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THE wind of change is slowly wafting through UFO circles. In some quarters it is being gently suggested that there should be a 'marriage' between UFO research and psychical research.

John Keel, paragon of investigators, has proposed such a merger very forcibly. In a letter reproduced in the September, 1970 issue of the Merseyside UFO Bulletin, he said:

"Ufology should rightfully be a branch of psychical research.... The 'new ufology' must necessarily be concerned with all paranormal manifestations. It is folly to ignore and exclude cases which contain unsavoury psychical elements, just as it would be folly for medical researchers to ignore leukaemia because they don't like the sight of blood."

I agree with him in principle. Ufologists should pay far more attention to paranormal happenings and their relationship to UFOs than they have hitherto done. But I question the need at present for ufology to be 'taken-over' by psychical research. A lot more facts are required as to the precise degree of psychical involvement in ufology before we contemplate such a fundamental change in policy and outlook. Yet we should not be afraid to follow the evidence - no matter in which direction it points.

The case for a link between UFO activity and other wierd, seemingly intangible phenomena, is set out in Keel's much talked-about book: 'Strange Creatures From Time And Space.' (reviewed elsewhere in this issue). His research has demonstrated that in 'flap' areas of the United States there is a correlation of sorts between UFOs, monsters, phantoms and other inexplicables.

Nevertheless, the proposed alliance with psychical research will be highly distasteful to many UFO investigators. They will see it as going unnecessarily overboard - seeking to explain one mystery by becoming involved in another which is even harder to get to grips with. As Flying Saucer Review Editor Charles Bowen commented in the November/December 1970 edition of his journal:

"....there are many who would raise their hands in horror at the thought of ufology becoming a subordinate branch of psychical research....." ('Thorny Topic.' Pages 23 & 24).

Bowen goes on to say in that article that nothing should be discarded just because it doesn't seem right. That is the attitude all of us should adopt.

A plethora of facts - enough to fill many encyclopaedias - has been studiously gathered and documented by investigators since UFO research began in earnest in the late 1940s. Yet, surprisingly, no really clear, overall picture of the UFO phenomenon has yet emerged.

True, we have plenty of descriptive material as to what UFOs look like and the fantastic speeds of which they are capable, coupled with abrupt, right-angled turns, and the effects, electromagnetic and otherwise, which they have on Man and his machines. But we know very little as to the nature of the phenomenon.

Many hypotheses have been put forward to account for the hard-core UFOs. The one which has survived more than two decades, albeit with modifications, is that which claims UFOs are craft under the control of sapient extraterrestrial beings. I subscribe to this view as do most researchers, but I believe it to be in need of radical revision. I can no longer accept the neat, straightforward theory that UFOs are spaceships from another world in the ordinary sense - either coming to rectify our wrongdoings, or to collect specimens and carry out general reconnaissance. It is my contention that the phenomenon is infinitely more complex than this and involves, at the very least, interdimensional travel. And I doubt if we have any inkling as to the real reason why aliens are in our midst. Even if we knew what it was, would we understand it? To some researchers postulating the existence of other dimensions needlessly complicates the issue. But the facts speak for themselves. On countless occasions UFOs have been reported to appear or disappear suddenly - exactly what one would expect of a spaceship materialising into, and dematerialising out of, our space-time continuum. Most of the sightings on record are of the so-called 'soft' type: shape and size changing masses of light. Reports of physical, metallic-looking craft are relatively few. Perhaps the former are merely projections of the latter into our space-time continuum while travelling in other dimensions. The sharply outlined, solid-looking ships could be the craft when they are actually in our part of the Universe, so-to-speak.

Read 'The Strange Case Of Dr. X' in 'UFO Percipients.' The UFO in this account disappeared with a noise like a bang right in front of the witness - at close range too. Immediately afterwards the 'outline' of the craft blew away in the wind. This is a perfect example of a UFO suddenly ceasing to exist in our space-time continuum once its mission had been completed.

Perhaps, while travelling between dimensions, UFOs accidentally trigger off psychical phenomena, producing the wierdies that have been reported. Alternatively, it might not be an accident. The horrifying intangibles may be utilised by UFOs in some bizarre way. It could be that someone or something is trying to confuse and frighten us.

One thing is certain: there is intelligence of an extremely high order behind UFOs, whatever they are and from wherever they come. And to that intelligence we may be nothing more than ants.....

- Ron Toft

PRICE INCREASE: From this issue, Pegasus will cost 15p (3s) an increase of 5p (1s). Members, however, will continue to receive the magazine free, as it is included in their annual subscription.

* SOME PENNSYLVANIA UFO CASES AND THEIR *
* BEARING ON THE CONDON REPORT *
* By Professor James McDonald *
* Institute of Atmospheric Physics *
* University of Arizona *

"The question remains as to what, if anything, the federal government should do about the UFO reports it receives from the general public. The (Condon) Report found no basis for activity related to such sighting reports 'in the expectation that they are going to contribute to the advance of science,' but the Department of Defence should handle these in its normal surveillance operations without need for such special units such as Project Blue Book." - from the "Review of the University of Colorado Report on Unidentified Flying Objects by a Panel of the National Academy of Sciences," Washington D.C., January 8, 1969.

THE negative conclusions and recommendations which Dr. Edward U. Condon wrote in summary of the Report on Unidentified Flying Objects were strongly endorsed by an 11-man review panel of the National Academy of Sciences.

As a result of several months of rather detailed case-checking, I am not only unable to concur in acceptance of the Condon Report, but am dismayed that any independent panel could regard Condon's conclusions as supported by the contents of the Report of the Colorado group. I wish to turn directly to some specific UFO reports, all chosen from among cases that I have personally investigated, and all within the state of Pennsylvania. There is such a wealth of UFO evidence calling for intensive scientific study (contrary to what Condon suggests) that it is relatively easy to take any state or region and come up with substantial numbers of striking cases from that area that illustrate the point that some phenomenon of extraordinary scientific interest has been going on, ignored by science, for many years. As I summarise each case, I shall try to point out certain general principles, relevant to the overall UFO problem and to the Condon Report and the Air Force investigations, that each case serves to illustrate:

1. WILLOW GROVE, Pennsylvania, May 21, 1966. At about 3.15 EDT on this date, William C. Powell was flying in his Luscombe aircraft with a friend, Miss Muriel S. McClave, near Willow Grove on the north side of Pennsylvania. There were high, scattered clouds. Visibility was about 15 miles and the aircraft was on a northerly heading to Quakertown.

It is a quite significant feature of this case that Powell is a very experienced pilot, having logged by that time, about 13,000 hours, flying during World War II for the RCAF and AAF, later flying transatlantic, flying several years as a Bell test pilot, and now doing

executive transport flying for a major national corporation. Pilots who have survived 18,000 hours tend to be moderately good judges of speeds and distances in the air, by a process of natural selection, one might say.

A flight of jets coming from Willow Grove climbed out northward below the Luscombe. After they passed some miles off to the north, another object which Powell first took to be an aircraft seemed to move into view behind the jets. About at the same time Powell noticed the absence of any vertical tail-fin, he saw that it did a peculiar non-banking turn of about 160° and began closing on his own aircraft.

As it came nearer on what for a short time appeared almost a collision course, Powell and McClave saw that it was not a conventional aircraft. I have interviewed both witnesses, initially by telephone, later in person, and have gone over the major details several times with them. Both agree that the object was a disc-like device with a glistening white rounded dome on top and a red conical apron below, circular in plan-form, and moving with its symmetry axis vertical. It had no wings, tail, propellers, or jets. No markings or apertures were discerned.

Powell estimated that it closed at an airspeed of perhaps 200 mph, passing to their right and slightly below their 4,500 feet altitude. Its opacity was established by the way in which it occulted the distant terrain. Powell's comment about its seeming solidity was that "It was just like looking at a Cadillac."

It passed their starboard side at a distance that Powell put at perhaps 100 yards. His estimate of its diameter was 20 feet; McClave thought it was more like 40 feet across. Its vertical thickness was estimated by both as a half to a third the diameter. It bore no resemblance to anything either had seen before.

It flew past in steady motion, no wake, exhaust, or smoke visible. The window-pattern of the Luscombe Silvaire in which they were flying is such that once the object passed their starboard beam, McClave had a distinctly better view of it than Powell, who had to strain to see it, finally viewing it through a small side-window above the hat-throw deck behind the seats. This is an unfortunate circumstance since the termination of this interesting sighting was such that one wishes it had been the 18,000-hour pilot who had the optimal view. At any event, both had the distinct impression that after the object passed several tens of degrees aft of the beam, it suddenly vanished from sight. To all of my queries as to whether this seeming instantaneous disappearance might have been only a matter of extremely high angular acceleration out of their field of view, both could only reply that they did not have that impression. They felt it had instantaneously vanished while in full view. This terminated the sighting; they saw no more of it.

Powell only related the incident to a friend that day, being at first reluctant to report it (for the same general reasons that most UFO witnesses appear to be withholding reports - unwillingness to be ridiculed). However, two days later, the feeling that he had a duty to report so unusual an aerial device, led Powell to attempt to report it through military channels. He went to the Operations Office at

Willow Grove NAS, described the entire incident to the Navy officer on duty, but got no response at all from the officer, aside from a story about an object that the officer had himself seen some years earlier. With that, Powell left, and it might not have come to anyone else's attention but for Miss McClave's mentioning it under circumstances that investigators from an independent UFO group heard of it, checked, and eventually NICAP (National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, Washington D.C.) secured a copy of the report - which I ultimately saw, and which led me to contact Powell.

When I was asked to suggest a single UFO case as one to use by way of illustration for an audience of several hundred newspaper editors at an April, 1967 national meeting of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, I urged that they try to get Powell to come to their UFO session and describe the incident in person. This was in fact done, and I think it is significant that Dr. Donald H. Menzel, former director of Harvard Observatory and author of two books purporting to explain most UFO sightings in terms of meteorological optical effects and other atmospheric or astronomical causes, did not propose any such explanation for the Powell-McClave sighting. Philip Klass, author of a book seeking to explain many UFOs as an atmospheric plasma phenomenon, also heard that presentation, but has not attempted to call it a plasmoid as far as I know.

To secure further confirmation of my own very favourable impression of Powell's evident reliability and experience, I contacted his supervisor, Mr. Robert Timothy, whose assurances were unequivocal that there would be no reason to doubt Powell's word in a situation of this type.

Here is an excellent instance of what Air Force General J. A. Samford, Director of Air Intelligence in 1952, said 17 years ago was happening regularly then and in the previous years: "Credible observers are reporting incredible objects."

What the public, scientific community, Congress, and newspaper editors do not realise is that incidents just as inexplicable, and as intriguing as this, coming from witnesses of high credibility, have been occurring steadily for more than two decades without anything remotely resembling adequate response. After interviewing over 500 witnesses in selected cases and studying case-files on many more, I cannot use any other adjective than 'astonishing' for this situation - astonishing and very disturbing on several grounds.

The Air Force UFO programme, Project Bluebook, has been in existence 17 years, and two previous Air Force UFO projects predated it. Down through those years, one, and only one, scientist has had opportunity for a really synoptic view of the UFO problem. Looking back at the kinds of cases that Air Force consultant Dr. J. A. Hynek has glossed over or uncritically equated to conventional explanations, I find it very difficult to accept his recent suggestions that the UFO evidence was inconclusive until only a few years ago. Cases even more impressive than the one just recounted are to be found within Air Force files for 1947, 1948, 1949, and every year since then.

Those years have slipped by while private UFO investigating groups like NICAP or APRO (Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation) and others, here and abroad, have been trying to get us scientists to look at the UFO evidence. But lulled by an atrocious series of unwarranted claims to the effect that the Air Force had competent scientific talent looking into the UFO question, most of us have assumed the reasonable - that there must not be anything to all those UFO reports that keep showing up year after year. The full measure of the latent scientific scandal that centres around years of accepting all of those Air Force assurances will only become clear to scientists who do as I have done: start personally checking UFO cases in detail. They will then, I believe, become just as angry as I have become at what they learn, at the years of superficial mishandling of thousands of scientifically significant UFO cases, and at all those unjustified assurances that the Air Force had a basis for saying nothing of interest was involved.

The Powell sighting north of Philadelphia is just one of thousands of impressive observations of utterly unconventional 'machine-like' devices that are not hallucinations, plasma blobs, meteors, misidentified aircraft, or secret Russian or American or Tanzanian test devices. We have collectively been led to ignore them all as a result of a long history of incompetence and unimaginative handling of the UFO problem, a long history that began on June 24, 1947 with a sighting of nine flipping discs near Mount Ranier, which the Air Force still carries in its files as a 'mirage,' despite definitive contradictory features in the pilot's actual report. I could speak for hours on just pre-1950 cases which the Air Force (and consultant Hynek) swept unwarrantedly under the rug.

My sharp criticisms of Air Force response and consultant Hynek's 19 year-long lack of any really vigorous checking into these cases is by no means a full critique of the complex total picture. The negative influence of many palpably crackpot UFO stories has, with gleeful assistance from feature writers, led many scientists to conclude erroneously that these were the core of the UFO problem, and no Air Force clarification undid this mischief.

I have come to believe, especially during the past six months, that a quite substantial factor in this disturbing history has been bad scientific advice given to the Air Force each time it became concerned anew with some fresh wave of sightings or some especially bothersome sighting. With almost no exception, the kind of advice scientists on panels or acting as consultants have given the Air Force has been marked by dismayingly superficial analysis and has boiled down to what Nobelist Irving Langmuir, one of the earliest to be consulted, back in 1948, said: "Forget it!" Eventually the Air Force did forget it. But the UFOs did not go away.

The UFOs did not leave and the Condon Project appeared. How?

As a result of local public indignation over Hynek's attempt to explain two quite significant (I've just finished lengthy checks on both) Michigan sightings of March, 1966, as due to 'swamp-gas,' we got what was supposed to be a new look at UFOs - the Condon Committee,

which went formally into action in October, 1966. I say 'formally' advisedly, for it was months before that group really got under way in any real sense. The document they have produced, and particularly Condon's highly negative recommendations that there's so little of scientific interest that even Bluebook can probably be disbanded, are now a matter of public record. How square those recommendations with sightings like the Powell sighting of May 21, 1966? My answer is that one cannot possibly square cases like Powell's with Condon's negative attitudes, expressed early in the life of his Project, long before any more than two or three cases had been investigated.

(See Elmira, New York, Star of January 26, 1967 for one of his earliest revelations of his basically negative bias against the problem he had taken on a commitment to study. He stated to a scientific audience at Corning: "It is my inclination right now to recommend that the government get out of this business. My attitude right now is that there's nothing to it." That was on January 25, 1967. His final recommendations were not recognisably different from those statements made a mere three months after his contract had been written).

Condon continued to make negative statements as the months went by, but he himself, the scientist whose good name underpinned the entire Colorado undertaking, did not do any field investigation at all. He became intrigued by nuts and crackpots; but pilots like Powell and dozens of others he personally ignored. Further discussions of Condon's interest in various crackpot cases has been spelled out in: 'UFOs? Yes!' by Saunders and Harkins (New American Library, 1969). That interest, that emphasis upon a cut of the UFO spectrum that any serious investigator manages quite easily to isolate from serious UFO reports, still shows up in Condon's statements on the UFO problem.

In an April 26, 1969 talk in Philadelphia before the American Philosophical Society, 'UFOs I Have Loved And Lost,' only two UFO-related cases were cited, both in the crackpot band. In the only other UFO talk which, to my knowledge, Condon has given since the Corning talk, namely a talk to an international spectroscopy symposium at the National Bureau of Standards on September 13, 1967, he devoted his entire talk to crackpot cases, according to scientists who were present.

With so many strong cases like the Powell sighting available for study, and with the very reason for existence of the Condon Project, that of trying to give a scientifically reasonable explanation for such puzzlers, how could Condon possibly justify ignoring them and delving instead into nut cases to the extent he did? When Condon recommends that there's nothing of scientific interest in further study of the UFO problem, I fear one must read "further study of the crackpot fringe," since that seems, as nearly as I was able to ascertain, the only part of the UFO spectrum that Condon energetically investigated.

Returning to the Powell-McClave incident, it seems relevant to note that their description of seemingly instantaneous disappearance of an unconventional aerial object while in full view under daylight

conditions, is by no means unique. I have encountered in the past three years of case-checking, too many more such cases to feel comfortable in writing them off as untrustworthy reports. But as to how one might account for such an event, I have not the slightest idea. (Please don't ask me about disappearance into a fourth dimension because I do not yet know what such words mean). In the past 20 years the Air Force has repeatedly asserted that nothing in the UFO reports "defy explanation in terms of present-day science and technology." Rubbish! The UFO evidence is so filled with currently inexplicable phenomena that such an assertion is laughable. Powell makes no attempt to explain what they saw over Willow Grove; he just says that's what happened, that's what we saw. For the present, that approach seems soundest.

2. Juniata, Pennsylvania. August 27, 1956. This particular case is an Air Force Unidentified, meaning that Project Bluebook did not attach to it any of the many types of conventional explanations used (sometimes reasonably) to account for UFOs reported to them. I first learned of it in T. M. Olsen's 'Reference for Outstanding UFO Sighting Reports' (UFOIRC, Box 57, Riderwood, Maryland, 1966) and Olsen secured copies of the Bluebook file on this case. I located the witness by that means, and interviewed her by telephone on February 28, 1968. She asked that I not use her name publicly, so I shall here only employ her initials, Mrs. R. S. P.

She was 40 at the time of this 1956 incident. Stepping out into her backyard at 9.55 pm EST on August 27, 1956 to get her husband's overalls off the clothes-line, she saw a brilliantly glowing object hovering only an estimated 15-20 feet away, and only a few feet off the ground. She admitted that her ability at distance and size estimates is not too good, but felt that the object was quite small, not over a few yards in diameter; and her preferred estimate was about one yard. It glowed with a blinding bluish light, illuminating the yard and hurting her eyes, Mrs. P. stated.

She asserted that she was too stunned to move for perhaps a minute or so, and then as she moved to change her viewing point, the object rose rapidly to about 20 feet above the backyard and shot off at high speed. Its only sound was a humming noise. She described a cold draft of air that seemed to blow out from its position, though her admitted fright might suggest psychological explanations for this sensation. On its upper surface was something resembling a transparent dome, and the lower part she described as disc-like.

She inquired in the neighbourhood as to whether anyone else observed it. The closest neighbour did not. Another party, she heard indirectly, had seen a lighted object at about that same time, but would not discuss it openly. Mrs. P. reported it to a local radio station, which passed it on to a local paper, and the paper contacted a nearby Air Force radar unit at Claysburg. Investigators came from the latter unit, interviewed Mrs. P., and filed a routine report to Project Bluebook at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, where it was classified as 'unidentified.'

Single-witness cases of this type hinge entirely on the character and reliability of the one witness. Evidently the Air Force investigators who interrogated Mrs. P. shortly after the incident were favourably impressed. My feeling was that Mrs. P.'s ability to estimate distances were most uncertain; but on all of the more qualitative features she gave quite clear and quite straightforward comment.

This case was one of just over a hundred that I suggested the Condon Project check. Mrs. P. said that they sent her a form, but on mailing it to them she heard no more. This is in accord with a general neglect of past unexplained cases which various outsiders like myself urged the Condon Project to check. They actually checked very few. The point of concern in a case like this seems to be the casual failure of the Air Force to respond to such reports. Most are given some contrived explanation; others like this are conceded (on what appears almost a random basis) to be unidentified, but are forgotten like the rest. My question would be: Does the Air Force feel that objects answering to the description of this unidentified phenomenon are readily explainable "in terms of present-day science and technology?" Is there not a puzzle we should be trying to solve here?

Many more instances of UFO reports could be cited in which reputable observers were within tens of feet of disc-like objects hovering near the ground. Only a few weeks ago I interviewed the wife of a University of Arizona graduate student who described looking out the rear window of her parents' home in Las Vegas, along with her two younger teenage sisters, while a disc estimated at about 20-30 feet in diameter hovered soundlessly above the backfence of their yard long enough for one of the sisters to telephone the FAA control tower at the Las Vegas airport to try to find out what experimental device was operating. The time of this 1962 incident was about 3 am, no-one else in the neighbourhood observed it, and the girls' parents were not at home at the time. The object, after a few minutes of hovering, slowly and silently moved horizontally down a row of backyards, and passed over houses and out of sight. To many persons with no knowledge of the UFO evidence, it will seem unbelievable that incidents of such nature have been occurring for over two decades with no official or scientific response. I certainly did not believe it until I began personal investigations of cases. But here is a case not reported (aside from the FAA phone call) to any agency.

(to be concluded)

The above article is based on a speech given by Professor McDonald on May 15, 1969 at Mansfield State College, Mansfield, Pennsylvania.

QUOTE from the December, 1970 issue of the 'Rosicrucian Digest':
"...since the phenomenon is referred to as unidentified flying objects we should not jump to the conclusion as to what these unidentified things are or from whence they came. Investigate celestial phenomena, that is, strange occurrences, by all means. But wait for authoritative proof by reliable scientific associations or government

agencies about them before accepting the often fantastic claims of the relative few who now refer to them. We do not accept the theory commonly advanced that the American government, and other governments as well, know that UFOs do exist and that they are from outer-space, and that they do have intelligent beings on board, and that such information is being concealed from the public at large."

That brief extract was taken from an article just over two pages in length and entitled: 'UFOs, Fact or Fiction?' It was written by Rosicrucian Emperor Ralph M. Lewis. Needless to say he did not do his homework, or he would have discovered the bigoted and unscientific attitude of governments - unless that is the impression they just wish to give - as well as the complexity of the phenomenon. The statement made by Mr. Lewis that UFOs are now only referred to by a few people is, of course, quite plainly erroneous.

AIR CADETS TOLD TO KEEP OPEN MIND ON UFOs

Cadets at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, are advised to keep an open mind as to the nature of UFOs, according to an article in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch on October 11 last year.

The advice is allegedly given in a 14-page chapter on UFOs in a 500-page restricted academy manual written by Major Donald Carpenter. The newspaper article says that academy officials denied the textbook had been hidden from the public. It was merely in short supply, only 200 copies having been printed. The relevant chapter tells cadets that UFOs have been reported for almost 50,000 years. Major Carpenter says it is "quite doubtful" that the phenomenon is of a psychological nature. It is also "questionable" that it is due to known and unknown phenomena.

The major goes on: "This leaves us with the unpleasant possibility of alien visitors, or at least alien-controlled UFO." He says the data is not well correlated "and suggests at least three, and maybe four, groups of aliens possibly at different stages of development. This too is difficult to accept: it implies the existence of intelligent life on a majority of planets in our solar-system or a surprisingly strong interest in earth by members of other solar-systems." Major Carpenter adds: "The best thing to do is to keep an open and sceptical mind and not take an extreme position."

It would seem that, unofficially at least, the negative Condon Report has not washed in some quarters.

Credit for the story goes to the American ufozine 'Skylook' (Box 129, Stover, Missouri 65078).

QUOTE from Dr. Cyril Ponnampereuma, of the Exobiology Division at NASA's Ames Research Centre in California, writing in the September, 1970 issue of 'The Quarterly Review of Biology': "The search for extraterrestrial life is the prime goal of space-biology. The result of such a discovery may have an effect on human thinking far more profound than the Darwinian or Copernican revolutions."

** WARMINSTER RESEARCH PROJECT SET UP **

DURING the coming months Warminster, the UFO-beleaguered market town in Wiltshire, will be under the watchful eye of a newly-formed independent research project.

The aim of Project Warminster will be to investigate UFO sightings as they arise and review the best reports which have come to light in the area in the past.

Man behind the scheme is Dr. John Cleary-Baker, Editor of the quarterly BUFORA Journal. He says:

"Over the last six years the Warminster area of Wiltshire has become known to students of the UFO phenomenon as a 'ufocal' or centre of intense and sustained UFO activity. In order to bring proper investigative techniques to bear on this activity I am launching Project Warminster, under the auspices of the British UFO Research Association but as an independent undertaking, which I shall direct with the aid of a committee of researchers.

"UFO researchers who visit the Warminster area are invited to act as observers for the Project and submit reports of their observations, whether positive or negative, for further investigation and evaluation by the Project's staff. In order to reduce the work of administration to a minimum, thus leaving the staff free to concentrate on the analysis of reports, formal registration as observers is not required."

The Project, it is proposed, will go into action on Saturday, May 1, prior to the BUFORA Brains Trust which is scheduled for 7 pm on that date at Kensington Central Library, Campden Hill Road, London W.8.

Adds Dr. Cleary-Baker: "As presently planned, the Project will cease activity in October, 1971 but if necessary may be continued beyond that time, or reactivated in the spring of 1972."

The results of the Project's survey will be published in booklet form as well as in the BUFORA Journal.

Cash donations and gifts of equipment will be gratefully received. When the Project ends, residual funds and properties will be made available to BUFORA.

Inquiries regarding Project Warminster should be sent to Dr. Cleary-Baker at: 3 Devenish Road, Weeke, Winchester, Hampshire. Alternatively, phone Winchester 2691.

Of the 39 current commissions within the International Astronomical Union - each group announces new discoveries and co-ordinates further research - not one deals with space-biology and related topics.....

** SIGHTINGS GALORE OVER DORKING **

A spate of UFO sightings was reported in the Dorking area of Surrey during March. Altogether, eight completely independent accounts have so far come to SIGAP's attention. They cover the period from March 2 to March 27. The sightings have been investigated by SIGAP member Dick Munford and the Dorking Investigators of UFOs. At least some of the objects seen would appear to have conventional explanations. The following is a summary of each case:

1. Date: March 2. Time: 7.50 p.m. Location: 1 Lusteds Close, Goodwyns, Dorking. Witnesses: Mr. C. Lecluse and his wife. Description: Fireball-like object. Red revolving ball of flame with greenish-blue trail. Area to the front of the ball was "the colour of white heat," as was the extreme tip of the tail. Travelled from east to west at "a terrific speed." Seen for about three seconds, after which it vanished completely before reaching the western horizon. Sounds very much like a meteor burning up in the atmosphere - EDITOR.

2. Date: March 2. Time: between 7.45 p.m. and 8.15 p.m. Location: 26 Sondes Place Drive, Dorking. Witnesses: Mr. D. H. Smith, of 64 Dene Street, Dorking, and Mr. D. M. Culton, of above address. Description: Object resembled a shooting-star according to Mr. Smith. Circular, well-defined head with a conical trail. Mainly white in colour with very pale-green shimmer running across it. Appeared in south-west approximately, disappearing in the west. Visible for a few seconds. Almost certainly same object as seen by Mr. and Mrs. Lecluse.

3. Date: March 13. Time: 7 a.m. Location: Appeared to be over Norbury Park. Seen from a house in London Road, Mickleham, Dorking. Witness: Elderly spinster who does not wish her name to be publicised. Description: Large, rectangular blob of yellow light hanging in the sky. Quite motionless. Light "distinctly brighter in a beam towards the centre." Disappeared "very suddenly" while woman called to a friend. Object was seen through closed bathroom window. Seemed solid, but had blurred edges. Visible for about one minute.

4. Date: March 15. Time: 7.50 p.m. Location: Over St. Paul's School, Dorking. Witnesses: Mrs. Gillian Cheesman, of 51 Dene Street, Dorking, and Mrs. Mary Alderman, of 25 Cleardene, Dorking. Description: Hump-shaped object moving fairly quickly. Had flashing lights which went out suddenly, leaving two small red lights on top of the object. No noise.

5. Date: March 15. Time: between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Location: Buckland village. Witnesses: A man who does not want his name mentioned, wife and young daughter. Description: Delta-winged object which made noise like an aircraft, though not quite so loud. Travelled some distance and then went up higher at an angle of about 45°. There doesn't seem much doubt this WAS an aircraft - EDITOR.

6. Date: March 15. Time: 7.50 p.m. Location: Appeared to be directly over Dorking Bypass, about 500 yards from Dorking North Station. Witnesses: Mrs. Gillian Woollard, of 46 Tollgate Road, Dorking, and Mrs. Judith Grunsell, of Tanglewood, Broad Lane, Newdigate, Surrey. Description: Three or four lights in a banana-shaped curve. Mrs. Woollard, who was driving a car at the time of the sighting, says in her report that shortly after first seeing the object it appeared to quiver, the lights went out suddenly, and a faint grey shape disappeared from view immediately. It was a very clear night, only just getting dark. The lights were larger than those of an aircraft and were all white. Mrs. Grunsell, the passenger in the car, says the object was hovering at an altitude of between 200 feet and 250 feet. She claims there were four lights on the banana-shaped object, all very close together. They were as "large as car headlights - not quite joined up." Mrs. Grunsell went on to say: "The UFO stayed quivering for some time, say 1½ minutes, and then banked away towards Dorking North Station; not before the lights were extinguished, leaving a near black silhouette in the sky. This then just disappeared. Expecting it to have port and starboard tail lights on turning, I peered close up to the car windscreen - but it was just gone!"

7. Date: March 22. Time: 8.25 p.m. Location: Wotton Hatch, Dorking. Witnesses: Husband and wife mentioned in Sighting No. 5, plus a friend. Description: Beam of light, not starting or finishing anywhere. Moving in an arc from north-east to south-east. Noise similar to an aircraft.

8. Date: March 27. Time: 9.40 p.m. Location: The Nower, Dorking. Witnesses: Fourteen-year old Janet Coskery, of 11 Vincent Road, Dorking, and six boys. Description: Fast moving light with a flashing white light. No noise.

 UFO SIGHTING OVER FARNHAM: Four people saw an orange UFO over Farnham, Surrey, on the evening of February 2. At 6.30 p.m., Major A. G. Thurston and his wife saw a round, orange-coloured object. A similar object was seen later, at about 9.15 p.m., by a man and his daughter. About 30° above the horizon, it moved horizontally from west to east. Then it stopped in its tracks, went up and down slightly; and afterwards continued moving eastward at a downward angle. It was lost to view behind the buildings of the West Surrey College of Art. Shortly after, the witnesses heard bangs and saw flashes of light in the distance. Searchlight beams stabbed the night sky too. Army manoeuvres are common in the area. It would seem, therefore, that military activity is the explanation.

 EYES IN THE SKY: There were a total of 2,228 objects in orbit round the Earth on February 28. Of these, 1,694 were American and 480 Russian.

 OLD MAN: Scientists at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A. have announced the discovery of a five million year old jawbone belonging to an early member of the human family. It was found in Northern Kenya. Members of the paleontological expedition believe now that mankind may have had its beginnings more than 12 million years ago.

 * F A C T O R F O L K L O R E ? *
 * B y D a n B u t c h e r *

NOW and again there is a report of UFO entities who walk through hedgerows. For instance, two dwarf humanoid creatures passed through a gap in a hedge during a UFO encounter in the Pyrenees (Flying Saucer Review, November/December 1969); and Arthur Shuttlewood in his book 'The Warminster Mystery' (page 156) wrote of three grey-garbed, white-faced persons who were seen to enter a hedgerow on the side of Shearwater Lake, Warminster, a 'large saucer of light' afterwards rising from the lakeside and flying off over Cley Hill. Again, the same author reported the case of a witness who ran over a 'man' who rushed blindly from a hedge bordering the same lake, and threw himself beneath the wheels of the oncoming car. (page 167).

A similar activity is reported of ghosts. William Oliver Stevens, ('Unbidden Guests,' page 203) tells of the apparition of an old woman dressed in Victorian clothes who passed through a hedge; and also of the ghost of a policeman who walked towards a hedge on a country road, and then disappeared.

These are modern instances. But if we go back a little into the past as presented by folklore, we come across the same phenomenon in connection with the Black Dog ghost of our country lanes. A Lincolnshire farm labourer described how he was always joined by the phantom dog at a certain spot in a lane through which he often walked: "If 'e passed you an' you watched 'im, 'e'd go into th' 'edge which'd crackle just as if a gurt bullock was pushin' 'is way thruff." (Patricia Dale-Green, 'Dog,' page 51). The same authoress gives another account of an Aylesbury farmer who came upon a large black dog with fiery eyes, which grew larger as he looked at them. Night after night, the farmer encountered the 'dog,' and on each occasion the man turned tail and walked through a gate at the end of the field instead of pushing on through the gap in the hedge which the phantom occupied. One night, the farmer struck at the 'dog,' with the result that the apparition vanished, and he himself was felled senseless to the ground. Although he was carried home alive, he remained paralysed and speechless for the rest of his life. ('Dog,' page 55).

I have suggested in earlier articles that the Black Dog ghost has certain affinities with the UFO. The enlarging fiery 'eyes' and paralysis mentioned in the last example, in addition to the crackling noise reported by the Lincolnshire farm labourer, tend to strengthen this supposition. But there is another hint in these reports which seems to link the Black Dog, and the more conventional ghosts, with the UFO. We note that the Lincolnshire farm labourer always met the 'dog' at a certain spot in the lane, and that the Aylesbury farmer was in the habit of walking across his field between the gate and the gap in the hedge in which the Black Dog appeared. The farmer, presumably, walked along a footpath, and if such was the case, then the gap in the hedge, and the gate, would indicate fixed points along the line of

this path, corresponding with the 'certain spot' in the lane where the farm labourer always saw the 'dog' go through the hedge. Such fixed points as gates and hedge-gaps tend to remain static through the years, no matter how much the pathway between them may deviate from the straight line. Many modern farm field-gates and gaps in hedges perpetuate the line of an old straight path.

The inference is that the Black Dogs, ghosts, and UFO entities in our examples are instances of phenomena encountered on geographical straight lines, and that those apparitions which were seen to go through a hedge where there was no gap were, in fact, pursuing the course of a former path through that hedge, the gap having become overgrown. Aime Michel has opened up the possibility of UFOs appearing on orthotonic lines, and there is much in ghostlore and folklore to connect ghosts and Black Dog apparitions with the old straight tracks - and all this is only the beginning of a mystery.

THE Cornish folkloric figure of Tregeagle is supposed to be the soul of a diabolically wicked magistrate and landlord who lived near Bodmin, who eventually murdered his sister, wife and children. When he died the Devil came to claim his soul, but Tregeagle had consigned all his wealth to the priesthood and so put the onus on them to fight the evil spirits and save his soul from hell-fire. The power of the Church was effective insofar as that Tregeagle's spirit remained out of the clutches of the Devil so long as it toiled perpetually.

Certain elements in the Tregeagle legend indicate UFO activity near Bodmin. The most famous task imposed on the sinner was the emptying of the bottomless lake on Bodmin Moor known as Dosmery Pool. On one occasion, the Devil (i.e. the leader of the Wild Hunt, an ancient form of unknown aerial phenomena) raised a wild tempest and succeeded in driving Tregeagle from his task. The spirit fled round the lake pursued by the demon pack, and then sprang, shrieking, across Dosmery Pool, and sped off over the moors. Tregeagle is said to be hunted to this day across the Cornish moors. Do we see here a UFO hovering over Dosmery Pool, siphoning its water? Do we catch a glimpse of a UFO pack encircling the lake, flying across it, and then speeding off over the moors?

And what about the Wild Hunt which manifested itself in a meadow near the River Wye in broad daylight during the reign of Henry II? The noise it made drew people in the neighbourhood to witness the phenomena, some of them professing to recognise deceased friends among the figures they saw. Then the whole host rose into the air and vanished into the river. Is this not a parallel to the river-plunging UFOs? In a similar manner, another Cornish sinner, Dando, mounted a black steed, and accompanied by a pack of baying hounds, plunged into the River Lynher and disappeared in a blaze of fire, making the water boil.

WHEN MAN FIRST SPOKE: Man uttered his very first words more than half-a-million years ago, according to Soviet scientists. They have come to this conclusion after studying the skulls of Peking Man.

F I L M R E V I E W

Chariots Of The Gods

ERICH von DANIKEN's stimulating hypothesis that alien intelligences visited Earth in the distant past and played a vital role in the evolutionary and cultural progress of Man, has now reached the cinema screen. For a film has been made of his best-selling works: 'Chariots Of The Gods' and 'Return To The Stars.'

The 56-minute technicolor production is superb, putting over von Daniken's arguments lucidly and vividly. It serves as an appetiser for his two books. When I saw the film recently at my local cinema, it was running as a second feature to the very popular 'Railway Children.' This was a bad combination, in my opinion. Children can hardly be expected to grasp the implications of the film, and in order to reach the adult section of the film-going community - at which it must have been primarily aimed - it should have been coupled with another 'adult' film.

Dr. Harald Reinl was behind the production. He understands it neither as a doctrine nor as an insult to classical archaeology:

"The film is nothing but a hypothesis. It does not pretend that is how it was, but says 'that is how it could have been.'"

The shooting of this trip into the past started in August, 1969 in California, Mexico, Chile, Easter Island, Peru, Bolivia, Egypt, Iraq, Turkey, The Sahara, Lebanon, South Africa, and Rhodesia. But investigation of Chinese and Russian prehistory failed. According to Reinl this was "due to bureaucracy."

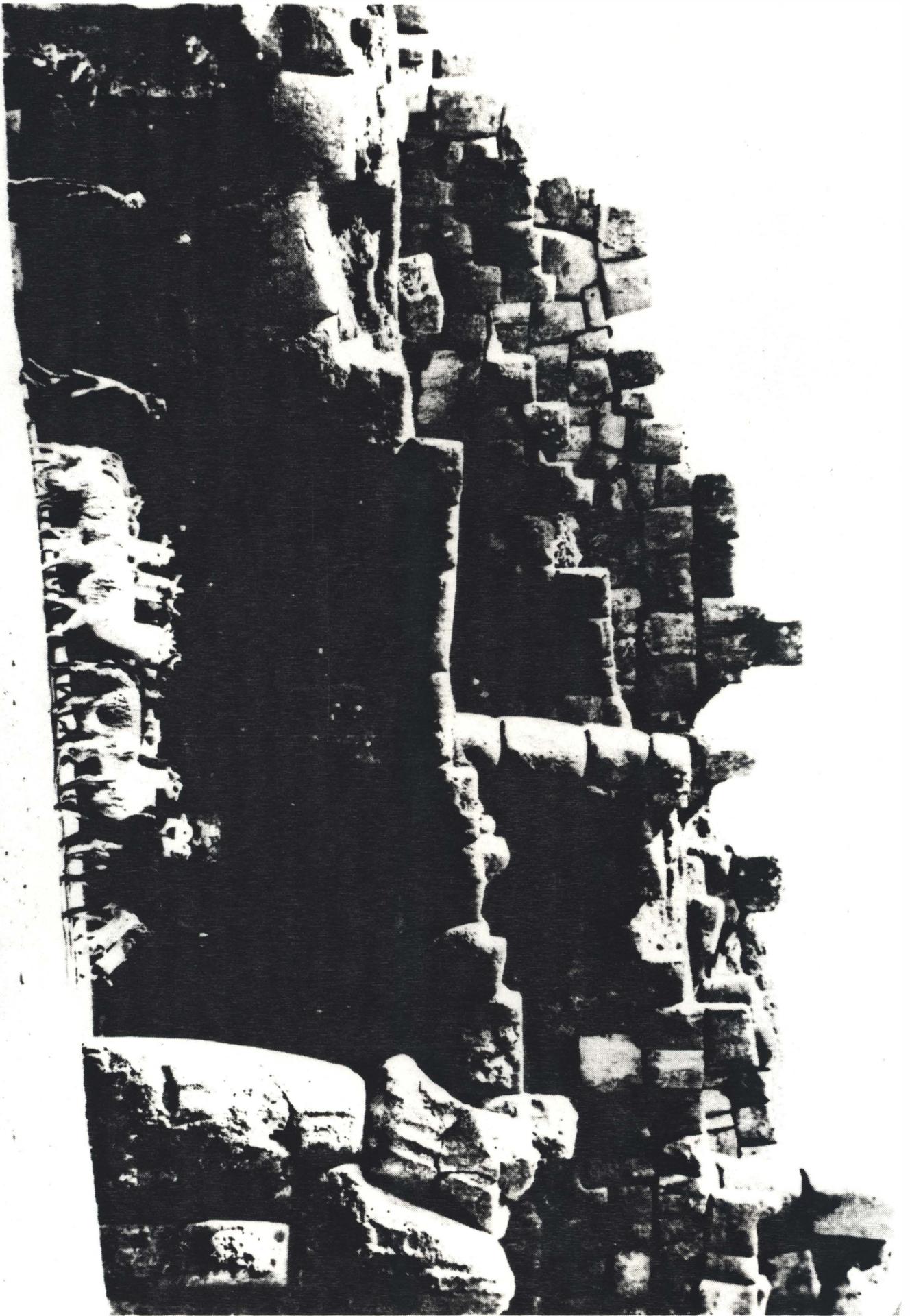
Reinl, who began to investigate Man's history in an impartial and unbiased manner, more than once learned to be surprised. For example, in the old city of Nazca, in the Peruvian Cordilleras, he found himself confronted with the "inconceivable."

"For days and days we had been plodding about and did not see anything. Then we took an aeroplane and...."

The things seen by Reinl and his team are described by von Daniken: "Huge, geometric lines, which had been drawn according to astronomic plans...." He saw here a prehistoric landing ground for beings from other worlds. Comments Reinl, who directed 'Chariots Of The Gods':

"From the ground one does not see anything. From the air, however, everything is quite clear. And the only explanation I can find for this is that all this has been constructed for someone who came from the sky."

Reinl sees von Daniken's merit in the fact that he had the courage to put his controversial ideas into print. He hopes that the public will not dismiss the books and his film as fantasy - but think things over.





I think it worth mentioning here that word reached our shores recently that an Aboriginal rock-carving of a spaceman-like figure had been discovered in Australia at Berowra, four miles from the well-known carvings at Mount Ku-ring-gai. The carving is of an apparently human figure, with upstretched arms that end in pointed, claw-like hands. There is a small dome, obviously a helmet of some sort, on its head. On the figure's chest are 17 carved indentations.

Souvenir Press Ltd., of 95 Mortimer Street, London W1N 8HP, will be publishing in June another book on the riddles of ancient science. It is entitled: 'We Are Not The First,' and is written by Australian Andrew Tomas. Price: about £1.75.

- Ron Toft

* The photographs on the facing and previous pages are 'stills' *
* from the film 'Chariots Of The Gods,' kindly supplied by MGM- *
* EMI Distributors Ltd. in London. However, the set of photos I *
* was sent were not captioned. But by partly re-reading the books *
* upon which the film is based, I have definitely identified one *
* picture, and almost certainly the other. I believe the photo on *
* the previous page shows a gigantic monolith in a quarry at *
* Sacsahuaman, near Cuzco in south central Peru. The mind boggles *
* as to how, and for what purpose, this monstrosity was perfectly *
* carved out of the surrounding bedrock. The picture on the facing *
* page is of part of the huge terrace walls at Sacsahuaman, showing *
* the incredible and almost unbelievable accuracy with which the *
* individual stone blocks were shaped. *

HOSTILE VENUS: The chances of terrestrial-type life existing on the surface of Venus are even more remote now - in view of the recent findings of the Soviet Venus 7 probe, which soft-landed on the planet on December 15. The temperature at the landing site was a sizzling 455-495°C. Atmospheric pressure ranged from 75-105 times that at sea-level on Earth. The density of the Venusian air where the spacecraft touched down was 60 times that at the Earth's surface. The atmosphere of Venus consists almost entirely of carbon-dioxide - lethal to Man. Oxygen is practically non-existent and water-vapour represents less than one per cent. Most scientists have now ruled out the possibility of Earth-type life on Venus itself, although it has been suggested that primitive life-forms could exist in the Venusian clouds. The Venus 7 automatic station transmitted signals for 23 minutes after landing. It was the first time that a man-made device had relayed scientific information from the surface of another planet.

PROMETHIUM FOUND IN STAR: A rare element that does not exist naturally on Earth has been identified in the spectrum of a star by two University of Michigan astronomers. Dr. Margo Aller and Dr. Charles Cowley identified promethium in an unusual star known simply as HR 465. It is a short-lived rare earth that has been known only as a synthetic element. Although its existence had been predicted as early as 1902, it was not discovered until 1947 - among the fission products of uranium.

THIRD UFO BOOKLET: Dan Butcher, SIGAP's talented artist-writer member, has now completed his third UFO booklet. It is entitled: 'The Psychophysical Link In UFO Encounters' and, like the previous two, examines UFO reports in terms of astral-projections, or out-of-the-body experiences; OBEs for short. This latest booklet is an in-depth study of the 'beams and appendages'. of UFOs and their occupants in connection with OBEs. It will be published within the next three months in a duplicated quarto format, each issue costing 20p. The booklet has 48 pages and an impressive list of references - 94 altogether. Although many UFO researchers may not agree with the lines of argument Dan has put forward in his booklets, the sheer amount of research that has gone into them is commendable in itself.

Dan Butcher's first two UFO booklets were: 'A Reference Book Of UFO Sounds' and 'Water And Its Symbolism In UFO Encounters.' The demand for the UFO sounds booklet was tremendous, and it wasn't long before SIGAP's limited stocks were exhausted. Because of the continuing inquiries with regard to this booklet, it has been decided to reprint it. Two hundred copies will be produced. It should be available within the next couple of months, price 20p. The second booklet, on UFOs and water, has just had its first printing. Copies are available from Group Secretary Dick Beet at 20p each. Post and packing is 2½p extra.

CHAIRMAN's CHATTER: It has been some time since I put pen to paper - at least for the purpose of writing an article for our own magazine. There can be no doubt that UFO activity has been at a minimum in this country during the last year or so, and it has been difficult maintaining an interest in the subject at group level. Luckily, SIGAP has not suffered too badly, and I would put the membership loss at about 30 per cent. Many other groups have faded into obscurity. Even BUFORA has not been without its problems. This lapse in enthusiasm is understandable for members who have had only a passing interest in the subject. It may even have performed a service to ufology by ridding us of a few sensationalists.

I count myself fortunate in being one of the stalwarts who attended the April 3 BUFORA meeting at Kensington Library, when Charles H. Gibbs-Smith, Keeper at the Victoria and Albert Museum, gave a lecture on his UFO thoughts. His stirring words and criticisms, particularly of the Condon Report, were interlaced with humorous anecdotes, his phenomenal knowledge of historical aircraft showing through. I believe the whole audience came away from the meeting completely revitalised - whether they agreed with all of his views or not.

- Omar Fowler

NEXT MEETING: The next SIGAP meeting will be the annual one - on May 18. In addition to the usual business there will be a showing of the UFO film taken by company director Mr. W. H. Huntington while driving along the A1 between Grantham and Newark on August 11 last year. A full account of the sighting is given in the second issue of Flying Saucer Review Case Histories. The meeting will be held in the canteen of the Plastic Coatings factory at Guildford, starting at 8 p.m.

** U F O L O G Y A N D T H E B I B L E **
** By the Rev. Dr. Norman Cockburn **

UFOLOGY is now about a quarter of a century old, viewed as a modern study of a strange and enigmatic phenomenon. During that time it has become evident to the perceptive thinker that it connects with nearly all the patterns of thought with which Man is traditionally familiar. Among these is the Bible.

There is, as yet, no reason to believe that ufology will fundamentally alter what is characteristically central to the Bible in its notion of God and its spiritual principles governing human destiny. What it does, however, is important at a lower level. It throws light upon and, perhaps in some instances, gives the answer to problems in the Bible which have not in the past obtained satisfactory explanations.

There are around a hundred topics, themes and statements in the Bible which can be sensibly related to ufological thinking. Here, in this brief assessment, I shall select only half a dozen matters which are of outstanding interest. Each item will be dealt with according to the following pattern: First, the passage will be referred to. The gist of traditional Jewish, Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant biblical commentation will be given. The ufological light will be presented and, lastly, an assessment of its value will be made. All ufological studies are still only at a beginning stage. The biblical relevance is no exception.

GENESIS VI (4): "In those days and also afterward's when the sons of the gods had intercourse with the daughters of men, and got children by them..."

The commentaries mention that in mythology this is a recurrent theme. It is stated that the biblical writers did not mean anything special, and that sons of gods might mean angels or men. Anyway, we don't know.

Ufology presents a number of reasonably well evidenced cases of sexual intercourse having taken place between ufonauts and Earth beings during the last 25 years. There are also cases of scientific interest being shown in possible genetical studies of human beings. Cases of Villa Boas and Barney and Betty Hill come to mind.

The ufological light thrown on the Bible is that the event described in Genesis might be historical. Commentaries of the future will perhaps drop the allusion to myths and refer to the matter in the light of current happenings involving interplanetary relations.

EXODUS XIII (21): "And all the time the Lord went before them, by day a pillar of cloud to guide them on their journey, by night a pillar of fire to give them light."

Commentaries contradict one another. Some allege that the pillar of cloud and of fire 'is an accurate description of a volcano,' neglecting the obvious criticism that volcanoes do not 'guide' people by moving about. Others say that we are dealing here with 'symbols of Divine presence.'

Ufology provides a new approach. Not all UFOs are associated with cloud effects, or light and fire phenomena, but a considerable number are. Frequently the 'cigar-shaped' mother-ships appear as strange shaped clouds which 'condense' into metallic vessels. The cloud effects at night appear not to be vapour condensations, but ionised gases luminous in themselves and imparting an appearance of general illumination to the complete UFO. All the chapters in Exodus repay study. Strange phenomena such as the parting of the waters of the Red Sea, the 'charged mountain' threatening death, and the burning bush which is not consumed, are better explained in terms of electromagnetic UFO phenomena. To accept this improved explanation does not mean that we discard the transphysical elements of the divine presence.

For 300 years, biblical commentators have been under pressure from Western science to 'explain away' much phenomena. Now, in our own day and generation, this process has reached its climax in the demythologising theology of Dr. Bultman, popularised by Bishop Robinson in 'Honest To God.' Ufology is one factor in a turn of the tide. Slowly, theologians will accept as historical matters which, for generations, they have accounted for as mythical. Exodus is getting a new meaning in a new light. This is not a new fundamentalism fighting a rear action of fear, but a maturer insight into the Bible, revealing a more wondrous universe and a better glory of the unchanging God.

EZEKIEL I (1-28): "...the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God...behold a stormy wind came out of the north, and a great cloud with brightness round about it, and fire flashing forth continually, and in the midst of the fire as it were, gleaming bronze."

This famous passage is too long to quote in full. It has given to Christian art much of its imagery. The inside of the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral contains in mosaic, huge representations of the four 'living creatures' which are part of the vision. Much of the idea of 'God's glory' is derived from this moving account.

Again, commentators are divided. The details - for example the 'wheels' and the 'rims full of eyes' - are variously described as 'symbols of cosmic mobility,' and 'God's all-seeing Presence.' In the opposite direction, some commentaries undertake to reduce the vision entirely to the level of natural phenomena. It is simply 'mock suns.' Dr. Donald Menzel, the famous 'saucer debunker,' covers three pages of his book on flying saucers with just such an 'overdone' explanation in meteorological terms. It tells us more about the psychology of Donald Menzel than about Ezekiel's vision.

Ufology is vastly stimulating in asserting that in the Bible we have the description of a 'classic sighting' of a UFO. The best 'write-up' is that contained in a recent number of the Purnell Weekly Encyclopaedia 'Man, Myth and Magic,' number 52. The author Keith Mosely is also an aeronautical artist and illustrates his exegesis with intriguing pictures. For myself, I think the ufological explanation is better than the commentaries of the past. I can accept the explanation and also retain acceptance of the biblical content as revealing God as well as ufonauts. In the Bible, God is never revealed in pure essence, but always mixed with events, or involved in His Creation, and revealed through His creatures. In the Bible, 'angels' are generally described in humanoid forms. I have always believed in angels as well as God. Ufology is explaining away nothing, but is explaining better, many things in the Bible, and so is rehabilitating the Bible as a means of understanding God.

I think the evidential value of ufological features such as 'flashing fire,' 'gleaming bronze,' 'the likeness of humanoid ufonaut boots,' 'aviator suits made of a highly reflective material,' 'wheels,' 'rims and eyes,' 'transparent headgear,' 'contact with the captain of the spaceship'.....is considerable, and worthy of serious attention. Again, there need be no diminishment of the divine content which has become part of Jewish and Christian tradition. But ufology makes it all the more comprehensible. Ezekiel has become more credible.

THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM, MATTHEW II (1-12): "And the star which they had seen at its rising, went ahead of them until it stopped above the place where the child lay...."

This is a passage which, like Ezekiel's vision, has become part of the universal heritage of Christendom. But the commentaries have been confused. One (Roman Catholic) reflects the popular belief that each person is represented by a star which appears at his birth. Another (Protestant) says: "Magi believed that a star could be the 'fravashi' (counterpart of an angel) of a great man." Jews often identified the 'star out of David' (Numbers XXIV, 17) with the Messiah. Another commentary says: "It is not certain how Matthew visualised this sign....We cannot identify the star, though attempts have been made."

Ufology makes the whole matter so much more intelligible. How much easier to think of a UFO 'going before them' as so many sightings illustrate, of 'standing over where the young child was.' It is entirely reasonable, and also faithful, to think of Jesus being born in the womb of his Mother Mary, and also the intelligences which normally dwell in God and 'occupy' heaven, as entering our physical world not as apparitions, but as embodied creatures utilising physical machines for moving in a physical environment appropriate to human conditions, to contact human beings involved in the great Event of the Incarnation.

MATTHEW XVII (1-8): "Six days later, Jesus led Peter, James and John up a high mountain (either Tabor or Hermon) where they could be alone. There, in his presence, He was transfigured. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as the light. Suddenly, Moses and Elijah appeared to them. They were talking to Him."

The significance of the Transfiguration is that it is the New Testament counterpart of the visit up Mount Sinai, when Moses' face also shone so that he had to veil it. Again, the commentaries leave much to be desired. One (Roman Catholic) says: "This extraordinary experience was more easily conceived as a dream vision. The suggestion here that the disciples are asleep is much clearer in Luke...." Another commentary (Protestant) holds to the symbolic truth, but tends to explain the event away by saying that it is a resurrection appearance inserted at an earlier part of the narrative.

"The transfiguration is not illusion or distortion, but the truth. In it the true meaning of Jesus the Christ was for a moment at least, glimpsed by His associates. The transfiguration of Jesus is incomparable, and stands in a class by itself. But it may be appropriate to point out that this experience of seeing ordinary things transfigured, is by no means rare. We often have the unexpected privilege of seeing some familiar ordinary object assume, even if only for a moment, an altogether other and glorious aspect, as we see it in a fresh perspective."

I agree with this 'spiritual' interpretation of the Transfiguration of Christ. However, the event as described in the Bible also needs to be understood as a real, physical event in which Moses and Elijah (both of whom had similar experiences in the Old Testament) actually spoke to Jesus.

It is here that ufology has a contribution to make - though few of us yet understand the detailed nature of the experience of UFOs. Few books of value have been written about UFOs and the Bible. One, however, is outstanding. I do not agree with all that is in it, but I respect it as being the best attempt to write intelligently about the mystery of UFOs and their possible connection with some elements in the Bible. I refer to 'UFOs and the Bible' by the Rev. Barry Downing, a Presbyterian Minister of North Carolina. On the Transfiguration, he writes:

"Let us suppose that the Transfiguration story is an essentially valid reporting of news as we have found it in the Gospels. It is consistent, exegetically and logically, to believe that the 'bright cloud' which overshadowed the disciples and Jesus, was the same type of UFO which led Israel out of Egypt and through the wilderness - exegetically, because of the parallel between the description of the bright cloud and the pillar of cloud and fire, and because of the reported presence of Moses and Elijah. Logically, because how many beings from how many other worlds would be likely to come to Earth in UFOs to set up a religion among the Jews? A voice came from the UFO, just as Moses heard a voice coming from the middle of the thicket (due to the presence of a UFO in its midst) which appeared to be on fire. Moses was in constant vocal contact with a being in the UFO in the wilderness journey. Elijah heard a voice coming to him from outside a cave, and probably the same type of UFO was present in each case.

"What is the significance of the Transfiguration from a philosophical point of view? The Petrine literature attributes the following words to the Apostle Peter, who is reflecting on the

significance of the Transfiguration: 'For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His Majesty. For when He received honour and glory from the Father and the voice was borne to Him by the Majestic Glory, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,' we heard this voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.' (II PETER 1: 16-18). The term 'Majestic Glory' is a unique reference to the 'bright cloud' type of UFO which was reported to have been present at the Transfiguration. But what we wish to point out is that it seems quite clear that the early Church considered the Transfiguration to have been a historical event, and Peter, James, and John were eyewitnesses to this event, including the presence of the UFO. Most of the 'honest to God' and 'death of God' theologians would argue that the UFO was reported to have been present at the Transfiguration was mythological. But the above passage in II PETER stresses that the disciples 'did not follow cleverly devised myths' in presenting their version of the gospel; rather, what they preached was an eyewitness account of the events which surrounded Christ."

The above quotation is a good example of sober and sensible discussion of the matter as relating to ufology. It does not over-stress, but interestingly discloses the manner in which ufological phenomena is influencing theological thinking away from extreme 'demythologising' of the Bible as undertaken by thinkers like the former Bishop of Woolwich, and inclining towards a new 'historicising' of the significance. It inclines us to believe not less in the Bible, but more - intelligently more.

The above is only a kind of introduction, or prolegomenon, to what can and ought to be said regarding the light which ufology throws on some portions of the Bible. The important thing is to retain intellectual balance, and avoid the extremes and absurdities which only too easily arise when people lose a sense of proportion between thought and emotion.

STAR OF BETHLEHEM MAY HAVE BEEN TWO PLANETS: The brilliant Star of Bethlehem which, according to the Bible, led the Three Wise Men to the birthplace of Christ, may have been nothing more sensational than the planets Jupiter and Saturn in the same line of sight. That, at least, is the view of Father P. J. Treanor, Director of the Vatican Observatory. The two planets are known to have been in conjunction (same celestial longitude) in 7 B.C. - the year in which Christ is presumed to have been born. Wrote the London Daily Telegraph's Churches Correspondent on January 27:

"The brilliant light created by the two planets, which astro-logical tradition maintains was observable in Judea, the mythical 'Kingdom of the West,' may have caused the Wise Men to associate it with the coming of the Messiah."

However, all astronomical explanations have one basic fault. We all know that if we take a walk on a clear, moonlit night, the Moon appears to follow us. If we stop, the Moon stops. It is just an illusion, of course. Therefore, if the Star of Bethlehem was two or

more planets in the same line of sight, a supernova (exploding star), a comet, or some other celestial object, the three sages could hardly have been 'led' to the place where Christ was. So the assumption must be that they merely stumbled across Christ's birthplace. This seems to be too much of a coincidence. Indeed, I have suggested before*, as have other researchers, that the 'star' may well have been a UFO. For I consider it quite possible that Christ himself may have been an alien. Aliens could have told the Wise Men of Christ's impending arrival in human form and guided them to where he and Mary were.

- Ron Toft

* SIGAP Newsletter No. 8 (January 9, 1968).

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* B O O K R E V I E W S *
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Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects

(Condon Report)

Reviewed by Tim Childerhouse

OVER the past 25 years the World's Press has devoted much space to sensational stories of 'unidentified flying objects.' Sometimes these stories could have been answered by the simplest of explanations. had some scientific organisation existed to investigate and analyse these events which at times verged on the fantastic.

As time went by the ufologists of the world, many of them in good faith, expounded their theories, but others faked evidence, especially photographs, to widen the following of the enthusiast who strongly believed in extraterrestrial activity. Why must every phenomenon or happening in our skies be interpreted as such?

In 1966 a scientific study was carried out by the University of Colorado and headed by a prominent American scientist, Dr. Condon, one time President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Dr. Condon's report concluded that there was no evidence to justify that extraterrestrial visitors have penetrated our skies, and there was not enough evidence to warrant any further scientific investigation.

This book, the scientific study of the investigation, examines the strange and unanswered phenomena which have appeared in our skies.

Those who scoff at the title are liable to pass over one of the most fascinating studies of our time. In Section III there is a chapter on the visual observations of the U.S. astronauts, including some remarkable sightings from space. I cannot recollect having seen this summary in any previous publication.

The historical chapter in Section V is worth reading twice. The reader can interpret the old writings in his own way. When ancient man gazed at the night sky he saw many happenings. How could he describe what he saw, for he understood none of them? For the past 3,500 years the writings have been translated from one language to another, and one can imagine how far the present script is from the original.

The real part of this book is contained in Section VI, the scientific context. Again, every aspect is covered - atmospheric electricity and plasma, including some very interesting descriptions of ball lightning. Who could know that an ordinary radio sonde balloon of six feet diameter can expand to 55 feet at 140,000 feet altitude and that 100,000 of these balloons are launched each year in the U.S.; or polyethylene balloons, partially inflated, will fill out to 400 feet at float altitudes?

Astronomers will be interested in this report. Quite naturally, the sun, planets, bright stars, moon and meteors, are listed high in the category of certified sightings. There is a description of the Green Flash, a phenomenon associated with the rising or setting of the sun. This is something for which the scientific observers are now watching. One finds one cannot trust the witness, whatever his standing, if he does not understand the facts. Remember in 1967 when Venus was shining at a stellar magnitude of -4 in the early morning autumn sky, at a time when all the surrounding lights are subdued. Policemen were chasing things that moved ahead of their cars, and fast moving objects were seen passing between the clouds. Whether you were in London, Manchester, or Devon, a quick check would have revealed that at any similar given time the angle of the sightings would have been approximately the same. As for the rapidly moving light, it was simply an impression of movement of the planet as the low clouds passed overhead. How many times have we seen this effect when looking at the moon in similar circumstances. I have shown people Venus with the naked eye soon after mid-day. It is a little difficult to find, but once found is clearly seen in the bright blue sky.

During the last century we heard of the planet Vulcan. Today they call it Clarion. This hypothetical planet was said to be in exactly the same position as earth, but on the other side of the sun. Three computer runs were made at the U.S. Naval Observatory to check the orbit and any possible perturbations around the orbit. The following cases were analysed: Case 1: The mass of Clarion equals the earth plus moon. Case 2: The mass of Clarion equals the mass of the moon. Case 3: Clarion assumed to have zero mass. The outcome was definite proof that the presence of such a body could not remain undetected for long. But such a statement would not change the minds of the people who believed in the existence of Clarion. Early in the summary, the authors try to illustrate the enormous distances involved if there was intelligent life elsewhere.

Today there are more than 2,000 objects orbiting the earth, out of a total of well over 4,000 objects orbited since 1957. Assuming that 20 or so of the bright ones are visible on any given clear night anywhere in the world, I would have thought that the case numbers would

have been higher. Over the past few years I have made a brief summary of such sightings in this country, and I found this figure as high as 80 per cent. Satellite decays now occur as often as one per day, and these are indeed real space spectaculars. Two of these events happened over Europe recently. They were Cosmos 169 and Cosmos 253 rockets, which each gave a fiery display on their final plunge back to earth. Cosmos 169 passed over the southern French coast and immediately broke into many fragments. It was clearly seen across Central Europe and finally disappeared somewhere north of the Netherlands. Cosmos 253 rocket passed over the west coast of Scotland already glowing red. By the time it reached London many pieces were breaking off and sonic booms were heard south of the Thames. The fragments which survived re-entry impacted in the English Channel. After both these decays the usual spate of UFO reports appeared. Even formations of the things were mentioned. After the Cosmos 253 burn-in, the Home Counties buzzed with reports. I read some of these reports, some from responsible people such as engineers, lawyers, and an ex-service pilot.

Perhaps the best and most effective 'skywatch' is the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory's Prairie Network of 64 fixed cameras that photograph most of the sky over a 300,000 square mile area in the middle west of the U.S. In more than three years of operation, these cameras have recorded many thousands of meteors, but none of the UFOs so often seen in the Middle West.

There is a wonderful account by R. V. Jones, Director of Intelligence-Air Staff, 1946, reviewing his British intelligence experience in Appendix V. His review of the years between 1935 and 1948 is worth a reprint, in particular the episode of some samples picked up in Sweden and sent to Farnborough for analysis.

Down the centuries good ghost stories have been retold, and the ancient mariners brought back stories of sea-serpents. Perhaps this book will be the death knell of the 'flying-saucer.' Whatever your views, this book is an exciting and absorbing document.

(Tim Childerhouse, who works in the Space Department of the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough, Hampshire, is SIGAP's space consultant.

There are many points in Tim's review which I strongly disagree with. However, lack of space prevents me from detailing them at present. Instead, I will use them as the basis for an article which will appear in the next issue of Pegasus.

I should also be interested to hear the views of other researchers - Ron Toft).

Strange Creatures From Time And Space

By John A. Keel

(Fawcett Publications Inc., Greenwich, Conn., 1976)

Reviewed by Ron Toft

ONCE in a while a really good occult book appears on the scene. John Keel's 'Strange Creatures From Time And Space' is such a publication.

Monsters of every variety, psychical phenomena, UFOs - all are discussed at length in this original and crisply written 288-page paperback. The volume opens with the dramatic statement that no matter where you live on the face of the earth, someone within 200 miles of you has been face-to-face with an 'inexplicable' in the past 100 years. After reading the book, which is as engaging as any science-fiction novel, I can quite believe it.

Keel, the indefatigable researcher, is not an advocate of the extraterrestrial hypothesis for the origin of UFOs. He lumps them in with the other intangibles, such as phantoms, and attributes them to an invisible plane of existence which envelops us all. He sums it up neatly on pages 275 and 276 of his book, when he says:

"An invisible phenomenon is always stalking us and manipulating our beliefs. We see only what it chooses to let us see, and we usually react in exactly the way it might expect us to react....."

"We are not coping with ghosts or extraterrestrial visitants. Rather, we are facing, and have always faced, denizens of some unseen world which surrounds us."

However, in spite of what Keel says in these brief extracts, he does make the point earlier in his book - page 163 to be precise - that if UFOs ARE of extraterrestrial origin, and in some way are responsible for the bizarre happenings associated with them, then the whole business "is infinitely more complicated than the UFO buffs have dreamed of."

Keel divides his 'unbelievables' into two broad groups. The first are simply flesh-and-blood animals unknown to science. The Loch Ness Monster and Sasquatch fall into this class. The second group is by far the more mysterious - consisting of the intangibles which make fleeting appearances and then disappear, literally, into thin air.

A really exciting and thought-provoking book.

NEXT ISSUE: The summer issue of Pegasus will be published in July. Contents will include the second part of Dan Butcher's article: 'The Contactee As An Astral Projector,' a review of Ivan T. Sanderson's latest book, 'Invisible Residents,' and the first part of an aerial phenomena guide, compiled by Group Secretary Dick Beet.

P E G A S U S

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