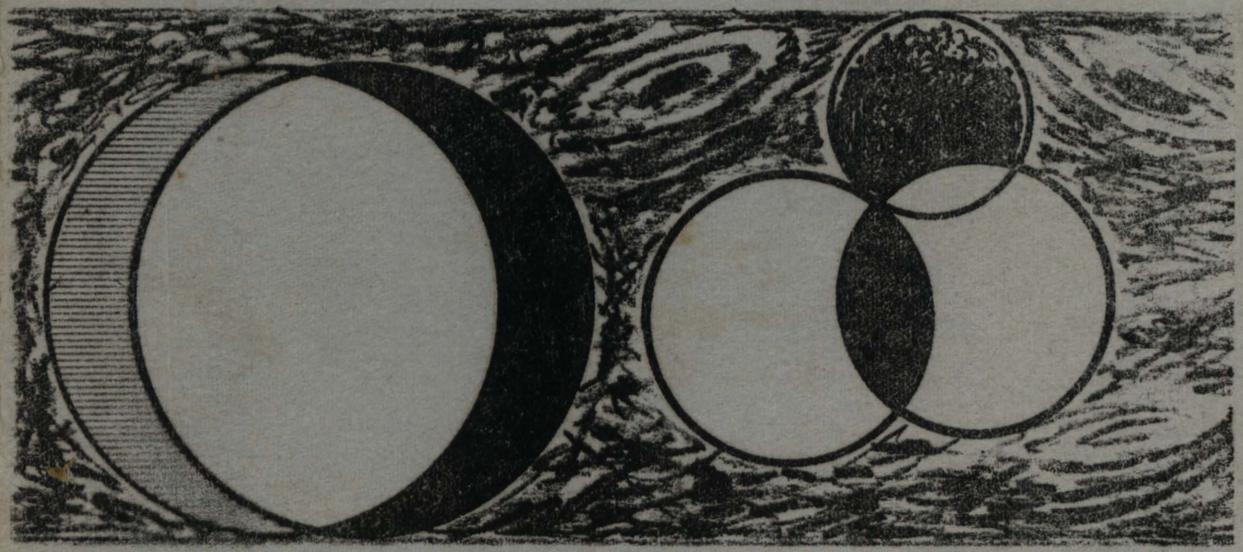
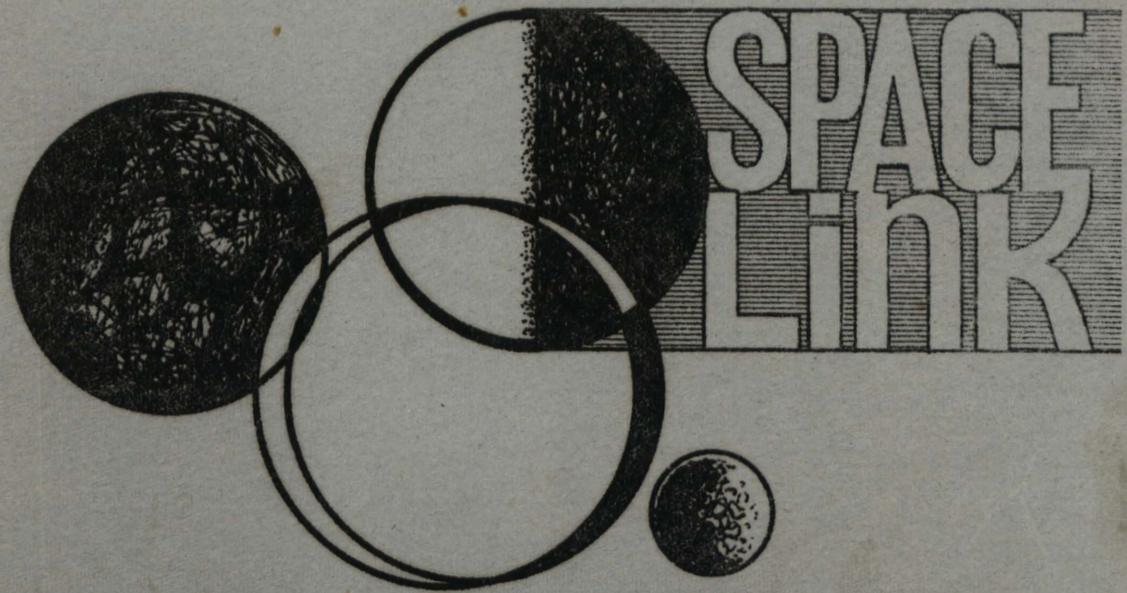


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JOURNAL OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT INVESTIGATION SOCIETY

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 1
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SPACELINK

THE JOURNAL OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT
INVESTIGATION SOCIETY

Volume 1, No.1.

Jan/Feb. 1964

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IWUFOIS is a non-sectarian, non-political, non-profit-making society dedicated to the unbiased investigation of all UFO phenomena. The views expressed in its journal, SPACELINK, are not necessarily those of the society or the editor.

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E D I T O R I A L

Having so much to say and so little space to say it in makes the writing of this first editorial a rather difficult task. Since Kenneth Arnold saw his 'Flying Saucer' fleet back in 1947, interest and awareness in UFOs have snowballed to considerable proportions and a movement; though I hesitate to use this word as it generally implies political or religious motives; has by now been firmly established. Daniel Fry, famous contactee and rocket engineer, estimated as far back as 1959 that there were over 5000 UFO groups in existence, of which at least 1000 were in the U.S.A. A great deal has happened in the five years since then and one can only guess at the following that the subject now has.

UFOlogy is gaining respectability. The U.S. Government, stubbornly silent as it is, has been constantly toying with the idea of publicising its material while, in stark contrast, the Swedish Authorities have calmly handed over their entire UFO files to civil investigators. Brazil has indirectly admitted that the saucers exist while Britain retains her stiff upper-lip and persists in keeping 'mum'.

Where is it all leading? It seems to me that mankind is being subtly and gently led to a unanimous acceptance of the Flying Saucers, discs, call them what you will. Eventually, they must become commonplace; a little infrequent, perhaps, but normal; like earthquakes. This is the time when, IF they contain extra-terrestrial intelligences, open contact will be made.

The way in which SPACELINK fits into this gradually expanding picture is to provide yet another seat from which information and opinions can be voiced. Of the large volume of 'advice' I have had during the pre-natal state of this magazine, the question that recurred most frequently was

'Is another mag. necessary?... Why not all Eds. join forces and produce one monster journal?' The main objection is obvious; magazines are like people. An individual, shouting loudly in a corner, can be easily overlooked, but a purposeful mob has a good chance of impressing its ideals on stolid officialdom - harass the dog and it will rise.

To describe the material we intend to publish in SPACELINK would take a lot more room than I have at my disposal in this issue for it covers not only the entire UFO field, but popular astronomy as well. If more people were familiar with heavenly bodies (pun unintentional), then I am sure less of our sighting reports would resolve themselves into observations of meteorites or the planet Venus.

I must offer a few words of explanation, about the sentence in the SPACELINK circular which mentioned 'material with occult or psychic bias'. It is not our intention to serve the 'lunatic fringe' nor cater for the ramblings of pseudo prophets who get carried away with the first morsel of popular 'mysticism' they come across. If, however, something odd genuinely happens in this rather delicate field, then we are prepared to give it a fair scientific appraisal.

In the next issue, there will be more illustrations owing to the vacancy in stencil space left by the cover design. Photographs, sketches and diagrams can all be reproduced, so do not hesitate to illustrate your articles where applicable. The cover will retain the present design for one year, but will change colour with each issue. Next year, a different design will be printed.

The policy of IWUFOIS is action and it is hoped that this will be reflected in its journal, SPACELINK. UFOlogy as a serious field of research has been neglected too long; organisation, where it exists, is threadbare and leaves a lot to be desired. It is high time the subject was lifted from its 'collecting-car-numbers' status. IWUFOIS has developed a system of sighting tabulation and research that is virtually foolproof and, what is important to a voluntary body, inexpensive. In the next issue, this system will be explained fully so that we can at last lay the foundation of a national sighting network.

Letters to the Editor are always welcome and, if space permits, the best will be published.

IWUFOIS proposes to hold two national-scale skywatches this year:

JUNE 11th, 1964 (at 3 p.m.)

SEPTEMBER 16th, 1964 (from 1 a.m. to 3 a.m.)

Full details of the first date will appear in the March/April issue of SPACELINK while the second will be covered in the August/September issue.

The dates have significance, as will be mentioned later.

BOOK YOUR COPY NOW.

'...we are a body of Scientific Researchers, not a bunch of evangelists seeking converts.'

.....J. Cleary-Baker; about BUFOA.

B.U.F.O.A. Conference Report

by F.W. Smith, Hon. Sec.,
IWUFOIS.

The 23rd and 24th of November 1963 marked an important milestone in the history of the British UFO Association and gave the delegates of the member societies their first real opportunity of meeting together; both in the formal Council sessions and informally afterwards. It was very heartening to be in the company of what represented the nucleus of organised UFO interest in the British Isles.

Following a short address by the President, Mr Graham Knewstub, A.M. Brit. I.R.E., A.Inst. E., formerly Director of Research of the British Flying Saucer Bureau, the conference opened with a lecture by Antoni Szachnowski, Chairman of the Anglo-Polish UFO Research Club, who introduced his lecture by reading telegrams and letters from UFO groups all over the world, notably Sweden, Japan and Switzerland, wishing success to the conference. A poignant telegram from the American Association grieving over the assassination of their space-age President, John F. Kennedy, was very moving, expressing the mood of everyone in the conference hall.

Mr Szachnowski has obviously done a great deal of research into UFOlogy. He displayed photographic enlargements of evidence from archaeological finds. One was of an old drawing discovered in a cave; it looked like the figure of a man in a space helmet. Of course, one can only speculate

on this sort of find, but it does leave avenues for thought wide open. He also has been paying a lot of attention and thought to the statements of Russian space-scientists; a great deal of reading between the lines produced an intriguing picture of the official and unofficial attitude of Soviet people to the question of intelligent life beyond this planet. It would seem that Russian astro-physicists are realistically tackling the problem of preparing the way for contact with intelligent life, if they have not already done so. Dramatic and far-reaching as this may seem, and is, we should not close our eyes to its implications. The Russians have a faculty, due in large measure to their being a totalitarian state, of springing surprises, especially in space research. It is intriguing to contemplate what is going on behind the Urals.

John Llewelyn, Chairman of the Stratford-on-Avon UFO group, followed up with a talk bringing in a very original slant under the somewhat forbidding title of; 'Unobvious ways in which the concept of UFO phenomena is disseminated.'

It was his opinion that we were being subtly prepared for acceptance of 'other beings' through the mass media of T.V. and newspapers in the form of intelligently presented science and space-fiction. The younger generation were far more advanced in their acceptance of the established fact of space travel than their generally more reluctant elders. This is not surprising when it is remembered that the history of earthman's serious experiments in space is only five years old if one considers Sputnik 1 as the starting point. (4th Oct., 1957 -Ed). Mr Llewelyn displayed a shrewd appreciation of the situation which he reinforced by showing at the end of the session the science-fiction film; 'The Day the Earth Stood Still'. Although made a decade ago, this film is still remarkable in its sincerity and perhaps even more applicable to today's conditions; a film, in fact, with a most emphatic message.

After the interval for refreshments, our Chairman, Len Cramp, who had accompanied me to Birmingham, once again held the full attention of the audience with some demonstrations, using models, which pointed to certain technical support of some recent sighting reports. Illustrating with slides, his interpretation of the possible explanation of the way in which the now famous Wiltshire crater could have been formed was particularly impressive. Unfortunately, there

was insufficient time for any subsequent questions, but I feel that, had there been, Len would have been there until the early hours.

Some very interesting films were then shown; being some of the very rare pieces of evidence which exist, not counting any official film and although the glimpses are all too brief, they do give us a little crumb of comfort. Microscopic analysis of these films was then discussed by the two researchers responsible, Dr G. Doel, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.M.R.E. and Basil Nubel, A.R.C.A., of the London UFO Research Organisation, who had apparently spent many hours on this work.

Besides the public sessions, there were meetings of the Council of B.U.F.O.A., the writer being the delegate for I.W.U.F.O.I.S. Some important points emerged from the discussion and I feel that they should be aired here for the benefit of all as this was the core to which the future of the British UFO movement and its policy adheres. My apologies to B.U.F.O.A. Sec., N. Stephenson; I trust he will not feel that any cats are being let out of the bag!

Financially, B.U.F.O.A. are far from sound. Firstly, the new members during the year did not come forward in the numbers expected and the production costs of the journal were such that further issues seem doubtful. The first year of the organisation has not produced very much in the way of information concerning evaluation of sighting reports and apathy can develop all too quickly. The onus rests on the individual and, to this end, in order to perhaps guide him as to what he can do, a few pointers in the right direction would help in summing up the Conference and the future.

Support your group as keenly as you can by attending meetings, etc.

Information, especially sighting reports, needs to be followed up as quickly as possible otherwise news and details soon lose their spice. Attempt to locate quickly the source of any report. Once the societies have become really aware of this particular activity, interest will grow. Elsewhere in this issue is an outline of a scheme for processing sighting reports on a national scale. B.U.F.O.A. are aware of this weakness and are working on an improvement. As mentioned earlier, finance stifles anything too ambitious at present, but with effort and not apathy, YOU can help

lay the foundation of a movement which, though small and frail at the moment, will be but a part of a pattern which will emerge in the future; a pattern which cannot help but involve all mankind. No one knows the answers to all the questions; the UFO is and, when we know why it is, the most intriguing phenomena of this planet may give mankind an answer to his countless questions and, perhaps, his prayers.

On then to a year of activity; both for 'Them' and us!

'Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood.'

.....Marie Curie.

THE CHARLTON CRATER.

a report by J. Cleary-Baker, Ph.D.

I went down to the Charlton 'crater', with a colleague, on the afternoon of Saturday, July 27th. The owner of the land, Mr Roy Blanchard, having previously given me written permission to enter upon this property, was kind enough to come and answer my questions on the site and was able to elucidate many points not made clear in newspaper reports.

The activities of the bomb-disposal squad and of sight-seers had eliminated many of the original features, but it proved to be possible, with Mr Blanchard's assistance, to reconstruct the scene as it was at first. (See diag. below) (Photo. in F.S. Review, Vol.9, No.5 -Ed.)

The central hole had been about three feet deep, penetrating about $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches of soft topsoil and entering the sandstone which underlies it. Where the three slots had reached a thick growth of barley, it was still quite plain to see that the plants had been forced flat, AWAY from the direction of the crater.

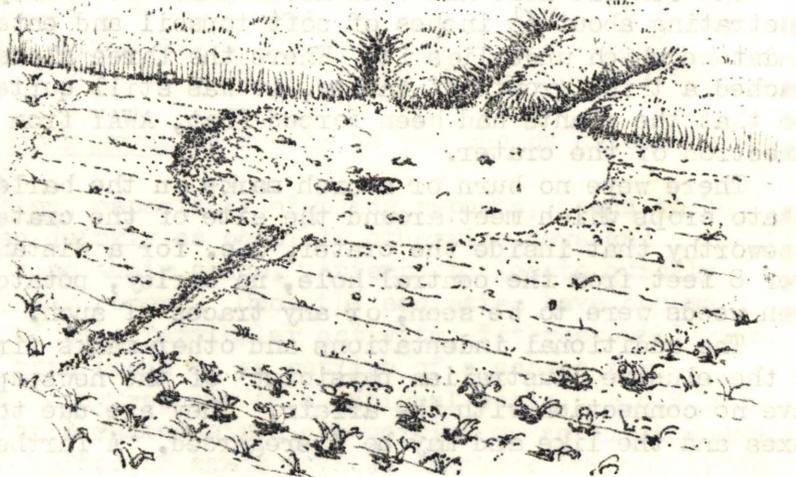
There were no burn or scorch marks on the barley or potato crops which meet around the site of the crater. It was noteworthy that inside the crater, i.e. for a distance of over 8 feet from the central hole, no barley, potatoes or even weeds were to be seen, or any traces of such.

The additional indentations and other marks first reported by the elusive 'Australian physicist' of the newspaper reports, have no connection with the affair. They are due to weather, foxes and the like and may be disregarded. A further press

account of a 'scorched cow' is another red-herring. The cow was pastured in a field a long way from the crater and seems to have been bitten by an adder!

I was unable to obtain additional information concerning the 'burning orange object flashing through the sky', seen on the night of July 10th by P.C. Anthony Penny, apparently descending on the field where the crater is. This could have been an illusion due to car headlights from a road running high on the hills overlooking the field.

When all false leads and doubtful accretions have been eliminated, the case remains a remarkable one. The so-called 'meteor' unearthed by the Army has proved to be a piece of ordinary ironstone, proving no more than that astronomers do not always recognise meteors when they see them! No bomb, or traces of one, have been located. The nature and circumstances of the incident rule out hoax and accidental damage by a car or piece of farm machinery. It should be noted that somewhat similar craters were reported at about the same time in the Lammermuir Hills in East Lothian, Scotland, on the same parallel of longitude as Charlton! (For a comprehensive report on these, and others, see T.U.F.O.S. publication, 'ORBIT', Vol.5, No.2 -Ed).



Evaluation:-

My personal view is that the Charlton crater was caused by the landing of a discoid Unidentified Flying Object, probably of the kind classified by the U.S.A.F. 'Project Bluebook' as, 'Flying Saucer - Little Brother', to give it its code-name.

On this hypothesis, the central hole represents the cavity created by the underpart of the middle column of the saucer. The 8-foot crater represents the indentation caused by that part of the saucer's convex under-surface which came in contact with the ground.

I do not accept that the mysterious slots radiating from the perimeter of the crater were caused by tripod legs or anything of the kind. The way in which the barley was flattened away from the crater points to jets of compressed gas of some kind, steadying the saucer and cushioning its descent. (Somewhat on the lines of a hovercraft, but with more localised cushioning).

On take-off, the saucer's auto-gravitational field would begin to form, lifting barley, potatoes and a certain amount of loose soil. All this might later be jettisoned by a momentary cutting off of the UFO's power. If this happened over an inhabited area, a 'Fortean' shower of earth, stones, barley and potatoes would astonish the persons below!

J.C-B., 28.7.63.

In the Beginning

by L.G. Cramp, A.R.Ae.S., M.S.I.A.

The date was November 23rd 1963, the place, a comfortable Birmingham hotel room.

I found myself looking around at the members of the first BUFOA conference. They were mostly young men, earnest men, sincere men. I found myself wondering where all this would lead, this tireless search for the truth behind so called Flying Saucers. Although at the moment internal policies of the young association was the keynote, perhaps these were but the birth pangs of an order yet to come? An order which could one day rank as one of the most far reaching the world has ever known. Far reaching in the true sense of the word, for it may involve diplomatic relations with other cultures from outer space. Daily more and more people are coming to realise the truth of our subject, the societies are expanding and an ever increasing number of people of scientific leaning are taking

notice. Backed up by these scientists, the weight of public opinion will finally bring pressure to bear on secretly filed documents hidden away in government departments the world over. This together with space mindedness now being stimulated in the minds of ordinary folk, will prepare the earth's civilisation for its greatest adventure of all.

At the moment, after some fifteen years of sifting, seeking, debating, the little Societies have finally grouped together, perhaps none of them particularly nearer to the truth than the other.

The one thing they have in common is the unshakeable belief that there is 'something strange' going on in the skies of this planet. Something, someone, is conducting surveillance of this globe for an unknown purpose. We earnestly believe one day all men everywhere will ultimately come to accept this as a fact.

When that day comes, be it near or in the distant future, we shall be glad to have taken part in laying the foundation of a greater understanding of the nature of the universe.

For no extraordinary order is this. It calls for no other degree or qualification than simple faith, in that not all men are deluded, dishonest, fraudulent, sensation seekers. That a great many of them are sane, honest and accurate observers of the truth, it is on their testimony that we are proud to have built our case.

It could be of course that when it does come we shall be swept aside in the great wave of world wide acceptance of interplanetary intelligences.

We may reach no other granduer than at informal parties our children's children will tell of Grandfather's awareness, faith and vision and who knows, but a higher order than we has deemed it so. That the slowly emerging pattern we see unfolding as in the correctness of things, it may well be that you and yours are truly privileged to take even the smallest of parts in the coming of age of this present earth civilisation. For in all truth it may well be that...

"Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to others in parables, that seeing they shall not see, and hearing they shall not understand." Math. 13; 10.

For, by only such means will mankind evolve.

UFOs IN PREHISTORY.

Part one.

by Mrs N. Spanner.

Aime Michel's 'Straight Line Theory' was a big step forward in UFOlogy. Here at last was an attempt to correlate sightings and to discover some sort of pattern of distribution, etc. From his plottings, a definite pattern of time and place emerged; he did not, at this stage, try to interpret his results, but I understand that he is working on this now.

As many others must have done, I tried his methods for myself, using the most complete set of British sightings available; those for 1956, collected by Brinsley Le Poer Trench. There are over a hundred of them and they form a pattern which appears as deliberate as the French one. There are differences, however; sightings are less frequent, so that the time factor is not so important, but there is a marked grouping in certain areas and this appears to have significance. What this could be was not immediately apparent and it was only by chance that I happened upon the next clue.

Soon after making my sighting map, I came upon another sketch map which, at first glance, was its duplicate! It showed the same groupings in the same areas as my map but, in this case, it was a map of known Neolithic sites in Britain. There are so few of these, in such widely separated parts of the country, that it must be more than a coincidence that the sightings were grouped in just these same areas.

It seemed a good idea to check the French sightings again to see if a similar correlation showed there. France was the ideal place to choose for this as more research had been done there on prehistoric cultures than in any other country; it has, in addition, the famous painted caves at Lascaux, etc. The map in Michel's book, which plots all the sightings mentioned, shows that the majority lie within an area in central France, roughly rectangular, with outlying groups along the north, west and south-west coasts. Although it was not possible to pinpoint camp sites and sightings so accurately in another country, it was possible to see that the outline of the main group of sightings was roughly the area of the Central Massif and includes many of the painted caves and numerous prehistoric sites. More are found along

the northern coastal area, in Brittany, with its large numbers of megalithic monuments, and in the southwest in the Basque country. Without detailed archaeological maps, it is hard to say if there is such a correlation as there appears to be here.

It is even harder to check on this on a world-wide scale, but as a rough guide it is possible to compare frequency of sightings in any area with archaeological activity there; particularly with recent discoveries. The areas with the highest number of recorded sightings are undoubtedly North and South America. These are followed by Africa, especially North Africa, India and the Mediterranean countries. In all of these, archaeological discoveries of a particular type have, and still are, being made.

If the connection between UFOs and these sites can be shown to be valid, the reason for it must be either the location of these sites or the people who lived there.

Wherever these people lived, one thing was essential - a plentiful supply of the stone which they needed for tools and weapons; either flint, quartz or obsidian, all forms of silica. All three forms had the same qualities in that they could take a fine cutting edge, but all were brittle and had to be replaced frequently. As these were a sedentary people who made permanent settlements, they had to have a good supply of flint or the other silicates in their neighbourhood. This explains why, in Britain, the settlements are found so close together in certain areas while there is no trace of them in the remainder of the country. This same condition applies anywhere in the world and is the cause of the comparative scarcity of their settlements.

There would appear to be two very disparate reasons for the interest of the UFOs in these particular places; one concerns the people who once occupied these settlements and the other the geology of the places where they lived. As these represent the two extremes of UFO theory, it would be better to look at them separately.

Some years ago, when archaeology had become a tidy and respectable science, with most of the questions answered, discoveries began to be made which seemed to upset the accepted order of things. Sites were excavated which revealed the remains of complex civilisations that must have existed far earlier than was then thought possible. Previous occupation of the site was either non-existent or of a

primitive type. It was therefore argued that these civilised people, with their superior brain-power and equipment, must have been invaders who had conquered the original inhabitants, if any, and that their homeland was elsewhere. All efforts to find this homeland and to trace the transition from the primitive to the complex civilisation have, so far, failed. They seem to have arrived from nowhere and finally to have disappeared just as mysteriously; in many instances, it can be seen from the occupation levels that their settlements were abandoned suddenly and that the next level above is a reversion to the primitive.

Although stone was their principal material, they were not ignorant of the use of metals. Gold, silver, copper and tin were used, but were reserved for ceremonial purposes. Stone was their characteristic material and it is by their stone monuments that they are recognised. The Ziggurats of Ur, the Pyramids of Egypt, the pre-Inca temples of Peru, the avenues of Carnac in Brittany, Baalbec, Stonehenge and Avebury are some of the best known. Some of their works show engineering skills unexcelled today. Many are built of solid blocks of stone, many weighing from fifteen to a hundred tons apiece, often quarried some distance from the building site; the bluestone used for Stonehenge was brought from Prescelly in West Wales. Once there, these blocks were hauled up by some unknown means, maybe a hundred feet or more, as building progressed. When they have been uncovered, the blocks are often found still in their original positions, so well fitted together that even a knife blade cannot be inserted between them. There is one series of their buildings where less tractable material made the usual precision fit they achieved with limestone or sandstone blocks impossible. An example of these were the vitrified hill forts of Scotland where the separate blocks have been fused together at the joints with intense heat. A temperature of at least 1500 deg. centigrade was necessary to do this and it had to be a narrow, directed flame, as only the joints have been vitrified. The only instrument capable of doing this are an electric welding torch or the modern laser - but these forts were built at least four thousand years ago! (Comp. the ref. to the Bramah weapon in the Adamski/Leslie book -Ed.)

In many of the city sites, statuary and wall-paintings have been found, but the most remarkable of the paintings are those which have been found in caves. All have been

discovered by accident and there may be many more still hidden. Although none have been discovered in Britain as yet, there are certain clues which suggest that Culver Cliff, on the Isle of Wight, could reveal something of this nature.

There is far more to say about these mysterious people, but I think the few instances I have given of their abilities and achievements are enough to show that they were somewhat unusual, if nothing more. When it can be shown that it is over their sites that UFOs have been seen most frequently, some connection between the two can be argued.

(To be continued)

It is written...

'..behold, a stormy wind came out of the north and a great cloud with brightness round it, and fire flashing forth continually, and in the midst of the fire, as it were gleaming bronze.'

Ezekiel; 1, 4.

'...I saw a wheel upon the earth beside the living creatures, one for each of the four of them. As for the appearance of the wheels and their construction: their appearance was like the gleaming of a chrysolite; and the four had the same likeness, their construction being as it were a wheel within a wheel. When they went, they went in any of their four directions without turning as they went. The four wheels had rims and they had spokes; and their rims were full of eyes round about. And when the living creatures went, the wheels went beside them; and when the living creatures rose from the earth, the wheels rose.'

Ezekiel; 1, 15.

'...for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.'

Ezekiel; 1, 21.

*circular construction ✓ eyes = portholes:
chrysolite = olive green coloured semi precious stone:*

THE LONG SEARCH FOR ASTRONOMICAL TRUTH

by K. Ball, B.Sc., F.R.A.S., F.B.I.S.

It is known that the Babylonians, by means of long and patient observation of the sky, had acquired an extensive knowledge of the apparent movements of the heavenly bodies. An astronomer-priest of ancient Babylon, noticing a reddish star near the horizon, would know immediately that it was Mars and would be able to trace its apparent movement across the sky; he would also know when and where to expect its re-appearance. But Mars, to the priest, was not the next planet outside the earth's orbit - it was not even a solid body, but merely the abode of a certain god! There is no evidence whatsoever to suspect that the Babylonians, who possessed an enormous knowledge of the motion of the sun, the moon, and the planets among the so-called fixed stars, ever made the least attempt to determine their distance or their properties. The inferences they drew from this vast, and quite precise, knowledge they had acquired were absolutely childish and trivial; the complete absence of the idea that there were other worlds, comparable in size to the earth, precluded all further knowledge.

Ancient Chinese astronomy was severely constrained by the same limitation. They learned to recognize certain cycles, they predicted eclipses quite accurately, and even invented astronomical instruments that are of great assistance in determining the position of a planet or star. Unfortunately, they were convinced that the earth was flat, and gave no credence to the possible existence of other worlds.

Similar beliefs were held in ancient Greece, but their astronomy did finally overcome the concept of a flat earth. Pythagoras of Samos learned to identify "Hesperos" and "Phosphoros" as the same planet, the one we call Venus, and he became familiar with the concept of a spherical earth freely poised in space. About two hundred years later, Heraclides of Pontus, who became a disciple of Plato in 360 B.C., taught that the planets Mercury and Venus revolved about the sun, but he still maintained that the sun revolved around the earth. Aristarchus of Samos actually proposed what we now know as the Copernican system, with the sun at the centre of the system and all the planets revolving around it. He also attempted (in about 280 B.C.) to measure the distance of the sun and moon from the earth. Later, Eratosthenes, the Royal Librarian at Alexandria, decided to

measure the earth. The effect of his incorrect initial assumptions would appear to have nullified one another, since his estimate of 250,000 stadia was surprisingly accurate; this, one must remember, took place about two centuries before the birth of Christ. Next came the astronomer Hipparchus (180 B.C. - 125 B.C.), whose most important work was the cataloguing of 1,080 "fixed" stars, which he divided into six groups according to the magnitude of their apparent brightness - a system still in use today. In our eyes, however, Hipparchus "blotted his copybook" by reverting to the retrograde idea of the earth as the centre of the solar system. (the Ptolemaic system).

At about this period philosophic speculation was rife concerning the plurality of worlds. In 160 A.D., the first "science fiction" story (concerning space travel) called "Vera Historia" ("True History") was written by the Greek sophist and satirist, Lukien. No movement, either forwards or backwards, was made in astronomical knowledge for many centuries after this time. Following the philosophy of Aristotle, who was opposed to the idea of a plurality of worlds, in 1145 A.D. Franciscus Gratianus issued a "left hook" to astronomical advancement in the form of a straight "prohibitus est": the belief in more than one world was declared to be heretical. However in 1277, the Bishop of Paris, Etien Tempier, with authority granted by Pope John XXI, officially condemned the proposition that there could be only one world. God's plentitude was not to be restricted; plentitude and creative power must be unlimited. This ecclesiastical opinion prevailed until the end of the 16th. century; the Church did not turn against plurality again until such time as it was confronted with the concept of a moving earth.

The fire of what is now called the astronomical revolution was kindled by the publication of three books and the invention of the telescope. The first of these books was entitled "On the Revolutions of the Celestial Orbs" and was written by Nicholas Copernicus of Thorn, appearing in 1543. The second was Johannes Kepler's "On the Motions of Mars", in 1609. The third - a direct result of the invention of the telescope - was Galileo Galilei's "Messenger of the Stars", in 1610. Copernicus' book was placed on the Index of Forbidden Books in 1616, and remained forbidden until 1835, while

Galilei was compelled to recant in 1633. The inherent result of all this was that the rapid development of astronomy during these two hundred years was confined to Protestant countries. These three books considered together form, in logical progression, a new picture of the world. It was Kepler who first realised that the planets move in elliptical orbits with the sun at one of the focal points of the ellipse (Kepler's first law). The position at this time may be summed up by saying that Copernicus and Kepler put the mechanism of the solar system in order, while Galileo Galilei, by means of direct telescopic observation, put worlds into the solar system.

All this, taken together, provided a new and fertile foundation for dreams of space travel, and many books in this metier began to appear. Lukien's "True History" was reprinted, Kepler himself wrote "Somnium", a fantasy, which was published after his death, and Bishop Francis Godwin wrote "The Man in the Moon/or/a Discourse of a Voyage thither/By/Domingo Gonsales/The Speedy Messenger." Cyrano de Bergerac wrote two novels of the space travel type, "Voyage dans la lune" (1649) and "Histoire des Etats et Empires du Soleil" (1652). Bernard de Fontenelle's "Entretiens sur la Pluralite des Mondes" ("Discourses on the Plurality of Worlds") followed in 1686. Intended as a popular astronomy book, it took Europe by storm, its leading idea being that every planet must be inhabited, but by beings with constitutions compatable with their particular environments - quite a modern thought!

The fine mathematical work of Giovanni Cassini, when Mars closely approached the earth in 1672, caused the realisation that the solar system was at least twice the size it had hitherto been thought to be. It also became clear what Kepler had taken for granted over one hundred years before: that the atmosphere formed only a thin shell around the earth, so that even the possession of a flying chariot did not mean the possibility of a trip to the moon.

Now that Astronomy had been set on solid, scientific, foundations, and the bubble of easy space travel, fantasy had been pricked, the science was free, at last, to proceed to the occupation of its present eminent position in the modern scientific world.

NEWS

'Tomatoes placed near a strong magnet ripened several days sooner than did others without such help in an experiment conducted by horticulturalists of Utah State University.

They created a strong magnetic field around one group of plants while letting another group develop normally. In eight days the average magnetised tomato was pink. It took three more days for the others to reach that stage. By that time, the magnetised tomatoes were almost red.

The scientists believe that magnetism speeds up enzyme action or stimulates hormone production.'

Scientific Horizons,
November, 1963.

(Here is an opportunity for someone to do some cheap research! Those bowl-bound hyacinth bulbs on your window-ledge would be ideal -Ed.)

A SCEPTIC'S VIEW

by M. Lloyd.

Many UFO investigators feel that scientists, politicians, newspaper editors, amateur astronomers, and anyone usually credited with public influence view them in contempt and ridicule in the same way that exponents of black magic are viewed. This, I believe, is not generally the case; the scepticism with which observations of UFOs and theories concerning them are received is at least partially due to unscientific methods of factual presentation, and in many cases 'woolly thinking' and 'loose expression' of the most reprehensible kind. I myself must confess to being a sceptic. In this article, I shall attempt to give a short survey of UFOlogy together with some constructive criticism. Inevitably, I shall be unable to deal fully with a number of important issues, but I hope that you will bear with me if I seem to have summarily despatched your favourite UFO theory or line of approach.

If close proximity (usually ground) sightings are ignored, the phenomena appear to bear a great similarity to those of meteorites. This is not to say that I accept every UFO sighting as an example of a meteorite, but simply that the mode of observation, i.e., visual, photographic and radar, is the same in both phenomena and, since everyone accepts the existence of meteorites the sceptic will lean towards this explanation; where applicable. I realise that serious minded UFO investigators have applied stringent tests

to the validity of all reported sightings so as to avoid, as far as possible, hoaxes and delusions; this attitude I applaud. Having then ascertained that a sighting is neither a hoax nor a delusion, an alternative natural explanation should be sought. Only when none can be found should the sighting be recorded as a UFO. The category into which the sighting will fall will depend on whether or not one is a believer in UFOs. If one does not believe, probably 3% of sightings will appear to be unclassifiable as natural phenomena, but if one is a sceptic then I feel that for every sighting, a natural explanation will be found. It follows that those sightings which are analogous to meteorite sightings are perhaps not the best form of observation to present to the sceptic.

I will now deal with the class of sightings in which more direct evidence of the nature of UFOs, is given. Because of their detailed nature, this class of sighting is more likely to be attacked on the grounds of hoax or delusion. My own feeling is that, except in a very few cases, hoaxes can be ruled out as an explanation. The delusion hypothesis is not so easily rejected, especially since no psychological or philosophical theory of perception is universally accepted as correct. What is certain is that any perception has two components, one which derives from what is 'actually there' and the other which derives from what we think we perceive is there. However, there appears to be certain members of the above class of sightings which, unless we assume that a number of people were simultaneously deluded, we must accept as inexplicable. These I regard as being worthy of study; at least until the sceptic can find a reasonable explanation.

The above classification of sightings leaves me open to the charge of obscurity since the division is an arbitrary one concerning the amount of detail included in observations. However, if we wish to be rigorous, the latter class can be defined by the possession of characteristics such as shape, contacts and/or accompanying physical effects. In any case my comments remain valid since I am merely attempting to abstract those sightings which provide the biggest problem to the sceptical UFOlogist.

Allowing for a number of 'valid' sightings, I will now deal with the only so far proposed scientific analysis of UFO sightings. I am, of course, referring to

Aime Michel's Orthoteny hypothesis. While I do not propose to give a deep analysis of Orthoteny, I wish to make a few observations on the hypothesis as I see it.

Michel states that of nine sightings reported on Sept. 24th, 1954, six fell on a straight line (i.e., a great circle). He goes on to reject the two naturalistic hypotheses of delusion and chance; however, he does so by dealing with them separately. I suggest that if we combine the above hypotheses, Michel's rejection is not justified. Michel discounts the sightings at each end of the line and works out his probability on only seven sightings. Let us assume that out of the seven sightings, only three are valid (remember that Michel himself states that originally he felt that only one of the sightings stood up to his usual validity tests) we can then proceed to say that at most two of these valid sightings, together with two of the non-valid sightings will fall on the four point line. Therefore, we can now have the probability of two of the three valid sightings and two out of four non-valid sightings falling on a straight line. These probabilities are well within the bounds of chance. Thus if we assume that only a fraction of the sightings are valid, the hypotheses of chance explain the straight line configuration. I admit that we are now left with a problem of how both valid and non-valid observations occur on a straight line, but this I suggest is not an insoluble problem and indeed is unwittingly assumed by UFO investigators in some cases where a sighting is rejected.

Having left myself wide open for attack, I feel it only fair to state that the above comments are no more than first thoughts on Michel's hypothesis and are open to objections. In any case even assuming the truth of Orthoteny, it does not prove the existence of UFOs, but only of objects that appear to move along geodesic lines.

I would now like to turn to theories of UFO origin. Here we are really dealing with the possibility of the existence of UFOs and not their actual observation. Usually the theories attempt to suggest a high degree of probability that life and intelligence exist in other parts of the Universe. The arguments are very persuasive and I am inclined to support them. However, even if these theories be correct, they are purely a probability and cannot be justified in the way that any scientific theory can be

justified, i.e., by appealing to evidence which is non-contradictory to the theory. In other words, UFO sightings do not constitute direct evidence for the theory that there may be life elsewhere in the Universe and neither can the theory be used to support the sightings, as it often is.

Theories concerning the propulsion of UFOs are varied and I do not propose to examine them in any detail. The propounder of such theories should take care not to contradict scientific laws which are taken to be valid by all practising scientists. If this is done then the new theory must, of necessity, explain all the phenomena that were described by the displaced scientific theory. It should also be remembered that theories concerning propulsion cross a number of specialist fields in science and engineering, and thus well informed criticism from these sources will be levelled against such theories. I also feel that theories of propulsion suffer from too much concentration on explanation of all the various reported physical phenomena associated with UFOs; these should be dealt with separately.

In conclusion, I would say that if the honest believer in UFOs who may or may not hold theories which purport to explain UFO behaviour and intentions (of which I have said nothing), methods of propulsion, and origin, would seek to interest the scientist or lay-sceptic in the subject of UFOlogy, the following points should be observed:

1. All UFO phenomena which can conceivably be explained (by the sceptic) in terms of natural phenomena should either not be presented, or be presented as corroborative evidence only.
2. All evidence for UFOs which does not fall into the above category should be carefully examined in an attempt to avoid hoaxes and delusions since the existence of even one hoax or delusion will prejudice the sceptic (Re. P. Sharp F.S. Review, Nov. '63).
3. Orthoteny and any future hypotheses which attempt an analysis of UFO sightings are statistical theories and require great care in their formulation. Such theories, of themselves, will not give us any direct information on the nature of UFOs.
4. Theories of the origin of UFOs are normally no more than statistical statements concerning the probability of life elsewhere in the Universe which UFO

observation are supposed to support and vice-versa, but without further information on UFOs, no connection between observation and theory can be made.

5. Theories on propulsion are dangerous in that they usually involve the refutation of universally accepted scientific laws, thus entailing wholesale rethinking concerning a wide range of phenomena, and leaving the propounder of such theories open to attack on many fronts.

Lastly, I suggest that all serious followers of UFOlogy, and especially those in responsible positions, should attempt to convince some reputable scientific body that a full scale scientific research programme should be launched to examine, in detail, all aspects of UFOlogy.

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NEWS REPORT FROM BRIGHTON & HOVE FLYING SAUCER RESEARCH GROUP

by C.E.J. Furness, Hon.Sec., BHFSRG.

Many readers may have seen Press reports about the three Astronomers of Mount Stromlo Observatory, Canberra, Australia, who saw an unusually bright amber light manoeuvring overhead on May 29th 1963. We wrote to the Observatory, and received the following reply from Professor H. Gollnow, one of the three who witnessed the phenomenon:-

"Regarding the object observed by us, we were able to identify it the next day, as you may have seen already in the Press. Our first assumption had been that we saw a very fast aircraft at high altitude (therefore no noise) using some unusual bright light. This assumption was at first ruled out by the control tower of the Canberra Airport. Only after that, we approached the "Canberra Times" asking if they had received any reports which could possibly give us a clue to the nature of the object. The next day the Royal Australian Air Force informed us that two Vampire Jets had been flying over Canberra at the particular time and in the observed direction at high altitude. Besides the conventional flashing red and green navigation lights which we could not see they had used a steady and extremely bright recognition light of amber colour which was the one we had observed. None of us had seen such a light being used by an aircraft before and even the personnel of the airport (Civil Aviation) apparently did not know about it."

In our opinion this would seem to be a very strange explanation. The control tower at the airport knew nothing of the light being carried by the Vampire, and it is indeed unusual to hear of such a light being carried by an aircraft. It is also noteworthy that the Vampire is quite a small Jet-aircraft, and it may have been difficult to mount such a large and powerful light on it. We consider it far more likely that the light was an Unidentified Flying Object, and that, as so often happens, the R.A.A.F. is hiding the true facts.

There were several reports in the Brighton "Evening Argus" last July of mysterious "headlights" in the sky. The first report was published in the July 29th issue, and came from a man and his wife at Burgess Hill. Their sighting was on a clear night and was of twin "headlights" moving through the sky. The second report, published on July 31st, was from a man who saw the "headlights" at Beachy Head, near Eastbourne. Here the lights remained stationary for about half-an-hour, sweeping the sky with searchlight beams before finally moving out of sight. The final report came from a man who saw a single light hovering in the sky at Swanborough, near Lewes. This light dimmed and then vanished, and the sighting was reported on August 1st.

WHAT IS IT? - Mystery Object found on School Playing Field;
Police Destroy Evidence!

Mr Rumsey, of Shanklin, I.W., sent us the description of an object, illustrated below, which he found whilst mowing a netball pitch last September. It lay in the centre of an arrow-shaped, scorched or burnt depression about 1 to 2 inches deep, 2ft-10inches long and approx. 5 inches wide.

According to Mr Rumsey, the object itself looked like a piece of pipe with the ends closed and flattened and was about 6 inches long. It appeared to have a mottled finish and was a grey, coppery colour as if it had been red-hot. It was very, 'heavier than lead', quotes Mr Rumsey and the metal was 'very, very hard'.

He reported his find to the school authorities who handed the object over to the Police. After further enquiries, Mr Rumsey learnt that the Police had destroyed the object as it 'may have been dangerous'. No further details are available at present, but INWFOIS intend to pursue the matter. Of course, the incident may carry a normal explanation, but the reported Police action in destroying it, if they have, remains questionable.

F.W. Smith



STOP PRESS - From December issue of 'Orbit' comes the tantalising snippet of information about a UFO that made a 'near landing' at an operational RAF base !

The TUFOS publication goes on to say that the large number of obviously reliable witnesses seem to have been told that silence is golden.

If the event was sufficiently exciting, no doubt Britain's overworked security system will eventually furnish us with details of the incident. TUFOS are investigating and hope to publish any findings in their next 'ORBIT'.

A DECEMBER DAILY EXPRESS FEATURED THE FOLLOWING:-

'Huge explosions on the moon, appearing as red spots, have been reported by U.S. and Russian observers.

'An observer at Flagstaff, Arizona, said "I had the impression I was looking into a large, polished ruby".

'Scientists meeting in Dallas, Texas, said the explosions occurred two days after sunlight returned to that part of the moon and could have been caused by heating!'

(The exclamation mark was suggested by J.D.L. of SAUFOG, who kindly sent in the cutting - Ed.)

THE CASE FOR A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

by H.W. Bolden.

Current indications point to a break up of the year old British UFO Association. After only a short life, the idea is fading, whether from too loose a grip on the policy and planning so essential in these formative days, or that the handicaps of society differences, finance or lack of a common ground for build up proved too big for the new association...but whatever the causes, and the writer is not seeking to lay blame...considerations must now be channelled, and with some urgency, to what advantages or disadvantages face the member societies if the national concept is lost. And this can be lost if, as a result from the proposals already made, a member society replaces the national image with a much narrower society one.

The following aspects will require examination -

- a. What can be better promoted by a national association, or achieved or performed rather than by the individual societies.
- b. Can these be applied so that, given a reasonable

time for proof, the member societies see that the membership of the national association is indeed a good thing.

- c. How can such an association be organized so that the member societies retain freedom, interest and individuality, yet respond to the demands in loyalty and backing necessary if the wider association is to have point.

Firstly, the national association can, and should -

Promote and co-relate national and international viewpoints and policies.

Suggest standards of acceptance/rejection of reports.

Should be a clearing house for all aspects of UFOlogy.

Promote interest by disseminating a high standard of evidence, thought and education.

Harness all available expert knowledge within and outside the movement for beneficial use.

Promote the growth of new societies.

Organize a registry of evidence, information and findings accessible to all members.

Maintain, in the interests of the movement, a watching brief on charlatans, quacks and rackets that may grow with the movement.

Secondly, and the above list can be added to with time, can the above be applied successfully. Possibly, but only by a loose affiliation with societies retaining their own particular interests, and all having an equal voice, and the national headquarters being so arranged so that policies, as guidance, come down the line rather than rulings, for the number-member make-up and charter of the societies will define how exactly they will accept the policies.

Broad guides on how to plan research, investigations, reporting, education of new members, antipathy and anti-UFO bias, study sessions and courses...all these and their aspects are most important, and newly formed clubs and groups must be free to approach HQ for assistance on matters of such a nature.

The only possible people who can help here is the national HQ...for any society may be equally hard pressed to solve their own difficulties.

Thirdly, and of extreme importance, the considerations of how to work it.

The Council and representation of the present Association

should work reasonably well, given time to settle down, and with improvements in the dealing with policies and planning. It may be that extra sessions of the Council will be necessary to hammer out policy on research, recruitment, representation and the all important one of recording, but on the assumption that nothing of value is ever cheap, the extra finance to be found, say, for policy meetings over another year may well prove a cheap buy in the long run.

It must be clearly seen that the present British UFO movement is a growing collection of societies, each possessing or developing its own entity and aim and at this stage, great harm can be done to goodwill and effort if they are not allowed to contribute, freely and unchecked, to the nation concept.

Recognition of this should guide Council organization on what aims and policy are to be examined and in what priority, and for discussion, the writer suggests -

- a. That British U.F.O. HQ must be separate and independent of all societies.
- b. That within its Council charter, scope must be given for:-
 - i. Policy decisions on what research planning should be given out to societies.
 - ii. Policy decisions on education for the future at all levels and aspects - societies can assist.
 - iii. Decisions on whether a central national registry of information and evidence should give way to regional ones, in order to save costs and unwieldy systems.

It may be that the Council may have to be sub-grouped to cope with these and matters already covered in its charter, such as membership, finance and area organization, but whatever the interior arrangements, the council faces a difficult and critical growth time.

The member from Wapping, Wales or Wallsend can give equally to the movement, can also benefit to the same degree, but the essential move now is to keep the Association going, by whatever name, in the reasonable expectation that given time and freedom to settle down, and with live and confident council, improvements and the national service to the societies will grow, for the eventual betterment of all in the movement.

NEWS FLASH: by F.W. Smith.

The Society has recently contacted the elusive Dr. Robert Randall who appeared on the Charlton 'crater' scene in July, 1963. It will be remembered that Randall, having made some extraordinary statements, disappeared mysteriously and left intense speculation rife among the national press and populace. The Daily Mail, which refused later to go back on its word, published a hoax 'confession' that put the dampers on Randall's Uranian spaceship. The letter they would not print is by the 'confessor' himself and can be read in either the Autumn BUFOA journal or the Nov/Dec. issue of Flying Saucer Review; the 'hoaxer' is one John Southern.

Dr. R.J. Randall, Ph.D., M.A.S.O. (qualifications are genuine and can be looked up in appropriate registers) has now re-appeared and published a report containing his story of the Charlton and other craters. The main substance of the report is his alleged contact with a dying spaceman on a Scottish moor. It is an intriguing document, but we do not wish to pass any comment at this stage and suggest that interested readers should send 2/6 for their own copy to:

Dr. R.J. Randall, 4, Sidbury Hill Ave, TIDWORTH, Hants.

IWUFOIS are hoping to invite Dr. Randall to the Isle of Wight to give members a first hand opportunity to talk to him.

BOOKS YOU MUST READ

This is a section of SPACELINK which we hope to feature in each issue. Any reader who has enjoyed a particular book, and can write a few brief words of praise, may contribute. Being up to my eyebrows in work, I was only able to digest one paper-back this month (Editor).

Over thirty years of painstaking research has enabled Frank Edwards to compile the 75 weird stories that can be found in 'Stranger than Science', published by Pan books, No. X252, at 3/6. As true as they are fascinating, these tales offer much food for thought; 'there are more things in Heaven and earth than are dreamt of...'