE) A woman travelling to a local factory suddenly saw three little beings, the height of 12-13 year old children, wearing luminous overalls and grey helmets like cyclists. She was about 30m away from them, and saw a round object on the ground nearby. The beings came towards her and she fled into a nearby wood. The beings pursued her, uttering unintelligible and inhuman shrill screams. After hiding for a short time the witness continued on her way to the factory. (Gamard - Phenomenes Inconnu, 1,p.9)

844 September 1958 0800 hrs  
(FRANCE) About 800m from the above case, two people saw a round luminous object about 500m above the factory. It stopped in the sky with a rocking motion. It was dull grey, "shell shaped", surrounded by "very harmonious looking" colours, which turned successively yellow, red, green, and purple. One witness distinctly saw two rows of portholes, through the upper row of

which two human figures could be seen, busily working inside. The two witnesses felt attracted to this strange, silent, motionless craft. After ten minutes it made a whistling sound and departed at speed. (Gamard - Phenomenes Inconnus, 1, p. 8)

845 1 September 1958 2130 hrs  
LAVAL (FRANCE) About 11km before Laval a businessman coming from Paris suddenly saw a motionless object 10m above ground to the left of the road, 150m away. It was shaped like two cones with a common base and showed two rows of about ten openings in the middle section. It seemed about 20m wide, metallic, with a light similar to that of a red traffic light shining through the windows. The witness had time to stop and maneuvered to get the object in his headlight beams. Throughout the observation a whistling sound like a jet aircraft was heard. The object rose very slowly, then flew off faster, climbing out of sight (M470 - Quasat France, 4 Sep 58)

846 21 September 1958 0300 hrs  
SHEFFIELD LAKE (OHIO) Mrs William Fitzgerald had gone to bed at the end of the late TV show, the bedroom window was shut and the curtains closed; the night was dark and the moon had set. She was trying to get to sleep when she realized that the room was illuminated, so she stood up on the bed to look out of the window. A disc-shaped object, about 6-6.5m dia., 2m thick, with a hump in the middle, and dull aluminium coloured, was moving about in her yard at 1 1/2m alt. It moved north, descended to about 30cm, hovered 15m away, while pink-grey smoke emerged from two openings in its sides. Each opening contained seven pipes. The object then came back into her yard, rose to 1 1/2m, gave two quick clockwise turns then rose up. She was unable to rouse her husband, but her 10 year old son John who had got up to go to the bathroom, had been startled by a brilliant light and had also seen the object. A neighbour also saw the object. The duration of the event was about 40 secs. (Menzel & Boyd, p. 280 - ATIC + The Fitzgerald Report :: UFO Evidence :: Maney & Hall, p. 108)

847 29 September 1958 0530 hrs  
DERWOOD (MARYLAND) Pte Jerome A Scanlon was walking from the sentry post at the Nike base to sound reveille, when he heard a humming noise, and looking up saw a tear drop shaped object moving away at about 50 kph, descending from 90m alt and moving over trees breaking branches, and apparently landing 2 1/2km away. It then rose again and seemed to disappear. He reported the incident to Guard Sergeant Riney Ferris, who himself had seen the object. They went to the area of the landing where they found

broken branches and a scorched strip of earth and vegetation 800m long. The object was also described as 'Bullet-shaped', the size of a medium plane, with no surface features, glowing with a green colour, and emitting flames from the rear. (Lor IV, p. 99 - APRO November 1958, p. 4 :: Menzel and Boyd, p. 239 - ATIC) IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THIS IS AN EXAGGERATED ACCOUNT OF A METEOR)

848 October 1958 (appx) Night  
SNYDERS LAKE (NEW YORK) Whilst Mr L. Robinson was driving along Rt 66 on a rainy night, he saw something drop into the lake, and went to investigate. When he had gone 100m he saw a blue light, which affected his eyes. It came from a semi-circular object 3m high, 6m long. The blue colour changed to one the witness had never seen before. A blue-gold light came from the side of the object and flashed three times; three men of normal height dressed in gold suits appeared, the colours of the suits changing. One of the beings approached Robinson suddenly, and the conversed in "perfect English" for about three hours. The men then moved back towards the object. (UFO Critical Bulletin III, 2, p. 5 - Sacres Space and Science, March 59 - National Enquirer, 12 Oct 58)

849 October 1958 1900 hrs  
FIGUERAS (GERONA, SPAIN) Businessman Jose Luis Angelu (40) was cycling between Figueras and Gerona, when 15km from the former he observed a bright light in the sky towards the west, descending rapidly, making a faint whistling noise. The powerful light was coming from the rear. He thought it was an aeroplane crash, and went into the forest to help. After 65m he encountered an aluminium craft, 8m diameter, at treetop height. It was strangely illuminated, and resembled two inverted plates, with several legs on the base, and a transparent cockpit in the upper part, in which a figure was seen looking out. On the ground below the machine there were 2 beings walking about. They were 1m tall, with large heads, wearing dark clothes, like leather. They were gathering material from the ground. The object rose up obliquely, its sound increasing, disappearing seawards to the east in a few moments. The observation lasted 15 mins. (B26 - Ballester + CEI first hand)

850 October 1958 2200 hrs  
LANSDALE (PENNSYLVANIA) Carol Loburak (16) was sitting outside her house with her brother Daniel (14) and two other teenaged boys, Lee Kellner (15) and Rudy Usic (14) when they saw a flash of light from the backyard. On going to investigate they saw a disc 4 1/2-6m diam, with a transparent

bubble on top, hovering over the backyard, just above the telephone lines. As it hovered motionless for several minutes a faint buzzing sound was heard. The boys went right under it to get a better look. As they did so, a beam of light came on and illuminated them and a circular area 3-4m diam. After a minute or so the object moved away horizontally at no great speed. The witnesses did not discuss the incident until 1967. (Pegasus, 3, 2, p. 11 + Flying Saucers 76, p. 2 - James McDonald - Carol Loburak)

851 1st October 1958 0245 hrs  
GOUZON (CREUSE, FRANCE) Making his way to Montlucon on a light motorcycle, Mr Donniau, whilst just outside Gouzon, saw a strange light. 400m from the Chante Bridge he saw a beam of 'solid light' directed vertically into the sky. At the base of this beam he saw another one rotating, which passed over the witness's head. This continued for 5 mins., then the rotating beam switched off. The cyclist then heard a crackling sound and saw an aluminium coloured conical machine, point directed to the ground, 6-7m diam. It took off with a whistling sound, made a 45° turn and travelled horizontally in the direction of Chambon, where it turned red and disappeared. After the object had performed its turn a dark, rigid trail appeared on its rear. (OVNI-INFO I, p. 12, case 43 - Laporte and Maillet)

852 3 October 1958 0310  
WASCO (INDIANA) The crew of a Minon Railroad freight train travelling from Minon to Indianapolis observed the manoeuvres of four glowing discs as they followed the train from Wasco to Mirklin. The witnesses in the cab of the diesel were Harry Eckmann (engineer), Cecil Bridge (fireman - a former airman with 450 hrs heavy bomber time) and Morris Ott (head brake man). In the brake van were Ed Robison (conductor) and Paul Sosby (flagman). The discs were 9-12m diam. and 3m thick, were white in colour but changed to a yellow when they slowed down, then to a 'dirty orange' when very slow. During the course of the 70 min sighting they descended to a height of 30m or so a couple of times; passing over the train at that height on one occasion. When the train stopped at Frankfort for 10-15 mins to change cars, the objects seemed to have landed a couple of kilometers or so down the track. When the train reached the vicinity of Mirklin the lights sped off to the NW and out of sight. (Heiden - [MacDonald UFOs Greatest Scientific Problem of Our Time - Eckmann, Bridge and Robinson] + [Olson 3-59 + Edwards Ib, p. 69] - Fate (US), Feb 1959 - Frank Edwards first hand :: Official Guide, p. 157 :: FSR 5, 1, p. 4 - NICAP)

27 October 1958

UNION DALE (PENNSYLVANIA) An object resembling a large grey cigar with an assembly tail flew at treetop height, making a loud whistling sound. (M472 - ATIC)

854 31 October 1958 1550 hrs  
CALEDON EAST (ONTARIO, CANADA) A civilian reported an elliptical aluminium coloured object at 2km alt., coming down to 4m, flying up and down in sudden jumps. It stopped at ground level less than 200m from the witness for 5 mins. A red light appeared at one end of the object, which gradually took on a fiery colour, then exploded. The witness ran away. (M473 - ATIC)

855 November 1958 0500 hrs  
TARLAND nr BRAEMAR (ABERDEENSHIRE, SCOTLAND) During a Territorial Army (volunteer reservists) weekend exercise some kms outside the village of Tarland, between Braemar and Ballater, two young men were left to guard a small hilltop. At dawn they heard a gurgling sound coming from some trees, 100 m or so from their position. When they went to investigate, two large peculiarly dressed figures, 2.1-2.5m tall came towards them. The figures walked with difficulty, and conversed in guttural tones. The youths fled in terror to the Tarland road. As they ran down the road, they heard a swishing noise and saw a huge brilliant disc coming down the road behind them. The disc swooped overhead, pulsating and leaving a shower of sparks. The disc disappeared from sight, leaving the boys in a state of terror when they arrived at a nearby post-office engineers hut. (FSR 5, 3, p. 5 :: Humanoids, p. 5) CAN ANYONE SUPPLY ORIGINAL DOCUMENTATION FOR THIS REPORT?

856 10th November 1958 2345 hrs  
MONTPELLIER A LUMEL (HERAULT, FRANCE) 10-12 km from Montpellier some motorists saw three white luminous globes cross the road in front of them. (Bonabot - Ouranos, 25, p. 31)

857 11 November 1958 1030 hrs  
DERRY (NEW HAMPSHIRE) Retired carriage builder Alfred G Horn (see INTCAT case 661, 15th December 1956) was passing the "Clan house" on Rt 28 at Webster's Corner, when he heard noises like "iron scraping on stone", and saw about 100 objects the size and shape of pie plates flying around, striking the ground with a solid sound. The objects, some gold, others silver or platinum coloured, rose over 100m then descended. As he got within 3m of them, he saw that they were leaving furrows the "width of a man" on impact. They were 25cm diam, 3.75cm thick. They appeared from the west and took off to the east, the golden discs in front. They appeared to join up with a curious cylindrical contraption which was

moving slowly along. The whole spectacle then spiralled away at high speed. (Bloecher - Walter Webb - Alfred Horn)

858 16 November 1958 Dusk  
VADDO, (UPALND, SWEDEN) 5km before Vaddo two young men found their car stopping and the lights going out. A moment later they caught sight of a shining object 17m long, 8-9m high, which swooped down from their right, and landed 60m away. It was circular, blue, with a shining yellow rim which lit up an area 90-100m diam. After about 3 mins on the ground the object began to move, then vanished in the air. After checking their car, which now started easily, the men drove to the landing site. They felt that the air was close and heavy, and saw that the grass was pressed down. When they lit the spot with a flashlight, they discovered a bright, flat, thin stone, which felt warm to their hands. (Phillips, p.23 (124) - CUFOS)

859 17 November 1958 2205 hrs  
(USSR) At an undisclosed location, a luminous object with an apparent diameter greater than that of the full moon was seen descending from a high altitude. It hovered at treetop height then landed. It was observed for two minutes. (#475 - ATIC)

860 23 November 1958 2335 hrs  
COJUTEPEQUE (EL SALVADOR) Engineer Julio Marino Madeleto was driving between Cojutepeque and Zacatocoluca, when he was forced to stop as his car hit an oil drum which was rolling in the road. As he worked on repairing the damage, he noticed a bell-shaped object about 30m away, illuminated in his headlights. On the upper part was a transparent sphere, giving out a blue, pulsating light. The object was 12m diam, 7m high, resting on three hemispheres. A human figure 2-2½m tall was examining the edge of the craft. He was wearing a blue coverall, luminescent heelless boots, and was bald. The witness took clear photographs of the scene. The being suddenly disappeared; the blue light pulsated brighter, and the witness began to feel warm. He heard a soft hum, which went higher and higher until it was no longer audible. The object rose slowly, throwing off blinding sparks from underneath. It oscillated, turned slightly so that two rows of windows came into view, allowing the witness to see the 'control room'. The hemispheres on which the craft had rested were yellowish, 120° degrees apart, and about 2m diam. Suddenly the oscillation ceased and the object took off vertically at great speed. Julio found holes made by the hemispheres, as well as the tracks of the pilot, deeper than his own. The next day he was inter-

viewed by a strange newsman who seemed to know all the details of the incident. The night had been wet, and visibility was poor. Julio was an American technician of Spanish origin, who had been working on dyke construction. (Heiden - Ribera III, p.53 + Lor V p.151 + #476 - Sotti Incom 16 Sept 62)

861 17 December 1958 1930 hrs  
FORNELLSM MENORCA (BA EARIC ISLANDS, SPAIN) Antonio Podraza Calves (55) a retired artillery sergeant, was motorcycling when he saw a very bright object 2½m long, resembling a missile. It was travelling horizontally 10m above the pines. It gave off a very bright red-orange light like a 'fantastic blaze', and sounded like a soda jet. After 2 mins the object disappeared behind trees. Independently several farmers had seen the phenomenon overhead. Calves was so upset that he returned home pallid, and had to be revived by cognac. (B2 - Eduardo Buolta)

This may be an opportune moment to restate some comments that were made in the introduction to INTCAT, in Merseyside UFO Bulletin in Autumn 1972. First, a quotation from Jacques Vallee's introduction to his Catalogue of Type I events in Passport to Magonia (US edition):

"It would be an unfair procedure and a grave misunderstanding of our purpose to assume that all cases in the list stand at the same level of reliability, or to claim that the presence of this or that particular case supports or weakens by itself the credibility of any other. We cannot accept the responsibility for the mistakes of those who ignore this warning."

This statement holds equally true for the present catalogue, and the omission of words such as alleged, ostensible, claims, etc. (or the presence of words such as 'craft', 'occupant', 'machine' etc) is merely to preserve the ease of reading, and does not imply endorsement of any cases.

The only reason for exclusion of any UFO record is positive identification as a mundane object, or direct evidence of hoax, either in the form of a confession or the production of doubtful photographs or artifacts.

The entries in this catalogue are UFO records, summarised from the information to be found in the sources cited. No value judgement is implied in any of the information given for each case, although in a few instances some additional comments, in capital letters, have been appended at the end of the entry.

cal subjects, all of which have been synthesised from books he has obtained from the public library.

As with the first visit Norman delivered a virtual monologue on the glories of past humanity and the doom laden future ahead. In the letter of the 17th March (after my first visit) Norman seemed to be in an optimistic mood; he planned to buy a typewriter in order to type out his book, and wrote: "I'd like to contribute in any way I can towards fresh understanding and knowledge, it's become very important to me to devote as much of my attention and spare time as possible towards that end."

After my second visit he went into a more apprehensive frame of mind as can be observed in the following quote (from a letter to me dated 18th April 1978):

"I'm starting to feel a bit scared. Not really frightened but uneasy, apprehensive. I don't know what's causing it, but it's like a premonition or as if I were neurotic or anxious. I've felt like this before, years ago, a vague sensation that passed after a week or so: this time it isn't very strong, but there's a definite tension in the air."

Later on in the letter he adds, "I can't pinpoint anything, that's what gets me, but I sense a threat, a menace; it could be directed at me personally or it could be something much more widespread, some terrible trouble brewing somewhere."

On the 30th April, Shirley McIver and myself visited Norman. He was in a more pessimistic mood than usual, and besides a reiteration of much he had said before, claimed that he had "become anaesthetised, I mean 30 years of the constant threat of the atomic bomb is enough to anaesthetise anybody against anything"

In order to reply to that last statement Shirley McIver joined in the interview, and the conversation continued as follows:

SM: I can't agree with the acceptance of that state of mind, I think that to live on the defensive, to live with a defence mechanism, to sit there and...

NH: It is only by total acceptance that I find life tolerable at all. If I failed to accept anything of it I would go completely berserk and throw myself in the river.

SM: Well at least that would be a positive act?

NH: No, no, that's a gesture of ultimate defeat, that is saying I have given up. Suicide - I would prefer to live rather than commit suicide and say I have failed. That is the ultimate gesture of defeat.

Earlier in the same interview we discussed

his views on religion, and that conversation was as follows:

NH: If you have imagination you can concoct your own heaven, and if you're satisfied with that, well that's your fantasy world. Everybody needs a little fantasy this sort of thing does go on. Man is a drug addict, he's addicted to food, and drink, and sex, and everything else.

NW: Your views on life in other systems, do you think that perhaps that's your fantasy?

NH: I recognise in myself a desire to believe in such things, because I have a religious personality. I think of myself as a Christian... I'm not much of one at all. In fact I fall very far short of just about everything that Paul and Jesus said in the Gospels.

NW: Were your parents religious?

NH: Both parents died years ago. Neither of them were Christian believers. No, they didn't have any... they kept the Bible in the house and never even looked at it. I prefer to believe in a deity and a supreme being rather than not believe. I take the lesser of what I consider two evils... it's the prong of the fork. Which is better, to believe or not? And I think - I choose to believe. I think it's better than to be atheist for me personally. I think man has some in-born instinct to look out and beyond himself and seek some kind of perfection elsewhere, something that's greater than himself.

NW: But you don't think much of any forms of established religion?

NH: How many people do nowadays? There is so much disillusionment, disappointment in the world because people have lost their sense of direction. There doesn't seem to be much purpose in life any more.

## Conclusions

To put this case into any kind of perspective we need to review Norman's social and psychological background.

At the age of sixteen he had ambitions of becoming an art or English teacher, however his ambitions were thwarted by his father who made him pursue the totally materialist goal of having to earn a living. So he left school and became an apprentice in the printing trade, then followed a succession of dead-end jobs. Currently he is unemployed and has been so for quite some time. Even now he seems to have a resentment for his father who prevented him from gaining any educational qualifications and a satisfying profession (19).

As recounted in the main text, Normans parents are now dead and he lives in their

old terraced house, which is located in a grim area of Sheffield. Apparently he has no friends whatsoever in the neighbourhood whom he can converse with or relate to, and having been abandoned by Angela in 1966 he has now become emotionally "anaesthetised". So in effect he is now a virtual recluse (11).

With this state of affairs it is not surprising to learn that he has suffered four nervous breakdowns and is obsessed by the fate of humanity. Having met him on three occasions I can vouch for the fact that he is very verbose, and passionately intense about what he believes to be the gloomy and cataclysmic future of mankind. This fear is not generated by any love he might have for mankind; on the contrary, his fear is for himself.

We might with some justification speculate that his forebodings of some apocalyptic disaster are warnings from his own psyche; the cataclysm being his own mental degeneration and breakdown.

When we consider that he hates what modern science has created - a world of atomic bombs and pollution - yet venerates the very Classical and Renaissance scholars who helped create the foundations of modern science, we can only explain this paradox by quoting Clark and Coleman who wrote that our age "has destroyed the mystical, nonrational elements (of mankind) which (has) traditionally tied him to nature and his fellows. It has emphasised rationality to the exclusion of dreams, male to the exclusion of female, machines to the exclusion of mysteries" (12).

Living as someone who regards himself as being isolated and different from the rest of humanity, it is not surprising that he has transposed his ideas and imagination into an "extraterrestrial" framework.

His concept of the galaxy - pure energy and ultimate intelligence at the hub, Neanderthal beings on the edge - corresponds to concepts of heaven and hell, Jekyll and Hyde or unconscious and conscious, with the mortal Human pivoted between the two. Even worse, we do not have full control over our destiny: the aliens have intervened throughout human history in order that we follow the "one definite path of evolution of the spirit and mind". Yet mankind cannot come up to this 'parental' expectation (13) so we are punished for our morally offensive behaviour.

To conclude, we might surmise that the messages of the aliens to Norman are metaphorical and symbolic expressions of Norman's own feelings of guilt, isolation, alienation and emotional stagnation, which have emanated from his own psyche. It is no wonder that he fears the impending cataclysm.

## NOTES

1. Real name and address on file.
2. Norman concluded that this poem might be connected with some form of black magic ritual, and that the three words are analogous to Classical Greek. "Qebsfeuf" he claims must have been an Egyptian high priest or prince.
3. This theme is repeated in a letter dated 4th February 1978, when he relates that: "I feel that we of the struggling Western world are now approaching the brink of the most crucial and perhaps decisive period in the last ten centuries of human history. It could turn out to be the brink of a terrifying chasm: I fear so, but I hope not. Much will be learned soon that we have previously only guessed. Some will understand, but many will be blind and foolish and destructive."
4. It is interesting to note that people who have had unusual UFO contacts, appear to have had a UFO sighting preceding their later, more bizarre experiences by several years. In the case of Paul Bennett (see MUFON NS 11 & 12) he saw a UFO three years before he had more frequent and stranger sightings. Another case in my files concerns a Mrs Josephine Elissah who observed a UFO in 1964, and then ten years later began to write down 'messages' from the space people. Similar time lags can be seen in the UFO literature. Perhaps after the initial observation the witness needs to assimilate the implications of their sighting and put it in some form of context.
5. This comment in brackets is a rather curious statement.
6. In a later interview it seems that he was at this time in Pentonville Prison for not paying a fine he incurred when found guilty of being in possession of cannabis. He was given a three-month sentence, which was reduced to eight weeks with remission.
7. This experience took place when he was confined to a solitary detention cell. Norman had hoped to marry Angela, but because her parents disapproved of him their relationship collapsed. However this telepathic communication did make him feel a lot better and he was able to cope with his imprisonment afterwards.
8. On one occasion he was walking through a park in Sheffield when he heard a kind of telepathic communication between a mother and son. They seemed to be separated over a long distance and Norman described this experience
9. as akin to tapping in on a telephone conversation.
10. This tragedy never came about.
11. When asked why he didn't do anything constructive in the field of art, he listed all the obstacles and problems involved. The fact that he doesn't own a typewriter seems to be a major stumbling block for any progress with his book.
12. The fact that he has spent considerable amount of time writing his book and communicated with John Rimmer and myself were signs that he was attempting to emerge from his seclusion. But after my third visit to he, he felt that any further visits by myself would in effect be a waste of time. Since then I have not heard anything more from him.
13. Clark, Jerome and Coleman, Loren. The Unidentified, Warner, 1975. p.240.

# VENDETTA WITH VENUS

## Jenny Randles

The most surprising thing to me about writing this article is that I am actually here to do it. Why, you might well ask. Well - the reason is that I live just two miles from the Greater Manchester town of Urmston. That, I am sure explains everything!

Well, on Friday December 1st, 1978 it seems that the planet Venus - which has (I am reliably informed) a diameter of about 7690 miles - landed in some marsh meadows in that town. Of course I could not possibly have escaped the impact. Sadly I also have to inform Peter Rogerson, a member of the MUFON team, that he is also no longer with us. He resides in that very town, so is now presumably writing about the meaning of angelic visions in rather more than theoretical terms!

All of this apart, the story that I am about to relate has considerable importance for the modern-day ufologist. I demonstrate a number of things that can snare him in his search for the truth - if he has a mind

to that goal, as it seems most prefer the thrill of the chase. If they catch up with the answers too closely it may spoil their fun!

That Friday morning was cold, frosty and very clear. As I sleepily awoke at about 7am I glanced out of a window that faces south and saw a spectacular sight at around 30° elevation. My immediate reaction was: "Venus is bright today" and after a few admiring glances passed it by to return to more mundane pursuits like bacon and eggs.

At 8.15 precisely I happened to look out of the same window to see if it was still visible. The day had dawned sunny with a cloudless sky, but the pinprick of white light was still, there having moved a little to the west (as expected). At 8.30 I happened to pass the room again and glanced once more. After a brief search, I still found it. These two times are exact. What is more interesting, even if it is pure coincidence, is that on both occasions I wondered if anyone was mistaking this aerial wonder for a UFO.

Meanwhile I got on with my days work until at about 12 noon I received a phone call from a Mr Alan Babcock or Urmston. I spoke to him for some time as he related his story and quizzed him on several points. This was despite the fact that I knew what he had seen. A brief account of his report follows:

At 6am his wife Sharon was drying her hair in the bedroom when she noticed a white light in the south (bearing later obtained as about 190). It was so unusually bright and large that she knew it was a star. Then a 'vehicle' detached itself from the 'star' and sped to Earth. In a few seconds it had landed on the meadows beside the River Mersey, a half mile or so to their south-east. As it fell to earth a beam of light was shot from star to vehicle, and then back in reciprocation. The vehicle itself was of course only seen momentarily in the pitch black, but it looked like a bee-hive with 'tyres' around it.

The funny star had meanwhile moved, so she called her husband out of bed. Told him what had happened, and they both watched it for half-an-hour through the window glass with a pair of binoculars. It seemed to

have a flashing light on top which pulsed every four seconds or so. By now they were convinced it was a UFO - although Alan Babcock claims he never really believed in them until that moment. They brought Mr Babcock's brother to watch it before it was decided that Alan should drive out to find the object that had landed. The time was now between 6.30 and 7 am.

Sharon Babcock was distressed, but let her husband go. He drove as far as he could the proceeded on foot, eventually being stopped by the dark surroundings and the imminent river bank. Over to his right he saw some vague lights through bushes on the other side of the river. He stared at them for five or ten minutes, despite the bitter cold. All he could really see were lights of different colours (but even five hours after he could not remember which colours), which seemed to be moving round. When I asked if all he saw were lights, he replied "Well - I think so - there was a kind of vague shape - something like a dome - behind them". After they failed to move, he convinced himself they were lights at the Shell oil refinery in nearby Carrington and returned home in disgust.

When he confronted his wife with this account he realised several things. Firstly that the lights were not in the direction where she saw the object land, and secondly that the star was still in the sky, but not over where the lights had been. Sharon also pointed out that Carrington was west and he was facing east (although he admitted that obtaining exact bearings of where he was would be difficult).

With the star still there and now looking like a 'giant spider's web' of light revolving around a central point they called the police. At 8 am, with the day dawning, two officers arrived. For thirty minutes (until the light faded in the brightening sky) they watched the 'star' through binoculars. The police were positive, said Mr Babcock, that it was something odd, and gave him a number to report the UFO officially. He did so, and was told by someone that there had been several other calls to corroborate this, but they had no idea what it was. He then called the Manchester Evening News, who decided to interview him and his wife within minutes. Finally he had rung Granada TV (the local station) who put him onto me, and also said they were considering interviewing him.

So, I was faced with this story around 1 pm. I knew very well that the bright star was the one I had seen, and found it interesting that he referred specifically to two times (8.15 and 8.30, when the police viewed the 'UFO') when I also had been looking on - and wondering!

My astronomical knowledge is rudimentary, and I was not positive it was Venus they had seen (although all the indications pointed this way). So I left the matter in abeyance, and meanwhile spoke the 'official number' and the police-station that Mr Babcock had contacted.

The official number, as suspected, turned out to be Manchester Airport. I spoke at length to the Air Traffic Supervisor who was most helpful. He explained that they had only had one other report that day, over Stockport, and that they had had an aircraft in the vicinity and this could probably explain it. Mr Babcock's light they had not regarded as of any significance and decided not to report it to the Ministry of Defence at West Drayon. He totally refuted Mr Babcock's claim that there had been several 'corroborative' sightings. The police also informed me that they had had no other reports and that the officers concerned thought the whole thing a waste of time. They regarded the light as a light. One said: "It could have been anything - probably a star or a satellite or something". Both these sources accepted my opinion that it was Venus as very plausible.

My next port of call was the Manchester Evening News. They were abrupt and somewhat rude. Their basic approach was "We don't want to know about a mundane explanation". When I would not confirm that their precious sighting was a flying saucer or even a UFO, they terminated the conversation!

At 5 pm the evening paper arrived. It contained a major splash on the sighting - quite unusual for the Manchester Evening News. Headed MYSTERY IN THE SKY SCARES HOUSEWIFE, it contained pictures of the Babcocks, and a large drawing of the 'beehive' plus white blob of light. The whole tone was that a UFO had landed in Urmston. The quotes from both the airport and the police totally contradicted what I had been told. In other parts they were taken out of context to make it appear they were pronouncing the light a UFO.

Shortly after the paper hit the newsstands I spoke to Bill Skellon, and investigator for the DIGAP group, who also lived near Urmston. I had no intention of going any further with this report myself, but thought it might be interesting to see how the case developed; so when Bill said he was going to see the witnesses I raised no objection. He set to work planning a full scale investigation.

That evening Peter Rogerson rang me to ask what I knew. I told him, and he had of course suspected that there was a mundane solution of that sort.

Saturday, Sunday and Monday investigations by DIGAP continued. They interviewed

the witnesses several times and went to the scene to look for samples, radiation, etc. Still nobody seemed to be looking for a natural explanation, although David Tarry (the DIGAP investigator who did most of the work on the case) was by Monday suspecting something natural for the landed object seen by the witness. In fact he felt that a farmer's tractor lights might be to blame, a view subsequently echoed by Bill Skellon. At that point I put David on to the Venus situation.

The press had not been idle over the weekend either. The MEN carried a follow-up piece on the Saturday, saying that more people had seen the 'spaceship'. Then one chap, unbelievable from the Natural Science Phenomena Society or something, drew parallels between the US Mars Lander and the UFO, which he proposed had landed in the Mersey to take soil samples. All of this totally omitted any reference to the obvious solution to the mystery - which I had offered on Friday afternoon, and which any one with any sense could have suspected from a 2½ hour long encounter with a mostly stationary light.

Tuesday morning was the first to be clear again, and a quick glance at the southern sky revealed our 'UFO' once more at about 7 am. By now my colleague Peter Warrington, a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, had checked out the position of Venus - there was virtually no room for doubt. The cause of the main bulk of the Friday morning sighting had been the planet Venus.

Tuesday evening David Tarry rang me to say that Granada TV wanted him to appear to talk about 'The UFO'. News had by now filtered out to other parts of the country, via press agencies. Being a relative newcomer to the subject, he had, sensibly in my view, declined. When Granada then came to me I took the opportunity, without revealing until I had got there what I planned to say! That evening they presented a short filmed report on the events, interviewing Mr and Mrs Babcock at the Urmston site. The influence of the investigators, to whom they referred on the air, was noticeable.

"Oh yes," said Mrs Babcock, "several UFO investigators from the group have been to see us and were very interested. They showed us pictures of UFOs and we picked out which one it was". They went on to talk, now in much more graphic terms, about the object on the ground. Five hours after the events, when they rang me, it was just a set of lights. Bill Skellon, the investigator who had shown the UFO sketches says that the TV made it seem they had led the witnesses, but in fact they showed the drawings after the Babcocks described their sightings. It seems the landed object was now most like an Adamski scout-ship! Sharon

had by now turned her two brief flashes of light into "beams of solid light".

I have no desire to criticise the DIGAP investigators, I am sure they acted with honestly objective intentions. The point is however, that they clearly had deeply affected the story of the witnesses, and it was now far more bizarre. At this point DIGAP have not published their final report, so it would be unfair of me to comment on their methodology; yet it seems odd to me that they should not look for the rational before exploring the irrational. This seems to be a failing of far too many UFO investigators, and is perhaps a prime reason as to why we have so much apparently puzzling data.

I did appear on Granada TV of the Wednesday and made my point by suggesting that the viewer's look for themselves what the Babcocks had seen. At the same time I made no comment at all about the 'beehive' or the landed object involved in the sighting. Considering my early involvement in the case it seems fairly clear to me that most, if not all, of the strange aspects of the sighting were attributable to the cold and unusually clear atmospheric conditions distorting Venus at its most brilliant. No doubt frost on the window pane, aberrations in the binoculars, and even sleep in the eye of Mrs Babcock during the first two minutes of the observation, were all contributory factors towards what was rapidly becoming a 'classic' landing.

It now seems that Mrs Babcock remembers some lads returning from the meadows, near where her husband saw the 'landed' craft. This was around 9pm on the Thursday night. It seems there was an 'eerie' sensation around the place and the horses and cows were 'acting up a bit'. Now we are getting associated effects intermixed with what is turning out to look like a close-encounter! Although ask yourself this - if you were a horse or cow stuck out in an open field in freezing, windy weather, wouldn't you 'act up a bit'? One wonders what would happen if the investigators found the remains of an illicit bonfire on the meadows. Would we have physical traces too?

In fact there is still more to add. Granada (tongue in cheek we hope) have announced that a certain UFO investigator (they named no names, so I cannot imagine who) connected the sighting with the mysterious disappearance of seven cats from the vicinity!

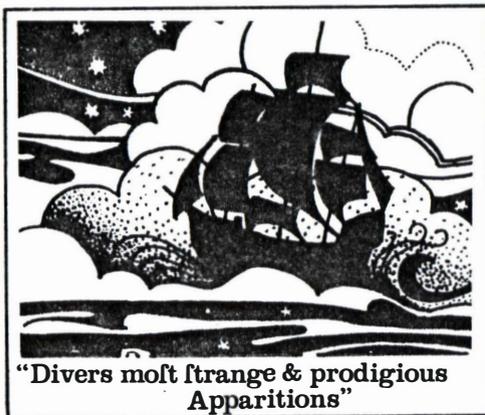
As a UFO investigator who comes across all types of strange encounters - most of infinitely more importance than this - I find it both sad and horrifying that this whole thing can have been exploded out of all proportion like this. To most of the general public this is typical - typical of

UFO sightings, typical of UFO investigators. There is both truth and untruth in that view. Yet here we see the genesis of a classic case - which I hope, through MUFON, will remain classic no more to those few who care, the serious UFO researchers who know that there is something strange behind some of the reports, although we may not agree amongst ourselves what precisely this is.

For these few, Friday, December 1st was a sad, but all too common, day.

A rich source of strange and curious anecdotes, legends and folk-lore, are the various 'Day-Books', published in the nineteenth century. These are compilations from old pamphlets, correspondence, etc., arranged under the days of the year, and recording various anniversaries, saint's days, and so forth. Two of these collections have come our way, Hone's Every-Day Book, and Chambers's Book of Days. Both contain many accounts of 'Fortean' phenomena which we feel will be of interest to our readers, and we will reprint these in future issues of MUFON.

Our first extract is from a broadside, published in 1679, recording some extremely spectacular ariel phenomena, seen just after sunset at Pains-town, Tipperary.



"Divers most strange & prodigious Apparitions"

"Upon the second day of this present month (March 1679) being Sunday in the evening, several gentlemen and others walked forth into the fields...

"When one of the company observed in the air, near the place where the sun went down, an arm of blackish blew (sic) colour with a ruddy complexioned hand at one end and at the other a cross piece, with a ring fastned to the middle of it, like one end of an anchor, which stood still a while, and then made northwards and so disappeared; while they were startled at the sight which they all saw, and wondred what it should be or mean, there appeared at a great distance in the air, from the same part of the sky,

something like a ship coming towards them; and so near to them it came, that they could distinctly perceive the masts, sails, tacklings, and men; she then seemed to tack about, and sailed with the stern foremost, northwards, upon a dark smooth sea, (not seen before,) which stretched itself from south-west to the north-west; having seemed thus to sail for some few minutes, she sunk by degrees into the sea, her stern first, and as she sunk they perceived her men plainly running up the tackling in the fore part of the ship, as it were, to save themselves from drowning.

"The ship disappearing they all sate down on a green bank, talking of and wondering at what they had seen, for a small space. And then appearing (as that ship had done) a fort, or high place strongly fortified, with somewhat like a castle on the top of it: out of the sides of which, by reason of some clouds of smoake (sic), and a flash of fire suddenly issuing out, they concluded some shot to be made. The fort then immediately was divided into two parts which were in an instant transformed into two exact ships, like the other they had seen, with their heads towards each other. That towards the south, seemed to chase the other with its stern foremost, northwards, till it sunk with its stern first as the first ship had done. The other ship sayled sometime after, and then sunk with its head first. It was observed that men were running about upon the decks in these two ships, but they did not see them climb up as in the last ship, excepting one man, whom they saw distinctly to get up with much haste upon the very top of the bowsprit of the second ship, as they were sinking. They supposed the two last ships were engaged and fighting, for they saw like bullets rouling upon the sea, while they were both visible.

"The ships being gone, the company rose, and were about to go away, when one of them perswaded the rest to stay, and said, he saw some little black thing coming towards them, which he believed would be worth their observation, then some of the rest observed the same; whereupon, they sate down again, and presently there appeared a chariot, somewhat like that which Neptune is represented riding in, drawn with two horses, which turned as the ships had done, northward. And immediately after it came a strange frightful creature, which they concluded to be some kind of serpent, having a head like a snake, and a knotted bunch or bulk at the other end, something resembling a snail's house.

"This monster came suddenly after the chariot, and gave it a sudden violent blow, then out of the chariot straight leapt a bull, and a dog which following him, seemed to bait him: these also went northwards as the former phenomena had done, the bull

first holding his head downward, then the dog, and then the chariot, till they all sunk down one after another, about the same place, and just in the same manner as the former.

"These last meteors being vanished, there were several appearances like ships, and other things in the same place, and after that like order with the former; but the relators were so surprised and pleased with what they had seen, especially with the bull and the dog, that they did not much observe them; and besides they were not so visible as the rest, the night drawing on so fast, that they could not so well discern them.

"The whole time of the vision or representation lasted nearly an hour, and it was observable, that it was a very clear and a very calm evening, no cloud seen, no mist nor any wind stirring. All the phenomena came out of the west or south-west. They seemed very small and afar off, and at first seemed like birds at a good distance, and then being come to the place, where there was the appearance of a sea, they were plainly discerned in their just proportion. They all moved northwards, the ships, as appeared by their sails, went against the wind; they all sunk out of sight, much about the same place. When they disappeared they did not dilate themselves and become invisible as clouds do, but every the least part of them was seen distinctly at the last as they had been all along. The height of the scene on which these meteors moved was about as much above the horizon as the sun is being half-an-hour high. Of the whole company, there was not any one but saw all those things, as above written; all agreed in their notions and opinions about them, and were all the while busie talking concerning what they saw, either much troubled or much pleased, according to the nature of the appearance.

"The names of the persons who saw the foregoing passage: Mr Allye, a minister, living near the place; Lieutenant Dunsterville and his son; Mr Grace, his son in law; Lieutenant Dwine and his brother; Mr Christopher Hewelson; Mr Richard Foster; Mr Adam Hewelson; Mr Bates, a schoolmaster; Mr Larkin; Mrs Dunsterville, her daughter-in-law, her maiden daughter; Mr Dwine's daughter; Mrs Grace, her daughter.

"This account was given by Mr C Hewelson and Mr R Foster, two of the beforesaid spectators: and when it was related, a servant of Mr C.H. being present, did confirm the truth of it; affirming that he and others of the servants being then together at Pains-town, in another place, saw the very same sights, and did very much wonder at them. Finis.

# BOOKS

MUFON. Proceedings of the MUFON Conference, Dayton, Ohio, July 29-30th, 1978  
MUFON, \$6.00

The standard of MUFON Conference Proceedings, which used to be quite high, is now in serious decline, and one must comment that, with three notorious exceptions, the papers presented at the 1976 Birmingham BUFORA Conference were of a far higher scientific status than the papers at this Conference.

Highlight of the assembly was Leonard Stringfield's "Retrievals of the Third Kind" which set out to prove that the US authorities have captured flying saucers. Alas, Stringfield builds his case on a truly motley collection of 'tumour in the whale' stories, anonymous second and third hand tales, the occasional death-bed confession, and long exploded hoaxes; to say nothing of the inevitable "information which I am not at liberty to reveal at this time" (or any other, one suspects!).

There is not one case in which a named individual is prepared to provide coherent evidence to back up these claims. The only real mystery is why Stringfield should insult our intelligence by regaling us with stories such as the one where the origin is the next-door neighbour of a friend's parents!

The other papers are rather light-weight in nature. Of these Ted Bloecher's annual survey of CEIII reports is the most interesting, and it seems to be the only one which deals with actual UFO experiences.

A German researcher named Illo Brand tries to refute psychological theories of UFOs by pointing out that about 80% of apparition reports deal with human figures and very few deal with inanimate objects. What he ignores is the possibility that such percentages were generated by the selection procedures of psychic researchers who were mainly interested in recording cases providing evidence for post-mortem survival, and also had a tendency to reject summarily any story which had traces of folk-lore polluting it, including stories of phantom coaches, ships, etc. Brand is a devotee of Burkhard Helm, whose 'New Physics' meets the approval of Leonard Cramp.

Allen Hynek makes a point about the 'privacy' of UFO experiences, isolated in space and time, rather than 'public' events such as meteorites. He also lists the main objections to the ETH, but ends up saying that UFOs are thought-forms, projected by an alien super-civilisation. This hypothesis, Hynek informs us, "offers

most to the imagination" - but it is hardly the most easily testable one.

The other contributions by Dick Hall and Donald Kehoe seem to have fallen out of a time-slip; Dick Hall's belonging to 1967, and Donald Kehoe's from the mid-sixties. Maybe time travel is possible after all?

(PR)

GEIS, Larry, and others. Worlds Beyond: the Everlasting Frontier, for the New Dimensions Foundation. And/Or Press, 1978. \$6.95 (£3.45 in UK)

Here is a work - based on a Californian radio series - in which the almost impossible happens; the ufologists emerge as paragons of sanity and scientific respectability amid a welter of 'futuristic speculation'.

Admittedly, they have little competition, as the representatives of 'straight' science are those curious gentlemen, the proponents of the 'space colony', led by Gerald O'Neill himself.

One would like to be able to smile tolerantly at them as harmless eccentrics, were it not for the sinking feeling that, like their spiritual predecessors the designers of the tower block apartments, they are only too likely to get their way! The ultimate symbol of the future is

surely going to be a deserted, vandalised O'Neill colony, lurking like a cosmic Mary Celeste in space, its walls covered in indelible, twenty-first century aerosol paint with the slogan "Manchester United Football Club Rule OK".

Into this fantasy have been drawn such colourful characters as Governor Jerry Brown of California and Timothy Leary, the prophet of LSD, turned prophet of £sd, declaring that "the most intelligent people alive today are on the West coast of the United States" - thus proving that LSD does cause permanent brain damage!

Compared with such heady stuff the ufologists seem very sane indeed, their contributions for the most part being familiar stuff. One chapter, and the introduction to the whole book is by Jacques Vallee, who seems to view the carnival with an amused detachment. In his own paper, Vallee comments that our own perceptions are conditioned by our own culture. and that: "The notion that the history of man is the slow but irresistible emergence of the rational mind out of irrational darkness is one of the most curiously persistent falsehoods of intellectual life."

A comment that other contributors to this book, and certain ethno-historical chauvinists in the British UFO scene should note carefully.

(PR)

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