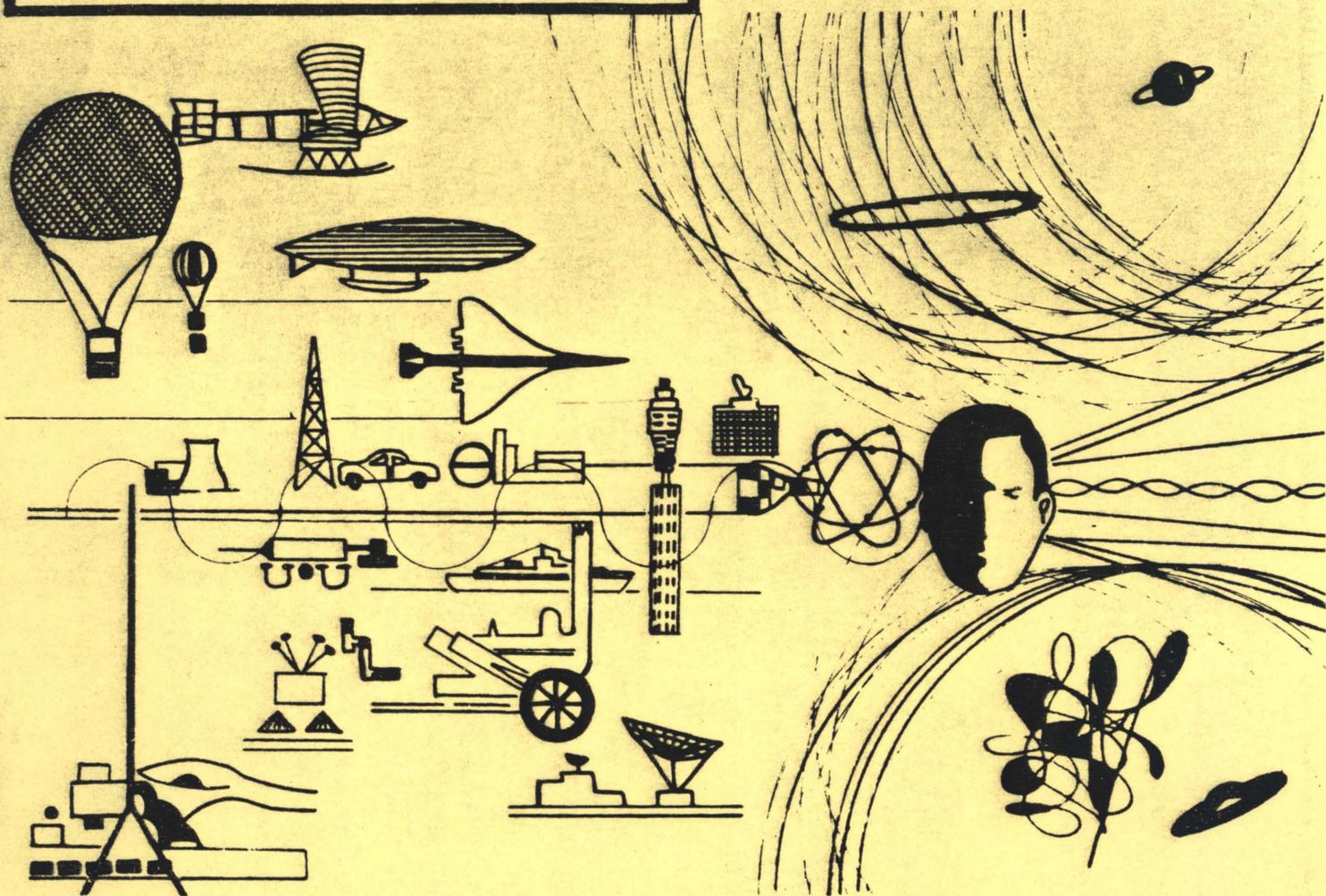


PEGASUS



A journal devoted to the study of Unidentified Flying Objects

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SPECIAL FEATURE: Unidentified Flying Objects
Charles H. Gibbs-Smith, M.A.

JOURNAL OF THE
SURREY INVESTIGATION GROUP
ON AERIAL PHENOMENA _____ 15p

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Contents

- 1 Editorial
O. F. Fowler, MISM.
- 3 Unidentified Flying Objects
C. H. Gibbs-Smith, M.A.
- 5 A Turning Point in UFO
Investigation
C. H. Gibbs-Smith
- 8 Book Review
- 10 Sighting Report
Carol Godsell
- 11 Fact or Folklore
Dan Butcher
- 13 National Skywatch and AGH.

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SURREY INVESTIGATION GROUP ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

Editorial

What are the odds against photographing a UFO? They must be several million to one and yet many people claim to have succeeded in this almost impossible feat. To begin with, first of all find your UFO and this must be difficult enough as I have been looking for many years and have rarely seen anything more exciting than a satellite. Then once the UFO is sighted, you will have to make a rapid decision on the exposure to make, bearing in mind that you have a high speed film and the lighting conditions are poor. Also whether you should sacrifice the depth of field in order to increase the exposure of the subject and whether you should pan with the UFO (presuming it is moving) or to increase your shutter speed and try and stop it. Finally, unless you are using something like a 300 mm lens, you are unlikely to produce anything more than a dim, blurred, underexposed photograph..... and yet some people have succeeded. For many years photo graphs of "flying saucers" have appeared, some in the national papers, some in the local rag and a mixed selection in a wide variety of UFO magazines. By far the majority have been long forgotten, but there remain a number of photographs that are inexplicable.



One of the best known photographs was published in the Daily Mirror and given a two page centre spread on Friday September 10th 1965. It was of course, the Warminster Saucer, photographed by Gordon Faulkner, at the time, there were many strange things going on in that Wiltshire town. This photograph has posed a big question mark for many years and has yet to be explained.

Another photograph that had until recently been held up as an example of success, was the Alex Birch 'gaggle' of five saucers, which proved to be a series of ink blots on a glass window. Alex Birch's ingenuity must be praised, for it fooled the majority of people for some time and there lies the problem. Almost anyone with a little thought can produce an authentic looking photograph with the help of an ash tray, girls hat, hub cap, etc., but we must not be dismayed, because excellent photographs have come from the most unlikely places.

A photo that interests me personally, is the UFO snapped by an Oregon farmer, Paul Trent, Originally of little interest to him, it was snapped up by the McMinnville Telephone Register, the local paper to Mr Trent's farm and from there, it was reproduced in Life Magazine and the Sunday Dispatch. Subsequently it has been a 'standard' for many UFO books and magazines.

A photograph that appears to be authentic beyond doubt is the UFO snapped by Jacqueline Wingfield in County Waterford, Ireland on December 26th 1965. The film was given to Charles Gibb-Smith and developed by Percy Hennell a professional photographer, both were prepared to stake their considerable professional reputation on it...and that is good enough for me. The photograph showed a round metallic looking ball, trailing a bright plume like cloud behind it.

So what conclusions can we draw after all this? I believe that in spite of the large number of photo 'fakes' that appear from time to time, it is well worth while to carry a camera with you as frequently as possible. The amazing results that have been produced by witnesses who also happened to have their cameras with them, cannot be ignored.

Although a coloured movie film is often spoken of as being the ideal answer, experience has shown that anyone with a reasonable "still" camera has a good chance of producing something to amaze us all. But the problem remains first of all find your UFO, then, never mind the apertures or speeds, press the button at once and then adjust your speeds, etc. if you have a second chance. If you manage it, I will develop it free of charge.

Unidentified Flying Objects

by Charles H. Gibbs-Smith, MA

The camera, it is often said, cannot lie. It is natural, therefore, that in investigations into the mystery of UFOs photography should play an important part. In this, the first of two articles on the subject, the author—who is an Honorary Companion of The Royal Aeronautical Society and one of the world's leading aviation historians—deals with a crucial aspect of any investigation: scientific integrity.

In my lifetime I have seen the study of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) proceed slowly but surely from the utterly unacceptable and utterly ridiculous to the semi-respectable, and the almost respectable state of being thought worth studying. Soon they will be a routine subject of scientific investigation. I think this progression follows the ever-deepening field of vision of the great telescopes, which have led almost all the leading astronomers to say with certainty that, on the mathematical basis of chance, there must be, not thousands! but millions, of inhabited worlds in the universe. Within the past few years we have already seen sporadic watch kept on outer space, to listen for radio signals from other civilizations; and now I understand that permanent watch will be kept in the future, especially in Russia.

My friend Dr. Allen Hynek, for many years the official assessor of UFOs for the US Air Force, and one of America's most distinguished astronomers, has now openly stated that the subject is of great importance and must be studied properly; and the same position is being taken up by other reputable men; not forgetting, *en route* so to say, that the great Professor Clyde Tombaugh, the discoverer of the planet Pluto, has himself described UFOs, of which he once had a grand-stand view from his desert house.

Condon Report

UFOs have been sighted in their thousands ever since the Middle Ages, and despite the obviously large number of deliberate hoaxes, mis-sightings and other blunders of eye and mind, the number of unexplained sightings is legion, and growing daily. But there are various reasons why officialdom does not care to get involved in the business—still less at a national level—and to that end the US Air Force was recently a party to one of the most dishonest undertakings ever staged in the name of science; and the remainder of this article will be devoted to a brief examination of how that undertaking was entered into and conducted, in order to show what unprejudiced investigations are up against. The publicized idea was to have a proper scientific examination of the subject, for which the Air Force would pay, and the result was the now famous—or infamous—Condon report. For the purpose of this article I am not concerned whether UFOs are vehicles from outer space, hamburgers tossed from balloons, or spots in front of the eyes of neurotic tabby cats. I am concerned with the status and standing of this report “of the Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects”, completed in 1968, and released to the Press in January 1969.

On 9 August 1966, a confidential memorandum was written by a Mr. Robert J. Low to officials of the University of Colorado, concerning the proposed contract between this University and the US Air Force, for the former to conduct research into UFOs, and be paid for this project out of public funds to the tune of some half a million dollars. The project was to be under the direction of Dr. Edward U. Condon, with Mr. Low (a member of the University staff) as the project co-ordinator and “key operations man”. The memorandum in question was written *before* the contract was signed between the University and the Air Force.

The Low memorandum was entitled “Some Thoughts on the UFO Project”, and included the following passages (my italics):

“... Our study would be conducted almost exclusively by non-believers who, though they couldn't possibly *prove* a negative result, could and probably would add an impressive body of evidence that there is no reality to the observations. *The trick would be, I think, to describe the*

project so that, to the public, it would appear a totally objective study but, to the scientific community, would present the image of a group of non-believers trying their best to be objective, but having an almost zero expectation of finding a saucer. One way to do this would be to stress investigation, not of the physical phenomena, but rather of the people who do the observing—the psychology and sociology of persons and groups who report seeing UFOs. If the emphasis were put here, rather than on examination of the old question of the physical reality of the saucer, I think the scientific community would quickly get the message . . . I'm inclined to feel at this early stage that, if we set up the thing right and take pains to get the proper people involved and have success in presenting the image we want to present to the scientific community, we could carry the job off to our benefit . . ."

Discovery

This memorandum was accidentally discovered by a member of the Committee late in 1967, and was revealed to the public in *Look* magazine in May of 1968.

Already, the project director, Dr. Condon, had indulged in statements and activities quite out of keeping with his official role as an impartial scientific investigator, let alone as a project head. The publicizing of the memorandum, and of Dr. Condon's activities, led to a bitter controversy, as a result of which Dr. Condon dismissed two of his colleagues on the Committee.

The Low memorandum can only be viewed as a deliberate act calculated to deceive: to deceive first the scientific community and, through them, the public at large. I know of no modern parallel to such a cynical act of duplicity on the part of a university official dedicated, presumably, to the pursuit of truth. By the writing of such a document, the integrity of the entire project was shattered in advance. Mr. Low's words disclose that everything in the report—unknown to the reader, be he scientist or layman—would ultimately play its part in presenting the angled case whereby the "scientific community would quickly get the message". This, in plain language, means that the deliberate perversion of the truth was planned before the contract with the Air Force was signed; which, in turn, points to an agreement with someone, or some body, as to what that "message" should be. Thus the spirit of perversion must inevitably have pervaded the whole fabric of the report; conditioned what was included, and what was excluded; what was played up, and what was played down; what was said in a particular manner, and what was not said; what was implied, and what was not implied. In short, it was doomed to be a "tainted" report from the start. By writing this memorandum, Mr. Low has brought disgrace upon himself, and disgrace upon the whole project and all those associated with it, and not least upon the University of Colorado.

The Low memorandum also conveys an implied contempt for the subject of the UFOs which the University was being handsomely paid to investigate; and contempt is not compatible with scientific investigation. It is universally accepted in civilized society that integrity of outlook and behaviour is as sacred where a scientist is investigating the effect of lipstick on sex-appeal, as it is where a cure is being sought for cancer. No one but a scoundrel would think otherwise.

What underlines the dishonesty which surrounds the whole project is the fact that *at no time has the Low memorandum been repudiated, or even deplored by any of the parties to the deal; nor—to its shame—by the American National Academy of Sciences. Neither the University of Colorado nor the Air Force has had a word of explanation to offer for behaviour which cuts at the very roots of scientific integrity.*

It is all too clear that the National Academy of Sciences felt that this case was not worth making any fuss about; otherwise it would have gone into action; and this is one of the most deplorable aspects of the whole case. The Academy should, of course, have immediately disowned Dr. Condon if it was not proved to its satisfaction that he knew nothing of the memorandum until it was published; and it should have issued a statement roundly condemning him for continuing with the project after he *did* know about the business.

As for the University of Colorado, its duty was plain as a pikestaff; it should have expelled Mr. Low and everyone who was associated with his memorandum; it should then have immediately cancelled the project, and handed back the money to the Air Force. The fact that it did none of these

things; and made no public statement of any kind repudiating the memorandum—and even allowed the project to continue as if nothing had happened—now marks it out as a discredited small-time college.

Let the reader remember that we have not been discussing UFOs; we have been discussing scientific integrity. Integrity, says Webster, is "*such rectitude that one is incapable of being false to a trust, a responsibility, a pledge.*"

Conclusion

With this history behind it, the reader will not be surprised to read Dr. Condon's conclusion that "nothing has come from the study of UFOs in the past 21 years that has added to scientific knowledge", and that "UFO phenomena do not offer a fruitful field in which to look for major scientific discoveries". In conclusion, I will simply place beside these statements, some by another eminent American scientist, the late Professor James McDonald, Senior Physicist, Institute of Atmospheric Physics, and Professor, Department of Meteorology, of the University of Arizona:

"In summary, I wish to emphasize that my own study of the UFO problem has convinced me that we must rapidly escalate serious scientific attention to this extraordinarily intriguing puzzle.

"I believe that the scientific community has been seriously misinformed for twenty years about the potential importance of UFOs. I do not wish here to elaborate on my own interpretation of the history behind that long period of misinformation . . . The possibility that the Earth might be under surveillance by some high civilization in command of a technology far beyond ours must not be overlooked in weighing the UFO problem. I am one of those who lean strongly towards the extra-terrestrial hypothesis. I arrived at that point by a process of elimination of other alternative hypotheses, not by arguments based on what I could call 'irrefutable proof'. I am convinced that the recurrent observations by reliable citizens here and abroad over the past twenty years cannot be brushed aside as nonsense, but rather need to be taken extremely seriously as evidence that some phenomenon is going on which we simply do not understand . . . what is urgently needed is a far more vigorous scientific investigation of the full spectrum of UFO phenomena."

A Turning Point in UFO Investigation

by Charles H. Gibbs-Smith, MA (Harvard),
Hon. Companion, Royal Aeronautical Society

This is the second of two articles on UFOs by Mr. Gibbs-Smith; the first appeared in The Photographic Journal for July 1972

A great service has recently been rendered to science by the distinguished American astronomer, Professor J. Allen Hynek. Dr. Hynek is at present Director of the Lindheimer Astronomical Research Centre at Northwestern University and Chairman of the university's Astronomy Department. He has also served as Associate Director of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory at Cambridge, Mass., as well as heading its NASA-sponsored Satellite Tracking Programme. Last but not least, for my readers, Dr. Hynek was for over 20 years the US Air Force's scientific consultant on UFOs and the signal service referred to above is the publication in the UK of his new book, *The UFO Experience: a Scientific Inquiry*. (Abelard-Schuman.)

What he has done may be described in brief as at last taking the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects out of the hands of the neurotics—lay and scientific neurotics alike. Those of us professionally concerned with UFOs have for many years had to cope with the lay neurotics and the obviously lunatic fringe. But it is not generally realized that there are just as many neurotics among scientists as amongst ordinary citizens, and we have had to wait till now for a ranking scientist to cope with the latter. A neurotic, by the way, is a person suffering from "a condition of emotional maladjustment to reality, arising from unconscious inner conflicts, and manifested by a variety of mental, emotional, physical and behaviour symptoms". Such a state is perfectly compatible with scientific brilliance. Let us listen to Professor Eysenck:

"Scientists, especially when they leave the particular field in which they have specialized, are just as ordinary, pig-headed and unreasonable as anybody else, and their unusually high intelligence only makes their prejudices all the more dangerous . . ."

A saying attributed to Alexis Carrel runs: "It is the duty of science not to discard facts merely because they seem to be extraordinary, and because they remain inexplicable." And Dr. Hynek adds that "the history of science has shown that it is the things that *don't* fit, the apparent exceptions to the rule, that signal potential breakthroughs in our concept of the world about us".

And there is also the Canadian philosopher of science, Thomas Goudge, who writes: "a necessary condition of scientific advancement is that allowances must be made for (1) genuinely new empirical observations and (2) new explanation schemes, including new basic concepts and new laws". He goes on to say that when an explanation scheme has been accepted within the province of the scientific establishment, it becomes respectable, and tends to resist the incursions of any new empirical observations unless such observations have been generated within an already accepted establishment explanation scheme. Dr. Hynek remarks that for this reason there was initial opposition to the now accepted theories of meteorites, fossils, the circulation of the blood, bacteria and—today—ball lightning.

The attitude of official science to meteorites in the 18th century is a perfect example of Goudge's thesis; for in 1772 even the famous chemist Lavoisier joined other members of the Paris Académie des Sciences—the French equivalent of the Royal Society—in issuing an official memorandum stating that "the falling of stones from the sky is physically impossible", and that meteorites were earth-bound rocks which had been struck by lightning. It should be remembered that these men were no less *intelligent* than the scientists of today; they merely shared the same kind of prejudices, and were keeping safely within their contemporary explanation schemes.

The chief difference between the 18th century and our own day is that the prejudices have now generally settled on the great majority of second, and lesser, echelon scientists; the great men generally quietly accept the reality of those phenomena so hotly denied by their lowlier colleagues.

But occasionally the top men are also seized by the strange neurotic virus of prejudice, and even Lord Kelvin—one of Britain's greatest men of science—was guilty of incomprehensible stupidity on more than one occasion, failings which his biographers find it easy to omit. At the time when the aeroplane was clearly to be seen approaching realization; in the year Lilienthal was killed gliding; and a bare eight years before the Wright brothers flew, Kelvin wrote as follows in 1896: ". . . I have not the smallest molecule of faith in aerial navigation other than ballooning" (letter in the R.Ae.S. archives).

Before discussing neurosis among scientists, here is Dr. Hynek's gloomy picture of today's attitude of the scientific establishment toward UFOs:

"The almost universal attitude of scientists has been militantly negative. Indeed, it would seem that the reaction has been grossly out of proportion to the stimulus. The emotionally loaded, highly exaggerated reaction that has generally been exhibited by scientists to any mention of UFOs might be of considerable interest to psychologists. Such reaction has been interesting to observe. I have attended many gatherings of scientists, both formal and informal, at which the subject of UFOs has been brought up incidentally, either by chance or sometimes 'innocently' by me in order to observe the reaction. I have found it amusing thus to set a cat among the pigeons, for the reaction has been out of keeping with the traditional 'weigh and consider' stance of mature scientists. Frequently the reaction has been akin to that of a group of preteenagers watching a movie scene of exceptional tenderness or pathos quite beyond their years to appreciate: giggles and squirming suggest a defense against something the scientists cannot yet understand. It has seemed to me that such exhibitions by mature scientists are more than expressions of pity for the uninformed. Perhaps they are expressions of deep-seated uncertainty or fear. . . . Scientists of good standing have toured the country declaiming against the UFO phenomenon, refusing to answer questions from the floor while proudly pointing out that they haven't taken the trouble to examine 'all the rubbish'. The phenomenon of this modern witch-hunt, the antithesis of what the scientific attitude stands for, is itself a phenomenon worthy of study. If 'all this UFO business is nonsense', why the overreaction on the part of established and highly respectable scientists? Is it a subconscious reaction to a challenge they are not prepared to accept?"

In his book, Dr. Hynek does refer to what he calls the "Invisible College", that small band of highly qualified men and women the world over, who are aware of the UFO facts, and want to pursue the study of them. But at the moment they are lying low, and are only known to a few outsiders.

Neurotic Tendencies

In passing, it is interesting to see what Arthur Koestler writes about Extra-Sensory-Perception (ESP), which has passed through many of the same vicissitudes as the study of UFOs: "The majority of academic psychologists remained hostile, although the giants had always taken telepathy and allied phenomena for granted."

In face of the vast accumulation of UFO material—a recent bibliography ran to 400 pages—why is it that the majority of scientists are so hostile; hostile, as Dr. Hynek shows, to (and far beyond) the point of becoming neurotic about the subject? One surely expects scientists to be perpetually inquisitive and restless in pursuit of extending the frontiers of science, of probing forward into the unknown. One also expects them to listen to the evidence; weigh it; and then—if they are not certain—to suspend judgment; not to ridicule any subject, but continue searching for the truth. Many of the scientists and intelligent laymen one meets behave like clowns when the subject of UFOs is brought up; and they are invariably ignorant of the relevant documents. They behave just as the theologians did in face of Galileo's assertion about the earth orbiting the sun. The attitude and behaviour of the average scientist can only be classed as neurotic.

Of the make-up of such men, there is clearly in many of them a deep and unconscious sense of insecurity or inadequacy, derived from infantile and childish conflicts; they feel uncomfortable and unsafe in the presence of any manifestation which cannot be examined in a laboratory. An insecure or inadequate man is generally a neurotic one, and the roots of his trouble are often sexual. There is also the crippling sin of arrogance, and the lack of true humility, which is basically related to insecurity and inadequacy, and ensures a second-rate type of man, and a second-rate scientist.

Many scientists have also suffered from a restricted home environment; they have been reared among intellectually and spiritually deprived families. This, of course, is not their fault, and they tend to grow up—and even attain high positions in their speciality—with an essentially "provincial" type of mind that has never had an opportunity of mixing with varied and mature men and women until it is too late for them to change. This in turn leads to them failing to react productively to alien ideas and concepts when they travel at home and abroad, and meet their fellow-workers.

Fear of Ridicule

But outstanding in the general neurotic pattern is the scientist's fear of ridicule by his colleagues if he is known to be interested in such a subject as UFOs: an interest in ESP, on the other hand, is now slowly creeping into the area of respectability, and ridicule is lessening. Sometimes it is even a question of a job being in danger—or a job being inaccessible—if a young scientist is thought to have "cranky" interests. But there is no excuse for the senior man who has already arrived; but all too many of them bear such deep scars of their childhood conflicts that the resulting insecurity and inadequacy carries right through their lives in the form of a severe state of moral cowardice.

Fear of the unknown and the inexplicable—the very spheres in which one would expect every leading scientist to involve himself—is also deep-seated in many men; but these neurotic fears are probably dependent for their nourishment on one or more of the items already noted. But fear of the unknown and the inexplicable should not be tolerated by any scientific institution.

Finally, we have to thank Dr. Hynek for putting both of the two official US UFO undertakings in perspective, and he is in a privileged position to do this. Project Blue Book was the special "office" of the US Air Force, maintained to deal with UFO reports, to which Dr. Hynek was Scientific Consultant for its two decades of life; and the Condon Report, which the US Air Force handsomely paid the University of Colorado to produce, is now the main excuse for official inactivity in American UFO Research. Dr. Hynek's inside story of Blue Book shows that it was a thinly disguised fraud, set up to protect the Air Force's unspoken conviction that the subject of UFOs was a nonsense subject, and even utilizing faked statistics to support this thesis. Blue Book was a shabby and disgraceful business.

When it comes to the Condon Report, which I have strongly criticized in the past, Dr. Hynek is far more severe—and is qualified to be far more severe—than I was. Apart from quoting two new and most damning documents in the form of Mary Armstrong's letter of resignation as Dr. Condon's administrative assistant, and W. T. Powers's critique which was so stern that the journal *Science* refused to publish it, Dr. Hynek delivers—with massive supporting evidence—the following quiet coup-de-grace: "... that

- (a) the subject matter for study by the Condon group was incorrectly defined, and...
- (b) the Committee studied the wrong problem."

To close, here is the great philosopher William James, writing in 1895 of his own university of Harvard: his words are as true today as when they were first uttered:

"There is included in human nature an ingrained naturalism and materialism of mind which can only admit facts that are actually tangible. Of this sort of mind the entity called 'Science' is the idol. Fondness for the word 'scientist' is one of the notes by which you may know its votaries; and its short way of killing any opinion that it disbelieves in is to call it 'unscientific'. It must be granted that there is no slight excuse for this. Science has made such glorious leaps in the last 300 years ... that it is no wonder if the worshippers of Science lose their heads. In this very University, accordingly, I have heard more than one teacher say that all the fundamental conceptions of truth have already been found by Science, and that the future has only the details of the picture to fill in. But the slightest reflection on the real conditions will suffice to show how barbaric such notions are. They show such a lack of scientific imagination that it is hard to see how one who is actively advancing any part of Science can make a statement so crude. Think how many absolutely new scientific conceptions have arisen in our generation, how many new problems have been formulated that were never thought of before, and then cast an eye upon the brevity of Science's career. Is this credible that such a mushroom knowledge, such a growth overnight as this, can represent more than the minutest glimpse of what the universe will really prove to be when adequately understood? No! Our Science is but a drop, our ignorance a sea. Whatever else be certain, this at least is certain: that the world of our present natural knowledge is enveloped in a larger world of some sort, of whose residual properties we at present can frame no positive idea."

Book Review

UFO's — a scientific debate

edited by Carl Sagan and Thornton Page
Cornell University Press, pp 310, £5.65

Books on UFOs tend not to be holistic in approach. At their best, they are the work of one man attempting to survey a very wide and complex field (eg Hynek's UFO Experience—see *New Scientist*, vol 54, p 250) or of a group that does not take as much into account as it could (eg Condon's Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects). But at their worst, they are tendentious journalism of the most irresponsible kind. To avoid these pitfalls, Professors Sagan and Page have gathered contributions from a journalist, a sociologist, a psychologist, two psychiatrists, physicists, and astronomers (mostly the latter). The papers were first presented at a symposium of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

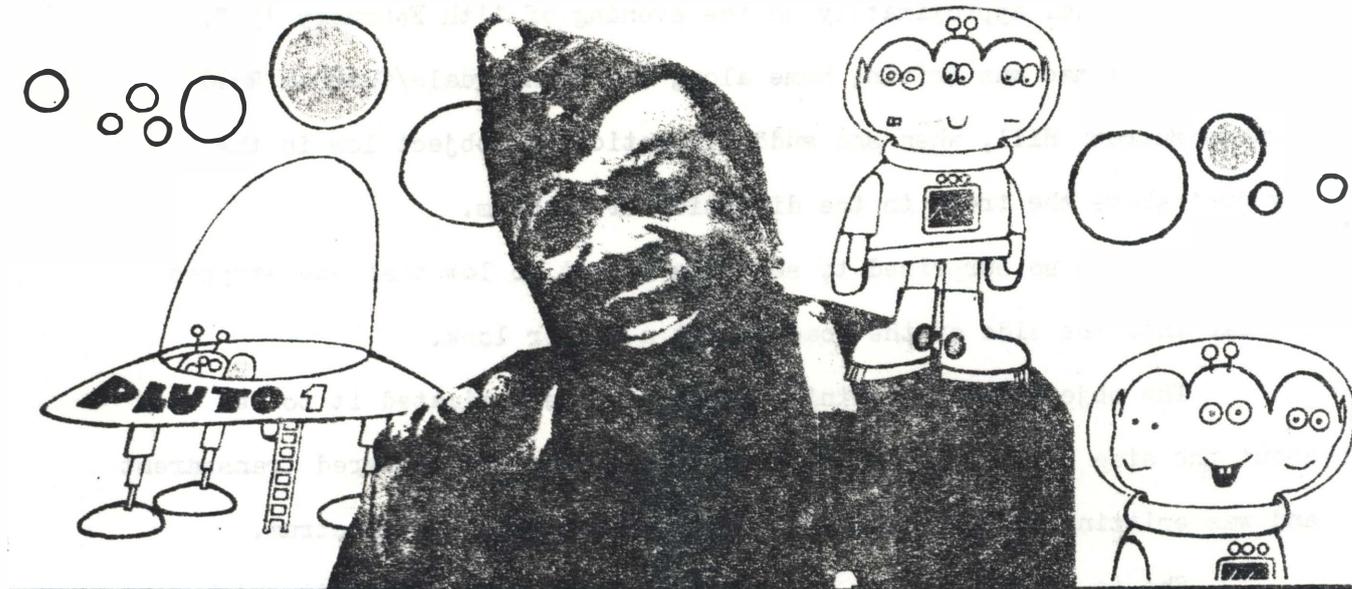
UFO's—a Scientific Debate begins with a listing of selected UFO cases, several of which to my knowledge have not been adequately refuted inside the pages of the Condon Report or outside. These cases are among numerous observations referred to by the 16 contributors.

The most original contributions are the papers on unusual radar echoes, motion pictures of UFOs, and the complex social and psychological aspects of UFOs which have been so readily ignored in the past. Anti-UFO campaigner Donald Menzel lists the phenomena that can account for most UFOs, but Allen Hynek deals with those cases that familiar phenomena don't seem to explain. Atmospheric scientist James McDonald is most outspoken in his belief that there is something to the UFO problem. But others, such as astronomer William Hartmann, maintain that close investigation and better data will reveal rational explanations for all cases. In two excellent summary chapters, Carl Sagan and Philip Morrison let the observational evidence stand, but deflate the extraterrestrial hypothesis for UFOs.

Conclusions? Draw your own, but admire the courage of the AAAS for holding such a well-balanced symposium. Sobering reading for both enthusiasts and skeptics.

Ian Ridpath

"Radio Uganda broadcast yesterday that President Amin had reported sighting a mysterious flying object, descending and then taking off again over Lake Victoria."
The Times



GOOD evenin', world! You no doubt been readin' in de famous *Times* newspaper and elsewhere about me seein' off this Thing what are landing in Uganda, hub of civilisation, last Saturday dinner-time. I ain't normally one to rush out wid de wile claims, but as, on dis occasion, de affair concern de entire world on account of how dis Thing planning to take us all over and turn de planet into soup, I reckon you got a right to know how you was saved.

I was jus' coming back from chucking out de Cabinet and working out an ad for de papers about all these pretty good cars now on de market, what wid de owners concerned currently kicking their heels in chokey prior to gettin' put up against de wall, when I see dis green light hoverin' over Lake Idi, formerly Victoria. It look about de size of Wemmerbly footer pitch, and it going like the famous clappers before stoppin' for the ole hoverin', and I say to myself "Hum, dis are indubitably a Unknown Flyin' Object! Point is, are it comin' direct from God to his chum Idi, an' possibly containin' large numbers of ackers with a view to wipin' out de National Debt, or are it somethin' less appealin', i.e. some Asian bastard in a secret weapon, it gonna cause untold damage?"

Years of de well-known diplomatic training now comin' out, I creep up on de Thing and pull out de famous Webley -45, on account of if it come from God it prob'ly bulletproof, an' if it come from Calcutta or Southall or somewhere sim'lar, a hole in de head is best for openers. Anyhow, just as I linin' up de sights, dis door opens an' a tall green item wid three heads come down de steps.

"What-ho," it say wid de far left head, "you mus' be de famous Nearly Field-Marshal Idi Amin Esq., wot we all hearin' so much about on Pluto and neighbourhood."

"That me," I reply, "you talkin' pretty good English fo' a dog. How Donald Duck keepin'?"

"Har! Har!" go all the heads, pussonally I don't see what's so funny, dese green bastards got a damn' queer sense of humour if you ask me.

"Wot you after?" I ask them, wantin' to get to de point, on account of I already overdue for a coupla shootings and a bit of

de ole toenail-pullin' and I ain't ever gonna get to de Odeon at dis rate, either.

"Well, we gettin' de word where you is shapin' up as King of de World," say de Thing. "It lookin' like de White lot has finally woun' up business, and you indubitably Top Nig, anyhow dat de way it lookin' from Pluto. We Greens is gettin' a whole different perspective, especially wid de three heads. So what we offerin' is a merger, we got an expanding population, lot of Plutonians standin' round scratchin' de bum on account of unemployment, what we got in mind is unloadin' a coupla million surplus Greens, you got a lotta space here, jus' what we lookin' for."

"Suppose me and the world say no?" I says.

"Any of that," say de Thing, "and we turnin' on the well-known death-ray wot we gettin' from sendin' up de Kelloggs packets, gonna be a lotta things goin' *BLAT!* and *KAPOW!* and similar. You no doubt a student of de *Hotspur* etcetera and know we ain't bluffin'."

He got me there.

"Look," I reply, "it sound to me like wot you needin' on Pluto ain't so much a reduction in popperlation as a few damn good organisers, a few topline Cabinet Ministers, Generals, Bishops, that kind of item, we got top blokes here, soon get things sorted out, soon whackin' out de ole Gross National Product fit to bust a gut. These here Asians is bloody first class organisers, best thing is I crate up a few dozens and send 'em off along wid de Ministers and so forth. Got more'n enough here. Surplus to requirements."

The Thing amble about a bit after that, scratchin' de various bonces, and he come back and say, "Right-ho, King, we gonna try it your way first off. Anything go wrong, we gonna come back here and step on your face."

Then he climb back in UFO and eff off, very quick.

He comin' back, though. On a regular basis. So I jus' want to say, apart from pointin' out that the world bin saved once again by a genius of the stature of Attila, Hitler, Nelson Eddy etcetera, that if anyone notice people vanishin' from Uganda over the next few months, not to worry, they all doin' damn good on Pluto and makin' a few bob.

SIGHTING AT CHOBHAM

At 6 p.m. approximately on the evening of 11th February 1973, Mrs C. Rouffignac was driving home along the Sunningdale/Chobham Road towards Burrow Hill, when she suddenly noticed an object low in the sky just above the trees in the direction of Chobham.

She was so surprised to see this object so low that she stopped the car into the side of the road to get a better look.

The object had no definite shape but she estimated it to be about the size of a small aircraft and was oblong and appeared transparent and was emitting coloured lights, ranging throughout the spectrum.

She is, however, very familiar with the small aircraft which fly from the nearby Fair Oaks Airport and is convinced that it was not one of these, particularly as it was flying dangerously low.

It was a clear night and, therefore, she would have expected to recognise the object if it had been an aeroplane.

The object was visible for about 15 seconds and then it just disappeared behind the trees. She could not say for certain in which direction it went.

She has never seen anything like this before and does not know very much about UFO's but she felt that it was one and after talking to her husband made several unsuccessful attempts to report this to a UFO group, which she eventually did through a public library. It is unfortunate that Woking Police Station is not aware of our organisation.

It has come to my knowledge that there were several other sightings in the Chobham/Egham area around this time in February. There appear to be no other witnesses to this particular sighting.

Carol Godsell

FACT OR FOLKLORE

Dan Butcher

Frequent mention is made in world mythology of a basket being lowered from the sky by some god or culture hero. We have already told the story of Algon, the young Indian hunter who encountered such an aerial vehicle near a strange ring-mark on the prairie (PEGASUS Vol.1. No.4); and that of the sky-brothers Maka Tafaki and Karisi Bum who lowered a basket down to the New Hebridean island of Efate (PEGASUS Vol.2, No.5). The inference is that this so-called 'basket' was what we today would call a Flying Saucer or UFO. Even modern witnesses sometimes employ the same simile, as for instance did a housewife of Hammond, Indiana, in 1957 (Alexander Mebane in Michel's Flying Saucers and the straight line mystery, p. 268).

As in the case of our modern Flying Saucer, the legendary aerial basket was a means of transporting humans, animals, plants, stones and other items to and from the surface of the earth. A tale from Mangaia speaks of a sky-cannibal letting down a basket, capturing a man and hauling him up into the sky by it (R.B. Dixon, Oceanic Mythology, p. 62), thus paralleling the abduction exploits of our contemporary ufonauts. Conversely, the brothers Maka Tafaki and Karisi Bum released on earth certain animals and food plants. A similar story is told by the Thompson River Indians of how Coyote's son came down to the earth in a basket from which he distributed food animals for people to live on (H.B. Alexander, North American Mythology, p.136).

Coyote's son, we note, was made of quartz crystal, a circumstance to be compared with a modern report of a UFO contact at Torres Beach, Brazil, 1968, where the two ufonauts appeared to be made of crystal (Flying Saucer Review, Vol. 14, No.6); and of another account of a UFO entity encountered at Bourasole, near Toulouse, 1954, who was wearing a "suit like glass". Quartz crystal is a substance which is always cropping up in the UFO reports, and here we might observe its equal prominence in the accounts of shamanism. Shamans frequently claim that their bodies were stuffed with crystals during their initiation experiences. They also aver that they are enabled to fly into the sky by means of these same stones.

In the myths, the entity responsible for the propulsion of the basket is frequently associated with the spider. And so, in a story from the West Coast of America, we hear of ten brothers being hauled into the sky by Spider Woman. This particular basket, however, was set alight, and the brothers fell to earth, burnt to death (Alexander,

N.A.M. p. 229). Again, we note the incendiary proclivities of the contemporary UFO.

The reason why the operating entity is associated with the spider is because the spider spins a fine thread. Quite often it is by this thread alone that the subject in the myth climbs to the upper world, and there is no mention of a basket or any other aerial vehicle. There is reason to believe that the thread stands for the 'astral cord' by means of which the out-of-the-body projector makes his ecsomatic excursions, and that the ascent into the sky is a metaphor for just such an excursion. Out-of-the-body travellers frequently soar into the sky; they commonly describe the cord as appearing like a spider's thread; and they often speak of travelling along this thread. Other cognate mythological and ecsomatic homologues of the threadlike appearance of the cord are strings and magic hairs.

As to the thread attached to the basket we find a number of allusions in the UFO reports of objects from which dangle filaments (Michel, F.S. & the S.L.M. pp. 70,208); "a rope like a spider's web" (F.S.R. 11.6.20); a "threadlike beam" (F.S.R. 14.2.29); "a very fine, luminous white thread" (UFO Percipients, p. 10), etc. and etc. We are reminded of the Biblical metaphor of the silver thread and the golden bowl (Ecclesiastes, XII, 6,7) which describes the ecsomatic apparatus of the human being. A Cherokee myth which reconciles the simile of the bowl with the basket tells of a water-spider who spun a thread and wove it into a tusti bowl, and by this means was enabled to bring a live coal (= 'fire') to the earth. (Alexander, N.A.M. p.61)

The 'basket' of these myths we may take to be a description of the mass of ecsomatic substance which is sometimes extruded from the physical body during the out-of-the-body experience. It is often luminous; of globular, ovoid and other forms; and sometimes has a webbed or net-like appearance. It is formed on the axis of the threadlike cord; and the projector frequently finds himself enmeshed within it, so that it seems as if he is being carried along by it. As this substance is reputed to be highly ideoplastic, it is likely to take on any form at a moment's notice. Such a 'Basket' could instantaneously take on the aspect of the classic Flying Saucer with all its attributes.

NATIONAL SKYWATCH

SATURDAY JUNE 23 marks the 26th anniversary of Kenneth Arnolds sighting of seven gleaming discs over Mount Rainier in the United States of America.

It has been decided that SIGAP once again will participate in the National Skywatch. The rendezvous for all participants is to be at Guildford Railway Station (Main Entrance) and those wishing to attend should be there at 6.30 pm on June 23rd. The party will then proceed to a suitable location on or near Chobham Common in the vicinity of the Bees Wedding (see National Ordnance Survey Map).

The change in location has been decided at the AGM because it was thought that Pewley Down is commonly used by members of the general public, who often tend to distract us from the task of observing unusual phenomena.

Please bring any equipment that you feel would be of use.

All enquiries to:

SPECIAL PROJECTS DIRECTOR: Richard C. Beet
Cranleigh 4420

SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena was held on Tuesday 8th May, 1973 in the Garden Room of Guildford House, Guildford. Sixteen members were in attendance.

The following nominees were elected to the Board.

RESEARCH DIRECTOR: Omar F. Fowler, Esq., M.I.S.M.

Nominated: R C Beet
Seconded : Miss C Godsell

INVESTIGATIONS CO-ORDINATOR: Miss Carol F. Godsell

Nominated: R C Beet
Seconded : M E C Mercer

SPECIAL PROJECTS DIRECTOR: Richard C Beet, Esq., FRAS AFBIS

Nominated: C F Fowler
Seconded : N Godsell

ADMINISTRATION DIRECTOR: Michael G. Prewett AFBIS

Nominated: F. Sholl
Seconded: N. Godsell

Chairman C. F. Fowler

Nominated: R C Beet
Seconded : M G Prewett

Ordinary Members:

Michael E. C. Mercer

Nominated: O Fowler
Seconded : R C Beet

Richard P. Colborne

Nominated: M G Prewett
Seconded : O F Fowler

The Statement of accounts, which is enclosed with this issue, was approved and passed by the Annual General Meeting.

Because of the healthy balance of £28.75, due mainly to the free production of the past two issues of the Journal, it was agreed that SIGAP would pay off its £14 debt outstanding on the SIGAP duplicator.

Reports by the Investigations Co-ordinator and Chairman were also presented to the meeting.

SURREY INVESTIGATION GROUP ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

Administration Director: M. G. Prewett, Esq., A.F.B.I.S.
20 Loman Road, Mytchett, Camberley, Surrey.

The Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena is a voluntary research organisation formed in May, 1967 to investigate reports of Unidentified Flying Objects, better known as UFO's or 'flying saucers'.

UFO's have been seen for thousands of years. They are even mentioned in the Bible and the ancient Sanskrit books, although the number of reported sightings has increased substantially since the late 1940's.

SIGAP's aim is to investigate ALL sightings, no matter how bizarre they may be, in the hope that one day we, and groups like us, will eventually get to the bottom of this tantalising mystery.

The affairs of SIGAP are controlled by annually elected officers. Special consultants, including an optical physicist, and a satellite expert in the Space Department of the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough, help us to evaluate sighting reports.

SIGAP publishes 'PEGASUS', a bi-monthly Journal containing details of topical news, comment, investigations, information about the Group, many articles by members and other interesting news items.

SIGAP is affiliated to the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association, and close co-operation is maintained between the two.

Members receive FREE of charge the Journal, have the use of a book, magazine and tape library, and can attend the Group's meetings held in Guildford. SIGAP also takes part in a number of organised skywatches held each year.

If you are genuinely interested in the UFO enigma, and would care to join our ranks, please complete and return the application form below. The Annual Subscription to the Group is £1.50. Student Members between 14 and 18 years old, still engaged in full time education need only pay 75p. In this case some evidence of full time education is needed to support the application for candidates between 16 and 18.

SURREY INVESTIGATION GROUP ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

Administration Director: M G Prewett Esq.,
20 Loman Road, Mytchett, Camberley, Surrey.

Application for Membership

Full Name _____ Prof/Dr/Mr/Mrs/Miss

Address _____

Age _____ Telephone No. _____ Academic, Technical or Profes-

sional Qualifications _____

Do you have any observing equipment, If so, what? _____

Would you like to act as an Area Investigator _____ (This basically means
visiting people in your area if necessary).

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

PLEASE SIGN AND ENCLOSE PAYMENT

CHEQUES, P.O.'s PAYABLE TO SIGAP

* Approved:
* Membership No:
* Date: