



VIRANUS

SPACE TRAVEL

FLYING SAUCERS

EDITOR: E. BIDDLE.

Vol. 2 No. 2 (8)

September, 1955.

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THIS AND THAT ... by the Editor

I make no apology for devoting part of this issue to material culled from the publications of the BORDERLAND SCIENCES RESEARCH ASSOCIATES (Round Robin and the subsidiary Clips, Quotes and Comments) because I have no doubt that the majority of our readers will welcome it and the valued few who are themselves B.S.R. Associates will, I am sure, take an indulgent view if they find they have already seen some of the material. The B.S.R. is the one and only organisation connected with F.S. of which I am a member and I joined it several years ago because it is quite unlike any other organisation I know. While F.S. certainly form a major item in its interests, the range is wide, covering, in fact, most things out of the ordinary run (which is no doubt why Harold Chibbett was one of the first British members).

The subscription of \$5.00 is not cheap when translated into terms of sterling and for that reason the number of Associates in this country is likely to remain small and be restricted to a few real (or rich) enthusiasts. But if you do feel tempted to join, I can give you further details, though you will have to remit direct, either through your Bank or the Foreign Money Order Department of the Post Office. The address is: Mr. Meade Layne, M.A., 3524 Adams Avenue, SAN DIEGO 16, California, U.S.A.

American readers, of course, are not affected by our difficulties and they are warmly recommended to contact Mr. Meade Layne, if they have not already done so. Anyone either here or in the States who decides to do this is requested to mention URANUS.

.....
6/2/55 - Anyone here in England or on the Continent seeing this date would interpret it as meaning 6th February 1955, but our American friends put the month first and to them it would signify June 2nd 1955. I mention this difference in custom because many people on both sides of the Atlantic are unaware of it and confusion might easily arise. I found this out by experience, so am giving you the benefit!

The letter from my valued French friend M. Aime MICHEL published in this issue is almost certain to provoke replies. Anyone disposed to cross swords with M. Michel is invited to write to him direct, either in French or in English. (Don't forget the postage on letters to France is 4d. for the first oz.) A selection of the correspondence will, I hope, be available for publication in URANUS. I would not say that I am in entire agreement with all that M. Michel says, though I certainly agree with most of it. I do not feel inclined, at any rate for the present, to modify what I have said recently about the photos.

M. Michel, as our readers will recall, is the author of an outstanding F.S. book (reviewed by me in our No.5), later to appear in an English translation under the title of "Light on the Flying Saucers" (Robert Hale Ltd., London).

.....
It is very gratifying to find that readers are responding better to the invitation to write letters for publication in our pages. What I should like, however, is to hear from some of our overseas friends. So please, Americans and others, do not hesitate to give us the benefit of your views.

.....
We have been repeatedly congratulated on the prompt and regular appearance of URANUS, which is published on 1st August, October, December, February, April and June. Actually, we have usually been a few days in advance and I am happy to say that unless something altogether beyond our control occurs, we shall not fail to maintain this desirable habit.

.....
It is gratifying also to note that several of our articles have been reprinted or quoted from in other Saucer journals. We take this opportunity of making it clear that any Saucer review is welcome to reproduce anything in URANUS, provided that the source and our address are mentioned and a copy is sent to us. We do not regard other UFO publications as "rivals" and when we come across something good we believe in letting our

readers know about it. If by our doing this some other review gets a new subscriber, so much the better. It makes no difference whether the "other" hails from America, Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, France or is one of our British confrères Flying Saucer News and Flying Saucer Review. It will be a black day for the Saucer world if it ever becomes infected with a miserable spirit of commercialism or an unwillingness to share with the others any outstanding bit of news or opinion that comes our way. And I gladly pay here a particular tribute to the kindness and generosity shown by my American friends and fellow-Editors. They are a grand lot, one and all.

.....
Our feature WHAT THE SAUCER WORLD IS SAYING is only temporarily held over and will reappear in our next issue. One thing that I would like to mention now, however, is that the CRIFO NEWSLETTER has changed its title to ORBIT and now appears in letterpress form. It remains the organ of the Civilian Research, Interplanetary Flying Objects and is edited and published by Mr. L.H. Stringfield, 7017, Britton Avenue, Cincinnati 27, Ohio, U.S.A. The subscription for a year is \$3.00 for U.S.A. and Canada and \$3.60 for other countries. ORBIT, like its predecessor, contains serious matter, both news and comments, and can be warmly recommended. You don't get a terrible lot in an issue but what you do get is worthwhile and that's the main thing.

.....
I take this opportunity of reminding readers that opinions expressed in signed or initialled articles or reviews are the responsibility of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the editorial views.

.....
Mr. Bentham's letter in this issue is very interesting. It rather looks as though the statements quoted by Prof. Nahon as having been made by the Russian scientist Nesmeyanov were mistranslated or misunderstood. I am asking Prof. Nahon for the source of his information.

.....

CAVEAT EMPTOR - LET THE BUYER BEWARE

by MEADE LAYNE, M.A.,

(Director, Borderland Sciences Research Associates)

For Buyer substitute Believer, Follower, Disciple, Acceptor - of teachings and Teachers, of self-styled Masters, of purveyors of revelations, of any and all who profess to hold the "final truth" - to be the ultimate authority on any subject whatsoever. Then the old Latin maxim still holds good - let the "Buyer" indeed beware...

A sleepy bromide you say - if ever there was one! YES - but also a warning to be shouted from housetops - a cry of FIRE in the night, or of floods descending, Noachian disaster. Of equal urgency with these is this CAVEAT.

We cannot, or rather will not, 'name the names' - but already the crop of the pseudo-Messiahs flourishes, as from the sowing of dragon's teeth. As certain global and cosmic facts become realised by the swarming hives of humanity, this Chant of the Revelators will be dinned crescendo into every shadowfull corner.

If there is any refuge, for you and me, against this psychic infection, born of pseudo-knowledge, honest ignorance, mistaken service - and also of egoism, greed and windy arrogance? "A man may protect himself against tigers" - goes an old saying - "and against thunder and lightning there is a refuge; but against his fellow-man there is no refuge."

Is this really true? It is in my mind that the greatest enemy of Man is the Sheep-Within, the follow-the-leader instinct, the undying stile-jumper close behind his woolly guides. De Quincey had a word for it - sequaciousness (applied to style) - but it applies to nine-tenths of our alleged thinking also.

Is it possible, useful, desirable, even to make recommendation against this wooliness - that is, against non-critical acceptance of this book and that, of this marvellous tale and that, of smug-easy explanations, generalisations, fine pseudo-philosophical abstractions, "authentic" (i.e. imaginary) visits to other planets and

ystems, ouija-board revelations, astral projections, gibberish and fakery of low astral entities, welsh-arebit visions and nauseam - especially when all these have scattered through them certain grains of supramundane facts and truth (a word which has no definition). Shall I pick over all this garbage for fear of missing these grains? Or shall I reject everything and return to my cabbage rows? And how shall I identify the grains, if and when.....?

"Critical receptivity"! There's a fine phrase, if you please. It's supposed to be the guiding star of psychical research - and ortho-science also. Its content, of course, is fluent as quicksilver - but for lack of better we must hold fast to it.

There's a Spanish proverb: "If your number is five, keep an eye on four and six". If you're an honest man, you'll admit: "I'm an ignorant seeker." If really so, keep an eye on all would-be teachers, revelators, wise-acres. If you want food, don't bolt the first offering! "The sages have misled Mankind", mourns Lao-Tse. How shall we find those who do not mislead - if any? Neither you nor I really know anything - but we have our acceptances (willy-nilly). On them, as on a foundation of sand, we pitch at least a nomad tent - careful, tentative, half-indifferent, knowing at least this, that if we do not strike this fragile shelter for ourselves, the Wind Between the Worlds will do it for us - tomorrow or tomorrow.

All our questions have prompt answers - in the market place. Such smug, assured, confident answers! Of one thing we can feel quite sure - that ALL of them are partial and inadequate. And nine-tenths of them are basically wrong. In the very nature of the case they are wrong - apart from exploitation and deliberate misleading. Let us consult our deepest instincts and the Highest Self. Caveat Emptor.

.....
(This article, reprinted from "Clips, Quotes & Comments" B.12, dated June 15th 1954, comes, I think, as a timely reminder of some of the pitfalls awaiting those who do not tread very carefully where Flying Saucers are concerned.)

"ANGEL HAIR" (Fils de la Vierge)

(I imagine most of our readers have heard of the mysterious vanishing substance which (I believe) was first reported as having fallen at Gaillac and Oloron (France) after the passage of a considerable number of F.S. The following extracts from the B.S.R. "Clips, Quotes & Comments" will no doubt be of interest.)

THAT " SPUN GLASS" OR "ANGEL HAIR" BUSINESS. - Assoc. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas of Spokane, visiting BSR Headquarters lately, reported that there was a widespread fall of this tinsel-like stuff, about 50 miles south from Red Bluff, Calif. The upper air seemed filled with it but it did not accumulate on the ground, although a good deal adhered for a time to trees and shrubs. By breaking of twigs they were able to get some of it into a small jar, and we hope to get a sample of this, if it has not yet 'evaporated'. This "fall" was not accompanied by the appearance of any Saucers (these may have been present but invisible); but reports from Italy and elsewhere are that the 'spun glass' does appear as a trail or fall from the aeroforms. It may be a bye-product of some kind of propulsion process employed in our atmosphere - or maybe a means or a result of clearing our air of certain harmful elements. Or...it's your turn to guess. If you get a chance, pick up this stuff on a twig or stick wrapped in black cloth and put it in a covered bottle. It will discolour the hands temporarily, but is not known to be dangerous in any way. If it disappears from a closed container, it may still be present in a gaseous state and might respond to physical tests; or it may be borderland etheric stuff which cannot be confined. (C.12, dated 15th December, 1954).

SHEPPARTON THREADS - or Angel Hair, Preliminary Analysis: Australian Flying Saucer Bureau (& Magazine): In October 1954, substance was pure white, silky, odourless, warm, not sticky. Uniform threads of very fine type; disintegrates slowly in air. Not soluble in water. Soluble in strong caustic acid. Burns rapidly leaving

no smell or ash (unlike wool, cotton, silk or cobwebs). Threads are dry and stretch easily at the ends. An important characteristic is the length of the original strands coming down from the sky - average length 30 ft. (Andrew P. Tomas in AFS Mag.) - (D.8, dated 15th April 1955).

ANGEL HAIR - We are told (by one of the Mark Probert controls) that one of the principal uses of this material, to the Etherian visitors, is for intercepting the radar beam - which seems to cause navigational difficulties to the discs. Instances have been reported where the stuff seemed to be given off from Discs in flight. The Communicator described it as "etheric material not belonging to your plane", which may be supported by its disappearance when held in the hand - leaving a greenish stain. But samples here at BSR Headquarters disappear very slowly over a period of several months, and do not stain the hands. Apparently the different 'falls' vary in quality. Also, we were formerly told that the stuff was "dangerous", but as yet we have had no reports of bad effects. To be on the safe side, pick it up with a stick, preferably wrapped with a black cloth. - (E.I. dated 1st July 1955).

SPACE ORGANISMS (or "Disc-Beings")

(In connection with M. Fouéré's theory of "Disc-Beings", to which we gave prominence again in our last issue, the following extract from the B.S.R. journal ROUND ROBIN, Vol. 3, No. 1, January 1947, will no doubt interest readers.)

Space Organisms - A Round Robin friend in Grand Rapids quotes a Control of the trumpet medium William Thatcher. This Control was questioned about the "Kareeta", said he did not think it was a space ship, then went on to say that there exist space organisms beyond the limits of the heavier atmosphere. They are tenuous, of low intelligence, somewhat like aerial jellyfish, and sometimes come close enough to be sighted by humans... Charles Fort has

something about these strange creatures and we have heard of them from other sources also. High altitude navigators may yet tell tales of things dreamed of, but never heretofore believed.

FLYING SAUCERS AND NEGATIVE MATTER

by B. DURANTON

Without committing oneself to the reality of the Flying Saucers, one can nevertheless point out that they would constitute a good demonstration of negative matter.

Coming from a negative planet they would, on approaching our globe, have to overcome a force of repulsion. They would therefore need neither engine nor wings to hold them up and could be "rejected" rapidly.

Should they meet with an accident or be destroyed, the pieces would disperse in the atmosphere and in no case would any wreckage be found.

On this hypothesis, they would come from Uranus, Neptune or Pluto. To the objection of the physicists that life is impossible on these worlds, we might counter-object that:

(a) The cold which they imagine for these planets is only relative. The field of mass shows that Saturn might be made of elements which are heavy but not contracted, which is less absurd than to imagine that that planet is made of methane, while its satellites have normal densities! If, as the Chinese have speculated, two energies balance each other, this equilibrium is just as possible on Uranus.

(b) It is possible that the psychic maturity of these worlds is ahead of ours. We might even suppose they escaped the "fall" of the terrestrial world and that they have direct knowledge of the cosmos, much the same as horses do mathematics or bees geometry...

(c) Every time physicists discuss the possibility of life on other planets, they confine themselves to strictly terrestrial data. In view of our almost total ignorance regarding the nature and origin of life this position seems untenable to me.

I believe we can picture even beings of fire - on condition, of course, that we give them a structure other than ours. Whenever the entropy of the surroundings permits it, life is bound to appear. If I had to give a theory of life, I should suppose that every time the concentration gradients appear, potentials or fields are created which determine the appearance and the structure of life. A transformable matter creates on the cosmic scale the potential which, sooner or later, will determine the appearance of the degradation agent.

Inversely, and taking as an example a human collectivity, if the beings are too numerous for a given vital space, the vitality weakens until numbers are reduced.

(NOTE - The above article was published in the English section of the originally Anglo-French (but now wholly French) review OURANOS. No. 3, January, 1953.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Biddle,

.... As I think I have already said, I am surprised at the audience Adamski has found in Anglo-Saxon circles. I should like to explain clearly what my ideas on this subject are.

1. - It is possible that Adamski, like thousands of other people, has seen some Flying Saucer. That is the maximum that one can say and this maximum is totally devoid of interest.

2. - The Photos. They do not go beyond what a faker of average ability could produce. It is possible to take thousands of photos like Adamski's with the aid of lampshades, saucepan lids, or no matter what. Are these photos of Adamski's authentic? There is no means of knowing. Not only are the photos no proof but they themselves need to be proved. There is nothing about them to distinguish them from the result of trickery and so we have no reason to treat them as other than fakes.

3. - The "witnesses" of the "landings". They are best left unmentioned. Witnesses prove something only when they are unknown to each other and when they are some distance apart. In the opposite case, the story they tell differs in no way from a fable pure and simple and there is no reason to take it for anything else.
4. - The "Venusian". The Venusian atmosphere differs more from ours than does the bottom of the Arctic Ocean from the desert where the pretended encounter took place. The presence of a Venusian wandering round with uncovered head in that desert is as likely as that of a whale or a deep sea turbot. I do not deny that Mr. Adamski might converse with whales in a desert. I deny nothing. But such an interesting event needs, if it is to be believed, something in the way of proof. As there is not the least beginning of proof, I find Adamski's story differs in no way from a fairy tale and that there is no reason to take it for anything more than a fairy tale.
5. - The "Venusians", says Mr. Adamski, are very disturbed at the follies of men. They have things to tell us, recommendations to make to us. Well, who is stopping them? Mr. Adamski has at his disposal an infinity of means of transmitting these messages to us and of making them irrefutable. For instance, let him show us some photos of the Earth as seen from 3,000 km. or even simply a film of the movements of a saucer; or he could pass on to mankind some scientific discovery surpassing human science (I don't say Adamski's...) and of no military interest, for example the solution of Fermat's theorem.
6. - For Mr. Adamski (and here he makes the fatal mistake) tries to prove what he is telling. If he said to us "Here is what I have to tell you; it's improbable, I know, and I have no proof of it" he would make me wonder. Unhappily he wants to prove it and the proofs which he invokes (witnesses and photos that are suspect and equivocal) are precisely such as a hoaxer might advance. In other words, if what he tells us were true, Mr. Adamski would have a thousand irrefutable proofs to convince us. But those he offers us are ridiculously puerile.

7. - In my Flying Saucer files I have letters and accounts which appeal to proofs identical with those of Adamski. They tell also of pretended trips by Flying Saucer. They contradict one another, they contradict Adamski and they are as likely as his story is. Whom are we to choose? The one who has some proof. But we are still waiting for these proofs.

8. - Adamski's Saucers resemble those of a certain number of other witnesses. This is true and I recognise it. But that proves one thing only: that Adamski has an idea of the shape of a F.S. I too have an idea of it and yet I have never perceived one.

9. - The Biometric Analysis. Without denying the value of these methods, I find that it is sufficient for two different persons to employ them for them to obtain contradictory results. They cannot, then, serve as a basis for any kind of certainty and they form part of those proofs which need to be proved. Experiments in S. America made with the aid of mediums place, with all the precision one could wish for, the origin of the F.S. on Jupiter's largest satellite. Whom are we to believe?

The mystery of the F.S. is the most extraordinary of this century and perhaps of all the centuries of human history. Into this mystery it is necessary to advance with infinite humility and prudence and to accept only what is certain if we do not wish to sink into folly and error. I believe in the reality of the Flying Saucers despite the puerile dreams of Adamski and his like, who would wish to make us take the Creator for an imbecile. The result of what they have done is that the search for the truth is now in danger of sinking into ridicule and of thereby undergoing an unfortunate setback.

Believe me, dear Mr. Biddle, yours sincerely,

AIME MICHEL.

118, Champs-Elysées,

PARIS (8e)

France.

26th July, 1955.

(M. Michel's original letter to me was written in French. I have translated it very carefully and think I have avoided any distortion of what he had to say - E.B.)

Dear Mr. Biddle,

I have been contributing to URANUS ever since it made its appearance in the "Flying Saucer World." This is the first time I have ventured writing to you, however. I am Chairman of a thriving research group in Wigan. During the past two years I have spent a lot of money and even more time on the subject.

The letter by 'Pertinax' certainly has provoked me into comment. One may suspect that he does believe in Saucers, however. Why he should pour out such a tirade of abuse against the 'Unearthly' as he calls them I cannot understand. I am not one of the esoteric workers 'Pertinax' mentions but I have read quite a bit on the 'Ethereic Theory', including M. Layne's "Coming of the Guardians". I also read "Destiny" and "Prediction" from time to time and it seems to me that these last-mentioned periodicals, or more correctly the letter columns contained therein, have provided 'Pertinax' with his stream of 'Threats, Promises, Blandishments etc.' I wonder if he can give us examples of these threats etc? I would also like to inform him that this section of his letter would apply if the visitors were simply interplanetary or interstellar, which they may well be.

'Pertinax' goes on to say that he fails to see why we should take them seriously. If we believe the evidence put forward by many writers, we have indeed been having visitations for very many years. Surely the fact that the visits increased in frequency shortly after the first atomic explosion is not entirely lost on 'Pertinax'?

He then goes on to say that throughout this time they have never done anything for us. This in itself could be questioned, but it is beyond the scope of this letter. When one comes to think about it, we haven't done a great deal for ourselves, either. In the last forty years or so we have had two global conflicts which have accounted for several million human lives and left untold mental and physical mutilation. We now have ample reason to believe that if the second world war hadn't ended when it did, a

very large portion of the earth's surface would by now be uninhabitable. This is an example of what our 'supreme civilisation' has brought.

Next, 'Pertinax' refers to our close at hand conquest of space. 'CONQUEST' is the correct word, alright. As far as we can trace back into the history of mankind, it has been a tale of conquest. In almost every case there has been a trail of suffering and misery left behind. We may perhaps presume that any planets we may find inhabited would be quickly converted to our democratic and civilised way of life. If our etheric or interplanetary or interstellar visitors have seen and understood all this, can we really expect them to invite us to join their "Cosmic Brotherhood"?

He also says that unpleasant things will happen to them and not us, or rather he quotes 'Them' as saying this. Should we ignore this too? I think not; forewarned is forearmed.

So we should let them stew in their own juice, should we? We have very little knowledge of the type of 'juice' they occupy. Perhaps it isn't the stewing type of medium. We can analyse our 'Juice' however. I suspect that the results would be anything but encouraging.

Our friend is probably right about us landing on the Moon in the next ten years. Two points arise out of his further comments. Just what is the 'inevitable' that the etheric beings should accept? And this 'contemptuous neglect'; first of all he speaks of the endless stream of threats etc. etc., then he says they are neglecting us. It seems to me that 'Pertinax' is looking no further than the end of his nose in this particular aspect and would do well to keep a more open mind.

Do Unto Others as You Would
Have Them do unto You.

What about it, 'Pertinax'?

Yours sincerely, D. WIGHTMAN
(Chairman, Wigan & District F.S.

Wigan, 28th July, 1955.

Group)

Dear Sir,

I have read with interest the article by Prof. Alfred Nahon and the comments by Mr. Arundel. I am afraid that the statements by Russian Astronauts must have been mis-translated, these being plans for a somewhat nebulous future and not things already achieved. I remember the statement by Nesmeyanov who has taken Vavilov's place as head of the Academy of Sciences. He mentioned the Artificial Satellite as being planned and not as already achieved. Indeed it is only last Autumn that Soviet scientists attended a conference to study the practical possibilities of establishing such a satellite. Interesting too is the fact that Kapitza is working on the project, which shows that his government takes it seriously.

The statement that the Americans' blood boiled is surely fantastic.

Yours sincerely, D.R. BENTHAM.

Loughborough, Leics.
25/7/55.

BOOKS

OPERATION APHRODITE par Jimmy GUEU. Editions Fleuve Noir, Paris, 1955.

In this story, various of our old friends from others of J.G.'s science-fiction romances land on the Moon. Their adventures and their encounter with fantastic numbers of metal-eating lunar life-forms make good reading. - E.B.

L'AGONIE DU VERRE, same author, same publisher. 1955. In our No. 2 (October 1954) we published a translation of one of J.G.'s articles entitled From "Windscreen

Disease" to ... Flying Saucers, in which our friend discussed the possibility that the mysterious cause of the shattering of thousands of windscreens and other glass objects might have its origin in Outer Space. In the present story, J.G. develops the idea to the point where all objects made wholly or partly of glass are attacked, with disastrous results to our civilisation. Americans and Russians each accuse the other of being the cause of the trouble and the truth that both are victims and not authors of the plague comes to light only just in time to avoid war. Instead of fighting, they unite in the face of the common peril and, thanks to the accidental discovery by a French scientist (the eccentric but highly entertaining Prof. Goubert, whom we met in J.G.'s first novel Le Pionnier de l'Atome) of the one and only antidote, succeed in overcoming the menace. To my mind, this is one of the most exciting and worth-reading of all J.G.'s novels and I can strongly recommend it to those who read French.

- E.B.

Any of these books can be obtained from Markham House Press Ltd at prices ranging between 12/6 and 18/-.

THE CASE FOR THE U.F.O. by M.K. JESSUP. Citadel Press, New York, 1955. Price \$3.50 in U.S.A. (The American edition is not now obtainable in England, as a British edition is to be published later).

This book presents a number of interesting arguments and items of evidence of peculiar happenings, e.g. disappearances of people without trace and the arrival of showers of living and non-living objects (mostly taken unacknowledged from the works of Charles Fort and H.T. Wilkins).

The arguments and evidence advanced are not very conclusively in favour of UFOs, except in the cases of certain astronomical observations of erratically moving

bodies. Most of the author's data would equally well be explained by comets and meteors entering the earth's atmosphere (vide Comyns Beaumont) or as manifestations of a spiritualistic nature similar to poltergeists. Altogether this work would not, I feel, convince a sceptic, though it does provide food for thought and a gathering of some more evidence in favour of the "saucerers".

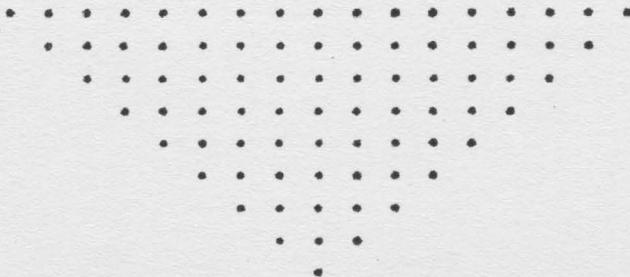
Sundry items of evidence reported are inaccurate. The version of the Mary Celeste (not Marie Celeste, as the author has it) and the case of Oliver Lerch are two in point. Careful enquiries on the spot have shewn that no such family as Lerch lived at the place of this alleged event. The few illustrations are poor and unconvincing, as they take the form of sketches made from photos, etc.

Altogether, worth reading but the sort of book I should recommend you to ask your Library to get for you rather than buy it for your own selves.

- W.B.

(It was through the courtesy of Mr. H.T. Wilkins, who kindly loaned me his copy of this book, that we have been able to see it at this stage.

- E.B.)



Just arrived from Paris

"MARS ALLER-RETOUR"

by F.L. NEHER

Bound Edition Post Free 18/- or \$2.85

The Author had access to all Wernher von Braun's notes. To be reviewed in next issue.

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