

ALTERNATE HORIZONS NEWSLETTER

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New Years Eve in New York. Left to right facing camera: Timothy Green Beckley, James W. Moseley, Y.N. Abron.

In New York City in the waning days of 1966 we were able to discuss the "AR" theory with some of the leading lights in the UFO field. The acceptance of the theory was for the most part, quite good. We were gratified to hear from James W. Moseley, Editor of "Saucer News" (P.O. Box 163, Fort Lee, New Jersey) that he went along with the "AR" theory. We were not really surprised to learn that the main criticism that seems to be developing among the more advanced of the UFOlogists present was that AR was "not new". Let us make it clear right now: We do not claim that the ingredients of AR are new. What we do claim is that we are trying to develop a new statement of the component parts of the theory in a coherent pattern from a fresh vantage point. We don't want the obscurity of Peter Kor, nor the irrelevancy of the late George Adamski. What we want is a clear, modern statement of this perhaps "age-old" concept.

To say it though, is not necessarily to have it. In trying to explain the AR theory to Dave Halperin, former director of the New Jersey Association of Aerial Phenomena and current Cornell undergraduate, we noted once again the difficulty in communicating the concept in a sensible fashion. It is not that the theory is weak. It is just that the concept is so vast that to make a simple statement on it seems to give it a "weak ring" that belies its actual depth. I know of no satisfactory simple statement on the subject, but the search goes on.

In our last issue we mentioned a strange occurrence related to two Cleveland, Ohio area UFOlogists. Recently this writer has come into personal contact with some rather odd incidents. For example, take the case of Gray Barker. Gray is well known in the saucer field for such things as his former publication, the "Saucerian", and for his book THEY KNEW TOO MUCH ABOUT FLYING SAUCERS. When he was scheduled to arrive in Atlanta for a lecture, Don Cook, Curtis Harris and your editor went out to the airport to meet him. A few minutes before his flight arrived, a thick fog appeared at the airport. After circling awhile, Gray's plane was forced to go on to Birmingham, Alabama. This caused us some distress since we had commitments with the news media for Gray the following morning (the events took place in the wee AM hours). Shortly after the plane had made its decision to go on to Birmingham, the fog dispersed. After some effort, we were able to establish that those on Gray's flight would come in from Alabama by bus, hopefully in time for our morning commitments. The bus did arrive at the airport, but upon looking for it, Gray was unable to find his suitcase, which contained the slides to be used in his lecture.

There is a happy ending. The slides were found, the lecture was successful. Fogs have no doubt caused flights at the Atlanta Airport (the nation's fourth busiest) to detour to other destinations before. All this is fine.

BUT

In February of 1966 while driving back from Atlanta Airport in a car with D--- -----, a thick fog almost caused what could have been a fatal wreck. We were returning from seeing off our speaker of that month, Eugene R. Steinberg, who had spoken to the C.S.I.A. on the Maury Island Case.

STILL MORE

In late December, 1966, just prior to our leaving for New York City to meet with UFOlogists there, I received a call from Mr. Tom Brand, who had at one time served as public relations officer for the local AMUFO affiliate (CSIA). He and a young lady by the name of Susan Hill had had an experience with an "invisible entity". After hearing their story, I took them over to my office for a taped discussion of the subject. Mr. Brand had some time ago virtually severed his UFOlogy connections, while Miss Hill never had any, to the knowledge of the present writer. The story is complex and interesting, even to the (by now) quite jaded senses of your editor. It involved a number of interesting individual happenings, among them a link-up with transportation and...the Atlanta Airport.

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"AR" BOOKLIST & LIBRARY

The following books are recommended in relation to "AR" studies. Readers are invited to submit their own suggestions as to relevant book and publication references.

THE COMING OF THE SAUCERS, by Kenneth Arnold & Ray Palmer. Privately published by Authors; Boise, Idaho and Amherst, Wisconsin, 1952. COMMENTS: Recently reissued and probably available through Ray Palmer, Palmer Publications, Amherst, Wisconsin. Particular attention should be devoted to the Maury Island Affair. Non-fiction.

THE INCOMPLETE ENCHANTER, by L. Sprague De Camp & Fletcher Pratt. Pyramid Books, August, 1960. COMMENTS: This story, in different form, first appeared in two 1940 issues of "Unknown". More recent pocket-book editions are probably available. This book is useful in understanding both the nature and mechanics of AR. Science Fantasy.

LORDS OF ATLANTIS, by Wallace West. Airmont, 1963. COMMENTS: Pretty much "Shaverian" fare, but worth reading. Science Fiction.

THREE HEARTS & THREE LIONS, by Poul Anderson. Doubleday Science Fiction, 1961. (?) COMMENTS: In somewhat the same vein as the INCOMPLETE ENCHANTER (see above.) but also dealing with the moral aspect of AR. Science Fantasy.

MICROCOSM AND MACROCOSM, by Michael M. Hare. Julian Press, 1966, \$15.00. COMMENTS: This work, which is subtitled "An Approach To The Synthesis Of The Real", is a technical work, and is outside the editor's range of comprehension. But it seems to provide for a technical framework in which "AR" is conceivable in "conventional" scientific terms. Non-fiction.

NOTE: It should be understood that none of the above works are consciously on "AR" (so far as we know), but may be helpful in understanding the AR concept.

THEN AND NOW: A Comparison

by

Lucius Farish

According to a nationwide Gallup poll of a few months ago, 46% of all persons interviewed believed flying saucers are "real". That is, they believed persons reporting UFOs were actually seeing some type of object or phenomenon, rather than merely exercising an overactive imagination. Yet, once the "reality" of UFOs has been admitted by Mr. Average Citizen, just exactly what does he think the reported objects actually are? The Number One choice of the Gallup Poll participants was "experimental projects and/or Air Force tests". Interplanetary vehicles ranked second.

To most UFOlogists, the idea of UFOs being secret devices of any Earthly nation is almost laughable. Despite the public's general assumption that flying saucers were first seen in 1947, the UFOlogist knows that similar sightings have been recorded throughout history. If we can show that aerial objects closely resembling today's UFOs were seen hundreds of years ago, this will amount to proof that no secret devices of any type are involved in present day sightings, unless, of course, experiments attempting to duplicate UFO propulsion systems are being carried out.

The most-often reported type of UFO is the disc, with all its various embellishments, such as portholes, landing gear, etc. Perhaps the first recorded instance of the disc being so designated by observers is the famous case from Yorkshire, England, in the year 1290 A.D. when a "round, flat, silver object called a discus" was seen by monks at Byland Abbey.

Another reference is found in a volume entitled, most appropriately, "The World's Encyclopedia Of Wonders And Curiosities", published in 1881. Referring to "fireballs", the author says: "They sometimes resemble comets, in being attended with a train; but frequently they appear with a round well-defined disk".

In the year 1846, another sighting of "disks" was reported in the log of Auguste Leverger. At the time, he was commanding an expedition of gun-boats from Cuiaba, Brazil to Assuncion, Paraguay. He reported: "I have observed tonight a phenomenon I had never seen before. It was 5:57 P.M., the sky was perfectly clear, calm, temperature 30 degrees Centigrade (86 degrees F.) when a luminous globe with intense speed described a curve of 30 degrees NNW. With the horizon by reference the directions formed angles of 75 and 105 degrees approximately. The Sharp angle was opened toward W. This globe left a trail of light measuring 5 to 6 degrees length for 30 to 35 degrees width. Inside the trail we could see three bodies whose brilliancy was much more intense than that of the trail; the light of these three bodies was equal if not stronger than the light ordinarily given out by the full moon on a clear night. The bodies were separated among themselves, one on top of the other. The middle one appeared to be almost circular in shape, the lowermost looked like a 120 degree circle segment whose extreme radiuses were broken and the shape of the uppermost was that of an irregular square. The size of the greatest of the disks would be from 20 to 25 feet. Finally over the bodies one could notice a streak of very weak light shaped like a zig-zag, measuring 3 degrees width by five to 6 degrees length. The angular altitude above the horizon seemed to be 8 degrees. Afraid of missing some detail of the phenomenon I did not run inside to get some instrument to make a correct measurement. Everything went lowering toward the horizon with relative speed no greater than the celestial bodies on their setting down; however, the luminous globes changed their appearances assuming those of ellipses increasingly flattened and losing brilliancy until they looked like small clouds. The big trail or streak of light tilted to N becoming almost parallel to the horizon but the zigzag preserved the same direction all the time. After 25 minutes, everything disappeared and there was not the slightest signal of atmospheric perturbation."

As the primary purpose of this column is to compare historical and present day reports, no better examples of similar events could be found than the two following reports, separated by a time-span of about 940 years:

"There happened in the borough of Cloera, one Sunday while the people were at Mass, a marvel. In this town there is a church to the memory of St. Kinarus. It befell that a metal anchor was dropped from the sky, with a rope attached to it, and one of the sharp flukes caught in the wooden arch above the church door. The people rushed out of the church and saw in the sky a ship with men on board, floating at the end of the anchor cable, and they saw a man leap overboard and pull himself down the cable to the anchor as if to unhook it. He appeared as if he were swimming in water. The folk rushed up and tried to seize him; but the bishop forbade the people to hold the man for fear it might kill him. The man was freed and hurried up the cable to the ship where the crew cut the rope and the ship rose and sailed away out of sight. But the anchor is in the church as a testimony to this singular occurrence."

The above quotation is from the Speculum Regali, an ancient Irish manuscript. The event described took place in the year 956 A.D. Now, consider the following item, taken from the Houston, Texas DAILY POST of April 28, 1897:

"Merkel, Texas, April 26--Some parties returning from church last night noticed a heavy object dragging along with a rope attached. They followed it until in crossing the railroad it caught on a rail. On looking up they saw what they supposed was the airship. It was not near enough to get an idea of the dimensions. A light could be seen protruding from several windows; one bright light in front like the headlight of a locomotive. After some 10 minutes, a man was seen descending the rope, he came near enough to be plainly seen; he wore a light blue sailor suit, was small in size. He stopped when he discovered parties at the anchor and cut the rope below him and sailed off in a northeast direction. The anchor is now on exhibition at the blacksmith shop of Elliott & Miller and is attracting the attention of hundreds of people."

Reviewing the similarities of the two reports, one is almost tempted to speculate that someone merely "updated" the ancient Irish account. Yet, a citizen of Merkel, Texas, possessing a copy of the Speculum Regali in 1897 would be fully as fantastic as the reports themselves!

NOTE: Photo on page one was taken by Allen H. Greenfield.