

STRANGE PHENOMENA

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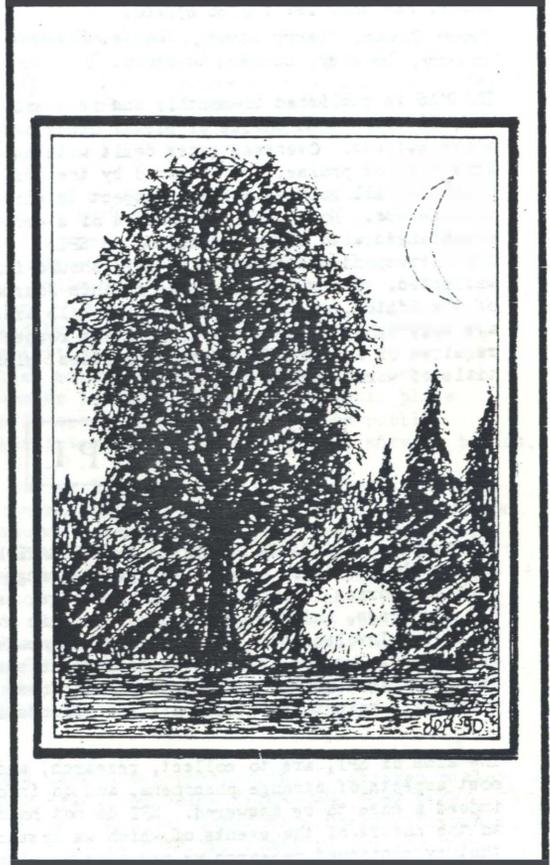
INVESTIGATIONS

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Unbiased Accounts
Involving Unusual
Occurrences And, As
Yet ... Undiscovered
Sciences Ghosts
U.F.O.'s And Other
Items Of Weird And
Wonderful
Phenomena!

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SCOTLAND

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**A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

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S. P. I.

The purpose of STRANGE PHENOMENA INVESTIGATIONS as an organisation, is defined clearly by its title - to investigate strange phenomena in its many categories. Such categories include reported hauntings, ie, apparitions, poltergeist events, UFO sightings, and various forms of psychic events. SPI was conceived in principle in 1979. Involvement in SPI is more than academic beyond the appeal of the subject as a study. We are drawn to it because we share the mutual opinion that the subject demands investigation and a definite awareness on as wide a scale as possible, and which will help to establish a firmer foundation that, "There Are Such Things".

The aims of SPI, are to collect, research, and publish, accounts relating to most aspects of strange phenomena, and to inform the general public that there is indeed a case to be answered. SPI do not hold or express any strict viewpoint as to the nature of the events of which we research, we keep an open mind, and hope that by continued research we may come up with some answers to account for what at present eludes us.

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EDITORIAL.



We have to be very careful in dealing with 'apparent' psychic photographs, for in this great technological age the ingenuity of man is very clever, and the trickery involved in big Cinema productions, the 'special effects', are a wonder to behold. The same can be said for the camera. Different lenses, filters, and added effects, can create the most stunning effects in which the double exposure method is a prime example.

Alleged 'spirit photographs' have been with us since the early beginning of the camera. During and after the Great War of 1914-1918, many British and Commonwealth soldiers lost their lives, and the quest by their family to contact their loved ones through mediums was rife. Camera technology was basically still in it's infancy, and certain unscrupulous individuals decided to cash in on families grief by giving 'psychic photo sessions'. And by using scraps of obtained 'previous' photographs of a person, and by reversing the pose, and generally 'touching up' the photograph, lo, a spirit photograph was obtained. Spirit photography helped fuel the Spiritualist movement, and the idea and alleged 'proof' that your loved ones could be made to appear on a photographic plate set the scene for further individuals to set up shop and deceive the public. The camera was a money making tool, and interest in the camera then knew no bounds.

They say that the camera never lies, but as I've pointed out, it most certainly can. The knowledgeable photographer can manipulate, by various means, a situation whereby creating the effect of a paranormal event. So many alleged paranormal photographs have been taken, that we wonder, "well surely some must be genuine"? To this I would reply that some indeed are, but again, what this tells us is as yet unclear. Owing to advanced computer technology, various alleged psychic photographs have been put to the test, and run the gauntlet so to speak. Edge enhancement, colour contouring, pixel separation, shading, etc etc, have been applied, and through these means many UFO/Ghost/Psychic and other paranormal photographs, have bit the dust. A case in point would be the Peter Beard Barnsley UFO photograph. Through the application of computer, this particular photograph also bit the dust.

So whilst it can be very easy to fake a paranormal photograph, it is even easier to clarify whether it is a hoax. Billy Meir, the Swiss farmer who took many photographs of UFOs near his farm in Hinwal, was uncovered as a hoaxer through computer application on his photographs with fine thread lines supporting his clever UFO models. The Cottingly Fairy photographs were uncovered as hoaxed by computer, the list is endless. On page 26 of this Journal, the reader can view an alleged photograph taken which purports to be the Blessed Virgin Mary, this photograph is currently being assessed in order to clarify again, whether it is in fact genuine or not. I'm fully aware of the fact that psychic 'extras' can appear under the most normal circumstances, ie, holiday snaps etc, in which when developed we find a ghostly image, a UFO etc, lens flare plays a big part in some UFO photographs, but we cannot ignore the fact that from time to time added 'images' do turn up on photographic film. And, like all things SPI do, we are committed to enquiring why, and to look into the wonders of psychic pictures.

THE 'YETI' by

Malcolm Robinson.



Over the last one hundred years, many reports have come in from parts of the world of a man like beast who walks upright, and is covered by shaggy brown red hair. These animals, or creatures, are quite unknown to modern science they have many names, but in the region of the Himalayan mountains, the name given is, "Yeti", or, "The Abominable Snowman". Its cousin the "Sasquatch", (or Bigfoot), is also a man like beast, very similar to the 'Yeti', and is said to roam the remote forests of North America, but more about him later.

The Abominable Snowman is reported to have been seen in the forested areas of the Himalayas, and also higher up the snowfields. It stands upright roughly two metres tall, and its long arms reach just past its knees. It has a hairless face, and reminds one very much of an ape. Of all the expeditions no one yet has been reported to have captured one of the animals, (at least not to our knowledge). Many tracks in the snow, presumably made by the Yeti have been seen by various persons from time to time.

The most famous photographs of these tracks in the snow, were taken by British explorer, Eric Shipton in 1951. Tracks were found in the Menlung Glacier near the Nepal Tibet border. The imprint of the beast's foot was 33cm long, and 20cm wide. They showed an unusually long thick second toe. Whatever made these tracks seems to have walked on its two feet. Legend has it that down through the ages, Tibetan families have told their children of the monkey king who fell in love with, and married, a mountain giantess. Later, this strange union produced a child, a giant 'ape like creature, covered with thick red-brown hair. This was the first Yeti or, 'bominable snowman.



Another tale, equally difficult to believe, comes from India. Pliny wrote about the Silvestres, a race of wild men in India, who had hairy bodies, yellow eyes, long pointed teeth, and communicated by means of horrible shrieks. Could these men be related to our friend the Abominable Snowman ?

Roger Bacon, one of the best educated men on the 13th century, accepted the hairy wild man evidence, without reservation. Bacon wrote that in the high rocks of Tibet and China, there dwelt a hairy ape like creature. However, many of the words the Himalayan people were using to refer to these creatures, are very much in dispute. A thorough study of the many names for the snowman was undertaken by the Indian scholar, Sri Swami Pranavananda. He concludes that some of the names attributed to the Snowman, are really references to bears. The word "Yeti" was meant to describe a mythical monster totally different to what we are searching for. One of the best native reports for the existence of the Snowman comes from the famed Sherpa Tensing Norgay, who along with Sir Edmund Hilary, first scaled Mount Everest, (but you already knew that readers, didn't you ?)

Tensing Norgay himself didn't actually see the Snowman, but relates the story of how his father sighted the creature many years ago. The creature was only about five feet tall, and seemingly had an 'enraged temper'. Tensing senior rounded up his yaks into a stone hut to protect them from this beast, but the creature began to tear the roof from the hut, and to throw stones about. Finally the elder Tensing was able to build a fire and frighten the animal off. He describes the creature as having thick red-brown hair all over its body, except for its face, and having a high conical skull.

In 1942, seven Polish prisoners of war, escaped from a Soviet labour camp in Siberia. It seems that as the men crossed the Himalayas on their way to India they saw two creatures on a rocky shelf, about 90 metres away. The creatures again were covered by the same thick red-brown hair, in common with all the other sightings. They were quite sure that these were no common apes or bears. After some time, the creatures moved on.

Another sighting of the Snowman was reported by a Mr. N.A. Tombazi, a Greek photographer, who, in 1925, was serving as a member of the Royal Geographic Expedition. He was camping at an altitude of some fifteen thousand feet, in the mountains of Sikkim, when his porters pointed out to him, something strange moving across the lower slopes. The intense brightness of the snow, prevented Mr. Tombazi from seeing anything at first, but soon he could make out a figure not unlike a human being, (apart from the thick hair), striding across the snow. Presently it was lost to view, and the short duration of the sighting prevented Mr. Tombazi from setting up any tele-photo camera, or binoculars in time.

So, positive proof was again lost to the world. A small consolation was that later, during his descent, MR. Tombazi made a slight detour to see whether or not any physical evidence remained. And sure enough, there was a clear line of footprints in the snow. They were similar to a man's, the only difference being the trace of the heel was indistinct, and the little that could be seen of the print, seemed to narrow down to a point. He made enquiries, and learned that no man had been in that area since the beginning of the year.

The British Mountaineer Sir John Hunt, later said, "It's by far the best evidence of the reti that has come to my personal knowledge". But fleeting glimpses and footprints seem to be the only 'real' ? evidence of the existence of the Abominable Snowman. However, one must remember that some footprints examined in the snow by teams of experts some days after a sighting, seem to be more enormous through the gradual melting of the snow by the sun. This of course is not the case when the prints are viewed minutes after a sighting.

Many people misinterpret Langur monkeys for the Abominable Snowman, and so on but the fact is after all the misinterpretations have been taken into account there still seems to be a substantial number of good sightings that have been made by down to earth, credible people, who know monkeys and their like when they see them. There is a drawing of an alleged Snowman in an 18th Century Chinese manuscript on tibetan wildlife. It shows a stocky, manlike creature whose head tapers towards a furry point. On top, the face is hairless, with deep sunk red eyes, the body is covered with short coarse brown hair, and his arms seem to dangle down to his knees. Unfortunately, a size cannot be estimated from the manuscript, but this seems very much like our friend the Snowman.

Most scientists now believe that if the Snowman does exist, he may live in the tangled forests at the middle altitude of the Himalayas. Who knows what species of monstrous primitives might live there. The undergrowth in those parts is so thick in places, that one would need the sharpest of machetes to penetrate it. Only a creature born into these conditions could travel with ease. As recently as 1975, a Nepalese police officer recorded a statement from a mountain girl called, Chakapa, who said that she got an excellent view of the beast as it ripped the throat of her only cow, and killed her yaks by smashing their heads with its huge fists. The police officer was convinced that what the girl had seen was a Yeti, for no other beast could have mutilated her animals in such a way.

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as 'Big-Foot. The first 'reported' sighting of Big-Foot, the Snowman's cousin was in 1811. Since then hundreds and hundreds of more sightings have followed mostly in the regions of Oregon, the states of Washington, British Columbia, and California.

One of the most interesting stories to capture the public's imagination, happened at a place called Bluff Creek, in the state of California. In October 1967, Roger Patterson and his friend, Bob Gimlin, rode out into the wilderness, lured by stories that Big-Foot had been sighted in the area. For almost four years these men had been searching various other regions where Big-Foot had been sighted, but their biggest break was about to come. On Friday October 20th 1967, they were camped on the west bank of Bluff Creek. Patterson had been photographing the scenery and wild life that morning, but in the afternoon the men had spent a great deal of time searching around for any tracks or signs of Big-Foot.

Suddenly as they approached a stream bed, they noticed that up ahead lay a log jam, a pile of logs at least 15 feet high. But what surprised both men, was a huge ape-like creature moving from behind the log jam. On seeing this creature the horses panicked and reared up. Patterson found himself trapped under his horse. After struggling free, he managed to get his cine camera out, and ran after this strange beast. He took this great opportunity, and shot some footage of cine film, but in a matter of seconds it was all over, and the creature was gone. Another small consolation was that the creature had left some large footprints in the soft sand of the stream. After taking plaster casts of these prints, the men set off home.

When the film was developed, they suffered a lot of public ridicule, people saying that it had all been a hoax, but the facts remain to this day, and it has never been proved, (to my knowledge), to have been a hoax. After taking evaluations of the film and the tracks, experts have declared that the depth of the tracks left by Big-Foot ranged between 350 to 800 pounds. Hundreds of other reports have been received from other credible witnesses, and evaluated by experts in that field. After their tests, they state that their findings show that something large and hairy, and most certainly unknown to modern science, is roaming around isolated parts of North America. And so, until such times as definite proof, other than sightings, footprints, etc are received the Snowman and Big-Foot I'm afraid, will elude us for the time being.

(c) Malcolm Robinson, SPI. From an article written several years ago in which source references have been mislaid.

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OUT OF THE FOG by anthony north.

Psychic research is in a pickle. Since the advent of logical study in 1882, what have researchers achieved? Zilch. Not one incidence of psychic phenomena has been proved to have taken place. There have been minor in-roads, such as the application of cryptomnesia to cases of re-incarnation, but even these have mainly been formulated by people outside the circle, as it were. There are two possible reasons for this failure. First, psychic phenomena does not exist. We've all been deluding ourselves, following an impossible dream. Or second, we've been barking up the wrong tree. But which one is correct? Perhaps both, let me explain.

The supernatural. Psychic phenomena. Paranormal. Three popular terms for the unexplained. What do they have in common? They exclude such abilities from normality. We have assumed that they are gifts not related to normal life, we have relegated them to quirks of nature, saying things such as, 'that person is psychic', as if the normal person is not. This attitude relegates psychic phenomena to a position of no importance. We moan about the attitude the media has regarding the phenomena, classing it as a great big joke. Well maybe we've only got ourselves to blame. It's us who relegated it to a quirk in the first place. Then we moan about science not taking the subject seriously. Why should they if it seems that it is of no relevance? Why waste millions on something of no apparent use?

People say that science is the understanding of nature. Years ago this might have been right, but now its simply crap. Science is the understanding of those parts of nature that show technological and commercial advantages. If we want to stop the media making fools of us; if we want science to take us seriously; if we want to find out what is really going on; then its time to sit back and look very closely at what we're doing. Psychic manifestations carry tags, re-incarnation, telepathy,

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spirit communication, ghosts, life after death, premonition etc. Think about them for a minute. Let's take life after death. Do you believe in it? Yes? Then define what it is. Pin it down in exact philosophical and scientific terms. For instance, what element of life survives death? Is it the physical body? Clearly not, we can see that rot. Then it must be the soul. But what is this? Well, you can take your pick which explanation you prefer; and they're all essentially mystical, tenuous and unproveable. But let's look at what we KNOW survives death.

There are essentially, two parts of us that survive. First of all, if, before death, we have produced an offspring, then our genetic make up survives in the genes of that child. Second, memories of our life survives in the minds of those who knew us. From here I would ask, what IS LIFE? What do we know about it for certain? We know that life consists of a human body (the genetic structure), and that part of us that interacts with society, and reflects upon that society, in a non physical way, (our mind). And, as I have pointed out both these elements DO survive death due to inherited genetic characteristics and memories in other people's minds.

These points are important, because they show that life is more than the sum of the individual. It is, essentially, communal. And seeing life in this way we can grasp at the concept of the communality of a species. Evolution grasps this concept in a physical, genetic sense, but by applying the same rule to the mind, it is logical to assume a similar process akin to DNA and acquired characteristics, existing with the mind. Genetic characteristics are not the only way that our forebears shape contemporary man. We are also shaped by the thoughts of our ancestors. We may not have found the mechanism yet, as has been found with DNA, but seen in this way, it must exist. We feel these thoughts every day through instinct, impulse, and deja vu.

Arthur C Clarke once wrote, 'Today we not only lack a Newton or Einstein of the paranormal, we still await its Aristotle'... I believe these words to be untrue. We HAVE had our Aristotle. His name was Carl Jung. Within his theories of the 'collective racial unconscious', he encapsulated the communality of the minds of man. He gave credence to the concept of inherited, innate memories being passed on through the generations. But we mis-understood what he was saying. We bastardised the concept into that ridiculous cliché, the 'group mind', as if, somewhere, there was this huge brain which we all input like a computer terminal.

If we put this analogy to acquired genetic characteristics, then it's the same as saying there's a massive gene shop that hands out genes. This concept is ridiculous. There IS no gene megastore, but each and every one of us has our own corner shop. I suggest the collective unconscious works in a similar way. Basically, we all have within us, and individual to us, a little memory shop that is overstocked and brimming with thoughts and images of our entire past. I suppose the best way of looking at it is to class 'mind' as an energy. And as any scientist will tell you, energy CANNOT be destroyed. And this is Life After Death.

But it is much more. It is a data bank of information. In it are the lives of our ancestors which could, conceivably, be re-incarnated in our present life, or manifested as if a spirit; perhaps even hallucinated as a ghost, (now think about that for a moment readers, Ed). And it could also filter up contemporary information, such as the fact that a friend or relative has just died, giving the impression of telepathy.

There is an important message here, hinting that we HAVE been barking up the wrong tree. It is saying that re-incarnation, ghosts, spirit manifestations and telepathy do NOT exist. They are merely various explanations to account for a single phenomena, inherited memory. And it will only be when we accept this principle, that understanding can come concerning the paranormal. There IS no multitude of phenomena. We simply have tags to confuse us. Look behind those tags and investigate the communality of our species. And in doing that we may understand how important psychic research really is. It might tell us that when we kill, or hurt another thing, then a part of that hurt exists within our own minds. Through psychic research we could find the true road to peace.

(c) Anthony North.

EDITOR'S COMMENT.

Well, how truly though provoking that piece was, I suggest that you read this again a few times and really digest it. Publishing a piece like this may provoke howls of disdain from some of our readers, but ENIGMAS is here to open your minds to all aspects of differing ideas on psychic phenomenon. We must, after all, look down all roads till we reach and find the right one, and only then will it have all been worthwhile. Definetly more from Anthony North in future issues of ENIGMAS.

THE PSYCHIC AND THE UFO.

BY Malcolm Robinson.



M. ROBINSON.

The UFO phenomenon is as we know, very puzzling. The many factors involved suggest that there is indeed, 'something going on'. But what? And in what department do they belong? Some psychologists would suggest that it's all in the mind, and that great philosopher Carl Jung believed so. However Carl Jung did in fact change his way of thinking at the latter stages of his life. I have mentioned before that although most anyone may at one time witness a UFO, I feel that the more psychic one is, the more I believe his or her chances will be to observe these strange objects.

I know of a good few people in this country, and abroad, who are very psychic and claim many UFO sightings, we call these people, 'repeater witnesses'. Indeed the work carried out by Ken Philips of the U.K. has shown through the use of the Anamnesis Project, (a thorough study of the witness), that UFO witnesses have a high psychic ability. But does this indeed enable these more psychically attuned people to witness a UFO more than the ordinary Joe Bloggs?

I remember I conducted research on a UFO witness a few years back, of whom I found through investigation, to be quite psychically gifted. One of this lady's more better UFO sightings occurred in September 1983 above the village of westquarter near Falkirk, Central Scotland. Mrs Middleton, a 43 year old house wife, was taking her dog for an evening walk. It was around 11.30pm, and as she was walking near some small hills just outside the housing estate, her attention was drawn up into the clear night sky to an object of which she called a 'huge starship'? It came slowly down over the hills, in which she observed six windows, these windows were inverted and square. She also observed some bright lights on this object, most intense at the front. To the rear of the object was a 'yellowish light'. The object she described to me, was that of round on the bottom with a dome on top, (the classic UFO shape of hollywood). It's colour she defined to me as a sort of brown metallic, with little white dots ingrained within it.

In her written testimony she writes, "...As it came over the top of the hill I was fascinated and very curious. I would have loved to have seen more, however, after a short period of time, the yellowish rear lights sort of dimmed, then went out, which left the bright lights at the front still on. After a moment, these lights then went out and the object climbed and ascended diagonally upwards until it reached a small cluster of stars. It then stopped in the middle of these cluster of stars, it looked then, no more or less than any other normal star." This then is how Mrs Middleton described in part, her encounter to me, I've visited her many times since the initial report and went through this encounter with her personally.

She further related to me that she did not feel any fear at the time of the sighting, in fact, she stated that she felt 'very secure' and would have loved to have been able to look inside this object, (wouldn't we all?). Mrs

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Middleton has in fact witnessed a number of other "starships" as she puts it but never has she witnessed one so close. As I mentioned at the start of this article, it is my belief, that quite possibly, the more one is in tune with the 'psychic spectrum', the more one is able to perceive things which are lost to others. This can be applied to other aspects of psychic phenomena. I am aware though, that a good number of non-psychics do indeed witness UFOs, but in my own research, and I would mention again the work done by Ken Philips, that a good percentage of 'repeater' witnesses share a faculty of the psychic nature.

My investigations into the Moffat UFO sightings, (Dumfriesshire, Scotland), in the late 70's and early 80's, uncovered another psychic 'repeater' witness by the name of Joyce Byres, who has witnessed a good number of UFOs. ENIGMAS shall feature this research in later issues. One must also remember that classic UFO case back in the early 1960's, that of Betty and Barney Hill which has been written up in countless UFO books. One probably remembers most though the book written by John Fuller entitled, 'The Interrupted Journey'. We learned from this that Betty Hill has had psychic ability from an early age, perhaps this ability was predominant in bringing about the initial encounter, and maybe, by being with Betty, Barney was also able to perceive and have his contact. I do realise that I am probably taking my point a bit far here, but it should be considered.



We must also consider the psychics visual perception in the highly publicised incident that occurred at Fatima in Portugal back in 1917, in which three girls claimed to have witnessed the Virgin Mary. Many people attended these sacred meetings but only the girls involved, claimed the visual interpretation of the Virgin Mary, although, it must be said, others in the crowd saw 'different things'?

But incidents such as Fatima, have occurred elsewhere, namely in the small village of Garabandal in Spain, in which again, claims were made by three girls of a vision of the Virgin Mary. And in fact there have been claims from other parts of the world in which sightings of the Virgin Mary have occurred. While it would be wise to be critical of such incidents, we should in no way neglect the fact that at least to the principle girls involved, they each shared a visual experience of profound pleasure and joyity, the psychic experience given to them was of a profound magnitude. They were chosen to receive this psychic experience. Let us not forget though, that another common factor was prevalent at Fatima, this was the observation, by many people, of aerial phenomenon.

The witnessing of 'flashing lights', furthered by the appearance of glowing globes which intensified on the date of October 13th 1917, in which a crowd of roughly 70,000 people observed the arrival of a brilliant 'pearly disc', which is said to have rotated on its own axis. The disc is then reported to have dived towards the ground, in which it then moved upwards towards the sky. A substance resembling 'Angels Hair' was seen floating earthwards. It is a distinct possibility that owing to the circumstances of the past events, the projection of this UFO was 'picked up' and 'received' by the watching thousands. They, it would seem, were then subjected to the same conditions as the girls were. Again my interpretation of this event in a psychic sense, may be stretching the bounds of credulity, but if we consider this 'psychic' angle in regards to UFO events, it may make sense. Indeed, Swedish UFO researcher, Bertil Kuhlemann, is now of the belief, that a psychic element is definitely involved with the UFO phenomenon. Like all things though, this angle just adds more speculation onto an already growing range of ideas and possibilities in regards to answering the UFO question. But we should still give it room.

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As it stands at present, we are no further forward in solving the UFO mystery than we were 30 or 40 years ago. We are still witnessing an abundance of unusual shapes and objects. And that is another thing that we have to bear in mind, there are well over 200 UFO shapes. One must find this incredible in itself, I know I certainly do. Are these objects all in the mind then? It would appear not, as radar confirms these objects. Could these sightings be the result of a new and as yet unexplained natural atmospheric phenomenon? something akin to 'Ball Lightning'?

I'm sure that a good percent of UFO reports are of ball lightning. We could go on and on debating the many varied hypothesis, but we would be, I'm sure, no nearer to solving or grasping the 'meaning' of this mystery. Perhaps it may turn out to be so simple that we are overlooking it right now, (we can't see the wood for the trees). Let us not ignore or deny ANY possibility because it doesn't suit what we feel. Let us create research into ALL avenues of thinking. Let us at least reach a foothold on the ladder of understanding taking us to the level of the biggest, or smallest, breakthrough man has yet to encounter.

(c) Malcolm Robinson, Strange Phenomena Investigations.

PROJECT URQUART. 1992.



I now present and quote, from a press release issued by 'Project Urquart' which I received from Rip Hepple an Englishman who edits the Ness Newsletter, (see end of article). This is not the report in full, only an edited version. At long last Loch Ness will be scrutinised more than ever before. Read on.

Project Urquart is an investigation of the complete ecology of Loch Ness including its biology and hydrography. It is a long term initiative to understand the loch authoritatively and definitively. The project which will be funded by commercial sponsorship, is supported by a consortium of the U.K's major scientific institutions. They are led by the freshwater Biological Association of Windermere and the Natural History Museum in London. The project also has the full and formal support of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society and the National museums of Scotland in Edinburgh, and Highlands and Islands Enterprise in Inverness.

Dr Neil Chambers, Director of the Natural History Museum, said, "Loch Ness is one of Britain's most precious freshwater habitats. And yet, remarkably, we know very little about it. The natural history museum feels it is time there was a comprehensive, scientific survey of Loch Ness, to help us understand and protect it."

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Professor Gwynfryn Jones, Director of the freshwater biological association and a member of the council of management of Project Urquart, said, "To explore and understand Loch Ness is a great challenge. It is potentially one of the most exciting such studies to be undertaken in Britain in recent years. We believe it could yield important new information". One of the primary objectives of Project Urquart, will be to establish what species inhabit the loch and how they live. Scientists from the freshwater biological association, and the natural history museum, will be playing a central role in Project Urquart's fieldwork. They will undertake detailed studies of aspects of the loch's environment, including its biology, its chemistry, its algae, plankton, nematode worms and crustaceans, as well as a detailed study of the loch's fish population.

Professor Colin Curds, keeper of Zoology at the natural history museum, and a member of the council of management of Project Urquart, said, "The natural history museum believes there is a great deal of good science to be done at Loch Ness. We do not even have a complete list of the animals and plants that occur there, let alone information relating to its ecology, limnology, and hydrography". The Project will mount a comprehensive survey of the loch using sonar. This will reveal the loch's underwater contours, and its TRUE depth. Sonar will also be used for biological studies, and to establish patterns of underwater activity in the loch. Project Urquart is working with some of the world's leaders in sonar technology.

A co-founder of the Project, is the Broadcaster Nicholas Witchell, who has been intrigued by the loch for more than twenty years. Explaining details of the project's plans at the natural history museum in London, Mr Witchell said, "any reference to Loch Ness inevitably raised the question of 'Nessie'. We said the project would confront the loch Ness mystery, openly and objectively. I emphasise that Project Urquart does NOT think there is a 'monster' in Loch Ness, but there do appear to be several interesting observations that have yet to be explained.

No proper scientific study can totally ignore the anecdotal evidence of unidentified creatures. But we make no assumptions about the cause or nature of these observations. We will investigate Loch Ness as a whole."

Project Urquart intends to begin work in the summer of 1992. It is planning a 3 to 4 year research programme. It will be properly funded by commercial sponsorship. Funding is expected to be in excess of £2 million. "Loch Ness is the most famous freshwater lake in the world", said Mr Witchell, and Project Urquart will stimulate a wide range of high profile activities that we believe will appeal to commercial sponsors who are interested in scientific discovery, and who are attracted by a prestige project.

Project Urquart has been established as a private company, limited by guarantee without share capital. It cannot distribute its profits. The company has made an application for charitable status. Nicholas Witchell said he believed Project Urquart was the scientific investigation for which Loch Ness had been waiting for, for generations. "The project will be serious and scientific in intent, and patient, painstaking and authoritative in application", he said.

"Loch Ness is very big, very deep, and very dark. Its exploration is a huge task, the Everest of the nineties perhaps.

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VIPERFISH WHICH TOOK
PART IN RESEARCH IN
THE YEAR 1969.

but we believe the way to understand more about its mysteries is to understand more about its entire environment. It is time scientists with open minds went to Loch Ness to explore". Nicholas Witchell also made the following remarks at the inaugural meeting on Tuesday 26th March, 1991.

"So far as I can tell, the last time there was a meeting here at the Royal Geographical Society devoted to the subject of Loch Ness, was on the 18th of January 1964. Eighty Seven years ago. And yet Loch Ness is the largest (by volume), freshwater lake in the United Kingdom. Despite its size and importance, I respectfully suggest we know very, very little about it as a body of water.



What secrets lie beneath the gloomy waters of Loch Ness?

The purpose of Project Urquart, very simply, is scientifically to explore this the largest lake in the country, and to understand better the aspects of it which pose a challenge. Some basic facts for us to ponder. First, Loch Ness has not been totally surveyed since the first decade of this century. We are now in the last decade. Some 85 years ago, that last full survey was carried out by two men in a boat. One of them was Sir John Murray, a founding father of British oceanography. But the only equipment they had was a weight, a long piece of piano wire, and a large bicycle wheel, which was wound up and down by hand. And yet, as I say, this is the largest freshwater lake in the U.K. and one of the most famous in the world. It is, I suggest, time we had a proper hydrographic survey of Loch Ness, such a project to discover its detailed underwater profile, depth, and composition, will be one of the first and most important things Project Urquart intends to undertake.

Similarly, the biological record is also very incomplete. If I may quote first Iain Bishop, Deputy Keeper of Zoology at the natural history museum. During a visit to the loch last October he said, "there is an awful lot we do not know about what is in it. And secondly, if I may quote Gwyn Jones, Director of the Freshwater Biological Association who said, when Terry Partram and I met him for the first time last October, "A proper study of Loch Ness would be one of the most important limnological studies in Britain since the end of the war. And thirdly, and finally, may I quote to you one of this country's most distinguished limnologists, Dr John Lund, Fellow of the Royal Society, said to us when we met him last autumn, "It is time we did know more about Loch Ness. Science should be prepared to investigate.

So, we have the biggest lake in Britain. It has never been surveyed by modern hydrographical techniques. It has never been the subject of a comprehensive biological study. In layman's terms, the canvas is largely 'blank'. Project Urquart believes it is time that the scientists, the geographers, biologists, the engineers, and others, were given an opportunity to start work at Loch Ness to extract that knowledge, and help us finally to understand it. We believe the best way to realise that opportunity and make that activity possible, is to take advantage of Loch Ness's popular fame, rather than pretending it does not exist. To put that another way, the plan can be turned into action precisely because this IS Loch Ness.

THE CHALLENGE.

The world still has environments that have never been properly explored or understood. Planet Earth still offers exciting challenges to both scientist, and explorer. Not all the Earth's unexplored environments are in distant regions. The challenges do not necessarily have to be high mountains, remote rain forests, or deep oceans. One environment that poses one of planet Earth's most exciting scientific challenges lies on the mainland of the United Kingdom, just over 500 miles from London, a comfortable seven hour train journey from the capital. Yet this environment poses great challenges to the scientist, to the environmentalist, and to the explorer.

It also represents a challenge which our modern technologies have yet to master, the environment is Loch Ness, Britain's largest body of fresh water. Loch Ness has never been properly explored. It is simply one of the world's last great unexplored natural habitats. But it is much more than that. Loch Ness remains in the last decade of the 20th century, an extraordinary enigma that definitely 'mocks' this high technology age. In the nineties, Loch Ness is as provocative a problem, and as great a challenge as Everest in the fifties.

THE EVEREST OF THE NINETIES.

It is, arguably, the most famous freshwater lake in the world. It enjoys extraordinarily high awareness ratings throughout the world's major markets. It is one of Scotland's major tourist attractions, second only to Edinburgh in pulling power, and drawing two million visitors a year from all over the world. These visitors are estimated to be worth some £25 million to the local economy and to account for 2500 jobs. With a length of 22 and a half miles (36 kilometres), a maximum depth of at least 750 feet (229m), and a width of some one and a half miles, (2.4 kilometres), at its widest, it holds some 263 billion cubic feet (7.5 billion cubic metres), of water, and has a surface area of 14000 acres, (5700 hectares).

Its ecology and its ecosystems are not properly understood. Its animal population has never been completely analysed. It is only in recent years that it has been established that a large number of arctic char live at considerable depths. Some have been netted at 700 feet (213 metres). Only recently, has a limited study of the plankton in the loch been started, demonstrating that new species can be found in the loch. The latest discovery is of an amphipod never before recorded in a Scottish loch. A species of flatworm, not previously known outside North America, has also been discovered recently. Indeed, very little is known about the bed of the loch, and its composition and biology. No long term systematic coring of the loch bed has been carried out.

No complete information is available on the texture of the bottom of the loch, nor the profile of the loch's steep sides. Even the maximum depth of the loch is disputed. For many years the depth was believed to be 754 feet, (230m) However, in 1969, a miniature submarine was reported to have gone down to 820ft (250m), and recorded 975 feet, (297m), on its depth sounder. However, such a reading has never been repeated. The water of the loch is clouded by suspended peat particles. At 50 feet, (15m), the water is opaque, while lower down, the black turbid water makes any sort of exploration, or filming, extremely problematic. Loch Ness is oligotrophic, that is, low in nutrients, with a low productivity of organic matter. Studies of deep oligotrophic lakes such



as Loch Ness are extremely rare.

OBJECTIVES OF PROJECT URQUART FOR SUMMER 1992.

Research and Exploration.

To establish what species inhabit the loch, and, as far as possible, the behaviour patterns of these species. To survey the loch, (A) to study and establish the underwater contours and depth of the loch. (B) To examine the composition of the bed of the loch. To investigate the extent and nature of environmental pollution in the loch. To examine the biology, physics, and chemistry of the loch, including the algae, plankton and fish.

Youth, Education, and Training.

To publish for educational purposes, a map and wall chart of the loch, illustrating its ecology, fauna, and possibly history. A geographic information system, (GIS), ideally on videodisc, illustrating the loch's complete ecology and fauna. To capitalise on the loch's appeal to youth and educationalists, and to exploit its value as an educational and training tool. To this end to involve appropriate youth training and education charities and organisations.



EDITOR'S NOTE.

This press statement from which I am quoting, goes on at great length into further aspects of Project Urquart, suffice to say I'm sure I've set the scene for you to understand most of the work which will be undertaken by the project. I'll finish though, by quoting from their sonar section.

LOOKING FOR ME ?

UNDERWATER EXPLORATION.

Sonar will be a primary tool of the underwater research programme in Loch Ness. It will be used in a variety of ways for a number of different purposes. Sonar will be used to carry out the hydrographic survey and to map the loch. It will be an important component in the study of the fish population, while it will also be used to establish the existence, and frequency, of any 'large' contacts, or 'unusual' activity, and to identify any patterns or consistency. Project Urquart is working closely with companies such as Oceanscan of Aberdeen, and Simrad of Norway. Simrad is one of the world's leaders in sonar technology for fishery, offshore and defense purposes. Project Urquart in collaboration with Oceanscan and Simrad, is developing detailed plans for a series of sonar 'curtains' to be positioned across the loch to monitor underwater movements. These sonar gates will provide an unprecedented picture of activity from the loch's surface to some of its deepest areas. The sonar arrays, and triggering devices, will, in many cases, be specially developed for Project Urquart.

Dependant on the results obtained by sonar in the first stages of the project the later stages may involve photography and videography, using state of the art photogrammetry, SIT, and other low-light techniques. Project Urquart is in touch with some of the leading companies in these fields, and is also advised by Marty Klein, founder of Klein Associates, who is one of the world's foremost authorities on sonar development and application.

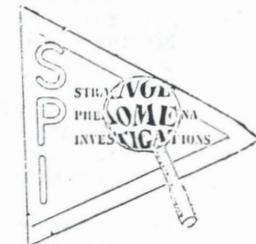
EDITOR'S COMMENT. Well, 1992 is going to be one big year for Loch Ness. SPI wish Project Urquart well, we look with interest to your results.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



DEAR EDITOR.

We hereby send you a copy of our SAF BULLETIN, and we also want to inform you how we have planned our activity in our association in Sweden.

SAF, (SOLNA ASTRONOMISKA FÖRENING), was founded in 1955 in the northern part of Stockholm, the capital of Sweden. Our members are spread all over Stockholm but also in other parts of Sweden. The members have a great interest, both in astronomy, UFO and cosmology, even covering teology and old culture. Many members work in the Government, and in differing airline companies.

In our association around Stockholm, we have some 40 CB radio-stations, a lot of radio amateurs on SW bands, and 2 meter band. The radio stations on the amateur frequencies, are keeping daily contacts, and also report different incidents of UFOs and of astronomical character. Since our association started, we've seen and taken a lot of photos of UFO and astronomical objects. Also there has been a lot of interviews of people which have seen UFOs. We also work rather close to the military, by giving information about UFOs, and to get it confirmed by radar.

Some of our members know very well about data programming. Our intention is to put all information about UFOs, satellites, astronomical observations, strange radio contacts, and disturbances into the memory of a computer. The program-

ming should of course be the same in the countries associated. Also, another part of programming is to register parapsychological incidents. Slightly outside Stockholm, we are hiring a nice cottage on a hill with two high towers. The towers are excellent places for watching the sky with or without telescope. Also, they have some antennas for radio communication.

If you are interested in cooperation with our association, we should be pleased to give you the information we have, both with photos and written material. All on exchanging basis.

As mentioned above, we have members in Airline companies, for example, SAS, (Scandinavia Airline System), and it makes it easy to be in touch with nearly every corner of the world. It also makes it easy to keep personal contact with other associations interested in this field. Finally, we should be happy to hear from you in the nearest future.

ERIK FREDRIKSSON, SOLNA, SWEDEN.

DEAR EDITOR.

I wire reference the letter in ENIGMAS Issue 25 from Peter Hough. I apologise as your readers may be sick of the Patrick Moore affair by now, but we have to get the facts straight here,

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not confuse them further. The facts are, that Peter DID disclose Michael Bentine's name twice in 1987. I did talk to him about it at that time, but once done, there was no point in causing a fuss or denying what happened. Peter probably did not realise he was breaching a confidence, but knew I had no intention of naming the man myself.

In the somewhat misleading quote that you reprint from MAGONIA, issue November 1986, for example, your readers would never know that I do not name Bentine, despite being asked to do so. I simply refer quite deliberately to a nameless person as I did not consider it fair to cite him for an off the record private conversation which might conceivably effect his friendship with Patrick Moore. As Peter Hough clearly has this article to quote from for you, he presumably DID know that only a couple of months before he revealed Bentine's name in public, I had refrained from doing so.

The quote itself does not contradict my position in my previous letter. I was not, in fact, criticising Peter Hough. My intention was merely to ensure the facts are correctly established. The Patrick Moore affair has become a witch hunt within the paranormal community. I have no way of knowing for certain, whether Moore was involved in writing the book, but I am cautioning that the seemingly automatic assumption of guilt many adopt, despite Moore's refusal to confirm or deny, is a risk for those making the accusation as well as for our subject presuming the case cut and dried.

Peter Hough is also aware that I have had some correspondence with a seemingly reliable man who traced and interviewed James Duncan twice. Duncan was supposedly Allingham's co-witness. Whilst that man had no contribution to offer regarding the possible authorship of the Allingham book, he alleges two significant things. Firstly, that a person calling himself Allingham, DID talk to Duncan at the time of the events, and, secondly, that Duncan DID

have a close encounter, (although evidently not as graphic as in the book which Duncan, 20 years later, had apparently still refused to read).

I have no way of knowing again, whether these second hand claims have substance or how they effect the Allingham hoax legend. But it suggests at least, that we should not jump to conclusions. For this and other reasons, (not unconnected with my suggestion to all UFOlogists they be very careful about wording when lawsuits fly so freely).

I urge you to repeat again for the record so that readers may be in no doubt exactly what DID, and DID not emerge from my conversation with that show business personality. I was talking about UFOs. Moore came up. Obviously the Allingham book was in my mind when I steered the conversation round towards Moore's spoof writings.

Bentine DID confirm that to his knowledge, Moore had had a hand in writing a spoof UFO book, and seemed of the opinion that this was common knowledge. But at no time, and this is the crucial bit, did I name, or did Bentine offer the name, of the Allingham book. Consequently, whilst you may regard the anecdote as supportive evidence for any interpretation of the Allingham affair, it cannot in my view, be interpreted as proof of Moore's involvement, and I want to be absolutely certain, that people do not allege that I have said it does.

This is the only reason that I have perpetuated this debate, not to bore readers, or back-peddle as Peter Hough quite falsely suggests, nor am I doing it to attack Peter, who fortunately for all concerned, is a good friend. I say fortunately, as otherwise my lawyers, Ivor Fortune, and, U.R. Suckers would be in touch immediately to initiate the legal proceedings for libel against Peter Hough, ENIGMAS magazine, Malcolm Robinson as its Editor, SPI as an organisation with the audacity to have him as a member, MUFORA as a group mad enough to have Peter Hough

as a Chairman, Malcolm Robinson's cat for living in the same house, (and if he doesn't have one, I will cite that mouse in the skirting board), all other members of MUFORA, for endorsing Peter Hough's stance by not immediately resigning the group, being namely, Darren Egerton, Colleen Innes, and, now where's that membership list (er), Jenny Handles... (Ah well, maybe not)...

Of course, in fair and just British society, lawsuits like this could never happen in reality. (You bet your boots Jenny baby. The Ed).

JENNY HANDLES, STOCKPORT, CHESHIRE, ENGLAND.

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EDITOR'S CONCLUDING COMMENTS OF THE ALLINGHAM AFFAIR.

OK, let's draw a close now to this issue, that of Patrick Moore that jovial old astronomer, supposedly writing a UFO book in the 1950's, claiming that it occurred to one Cedric Allingham near Lossiemouth Scotland. Patrick Moore still denies that he wrote this spoof as a test to see how gullible us UFOlogists are and who would believe 'anything' in print if it had to do with space-ships and men from Mars.

It's certainly feasible that Patrick Moore to my mind, did perhaps write this to see what, if anything would transpire, but he is certainly not going to confirm it. Patrick Moore is, as we all know, the daddy of sceptics when it comes to UFOs, he has no time for it. His good friend Michael Bentine, has a strong belief in the paranormal, (his books attest to that), owing specifically to events which have happened to him personally. Believe it or not, I've never read this book concerning the Allingham affair, (well out of print) any readers out there willing to lend me a copy ?

So, in November 1991, at this time of writing, The Allingham affair is still shrouded in mystery, and until such times as Patrick Moore 'opens up' to the UFO community, we shall be left in the dark to ponder. Ah well, I wonder if Santa Claus is really true ? Now that gives me a good idea for a book.....

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S. P. I.

S. P. I.

THE EXPERIENCES OF DIRK VAN DER PLAS

I now present an account of an alleged Abduction from Dirk Van Der Plas. Dirk, as readers may recall from our last ENIGMAS, related his experiences to an SPI/SRUFO UFO day in Edinburgh in October, and whilst relating his experiences, broke down in tears. I have been given permission from Dirk to recount in print, his experiences.

THE EXPERIENCES OF DIRK VAN DER PLAS.

It would be fair to say, that through the work of Streiber and Budd Hopkins, a rough typology of classic symptoms for UFO Abduction has been built up in my view. These being principally, time loss, screen memory, physical scarring, post traumatic shock, paranoia and associated dreams. Now people who have experienced any of these symptoms couldn't possibly interpret their cause and the nature of their interrelation without having a theory, and the theory is now here. The theory that it is possible to be Abducted under conditions of involuntary hypnosis, and not know about it at the conscious level.

I did not know about this theory until some months ago, and I had no knowledge of the symptoms of such an experience until more recently. I believe I experienced two of these symptoms, and possibly more at the age of ten. The two symptoms that I appear to have experienced, are post traumatic shock, (an experience which is very suggestive of this is clear in my mind), and unaccounted for scarring, which I would regard as less evidential than the 'shock'. I also have a memory which is suggestive of both fear and missing time, but because the time that could be missing was probably at a time when I was asleep. I can't say whether there is unaccounted for time at all.

I believe all my odd recollections to be linked with a period of time when I lived in Perth, Western Australia, but I can't remember if it was 1971 or 1972. I can link this only to the room in our house at that time, which I lived in for all of 1971, and until October 1972. I was ten years old on my October 26th birthday in 71. The clearest memory is of the shock. I remember sitting in class, surrounded by other children, with the teacher teaching, and starting to tremble, and experiencing feelings of dread, that something terrible might have happened at home. I had no clear image of what this might be, but worried that it might be something involving my mother, as she was the only one at home at the time.

At the same time I knew that everything around me was normal, and that I was being unreasonable to fear for her life; that is, I was not at all convinced despite my dread, that anything had happened to her. I also knew I wasn't sick. As I experienced the onset of trembling, I did so with some surprise. Then as I started to feel like crying, I realised that the boys and girls next to me would see me shaking, and I remember clasping my left hand over my right, so that no one would see me shaking. I was shaking quite badly by then. I desperately didn't want to be seen crying by my class, but had to watch myself dissolve into uncontrollable tears anyway.

Now I was a happy child, and this incident had neither precedent nor sequel. My parents both loved me, and I didn't feel insecure at any conscious level. I didn't feel that I was crying about anything, the teacher saw me, put my head down on the desk, where it had in effect sunk, and, thinking I wasn't well, sent me home. As I left, I thought the whole situation ridiculous, and that I would get home and everything would be OK. By the time I got home I felt fine and was only mildly relieved to see my mother in one piece. I felt tierd however, but I was not ill, and I felt a little foolish of the whole event.

SKIN WOUND AND DREAM EVENT.

I seem to remember a raw skin wound which I took to be a graze at or around that time. I was one for being brave about my cuts, and I don't remember making a fuss about it, but I can't think where, or exactly when, I got it. It is a roughly diamond or triangular shaped scar on the left hand side ribs, and it is slightly indented, as though some flesh had been lost. It is only five millimetres across, and there is slight anomalous hair growth around it. I have no chest hair that far down my ribs. It is this, more than anything, that makes me look askance at it.

Also at that time, I had a dream about a nasty wart somewhere on my torso, which was something of a nightmare, as I also dreamed, I think at a later date, that this wart caused many warts on my body to appear later in life. I wish I hadn't thought of this first, but could this not be a 'screen memory' for the mutilation of a small piece of my skin, turning up in my dream? The dream was quite vivid. I had another vivid dream which featured a large silver foil covered Easter egg, the theme of which was that I had been given this egg, and my friends in the school playground tried to grab me attempting to beat me with clubs to get it from me, but I eluded them.

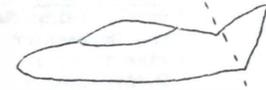
My schoolteacher, (a different one), was lying in wait for me in a car, there was also a big black sedan and spotter planes out looking for me. There were friendly troops in the undergrowth who were out to help me, all this visualised as being on the road 'back from my school'. This dream was hysterically funny. I then found my mother lying in the grass on the side of the road, sleeping, and difficult to rouse, and the dream ended.

FLOATING SENSATION.

One morning around then, possibly the same day as the shock incident, I woke to find my bedroom door to the outside blowing open. This only ever happened once. I felt I had been outside during the night, and I remembered looking at the house from the outside during the night. In the morning, I went outside and faced the house from the same position outside my door to the outside, (which faced the back lawn) I seem to remember doing this to try and get a feel for what I had been doing outside during the night. I have a very dim idea that I had a 'floating sensation' while facing the house at night, because I associate a sensation of my feet touching grass, cool grass, in what I can only describe as an attention getting fashion. I have an idea that I went outside and felt confused about whether I had looked at the house from outside the previous night or the previous day. It has only just occurred to me that this could have been because the house may have been lit up from the outside during the night. We had no floodlights which could do such a thing.

PLANE/UFO DRAWING ?

There are a couple of other things that make me suspicious of my past. At about that time, I used to draw planes in the back of my exercise books endlessly. I believed that I was good at drawing planes. But I used to leave off the wings, apparently by mistake. I was happy with the planes as they were, not realising that I hadn't drawn the wings. The nose and cockpit canopy were always drawn in the same way. It occurred to me that without the



Take away the end tail and what have you got ?

tail, they would look a bit like the archetpal 'flying saucer'. Also on at least one occasion, I remember waking in panic in the middle of the night, and after slamming on the light switch, grabbing my clock and staring at it with great intent and worry, as though it was important to know what time it was during the night, I think the clock showed something around 4am, and I stared at it, clueless as to how it could possibly be 4am, as I felt that I'd only just gone to sleep. Then I just went back to sleep.

PERSUALL OF THESE INCIDENTS ?

I am wondering if I should pursue this at all. I would have to be entirely satisfied with any assurances I might get from any researcher who thought there was something in this, that hypnosis wouldn't leave me with any malformulated preconceptions about my life or existence in general through hypnotic suggestion. Language itself is full of figures of speech which are empty of content or misleading. I don't want any psychic fall-out from this if I can avoid it. I am a rationalist Christian who has yet to examine the theory that there are states of mind which can leave a person open to external spiritual influences. For all I know, hypnosis could be one of those states.

Theories of demonic possession were never my forte. I'm more scared of some deadbeat atheistic view of the world coming in from an investigative hypnotist, than I am of any cosmic messages I may have been given when I was ten.

EDITOR'S NOTE.

Dirk doesn't recount in this written testimony to me, about the small 'beings' that he found beside his bed when he awoke one night, nor of the small spherical ball which he blew out of his nose and could not account for it having got there, (a feature of other such abductee tales). What Dirk has mentioned above is very similar to other such abductee claims. The scars, the dreams, the missing time, etc, all part and parcel of the ongoing abduction phenomenon. This particular written account was given to me by Dirk a few years back, and since that time, Dirk has visited Abduction researcher Budd Hopkins at his home in New York.

Apparently Budd believes that the aforementioned events, were part and parcel of the make up to an abduction experience, and I hope to relate further, more of what transpired, or 'could traspire' ? about Dirk's experiences.

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Terminology (A Classification of paranormal phrases).

CRYPTOMNESIA : Something which has been observed or experienced without the person being fully conscious of it, and which he has totally forgotten. But the impression exists in him, registered unconsciously, and thus may later give rise to "false" recognition and what appears to be 'paranormal knowledge'.

PSYCHOMETRY : The sensing of remaining vibrations from an object so as to perceive information about a person or former owner of same. APPORT : Foreign object made to suddenly appear in physical form in the seance room through the powers of a medium or collective mediumistic force. LUCID DREAM : A dream in which the dreamer is conscious that he is dreaming and can influence the dream.



Fireside Tales (but true).!

FROM THE FILES OF SPI.

I SAW HER BROTHER'S GHOST.

I felt a precence of a soldier near me in the canteen where I worked. I could see he had a black berry, and his uniform was khaki. I walked out of the canteen and the image of the soldier followed behind me. I wasn't afraid, there was nothing scary about it. The soldier stopped by a friend's machine and disappeared. So when my friend came in, I told her about it. She went as white as a sheet when I told her what I saw, and asked me to describe the soldier.

She told me that her son had not come home the night before, and she was very worried, but I told her that I didn't think that it was an omen or warning of danger. So we left it at that. Anyway the next day she came out to see me and told me that when she went home, she looked at the calander, and then the shock hit her. She remembered the date was the anniversary of her brother's death, he had been blown up in his tank 25 years ago that very day, so what more proof could I get of survival, I was really pleased.

I've also experienced tugs on my sleeve when nobody is about. At the moment I am getting a mental picture of a tall

slim young man with glasses, I don't know if this is yourself, or someone at your work. (Editor's note, I infact wear safety glasses 8 hours a day at my work, and as you know, am tall and slim, pitty she left out the handsome ?)

I am convinced of survival and the spirit world, and I'm sure that I've had this proof brought to me from the other side.

Geraldine Evans, Mid Glamorgan.

SO WHOSE VOICES WERE THEY ?

I don't suppose there is an area of the British Isles more steeped in folklore and superstition than the West Country of England. However, going to spend a few nights near Burnham on sea in Somerset, is hardly comparable to staying at Boleskin House, or Borley Rectory, particularly if you are there to attend a friend's wedding. Therefore I journeyed down from the midlands without trepidation, pausing only to photograph a "pagan" chalk

figure which caught my attention, cut into the steep hillside, it was visible for several miles. I arrived at the home of my friend's parents, which comprised one half of a large farmhouse divided into two houses. The building seemed to be several hundred years old. They asked whether I would mind sleeping next door, where an elderly aunt lived. I was informed that the lady herself was house-bound, and only occupied the ground floor, as she was unable to climb the stairs. I had no objection, in fact I was grateful, as it appeared rather quaint, and gave the impression of somehow representing the rural England irretrievably lost in the course of the Industrial Revolution. This was a period I was keen to re-discover, and secretly relished the prospect of lodging there over the next couple of days.

Despite my historical interest, it was something of a shock to see the interior of the house. The decor and atmosphere was firmly rooted in the Victorian era and I felt as if I had stepped back in time. Little change seemed to have taken place to the Wessex described by Hardy. The bedroom in particular could have been designed by a museum for inclusion in a, how we used to live exhibition. I would have sworn that the iron bedstead, and the porcelain washing bowl and jug on the dressing table were merely props if the marks of the craftsmen hadn't attested their authenticity.

The door to the room didn't lock, and there was a slight gap near the top which let in a small shaft of light. Of course places which seem harmless enough during the day, always assume a different character at night. This was no exception. As I lay awake in bed, unable to sleep, a procession of mythical (or were they?) figures strode in and out of my thoughts. Vampires, werewolves, and ghouls are not easily dispelled by rational scientific mental debate.

Suddenly all those rag week jokes appeared to have worn rather thin, as I waited for the handle on the door to turn, and for some dreadful creature to appear. I had deliberately left the landing light on and was surprised when it was unexpectedly switched off.

I knew this couldn't have been done by the elderly occupant, who was confined to a chair, and before my imagination started off as before, I was relieved to hear voices coming from one of the bedrooms down the hall. I assumed these to originate from some of the other guests, although I did think it strange that no one had told me there would be more people staying in the house. Still, I was glad that I was not alone, and at least the mystery of who had switched off the light was solved.

I tried to make out what was being said, but could distinguish nothing. They remained talking for quite some time, and I gradually fell asleep. The next morning I spoke to my friend about the incident, I was astounded to hear that there hadn't been anyone else staying in the house. Moreover, I couldn't have mistakenly overheard a conversation from next door, as everyone was tired and had gone straight to sleep.

At first there didn't seem to be an explanation, and I decided to let the matter drop. It was only when I was about to return home after the wedding that some sort of clue was supplied. The bride asked me if I had enjoyed my holiday, then commented, "You were brave to have stayed in that house. I would never have done it. Did you know they say it's haunted"? And I had just about convinced myself I had heard nothing more than the early morning birds.

Neil Halliday, Shifnal, Shropshire.

WHEN IS A FLY NOT A FLY ?

I have been making a study of the paranormal now for some 15 years, and have been witness to many strange occurrences. When I was young, I experimented on myself with varying degrees of success, in telepathy, precognition, and astral projection. I have also seen several UFOs (confirmed by others), and my wife and I had a highly interesting (but not frightening)

burst of poltergeist phenomena in a house in Drumchapel Glasgow. I would like to give you an account of a series of occurrences, that to this day, still have me baffled. They do not fit into any frame of reference I have, and you are the first person that I have written to about them.

All the occurrences happened in the summer of 1978, and the first was in the Regional Offices in Almada street Hamilton, where I was employed as a photographer. I was facing a corner in and was talking to two people who had their backs to the corner. Suddenly a small black shape, roughly the size of a large bluebottle, came flying at my face. Thinking it was a fly, I turned my head to the side, and made to brush it away with my hand. As I turned round, I saw the thing speeding in a dead straight line over the top of the filing cabinets, and down the whole length of the open plan office, until at last, it disappeared from view.

When I turned round again, two people were looking at me as if I had grown horns. One had seen the shape exactly as I had, and had followed its flight path, but the other had been looking at me all the time and had seen a large flash of light being emitted from my head. This was confirmed by a girl sitting about 15 feet behind me, who also saw the light. I asked them both to draw the light, which appeared to be like a diagonal bolt of lightning.

Various explanations were put forward such as Ball Lightning but we still remained puzzled.

Three weeks later I was telling a friend who is at

Glasgow University about the sighting. To my surprise, he related a strange event that occurred only a short time before our meeting. It happened when he opened a cupboard in one of the University chemistry classes. He said a small black shape, the size of a large fly flew straight at his face,

and he was so surprised that he dropped the test tube that he was holding. What he stressed was that the shape seemed to be moving quite quickly when he opened the cupboard door. This is something, that until he pointed it out, I hadn't really realised in my case. I then remembered the strangest thing, was the way the object appeared to have been travelling through the wall, before it came to my attention.

Not long after this, I had another experience of light flashing from me though this time it was from my hip, (unseen again by me), It was witnessed by 3 people, and all I felt was a smack on the hip, as if I had been slapped. The final occurrence happened only a couple of weeks later, when a friend and his young son (4), were sitting on a white leather settee in his living room, (Langside, Glasgow) He suddenly noticed what he took to be a large black fly arcing through the air and landing between him and his son.

They examined the settee quite thoroughly, taking the cushions out etc but found no sign of the supposed large fly. It seemed, said my friend, as though the thing had just suddenly appeared in the room, falling in an arc, then just as strangely seemed to go through the settee. Since that series of events in 1978, I have come across nothing that suggests a valid explanation. Through my studies in the Occult, esoteric religions and self experimentation, I have come to understand many of the phenomena which to most people are inexplicable, but this one to me, at any rate, remains a mystery.

Allan Murray, Hamilton, Scotland.

(More Fireside Tales Next Issue).

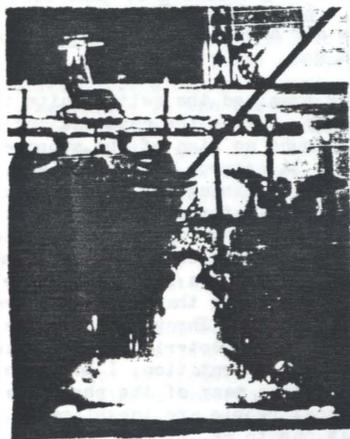


VIRGIN MARY PHOTOGRAPH.?

I mentioned in our last issue of ENIGMAS, of a photograph taken which allegedly shows the Blessed Virgin Mary. Well I now present some notes sent by a Hungarian researcher, Lazlo Kiss, initially to Philip Mantle of which Philip sent on to me. I also publish what unfortunately is a poor reproduction of this photograph. Please note however, that this is not the full photograph, I trimmed the photo copy in order for space in this issue. Philip Mantle and SPI, await details from various experts in the photography field in order to clarify if this photo is genuine or a contrived hoax. Once we have these details, then you our readers shall be informed.

VISIONS OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY IN HUNGARY.

REPORT BY LAZLO KISS.



A MAZING PHOTO OF VIRGIN MARY ?

of the high altar piece in the Roman Catholic church, the picture restorer, Karoly L. had a photo made of the altar and scaffolding. During the taking of the photo, he looked down from the scaffolding and he saw two figures in front of the Alter. Both of them were surrounded by halo with bright 'glories' on their heads. This time other people were also in the church, but they did not see anything unusual.

The restorer had not mentioned his "vision" to anybody until preparation of the negative. But the figures observed by him were visible on the magnified colour

Two years ago there happened to be an interesting event which divided the group dealing with UFO-logy and paraphenomena. Of course the photo of this vision can hardly be certified, but this is not unusual practice in the case of paraphenomena. Knowing the arguments for and against the certification, we were not able to decide till now. For reason unknown by me, the witness did not agree to publication of this event for one and a half years.

The vision was observed by one man on the 3rd of September 1989 in a north Hungarian village called, Karacsond. Before finishing the restoring

photo. He sent the negative to the Hungarian Press Agency (MTI) to certificate it. The head of the Department took part in the procedure and stated the following.

"It is hardly probable that this negative would have been manipulated. The construction of this kind of light phenomenon is a secret for us also. This phenomenon, with help of holographic technique, (well known, but unused in Hungary) might not be realizable".

A part of the statement given by the Vicar of Karacsond reads as follows. "I declare that there is nor sculpture nor picture in the church, that would cause by light, a phenomenon similar to the photo. On the day when the photo was taken, it was not so shiney to produce somehow, this kind of phenomenon. The restorer would have had to be restoring, but he stopped his work, and he continued it one week later on the 9th of September."

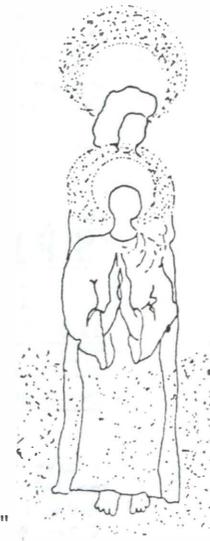
There is a lot of pilgrim places in our country, but we have not found the vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary 'photographed' till now. It is probably the first occasion.

Report by Lazlo Kiss.

CONCLUDING COMMENTS BY EDITOR.

Apologies first of all for this report not reading so well, Lazlo's translation into English is none too perfect, (but then again, neither is my grammar or spelling ?) But I hope the reader obtained an understanding of how it came about. As from my Editorial, psychic photographs have been with us since the advent of the camera, and no doubt will continue to be. So bear with me on my thoughts that I gave in my Editorial. As I've already stated, ENIGMAS will feature the outcome of this photograph, what if the photograph is genuine ? Where would that leave us ? Would you be convinced of someone's report/study that a paranormal photograph was genuine ? Or would you, as I'm sure others would say, "I need to see it myself to believe it".

Psychic research is a tough game. Even if we did have clear cut proof in this amazing technological age of T.V. and cinema wizardry, of camera effects genius poor old psychic research would still find it hard to gain a foothold, for cries of hoax, manipulation, cheat, etc, would always be to the fore. But men got to the moon, much to the surprise of those who said it was impossible. But when oh when will psychic phenomena be a run of the mill thing, accepted as hypnosis



THE IMAGES AS PERCEIVED AND DRAWN BY THE PHOTOGRAPHER.

is now. Accepted as electricity and radio waves, even although we can't see them. We know that they are there. Like any kind of research, patience is the key factor, patience and a will to enquire, and not shrug one's shoulders and say, "It's all a load of nonsense". If John Logie Baird, Marconi and Thomas Edison took this attitude in their own respective research, then mankind would be at a great loss today. I think you get the picture, (pun intended).

.....

S.P.I. CASE RESEARCH WORK.

INTERVIEW WITH ROSA GRANVILLE, HAVEN FORT HOTEL, LITTLE

HAVEN, DYFED, WEST WALES, AUGUST 1980.

INTERVIEWER, MALCOLM ROBINSON.



I take from the SPI files this time round, an interesting interview that I conducted with UFO witness, Rosa Granville at her home and business, at the Haven Fort Hotel near Little Haven, West Wales. My wife and I were down in Wales for part holiday and part research to re-interview people concerning that amazing UFO 'wave' of 1977. For further information on these sightings, the reader should look to the books of "The Welsh Triangle", by Peter Paget. "The Dyfed Enigma", by Randall Jones Pugh, and the "Uninvited" by Clive Harold. Rosa was a principle witness to many UFO sightings, and, she claims, meeting humanoids which came up to her hotel one day. Read on.

Abbreviations. (MR) Malcolm Robinson. (RG) Rosa Granville.

(MR) Well Rosa, could you tell me of the things that you have witnessed around this part of Wales? (RG) I always thought that it was the quietest part of the world. I've been all over the world, lived all over the world, but as I got older I felt that I wanted more quiet. When I came here, I wanted to have just peace and quiet which I thought I would. We bought this place in 1967, we converted it, it was previously an old smugglers fort. About three years ago (1977), we had four men staying here, they watched television and went to bed at the normal time. I tidied up and got the table ready for breakfast, and not long after that I went to bed, and that was almost midnight.

As soon as I got to bed I heard a 'hovering noise'. Now I thought that it was something coming from the boiler, I sleep in a bedroom above the boiler and I hear things quickly as I'm a very light sleeper. Anyway, I decided to get up to see what it was, and as I got to a fire door, I saw this huge big light, it was the size of about six moons. I could see that this light was pulsating. At the beginning, I thought that this light was an aeroplane or something because we do get a lot of aircraft activity here, as there is an American Air Force Base nearby. But I looked again, and to my horror, it landed about 50 yards from my bedroom window. (MR) It actually landed then?

(RG) Oh yes. What made me think that it was something very unnatural was the flame that was coming from it. It was a saucer shape, and yet it had a cigar top. The flames were really intense, you know, like a painters blow lamp. Well it was similar to that only a hundred times brighter. There were all different coloured flames coming from it, red, blue, green, all different. Now, not far from where this craft landed I keep hens, and the first thing I thought about was my hens, because I didn't want anything to happen to my hens. So I decided to shout, "hello there, what are you doing"? and as I did that, the heat from this thing really hit me, so I immediately closed my window, and as I closed my window, I saw these two men, they just 'shot out from this flame'.

(MR) Two men? (RG) Two men. They looked exactly like men, the only difference about them was that they both had very long arms and very long legs. They did not have any features, and they were hovering above the ground, just like puppets. This frightened me so much, I was horrified, it felt like my skin was coming off, it felt as if I had sores all over my body. (MR) Could you tell me, roughly what size these two men were? (RG) Well I would say that they were about seven or eight feet tall. They were bending down, what they were doing I couldn't tell you, whether they were picking things up or what I don't know. (MR) Could you distinguish any type of clothing? (RG) Yes, they were wearing a sort of silvery beige coloured thing.

Then they went back into this flying saucer as it looked, it went up at such a speed as if it was one big dream. It frightened the life out of me. Now all night long I couldn't sleep, and I was going to run to these four men but I felt so stupid, it's not very nice for a lady to go knocking on mens bedroom doors at that time of the morning. So I went back to my bedroom and drew the curtains, and all night long I shivered, I was shaking with fright. In the early hours of the morning I felt my mouth so dry, I could have drunk gallons of tea or water. So I decided to come down to the kitchen and make myself a cup of tea, and then I would pluck up some courage and go out to the field and see if it was my imagination.

Anyway, I made myself a pot of tea, and as it got a bit lighter and you could see outside, I put a coat on and went to the field, and I didn't like what I saw there. For there was a 'crescent shaped mark' on the field, which was two inches deep and burned. (MR) Was the ground distinctly burned? (RG) Yes. Mr Randall Jones Pugh will tell you that, because he took photographs. And we had the Ministry Of Defense and all sorts of people come up to see it.

(MR) Now these two people, or whatever, that you saw next to this landed object how long would you say that they were outside this thing? (RG) 20 minutes. And I lost my voice through this. The doctor said that it was shock through this incident. I asked my friend Pauline Coombs (See the book the Uninvited) to come over here just to ask her if she had seen the same thing as me. Well anyway, we started to see each other over these unnatural things, but for the next three or four months this big bright light, kept hovering over this building once or twice a night without a stop. It would stop in the sky for at least half an hour sometimes, then would zoom straight up. Now the following year we were very busy in the hotel with lots of people staying, at about 11.30pm all of the staff, the chef and waiters were all together in a room to have their supper, when all of a sudden I saw a bright light again hovering

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above this window here, (Interview being conducted in the dining area near some large windows, Ed) I said, "oh my god", to the staff, "we have got them again", and then I saw it zoom down onto Stack Rocks, (scene of much alleged UFO activity at that time, Ed), And it landed there, and two humanoids got out of this thing, just as they did in my field the previous year. Now this time I just had to ring up Mrs Coombs because I wanted someone from outside this building to prove to me that I wasn't seeing things. So I picked up the phone and rang Mrs Coombs. Now from her farm she could see it from her kitchen window, and she said yes we are watching it now, my mum, my dad, and all our children, and a visitor staying here; we are all watching it.

But she said that from her direction the rock had OPENED LIKE A DOOR and it disappeared. Now I didn't see that, what I saw was that they disappeared later into the sea. Another night, some weeks later, I woke up in the middle of the night as if someone wanted me. Working from seven o'clock in the morning you are dead beat, and by the time you have gone to bed you've gone out like a light. But that night I woke up in the middle of the night as if someone was calling me. I got out of bed and walked along the corridors and came above this restaurant and stood by the window, and as I stood by the window I could see this flying saucer, I felt she was trying to come in here through the window. She was zooming back and forth to Little Haven. By then I had stood for half an hour watching it. I called some of the staff, I woke them up and told them to come and have a look, and we ALL SAW IT. Then suddenly it zoomed into the air and disappeared. Three weeks later a similar thing happened, and again was seen by all the staff.

(MR) Was this object, the same shape as the previous object that you saw?
(RG) Yes it was the same shape. (MR) Have you any idea what interest these UFOs have in this hotel or surrounding areas? (RG) I couldn't tell you. They've never harmed us, nothing has happened to us I must admit. I have got a cottage behind this hotel, and it did burn the roof a bit. We have proof of that. (MR) Rosa, could you tell me about the two humanoids that came into the hotel one day? (I knew about this from reading the book, The Uninvited)
(RG) Yes. They didn't enter the hotel, they knocked at the door and rung the bell. They looked like identical twins. Their hair, well it looked like as if they had a wig on. It looked precise, same style, cut short. They had very thick eyebrows, jet black, and they looked as if they were MADE OF WAX. THEY DIDN'T HAVE A WRINKLE OR MARK ON THEIR FACES. Now I didn't hear a car drive up here, we have a gravel path, and I was sitting inside near the door.

Anyway, I answered the door, to that my daughter came, and we both looked to see how these men came here, because we have got steps in the other side of the field, we thought that they had decided to walk up. And they asked me if they could see me, and I said yes, what can I do for you. Then they said, "Oh we are in a desperate hurry at the moment, but we will come back, we are definitely coming back to see you." Well I said, "what is it connected for?" and they said, "it's nothing to worry about, we would like to come back and see you". I got a bit worried about this because they looked so odd, they looked as if they were 'MADE UP MEN', you know what I mean, not real men. They looked made up, like dummies, only they could talk. (MR) Did you see any type of car that these two humanoids 'or whatever' might have come out of?

(RG) Yes, it was a very unusual car, it was a silvery car. I've never seen one of that style before I must admit. It looked like one of those James Bond cars. So we ran to the window to see if we could have a better look at this car from there, but it was gone. (MR) Rosa, could you describe to me the

clothes that these two humanoids 'or whatever' were wearing? (RG) Yes. They were wearing a grey suit with black ties and a white shirt. They looked like 1950 dummies. (MR) How would you describe the way in which they talked to you? Did you notice any slang? Was there anything peculiar about the way in which they spoke? (RG) Yes, it was as if they couldn't swallow the words, you know what I mean, it looked odd. Now, precisely the same day this happened to Mrs Coombs, and these two men, identical to what I've just described went there looking for her. And when she got home, her son Clayton said to her, "did you pass those two men on the road who came to see you", she said "what men"? You see it's a narrow lane up to the Coombs house, (it certainly is, as both my wife and I walked it, Ed), Mrs Coombs went on to say that for the last two miles she hadn't seen anyone. Then her son said, "well they have just gone this minute". So you see, it was a bit odd whichever way you see it. (MR) Well Rosa, thank you very much for talking with me regarding these strange incidents occurring around this hotel. (RG) Your welcome.

EDITOR'S COMMENT.

Rosa spoke with me about further UFO sightings that she had 'not mentioned here'. And both my wife and I spent some days interviewing people from surrounding areas concerning these incidents. We visited the Coombs farm only to find that the family had moved on to a village called Flint in North Wales. I interviewed Randall Jones Pugh, author of the book, 'The Dyfed Enigma', and spoke with BUFORA member Bill Cale.

I was also taken to see, by Randall Jones Pugh, what was supposedly a UFO landing trace in a field, still noticeable from three years since it was made. This from what I can remember, consisted of a blackened ringed area of grass in a field on the outskirts of the village of Broad Haven. Wales was a good exercise for me, and I have fond and happy memories of my visit. Why was this part of Wales subjected to intense UFO activity in the year 1977? Were all these sightings misinterpretations of natural aerial objects? I'm sure that some of them were. Questions, questions, but so few answers.

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A VOYAGE TO ATLANTIS ? **BY JENNY RANGLES.**

I have always wanted to visit Atlantis. In November 1985 I made it at last. No doubt you are wondering how I possibly achieved this. Atlantis is surely no more than a myth. Homer, Herodotus and other ancient scholars, all told of a mystical land out to the west where a race of "immortals" lived. Plutarch spoke of a strange fertile land out beyond Africa in the middle of the Atlantic. And all these legends were made famous by Plato who named it "Atlantis", and placed it past the rock of Gibraltar, west of the deserts of Sahara. According to these tales, lately popularised by authors such as Charles Berlitz, this mysterious land was utterly destroyed by a cataclysmic earthquake and volcano eruption about 10,000 years ago. All that



JENNY RANGLES,
PHOTO, M. ROBINSON.

remains are the mountain tops of Atlantis, peering sadly above the grey ocean as reminders of a once great civilisation. Some even say that the "Atlanteans" were really extra-terrestrials, so superior was their lifestyle. And science fiction writers from Jules Verne to Berlitz himself, have played on the emotional appeal of this marvellous idea. But the dream remains a dream. Edgar Cayce, the famous American mystic of the early 20th century, predicted

that by now the lost continent would be rediscovered catastrophic earth changes having forced it back above the waves. Yet no such thing has happened. Atlantis remains as elusive as ever. Or so I thought. Now I am not so sure.

One can, it seems, fly to Atlantis. Many package tour operators will take you there. If you wish to escape the harsh European winter, then board a jet and travel south to the "Fortunate Isles", as the locals know them. The Canaries. Here you will learn they do believe in Atlantis. There are 13 islands in this magical group, although one more has been 'invented' to avoid this awkward number. San Borondon is a kind of Brigadoon of the ocean. Nobody has seen it. But ancient mariners talk of how it rises from the mists every now and again, before disappearing into them without a trace. Charles Berlitz would love that.

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The principle Canary Islands are Gran Canaria, Tenerife, and Lanzarote, and the rather more isolated, but grand, Fuerteventura. There are three other main ones, including the craggy "Gomera" where the natives communicated with one another in a unique language made up of whistles. Indeed throughout the entire group, there is a sort of sing-song lilt to the now dominant Spanish Language, which makes the islanders seem all the more alien.

The group reposes Mid Atlantic, a hundred miles or so off the West African coast, receiving favourable winds from the Sahara. Their climate is often described as "perpetual springtime". It never gets very cold, not too hot. It just stays between 65 and 75 deg. F. most of the time. It takes four and a half hours to get there from Britain, but the rewards are tangible. The warm air smells of scented flowers, and banana groves are everywhere. The Canaries are a volcanic place, the true reason for my own ambition to go there. I used to teach geology, and I longed to see somewhere where earth's fiery furnace still glows beneath your feet. True, there have been no big eruptions this century, (just a few minor ones), but that was fine by me. I wanted to look at volcanoes, not get engulfed by one.

Of course I knew of the Atlantean connections, and was intent on discovering how actively the inhabitants themselves considered it. I discussed the matter with Edmundo, a greatly respected tourist guide on Tenerife, and he was happy to explain just why the Atlantis myth has clung to the islands. "There are three main reasons", he told me. "The first is that Plato specifically put the continent west of Africa in the Atlantic. That can only be here. Secondly he said that when the continent sank, only its mountain tops were visible. Look around you, and see the mountain tops of Atlantis".

Edmundo's third point was intriguing. Having visited Spain itself, I knew the dark swarthy complexions of the true native. But my friend asked me to examine

the Canary Island inhabitants. "They are known as 'Guanches'" he continued. "Originally this simply meant, 'Man Of Tenerife', but now it is applied to all native islanders. You must look at them". So I did. The 'Guanches' are tall, fair skinned, blue eyed and blonde. I had come across this description many times before. Not only is it similar to the supposed Atlanteans, but it is typical of the 'God-like' aliens frequently recounted by UFO witnesses. Infamous contactee, George Adamski, is just one who has professed that he met them. Many more have followed suit. The aliens and the 'Guanches' are near identical twins.

On learning this, I cast my mind back to something else that I knew. The Canary Islands, have in recent years generated some of the best UFO cases on record, despite their relative isolation and low population (under 1.5 million) These include one case which remains unique, being the only close encounter on record where several independently located photographers took pictures of the same UFO. This story begins on the 5th of March 1979. That evening hundreds of witnesses on at least three of the islands, observed a most unusual sunset. The sky turned a spectacular orange colour. However, meteorologists later reported that the timing (6.45 pm) was well after sunset, and that if the things reported were weather related, they had not been seen at any time in the past. They were unique. Antonio Llopis supplied a sequence of incredible colour photographs of this event to Robert Rickard and Richard Kelly for their book "Photographs Of The Unknown", (NEL, 1980). After the spectacular sunset, he then saw a object climb up from the sea, leaving a glowing trail. It entered the orange clouds and the sky continued to burn for many more minutes. He captured the rocket like object on film also.

Rickard and Kelly procured another photograph, this time taken by a scientist He was Gilberto Naranjo who was at the transmitting station thousands of feet up the side of Mount Teide, the highest point on the entire Canary group. Indeed, the highest point in Spanish territory. This lies on the northern side of Tenerife, (Llopis had been on Gran Canaria). In submitting his picture, Naranjo extolled, "I thank God I have been allowed to witness this spectacle"

But he was not alone. An Iberia jet inbound from Bilbao in Spain had an unrivalled view of what occurred. UFO researcher Juan Benitez was able to interview the crew, who all saw it. The captain told him that before he had been an utter sceptic when it came to UFOs, but now, how could he disbelieve the evidence of his own eyes? Whilst all this was going on (quite unknown to me) and well before Rickard and Kelly first published their pictures, I was approached by a Yorkshire radio DJ, (Alan West). He sent me two colour transparencies taken by two men from Sheffield (a chemical technician and water board official, both in their twenties). They had been on holiday at Los Gigantes on the western shores of Tenerife when they took their pictures. They caught the aftermath of the events, at f.5.6 and 30 second exposures. But the vivid orange trail still paints the darkened sky in magnificent splendour.

Why was this never explained away? And how does it equate with something else that occurred 3 years before on the 22nd of June 1976? In this instance Juan Benitez had gone one better. He was handed the official government file on the affair by a Lt. General in the Spanish Air Ministry. This amazing dossier describes how a Spanish Navy vessel, "A trevida", was located just south of Fuerteventura at about 9.15pm when it spotted a brilliant yellow/blue light rise up from the sea and come towards them. Then it hovered, showering a halo of colour into the ocean. After 40 minutes, the light spiralled upwards in corkscrew fashion (similar to the way the 1979 object took off). It then shot

away westwards across Gran Canaria and Tenerife at a speed reported to be over 3000 km per hour. Countless people saw it on its way, (as the dossier records) and it was tracked on radar. 36 photographs were also taken. Benitez was given one of these. It shows the blue/white sphere in graphic detail as it passed over Maspalomas on Gran Canaria. The 1976 case is very similar to its later successor, except for one thing. To the north of Maspalomas, the doctor from the village of Guia was travelling by taxi between the towns of Galdar and Agaete. Aside from the taxi driver the son of a sick woman he was setting out to visit was also with him. All three saw the object as it passed overhead, pausing briefly as it did so. This allowed them to see two tall aliens in one piece suits and balaclava helmets standing on a platform suspended from the sphere. Aliens very similar to the blond haired blue eyed creatures of countless other tales.

In these two cases at least, there can be for once, no doubt. What was seen was real. That the Canaries have generated two such impressive cases (and there are others), leaves one thing clear. These islands are indeed a magical place.

I flew from Tenerife to the glorious black sands of Lanzarote, (a place where the name even hints of Atlantis). This is the real geologists haven. I traversed the twisted rocks which just a hundred years ago did not exist, remnants of some devastating eruption. I saw man made geysers, rode up a mountain whose soil I could not hold because it scorched my hands, and marvelled at the restaurant bravely, (or foolishly), perched across the rim of a crater so that no ovens are needed, just the fire from below. Then, in the north near Mirador del Rio, I saw a staggering volcano, (one of over 300 in the 300 square miles of the island). Its sides were ripped apart. Waves of lava rock swept down from a gaping hole where once the mountain was. Frozen by time as an eerie memento they ripple across the land towards the sea. Here I poked inside vents where gasses and molten rock had escaped at frightening speed when this place became a living hell. Surveying the destruction from afar, I pondered the time scale for this dreadful cataclysm. It must have been about the same time when Atlantis was blown apart.

"It must have been terrible" a local confided. "Imagine the destruction. The entire Canaries would have felt the wrath". Indeed, perhaps this was the source of the end of Atlantis. I had come prepared to test the islands. If indeed this was Atlantis, then perhaps some of its magic would remain. To this end I had pre-arranged a remote viewing/telepathy experiment. Nobody knew where I had gone. Only that it was somewhere out of England. I had planned three specific tests, (at times convenient in Britain). For these I had asked a group of people to sit quietly for ten minutes with a notepad in hand and record all their thoughts/impressions/visions/sounds, etc. Two thousand miles away I would be drinking in whatever I was viewing, and trying to project this with my mind. The experiment was not set up with scientific precision, and was in fact aimed as a dry run for a real test I hope to try out with the readers of "The Unknown" shortly. (This article was written a few years back, perhaps Jenny would be good enough to inform SPI on the results of this later test, Ed) But would Atlantis prove favourable? Could people home in on it with ease?

(c) Jenny Randles. To be concluded, next issue.

ufos over west lothian.

by ron halliday.



West Lothian, the site of the famous 1979 UFO encounter at Livingston involving forestry worker Bob Taylor, has been witness to a host of UFO sightings in 1991. The event which triggered off the latest wave of reports occurred on the evening of 5th August. I got wind of this a few days later when a journalist on the local 'Lothian Courier', rang me to ask if I would be interested in investigating further. Naturally I agreed, and contacted Ken Higgins of SRUFO who lived nearby and knows the area. We visited the witness on the 12th of August.

The witness is a 52 year old retired lady, and although she had made the original report, it transpired that both she and her husband (also retired), had been involved in the sighting.

The witness (Mrs G,) had seen first, bright swirling lights in the sky at 10.30pm timed precisely as they had the television on. However, as the lights stayed in the same position for several minutes, she called her husband into the garden. He brought his binoculars, and through these he could make out a pyramid shaped object with a base at the bottom, and white and red lights attached. They continued to watch it for several more minutes till it suddenly vanished.

It should be noted that the witnesses house is situated almost directly below a flight path into Turnhouse, (Edinburgh Airport). However, written confirmation has been received by SPI from Air Traffic Control that, "there were no aircraft or unusual radar returns noted in that area at that time" ?

During discussion with the witnesses, it emerged that the previous night to the sighting, (i.e. 4th August) a mysterious light in the form of a powerful beam had swept through the witnesses house. It had also swept through a neighbours house directly opposite. A statement was given by the neighbours confirming the event. With the witnesses agreement, details of the events were given to the 'Lothian Courier', and it was agreed that Ken Higgins, as the nearest contact would collect responses. In fact, Ken's phone was red hot as a result.

Many new cases emerged, and SPI and SRUFO are cooperating to investigate all these reports. Further news soon.

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EDITOR'S NOTE.

As mentioned in our Aug/Sep issue of ENIGMAS, SPI shall again be visiting Loch Morar next year for continuing research purposes. To follow through with our dowsing experiments, and to interview people around the loch concerning sightings of 'Morag', the creature which allegedly inhabits Loch Morar, (a cousin of Nessie perhaps?) Should you wish to participate in SPI's research next year, then please contact Ron Halliday. His address can be found on page 2. Any assistance would be much appreciated.

news desk

STRANGE PHENOMENA INVESTIGATIONS

■ NICE ONE JAMES ? I should have mentioned that last issue's cover was designed by James Havers of Crawley Sussex. The cover of this issue was designed by Gerry Lovell of Wells, Somerset, England. If you would like to submit an idea/drawing for a possible cover, then submissions should be sent to the Editorial Address. ■ NESS NEWSLETTER. A quite informative Newsletter devoted to Scotland's own Loch Ness Monster, can be obtained by writing to Rip Hepple, Huntshildford, St. Johns Chapel, Bishop Auckland, County Durham DL13 1RQ. Can't recall the subscription rates, but I'm quite sure that by writing to Rip, he'll soon let you know. This will keep you astep of all the current sightings of "Nessie", and what's going on in and around the loch. ■ YANKEE DOODLE SPI. SPI an an organisation, is to be listed in yet another UFO book, of UFO Organisations. This time in David Blevins, (an American author) "The Almanac Of UFO Organisations And Publications". Hopefully more ties with our American colleagues will bear fruit from this. ENIGMAS already exchanges with a number of American UFO publications, and we certainly hope to add to this through this new book.

■ SRUFO IN THE NEWS AGAIN. Our sister group, SRUFO, (Scottish Research Into UFOs), have been making more press recently. From the Sunday Mail of November the 17th, the headline (with colour photo of UFO and alien) reads, 'Look out, the UFOs are on the way'. The story informs readers to watch the skies as 'many' UFO sightings have been reported from Aberdeen to Ullapool, from Stirling to Blackridge West Lothian. Club Secretary Ken Higgins is quoted as saying, "we don't know why". SPI can confirm that there have been sightings but let's not give the false impression that of, 'hundreds and hundreds'. It would appear that perhaps the press think that because there have been a number of sightings, this would imply

that there was a major invasion about to occur, but that's the press for you ain't it ? The press tend to add that extra edge to a story whereby it looks more than it really does, unless of course things really do hot up.

■ PSYCHIC SEARCH. This was the heading from the Scottish Sunday Post of November 17th in which we were told that Scottish psychic Ann Anderson has been called in to search for missing school girl, Vicky Hamilton. Mrs Anderson believes that Vicky is dead, and that her body can be found on Cairnpapple hill north east of Bathgate, (this is an ancient burial ground in the shape of a conical mound) If SPI receive further news about this then we shall inform readers in our next issue which will be Feb/March.

■ HERE WE GO AGAIN ? That female institution, 'Womans' magazine, had as a feature recently, "Is It Safe To Dabble In The Paranormal ?" My god old hat again. No it's not safe said Tom Willis, an exorcist and vicar of the Holy Trinity Church in Bridlington Humberside, he said, and I quote, "Until 1951, anyone who dabbled in the paranormal could be prosecuted under the Witchcraft act, this was then repealed on the assumption that no one would be interested in that sort of thing in the enlightened 20th century. However, there was what I call, an Occult 'explosion' and the church had to train exorcists like myself very quickly to deal with the consequences". Our vicar then has a go at everything paranormal, dosen't he know that Jesus was the biggest medium of all who asked us to follow his ways ? The paranormal is safe, so said Eileen Roberts, President of the Institute of Spiritual mediums at Stevenage Herts. Eileen more or less said that it was safe provided you know what you are doing. Just space to wish our readers a very merry christmas, and a happy new year. Long may your lumb reek ?