

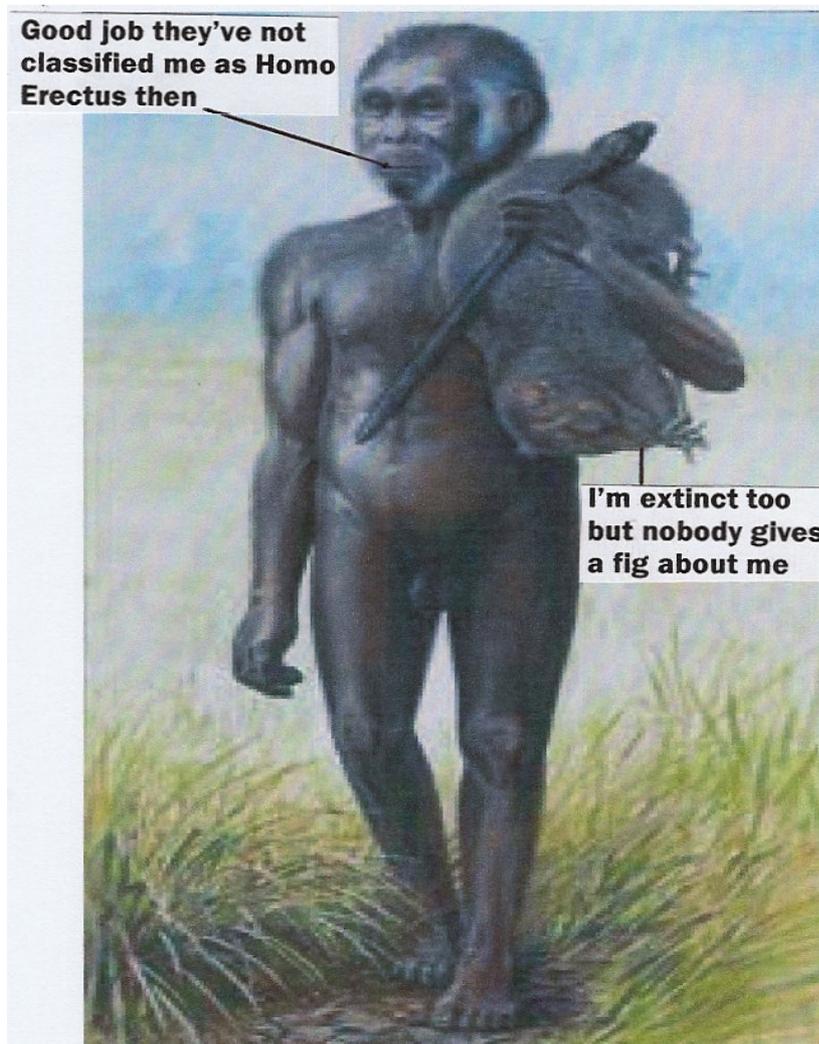
# UFO REVIEW

The Truth is on holiday  
Back next issue

November 2004  
Number 6

## News headlines:

'Hobbit' joins human family tree // "Scientists uncover possible new species of human" // "Scientists find new species of 3ft humans" // "Tiny new species of human unearthed" // "Dispute over classification of new species of prehistoric 'human'" etc.



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### **A Cuddly Bunny and Three Very Grumpy Men.**

**In issue 4, Andy Roberts gave his version of events, amongst other things. In this interview, Max Burns talks about the Blue Hare Hoax, what prison was like and how it affected his life, and in very precise detail exactly what he thinks about Dave Clarke and Andy Roberts, and a few other people as well. Strong language.**

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## **Welcome**



**We are a bit late this month and my apologies. People will be people and they let you down at the last moment.**

**After just a little thought, that thought being, “I don’t want to do any work as I’m a lazy beggar,” this publication’s plans for the Christmas period will be as follows. We will publish a combined “bumper” edition for December/January and will publish in mid “ish”December. Publication will be announced via the usual channels. “Bumper” (fender in the U.S.) means that each issue will come with a bit of scrap metal attached.**

As usual we have a fairly contentious issue for you. We have a fabulous interview with Professor Chandra Wickramasinghe on Panspermia. There's nothing like feeling that the answer to a really important question has been found, that it's right under people's noses and no one's paying attention!! That's how I feel about Panspermia. On that basis, we are living in interesting times. This theory is gradually and very slowly gaining wider and greater acceptance, particularly as other competing ideas steadily fall away. And yet the implications of it are enormous, so much so that one cannot reasonably expect people to suddenly ditch long held beliefs that are so inherent that they are virtually innate. So we go through the process of assimilation, which we are doing now, and you can sit back and watch it over an extended period of time. A social/theological revolution is slowly under way. Take another ten years and it will be interesting to see where we are with it all then.

There's nothing like stirring the pot and getting people all wound up about something that happened a few years ago, and we do that with an answer interview from Max Burns, in response to our interview with Andy Roberts from a couple of issues back. Warning, it is a bit strong.

Of a depressing note in particular is the opening part to Andrew Pike's article, "The Science and Politics of Mars" in which he makes reference to the CIA's involvement in how the Mars Lander pictures were released to the public. As you will know, one of the many assumed reasons given for non disclosure is World Government belief that the population of the planet couldn't "take it". As much as this fact is derided by many Ufologists, it would appear that, at least within the minds of the CIA, this belief and thought is uppermost. Twerps. I'd love to see the analysis (if there is any) that this assumption is based on. If this is a genuine reason for non disclosure, along no doubt with a few others too, it does rather titillate the imagination somewhat. Could it "only" be the fact that intelligent life exists elsewhere and has been here etc. or does it also have to do with our origins and how Mankind got here, and indeed whether God exists or not? Now, if it's *that* deep, then I guess you can begin to have a bit of sympathy for them. Not much mind, but just a little. That train of thought does lend a bit more credence to the belief that we're being slowly acclimatised to the notion and that, unfortunately, will no doubt be generational. Which probably means that most of you reading this will never know. Never before have I written something I so desperately hope is wrong.

Despite the response from many readers about the sacking of our reporter on the spot, Dam Acne, I am not in a position to reverse the decision. His dismissal followed his appalling attempt at pecuniary deception involving his article on The Wild Man of Biggleswade. I have pleasure in introducing his replacement, Miss B. Osom who has produced a marvellous initial article for us in the Fortean Corner section. I wish Dam all the best for the future and understand he has found a position with "Porcupine Weekly" where I am sure his many and various talents will be appreciated.

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# **An Interview With The Greatest Living Scientist On This Planet At The Moment**

(can't say fairer than that!)



**Professor Chandra Wickramasinghe**

**The greatest pleasure I derive from editing UFO Review is the opportunity it gives me to interview people whose specialised subject falls within the realm of our interest. I have enjoyed and indeed felt honoured speaking to everyone I've talked to so far, and I say that with genuine sincerity.**

**The interview that follows with Professor Chandra Wickramasinghe was a special thrill. How you might feel about reading this will depend upon what your attitude towards Panspermia is, what you know about it, and how valid a theory you consider it.**

**Stick me in a room with you for a couple of minutes and I'd quickly bore you witless with it. For me it is so obviously the answer as to how we got here that, as with anything that one feels passionately about, it is frustrating that there are many that still don't see it.**

**I'd go further and say this isn't a theory, this is fact. There may still be some rough edges to it and certainly a whole heap of unanswered questions, but this is the answer, the way ahead. Tell me I'm wrong 20 years from now.**

**If the theory of Panspermia is new to you and you would like to read a little about it before delving into this interview, then I would strongly recommend the following site, which gives an extremely comprehensive background to the subject, as well as the history of the theory and who the major players in its development have been.**

**<http://www.panspermia.org/>**

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**Nalin Chandra Wickramasinghe was born in Sri Lanka and was educated at Royal College, Colombo where he won many prizes, and later at the University**

of Ceylon. In 1960 he obtained a First Class Honours degree in Mathematics and won a Commonwealth scholarship to proceed to Trinity College Cambridge. He commenced work in Cambridge on his PhD degree under the supervision of the late Sir Fred Hoyle, and published his first scientific paper in 1961. He was awarded a PhD degree in Mathematics in 1963 and was elected a Fellow of Jesus College Cambridge in the same year. In the following year he was appointed a Staff Member of the Institute of Astronomy at the University of Cambridge. Here he began his pioneering work on the nature of Interstellar Dust, publishing many papers in this field that led to important paradigm shifts in astronomy. He published the very first definitive book on Interstellar Grains in 1967. In 1973 he was awarded Cambridge University's highest Doctorate for Science, the prestigious ScD.

Chandra Wickramasinghe is acknowledged as being one of the world's leading experts on interstellar material. He has made many important contributions in this field, publishing over 350 papers in major scientific journals, over 75 in the high-impact journal *Nature*. In 1974 he first proposed the theory that dust in interstellar space and in comets was largely organic, a theory that has now been vindicated. Jointly with the late Sir Fred Hoyle he was awarded the International Dag Hammarskjold Gold Medal for Science in 1986.

Chandra Wickramasinghe was a UNDP Consultant and Advisor to the President of Sri Lanka in 1982-84, and played a key role in the setting up of the Institute of Fundamental Studies. In 1983/84 he was appointed the founder Director of the IFS by President J.R. Jayawardene. In 1992 he was decorated by the President of Sri Lanka with the titular honour of *Vidya Jyothi*. He was awarded the International Sahabdeen Prize for Science in 1996.

In 1973 he was appointed Professor and Head of the Department of Applied Mathematics and Mathematical Physics at University College, Cardiff, being the youngest Professor appointed at the University up to that time. He was responsible for starting an Astrophysics research group in Cardiff under the auspices of a new Department that was formed under his headship, the Department of Applied Mathematics and Astronomy. He remained Head of this Department until 1989 by which time the Astronomy Research School in Cardiff was regarded as being one of the best in the UK. From 1989-1999 he has held the post of Professor of Applied Mathematics and Astronomy within a newly structured School of Mathematics at Cardiff University of Wales. In the year 2000 he was appointed Director of the newly formed Cardiff Centre for Astrobiology.

He is an award-winning poet and the author or co-author of over 25 books and over 350 scientific papers. He has held visiting professorial appointments in a large number of Universities world-wide. In recognition of his extensive contributions to science and culture he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the Soka University of Tokyo, Japan in 1996.

He was the John Snow Memorial Lecturer and John Snow Medallist of the Association of Anesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland in 2004.

He was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) by the University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka in 2004.

His work on the Origins of Life and the theory of Panspermia is coming to be recognised as one of the most important developments in science in recent years.

This interview was recorded on Tuesday November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2004

**SM:** Do you prefer to refer to it as the theory of Panspermia or as cosmic Ancestry?

**CW:** *Panspermia* is a rather hackneyed description of the idea that Life can be transferred from one part of the Universe to another. It is probably more easily recognised and understood than *Cosmic Ancestry*, I would have thought. But I have no strong opinions either way.

**SM:** What made Sir Fred Hoyle and you go back to it, because it is a theory that in one shape or form or another has been around for a very long time. What brought the two of you back to look at it?

**CW:** It's a very long story in fact and begins with my work with Sir Fred Hoyle on the nature of interstellar and cometary dust. I began my PhD work on the chemistry and composition of cosmic dust way back in 1962 and at the time, the idea that was really well entrenched in the astronomical community was that the dust in space, the dust that you see in all the dark clouds of interstellar space, was mainly comprised of tiny, sub micron sized ice particles, similar to the particles that are present in the cumulous clouds in the Earth's atmosphere.

When we examined all the literature on the subject, it turned out that the whole question of how ice particles condensed in the interstellar clouds was not properly addressed in terms of mathematics and physics. We know that clouds, even in the earth's atmosphere, could be highly super-saturated with respect to water, but droplets or particles of ice do not form unless there exist what are called condensation nuclei. There's got to form charged molecular aggregates at an adequate rate around which saturated water molecules could condense.

When we examined well-established theories of nucleation and applied them in a cosmic context, it turned out there was no easy way to overcome the nucleation hurdle. You have interstellar clouds that are highly saturated in water vapour, but they wouldn't form particles of ice, the reason being that the clouds are exceedingly tenuous. There's one hydrogen atom per cubic centimetre or something like that. Under those conditions, we reckoned that particles do not form. So we had to go to denser places in order to form interstellar dust particles, and the first place we looked at were the atmospheres of cool stars. And a group of cool giant stars known as the carbon stars were the location we chose for our first investigation of where dust might form.

**SM:** Why did you go to cool stars to solve the problem of dust formation?

**CW:** Because the interstellar condensation process seemed to be totally

inadequate, woefully inadequate to form solid particles out of a pure gas. So going to the carbon-rich cool stars provided us with an alternative location in which the nucleation/condensation processes could occur. The consequence is that if you go to such stars, the dust particles that form must be made of carbon, not water-ice.

For about a decade we developed this theory and worked on the idea that the dust in space was made largely of the element carbon, possibly in the form of soot-like particles, polycrystalline graphite. But towards the end of the 1960s, with new developments in observational astronomy, there were new techniques for looking more deeply at the nature of interstellar dust. We found that dust made of soot-like graphite was not completely adequate to meet up with the new constraints, particularly at infrared wavelengths, and we had to then develop the theory of organic grains, carbon in the form of organic polymers. So that was really the starting point of the idea that molecules in interstellar space were organic and could be connected with Life.

Over the period from 1970 to 1979, the dust particles we were looking at turned out to be not simply organic, but *exceedingly complex* in their organic nature. Eventually it turned out that they had to match the properties of a freeze-dried bacterium to an uncanny degree of precision. It didn't mean that the particles had to be bacteria necessarily, but they had to be of a chemical composition that matched the spectrum of a bacterium, in the infrared and ultraviolet wavebands. Moreover, a third of all the carbon in interstellar space had to be of this form. That is to say, it was tied up in the form of particles that are indistinguishable from bacteria by every remote-sensing criterion that we could think of. How could such a situation arise?

It was at this point that we began to look seriously at the old theories of how Life started on the earth. We concluded before long that there was no firm evidence to regard these ideas as a proven fact - that Life started on the Earth. The fact that Life exists on the Earth does not mean that Life started on the Earth. We made several analogies to illustrate the point. For example, the Celtic languages are spoken in Wales but it didn't originate from Wales. They came from mainland Europe many thousands of years ago. So the fact that Life exists does not mean that Life started on the Earth.

When we examined the probabilities that are involved in putting together the most primitive living system, for instance, considering how amino acids combine into a basic set of enzymes (that is crucial for life), it didn't take a lot of calculation to discover that this is an incredibly improbable event. If it happened on the Earth, it means we've essentially overcome supra-astronomical odds in doing so.

In view of the supra-astronomically vast improbability factors that are associated with the assembly of the first living system, we quickly rejected the Earth as a reasonable site for a first origin of life. It would obviously pay to go to the biggest available cosmic system if one had to overcome such incredible odds. And the biggest available cosmic system is the Universe as a whole. The transition from non-life to life in our view must have involved the resources of all the stars in all the galaxies in a substantial part of the Universe, but this

transformation needs to have taken place only once. The Earth is of course not a closed system. The Earth receives debris from comets, hundreds of tons of cometary debris, much of which is known to be organic, enters the Earth's atmosphere on a daily basis. The solar system itself, the comets being part of the solar system, is connected to interstellar clouds, for the simple reason that it condensed and formed from such a cloud. So there's a physical connection that extends from the Earth all the way to the formation of the solar system, the formation of the galaxy, and maybe to the formation of clusters of galaxies. That was the thinking behind the revival of the ancient theory of Panspermia.

**SM:** You had very little support at all when this came out. How much opposition did you get?

**CW:** We had a huge amount of opposition. In fact I've written a book about it, "A Journey with Fred Hoyle", you should perhaps have a look at it, it's coming out in December. Our first step in the direction of Panspermia was to suggest that the Earth's early atmosphere was of a kind that could not have supported the requirements of classic Urey-Miller experiment, that the Earth's atmosphere was largely oxidising, and therefore you wouldn't have got any of the organic building blocks of life formed *in situ* on the Earth. At this time we were finding huge amounts of organic molecules in space, even in the interstellar dust as I have said. The dust in interstellar space seemed to be incredibly complex in its organic configurations that a connection with life was becoming almost inevitable. So we had argued in the mid-1970s that the origins of Life had at the very least to involve the importation of complex organic building blocks of Life from comets. By the end of the 1970's we had published a great deal of this in the most conservative scientific journal *Nature*, in fact a whole series of papers appeared at this time.

**SM:** Did you have any trouble getting published?



**Carl Sagan**

**CW:** Up to a point in time, we did not. As long as we said the building blocks of Life came from space and didn't refer to Life itself coming from space, it was OK. There was a degree of opposition but we managed to get our papers published. When we published these ideas, there were very distinguished scientists, including a past President of the Royal Astronomical Society, who wrote in the same journal saying that all this is not plausible because no organic molecules could survive in space! Carl Sagan and his collaborators

also published a letter in *Nature* saying that although these ideas are interesting, they cannot be defended because organic molecules do not survive the harsh conditions space. Of course, all such criticisms have been proved to be totally wrong. We now know that vast quantities of organics exist in interstellar dust, in gas, and everywhere.

**SM:** But what convinced you that they could survive radiation in space?

**CW:** Because we worked through all the details of the physics, that other people had not. We were not stupid as may critics implied we were! We argued, first from spectroscopy, that they exist out there in space, and in vast quantities. Just looking at the strengths of absorption bands caused by this organic dust, we found that one third of all the carbon in interstellar space is tied up in particles indistinguishable from bacteria, as I have already said. This was too much to rule out as a trivial coincidence, in our reckoning. We made further predictions of a bacterial model of the dust that were later verified.

There were many such events and in our naivety we thought that all this would eventually convince the sceptics. But critics who were vociferous when the evidence was relatively weak, became increasingly silent as the evidence steadily grew in strength. A particular instance was a spectrum of a source of infrared radiation at the centre of the galaxy (called GC IRS7) that had an uncanny resemblance to our predicted bacterial spectrum. Critics eventually conceded the good fit of the bacterial model to the data, but made the point that particles similar to bacteria could perhaps be generated inorganically or abiologically in space, and it was not necessary to involve biology.

**SM:** Could you understand this opposition or did you find it very frustrating? I would imagine that your theory would have seemed extremely threatening to many people.

**CW:** All this seemed threatening to far too many people because it challenged long-established paradigms in science. The idea that Life is somehow centred on the Earth was, and still is, deeply entrenched in the thinking of many people. It was surely a pre-Copernican position that was being maintained 500 years after Copernicus had dethroned the Earth from its privileged position at the centre of the cosmos. We understood our opposition philosophically in those terms, but I think we failed to comprehend at that time the intensity of emotion that was involved. There was such a torrent of feeling against accepting that Life could have emerged from a bigger universe, external to the Earth.

**SM:** Do you still find a considerable amount of opposition, even today?

**CW:** I think there still is opposition, but it's greatly mellowed, and the ideas of Panspermia are even discussed nowadays at international meetings, at least as a possibility. It's regarded as being a valid theory of the origins of Life on the Earth. So there has been a lot of progress since the mid-1970s. I personally think there is going to be a continued trend towards acceptance of these ideas, because the evidence that favour the alternative theory is being gradually eroded in various ways.

**SM:** You do actually align your theory with Darwinism, would that be fair to say?

**CW:** Yes. Some of our critics over the years were people who thought we were challenging evolution. Evolution was a very hard won battle in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, as you know, and any subsequent challenge of that would understandably not have been taken lightly. We did not challenge evolution per se, but what we did say was that evolution had to be considered in the context of a continuing input of genetic material from space. This is inevitable if Life was introduced to the earth from outside in the first place, if it came from comets.



**Professor Wickramasinghe**



**Sir Fred Hoyle**

At the time we began our research into this theory, it was believed that there was a comfortable half billion years before the Earth became a congenial place for Life, and for Life to emerge. That span of time has been all but removed from the geological record. We know now that Life emerged almost at the very first moment that it could survive. The Earth was subject to an epoch of collisions with comets from 4 billion years to about 3.83 billion years, and the first Life on Earth is now placed from about 3.8 billion years. The reasonable explanation is that the first life came to Earth with those impacting comets.

**SM:** You mentioned a moment ago that this was a continuing process, that Life on Earth was seeded in an ongoing process.

**CW:** We know now that the comets impacting Earth between 4 and 3.83 billion years ago brought the first oceans on to the Earth, that's not disputed. Comets were also responsible for bringing the Earth's primitive atmosphere. Evaporation of water from the oceans and dissociation of the water molecules gave a cloud cover over the Earth. If Life came along with those impacting comets then that process can not have stopped for the simple reason that comets have continued to reach the Earth. Comet impacts have happened almost to the present day. I mentioned earlier that 100 tons of cometary debris

enters the Earth's upper atmosphere, some of which would contain living micro organisms.

**SM:** You just mentioned a figure of 100 tons of comet debris; over what period of time?

**CW:** On a daily basis. 100 tons per day.

**SM:** A day?

**CW:** That's not even contested nowadays. A lot of the incoming material is burnt up in the form of meteors, but a fraction, maybe a ton a day, reaches the Earth's atmosphere intact, and drifts gently through the atmosphere to reach the surface. There's no question that this is the case and our recent work on stratospheric balloon experiments, in collaboration with groups in India, have shown that some of the cometary material that reaches the stratosphere at 41 kilometres contains viable micro organisms.

**SM:** So this is a process that is going on today as well.

**CW:** It is certainly going on today. It has gone on right through the history of the Earth, so Darwinian evolution had to take place against the backdrop of a continuing injection of highly ordered genetic material from space.

**SM:** Would you like to postulate as to where it's leading us to at the moment?

**CW:** It would be hard to imagine that this process of evolution has come to an end on the Earth. I think it's leading to higher and higher levels of complexity, of sophistication in the nature of biology. It may be leading up to even higher levels of intelligence than we recognise in ourselves at the present time. That's speculation, of course, but it's plausible to say that we are not the end of the road.

**SM:** You also suggest that genetic programmes for higher evolution are organised or formed in space.

**CW:** Not in the cold depths of space. The particles that are present in interstellar space are in a deep frozen dormant condition, so there's no evolution taking place there, they're just sleeping! The genetic arrangements would be hard frozen there, with very little in the form of genetic damage taking place over millions of years. The cosmic evolution of Life has to take place either in the interiors of comets, which are warm for at least a million years from the time when they condense, or it has to take place on the surfaces of planets.

The solar system is not the only system where there are comets, nor Earth the only location where evolution has taken place. Surely there have to be billions of planetary systems out there. Planetary systems, just like ours, that are now regarded as being common place. Most sun-like stars should be endowed with planetary systems. There are a few dozen extrasolar planets that have been discovered in the past decades, but this is essentially only the tip of the iceberg

in terms of planetary discoveries. Solar systems have to be very frequent occurrences, and the evolution on planets like the Earth has also to be common place.

Now another effect that is only recently coming to be recognised is that the process of evolution from cosmic genes cannot be not confined to the planet on which it has occurred. In our case, the products of assembly and evolution cannot be regarded as being Earth-bound. This is because of the impacts with comets and asteroids that have taken place throughout geological time. Such impacts can lift material off the surface of the Earth, material that contains terrestrially evolved genetic programmes and biological material, and this can be then gravitationally deflected into the outer regions of the solar systems. This life-bearing material from Earth can eventually become incorporated in comets in our outer solar system. Comets containing Earth life can occasionally be lost from the solar system, so the processes of evolution on our planet, or on other planets would not be confined to those planets.

**SM:** On that basis, the Universe must be full of life.

**CW:** Yes. Life is teeming throughout the universe, and more importantly Life on Earth is connected intimately and inescapably with Life that exists everywhere else in the universe.

This January there were two papers published in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society discussing precisely these issues. The fact that we got these published in such a respectable journal answers one of your earlier questions about how difficult it is to get our ideas published. It is now not so difficult to get even ideas on Panspermia published, serious work on it like the paper I co-authored with my colleague Dr. Max Wallis in Cardiff.

**SM:** Is there anything that says in this that as we've evolved as we have here, that intelligent Life elsewhere would be similar to us or is there a chance it could be very, very different?

**CW:** I think on the basis of this theory, Life everywhere in the universe has to be intimately interconnected. Our Life is connected to the most distant parts of the cosmos, so whilst Life in a distant galaxy millions of light years away can be different from ours, it will only be different in the way that an elephant is different from a giraffe. The same cosmic genetic programmes that we have accommodated here on the Earth would be distributed everywhere.

**SM:** Do you accept the theory of Gaia?

**CW:** Yes, I do. I'm a great believer and supporter of Lovelock's Gaia, where the whole planet is an interconnected ecological entity. I would go further than that. I would say that the whole universe has to be regarded as a Gaia-type entity, linked together with the interdependence and co-evolution of cosmic life. There's a connected chain of "being" that extends all the way from the Earth to the furthest reaches of the cosmos.

A typical interstellar gas cloud. This one is approximately centred on the Great Orion Nebula M42 and M43,



**SM:** This leads on to more speculation. Do you regard this as coincidental or arranged? Is it too neat to be coincidental?

**CW:** I have often wondered about it. As a reductionist scientist I would like to believe that the incredible arrangements in life were arrived at by random processes in an essentially infinite Universe. But this is just a philosophical preference. I have no hard evidence to back it up. If one regards the transformation from life to non-life as being virtually impossible through inorganic means, even by going to the biggest available system, then one enters the domain of metaphysics. I think if you are courageous enough to go along that route, you've got to accept the possibility that the spectrum of living

systems in the entire universe is an intelligent artificial construct.

**SM:** Is that a difficult theory to take on board?

**CW:** It is an exceedingly difficult position to accept in the context of modern science, which is based firmly on reductionist methodology. I myself think one cannot rule out that position on logical grounds. We have human biochemists nowadays who can do a lot of genetic manipulation. We can splice genes from a bacterium to a fish and so on. We can even work out the consequences of such a splicing. So to envisage a cosmic intelligence that was able to work out all the consequences of all the possible splicing of genes is not entirely beyond the realms of logic.

**SM:** That would be directed Panspermia?

**CW:** In a sense that would be a form of directed Panspermia directed, directed by an intelligent entity or system across the cosmos, yes.

**SM:** I think I read in another interview that you conducted that you said that Life could only have come from an area of space where Life already existed.

**CW:** Yes, the insurmountable difficulty for empirical science is to demonstrate the process by which non-living organic matter turns into life. Once that has happened somehow, the rest follows. Bacteria and bacterial spores can withstand all the adversities of space and spread in a way that cannot be stopped. Within my life time, certainly within a couple of decades, I think that position could become firmly established, because of the indomitable nature of

Life at a microbial level. The radiation resistance of bacteria has surprised everybody who has worked in this area. For instance there's a micro organism called a *Halobacterium* discovered in a salt crystal in a New Mexico salt mine that is a quarter of a billion years old. This discovery is less than two years old.

**SM:** Is there any doubt in your mind, for example, that Life exists on Mars?

**CW:** I have not the slightest doubt that Life exists on Mars. In fact the 1976 Viking explorations of Mars probably established the presence of life. The results of the Viking experiments, to this day, have not been fully understood except on the basis of life. Recently there has been some interest in the discovery of methane in the upper atmosphere of Mars and even the most conservative of the NASA scientists say that this is a possible indication of ongoing micro biology on Mars. There's a lot going that all point in the direction of Life on Mars. I think there is going to be Life discovered also in comets when we get to them with the right instruments. There's going to be Life discovered on Europa for instance; everywhere where Life could survive there would be Life in the solar system.

**SM:** Do you understand the politics of the subject in the sense that it's obvious that at least since 1976, we've known that Life almost certainly exists on Mars. Do you understand NASA's hesitation and extreme conservatism or do you feel that there is a lot more going on behind this? What would be wrong with announcing, because it appears to be reasonably certain and very probable, that Life exists on Mars?

**CW:** I've just said I have no doubt that Life exists on Mars. I have no doubt that the recent atmospheric detection of methane confirms Life on Mars. The alternative to microbial Life producing methane is to say that there's volcanic source methane. Volcanic methane has a very short life time in the Martian atmosphere and I think that's not a viable explanation for it. You ask what's the reason behind the resistance? I think money - big money - has a lot to do with it. If it is accepted that the 1976 experiments proved the existence of Life on Mars, then the present generation of NASA astronomers and astrobiologists might find it difficult to get large sums of money from the taxpayer's purse.

**SM:** Right, so there is a slight degree of cynicism there.

**CW:** Yes, I admit that.

**SM:** Do you bother to think about the social implications of what you're doing and how people would adapt to this, or because it's a slowish process involving a few decades at least, that people have time to absorb and that these sorts of theories take hold gradually?

**CW:** I think that in the past that has been the case, that acceptance of a dramatically new concept in science has taken a long time to get established. Because of the present-day climate of instant information access across the planet, and the also intense interest that people have in astronomy and the world around them, I think the acceptance of correct ideas would probably, this may be wishful thinking, would follow the facts more briskly than they did in

the past. But the social implications of having ourselves connected to a much bigger universe would be quite profound in the sense that our own self importance would, as a species, become less important. In such a context a new world view would emerge in which our petty squabbles – squabbles between nations – could be viewed in their proper perspective.

**SM:** But it raises questions about God and other theological issues too.

**CW:** It certainly does and I think the readjustments would inevitably follow. A new generation of religions might be born. I don't know how quickly that would happen, but I think it will happen more quickly than in centuries or even perhaps decades, if the facts of cosmic life become compelling. It would be also be hard to avoid the implications of Life being everywhere, if for instance that external Life interacts adversely with terrestrial life. For instance, if occasionally the alien Life that comes from comets leads to epidemics of diseases that decimate human populations, or populations of plants and animals, then obviously you would have to take note of that.

**SM:** You strongly hinted at that some months ago when you publicly stated that you thought the SARS virus possibly came from outer space.

**CW:** Yes, I published that speculation in a journal of great respectability – Lancet. This was of course attacked by many. I still think it's a great mystery as to why SARS and also flu viruses first appear eastwards of the Himalayas. The Himalayas are the highest mountain range on the planet that essentially punctures a hole in the stratosphere. It acts like a drain plug for anything that comes in from space. So it's inevitable that this part of the Earth has to be a veritable melting pot of cosmic genes and viruses that come in from outside.

To regard the first incidence of viruses like SARS in China as being caused by the fact that Humans and pigs and birds live in close proximity, to me, doesn't make any sense. For instance, in India, dense populations of humans and animals live very close to each other but diseases like that never start in India. Nor do they start in South America where there is a similar conjunction of pigs and humans and birds.

**SM:** Do you get used to ridicule because I remember when you spoke about your idea about SARS that it was greeted with a degree of levity.

**CW:** I think I've got used to it and as long as I maintain enough self criticism I don't bother too much about fatuous criticism. What is important to me is to follow the path to truth, as I see it.

**SM:** Do you feel that mankind is on the edge of something extremely positive in the very near future or do you think we've a little bit more time to get there before things leap forward?

**CW:** I think we have all the ingredients for enormous breakthroughs in science and technology and Human progress generally. But what would stand in the way of progress would be a calculated disrespect for the truth. I think that is something that is really quite worrying at the moment, that we have a situation

where the search for objective truth has become much less important than socio/political ambitions of individuals, groups of individuals or even entire nations.

**SM:** That's a fairly strong statement. You must be very depressed about that.

**CW:** I tend to be quite realistic. I think you've got to look in terms of history and notice that societies and civilizations that have reached very high levels of sophistication have also been very fragile in their existence at times. There can be no more certain cause of decline in Human Society than an abandonment of the pursuit of truth.

**SM:** Have you ever, during the course of your research over the last 40 odd years, ever had any official intervention in your research? Has anybody ever tapped you on the shoulder and said, "We don't like what you're doing"?

**CW:** Yes, at some point this was the case. And this point I think I should mention is that in the early 80s, there was a request for Fred Hoyle or myself to appear at an Arkansas Creation trial. Fred Hoyle was approached by the lawyers in Arkansas asking if he would step in as an expert witness to say that Darwinian evolution on Earth was not the total answer to the whole question of Life. He was very busy at the time with Anglo/Australian telescope among other things, so he told me if I wanted to do that, that I should perhaps go. We decided that I should present a restricted testimony from our work to argue that purely Earth-bound evolution didn't explain the whole phenomenon of Life. Although we had some sympathy for the religious or political aspirations of the Creationists, we thought we could go along with their stance of a possible need for a "Creator" to originate life on a cosmic scale. We could not rule that out on a logical basis as I have already said.

For those reasons Fred Hoyle and I thought it was entirely reasonable to accept their invitation and give our testimony at the Arkansas trial. In the run up to event we had a huge amount of hostility directed against us and I remember several distinguished scientists who tapped us on the shoulder and said, "You shouldn't do that!" After the event, my family and I were intimidated with serious death threats. The Police in Cardiff investigated these threats for over 2 years and concluded that the source was a mystery!

**SM:** Nothing from a government source? No shadowy figure has stepped forth and said, "Could you stop this?"

**CW:** It's hard to answer that question. I think there were some.

**SM:** You do?

**CW:** Yes. Maybe I shouldn't answer this question because it could lead to further problems.

**SM:** Professor, I am most grateful for your time.

I had no idea that the Professor was bringing out a book at the end of November when I contacted him. But in the light of this interview, this has to be a “must buy”.

Paperback (November 30, 2004), Publisher: World Scientific Pub Co Inc

ISBN: 9812389121. Below is the URL for the book on Amazon UK.

[http://www.amazon.co.uk/exec/obidos/ASIN/9812389121/qid=1099759714/sr=1-1/ref=sr\\_1\\_0\\_1/026-8407206-9974803](http://www.amazon.co.uk/exec/obidos/ASIN/9812389121/qid=1099759714/sr=1-1/ref=sr_1_0_1/026-8407206-9974803)

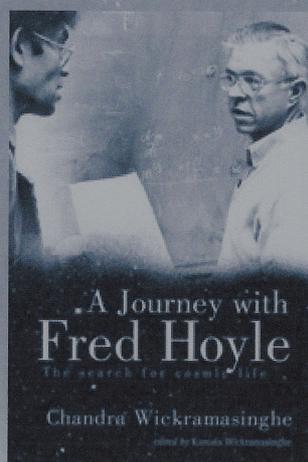
# A Journey with Fred Hoyle

The Search for Cosmic Life

by  
**Chandra Wickramasinghe**

edited by Kamala Wickramasinghe

With a foreword by Sir Arthur C. Clarke



300pp (approx.)	Winter 2004
981-238-911-3	US\$75 £46
981-238-912-1(pbk)	US\$33 £20

This is the story of the author's unique scientific journey with one of the most remarkable men of 20<sup>th</sup> century science. The journey begins in Sri Lanka, the author's native country, with his childhood acquaintance with Fred Hoyle's writings. The action then moves to Cambridge, where the famous Hoyle-Wickramasinghe collaboration begins. A research programme starting in 1962 on the nature of interstellar dust leads to startling new findings, which prompt the two scientists to postulate their organic theory of cosmic dust, and to suggest that life on Earth has its origins in space. A battle with the scientific establishment ensues, fueling their passionate conviction to prove their theory against all the odds.

*A Journey with Fred Hoyle* is an intriguing book that traces the progress of a collaboration spanning 40 years, through a sequence of personal reflections, anecdotes and reminiscences. It also charts the long, screening process that radical, new ideas are subject to, before they gain acceptance into mainstream thought. Ideas that were considered heretical 30 years ago have quietly slipped into the domain of orthodox science.

#### Key features

- Gives a unique insight into the minds of the two men who challenged one of the most cherished paradigms of modern science – the primordial soup theory.
- Highlights the personal, social and political contexts of a major scientific controversy as it developed and was eventually resolved.
- Shows how an idea that was viewed as iconoclastic finally came to be accepted by the scientific community.

# **The Manchester Bang**

**By**

**Stuart Miller**

**As an unashamed believer (yes, I'm not afraid to use that word) in the ET phenomenon, sceptics haven't always featured high on my Christmas card list. Some are excellent and some are no more than debunkers. But it's much like anything else and you take as you find.**

**One recurring thread from most sceptics is how fundamentally stupid we believers are. We seize on the slightest "evidence", we build it up into something wonderful and then refuse to let go when it all falls apart. Of course, we're not all like that and if you're reading this, then you are unlikely to be such an individual as reading this E Zine requires some degree of intelligence. But I'm sure you get my point. And I have to say, I have just witnessed such a process and I have nothing but sympathy for the sceptical point of view.**

---

**Naturally, if there is ever any UFO activity near where you live or a place you know, then your ears tend to pick up and you take an added interest.**

**I live in a town called Altrincham which is a suburb of Manchester in the north west of England. Despite claims from an outfit in the midlands called Birmingham, it is now England's second city by some distance, both in population and, more importantly, because of its location.**

**On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October at about 7:20am, there was a report of a loud explosion in the Worsley area of Manchester. This is a generally "posh" suburban part of Manchester and lies to the west of the city. Local residents called the police who searched the area including Botany Bay woods and Worsley Moss which run into each other and are quite extensive. A police helicopter also took part. Nothing was found.**

**At first, there was some confusion as to where exactly the explosion originated and in truth we're still not sure today. What confused the issue was that Worsley was an area of immense coal mining activity during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and there was some thought at first that it might have been a methane explosion from an old pit. The pits however, though long since disused, are nevertheless maintained to a point and are ventilated to remove the possibility of just such an explosion.**

**The local radio stations had a field day, inviting callers to ring in and offer their own explanations. Inevitably, every wise ass in the area got his ten cents in.**

**All the other usual suspects were approached and asked for their opinion. That included the British Geological Society (earthquakes), Jodrell Bank (giant local**

radio telescope – anything airborne?), Manchester airport, the Ministry of Defence and so on. Nobody knew anything about it although some intelligent suggestions were made.

The most logical conclusion though was this. Midwife Jeanette Vagg, who works at Trafford general hospital, was on her way home when she happened to look up at the sky and saw two balls of fire high up in the atmosphere. She described what she saw as follows.

"They were black at the bottom with flames coming off them in a line. They were falling and one was a bit higher than the other. My first reaction was to think 'I hope they're not bombs'. I drove a bit further and looked again, but they had gone."

What she saw were very likely two small meteorites, perhaps no bigger than tennis balls, heading in our direction, the explosion occurring as they burnt up in the atmosphere. In the absence of any other evidence, namely mysterious behaviour by the army, a blanket of silence, strange creatures in the Worsley area queuing up at local supermarket checkouts etc., it is more than reasonable to have come to the above conclusion.

I would very much like to believe a UFO landed in Botany Bay woods, I really would. Unfortunately, it didn't happen.

That's not however what local researcher Steve Balon wanted to believe. This was all too exciting for words, particularly as Steve lives in the Wigan area, just a stone's throw from Worsley.

So Steve cobbled together all the facts, launched the story, and lo and behold, it would appear that a UFO did indeed land in the woods at Worsley;

#### **UFO ROUNDUP**

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**Editor: Joseph Trainor**

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Website: <http://www.ufoinfo.com/roundup/>

#### **A UFO CRASH AT WORLEY?**

**UK ufologist Stephen F. Balon is hot on the trail of what may be the biggest UFO story in the British Isles since the saucer crash at Boyle, Ireland in 1995.**

**On Wednesday, October 13, 2004, at 7:30 a.m., a massive explosion rocked the greater Manchester area in UK. According to Balon, "the explosion was heard as far west as the Isle of Man, as far north as Rochdale and as far south as Timberly."**

The initial report "appeared in the Manchester Evening News, about an explosion that centred in the village of Worley, near Manchester," Balon said, "At first it was thought an earthquake was the cause. The British Geological Survey was contacted and said this had not disturbed any seismic instruments." (See UFO Roundup, volume 9, number 42 for October 20, 2004, "Mystery boom rattles Manchester, UK," page 5.)

"Dozens of people living in Worley sent their comments to the Manchester Evening News Web site to give their explanations of what had happened," Balon added, "What has come from this case is nothing short of incredible. I have been investigating this case for days, and there is no doubt about what happened here."

Balon claims that a UFO crashed in a wood near the center of Worley and that the site was cordoned off by uniformed and plainclothes police for a few days thereafter.

"A second article was published in the Manchester Evening News in which a woman driving home from work saw in the sky two fireball-type objects with flames coming off them. I have collected reports from dozens of individual people who saw these two objects in different areas."

"Also, a report from Jodrell Bank (observatory) said in the Manchester Evening News that it was a bolide or meteor that caused the explosion. The bolide was the size of 'a hazel nut or a tennis ball,'" an astronomer said. "I got a report from a witness on the Isle of Man, 100 miles (160 kilometers) away," Balon said.

"Also, a man out walking his dog on the day of the incident saw uniformed police officers walking around a wood in the centre of Worley. Also, a man stopped his car near the (motorway M60) exit for Worley. Another motorist pulled onto the hard shoulder due to hearing the huge explosion. He said he saw smoke coming from the wood near to where the (other) man had seen the police looking around. Plainclothes police were walking in pairs near the scene."

On Friday morning, "October 15, 2004, a local man said, 'There were dozens of police all over Worley centre, and the park (parking lot in the USA--J.T.) was full of police vehicles.'"

"The last piece of the jigsaw in this case concerns a lady in the town of Bury who on the day of the explosion saw four RAF (Tornado fighter) jets flying at a very low level, heading towards the Salford-Manchester area."

The similarities to the Boyle case are amazing. In 1995, a daylight disc crashlanded north of a lake in Boyle, County Roscommon, Ireland. NATO troops and Gardai (Irish national police--J.T.) immediately surrounded and cordoned off the crash site. Five extraterrestrial survivors were reportedly captured.

The "Boyle Five" were taken to Shannon International Airport, near Dublin, and then airlifted to the USA, where they were reportedly incarcerated at Camp Condon, a P.O.W. facility for captured aliens.

"So, did they find something in the wood so strange that there has been nothing about this incident on TV, radio or in the newspapers?" Balon asked, "One has to ask- -has a D Notice been put on this case" by UK's Ministry of Defence?

Stephen F. Balon is a former DIGAP member who has been involved in research into UFOs, the paranormal, crop circles and anomalies for over 40 years. Balon is a noted lecturer who has appeared on TV several times and was a colleague of the late Arthur Tomlinson. Together they investigated the Ilkely Moor UFO case. Balon has also written extensively on the Silpho Moor UFO case. (See the Manchester Evening News for October 13, 2004 and for October 14, 2004, "What did this woman see in the sky?" page 1.

Many thanks to Stephen F. Balon and John Hayes for this news story.)

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This, by the way, was the first any of us had heard about the Boyle 5. UFO Casebook also picked up the story too. Very disappointing. Whether this will grow into something bigger or not depends to be seen.

This is how the process starts, how the rumour mill takes hold, and how we can sometimes make monstrous fools of ourselves - through one person's lack of common sense.

[http://www.manchesteronline.co.uk/news/s/133/133559\\_fireball\\_in\\_sky\\_clue\\_to\\_blast.html](http://www.manchesteronline.co.uk/news/s/133/133559_fireball_in_sky_clue_to_blast.html)

[http://www.salfordadvertiser.co.uk/news/index/articles/article\\_id=13123.html](http://www.salfordadvertiser.co.uk/news/index/articles/article_id=13123.html)

## WHOSE ARE THESE???????



**These breasts belong to the biggest nuisance and irritation on UK paranormal TV. Who is he or she?**



**To which famous Ufologist does this very life like toupee belong too?**

**Which famous cryptozoological creature's arse is this?**



**UFO Review – proud to be bringing you an intelligent and insightful view on the world of ufology and related subjects!!!!!!!!**

# The Lost Land of Lyonesse

By

**Kithra**

Last month I might have frightened you away from visiting Cornwall, and damaged the local tourist industry in the process. So to maintain a balance, and hopefully encourage you to come to this beautiful county, here's the story of Cornwall's very own Atlantis.

## Introduction

According to The Saxon Chronicle, Lyonesse was obliterated on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 1099. The chronicle tells of the sea inundating the land and drowning towns, people, and animals. However, that date may be misleading, as there are other references to a date of 1089, or sometime during the 6<sup>th</sup> Century A.D. But whatever the date, the myth of a lost land persists, so it might well be a folk memory of dry land that did exist at some point. And geological evidence shows that sea levels were different within human memory.

Today, legend has it that the Isles of Scilly are all that remain of Lyonesse, with the islands being recorded as one single island during the reign of Maximus in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century A.D. Lyonesse is said to have contained 140 villages and churches and local tradition has it that fishermen still find parts of old buildings in their trawling nets. Some even say they've heard the church bells ring when the sea has been stormy. There is a report that an ex-mayor of Wilton had twice seen domes, towers, spires, and fortifications beneath the sea while standing on the cliffs at Lands End. And, as recently as the 1930's a News Chronicle journalist claimed to have been woken by the sound of muffled bells ringing one night. His hosts maintained he had heard the bells of Lyonesse.



Lands End

Picture Credit: [http://www.cornwallcam.co.uk/bestofnorth/Enys\\_Dodnan.jpg](http://www.cornwallcam.co.uk/bestofnorth/Enys_Dodnan.jpg)

The Seven Stone Rocks are held to be the remains of a city that Fishermen call The Town, while in Mount's Bay the remains of a sunken forest can be seen at low tide. Lending weight to this belief is the fact that St. Michael's Mount, in Mount's Bay itself, is that the old Cornish name for it means "the hoar rock in the wood." Added to this is the locally held idea that the Isles of Scilly are the old hilltops of Lyonesse, and it is a fact that the remains of many ancient stone buildings, including megalithic structures, can be seen below the high-tide mark.

Today, there are roughly 50 islands with the Isles of Scilly group, although only four are inhabited, and have been inhabited since prehistoric times. They have also been identified as the famous Tin Islands of the Greeks. Geologically they are made from granite that is very similar to the granite of Cornwall.



Isles of Scilly



#### Picture Credits:

[http://www.receptionbell.com/img/active/point\\_click/maps/england/islands/scilly.gif](http://www.receptionbell.com/img/active/point_click/maps/england/islands/scilly.gif)  
[http://www.orcasea-faris.co.uk/images/isles\\_of\\_scilly/isles\\_of\\_scilly\\_aerial.jpg](http://www.orcasea-faris.co.uk/images/isles_of_scilly/isles_of_scilly_aerial.jpg)

## History

The following link will give you a short history of the Isles of Scilly from 1180 up to 1831:

<http://69.1911encyclopedia.org/S/SC/SCIENCE.htm>

And this site will tell you a little about the underwater megalithic remains to be found on the islands:

[http://www.megalithic.co.uk/modules.php?op=modload&name=My\\_eGallery&file=index&do=showpic&pid=3169](http://www.megalithic.co.uk/modules.php?op=modload&name=My_eGallery&file=index&do=showpic&pid=3169)

Here you can a brief outline of the possible Phoenician influence on the Island of Tresco:

[http://www.tresco.co.uk/Tresco\\_Times/SPRING\\_2004/Who\\_were\\_the\\_first\\_scillonians.asp](http://www.tresco.co.uk/Tresco_Times/SPRING_2004/Who_were_the_first_scillonians.asp)

In an article about "Wolves and War", mention is made of the Isles of Scilly and Lyonesse. Wolf Rock lies about half way between Lands End and the Isles of Scilly, in deep and treacherous water. It relates how the Wolf Rock came to be named and details the history of the lighthouse that now stands guard over this part of the Atlantic. Intriguingly this is one of the few lighthouses to be built directly on the sea floor:

<http://www.wolfsongalaska.org/wolvesinwar2.html>



Wolf Rock

PictureCredit: [http://www.nortonmede.com/lighthouses/Godrevy\\_surf.jpg](http://www.nortonmede.com/lighthouses/Godrevy_surf.jpg)

## Archaeology

In an archaeological model of the Isles of Scilly published by Professor Charles Thomas he states:

*“While the Islands have been separated from mainland Britain for many thousands of years, the depth of water between them is so shallow that Bryher, Tresco and Samson are still joined at low astronomical tides (LAT) and a fall of only 10 metres would unite them all, except St. Agnes and the Western Rocks. Scilly, therefore, represents a drowned landscape illustrated by the existence of causeways linking the Islands, submerged stone field boundaries and other archaeological sites within the inter-tidal zone of shallow interior sea.”*



Bryher



Samson



Tresco

Picture Credits: <http://www.breakswithtradition.com/Library/hellbayaerial.jpg>  
<http://www.shimbo.co.uk/images/photos/dc839%20scillies.jpg>  
<http://www.trescomarathon.org.uk/2002/images/trescoabove.jpg>

And Dr. B. P. Horton from Durham University thinks that:

*“The origin of the legend of Lyonesse must, to a certain extent, stem from ancient folk-memories of the Neolithic inundations of areas around the Cornish coast, particularly Mount’s Bay, but more especially from the history of the Isles of Scilly themselves.”*

You can read more about it at this link, where the author also notes that the legend of Lyonesse is similar to that of the Breton story about the drowning of Caer Ys, also known as Ker-Is, in which a king escapes the flood:

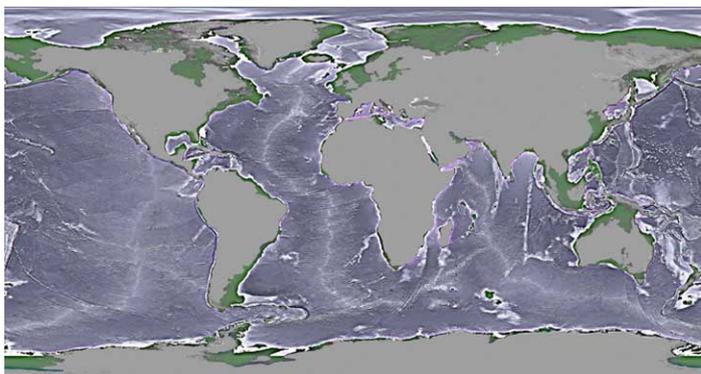
[http://members.lycos.co.uk/landsendparty/legend\\_of\\_lyonesse.htm](http://members.lycos.co.uk/landsendparty/legend_of_lyonesse.htm)

There is a fascinating article at this next site that takes a close look at ancient catastrophes and those who survived them. It examines the possibility of devastating comet impacts in the ancient past, and gives an Alternative History of archaeology and civilization. And to make just one quote from site:

***“Did the final inundation of the legendary land of Lyonesse - between the ancient Celtic land of Kernow (now Cornwall) and the Isles of Scilly (some 30 miles to the south west of Land's End?) - happen in the mid-sixth century AD? And were the inundations off the western coast of Wales that occurred around the same time just a small part of a much larger catastrophe that affected not just the coastal lands on the so-called Celtic Shelf of northwest Europe, but other areas of the world as well?”***

<http://www.morien-institute.org/survivors.html>

The site also has this map with text that reads: ***“a map of global sea levels showing coastlines circa 17,000 B.P. with submerged lands shown in green.”***



Picture Credit: <http://www.morien-institute.org/survivors.html>

From another part of the same site the author suggests that Plato's Atlantis disappeared in 9,600 BC around the time that the last Ice Age ended, and that memories of sunken lands are passed down in oral traditions across the world. To again take a quote from the site:

***“In his "Atlantis: New Hypothesis", Viatcheslav Koudriavstev provides a link to a map of the Little Sole Bank on the Celtic Shelf. In his accompanying analysis of this map he concludes:***

***"Some paleogeographic reconstructions of Western Europe at the (end) of the last glaciation suggest that there had existed a river originating in the area of the modern Irish Sea, which must have flown into the ocean in approximately this area. And if this is indeed the trace of the ancient river-bed, then the present Little Sole Bank was not an island or merely a hill on the shore, but a hill at the river-mouth, which is a uniquely beneficial position for a city."***

***This is very interesting, because mentioned in "Branwen, Daughter of Llyr", the second branch of the collection of Welsh folk tales known as "The Mabinogion", in the edition prepared from the 'middle Welsh' by Sir Ifor***

*Williams (Gwasg Dinefwr, Llandybie, Dyfed 1930) there are two rivers described as running between Wales and Ireland."*

<http://www.morien-institute.org/uwnews1997.html>

## Geology

In the middle of 1998 Russian scientists were investigating the area below sea level just beyond the Isles of Scilly known as the Celtic Shelf. They were hoping to find the legendary land of Atlantis. This is not quite so crazy as it sounds, and in a book called "The Atlantis of the West" by Paul Dunbavin he makes a very good case for the British Isles to have been Plato's Atlantis.

In February this year, 2004, the BBC reported that scientists from the University of Birmingham had used computer imagery to map a prehistoric, 10,000 year old plain that is now submerged beneath the North Sea. Hunters, animals, and plants would have inhabited the area. You can read more about the discovery here:

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/england/west\\_midlands/3489963.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/west_midlands/3489963.stm)

And you can read the original press release from the University here:

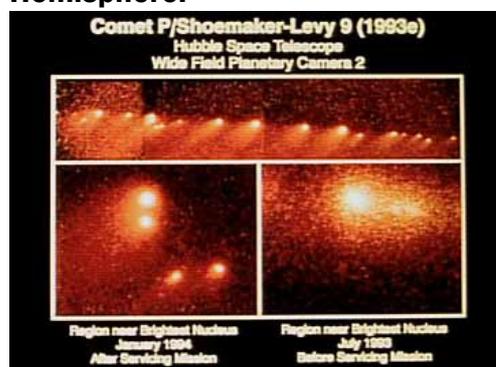
<http://www.newscentre.bham.ac.uk/release.htm?releaseId=919&page=18&year=2004&showUndelivered=N>

It is also interesting to read what the following link says about both the geology just after the end of the last Ice Age, and the various flood myths from around the world:

[http://www.comparative-religion.com/articles/torah\\_torah\\_torah/torah5.php](http://www.comparative-religion.com/articles/torah_torah_torah/torah5.php)

## Asteroid Impact

In an article by Andrew Rothovius, written just after we saw the Shoemaker-Levy comet smash into Jupiter, he examines the idea of a comet impact on Earth around 534 A.D. There is evidence, supported by the dendrochronology data, that something occurred around this time to cause abnormally low temperatures that lasted for about fifteen to twenty years in the Northern Hemisphere.



Shoemaker-Levy



Halley's Comet

Picture Credits: <http://www.wmnh.com/sgjup5.jpg>

[http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2001/05/images/021219\\_comet.jpg](http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2001/05/images/021219_comet.jpg)

He suggests that the impact might have been a fragment of Halley's Comet, which would have been seen in September 530 A.D. He also makes reference to the "*Celtic traditions of the submergence of three large coastal areas in Cornwall, Wales and Brittany.*" Within this timeframe it appears that not only Lyonesse was sunk but also the Lost Land of Cantref in Cardigan Bay, Wales, and the lost city of Ys, which Breton legend says sank beneath the Bay of Douarnenez. During the same timeframe there were also many other catastrophes that befell various parts of the world, including earthquakes, plagues, and tsunamis. You can read the entire article here:

<http://home.earthlink.net/%7Earothonius/rothonius4.html>



Cardigan Bay



Bay of Douarnenez

**Picture Credits:**

<http://www.wales-calling.com/guide/images%20-%20cardigan%20bay/cardigan11.jpg>

[http://cjain.free.fr/dz\\_A1.jpg](http://cjain.free.fr/dz_A1.jpg)

However, the contemporary historical sources of Gildas and Nennius don't mention any such flooding event. And during the conquest of Anglesey, undertaken by Suetonius, the author Tacitus notes that the Romans had to cross the Menai Straits to reach the island.

## Old Maps

It would appear that in Roman times the Isles of Scilly were still a single island. There are old maps from the period, and before, which seem to substantiate this fact. Nigel Pennick wrote a book entitled: "Lost Lands and Sunken Cities" in which he states in his introduction:

*"Apart from the more-or-less legendary lost lands like Lyonesse, which is said to have existed between Cornwall and the Scillies, large tracts of coastal land have vanished from mainland Britain over the last two thousand years."*

In the following article many of these ancient maps are discussed, and the findings are indeed intriguing:

<http://www.celticgrounds.com/chapters/encyclopedia/l.html>



Piri Reis Map

**Picture Credit:**

[http://www.stateofheart.nl/phenomenon/pics/subjects/civi/atlantian/piri\\_big.jpg](http://www.stateofheart.nl/phenomenon/pics/subjects/civi/atlantian/piri_big.jpg)

## Plato

In Andrew Collins's article, entitled: "Atlantis in Northern Europe" he examines why this part of Europe should be linked to Plato's Atlantis. He begins by referencing an 1876 book entitled: "The Oera Linda Book" that was ostensibly a translation of a 13<sup>th</sup> Century ancient Frisian text. It told of an old land known as Atland, or Aldland, that supposedly was to be found in the North Sea between Denmark and Shetland. This ancient land was said to have been destroyed by floods and upheaval in 2,193 B.C. However, the book was never given credence by serious academics and it was dismissed as pure hoax. You can read the rest of the article here:

<http://www.andrewcollins.com/page/interactive/northeur.htm>

## Trevelyan

There is a persistent legend that a man who escaped the inundation of Lyonesse on his white horse founded the Cornish family of Trevelyan; who's family crest still shows a white horse. He out rode the flood until he reached the higher ground of Perranuthnoe.



Perranuthnoe

**Picture Credit:**

[http://www.ednoveanfarm.co.uk/scrapbook/archive/winter\\_scrapbook/cave.jpg](http://www.ednoveanfarm.co.uk/scrapbook/archive/winter_scrapbook/cave.jpg)

Fanciful as that sounds there are also reports of similar events happening during the 1953 and 1978 flood disasters in East Anglia. You can read more about the legend here:

<http://www.cranstar.co.uk/legends.htm>

And also here:

<http://www.britannia.com/history/legend/cornish/cornss04.html>

And from this site; which also mentions the archaeological remains to be seen around the islands:

<http://www.themodernantiquarian.com/site/4641>



Isles of Scilly

*Picture Credit: swampy\_embassy*

## King Arthur

Of course it isn't possible to write about Lyonesse without mentioning its relevance to the Arthurian legends, and especially the story of Tristan. But my purpose here is to look at the real evidence for the existence of this sunken land. However, if you'd like to read about the Arthurian ideas then the following links will give you most of the information; with the first link giving information about the oral tradition and writing from which it comes:

<http://www.timelessmyths.com/celtic/armorican.html>

<http://www.kingarthursknights.com/theland/lyonesse.asp>

<http://www.time-scapes.co.uk/Arthur%20in%20the%20Southwest/land/send.html#Lyonesse>

<http://www.occultopedia.com/l/lyonesse.htm>

<http://www.geocities.com/pastorkeith/fantastic.html>

<http://www.earlybritishkingdoms.com/bios/tristram.html>

<http://classclit.about.com/library/bl-etexts/tbulfinch/bl-tbulfinch-chiv-10.htm>

## Ritual Landscapes & Ley Lines

Another very interesting aspect of Lyonesse is its relevance to the famous St. Michael Ley Line that runs from St. Michael's Mount off the coast of Penzance in Cornwall to the coast near Bury St. Edmunds in East Anglia. John Michel, in his book entitled: "The Sun and The Serpent," proposes that the line actually starts from Mont St. Michel just off the coast of France. All along this particular Ley Line can be found many of Britain's megalithic monuments.



**St. Michael's Mount**



**Mont St. Michel**

**Picture Credits:** <http://www.users.zetnet.co.uk/cornwall/Maraz01.jpg>  
<http://www.pilotlist.org/rencontres/Pontivy2001/Mont%20St%20Michel.jpg>

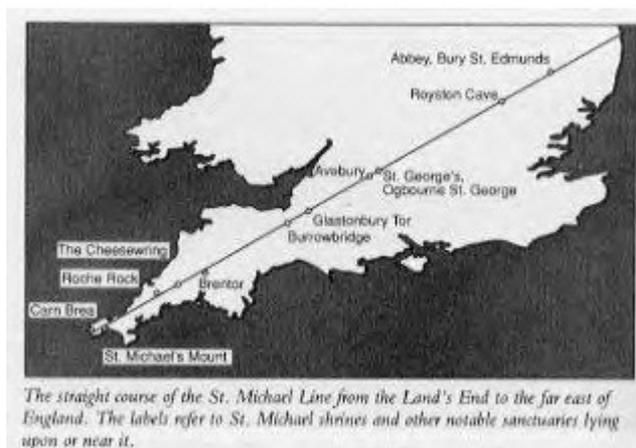
And these two links from the Daily Grail web site explain much about geomancy and ritual landscapers, including Ley Lines; which are also known as Dragon Paths:

<http://www.dailygrail.com/blog/3958>

[Theory of Geometry, Geomancy and Sacred Landscape](#)

The article at this next link discusses the apparent worldwide feelings of 'something' not being right with the natural world around us, and the fact that a Dimensional Shift appears to be on the horizon. But the main bulk of the piece is devoted to Crop Circles; asking what they are, and how they might be made in conjunction with UFOs, plus some of the strange phenomena experienced whilst standing inside them.

The really interesting part is the relationship they may have with Ley Lines, especially the Michael/Mary Ley Line which, as previously stated, is one of the most powerful to be found anywhere in the world, and which might even be a part of a global Ley Line that once passed through Lyonesse.



**Michael/Mary Ley Line**

**Picture Credit:** <http://www.greatdreams.com/michael-ley-line.jpg>

Here's just one quote from article:

***“This sudden reanimation makes me wonder if the Crop Circle Makers have been “feeding” the energies in preparation for Cosmic events that will affect us here. In Ancient cultures, how to awaken this female serpent was the key, for when this Goddess ground energy failed to appear, the Old King civilisation would have to die and a new “Snake Charmer” was called in, lest the land and her people went to waste.”***

It appears to have been written just prior to the millennial change of 2000, but it covers many New Age topics, from the Druids, the End of the Mayan Long Count, and the Fisher King, to an ET group called the Umer, (that are supposedly from star number 20 in the Pleiades), and the need for the reintroduction of the Feminine Principle.

<http://changingplanet.supremalex.org/circle/circles.htm>

If you’d like to read more about Ley Lines there is a very good book entitled: **“Ley Lines – A Comprehensive Guide to Alignments”** written by Danny Sullivan.

At this next link you can find a very wide-ranging article that covers the following topics:

***Sky Gods and Megaliths:*** which discusses myths and megaliths as being not only inseparable but also a worldwide occurrence.

***The Dragon Cult and Chaos in the Firmament:*** which discusses the Neolithic view that the “sky gods” were cosmic entities who intermittently visited devastation upon the Earth.



**Lanyon Quoit**



**Men-an-Tol**

**Picture Credits:** <http://www.brycchancarey.com/places/cornwall/lan2.jpg>  
[http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/celynog/Cornwall/Cornwall%20images/Men\\_an\\_Tol.jpg](http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/celynog/Cornwall/Cornwall%20images/Men_an_Tol.jpg)

***The Celestial Tower and Wars of the Gods and the Titans:*** which discusses the worldwide flood stories, with special reference to Celtic Myths.

***Catastrophism:*** which discusses the ways in which this theory has changed over the ages, from the biblical to the scientific; especially with reference to asteroid impacts. It also explains how the “uniformitarian” view was reached under the influence of Darwin and Lyell, and introduces the opposing idea posited by Immanuel Velikovsky. This view was supported by two UK astronomers, Victor Clube and William Napier, in their book entitled: “The

**Cosmic Serpent: A Catastrophist View of Earth History** that was published in 1984.

One quote from the site at the end of this section says:

***“The truth then is that the pyramids and megaliths do hold a great secret in their massive structures, a secret infinitely more dramatic and certainly more terrible than anything imagined by the purveyors of most “alternative” pyramid theories. These were the structures “raised”, said Homer, “by the hands of giants for god-like kings of old.” As they stand, they are mute witnesses to a time when chaos reigned in the heavens, when the members of the Solar System could not necessarily be relied upon to maintain their accustomed paths through the firmament. These great monuments, from the infancy of civilisation, speak to us of mankind’s escape, in the not too distant past, from a very real Armageddon.”***

**The Fiery God of the Megaliths:** which discusses what the scientists and astronomers have found to be true about the stone circles; not only the accuracy of the astronomical data, but also the scientific anomalies detected within the circles.



Avebury



Glastonbury Tor

**Picture Credits:**

<http://www.thisiswiltshire.co.uk/wiltshire/tourism/sightseeing/images/tourism-avebury.jpg>

<http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~cirillo/britain/tor2.jpg>

**Earthquakes and Klimasturz in Early Celtic Times:** which discusses the geological data to be found in ancient records.

<http://www.consciousevolution.com/Rennes/arthurchapter5.htm>

## UFOs

At the forum of the “alien-ufos.com” web site there is a thread that talks of Lyonesse. However, it also covers some other very intriguing topics including underwater bases off the Cornish coast, “Wurst” shaped UFO sightings, natiform tazza sightings between 1958 and 1960, and the strange sinking of the Trewlany in 1946. But unfortunately, doing my usual Googling, I haven’t been able to turn up any further references to these.

<http://www.alien-ufos.com/forum/showthread.php?p=66811#post66811>

Our ancient ancestors were very much like us, so why are their myths and legends continually dismissed as being just that? If you study them closely it's clear that they are describing real events, but they were only able to do so in the words and concepts they understood. In choosing to read them only from our modern-day perspective perhaps we dismiss them at our peril!

Kithra

<http://kithraskrystalkave.org.uk>



# PROBE INTERNATIONAL

## Conference Report

**SATURDAY 09<sup>th</sup> & SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2004.**

**This is going to be a bit of a weird review of the conference. I had a heavy cold at the time and frequently had trouble staying awake – not, I hasten to add through a lack of interest or boredom. Although armed with both a tape recorder and a note pad, just to make me look the authentic part, I thought, “Sod it” and ditched them all and just sat there like a punter, taking it all in.**

**Maybe my cold fogged my mind or maybe age has finally crept up on me but I had immense trouble finding the place and very nearly gave up and came back. I just didn’t feel in the mood to go chasing round Blackpool but I persisted and of course got there in the end. I missed probably ten minutes of Malcolm Robinson’s presentation of the Fife case.**

**The conference was held in the gymnasium of the YMCA in St. Annes (which is why chasing round Blackpool was a complete waste of time) and I would guess there were about 140 people there. There was the usual handful of stalls littered around the periphery – books, trinkets, tapes etc. There were breaks after each speaker, a comfortable cafeteria, and a large open area for those that liked to smoke, namely outside the front door.**

**Nice crowd too. You know how some UFO conferences can look – every sociopath and malfunctioning individual who can’t dress himself seems to attend. Not here. And people listened attentively. They wanted to be there.**

**Malcolm presented his talk with enthusiasm and flair. If I’m honest I remained only partially convinced but this was not through any weakness in the manner in which he put over the information. On the contrary, it was put forward succinctly and I guess you could say the audience was left to make its own mind up. I hovered. Philip Mantle, who wasn’t due to speak until the next day, gave Malcolm a bit of a hard time with questions, but nothing he couldn’t handle.**

**Next of the three Scottish speakers that day was Graeme Mudie, a mad scientist. Graeme wasn’t actually mad of course and didn’t even do a close impersonation, but I’m trying for a tabloid style here, so please be patient. In fact he’s an eminently sensible BT engineer who is fascinated by the prospect of building a car that can run on hydrogen made from water. He’s also into anti-gravity and gave an amusing demonstration of something or other lifting into the air on its own and only being restrained by some ties. It’s gonna happen boys and girls, it’s gonna happen.**

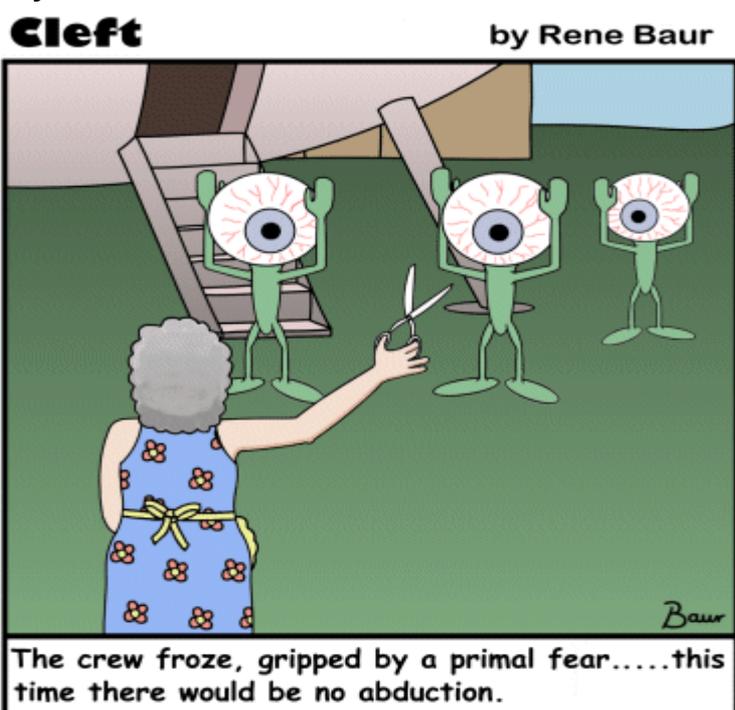
Then came Brian Allan who presented a talk about the connection between science and our perception of the paranormal. As I took no notes, I can't remember specifically what he said. I do remember though thinking that about 80% of what I heard I was prepared to accept and the other 20% was what I call the "wince factor" where, when you hear it, you think, "No thanks". To be fair, my negative reactions were never quite that strong and mostly amounted to "that's a bit thin." He was a good speaker, very confident and direct.



John Rhodes

The last speaker that day was the most dynamic for sure. American John Rhodes did a marvellous job of convincing us that reptoids are here and living below ground. That's it in a nutshell. John's in the wrong business. He should be selling something on TV. Handsome, personable, and also modest at the same time (he was prepared to stand in total darkness during his entire presentation so that all the focus was on the the screen displaying images), this was a highly professional and polished presentation, so much so that I kept glancing down at the ground afterwards just to check that nothing was poking its nose up that shouldn't be. It all made sense, it all came together, and I want to have his babies. He'll never convince cynics and in truth, I wasn't really convinced either but that certainly didn't get in the way of my enjoyment of his presentation that left me with an admiration for his approach and interpretation. Even if you think the concept is a total load of hogwash, if you get the chance, you should still go and listen to him.

Well done Sam and Jean. What a nice couple and very professional hosts. I couldn't attend the Sunday but thoroughly enjoyed the Saturday and appreciated the varied and intelligent roster that they arranged. Although Probe conferences have been going for a while, this was my first. I will be going again next year.



## FORTEAN CORNER

An occasional new series where we totally take the piss, sorry, where we look at the stranger side of life.

### My Talking Zit

**The strange case of the pimple that started to speak – and then wouldn't stop!**

By our new staff reporter, Miss B. Osom



**Hello everybody. It's nice to be here. Today, I'm going to be telling you about the strange tale of the abductee who developed a talking zit.**

**Noella Ofanidea is originally from West Africa but settled in Britain when she was six. Her abduction experiences started when she was nine years old and living in Ealing. Although highly disturbing for her initially, she was eventually referred by her psychiatrist to Aliens R US, a highly specialised private service offering counselling and guidance to abductees in the Magonia school of therapy. This was an extremely revolutionary approach to the problem and involved counsellors shouting at the clients and telling them they shouldn't be allowed out unaccompanied because they were obviously bonkers.**

**Noella found her therapy stressful but persisted with it as she was assured she was in the hands of people that knew what they were doing. The truth was though, she had nowhere else to turn to and as things moved along, she was aware that her mental condition was deteriorating. Her experiences were still occurring frequently and not getting any easier.**

**As strange as her life had been so far, it was however on the point of taking a turn for the weirder still. As she was leaving her seventh session with her therapist, Mr. Rimmney, he called out to her, "See you next Friday". As she turned to acknowledge him, a strange masculine voice suddenly replied, "Not if I see you first, you quack." Startled, they both knew that Noella hadn't made that remark and they frantically spun around the room to see who else was**

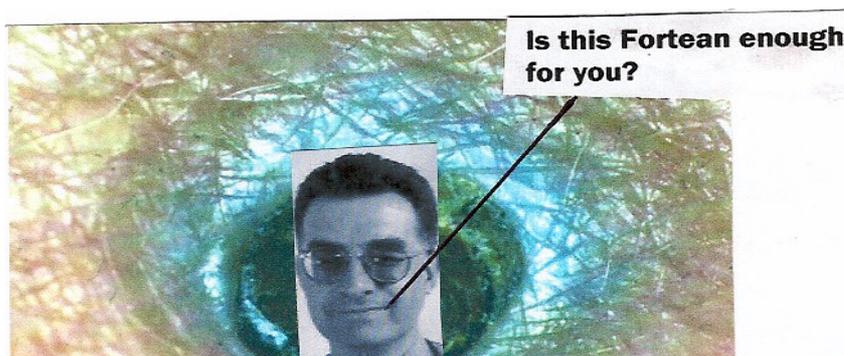
there, both knowing as they did that there was no one else in the room with them.

“Perhaps” said Rimmney with a smirk in his voice, “It’s the aliens that have been abducting you?”

Noella left the building and caught the bus home. It was now 6:00pm and she thought she’d make herself some supper. As she reached up for the container that held her tea bags on a shelf above the sink, the voice she’d heard at the counsellor’s office suddenly reappeared. “No”, it said, “Have some coffee.”

“Who the hell are you?” Noella shouted out to no one in particular. She didn’t expect an answer, but she got one. “Look half way up your left forearm” the voice said, and so she took her cardigan off, unbuttoned the left sleeve of the shirt she was wearing, and rolled it up.

There, in the middle of her arm was an enormous zit. That was strange enough as she had no idea it was there and had felt no discomfort or itching. But stranger still, when she looked closely at it, she could see an outline of a face!



“Oh my god,” thought Noella, “I’ve got a zit with a head on it!” As soon as the man’s face had caught her eye, it started to speak again. “Hi Noella,” it said, “I’m professor Chris French of Goldsmith College in London and I’m here to tell you you’re suffering from a form of sleep paralysis. Now be a good girl and stop all this silly nonsense.”

And with that, Noella picked up a pair of scissors lying on her kitchen counter and gently and deliberately plunged it into the zit. “Oh, oh Noella, how could y.....” the voice said, as it gently faded away. Peace reigned in her life again.

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# The Science and Politics of Mars

by

Andrew Pike, BSc, MSc, PGDip, FRAS

As soon as the most recent pictures of Mars started to appear, following the wealth of probes dispatched to the planet during its 2003 close encounter with Earth, things did not add up.

I was advised by a US contact working jointly with the CIA and NASA that the pictures from Mars were being 'got at'. Surely not! Then came the news that somebody was rewriting the software aboard the probes and the finger pointed at the CIA. But why? What were they trying to hide?

The answer to that question was not immediately obvious, however, with time the all so familiar black propaganda the CIA are so famous for peddling stated to show. The reason was too much evidence was appearing suggesting life was present on the planet. Things looked too green, there was evidence of at least four areas of the planet producing methane gas and that hinted strongly that life was somewhere to be found.

Then came the evidence. Colour charts placed on the probes were clearing wrong. Reds were too red, yellows and greens were being written out of the pictures by the manipulation of software, and all this was 'apparently' under the nose of NASA.

Much of this probably would have gone unnoticed for two reasons. Firstly a few pictures were not supposed to be released showing the colour check card but were, albeit small in one corner of the pictures, and secondly years of conditioning the public into believing Mars is red was supposed to continue. The pictures showing the colour chart were released by mistake and the fact was out that Mars was not red but an unimpressive brown.

However, all was not lost! The press releases simply stated that because Mars is regarded as red by the public the pictures were deliberately faked to maintain the public belief. Amazing stuff and hardly in line with NASA's claim to be a scientific body out to discover the truth. The trouble was when NASA were forced to re-do the pictures far too much green started to appear. Moreover what of all those Viking images in 1976? They still appear as red as ever. That shows this faking goes back as far as Martian exploration.

However, the black propaganda is deeper than that.

## The Science

The news surrounding the discovery of fossil life in the Martian rock ALH 84001 during 1996 led to renewed interest in the idea that life might be transported to

Earth by way of meteorites. Initial investigations on ALH 84001 found the usual amino acids and the like in much the same way as the other famous meteorites like the Murchison meteorite found in Australia in 1969, the Orgueil meteorite of 1864 and the Tagish Lake meteorite of 2000 to name but three. It is interesting that little, if any, mention was made of either the Murchison or Orgueil meteorites in newspaper reports such was the media frenzy to get the fossil news out. If they had, then mention of investigations surrounding the find of fatty acids contained in the Murchison rock would have been interesting alone. If they had added to that the fact that these had been mixed to chemicals believed to be present in the early atmosphere of our planet to produce 'membranous substances' consisting of long hydrocarbons, surely it would have had a far greater impact with the public.

That was the problem, far TOO MUCH impact, so It was buried.



Murchison CM2 Carbonaceous Chondrite

Fossils are certainly news but what of actual living bugs? Despite the many critical reviews of the ALH 84001 fossil this point was strangely ignored. Did those in certain positions think that type of information would be going just a bit too far for the average member of the public? Maybe dead fossils were a more gentle step into the world of living germs from space? To be told that the raw material of cell membranes had already been derived from other meteorites might panic the public with stories of space bugs invading not only Earth but our very bodies. Take the SARS out break of early 2003! This caused world wide panic yet was not nearly as serious as many made out. In the UK more people die from falling down the stairs, so should we panic every time we go to bed?

The idea of invasions from space involving diseases is not only particularly unpalatable but is also played down at every opportunity. Of course the idea of Earth being bathed in biological germs usually takes the more down-to-earth form of biological warfare, but as we have seen there is considerable evidence that it's not just mankind who are capable of bathing our planet with nasty little living bugs. Indeed, with the announcement of life on the Martian meteorite ALH 84001 the whole idea of space bugs was once again under the microscope. Just the story of a fossilized Martian bug found in a rock from Mars would be

remarkable enough, but the story behind this piece of science is even more remarkable.

For starters it was suggested that some astronomers knew the existence of this fossil several years before the 1996 announcement, but had participated in a 'cover-up' to deny the news to the general public. This is certainly true in part. I know this for a fact because I myself knew about our little Martian visitor some two years before NASA went public. So why the delay? There is a problem and one which can probably be told, at least in part.

In brief there were two main reasons why the discovery was eventually announced to the public. The first of these was an indiscretion between an America politician and a prostitute (do they never learn?), the second being the threat by astronomers themselves to break the news in the astronomical press. Other reasons crept in, for example, the sudden need for NASA to justify continuing expense on Martian exploration following several failed mission and the, as yet, untold worry about the size of our visitor and a possible panic in the making. More about all these later. But first, we need to fully understand the history of ALH 84001, both scientific and political, and indeed some of the other 11 similar rocks currently under investigation, in particular EETA 79001 which, like its cousin ALH 84001, has a similar story to tell.



**EETA79001**

The ALH 84001 meteorite was found in the Allen Hills region of Antarctica in 1984. This region of Earth is a prime location for Martian meteorite recovery because the black rocks stand out on the white ice and snow covered pole cap. There are regular visits to hunt for newly fallen meteorites or ones which have recently become exposed after spending some time hidden under the ice. To date there have been 12 such Martian meteorites collected with a thirteenth suspected of which 6 were found in Antarctica. All 12 are known as SNC meteorites (sometimes pronounced SNiC) after the representative members of each of the three sub groups into which they were originally divided: Shergotty, El Nakhla and Chassigny. These were the regions on Earth where each were found: Shergotty (India 1865), El Nakhla (Egypt 1911) and Chassigny (France 1815).



**Orgueil meteorite**



**Tagish lake meteorite**

When ALH 84001 was classified as Martian, it was also recognised as the first of a fourth sub- group of the Martian meteorites family. As this was found in the Antarctic some scientific wits suggested the letter 'A' should be used in the SNC name thus changing SNiC to SNAC! All these SNC meteorites are igneous rocks, that is to say they have solidified from magma. The different groups represent crystallisation at different depths below the Martian surface. On Earth they would have been labelled lherzolite, pyroxenite, dunite or basalt. Some of the rocks have been altered by fluids while others are dry. Many of the 12 are shocked, as a result of impacts but all have one common factor: they come from Mars.

How can we be so certain of that fact? Could it not be the case that they are ordinary meteorites, the type which originate in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter for example? There are several reasons why this is not believed to be the case. First we will see why ordinary meteorites have been ruled out. As we know, the Solar System formed some 4.6 billion years ago from a cloud of gas, dust and ice. The dust formed into ever larger bodies forming the inner rocky planets whilst gas and ice accumulated into the giant planets like Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune with the remainder forming into the Kuiper belt and Oort regions from where comets originate.

Ordinary meteorites originate from the asteroid belt where the date of their crystallisation is 4.6 billion years ago. However planets like Earth and Mars are still active through volcanic eruptions. The solidified rock from contemporary eruptions has a formation age of zero, for example, igneous rock from different periods of a planet's history have different ages with all being younger than 3.8 billion years. It is found that 11 of the 12 SNC meteorites have crystallisation ages of between 150 million years and 1.3 billion years. To put it another way they have come from an astronomical body supporting molten rock as recently as 150 million years ago, and that is not the asteroid belt but a planet like Venus, Earth, Mars, the Moon or some of the larger moons of the gas giant planets.

We can rule out Venus straight away because its atmosphere would make ejection of rock from its surface difficult. The larger moons of gas giants might eject rock and probably do, but that rock is more likely to remain trapped in orbit as a result of Jupiter's strong gravitational attraction. So, that leaves

**Earth, Mars or the Moon. We can further rule out the Earth and Moon because of the chemistry of the rocks. The Martian meteorites all have similar oxygen isotopic compositions to one another which is different from both the Earth and the Moon. It is the isotopic composition of oxygen 16 (O16), oxygen 17 (O17) and oxygen 18 (O18), which gives a chemical signature of the parent body, and the signature of the SNC meteorites is not that of the Earth or the Moon. By process of elimination we are left with Mars.**

**Until 1976, there was the possibility astronomers were wrong about this. Although Mars was the only candidate left it was not conclusive that it must be the parent world, there could have been something we were overlooking. However, in that year NASA sent two probes to Mars: Vikings 1 and 2. One of the jobs of the lander parts of these probes was to find evidence of life on the Red Planet and part of this investigation involved the analysis of the chemical and isotopic composition of the Martian atmosphere, an analysis in greater detail than we had been able to achieve up to that date. The smoking gun evidence came when small glass bubbles containing gas were analysed in another SNC meteorite, EETA 79001, a basalt meteorite found in Antarctica: the composition of the gas trapped in the bubbles of glass was identical to the Martian atmosphere analysis returned to Earth from the Viking landers. There seemed no doubting the new data: the SNC meteorites are indeed Martian Rocks.**

**Back in 1976 ALH 84001 had not yet been located, it still lay in the frozen wastes of Antarctica. When it was discovered, in 1984, it was originally thought to be a diogenite, a basalt from the asteroid belt possibly a part of asteroid Vesta. NASA claim it then lay in storage until 1994 when a scientist studying diogenites requested a chunk for analysis. It was sent for oxygen isotopic analysis and much to everybody's surprise the results came back showing the oxygen isotopes were very similar to other SNC meteorites. This was in fact a Martian meteorite and had been classified incorrectly partly because it was not realised at the time that it was a new sub-group of the SNC family.**

**Another problem was it differed from other Martian meteorites inasmuch as it was old. Radiometric measurements of the decay of several elements indicated that the rock solidified, crystallising 4.5 billion years ago, only shortly after the formation of Mars itself when the planet was only 100 million years old. Shock induced fractures in the rock were probably created during the late heavy bombardment period of Mars around 3.9 to 3.6 billion years ago, at a time when it was still part of its parent rock formation. Furthermore it has suffered alterations which have left patches of orange carbonates.**

**Now that ALH 84001 was identified as a Martian rock, a string of applications for a chunk were made from all over the world, it seemed everybody wanted to discover what other secrets it was holding back. One of these surprises came from its carbon content. ALH 84001 seemed to contain more carbon than any of the other Martian meteorites, moreover, this was in the form of organic compounds. Unfortunately the analysis could not determine the origins of the organic molecules and their carbon isotopic composition so it was not possible to say if they were from Mars or from Earth. However, analysis of the carbonates provided a more definite conclusion because they had the distinctive carbon**

isotopic composition suggesting formation was due to fluids in contact with the atmosphere of Mars. From this came the obvious next step of determining the nature of the organics present, investigations which directly resulted in that shattering news of August 1996.

To this day there are many who still argue the finer details of life in ALH 84001 but to understand where we are we need to look at the details. One of the indisputable facts to come from the meteorite's analysis is the carbonates present do come from Mars. It was therefore interesting to discover that analysis of organic compounds released from the rock using a laser microprobe were closely associated with those carbonates. Efforts concentrated on this connection. One organic compound discovered was the polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, or P AHs, which we have already encountered in our journey so far. The P AHs could be due to the decay products of microbes trapped in the forming carbonate globules. Surely if the carbonates are Martian, so too must be the organics.

Further analysis showed the presence of minute iron oxide (magnetite) grains (FE304) within the carbonate globules and iron sulphides (pyrrhotite and greigite). These magnetite crystals measured only 50 nanometres across and are similar to those found in many terrestrial bacteria where they serve as tiny compasses. They orientate themselves with the lines of the Earth's magnetic field so as to tell up from down. The shape of the magnetites was also unusual and had not been previously seen in meteorites. They were cuboid and teardrop shaped.

The associations of magnetite and iron sulphides with dissolution hollows in the carbonate grains suggested biogenic processes. Further investigations using high resolution scanning electron microscopes showed the surface had an unexpected irregular texture. Within the carbonate globules were elongated and ovoid or tubular structures. Comparing this with terrestrial systems suggested the remains of nanobacteria similar to the tiniest bacteria found on Earth. There was one photograph which was particularly striking - a segmented wormlike object resting on a bed of mineral grains - the image which was to appear on almost every newspaper cover and television news show around the world as the Martian fossil.

Further features were found associated with the magnetite and sulphide grains which suggested microbial activity. It is difficult to provide an explanation for these features through processes other than biological, although many scientist working on the meteorite have been quick to point out this might be possible even if it does seem to be *ad hoc* at present. When all is said and done it does seem that the fossil remains are of a Martian biota.

Those quick to dismiss the evidence have pointed out several problems with the idea of a fossilised Martian. William Schopf, a microfossil expert pointed out that the magnetite



**William Schopf**

occurs as discrete grains rather than as a sequence of several connected grains as might be the case with terrestrial organisms. Moreover, they are about 100 times smaller than those characteristic of biogenic processes on Earth and there is no evidence of the voids or cavities observed in terrestrial microfossils that are signs that fluid associated with life have been present. There is also problems with the P AHs which are not necessarily indicators of biological products, although equally they can be. They could be due to secondary diagenesis, heating that accompanies the burial of rocks which in turn acts to convert pre-existing organic compounds into P AHs.

Amongst the first most critical views were those connected with the magnetic field of Mars. Put simply, Mars lacks a magnetic field of any serious value. Critics suggested that bacteria would therefore have no need for magnetite crystals to find up from down. Criticism then centred on claims that the carbonate globules must have formed at temperatures far too high for living things to have existed inside them. These two points can easily be dismissed and it is a wonder why they were ever made in the first place.

Elementary planetary knowledge tells us that Mars did once have a strong magnetic field, probably as strong as the Earth's. The reason why it does not have that field today is because Mars is so much smaller than the Earth, about a third its size. Its molten iron core therefore cooled far quicker than Earth's has and as a result the dynamo effect which generates the magnetic field of a planet ceased. There would be a small residue of a field locked in the cool iron core to this day and that is what we find. Indeed we can go further. When Mars had a magnetic field it would have also had a magnetosphere, the region of the magnetic field which extends into space and acts as a shield against the harmful solar wind. This is important for the survival of life on a planet. When Mars lost its magnetic field it also lost its magnetosphere and this in turn is why Mars lost its atmosphere, it was swept away over time by the solar wind coupled with the weaker gravitational pull reducing the chances of holding on to the atmosphere. Mars did have a magnetic field in its earlier history when ALH 84001 was on the planet and a strong one at that. So any bacteria present would certainly have need of magnetite crystals as compasses. For any critic still in doubt, recent data from the Mars Global Surveyor space craft has bolstered this idea and gone further by having the sensitivity to detect magnetic anomalies in some regions of Mars.

The next point we need to examine is that made by critics regarding the high temperature. Those critics too can be swept aside and in an ironic twist it can be done using the magnetic field of the planet! When ALH 84001 solidified it became magnetised and to about the same field strength as terrestrial rock which in itself is evidence of an early magnetic field on Mars, but there is another important point. The locked in, or remnant, magnetism of a rock sample is lost if it is heated above a critical temperature, which depends on the mineral structure of the rock. It seems that certain areas of ALH 8400 I have been rotated as a result of the shocks which led to its ejection from Mars and the magnetic field rotated with them remaining fixed ever since. The result is that the rock could not have been heated much above 110 degrees Celsius during the time when the microbes were living otherwise the orientation of the magnetic fields in the rotated regions would have been at least partially erased and reset. As we now know 110 degrees is not too high a temperature for the survival of hyperthermophiles, the type of living creatures found in deep sea volcanic vents..

In 1998, the view that magnetite crystals in ALH 84001 were products of microbes took another direct hit. A group of scientists led by John Bradley studied the structure of the crystals at very high magnification. They found that the axes of some of the crystals were perfectly aligned with those of the carbonate crystals which they were touching against. The conclusion was they had grown while in contact with the carbonate crystals, a process known as 'epitaxial growth'. This meant that the magnetite crystals did not grow inside living cells and were then released into the environment after the cells died. The answer may come from another process called epitaxial settling whereby the magnetite crystals simply fell onto the carbonate crystals when the cell died and locked into their crystal lattice. Imre Friedmann has also studied the crystals at high magnification using a scanning electron microscope and defends the biological origins of the magnetite crystals. The elongated shape of the crystals together with their alignment in chains are unique to magnetite produced by microbes.



**Dr. John Bradley**

Although there is still much debate about the validity of the Martian fossil all in all as things stand today, the evidence for it once being a living Martian microbe is far outweighed by the evidence it might not have been alive at all. However, before leaving the story of ALH 84001, we need to examine one further area of controversy, this time political.

## **The Politics!**

**We have seen the arguments behind the science of this discovery but the other strand which went largely unnoticed by the mass media was the political one, yet its presence is just as significant, if not more so. For one thing the announcement may not have taken place at all.**

**The time which elapsed between the discovery of ALH 84001 and the announcement of the fossil was 12 years. So why the delay? This has become one of the most controversial points in the story of life on Mars and has led to many conspiracy theories. There was in all truth a period of time where NASA simply stored the meteorite away and did nothing with it. However, it is also true that the delay between the fossil's discovery and the public announcement was at least a couple of years. Any number of astronomers knew about the fossil long before the public announcement and it was clearly a well kept secret within the astronomical community. I have often been asked when did I first learn about the fossil's existence? The answer is two years before the announcement. So clearly astronomers kept it a secret, myself included!**

**The reason for this is somewhat complicated. Nevertheless it is worth telling because of its significance when it comes to any similar public announcement made about extraterrestrial life. There are several reasons why news broke when it did. One reason was that an announcement was going to be made from non scientific sources following an indiscretion between a US politician and a prostitute! Apparently the politician had told the prostitute about the fossil and the fact that the public were not being told. This alone might have been a situation which could have been controlled by the politicians had it not been for the rather timely hints appearing in the astronomical press and rumours that scientist themselves were about to let the cat out of the bag.**

**To be honest I was surprised when I was looking through one publication on astronomy and came across a 'filler' piece which hinted more strongly than any other about the discovery, in fact it even used the word fossil. At that stage I realised it was only a matter of time before something broke in the mainstream press. Following some discrete phone calls I learnt the truth of what was about to happen. However, it was as tricky a situation as any other involving political spin. But would NASA really make that announcement or continue to sit on it? It was far from certain.**

**Eventually they must have weighed up the odds and realised that there was now no way this fossil could be kept under wraps any longer, consequently they rather sensibly decided to make the announcement, but that announcement was going to be to their advantage.**

**It was now late 1995 and only six months or so before the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Viking missions to Mars in 1976, a golden opportunity to make the announcement and also make it look as if they had planned it all along. Now was the time to add my own small piece to the jigsaw. Having just started a regular space and astronomy column in a UK publication, UFO Magazine, I**

decided my instalment for the November/December 1995 issue should say something about the matter. I deliberated as to whether to use the word fossil in the wording, I regret now that I did not. But at that stage there was still doubt as to how far NASA would go the following summer. That was almost certainly when any announcement would be made, so long as certain astronomers and others could be convinced to hold off.

There was also another reason behind the announcement, that of securing finance for future Mars missions from the US Government. The first anniversary when Viking 1 landed on Mars was on 20 July, but that date came and went without an announcement then the news broke on 6 August, the second of the two Viking anniversaries when Viking 2 landed. Right on cue, President Clinton walked out onto the White House lawn to praise the monumental discovery and announce future funding to explore the origins of life on Mars. Everyone was a winner thanks to the overtime put in by the political spin doctors!

***Following the detailed investigations into the fossils in ALH 84001 attention is turning once***

more to the Australian meteorite of 1969. A couple of years later news broke suggesting that when this meteorite was first examined it too contained similar structures to the fossils found on the Martian rock. Of course in the late 1960s the idea of fossilized life on meteorites was fanciful, firmly restricted to science fiction, so the objects were dismissed as features of the rock structure. Now astronomers are wondering whether a detailed re-examination of this rock should take place.

## **And Finally**

We must examine one final area of ALH 84001 and its fossil. The problem is with its size. This led to two areas of concern, first with astronomers and second with the powers-that-be. In a nutshell, the size is too small, smaller than Earth-like microbes. From the scientific viewpoint this could be evidence that it was never a living thing. However, indications are that this is not a problem, it seems that living microbes can be this small.

In an attempt to determine the actual size limits of life, rather than to just assume we had already found the smallest, astronomers, microbiologists and exobiologists have made some amazing discoveries. Sceptics had simply totalled up the atoms necessary for a cell containing DNA, including the required mechanism to reproduce and had confidently decided the smallest possible cell size is 200 to 300 nanometres (0.2 to 0.3 microns). Moreover the size of the smallest self sustaining micro-organism is some what higher at 340 nanometres. This they said would prove the fossil was never alive because it was only 20 to 100 nanometres in size, effectively making it smaller than the smallest known viruses.

The NASA-Stanford team involved in the ALH 84001 discovery initially used as their defence work undertaken by Robert Folk of the University of Texas who, in 1989, observed mineral deposits from hot-water springs in Viterbo, Italy. Folk discovered clusters of tiny spheres only 50 nanometres in size. Using a scanning electron microscope (SEM) he soon came across more and more of these spheres, leading him to surmise they were the remains of dwarf microbes. Microbiologists were not convinced. They concluded these were nothing more than deposits of gold used in the SEM examinations. As a result of this sceptical viewpoint, the work of Folk remained unpublished until it appeared in the Journal of Sedimentary Petrology in 1993.

Folk has always maintained that microbiologists should spend less time talking about the theoretical minimum size of life and more time looking. Those who took him up on this soon found evidence of bacteria as small as 100 nanometres wherever they looked, including tap water. Eventually the search gained momentum until recent evidence came to light that microbes as small as 50 nanometres were found to exist in the blood of humans and cows. Soon after the limit was reduced to 30 nanometres. These microbes are probably viruses requiring a host to survive but evidence suggest they can become self-replicating when several clump together. However, the most eye-opening discoveries came in late 1998 when research was published in an issue of the American Mineralogist. Australian scientists at the University of Queensland had discovered whole colonies of microbes as small as 20 to 125 nanometres in sandstone 2 to 3 miles (3 to 5 km) below the sea floor. Moreover, tests show they are organic, containing DNA and exhibit cell-like structures and outer membranes.

These discoveries put an end to some, but not all, critics who claimed the Martian fossil was too small to be alive. However, it also created a new problem which the powers-that-be were worried about. The idea that they were so small that they required a 'host'. Further worries were associated with the 'clumping together to survive' idea. To some this suggested a 'symbiotic' life form, reminiscent of many a bad sci-fi movie, and one which if released on Earth might find its 'host' in man! Would this cause panic amongst the public if the news was released? There were those in certain quarters who thought that highly likely, and one such quarter was the CIA.

With such a rich history of black propaganda and secrets surrounding matters Martian, are we really surprised at the latest Martian antics of fooling the public and keeping them in the dark ~ dark red that is!

The latest problems to be faced by the powers-that-be is the green now being found all over Mars and the methane. Rumours of an imminent announcement of life being discovered on Mars are probably exaggerated. We have a little way to go through that all-so-familiar scientific and political jungle before I or any other astronomer, will say: "Yes there is definitely life on Mars."

Copyright 2004 extract from "Beyond Genesis" By Andrew Pike. Due for publication 2005.

# LINDA MOULDY BREAD SHOOTS DEAD ANOTHER WICKED CHUPACABRA

(thank god she's here to save us!!)



Thought Worthless Tx. 12/12/2012

**Intrepid beastie hunter, sex goddess and serious reporter Linda Mouldy Old Bread today revealed that she had personally shot dead another animal that scientists are thinking of classifying as a Chupacabra. Bread said, "I got a call from this inbred, err sorry this farmer out in the middle of Houston about some strange animal that he said was worrying his sheep. He was of the opinion that only he should be allowed to worry his own sheep and he was righteously pissed off with this mysterious animal that he described as "looking like some varmint outa Mary Poppins. Vicious teeth 'n all" or some dribble like that."**

**"Well, things had been kind of quiet so I hitched up my SUV and off I set for Houston. The farmer, Jed, made me welcome and we immediately sat down for a cup of tea and some chow. I realised I was eating a dog too late and so as not to offend, just ate the ears. He told me more about the strange wee beastie that had been haunting his stock for**

**The evil Chupa just seconds before brave Linda blasted it.**

**the last few days, and the more he told me, the more determined I was to nail it this time."**

**"So, at 3:00 am the next morning, I found myself sat outside near the sheep pen, concealed by a Barbour jacket with matching tweed skirt, the latest sling backs from Gucci, a Kaminski Toscana hat and some Emma Hope Wellington boots. To finish the ensemble off, I was carrying a 12 bore Berretta."**

**"Ten minutes later, as Jed had promised, there was some rustling noises and then the sound of some animal or something making its way towards me and the pen. I waited until it was quite close and then jumped out in front of it, pointing my Berretta straight at its stomach. It stopped and looked at me, and then after a few seconds actually spoke. "You know, that tweed skirt lets the**

whole thing down. You should have gone with pale grey sweetie. It's the new black you know."

"That was it. I could take the fact that this thing was terrorising other animals but picking apart what I was wearing was just too much. I let him have it with both barrels. "

"As it lay down slowly, gasping and holding its stomach, it lifted its large Bambi like eyes and smiling, said, "No hard feelings pal" and extended one of its paws as if to shake hands. So I shot it again."

"It fell back and then, amazingly, started to raise itself again. "Won't you shake paws with me before I go?" it asked again, barely speaking in a whisper."

"I shot it again. I reloaded and then took aim and shot it yet again. I was gonna be sure this time!!"

"At this point, silly as this episode had been so far, it suddenly got even worse. One of the sheep in the pen next to me wandered over and nonchalantly said, "Cripes Linda, you've killed Muzzy. We liked him. He'd come along each night and would just sit there talking to us. He never hurt us. He was a good friend."

"I wasn't having any of it. I pulled out my hunting knife and reached over the pen fence and slit the throat of the sheep. One of his pals walked over to see what was up and gave me a real dirty look."

"I waited. I stood there for a further 10 minutes until at last I was convinced "Muzzy" was truly dead. Geez, it had taken 5 slugs. What kind of creature was this?"

"I let out a high shrill whistle and in the distance the sound of an engine starting up could be heard, It was the "meat" wagon from the laboratory in Austin that I had placed on stand by in case this thing showed up."

"Up the guys rolled, out they climbed from the wagon and threw open the rear doors. They went round to the Chupra, lifted it up, and carried its limp body round to the rear of the vehicle to put it in the back. I followed and just as they were lifting it in, the unbelievable happened. It opened its eyes and choking back the tears it said, "Linda, can't we part as friends? I bear you no malice. Someone was going to get me sooner or later. I'm glad it was someone pretty like you. Do shake paws, go on, do."

"I wasn't going to waste any more ammo on this critter and climbed in the back with it. I resolved just to sit there and keep guard on it.

At the Cutemnsliceem laboratory in Austin, Professor Tool took over. He wheeled the body into the path. lab, slammed the door, and got to work. Two hours later he emerged, covered in blood and other body parts. "Well Linda", he said with a smile, "You've got a real corker here. It wouldn't die. It sat up on the table, leaning on an elbow, and watched as I performed the autopsy on it. It even helped me! It seemed to know which surgical tools to hand me and

corrected me when I identified its body parts incorrectly. We got quite friendly. He's a nice guy Linda, why did you kill him?"

"But you say he's not dead professor," I replied. "It would appear I haven't killed him after all."

(continued on page 95)

Note: the editor and publisher would like to state that the above piece is supposed to be satirical and in good fun. We have the highest genuine regard for Miss Howe's work and are aware that she has received many awards in the course of her career. No genuine malice is intended by the above.



# The Mysterious Origins of Einstein's Theory of Relativity

By  
Roger Anderton

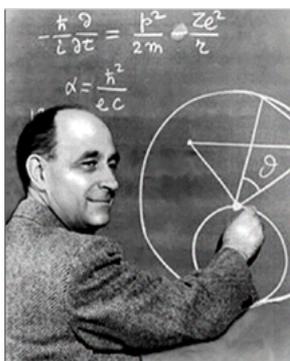
## 1. Mysterious Hungarians

A mysterious group of Hungarians/Croatians seemed to know Einstein's theory better than Einstein himself. A group consisting of Einstein's wife Mileva, Leo Szilard (who worked out how to make the Atom Bomb), Edward Teller (Father of the Hydrogen Bomb) and an 18th century priest: Roger Boscovich.

According to the shortened history presented to most physics students, The Modern physics of Relativity started with Einstein in 1905, and Quantum theory started with Planck in 1900.

But actually Relativity and Quantum ideas started much earlier, and were unified in one theory in the 18th century by Roger Boscovich: a Croatian priest and scientist. A version of Boscovich's book: A Theory of Natural Philosophy was printed by MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) describes the theory: "This [Boscovich's] theory suggests curious - almost uncanny - intimations of general relativity and quantum physics." [1]

The book says 'intimations' because Boscovich never actually used the terms 'general relativity' and 'quantum physics', since these terms were not invented until the 20th century, but in the 18th century- Boscovich was still dealing with those ideas.



Fermi

Enrico Fermi, Nobel prize winning physicist, a key member of the Manhattan project (US development of A-bomb at Los Alamos), during WWII decided that there must be lots of alien civilisations in the universe, but since there was no sign of their detection, he wondered where they were; this became called the Fermi Paradox: "Where are they?" While talking about this at Los Alamos, Leo Szilard, a Hungarian physicist is supposed to have said: "They are among us, but they call themselves Hungarians." [2]

In the Hungarian/Croatian area of the world there seems to have arisen a great many outstanding scientists, and there are mysterious connections to this area for Einstein's Relativity Theory.

**Einstein's first wife: Mileva Maric was born in a rural Serbian outpost of the Habsburg monarchy, in Vojvodina, a province of what was then Southern Hungary. The general area is an ethnic melting pot of Croats, Slovaks, Hungarians, Romanians, and Gypsies. Legend has it that the couple met when Einstein asked Mileva how she had arrived at the solution to a particular problem - probably in mathematics - for which he himself had not found the answer. Mileva met Albert Einstein in Zurich in 1896. They were fellow classmates at the prestigious Swiss Federal Polytechnic, which is better known as ETH. Mileva was the only woman in her class and the fifth woman ever to attend the school. Mileva, from early childhood, displayed a great ability at mathematics. She had repeatedly distinguished herself as a top student in her native Serbia, and had passed the difficult ETH entry examination (which Einstein had failed the first time he took it). [3]**



**Wedding photo of Albert Einstein and Mileva Maric Einstein**

**So, being apparently cleverer than Einstein, she might have been the real creator of the Relativity theory? How much she might have contributed to Einstein's work has become the subject of considerable controversy, regarding fragmentary evidence suggesting that the original version of Einstein's three most famous articles were signed Einstein - Marity ('Marity' a version of her name 'Maric'.) Although the original**

**manuscripts have been lost, Abraham F Joffe, a member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, claimed that he saw these original papers, but he is now deceased. [3]**

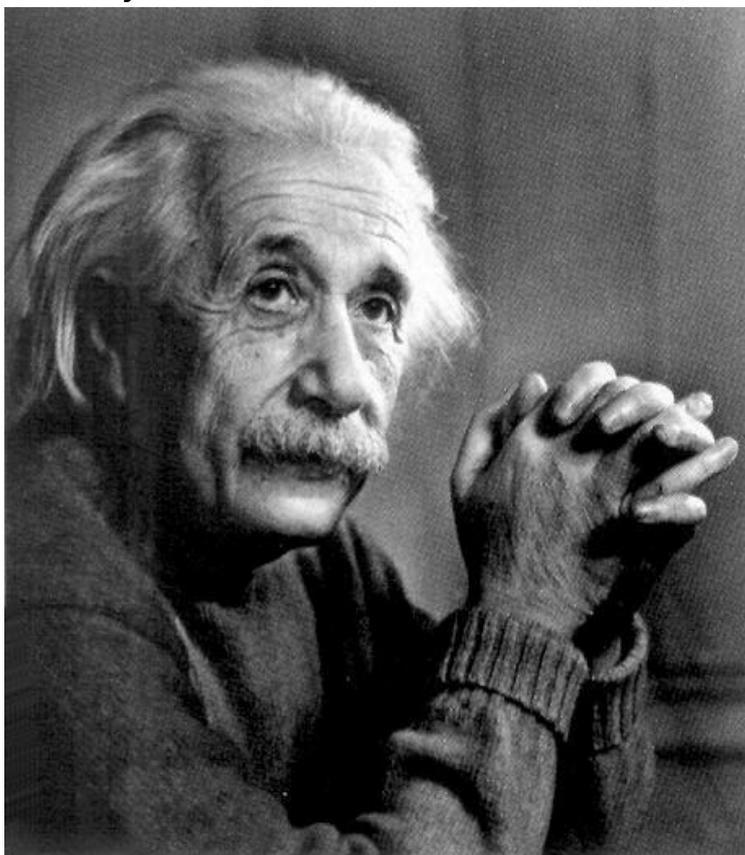
**During the early years of her marriage, Mileva spoke frequently to her family and friends about collaborating with her husband. Mileva boasted to her father and Desana Tapavica Bala: "Just before we left for Novi Sad, we finished some important work that will make my husband world famous."**

**However, the final severing of intellectual ties between husband and wife probably occurred around 1913, when Einstein began collaborating with Marcel Grossman on the general theory of relativity; the collaboration is particularly noteworthy since, according to Einstein's biographer Peter Michelmore, Maric was "as good at mathematics as Marcel [Grossman]." [3] So, if she was the main creator, dealing with the maths, Einstein was later able to find a replacement for her help.**

**The fact that Einstein was not the greatest in mathematics and needed help, can be inferred by Infeld who says "Einstein has never considered himself a mathematician. He rightly regards himself as a philosopher because the physical problems that he tackled are closely related to philosophical problems that have bothered thinking men throughout the history of our civilization." However, he then goes on to say: "Einstein learned mathematics when he**

needed it and for the purpose for which he needed it. Learned? It would be better to say that he reinvented it, always preferring to think for himself than to read books." [4]

Most biographers have treated Mileva, at best, as a footnote barely worth mentioning. This was due, first, to Einstein's unwillingness to discuss his personal life and, later, to a conscious effort, both by Einstein's executors and by scientists, to protect Einstein's monolithic reputation from even a hint of human frailty. In 1958, the executors blocked the publication of a book by Hans Albert [son of Einstein] and Frieda [his wife], which was based on Einstein's lifelong correspondence with Mileva and his sons. [5] So, there have been blocks placed on trying to discover how much Mileva contributed to Relativity.



Great claims have been made on Mileva's behalf, and from several directions. 'Her intellect lives in those lines,' according to her Serbian biographer Desanka Trbuhovic-Gjuric. 'Her part was not small,' says Dord Krstic, a Serbian physicist who has researched Mileva's life for more than thirty years. 'There is reason to believe that hers may have been the primary contribution,' says Dr Evan Harris Walker, one of Mileva's chief advocates, from the Walker Cancer Research Institute at Edgewood, Maryland. If

these claims are true, then Einstein's failure to publicly acknowledge Mileva's help, some might think, is an act of intellectual fraud. These allegations caused a sensation when first brought to public attention in 1990, at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in New Orleans. Dr Walker, supported by the linguist Senta Troemel-Ploetz stated a belief that the 'basic capricious ideas that were the turning points of relativity' came from Mileva, while Einstein provided only 'the overall formalism.' [6]

Mileva's marriage to Einstein from 1903 to 1919, were spanning the most important years of Einstein's life, when he created the majority of his creative physics contributions. Scholarship has suggested that Einstein leaned heavily on Mileva as he began to develop the first outlines of relativity. He referred to

his early studies as 'our work', casting her as his co-conspirator in what became a scientific revolution. Einstein hailed Mileva as his 'right hand', his equal, one who was as strong and as independent as himself, without whom he was unable to function. [7]

Of the fifty-four surviving love letters between Einstein and Mileva, where Einstein discusses physics among other things, there are only eleven letters from Mileva, and these do not mention physics. It is supposed that Einstein carelessly discarded some of the letters he received from Mileva. [8] Maybe in the disposed letters, Mileva discusses physics?

Einstein and Mileva had an illegitimate daughter whom they gave away and whose existence remained secret until 1987. [9] It may be that this illegitimate daughter was significant in covering up Mileva's contribution to Einstein's work?

Mileva failed her final exams, her first serious setback in her otherwise very successful academic career. [7] In 1901 she attempted for the second time to obtain her teaching certificate from the ETH and was again unsuccessful. She was suffering from the pressures of being pregnant outside of marriage, and it must have been too much for her. Six months later she gave birth to a daughter fathered by Albert. [9] During Mileva's pregnancy, her friends in Zurich had noticed that Mileva had become moody; becoming frequently depressed. She believed that she would be reviled in the West as the slut who had ruined Einstein's life and in the East as a fool. At the time, neither of them had a secure income. The letters suggest that the daughter was eventually given up for adoption. [9]

If Mileva became famous through the physics papers, then it might have made undue attention onto her illegitimate daughter. Hence she might have accepted that her name as co-author should be withdrawn, leaving Einstein to get all the credit?

If we cannot be sure of how much of Mileva's input there was into his papers, we can be sure that Mileva checked Einstein's papers, because we are told in Peter Michelmores's biography, which was based on conversations with Hans Albert, that Einstein went straight to bed for two weeks while Mileva checked and rechecked his work. [11]

Einstein's papers give no references: The seventeenth volume of *Annalen der Physik*, printed in 1905, contains Einstein's thirty-page paper "On the Electrodynamics of Moving Bodies." This is very different from the usual science papers, because there are no references; no authorities are quoted, and the few footnotes are of an explanatory character. So, we have no idea of its origins in relation to other science papers. [12]

It has been suggested that the reason for this lack of references is because of Einstein working at the patent office:

**"Unlike most scientific papers, it did not specifically refer to any other scientist or body of experimental data and contained no footnotes. This, remarks Galison, may be a reflection of Einstein's experience in the patent office, since footnotes, suggesting that somebody else has been there first, are anathema in a patent application. At its end Einstein listed no references, but only a brief acknowledgement (to M Besso)." [13]**

**However, another reason might be that if Mileva was co-author, then the references would have then been from her information sources. With Mileva dropping co-authorship, then her references were to be dropped. To add to the mystery of the origins of relativity: Einstein, his wife and his friend Michele Besso (who gave Einstein advice) did not keep diaries or have correspondences that can reveal the origins of Einstein's relativity theory. [13]**

**Let's now consider the most mysterious scientist from the 'Hungarian area': Nikola Tesla, who is the centre of many UFO conspiracy theories.**

**Nikola Tesla was born of Serbian parents at Smiljan, in the Austro-Hungarian border province of Lika, now part of Croatia, at midnight July 9-10, 1856. [14] Tesla was a radio pioneer who among other things, claimed to have detected alien signals.**



**Tesla had at one time a lot of media attention, and in an unpublished 1936 interview article, he says: "The relativity theory by the way, is much older than its present proponents. It was advanced over 200 years ago by my illustrious countryman Boscovic, the great philosopher who, not withstanding other and multifold obligations, wrote a thousand volumes of excellent literature on a**

vast variety of subjects. Boscovic dealt with relativity, including the so-called time-space continuum...." [14]

Boscovic (also spelt 'Boscovich') was Mileva's country's most famous scientist (before Tesla), so if she told her husband about the Relativity theory, she might have got it from that earlier source.

H G Gill wrote in his book: Roger Boscovich, S J (1711 - 1787): the forerunner of Modern Physical Theories, published in Dublin 1941, during WWII:

"This small volume contains a simple account of the remarkable way in which a theory proposed by Roger Boscovich two hundred years ago is now found to be in harmony with conclusions arrived at by methods of modern scientific research. It was originally intended to undertake a more detailed examination of the work of Boscovich, but various causes, culminating in the outbreak of war, which has so tragically involved his native land, made it impossible to consult many of his writings, which, even in peacetime are not easily available." [15]

He continues:

"It would obviously be going too far to expect that a theory put forward two hundred years ago could apply to the niceties of recent scientific thought. But it is claimed that in many cases the fundamental principles underlying modern physical theory are to be found in the ideas first proposed by Boscovich." [15]

It is unfortunate that a more detailed study of Boscovich was not made after the war by Gill or anyone else.

Highfield and Carter referring to gravity bending light rays, say that there were earlier ideas on this subject before Einstein's General Relativity. In referring to the calculation that Einstein made in 1911, they say:

"To some extent Einstein was rediscovering ideas from the past that may have appeared in the popular science books he devoured as a youth. In the second edition of his great work Opticks in 1717, Newton had himself posed the question 'Do not bodies act upon light at a distance?' - But had left it unanswered. Unknown to Einstein, his own reply was anticipated as early as 1801 by a German astronomer called Johann Georg von Soldner, who came up with almost exactly the same figure for deflection by the sun." [16]

Unfortunately the Nazi Philipp Lenard's hatred of Jews meant he tried to use this information about von Soldner's paper as a racial attack on Einstein, diverting the issue away from being purely physics. [16]

This leads to people trying to defend Einstein from racism. Highfield and Carter try to belittle von Soldner's earlier contribution, by saying how Einstein later updated his 1911 calculation:

**"..but the 1911 result was simply a staging-post on Einstein's journey. He realized four years later that he had given only half the correct deflection, because space itself was `bent' as well." [16]**

**But what we have is the description of light bending under gravity as having a history before Einstein. So, Einstein's theories have a history behind them that exist before him, despite his papers giving no references to this!**

**Now, Einstein's General Relativity is based on the maths of such people as Riemann. He did this by developing an idea proposed by Minkowski in 1907, and by exploiting the so-called tensor calculus which we associate with the names of Riemann, Christoffel, and Ricci. [17]**

**Georg Friedrich Bernhard Riemann (1826 - 1866) was occupied with an attempt at a unified explanation of gravity and electromagnetism, so Einstein was not the first to try this. [18]**

**And if we go back to this Hungarian connection once again:**

**Leo Szilard, an engineering student from Budapest (in Hungary), came to the University of Berlin in 1920, became close friends with Einstein. [19] It was Szilard who told Einstein about how an Atom bomb would work, and Einstein then wrote to the President, as Ed Regis tells us:**



**Leo Szilard**

**"Einstein, of course, who had, together with and at the urging of Leo Szilard, written the famous 1939 letter to Roosevelt advising the President that "extremely powerful bombs of a new type" could be made out of fissionable materials such as uranium, and asking that he "speed up the experimental work" which was then being conducted." [20]**

**"...Szilard told Einstein about the Columbia secondary neutron experiments and his calculations toward a chain reaction in uranium and graphite. Long afterward he would recall his surprise that Einstein had not yet heard of the possibility of a chain reaction. When he mentioned it, Einstein interjected, 'I never thought of that!' He was nevertheless, says Szilard, 'very quick to see the implications and perfectly willing to do anything that needed to be done. He was willing to assume responsibility for sounding the alarm even though it was quite possible that the alarm might prove to be a false alarm. The one thing most scientists are really afraid of is to make fools of themselves. Einstein was free from such fear and this above all is what made his position unique on this occasion.'" [21]**

**It is peculiar that Szilard might have understood relativity better than Einstein, since he knew of the A- bomb applications first. Anyway, Einstein was interested in helping more with the Atom Bomb project:**

**"... Einstein was quite willing to do more in order to help build the bomb. In December of 1941, Vannevar Bush, director of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, asked for Einstein's help with certain problems pertaining to the gaseous diffusion method of separating U-235 from other uranium isotopes. Einstein was only too happy to comply, and he offered Bush his advice in a hand written manuscript, adding that he would be glad to do more, but that he needed further information." [22]**

**However, Einstein was considered a 'security risk':**

**"Bush, though, wouldn't give Einstein more information, for the German physicist was regarded as a security risk." "I wish very much that I could place the whole thing before him and take him fully into confidence,"**

**Bush told Adyelotte, "but this is utterly impossible in view of the attitude of people here in Washington who had studied his whole history." [22]**

**And after a second letter to the president, on the A-bomb, Einstein had no further connection with the project. [23]**

**Despite Einstein not being allowed to be involved, Szilard became part of the US Project to build the Atom Bomb, and was one of the main scientists involved. Szilard also became considered a 'security risk'. [24]**

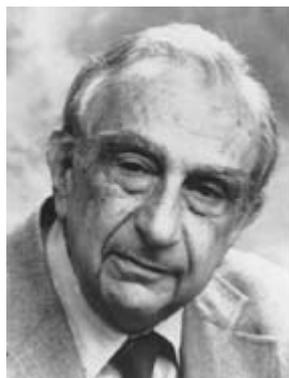
**Szilard was part of a Hungarian group of scientists that were called the Uranium Committee, and had fled to America from the Nazis and started building the Atom Bomb. In this group, John Newhouse says were Hungarian activists Szilard, Wigner, and Teller, and says: " that the dynamism (to make the A- Bomb) as there was on the American side was supplied by the Hungarians, who impressed the stalwarts of the Uranium Committee as an odd bunch of visionary aliens..." [25] An odd choice of words 'visionary aliens'. It was these Hungarians that were the prime motivators for the creation of the A-Bomb. The**

word 'alien' of course does not necessarily mean 'extra terrestrial', and most likely refers to them being foreigners.

Relativity, Aliens, Atom Bomb, are all connected in weird ways. There is still something deeply mysterious about the origins of the theory of Relativity in connection with Einstein's Hungarian wife and other Hungarians. A prehistory of ideas related to Einstein's theories is being mostly ignored by Mainstream Physics History, because Einstein gave no references in his papers to these pioneers. It is a great surprise to look back to the 18th century and find that Quantum and Relativity ideas are unified into one theory, whereas Modern theory has failed to combine them, and is still seeking this physicists' 'holy grail.' But by ignoring this History, what has happened is that the full Unified theory (of Boscovich) is also ignored.

## **2. The Two versions of Newtonian Theory**

As noted, certain Hungarian physicists seemed to know Einstein's theory better than Einstein himself. The reason for this is - there were two versions of



Teller

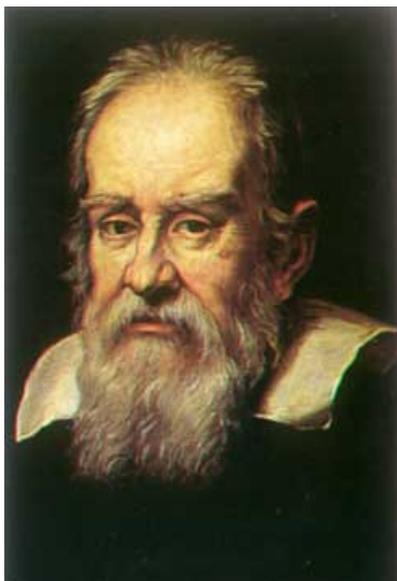
Newtonian theory; the Hungarians were taught a different version of Newtonism than other countries; their version unified quantum and relativity ideas. This History and Physics Theory has been forgotten by scientists in the West, outside of the Hungarian area.

The Hungarian physicist Edward Teller who was in charge of making the H-Bomb, recommends Koestler's book *The Sleepwalkers* for the story of Galileo, but not for the story of Newton. [26] I suspect this is because Koestler's account does not mention Boscovich.

Galileo was called before the Inquisition and condemned for supporting Copernicus' theory that the Earth moved around the Sun, because it conflicted with their religious belief. He had been allowed to talk of the theory as hypotheses, but he went further and wanted to talk of it as being true. He was made to recant, discrediting the heliocentric system. [27]

Galileo had tried to prove the Earth's motion by the tides, but his reasoning was flawed, and never got to work out the details. [28]

There was conflict between the idea that the Earth was moving or was it stationary. But there was also the problem of relativity. Koestler describes Galileo as a pioneer in relativity [29] Teller explains that Galileo did not always adhere to relativity, but the relativity Principle of Galileo is that uniform forward motion feels the same as being at rest. If you are travelling on a ship and you do not look out the window, except for the occasional rocking of the



Galileo

**(i) Earth was stationary**

**(ii) Earth moved (n.b. in Newton's hands, the idea of the earth moving round the sun, was becoming the fixed stars as an absolute space/frame to measure motion against)**

**(iii) Relativity**

**And the Church had banned idea (ii). As far as Physics students get taught their history it is: Galileo to Newton then a jump to Einstein, they are not told what happened in-between Newton and Einstein.**

**Newton worked out his theory of gravity, but the Heliocentric Theory was banned in his era. The next part of the story was the Jesuits led mainly by Roger Boscovich (a.k.a Ruder Boskovic) (1711 - 1787).**

**In the symposium on Boscovich in his home country in 1986, there was mention of how Boscovich laid the foundations of Modern Physics (quantum and relativistic ideas) that came after Newton, and amazement that Boscovich hardly gets mentioned in the Western Physics journals. Dubravko Tadic comes up with the explanation:**

**"That Boskovic's papers are infrequently cited is a natural development in keeping with present conventions in scientific circles. Modern authors usually credit only the most recent papers. ...." [31]**

**It is worse than that, Boscovich has simply been forgotten.**

**Zarko Dacic, Dept of the History of Science, Yugoslav Academy of Arts gives an account of how Boscovich looked at Newton's theory, and accepted it. Zarko says:**

**ship, it feels as if you were at rest. A hammer dropped from the mast of a moving ship lands at the foot of the mast-even while an observer on the shore says it travelled on a parabola. This principle is very important if one is to believe the Copernican theory. If the earth is moving forward as Copernicus says, then according to Galileo we aren't left behind. Indeed, the forward motion should not be observable and should not influence the tides. [30]**

**Newton carried on with looking at the physics required from the Copernican Revolution. The problem was that there was conflict in the science between which of three ideas to accept:**

**"Boscovic critically evaluated every proof in favour of the Earth's motion, trying to find the right answer to the question. At the same time he argued that the interdiction concerning the teaching of the Earth's motion should be abolished, considering it harmful to the Church." [32]**



**Roger Boscovich**

**However, Boscovich went on to consider relativity, while Newton had confined himself to absolute space:**

**"In [paper called] De Cometis in 1746... Boscovic imagines a starry space where there are all the terrestrial and celestial bodies that our senses can perceive. Thus, it is the space where all observations and experiments are done. Newton's physics can be applied to this space, and so the Earth moves round the sun, and all the other motions of the Earth are possible which derive from Newton's mechanics. However, this space is not**

**Newton's absolute space which is infinite and still, and according to Boscovic, we cannot know anything about it. His starry space is in a state of moving towards absolute space and, naturally, there are an infinite number of such possibilities. The moving of the Earth in this absolute space would be, thus, different, depending on the motion of the starry space towards the absolute space."**

**"But, if this starry space moved in absolute space with the motion opposite to the motion performed by the Earth in starry space, such as the diurnal motion round the equatorial axis and the annual motion round the Sun and other motions, the Earth would stand still in absolute space. Such a case is, of course, infinitely impossible, but if the Creator wants precisely this case to be fulfilled in which the Earth is motionless, then it is certainly fulfilled. The sacred writings could then be complied with, and Newton's physics would be completely accepted...." [33]**

**"This solution brought Newton's physics in harmony with the stillness of the Earth, though not in the relative, starry space in which this physics was valid, but in absolute space. This enabled Boscovic to discuss only the relative space where Newton's physics was valid and where the Earth moved. As Boscovic published several works on theoretical astronomy in the 1750's, and for all of them the Earth's motion and Newton's physics had to be assumed, he referred to his idea about relative and absolute space, or motion, in each of them. When the Earth's motion is discussed, said Boscovic, one should bear in mind that it is the relative motion and not the absolute, and then he mentioned his works**

where he had reconciled Newton's physics with the absolute stillness of the Earth." [34]

Because of the Church's ban on the doctrine that the Earth moves, it has led to this thinking about 'absolute' and 'relative'. One was not allowed to say that the Earth moved, so one invents two words 'absolute' and 'relative', where one can then talk about the 'absolute' stillness of the Earth as demanded by the Church dogma, and its motion which is otherwise a banned idea becomes an allowed idea by calling it 'relative motion.' i.e. Boscovich is led to thinking about relativity beyond the absolute space that Newton was talking about.

Boscovich also considered the structure of matter, that we would now think of as quantum ideas; which were themselves a subject of religious conflict as was the subject of the Earth's motion. This conflict is also mentioned in a New Scientist article about a 16th century scientist called Thomas Harriott who had to keep quiet, because:



Isaac Newton

"Atomism and the belief in the indestructibility of atoms were regarded as a form of atheism because it ran counter to the dogma of divine creation. Atheism was a treasonable offence." [35]

So, we have two religious conflicts with Relativistic and Quantum ideas in the beginnings of Modern Science!

In Boscovich's time there was a divergence of opinion at the Roman College and the House of Jesuits. One was radical in its intention to protect traditional education in the spirit of

Aristotle, while the other asked for radical changes turning towards Newton. Boscovich, on his part, pleaded for the repeal of the interdiction against Copernicianism, pointing out it did more harm than good to the Church. Finally, in the year 1757, they decided to repeal the interdiction concerning the Earth's motion. [36]

Zarko Dadic continues:

"Immediately after that, some schools introduced Newtonism and the teaching of the Earth's motion. The Jesuit Academy in Zagreb did it as early as 1758, and the same happened in Austrian Jesuit colleges. However, the situation was not uniform in all the Jesuit colleges in Italy and France. In the Roman College, there was still some resistance to Newtonism...." [37]

**But added to this, the Jesuits in places like Austria and Hungary accepted Boscovich's Theory, and began teaching this as well. [38]**

**Newtonism was a belief in Newton's theory, but Boscovich's Theory of 'relative' and 'absolute' etc., was being taught along with Newton. i.e. we have in these instances of Austria and Hungary, science students being taught Boscovich's theory as if it were Newtonism! Other countries might have had a purer form of Newtonism being taught, with as little of Boscovich's ideas incorporated into it as possible.**

**There were two versions of Newtonism and Boscovich's version was in the tradition that Einstein's relativity was based upon. In Boscovich's theory, relativistic and quantum ideas are unified, but in modern theorising those ideas are not unified. Which raises the mystery of why does Boscovich's 18<sup>th</sup> century theory lead to two dis-unified theories of the 20<sup>th</sup> century?**

**My solution is that the two 20<sup>th</sup> century theories are merely approximations emphasising different features of Boscovich's 18<sup>th</sup> century Unified theory; something that becomes obvious once one looks at the forgotten parts of the History of Physics since Galileo.**

**This terrible mess in physics can be summed up in the words of Edward Teller:**

**"If there ever was a misnomer, it is 'exact science.' Science has always been full of mistakes. The present day is no exception. And our mistakes are good mistakes; they require a genius to correct them. Of course, we do not see our own mistakes." [39]**

**What bigger 'mess' can there be other than forgetting mention what happened in-between Newton and Einstein, leading physicists to forget the Unified Theory that they are supposed to be working from.**

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[33] *ibid.* p 133

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[39] Teller p 37  
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**About the author;**

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**Roger is an ex- Telecommunications Engineer with an Honours Degree in Mathematics and Physics and belongs to the British Association for the advancement of science. He has been looking at what happened to Einstein's Unified Field Theory for a long time, and finds that what is taught to Physics Students is extremely flawed.**

**Some previous publications:**

**Postulates for a ten dimensional theory, Speculations in Science and Technology 1994; 17 [4]: 292 -294, A Unified Theory of Physics from the 18th century: Nexus Aug. - Sept. 2001 vol. 8 no 5, Boscovich's Theory connection to UFO Physics: SUFOG mag. number 137/138 March / April 2002 p 9 - 12**

## Grandma's on the telly

The following came up on a message board a few weeks back and re-ignited everyone's imagination and interest. I'd completely forgotten about it and it was a pleasant surprise to be reminded about it. But why only in the bloody south??

We are indebted to the Farshores web site for the background information.  
<http://farshores.250free.com/voice.htm>

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In 1977, television viewers throughout the Southern ITV region of England were watching a local news bulletin read by Ivor Mills when it was suddenly interrupted. At around 5:12 PM on November 16, an authoritative voice overrode the station signal and began by announcing himself as, "Gramaha, the representative of the Asta Galactic Command."

Bemused viewers sat and listened for the next five-and-a-half minutes as the speaker warned mankind against the use of nuclear energy while cautioning that, "You have but a short time to live together in peace and good will." The transmission concluded just as suddenly as it had begun, and the station's normal audio output resumed instantly.

The authorities and news media of the day all denounced this mysterious incident as nothing more than a clever hoax while at the same time a hunt for the perpetrators was duly launched. Southern ITV undertook an immediate internal investigation but was unable to track down the culprits. To this day those responsible have not been found and neither has anyone come forward who will admit being a party to this event.

There were hundreds of thousands of viewers who heard the broadcast in locations as distant as Winchester, Andover, Newbury, Oxford, Reading, Southampton, and even parts of south-west London. Strangely enough, in order to blanket this entire coverage area it would have been necessary to simultaneously gain control of at least five widely located transmitters belonging to the TV company. Engineers at the time had been unable to cut off the broadcast via any of them, as Gramaha's message continued unhindered from an unknown power source apparently not linked to the regular electrical supply. A hoax it might have been, but it was a highly organized, sophisticated and above all an expensive effort on the part of those involved.

[Star Visitor] "This is the voice of GRAMAHA, the representative of the Asta Galactic Command, speaking to you. For many years now you have seen us as lights in the skies. We speak to you now in peace and wisdom as we have done to your brothers and sisters all over this, your planet earth.

"We come to warn you of the destiny of your race and your worlds so that you

**may communicate to your fellow beings the course you must take to avoid the disasters which threaten your worlds, and the beings on our worlds around you. This is in order that you may share in the great awakening, as the planet passes into the new Age of Aquarius. The new age can be a time of great peace and evolution for your race, but only if your rulers are made aware of the evil forces that overshadow their judgments.**

**"Be still now and listen, for your chance may not come again. For many years your scientists, governments and generals have not heeded our warnings; they have continued to experiment with the evil forces of what you call nuclear energy. Atomic bombs can destroy the earth, and the beings of your sister worlds, in a moment. The wastes from atomic power systems will poison your planet for many thousands of your years to come.**

**"We, who have followed the path of evolution for far longer than you, have long since realized this - that atomic energy is always directed against life. It has had no peaceful application. Its use, and research into its use, must be ceased at once, or you all risk destruction. All weapons of evil must be removed.**

**The time of conflict is now past. The race of which you are a part may proceed to the highest planes of evolution if you show yourselves worthy to do this. You have but a short time to learn to live together in peace and goodwill. "Small groups all over the planet are learning this, and exist to pass on the light of the dawning new age to you all. You are free to accept or reject their teachings, but only those who learn to live in peace will pass to the higher realms of spiritual evolution.**

**"Hear now the voice of GRAMAHA, the representative of the Asta Galactic Command, speaking to you. Be aware also that there are many false prophets and guides operating in your world. They will suck the energy from you - the energy you call money and will put it to evil ends giving you worthless dross in return.**

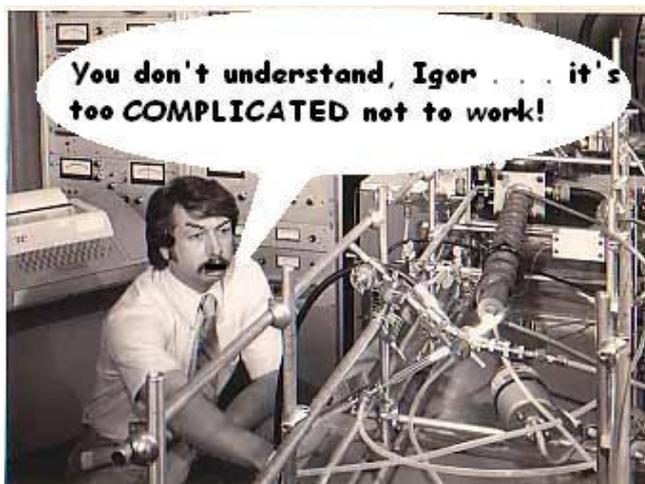
**"Your inner divine self will protect you from this. You must learn to be sensitive to the voice within that can tell you what is truth, and what is confusion, chaos and untruth. Learn to listen to the voice of truth which is within you and you will lead yourselves on to the path of evolution.**

**"This is our message to our dear friends. We have watched you growing for many years as you too have watched our lights in your skies. You know now that we are here, and that there are more beings on and around your earth than your scientists admit.**

**"We are deeply concerned about you and your path towards the light and will do all we can to help you. Have no fear, seek only to know yourselves, and live in harmony with the ways of your planet earth. We of the Asta Galactic Command thank you for your attention. We are now leaving the planes of your existence. May you be blessed by the supreme love and truth of the cosmos."**

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## ET Reality - A Scientist Speaks!



In each issue, if I can remember, we will feature the ramblings of yet another mentally constipated white-coated social inadequate who has held forth on the subject of ET reality. This month's guest spot goes to some clown called Joker [JOKER17284@aol.com](mailto:JOKER17284@aol.com) from The Skeptical UFO Site at <http://members.aol.com/JOKER17284/mainufo.htm> who delights in patronising us with this bilge. Would be a help if he could spell and actually speak English properly.

### Alien Abductions

Just because someone claims to have been abducted and reminisces through hypnosis doesn't mean anything. How come everyone who gets abducted lives on a farm or a trailer park? How come they never abduct politicians or important people for study. And why don't they wipeout their memory? Some claim to have the event immemorial while others remember every detail which proves that the abduction stories lack unity and are incoherent. Many people think that aliens are abducting people for their specimens or taking cattle and proding them. I have one question for that, if they take a cow and drain it of its blood, why don't they get rid of the body? Why do they leave the body there for the farmer or whoever to get suspicious.

Sleep Paralysis is the biggest misunderstanding for the ufo abductions today. The exact definition of paralysis is complete or partial loss of function esp. when involving the power of motion or of sensation in any part of the body. People are paralyzed while sleeping and hallucinate thinking that they are having an out of body experience or an alien abduction. I would suggest that any "abductee" should go and see a doctor immediately and also while your at it, a shrink.

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## **A Cuddly Bunny and Three Very Grumpy Men**

**Editor's note: This interview has proven to be very contentious and there have been various redrafts. Others have got involved and the interviewee, Max Burns, has had to weigh up a number of sensitive issues while agreeing to a final draft.**

**As a consequence, there are a substantial number of edits that have been made. The text concerned has been blanked out but the space left in situ rather than just presenting you with a smoothly edited script.**

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**British Ufology has been royally entertained over the last 7 years or so by the continuing row between Max Burns and his arch enemies, Dave Clarke and Andy Roberts. To the spectator, it has seemed so vicious at times that one cannot help but conclude that there must be something else going on besides what one can see. Many people have taken sides, either because they dislike the strutting arrogance of Clarke and Roberts or because they react negatively to the fact that Max has been in jail for supplying drugs.**



**Max Burns**

**In issue 4 of Review, Andy Roberts gave his opinions on the matter. Here is Max's version of events. The interview was recorded on Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Please be aware that there is extremely strong language in parts that many will find offensive and also strongly worded and abusive comments about**

certain individuals.

**SM:** I once saw a picture of you, I'm sorry to say I think it was one taken inside, and you looked like you were in your fifties. Would that be right?

**MB:** No mate, that was a mock up. It was my head on the body of one of the characters out of the film *The Green Mile*. If you just look on the left, that's Tom Hanks. It was a mock up for the *Borderlands* magazine. I'm 42 this year.

**SM:** How long have you been into ufology?

**MB:** Since about '86/'87. I read something about the Rendlesham case.

**SM:** And that kicked you off, did it?

**MB:** Yeah, but I've had an interest since I was a kid, to be honest. I had a couple of sightings but even at seven or eight, when you look out of the window and look at the stars, the thought for me was not if there's life out there in the universe but I wonder where the life is out there in the universe. It would be an awful waste of a universe if the most intelligent life was us here. We can't even live together without getting involved in tribal warfare.

**SM:** How did it progress from that to the point where you became much more active?

**MB:** I started going to a few conferences and stuff like that. I first got on the Net in '88 which I think would have been with Demon.

**SM:** So you've been on a while?

**MB:** Yeah I was on the Net when Demon were the only internet service provider in the country. They were the first one. I did a bit of trawling through the Net and went to a few conferences, read a few books and that, and just developed a general interest.

**SM:** What was the first case you wrote about and got published?

**MB:** Well, it would have been the Sheffield case in 1997 but I'd been working on another case with an abductee for about four years. I've never actually written anything about her case because it's still ongoing, a lady from Leeds. I went to see her over a three year period once a year and I got her to tell me everything that had happened to her since she was a child. Then I went back a year later and got her to tell it to me again, and then again, and it was always the same story. She wasn't straining to remember anything. I worked with her for a while. She went on one TV programme I got her on, that late night one with John wotshisname

**SM:** Ronson?

**MB:** Yes, John Ronson. I wrote five articles for *Alien Encounters* and various bits and pieces like that.

**SM:** Where were you living when the Sheffield case started?

**MB:** In Rotherham. I was working in Sheffield.

**SM:** Hold on a moment. You speak with a very obvious London accent.

**MB:** London?

**SM:** Certainly not northern. You don't sound northern.

**MB:** I'm in Nottingham at the moment. I'm only a hundred miles from London so to you guys I might sound pretty cockney.

**SM:** Where were you born?

**MB:** Chester.

**SM:** Oh so you are a northern lad. You really don't sound it.

**MB:** Well it's because I've worked in the leisure business for nearly twenty years and the motto for when you work for these **big PLC** leisure companies is, "Don't get fitted carpets". For example, I worked in London for nearly a year, I've worked in Leeds, Lincoln, Derby, Sheffield, Rotherham, Doncaster, Hull etc. What's happened over a period of twenty years is that I've picked up little bits of dialects and accents from all over the country so it depends who I'm talking to as to what kind of accent comes out really.

**SM:** Do I remember correctly you saying you were a DJ?

**MB:** Yes.

**SM:** A broadcast DJ or gigging?

**MB:** I used to work for these large leisure companies and what they'd do is, say they spent £3 or £4 million on a brand new development, I'd go in twelve, fourteen weeks before the venue opened and I'd completely run all the marketing and promotion for the venue, deal with the press, TV, radio. I'd also run the promotional teams, sometimes running up to forty people and what I'd do is set the policy with the manager and then we'd set up a marketing campaign pre-opening and then I'd open the place and DJ it and execute the policy we'd discussed. I'd write all the detailed reports on the opposition and do presentations at board level, things like that. My job became, in about 1988, what the company used to term, a "safe pair of hands". When they were spending that sort of money on a brand new development or a re-fit, they wanted it to go right.

**SM:** Are you university educated?

**MB:** No, I'm not, but I am quite educated, contrary to what Roberts may say about me.

**SM:** Well, the reason I ask is because that sounds like an incredibly responsible position which I would have thought would have gone to somebody with a string of letters after his name.

**MB:** The role sort of developed itself. First I was a DJ and then I got involved in some marketing and promotions, and then all of a sudden they found out I had a natural aptitude for opening venues. Doing that is very much like baking a cake. You can alter the ingredients slightly but once you've had one opening that's gone very, very well you can sort of take that blue print to your next venue, modify it slightly depending on the clientele, the catchments, the demographics, what's going on, what market you're aiming for, that kind of thing.

**SM:** So you were in Rotherham when the Sheffield incident started. When did you first hear about it? Was it a radio report? Did you get a phone call from somebody?

**MB:** What happened was, a bloke who I worked for who was my manager, his wife knew that I had an interest in the UFO subject and on that Monday night in 1997, if you check Man United were playing, it was the 24<sup>th</sup> March 1997 and Emma had just had a baby, it was nine months old and she had just recently been diagnosed with cancer of the cervix, so she was obviously going through some trying times. She heard some jets going over and they were that low that they made the house shake. She went upstairs and stood in the window, being nosey like she is, and then two more jets came over and then the triangle appeared above the house. This was like about 9:50pm. As soon as she had the sighting she rang me. She shouted downstairs to Bill, "There's a UFO over the house" and Bill went, "I've seen one before duck". He was watching the football!

She suggested to me, "Do you want to come over to the Peak district?" So I said, "Come and get me" and she drove over and brought me back. That's how I got into the investigation. I was on the scene that night, photographed a Sea King helicopter searching the area, saw the military driving about.

**SM:** Where did it go from there? Were you in a position after that night to write anything?

**MB:** No. I've still got my initial report, which was in Alien Encounters. It was really just some of the information that had been acquired - the sonic booms, the people that said they had seen the explosions. I had checked with a load of military bases to ask them what air activity they'd got on and was told they'd got no planes in the air that night, at first.

**SM:** So what was your conclusion that night? That an unidentified flying object had crashed?

**MB:** I'll tell you what happened there. That draft report of my research, which I sent to \*\*\*\*\* (name withheld at Max's request so as not to upset the individual concerned), that person released that report and sent it to David Clarke and posted it on the Internet. He acted without thinking. To be honest, I

didn't form any conclusion up until..... Well, something had definitely gone on there that night. Unbelievable stuff. There were UFO sightings everywhere, military jets, explosions, smoke plumes rising from the Peak district moor land, a bloke wandering up and down the Snake Pass stinking of aviation fuel, there was all sorts of stuff like that going on. I knew that the prosaic explanations that were coming out just were not fitting the facts of what had gone on. I hadn't really drawn any serious conclusions until I was up there in the summer and I was speaking to a New Age traveller. He was living in a converted horse box right above Strines. This is the one that Andy Roberts says that I claim that I bribed him with cannabis to relate the story to me. It just seems illogical - that I'm going to brag to a bloke that's trying to discredit my research very early on, just to give my research credibility. It's ridiculous.

I was asking this guy a few questions and then he offered this up, without any prompting. I asked if he'd heard anything about a load of military jets that were flying over here a couple of weeks ago and he told me that he had a friend in the RAF at Lincoln who said that they had lost a plane up there and they hadn't found the wreckage or anything. I didn't tell him that the witness information I had was that a number of planes took off from RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire that night!

And then I just started collecting the data and it was only when he said that, and that they wouldn't allow me to see the base flight logs at RAF Coningsby that it all seemed to fit. Especially when the bloke was on Snake Pass covered in aviation fuel. The guy that made that ID was an RAF employee who works on jet engines. He knows what aviation fuel smells like and I've got his statement on audio. So I just thought, when I put it all together - a jet's gone down. There's other stuff as well. My full lecture is about two hours, when I get into all the conflicting stories from PROs all contradicting each other and all being evasive in their answers and vague about detail.

**SM:** How was it that the police managed to be fobbed off? The police said nothing had happened as they couldn't find anything?

**MB:** That pilot, and it would now seem, the navigator were picked up by the police according to the bloke in the minibus, Jonathan Dagenhart, the RAF engineer who said the minibus was flagged down by the bloke who was covered with aviation fuel and wanted to get to Sheffield. He said about twenty seconds after they drove off from the bloke, a police car passed them coming in the other direction.

**SM:** So you're alleging then that the police lied.

**MB:** Yes. Well, put it this way. They called the search off pretty quick. Normally searches go on for 72 hours, especially in hilly, mountainous areas. There was smoke and all sorts. Explosions, sonic stuff getting picked up from the British Geological Survey, multiple witness sightings of the flying triangle and people seeing cigar shaped glowing orange objects. There weren't just one or two sightings that night, there's even a report of it in the police log. Even the gamekeeper said that when the explosion happened, he went outside and the entire area was suffused in an orange glow.

**SM:** How do you then make the connection between a possible downed jet and a UFO?

**MB:** Because they were all there at the same time. And the jets were all flying at approximately the same altitude and the same direction. This is the stuff that Roberts never ever quotes. The jets were either, and this depends on who owns the FT, it was either being escorted because it was ours or the Yanks or whatever, or they were on some type of war games maybe to test the capability of this new hardware, or they were chasing it. There's only really three options there, isn't there? Unless you want to pick that the jets and the UFO were randomly there and not connected to each other.

**SM:** That would be fairly unlikely, I would think.



**MB:** Now, we come to the bloke wandering about with aviation fuel on him, I checked with all the filling stations in the area and they all assured me there wasn't much call for aviation fuel, and if there was, they said that generally people wouldn't take to wearing it as a fashion item while out walking late at night. So we've got a bloke covered in aviation fuel who doesn't seem to know where he is, who looks like he's just crawled off a hill. That's the words of the guy who saw him.

I asked if he had a flying suit on and he said he couldn't tell as it was too dark. There were no vehicles up there and no where to park. Are you telling me that the bloke went up there, managed to get hold of aviation fuel when a gallon of petrol would have done the job - because apparently he was an attempted suicide according to Clarke. So if I'm to believe this, the guy has gone up there, got hold of aviation fuel somehow, poured it all over himself, was going to



**MB:** I'd seen them at a couple of conferences.

**SM:** Why do you think this has become so bitter? Was it because they immediately tried to debunk this or what?

**MB:** That's a good question.

**SM:** It must be one of the most bitterly fought over cases in recent years.

**MB:** I can say this; you must remember some of the key points from my article (Notes From The Borderland - The Usual Suspects <http://www.rense.com/general56/The%20Usual%20Suspects.pdf> worth the read - ed) - how did Clarke know I was at the News Of The World, and who with. How did Clarke manage to get personal financial information about how much council tax I owed? Why is Clarke being contradicted with his interview with the head of the search and rescue, Mike France, by a fellow colleague at the Sheffield Star, who interviewed him on the same day and he said to her the complete opposite of what Clarke writes in his report. Why did Clarke write a 26 page report for BUFORA claiming that nothing had happened? If nothing had happened, why would he be sending a report to the British UFO research association? I certainly hadn't had anything published at that time. It had only been going on ten weeks and I was still doing my investigation.

**SM:** So this seems to be you building to the conclusion that Clarke and Roberts are working for the intelligence services.

**MB:** Jonathan Dagenhart, the RAF engineer who made this audio statement that I recorded, was then forced a week later to retract his statement. By the way, he had already confirmed everything he'd said to me in his audio interview directly to Phil Taylor the features editor for the News Of The World. So he'd made his statement, the NOW were running the story, the next thing, Dagenhart's ringing up the NOW speaking to Phil Taylor, nearly in tears on the phone saying he's going to lose his job. He then rings me up and tells me I've twisted what he said.

**SM:** Even though you recorded it.

**MB:** I said I hadn't twisted anything. He told me he'd "been spoken to." I asked him by who? Senior officers? Military intelligence? He said he wasn't allowed to say. He was nearly in tears and put the phone down. Question; why would an RAF engineer face getting the sack and be in trouble from his superior officers if nothing had occurred that night? Question; at the time when he was ringing up Phil Taylor from the NOW and saying he no longer wanted them to print the story because he was going to lose his job and he's also ringing me up and claiming I twisted what he had said, he's pulling away from the media and not talking to them, why then does he give an interview to Dr. David Clarke as a journalist for the Sheffield Star? He's giving an interview to another journalist. And now he was claiming it was a smell *like* aviation fuel. Doesn't any of this seem a bit strange to you?

**SM:** Well, the way you relate it, yes it does.

**MB:** These are the facts. I've got witnesses to back this up. Then there was the campaign to stop me speaking at BUFORA. You should have seen it - Steve Gamble.

**SM:** Was that after your conviction?

**MB:** No, this was in 1998, while I was waiting to be locked up.

**SM:** Was that because you were going to go off to jail?

**MB:** No. Clarke was claiming and had told all the BUFORA council and anyone who would listen that I was using Jonathan Dagenhart's testimony without his permission. So therefore I was breaching BUFORA's strict witness confidentiality rules and therefore I should not be allowed a platform to speak. However, he gave me full authorisation. What people forget is that his information was already in the ufological public domain. Because if it hadn't been, how would Clarke have even known to speak to him? And once the cat's out of the bag, that's it.

Then they got all their mates on to me as well. All of a sudden, all the people in ufology went, "Hold on a minute. This is getting a bit much." People were asking, "What's going on here?"

**SM:** Well that's what I'm asking now.

**MB:** People were saying, "If you don't want him to speak, and you say he's made the whole thing up, then if he speaks and he has no facts, and he has nothing to support anything he's saying, then it'll be shown to be that, Then why are you concerned about stopping him speaking?"

**SM:** I think the thing that people will ask even now is why did it get so bitter? What was going on between you three that seemed to make Clarke and Roberts chase after you and harry you so much? Let me be blunt here; what had you done to them?

**MB:** I hadn't done anything. I ordered a couple of extra copies of Alien Encounters when I was writing for them, you only used to get 3 copies, tight gits, but they used to pay you for an article though. I mentioned to the girl that I had an article coming out and she must have mentioned something to Clarke whose office was only 50 yards away. Next time I went in there, she gave me a message saying Clarke wanted me to pop in and see him. And he was argumentative and all that and I was like, "Basically, what's your beef? I'm still doing the investigation and I haven't come to any real firm conclusions." But because \*\*\*\*\* released that original report, they've been battering me across the head with it ever since. The two of them are like a couple of children.

At the end of the day, its research in progress and I think every thing is open to a working hypotheses, as more information comes to light.

**SM:** Do you think it could be something as simple as jealousy as it was on his patch and you got involved?



anything that's correct. They'd have been on it straight away, wouldn't they? The silence is deafening.

To be honest, my aim was never to prove that they worked for the government. I knew that was an impossible task. But my aim was to show them up for what they really are and that was a much more achievable level. But I think Clarke is working for the government. Why? Because of everything that has happened. It's a lot of persecution over a UFO case.

**SM:** Why do you think they wound you up with the Blue Hare hoax? Why pick on you?

**MB:** Well for a start, the only thing it proved was that I verified facts before using them, because I didn't use any part of the Blue Hare in my research, which was the main intention. Put it this way. Malcolm Robinson booked me in the January to speak in June and in March I started getting e-mails from the Blue Hare. Two days before the lecture, the Blue Hare e-mails me and says "It's imperative that the truth comes out soon." Obviously an enticement for me to speak about it at the lecture. Tim Mathews got up at 6:00 am and came on the train all the way to London, tape recorder in hand, to record this for posterity but unfortunately I wasn't playing their game. At the end of the day, as a part of rigorous research, if you start deciding not to follow leads, you may miss something important. So unfortunately, you're in a catch 22 situation, even if you think it's a hoax. If you're investigating a case, you've got to follow through. Otherwise, one day, it might not be a hoax - it might be the real deal.

**SM:** How did you feel about it at the time?

**MB:** What, the case?

**SM:** No, the hoax. What with being led up the garden path, so to speak.

**MB:** The whole purpose of that was to plant false information into my research so that I would use it at my lecture that June at BUFORA so that they could then step forward and say, "Well actually, that's not true. Look what a poor investigator Max Burns is. He even included our fake information in his research." That was the game plan. That was always the game plan.

**SM:** That day, when it was obvious that you'd been set up, how did you feel?

**MB:** All the way up there we were just talking in the car going, "This is Roberts and Clarke. Mathews maybe. This has got their smell all over it." And so how we treated the day was, we were just going to go up to the Peak district and have a nice day out. Bit of fresh air, a little walk round, and if someone turned up, they turned up and if they didn't then they didn't.

**SM:** Did you feel bitter about it?

**MB:** Well, they wasted a load of my time, effort and money and it was for no other purpose than to make my research look bad. I actually feel sorry for them. I've actually had it out with Andy Roberts in private e-mails. I've got the e-mails.

I keep everything. I keep meticulous records, and I said to Andy, basically “Why does a man who helps people in the community like yourself, to maybe get themselves back on the horse when they’ve come out of jail, people with a lot of problems. In your job you do help a lot of people and do a lot of good. Why does a man who does that for a living behave in a completely opposite manner towards other people in his vocational hobby or whatever you want to call it. I feel sorry for you Andy.”

I actually quite like him, it must be some kind of Stockholm Syndrome or something, but I do feel sorry for him that he’s actually lowered himself to start behaving like this. I thought, “You want to start living in the real world mate.” But he seems to go out of his way to be nasty to people. Attacking Margaret Fry as he did, an old lady, over her investigation of the Berwyn case. Sure, Margaret might not know all the facts, she might have got it wrong, she might have it right, but she’s an old lady that’s not very well. And Andy Roberts attacking her like that was just unbelievable. Scum bags they are mate. I’ve been in jail. I know what a scum bag looks like, and I met nicer people in jail than Roberts and Clarke.

**SM:** I take it you had not served a custodial sentence before that, or had you?

**MB:** No mate. Before that, I’d not got a caution or conviction for anything. I tell a lie - I think I got a slapped wrist for breaking a window when I was 13.

**SM:** That must have been quite a shock to the system, to go to prison then?

**MB:** (let’s out a gasp of air) Well, I’d sat through a week of listening to a load of lies. Even my barrister, when the guilty verdict came in, he just looked at me across the room and mouthed the words, “I’m sorry” straight at me. That weren’t good, that trial. I can’t really, well, I can get into it, but not at the moment. I will get into it. All the facts will come out about the trial. (We then go into a conversation about the facts of Max’s trial which will be the root of his appeal. Understandably, he has asked me not to print this).

**SM:** Are you alleging that you were set up as a result of your involvement in the Sheffield case?

**MB:** I really don’t know what has gone on. I just know I wasn’t guilty and something very untoward has occurred here. It could have been as simple as the fact that.....(edited) ..... I can only speculate about what’s gone on. I just know that I had a really good job earning really good money and was enjoying life to the full. There was absolutely no need for me to be involved in anything like drug dealing. And Roberts started the rumours off, saying I’d bribed witnesses and stuff like that. He keeps saying I’ve admitted taking loads of pills. I’ve never said that to Andy Roberts in my life.

**SM:** How long were you inside for?

**MB:** 15 months.

**SM:** You told me in a previous conversation that you obviously couldn’t go back





groups all over the country, my presentation has been very well received.” I’m not claiming to have all the answers Stuart, and I’ve always said that if I ever discover evidence that shows that I was wrong, then I’ll be the first person to stand up and say so. All I’m doing is investigating the case and I put the information out there in the public domain and people can have a look at what I’ve got to say and simply make up their own minds. Don’t make their minds up based on the opinion of someone who is an out and out hard core sceptic and who has been attacking my research from day one, because he’s biased. Anyone who’s not looked at the research and come to their own conclusion really shouldn’t be making any comment whatsoever, because they’re not really in a position to do that, are they?

I’ve got a follow up article to write for Dr Larry O’Hara for Notes From The Borderland and I’ve got 230 pieces of literature which I’ve got for references. I’ve got to collate all that. It’s coming out in December, I think - a recap of all that’s happened since the publication of The Usual Suspects. Things like Joe McGonagle making apologies for Roberts while treating me like the anti-Christ. He doesn’t even know me. That’s what I really don’t like - people forming an opinion about me when they don’t know me and have never taken the time to speak to me. They’ve just got their opinion, right or wrong, based on whatever gossip they’ve been listening to, rather than just checking a few facts out. I think it’s called, “Getting both sides of the coin”, so you get a more balanced overview of everything that’s occurred, and so come to a more rational conclusion.

I’ve experienced Clarke and Roberts first hand. No one can tell me they’re not a couple of wrong ‘uns. At the end of the day, if they’re not working for the government, it just makes their behaviour even more despicable.

Just one example, I said to Roberts that the difference between me and him and Clarke is that I would never have got David Clarke arrested over council tax. For me, that’s just one step too far. You can have a disagreement but that’s just taking it over the edge a little bit. That’s getting serious, that is, then.

**SM:** Does Clarke deny that he got you arrested for the council tax?

**MB:** He can’t. I’ve got him admitting it on the Internet because the arresting officer showed me a copy of the fax that he’d sent to Rotherham Council who then contacted the police.

**SM:** Why would he want to do that? Why would he hate you so much that he would want to do that?

**MB:** When someone is investigating a case, what is the best thing to do to distract them from their life is to interfere with their life. Like I didn’t have enough shit on my plate without Clarke adding to it. Here’s the difference between me and Clarke; he’s a PhD who teaches Mythology and Folklore to students at Sheffield University. How would his head of faculty view the situation if I was to prove to him, with the evidence, that a PhD who is involved in research at the University, is out side hoaxing and publishing the time line

and history and mythology of British Ufology? Do you think that would be appreciated by his peers? Would I report Clarke to his peers? No, because that is just one step too far. I do agree with an eye for eye and all that, but I'm not one for trying to mess people's employment up. At the end of the day, I don't have anything to do with Clarke. I don't speak to him. When Roberts and I meet, he's always very civil but whenever he goes away, well I reckon he's got a bi-polar disorder or something like that because as soon as he gets behind his keyboard and nicely seated in his armchair, it's like, "Right, who can I have a go at today?" Its like, "I'm not getting any attention, so I'm going to attack a lot of people now and that will bring a lot of attention to me." I wouldn't want to be thought of like that, to be honest. I just try to be as nice as I can to everybody. We're not talking about life and death here, or a cure for cancer. It's my interest, its Ufology, its something I pursue because I have an interest in the subject and I would like to get to the truth. But some of these people just need to take a little step back. Sometimes I think, "This is a bit over the top." It's only a hobby.

**SM:** After everything you've been through, is your enthusiasm for the subject still there or has it been dulled a bit?

**MB:** Oh yeah, I'm on a few private lists and things like that. I get sent quite a lot of stuff and that, by people. I've got a good interest but I've not really been paying that much attention to it in this last year and that is purely down to work commitments. I'm involved in the BUFORA archiving project, we're back on that as at the beginning of next month so we'll be doing that on a regular basis all through the winter. That takes a lot of time and effort. I'm giving up a weekend every month so we can help get the BUFORA archive on line. Some people have complained I'm involved because of the data protection act but I'm probably one of the few people in Ufology that have signed it because of my previous job in the leisure business where I was always dealing with lists of people who wanted tickets for this or that. The archiving project is at Judith's house at the moment. When I turn up there, all I'm doing is whatever task it is I'm involved with, whether it's checking the right file is in the right folder or maybe I'm putting things in date order, ready for when we scan them. I don't leave with any documents, I don't take any photo copies of any documents with me. I turn up with my bag and my clean clothes, I spend the weekend on the archiving and then I come back. Do you think I've even got time to be reading any documents? There's thousands of them, it's a treasure mate. I think it's called, "Doing something positive in ufology." Clarke and Roberts just act to the detriment of ufology. They are just a couple of first class scumbags, you know. They really are. I have shown that to be the case with the publication of the usual suspects.

What was that thing Roberts was on about recently, that he's informed the local police where he lives because he's worried about me? I've been up close and personal with Roberts and if I wanted to get into any naughties like that, then it would have happened by now. Sounds a bit paranoid to me that. They've been trying to wind me up. Don't you realise how infuriating it must be for them that they can't wind me up?

**SM:** (Ed's comment – everybody else in this interview is having their words etc.

edited so I thought I'd join in here too. My response here is inappropriate)

**MB:** I've got a couple of friends that wanted to have them done." I don't agree with violence or intimidation of any kind, I don't like bully's because then I'm just lowering myself to their level. For me, it makes them angry that they can't really get a rise out of me. They haven't really got a rise out of me. Roberts has been doing his best, hasn't he? All I want to do is stick to the facts, reply to the points and keep the personalities out of it - "This is my case, this is the research that I've done, what do you think? Do you agree or disagree or have you got any other suggestions? I'm always open to it, me. This is supposed to be a hobby that you enjoy but all Roberts wants to do is bring conflict and confusion and intimidate people with his bad boy antics. Confuse the issue, pollute the research field, destroy the future history of the subject by filling it with hoaxes by masquerading as a genuine researcher. As he said about the Alex Birch photograph, "A self confessed hoaxer can not be trusted in the light of his earlier admissions." Well, that's the same as Clarke and Roberts, isn't it? You can't play the game at one end and then expect to be taken seriously at the other.

By the way, in regards to his comments about my friend Mathew Williams being a hoaxer, well there you go. This is just down to a matter of interpretation. You see, I don't see Mathew Williams as being a crop circle hoaxer because I believe they're all man made. They're not hoaxed, they're just doing crop art, landscape art, being creative. They're not trying to discredit anybody. They're not stepping forward when someone goes, "Aliens made this one," and saying "We made it". They're not doing that. From my perspective, I believe all crop circles are man made so how can they be hoaxing something they're originating?

**SM:** Max, thank you.

**Max's comments about his conviction while still in prison**

<http://www.rense.com/ufo5/drugresponse.htm>

**Some examples of the message board activity on Max and the case at the time:**

<http://www.virtuallystrange.net/ufo/updates/2003/dec/m24-017.shtml>

<http://www.virtuallystrange.net/ufo/updates/1999/sep/m21-020.shtml>

<http://www.magonia.demon.co.uk/armchair/au3.html>

<http://www.virtuallystrange.net/ufo/updates/1999/may/m31-008.shtml>

<http://www.virtuallystrange.net/ufo/updates/2004/feb/m15-028.shtml>

In the interview above, Max makes comment about Tim Matthews probably being involved in the Blue Hare Hoax, along with Clarke and Roberts. They keep strange company, for Matthews, or Hepple as he later became known, was of extremely bizarre origins. This will give you a good idea.

<http://www.virtuallystrange.net/ufo/updates/1999/feb/m15-019.shtml>

**The Sheffield Incident - the case itself**

Part 1 <http://www.abduct.com/features/f07.htm>

Part 2 <http://www.abduct.com/features/f08.htm>

Part 3 <http://www.abduct.com/features/f09.htm>

**Max comments:**

Although this has not been updated since 1999 many things have been uncovered since this was published on the web. It will supply some background. The full lecture, over 2hours long, will be available to download for people with high speed broadband connections in the near future for free. Email me if you would be interested in having the link to the lecture sent to you.

If you have any questions then please contact me at the address below

[maxburns@ufon.org](mailto:maxburns@ufon.org)

David Clarke's version

<http://www.flyingsaucery.com/files/THE%20HOWDEN%20MOOR%20INCIDENT.doc>

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That's it for this edition folks. Hope you enjoyed it. See you round about the middle of next month.