

SOUTH LINGS



U.F.O STUDY

GROUP

NEWSLETTER

MAY 1971

May 1971.

UFO Research Today, by Fred O. Gardner, FRGS.

(This article was received from Mr. Gardner and read out at our open meeting in May.)

I am happy to send you all - members and friends of the South Lincs. UFO Study Group - my greetings and best wishes for an interesting and worthwhile meeting for discussion and study of UFO research and allied phenomena. I regret my personal inability to be present with you on this occasion, but sincerely hope that the interest evinced by those present will be lively and positive, and give all concerned much encouragement in their investigation. I have explained to Mrs. Patricia Barnes, the editor of your Newsletter, owing to a prior engagement arranged some time ago, I am prevented from joining you on this get-together.

What can I say of UFO research today? There is much, far too much for permissible space! We often hear the question: Is there anything in it? It is my personal conviction that there is much indeed in it, possibly far more than even those interested may realise, and certainly far more than the masses appear to appreciate.

There are those who say that they want proof, and they ask understandably: Is there any proof that Flying Saucers exist, and if there is, what it is all about? To this, I would say, without appearing to equivocate: What is proof to some, is not so to others. We have all heard the truism: One man's meat is another's poison! It all depends, I suppose, what one requires as 'proof', in effect, what do we mean by proof? I would say that there is so much evidence, so many witnesses, so much factual evidence which taken together is tantamount to proof which would be admissible in a court of law. There are alas some people who are so sceptical, so critical, with minds that are either made up or end in a sort of cul de sac and even though presented with incontrovertible evidence they are so foolish and perverse that they will not even give the case a fair hearing and due appraisal on its own merits.

To date, no one has succeeded in disproving the existence of the phenomenon. Some have tried to disprove the existence of UFOs or discredit the observers - and one would readily admit that there have been mistakes and misinterpretations, in fact, far too many of them; but not all sightings and reportings have been mistaken or erroneous - but the attempts of many misguided critics have often proved to be far more illogical and untenable than the crude efforts of many of the cultists to establish their case!

What are the facts? They are these: Unidentified Flying Objects, ie Flying Saucers of various shapes and sizes at different times and dates have been seen and reported by competent and reputable people all over the world for varying periods in the past (and indeed in the present). Research groups are world-wide, many of which are led and supported by qualified and experienced persons, numbers of whom are experts in their own right.

These responsible people include scientists, astronauts, aircraft pilots and crews, astronomers, engineers, educationalists, clergymen, journalists, and ordinary members of the public such as ourselves. The bibliography alone exceeds a thousand books. There is a move afoot to bring the matter before the United Nations for global consideration, for pooling of all information and views on the matter, but to date every effort to do so has been thwarted. Sightings and attested reports of UFO observations are legion.

The study of UFOs is fascinating, complex and very absorbing. I, personally, after a careful, prolonged and factual investigation am convinced of the validity of the UFO case, but as a cautious Lancashire man, I must add, I continue my research!

Again, if I may voice a purely personal opinion, I would say that any attempt on a purely materialistic or scientific basis to find out what it is all about will never succeed - we must certainly start from a materialistic and indeed a scientific basis in our appraisal of this problem, but while so doing we must be very careful not to confine ourselves to such a hard-line, low-level approach only but we must also be prepared to broaden and deepen our terms of reference in trying to understand the meaning and the significance of the UFO phenomenon.

We must be prepared to acknowledge the need of religion, true religion, not necessarily our conventional concepts and interpretations of it, along with the need of science, pure science - not the kind that has paped and ruined the world we live in, not the pollution of technology, industry and so-called civilised living and the mad, suicidal activities of responsible governments, especially the 'super-powers' producing and stocking more and more powerful destructive weapons with probable adverse effects not only on our own planet but also our immediate planetary neighbours, simply because our ~~own planet~~ scientific progress without moral considerations has caused the world in which we live to be called the 'dying planet'.

John A. Keel, a noted American journalist, who wrote "UFOs - Operation Trojan Horse", the material for which he researched for four years, seven days a week, without any vacation or respite, hacking his way systematically through all the myths and misunderstandings which surround this fascinating subject, in which he reviewed more than 2,000 books, uncounted thousands of magazines and letters and newspapers... And he adds: "History, psychiatry, religion and the occult have proven to be ~~far~~ more important to an understanding of the whole than the many books which simply recount the endless sightings of aerial anomalies.

The American ufologist goes on to say: "A major, but little-explored ^{aspect} of the UFO phenomenon is therefore ~~theological and philosophical~~ rather than purely scientific. The UFO problem can never be untangled by physicists and scientists unless they are men who have been schooled in the liberal arts, theology and philosophy. Unfortunately, most scientific disciplines are so demanding that their practitioners have little time or inclination to study complicated subjects outside their own immediate fields of interest". These remarks are purely introductory, and if you have any questions, please let me have them and I will try to answer them to the best of my ability.

A Short History of UFOs, by Nigel H. Watson.

Over the past twenty odd years as we too well know people have consistently reported seeing UFOs; below is a short list of some of the periods in history when UFOs were seen or written about.

1. In his book Chariots of the Gods the Swiss archaeologist Erich Von Daniken posed the question 'Was God an Astronaut?' He correlates events and happenings described in the world's sacred books, to show that thousands of years ago astronauts may have visited earth.
2. Hundreds of years later Shakespeare wrote the following lines (Henry VI, part 111, act 11, scene 1.):

Richard: Three glorious suns. Each a perfect sun,
Not separated with the racking clouds,
But sever'd in a pale clear-shining sky.
See, see! They join, embrace and seem
to kiss,
As if they vowed some league inviolable:
Now they are one lamp, one light, one
sun,

In this the heaven figures some event.

3. At the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries earth was swept by the 'great airship wave'. Mysterious objects resembling airships, although showing far superior aerodynamic characteristics were seen in countries as far apart as Britain and New Zealand.
4. Thirty odd years later mystery aircraft with no markings, & which apparently enjoyed flying in raging blizzards were chased by the military authorities of Norway, Sweden and Finland, although their efforts proved fruitless.
5. In 1944 and 1945 at the close of the second World War, pilots reported seeing mysterious balls of white light which appeared to be intelligently controlled. Although thought to be secret Nazi weapons it became apparent after the ~~ax~~ war that no power on earth had such devices.
6. June 24th 1947, Kenneth Arnold saw nine UFOs over Mount Rainier, the name 'Flying Saucers' was coined and since then UFOs have consistently been reported throughout the world.

The Harris Poll On Science And Space Travel showed that the vast majority of people would say NO to a moon trip. Half of the people questioned doubted the existence of life elsewhere in the universe, the youngsters & highly educated being less sceptical. One third said positively no life elsewhere. And 30% believe in Flying Saucers.