

INEXPLICATA
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A twice-yearly publication showcasing the research and concerns of UFO and paranormal investigators in Spain, the Caribbean, Central and South America.

Editor

Scott Corrales

Assistant Editor

(all article submissions and letters)

Juan Carlos Mallory

P.O. Box 228

Derrick City, PA 16727

Contributing Editors

Manuel Carballal (Spain)

Willie Durand Urbina (Puerto Rico)

Dr. Rafael Lara Palmeros (Mexico)

Lucy Guzmán de Plá (Puerto Rico)

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Welcome to INEXPLICATA
Number 3
Spring 1999

Regardless of feeling the urge to "party like it's 1999", INEXPLICATA steps up to the plate once more (2 for 2 so far) with its first two issues having been well-received by the UFO/paranormal reading public both in print and on line. Our web page www.inexplicata.com welcomed its eighteenth hundred visitor last month, which isn't much by most website standards, but an amazing accomplishment for a specialty field within a specialty discipline like ufology.

So, what does Number 3 have to offer?

We kick off this issue with Luis Pacheco's article on the unusual phenomena seen over Patagonia last fall; Argentina has always been a UFO hotspot and remains to this very day a rewarding site for the serious researcher. Antonio Salinas contribution on the S.I.B. Betelgeuse's efforts at solving a particularly unusual multiple-UFO sighting proves that not everything flying over our heads has a Martian licence plate. In a similar vein, our intrepid contributing editor Manuel Carballal defies convention once more and blows the whistle on misleading saucer videos and outright hoaxes as well.

If the great Charles Fort were still alive and clipping (no pun intended), Pilar Abeijón's report on the Galician fish-fall would have certainly earned a place in his files. Javier García Blanco's article on "Roadside Encounters" does for driving what Spielberg's *Jaws* did for swimming: you won't want to get behind the wheel!

Pride of place goes to Josep Guijarro's stunning (and tantalizing) revelations concerning the existence of a high-tech cult lost among the thousands of islands of southern Chile. Is the "Friendship" an extraterrestrial outpost? A secret society? Nazi scientists flying UFOs out of South America? This is the only INEXPLICATA feature to end in a cliffhanger...

Enough talking. Play ball!

Scott Corrales
Editor
INEXPLICATA

Strange Lights Over Patagonia

by Luis Pacheco

A strange white luminescence was observed on Monday, September 30th, 1998 over the entire Patagonian region. The brilliant aura of light which remained visible in the sky for over twenty minutes gave witnesses enough time to take photos, but none of them managed to photograph the strange phenomenon they'd witnessed.

In San Martín and Junín de los Andes, a perfectly circular, luminous form slowly traversed the night skies, causing bewilderment among the population.

The sighting occurred at approximately 21:00 hours. The sky was completely clear and lit with the characteristic luminosity provided by the waxing moon.

A luminous circle suddenly appeared from the south; its size was estimated at 8 to 10 times larger than the full moon. At first sight, the circumference had the appearance of being gaseous and slightly opaque; its edges appeared brighter than its center, through which starlight could be perceived as it crossed the sky. The object travelled at low speed and its trajectory did not coincide with that of the wind that was blowing from the southeast toward the northeast at that time of night.

The phenomenon's inclination with regard to the mountainous horizon of this southern region was of some 45 degrees, and after the first ten minutes of movement at an even speed, the brilliance of the edges of the object dimmed until it barely became visible 40 minutes after the initial sighting.

The phenomenon was seen best by residents of the suburbs of San Martín de los Andes due to the absence of electric lighting.

The fact that the direction of its travel did not coincide with that of the prevailing winds helps to discard any suggestions of a mass of clouds. "It wasn't smoke, because it would have dissolved immediately. This thing appeared to have its own [kind] of density and a hole in its middle through which the stars could be seen as it went over us," indicated a resident of the Los Radales neighborhood, who witnessed these effects during the first 10 minutes of the sighting.

In Junín de los Andes, news of the sighting was transmitted by local radio station FM Quasar, and eyewitness accounts were broadcast shortly after. "I saw it for some ten minutes over Cerro de La Cruz, and it drew my attention, because had it been a cloud, it would have changed shape and not remained perfectly circular," stated a teacher who witnessed the event from the vicinity of Parque Industrial.

Ana Hall was not only among the many residents of San Martín and Junín de los Andes who followed the event, but she also took hold of her photo camera and took repeated snapshots of the phenomenon in the hopes of capturing the event on film. But no image could be seen after the film was developed.

The same brilliant white image passed over the rural region of Villa Regina and Roca that night. It was later possible to determine that the ring was formed by two circles: a larger outer one and a smaller inner one which gave off white light and was perfectly silent.

The object was seen here at around 21:35 hours and lazily flew over the area for 20 minutes until it rose into the night sky and vanished altogether. Numerous witnesses in the rural area of Regina, Chinchinales and Valle Azul indicated having seen the phenomenon. One woman stated that the object was originally flying at a low altitude and disappeared from sight upon gaining altitude. According to Carla Pérez: "it was around 21:35 when I saw it over the river. It seemed to fly at a very low altitude, because when I looked at the object, it could see it halfway over the tree line. It later rose into the sky and vanished."

Seen By Students Leaving School

SAN ANTONIO OESTE. On Monday night, shortly before 22:00 hours, students majoring in Fishing Production were returning home after late classes at the *Instituto de Biología Marina y Pesquera Almirante Storni* were startled to see a luminous circle that appeared over the Municipal Museum and vanished over the research center's building.

One student described the phenomenon stating that "the circle moved slowly; it was transparent at its center and white at the edges. When it flew directly over us it stopped and then vanished." The group of witnesses, consisting of ten students and an instructor, were unable to confirm the nature of the phenomenon. The object had already disappeared from view by the time members of the Instituto appeared with photographic equipment.

This case has many points of contact with another two famous cases in Argentinean ufology, one of them which has been christened "The Night of the Twin Moons" and which occurred on June 14, 1980. This case created (and still creates) a considerable controversy among researchers, some of whom argued that the object appeared to move intelligently and followed a trajectory that brought it close to a number of military airfields, and those who believed that the object was merely an upper atmosphere experiment conducted by NASA.

The present case has many of the same characteristics as the earlier one, particularly in its "clouded" appearance. An additional detail can be found in the fact that the witnesses

agree that it moved contrary to the prevailing wind, which would be the case if we were dealing with a luminous phenomenon in the upper atmosphere.

In my opinion, a very important detail to keep in mind, is the testimony of two people on America TV who observed the phenomenon as it passed over Santa Rosa, with the apparent loss of power to the engine of one witnesses' car. While it is clearly possible that both events have no connection, the phenomenon of the "sudden" stoppage of machinery or automobiles in the presence of UFOs is a very common pattern of behavior within the phenomenon.

UFOs in Southern Spain: A Report by the S.I.B. Betelgeuse Group
by Antonio Salinas

On December 15, 1998, we were made aware of the fact that the Canal Sur TV station's *Andalucía Directo* program had aired the news that a rather spectacular UFO sighting had just occurred in the vicinity of El Morche (a small coastal community located some 55 kilometers from Málaga and one kilometer from Torrox).

Without any further information beyond the name of the town, a team of the Sociedad de Investigaciones Biofísicas (S.I.B.) composed of José Antonio Martín and Antonio Salinas visited the location in question. Between 10:00 hrs. and 23:30 hrs. of December 16th we devoted ourselves to gathering as much data and eyewitness information as possible.

We began by collecting the various news items appearing in the local press. The DIARIO newspaper posted the first news item on 12/15 with the headline: "Residents of El Morche State Having Seen UFO Fly Over Coast." One of the first things we became aware of had to do with the fact that there wasn't only one UFO sighting. Since December 13 at 01:40 hrs until December 14th, there were many objects observed, and we interviewed numerous witnesses (including members of law enforcement).

The nights of the days in question (12/13-14) were dark and moonless. It would appear that what always attracted the witnesses attention was the buzzing sound of a powerful but distant engine. Locals are used to the noise made by jet fighters since they live in a military air corridor. However, they insisted that the sound in question was not similar to said aircraft: it was lower (I suggested the droning sound made by bombers in movies and they told me that it was more or less similar).

What the following witnesses observed was the transit--on three separate occasions--of a formation of multicolored lights (red, white and stroboscopic lights). This curious formation passed over El Morche (sighting made at 02:15 hrs. on 12/13) and according to the description made by Lurdes (surname omitted, age 25) follows: three strobe lights followed by fixed red lights on either side, the one fixed white light and a fixed red light.

The formation of lights flew very slowly overhead. Witnesses claim that the sighting lasted over 10 minutes, and the lights moved in unison, as if forming part of a single structure. However, stars could be seen through the hypothetical structure, as if it were invisible. Altitude is open to debate. While some witnesses state that the lights were flying at low altitude, others insist their altitude was in fact quite high. On the other hand, while the lights were visible, it was impossible to see any solid body holding them together due to the darkness of the night. The formations passed over El Morche at the following times:

01:40 hours

02:15 hours

03:40 hours

Their general heading was toward the NE. With the aid of one of the witnesses we were able to determine a more precise flight trajectory: vector 060. The objects appeared to have come from the sea, exactly from the SW (heading 280 degrees).

Miguel Armijo, a filling station worker who was celebrating at a bachelor party in farm close to Frigiliana, witnessed another formation toward 02:30 hours. The final grouping of red lights appeared to be slower than the forward group, as if flying more slowly. We believe that this could be the group of lights seen toward 02:15 over EL Morche. The changes in velocity are evidence that there were changes in the formation.

Gregorio Cabello Algan of the Torrox *Guardia Civil* witnessed a formation of fixed red lights at 01:45 hours. Over the initial red lights there was another set of white lights superimposed over the formation. Rafael González Mora of the Torrox police noticed a formation consisting entirely of white strobe lights followed by a "V"-shaped formation of red lights at 04:00 hours on December 14th. According to officer González, another similar formation appeared two minutes later. Speed was normal, according to the officer, and their course and altitude made him realize these were aircraft from the base at Rota. According to González, if they were coming from somewhere farther away they would have been flying higher. The formation's vector remained 060.

At midday, while we had lunch, we noticed that the sky had the characteristic contrails produced by military aircraft. These white streaks followed a northeasterly heading (060-070 approx.), following practically the same trajectory as the other formations described.

All of this indicated the presence of military formations crossing Spanish skies, probably heavy bombers escorted by fighter jets. Likewise, the route followed by these objects and their origin seemed to indicate that they came from Rota more than from the air facility at Morán.

The above appears to be confirmed, in part, by statements issued by the Asociación Astronómica Malagueña, which also saw the formations while teaching a course on astronomy in the mountains

of Málaga. According to this organization (we do not know if they saw the formation through their telescopes), the objects observed were merely airplanes.

Regardless of the fact that the phenomenon had been explained with a certainty of almost 99%, a number of comments made in the community led us to tread cautiously and not get ahead of ourselves. It was better to wait a while before making any kind of statement. We spent the entire afternoon tracking down the source of a rumor that claimed that the formation of lights had stopped at low altitude over the roof of an industrial warehouse. We combed the area, asking questions about the event, but we were unable to find the presumptive witness, which led us to give up on the "phantom account".

Around 23:30 hours, while we conducted an improvised UFO alert in the event that the formation should pass by once again, we were alerted by a radio station that Baghdad was being bombed. This was later confirmed by numerous broadcasts.

It is by now evident that what was seen on the evenings in question were nothing more than bombers and fighters on their way to the Persian Gulf. S.I.B. is currently seeking confirmation from the Ministry of Defense concerning this point. In spite of the first official declarations, it is now being said that no air bases on Spanish soil were employed as a launching pad or refueling stop for the attack. The statements made by civilian and official witnesses alike appear to indicate that the Rota Air Base could have been used as a take-off point.

Josep Guijarro is another outstanding member of Spain's "third generation" of UFO researchers and has the distinction of being one of the few investigators to have witnessed one of the so-called Grey aliens during the course of researching an abduction case. Today, Josep is the senior writer for KARMA-7 magazine, his country's longest-running paranormal publication.

Secrets of the Friendship: When Ham Operators Contact UFOs

by Josep Guijarro

Since 1984, a group of ham radio operators has claimed to be in contact with a strange congregation known as "the Friendship"--composed of beings of a Nordic aspect and having strange accents who have considerable technical knowledge and have also predicted important scientific, political and social events, aside from forecasting UFO sightings. Could "the Friendship" be extraterrestrial in nature? Many believe that this is the case and that their bases are scattered around the world at seven different locations.

It rained intensely throughout the afternoon--an entirely

normal event in that small coastal settlement in southern Chile. For many hours now, the dominant colors in Puerto Montt were shades of gray. Everything seemed enshrouded by a dense fog: the humble wooden homes, the fishermen's wharf, the pier. The scent of wet earth, the mud of the streets and the dampness of my clothes, above all else, brought me back to reality. Standing in front of the bus terminal I saw the last vehicle to board the ferry that crossed the Chacao Channel, the one slated to take me to Chile's southernmost point and to the gates of a mysterious island that does not appear on sea charts and which according to rumor, houses an alien base. The exciting adventure had to wait still one more day, although my research had started long before in Santiago, the Chilean capital.

The Origin--A UFO Incident

Santiago is the home of Octavio Ortiz--married, father of three daughters and a business agent who matches his professional and family life with his devotion to radio. He owns a 27 megacycle CB base station with which he shares comradeship with other ham operators. His handle is *Lucero* ("bright star").

In mid-1984, while manning his station, Octavio would receive a distress call from the *Mitilus II*, a ship working for the Department of Oceanography of the University of Chile, and which was apparently cruising in the vicinity of the *Mitagüe* lighthouse in the southern reaches of the country. Alberto, the ship's master, was anxious to reach Iquique because he was in the thrall of a mysterious light that inflicted damage to the ship's electronic gear. The strange object began to descend and hovered over the ship. It must have radiated a great deal of energy, because some of the sailors began to experience considerable hair loss.

But the strangeness was not circumscribed to the above. Hector, captain of the *Black Web*, which sailed in the vicinity of *Mitigüe* Light and witnessed the UFO incident in astonishment, also noticed that an incredibly powerful radio station broke into the communications underway. The VU meter's needles jumped past the +30 mark and a tense silence followed. the object disappeared soon after.

Octavio could not believe what he was hearing, and being willing to serve as a "bridge" to eventual communications with Iquique, he took the microphone decisively and rendered assistance. "That was how I met the mysterious Alberto," he reminisced, sitting in a rocking chair in his home. "We struck up a good friendship and less than a year later, he told us that some *gringos* who'd hired him had taken him to an island and outfitted his ship with strange equipment."

Alberto had acquired his vessel through a loan from CORFO (Chile's development corporation) and like many others, he was unable to withstand the jump in interest rates during the economic crunch of the '80s. Mired in terrible debts, he ran south and became a pirate. There he met Ernesto de la Fuente, a sound engineer taken by the winds of fate to the small town of Quemchi and who had just recently met some strange *gringos* who claimed to

belong to a shadowy congregation dubbed the Friendship. De la Fuente recommended Alberto's services to these curious characters, who needed supplies brought in, and in return, they would liquidate his debts and would also rearrange his life.

The Mystery of the Friendship

The *gringos* looked nothing like Americans: they were handsome, tall beings with blond hair and dressed in curious outfits. Who were they, indeed?

They professed ignorance about the most elementary items of our society, but were gifted with a remarkable knowledge of physics, biology and mathematics. Their speeches were swathed in spiritualism and they concealed their identities by taking the names of angels as their own. The Friendship claimed to have its headquarters on a base lost amid the Chonos and Guaytecas Archipelago, consisting of over 3,800 islands, and also claimed to possess highly advanced technology in the fields of medicine and astronautics.

UFO Sightings By Appointment

Over the course of a year, Alberto and Octavio would have frequent discussions about life in the disquieting island and its mysterious occupants over their ham radios. A while went by without the skipper of the *Milius II* taking to the air, but when he reappeared, he introduced Octavio and his family to Ariel, one of the island's quizzical occupants, who clearly possessed an amazing grasp of medicine, architecture and communications. "Whenever this happens," Octavio explains, seated in front of his base station, "the needle indicates the maximum--a tremendously powerful broadcaster." Curiosity over the true identities of those who conceal themselves under the guise of "angels of the Lord" disrupts the Ortiz family's life: the radio remains on at all hours and Cristina, Octavio's wife--a shrewd and restless woman--makes an effort at getting to the bottom of the greatest question: the origins of their interlocutors.

"We are not of this world," they reply, "but we are part of Humankind."

It isn't until August 17, 1985 that the Ortiz family realizes that they are truly facing the extraordinary.

Around 2:30 p.m., Cristina, who was glued to the radio along with her daughter Claudia, heard a call from the Friendship, saying: "Come out! Come out!" Cristina went out to the patio of their farm in La Florida and looked heavenward. In a matter of minutes, she was able to make out a shining object suspended in the sky. Excitedly, she made contact with Ariel and suggested certain movements which were obediently carried out by the shining object.

Was the Friendship controlling that flying saucer? That is what can be deduced by reading the transcript of the communications.

Thousands of citizens were made aware of the object's presence. A crew from Televisión Nacional (TVN) even managed to

capture it on film. Elsa Marina, an eyewitness, stated that she "felt like weeping and felt insignificant in the face of what was taking place in the sky over her home..."

Gustavo Rodríguez, who subsequently became assistant director of the air traffic department of the *Dirección de Aeronáutica* [Chile's equivalent of the FAA--Ed.] was at the home of one of his siblings celebrating a nephew's birthday when he witnessed the event: "It was a light having the apparent size of an orange and which gave the impression of spinning on its axis. It was hanging in space and exhibited little or no movement."

In the measure that the sun went down, Rodríguez noticed the presence of a darker sphere. The second object was opaque and appeared to follow the same trajectory as the first, heading toward the mountains. In fact, the phenomenon was witnessed in Argentina, as shown by newspaper clippings of the time. Were those objects UFO's?

Agents of the Weather Bureau, who confessed having seen the mystery object, noted that no rational explanation could be ascribed to the phenomenon--at least not from the perspective of their profession. Astronomers at the Cerro Calán observatory--Carlos Torres, Guillermo Carrasco and Herbert Wroblewsky--managed to photograph the object through their telescope and discarded the possibility that it might have been a weather balloon. "First of all, it had an entirely different configuration," recalls astronomer Torres. "Nor could it have been an artificial satellite, because it would have had to have been massive in size to resemble what was seen."

All three astronomers agreed on the fact that the object was surrounded by a shining "ring" and some sort of antenna!

Renowned ufologist Jorge E. Anfruns made note of a highly important detail: "Some of the ham operators were phoning the newspapers to report interference with their sophisticated equipment." The Friendship at work?

It was imperative to find out if a CB broadcast could cover the more than three thousand kilometers which separate the archipelago from Santiago. In the opinion of analyst and DX'er Gabriel Osses Valdés, "with a properly calibrated antenna, meaning one that is on the frequency one intends to use, it is possible to have a small setup and communicate properly across long distances," adding that "long distance communication is much more feasible from the small islands of the south than from anywhere else, since the ocean acts as a reflector for the waves and there's nothing to get in their way."

Cristina and Octavio, however, believe that Ariel was aboard that object. "If not, how could they have seen the airplanes approaching the object? How could they remotely guide that object at a distance of thousands of miles?"

The Official Investigation Begins

The excitement caused by the sighting was such that on the following day, *Aeronáutica's* director, Sergio Piñeiro, ordered Rodríguez to begin an investigation.

As the official report (to which I had access) indicates, at

15:40 LMT, radar picked up an unidentified object located 20 nautical miles to the west of the El Tabón beacon and moving slowly toward the west. "The radar return," explains Rodríguez, "is fair to poor, and only the raw primary signal can be seen." At 16:00 LMT, a number of flights make contact with the object. On the one hand, a Boeing 727 coming in from the north, and on the other, Ladeco Flight 061 and the CC-LHL flying between Limache to Tobalaba. According to eyewitness accounts, the UFOs were at a considerable altitude and were moving very slowly in an eastward direction, remaining visible until 19:30 hours. Might they have been balloons?

Despite the fact that some newspapers latched on to the weather balloon explanation, such a device is unable to remain static in the same location for five hours. The report of the *Dirección General de Aeronáutica Civil*, on the other hand, concluded that: "the manifestations of that day, until the closing of this investigation, remain an enigma and go on to enlarge the file on unexplained phenomena."

To dispel any doubts, a few days later, Melbourne, Australia's chief meteorologist, Dr. J.W. Zillman, issued a press release regarding the possibility that the objects belonged to his country. "They do not form part of any project of the Australian weather bureau...the endurance of these balloons is not sufficient to allow them to fly as far as Chile."

"At the time," explains Anfruns, "the U.S. Navy was holding exercises off Valparaiso," making reference to the UNITAS maneuvers conducted with allied countries in the Pacific Ocean. "If we monitor airspace with over seven thousand satellites, why can't extraterrestrials monitor our war games?"

The fact of the matter is that at the time that this extraordinary event took place, a number of sightings occurred throughout the length of the country. But what was their connection to the mysterious island? And if so, what were they up to?

It would seem that the object, in fact, had come up out of the south. This is confirmed by the photograph acquired by Jorge E. Anfruns from a man who was travelling in the interior aboard a rural bus: he pointed his camera out the window in the vicinity of San Fernando, a town located 140 km. south of Santiago.

According to the trigonometry study which took into consideration the distance and size of telephone poles and automobiles, the UFO was located barely 370 meters over the surface.

A One-Way Ticket

What did the Friendship want to prove with this show of force? According to veteran researcher Hugo Pacheco, the Friendship carefully selects its contacts and after a trial period, invites them to their mysterious island and readies them to travel to *another planet*.

Pacheco, 73, remains youthful. He is a public administrator, an engineer and glider pilot. One of the pioneer ufologists in his country, his beliefs leaned more toward radical scientism than the

current mystical trend. On Saturdays, he holds a small group of people at his home to read and discuss biblical texts from a ufological perspective. According to the rumors that reached me, Pacheco's meetings welcomed an individual who chose members of the group to visit the mysterious island. Meeting this person was imperative...

(To be continued in a future issue of INEXPLICATA)

Antonio Ribera is the dean of Spain's UFO community and undoubtedly one of its most prolific authors. In September 1998, "La Vanguardia" newspaper interviewed this ufological giant. To those who do not know him, Ribera says: "I'm 78 years old. I was born in Barcelona and live in Sant Feliu de Codines. I am a writer and researcher of the unknown. A Capricorn. I have three children from my first marriage. I live with Trini, my present mate, and two dogs lacking pedigrees ("Bruno" and "Chispa") on a pension of 54,000 pesetas (US\$380). Since 1961 I've published 21 books on the UFO phenomenon, that latest of which is entitled Abducción." (Ediciones del Bronce).

An Interview with Antonio Ribera: "If You're Ever Abducted, You'll Never Know It"

by Victor Amela

Q: Is there indeed intelligent life out there, Mr. Ribera?

AR: Yes. There are beings with an intelligence greater and lesser than our own, which is about average.

Q: How do you know this?

AR: It's my hypothesis. There are no exceptions in the universe. Life and intelligent life are universal phenomena coexisting on various levels of evolution.

Q: And do UFOs constitute the proof of this?

AR: UFOs are super-machines, possibly powered by electromagnetism and having an interplanetary origin.

Q: You must admit that it's hard to believe...

AR: It's my conviction, and I said as much in 1979 before the British House of Lords, at Lord Clancarty's invitation.

Q: And how did the Lords react to that?

AR: One of them stood up and asked me: "And why don't these ships burn up upon entering the Earth's atmosphere, Mr. Ribera?" I replied: "Because they're not made by NASA, milord."

Q: Couldn't they be Pentagon prototypes?

AR: Not a chance. It's a technology far superior to our own. Governments conceal the fact.

Q: While science rejects it...

AR: Many scientists behave today much as Laplace did in the 18th century, when he told his son: "Do not pursue astronomy, since everything in that field is already known."

Q: Is it necessary to study ufology?

AR: The UFO phenomenon is the greatest enigma--the greatest challenge to our science.

Q: And you have been in this field since when?

AR: In 1930, at the age of ten, I saw a film that impressed me greatly, The Woman in the Moon by Fritz Lang. I then became fascinated by anything unusual and curious.

Q: It wasn't a youthful obsession, I see...

AR: More than an obsession, it is a malady that has lasted my whole life.

Q: Could you teach a thing or two to Fox Mulder of TV's X-Files?

AR: It's a proper series. It's evident that Chris Carter has good information and good advisors.

Q: How many UFOs have you seen?

AR: I've seen them on eight occasions.

Q: Maybe they were airplanes...

AR:...or meteorites, satellites, thermal inversions, flocks of birds, weather balloons. Say no more. Ninety-five per cent of all sightings are in fact that, but the remaining five per cent is utterly inexplicable, like what I saw.

Q: Since when have they been visiting us?

AR: UFOs are depicted in the caves of Altamira, La Pasiega and Puente Viesgo.

Q: If that's the case, then why haven't they chosen to contact us?

AR: They do, but they don't turn up with a bunch of roses for the president's wife.

Q: Then how do they do it?

AR: Through abductions. An abduction is the transient kidnapping of a human by alleged aliens. Abductees subsequently recall nothing at all.

Q: Maybe I've been abducted?

AR: If you have any amnesic lapses in your life, a few hours of missing time, it could be due to an abduction episode. Regressive hypnosis could determine if this is indeed the case.

Q: Have you been abducted?

AR: I would have liked to have been. But I'm too old and sick now, and they want healthy young people. Shame. I'm an action man. A strange combination indeed--a man of letters and of action at the same time.

Q: Give us an example.

AR: Together with Eduardo Admetlla, we were the first to dive in Spain using the regulators Cousteau had invented, in the early 1950's. In the winter, we went diving in woolen jerseys! I wrote the world's first underwater travel guide in 1956: Guía submarina de la Costa Brava with a foreword by Josep Pla.

Q: So, from the depths of the sea to the depths of space, right?

AR: Yes. In 1958, I founded the Centro de Estudios Interplanetarios along with Márius Lleget, Antoni Pelegri and Eduardo Buelta. We were interested in the UFO enigma.

Q: When did you publish your first UFO book?

AR: In 1961. It was entitled Objetos desconocidos en el cielo. The publisher, Ignacio Agustí (of "La saga de los Rius" fame) kept in a drawer for over a year. He was afraid to print it for fear of ridicule! In the end he took a chance and it was a big hit.

Q: A subject that draws the attention of millions of people, if only casually.

AR: That has been the case since 1947, with the first massive

"flying saucer" wave--which is how aviator Kenneth Arnold described them--in the United States. It's funny. Pliny the Elder described them in much the same way two thousand years earlier.

Q: How's that?

AR: As *clipei ardentis*. In the second book of his *Natural History* he compares unknown flying objects to *clipei*, the small round shields used by Roman soldiers. You see? They were and are among us.

Q: Agreed. Well, advise me on what I should do if I run into a UFO...

AR: Don't lose your calm. Continue your path without making any attempts, and see what happens.

Q: What if I get abducted?

AR: You won't recall. Maybe they'll stick a chip in you. You'll only be left with an unconscious trauma similar to that of rape...

It should perhaps be pointed out that articles such as the following one and "The Prostitution of Paranormal Journalism" (INEXPLICATA #2, Winter 1998) have led to Manuel Carballal being banned as a contributor to Spain's Año Cero, Karma-7 and Enigmas magazines. INEXPLICATA deplores this situation and urges these publications to reconsider the ban.

UFO Videos: Hoaxes and Confusion

by Manuel Carballal

It is too often that ufologists wield videotapes of unidentified flying objects as if these recordings constituted irrefutable evidence of the phenomenon. Undoubtedly, videos provide elements of judgement having considerable weight when it comes time to rule on a given UFO event. However, it is much too often that the rush to reveal the information on a given event leads UFO journalists (rather than ufologists) to make hurried determinations on the nature of a given UFO video to justify a sensationalist banner headline.

A choice example of this sensational manipulation of UFO footage, commercially released without any prior analysis, can be seen in the television programs of Mexican journalist Jaime Maussán. There can be no doubt that his efforts have contributed to the popularization of the UFO phenomenon among the Mexican masses as never before. However, we have reasons to suspect that a high percentage of the videos included in his series *Los Vigilantes* ("The Watchers") are recordings of conventional objects and even hoaxes.

When Maussán undertook the indiscriminate broadcasting of UFO videos on Mexican television in the early Nineties, we were able to witness an interesting interaction effect with the phenomenon. In other words, the number of UFO films obtained in Mexico was directly proportional to the number of UFO programs Maussán presented on Galavisión, which in turn led Maussán to have video

material to undertake new programs and so forth. We can safely say hundreds of them. Over the past years, Jaime Maussán has broadcast an astounding number of UFO videos over his television programs. We will not pass judgement on the notable specials he has devoted to Area 51, sightings made by astronauts, the Meier Case, etc.-- subjects worthy of individual treatment, and even though one may dissent from the statements made by some of them, or question the overall reliability of said subjects, we can nonetheless thank Maussán for gaining access to history-making information and eyewitness testimony, which are highly interesting as such. But this does not keep some of these videos from being not only misidentifications of conventional objects, but even outright fakes.

New York based researcher Manuel Fernández decided to test the credibility of the videos issued by Maussán by anonymously submitting to his attention a fraudulent video. To do this, he merely took an ordinary toy balloon, covered reflective silver paper, and filmed it at a given distance without the excessive zooming-in that would reveal the thread dangling from the "UFO's" underside. He also made the camera go deliberately out of focus and made sudden moves to feign nervousness. He later copied the video onto a second tape in order to conceal the moment at which an accomplice released the balloon and its telltale rising motion. He then mailed the video to Maussán.

A few weeks later, he was treated to the sight of his phony video included among many other recordings of alleged UFOs on the Mexican TV show. Any amateur researcher with the slightest bit of interest and a computer could have enhanced the image and discovered that it was nothing more than a cute toy balloon.

In my opinion, the problem does not lie in the fact that Maussán broadcast hundreds of UFO videos without any prior analysis. There is nothing unlawful about this, and he has indeed given researchers a vast amount of "ufological raw material" for subsequent study by experts. There can be no doubt that had it not been for Maussán and his show *Los Vigilantes*, we would have never learned of some highly interesting cases which took place in Mexico during this decade. However, it is also true that the alien psychosis which gripped the town of Jojutla (Morelos) on October 31st of last year, when radio station XERT repeated Orson Welles' legendary experiment and broadcasted the story of an alien invasion based on H.G. Wells' The War of the Worlds, would not have been stoked. I am convinced the Jaime Maussán's UFO videos have sensitized the Mexican people to more readily accept news of an alien invasion as something credible. I think this is an excellent matter to reflect upon.

The journalistic treatment of UFO videos is not limited to Mexico, of course. It would be absurd to ask the news media to refrain from making commercial use of something that is as attractive to the public as "alien spaceships captured on video", since whether explicitly or implicitly, these images are merely films of objects --usually lights--that are unknown to the observer and seen at a given moment.

Between 1996 and 1997, for example, over a dozen of UFO videos were taken in Galicia alone during its famous "wave". Over

a dozen that have found their way to our files, of course. There are many more out there, undoubtedly. However, never before in the history of Galician ufology had such a quantity of UFO images been obtained in such a short time span. Without any doubt, in Galicia, as well as in Mexico, the constant presence of news, programs and reports on the wave, broadcast on all local, regional and national networks, caused amateur cameramen to head for the hills each night, armed with their cameras, in search of the yearned-for piece of the UFO puzzle to be immortalized on video. Again, this is not necessarily evil. However, it is no less true than most of these recordings were "suspect". Without any doubt, the expectation created in the broadcast media itself--as occurred in Mexico--favored an excessive flexibility of judgement when it came to accepting alleged UFO images, and I even daresay that some of these films were knowingly falsified by TV professionals, swept away by the journalistic demand for this type of "news".

I will offer an example: Without a doubt, second only to the video recordings made by Mr. Bartolomé Vázquez in As Pontes (La Coruña), which have been seen worldwide, the most famous UFO images captured during the "Galician Wave" were the ones taken by *Televisión Local Terra de Lemos* in Monforte (Lugo). There are two recordings, taken on separate days, by this station's cameras. The first images were obtained when some residents of the village phoned the TV station, interrupting a live program, to report on the presence of an unknown luminous object in the sky. A cameraman reported immediately to the scene, securing images of the UFO which were remote but no less interesting. The images were transmitted immediately on the local news and were later rebroadcast nationwide on the program *Esta Noche Cruzamos el Mississippi* on the Tele-5 network. A few days later, and in the wake of the expectations created throughout the community by the visit of the "unidentifieds", a new film emerged. This time it was not one single phone call but hundreds that received in the newsroom of *Televisión Local de Monforte* to interrupt a news magazine discussing the UFO presence. As network director Da. Pilar Varela told us, the switchboard collapsed due to the dozens of incoming phone calls from residents allegedly seeing strange lights.

Once more, a cameraman whose name I shall omit, took to the streets with the intention of recording the object in question. He returned to the network a few hours later with the tape, which was broadcast immediately. This time, TV screens presented a much larger object (apparently) of a bluish hue, spherical in shape but with two very clear notches inside it. That image was also broadcast by Pepe Navarro, who availed himself of extremely generous adjectives to qualify it: *a spectacular image! a very large spacecraft! look, look at the large unknown object that flew over Monforte!..*

Shortly before and shortly afterwards, nearly identical images were obtained in Canarias, Zaragoza, Cáceres, etc. The majority of them featured a similar object, at least at certain points of the recording. However, the first manipulation lies in the choice of images, since none of the networks presented the recordings in their entirety--only those seconds in which the

object can be seen occupying the greatest amount of space on-screen. As occurs only too often, size is mistaken with quality.

If Tele-5 or any other station would have presented these videos in their entirety (wishful thinking, given the limited amount of TV time), TV watchers would have noticed a series of erratic camera movements on the screen until the object is focused upon against all odds, given its small size, similar to that of a first magnitude star. Next, a series of close-ups and pull-backs made with the zoom lens become evident until finally focusing upon the object. These constant adjustments alter the object's appearance, causing it to increase in size due the image's deformation. This is what occurred in the second video taken at Monforte. The object taped is a diminutive spot of light that grows to massive proportions [...] producing another phenomenon that is customary in these video misadjustments: the appearance of tell-tale notches on both sides of the image, produced by an optical effect within the camera lens.

What I would like to convey here is that such a recording would be absolutely permissible had it been made by an amateur videographer. In such a case--at least according to my perception--it would entail no more than a recording error produced by the nervousness of the occasion. Hundreds of excited citizen had taken to the streets of Monforte, gesturing nervously at the sky, and the cameraman, who can barely recognize that luminous point in the heavens, manipulates the zoom by gaining and losing magnification [...].

But this was not the case. The author of the second video was a professional cameraman. The two of us know that on that evening, an object (perhaps Venus, perhaps a bona fide UFO), unleashed hysteria in Monforte. He took to the streets because his mission, as a professional TV journalist, was to capture the image of a UFO on tape, and he did so. However, at no time did he state that the alluring form which flooded TV screens nationwide was in fact a recognized optical phenomenon that bore no relation whatsoever to the real aspect of the object sighted over Monforte. To my understanding, this nuance alone qualifies the video as a hoax, inasmuch as it's a conscious manipulation of an image.

Some of these films, which are more than questionable, have already earned their place in recent ufological history and have been subjected to "comparative studies" with other similar films (equally manipulated, in my opinion); repeatedly used to illustrate articles, news items and reports. Images which I feel have been given a sensationalist, abusive treatment, such as Pepe Navarro's description of the object videotaped over Monforte de Lemos as a "very large spaceship".

Here's an example: the cover of issue number 7 (year II) of ENIGMAS magazine portrayed, under the customary buzzword "worldwide exclusive", a single frame of a video taken in Trujillo (Cáceres). The headline *Gran OVNI filmado en Cáceres* (Massive UFO filmed in Cáceres) was followed by the image of a bluish, circular object which drew the attention of all consumers from newsstands throughout Spain. The recording had been obtained on May 6th and had even been requested by functionaries of the Ministry of Defense due to its spectacular nature.

A few weeks after the story appeared, those in charge of the "Enigmas de actualidad" (Current Enigmas) column kindly furnished me an uncut copy of the video in question in order to subject it to analysis. The loaned tape was returned to the magazine a few days later to the ENIGMAS journalists along with my conclusions on the subject.

According to the tests conducted, the Trujillo film presented all of the characteristics of an astronomical object--possibly Venus--showing the all the signs of lack of focus, a tendency toward bluing, and the deformation of the image (including the aforementioned notch on the image's right side), which can be obtained by filming the planet Venus under conditions similar to the ones described by the witnesses. What I could see at first glance was a point of white light in the sky transformed by random manipulation of the zoom controls, into a "large blue object" showing apparent movement.

I won't categorize the descriptions given to the Trujillo object: "Giant UFO", "saucer-shaped", etc., with which I was in utter disagreement. I can well understand that a journalist's role is to offer a commercially attractive package. Ultimately, and sheltering those responsible for the news under their presumptions of innocence, neither I nor any other researcher had provided them with an image identical to the one shown on the video, obtained while filming the planet Venus under conditions similar to those experienced by the witnesses.

However, even after having provided my analysis of the video (absolutely free of charge, needless to say), not only was the evidence against the nature of the Trujillo UFO ignored--the image in question was repeatedly presented in successive magazine issues, portraying the Trujillo object as though it were a genuine UFO video (for example, see ENIGMAS #7, year III, pg.12). An opinion which I do not share, for obvious reasons.

I believe that the case of the Trujillo video also constitutes a fine example of the journalistic use of UFO films, and a new invitation to reflect upon the way in which information that goes against a good headline can be slanted in UFO journalism. Like someone said once in regard to journalistic ethics: "When choosing between a good headline and the truth, go for the headline..."

Fortunately, UFO videos don't always reach the media before analysts can get to them. Thanks to this, some recordings of "unidentifieds" which might have been labeled as giant UFOs, spectacular vessels etc. have instead been presented as what they really are: cute anecdotes concerning the human "psychology of perception".

A new case in point: a certain video presents an obviously three-dimensional, spindle-shaped object crossing the skies over Alicante in broad daylight. The witnesses, André and Yermani Grangier, a French tourist couple, were interviewed about the event by Pedro Amorós (president of SEIP). According to their testimony, they were in Alicante's "Valle del Sol" development when both they and their neighbors witnessed a dark object which momentarily reflected the sun's light and moved slowly in the sky from north to south. There was no wind in the area, nor any nearby

aeronautical facilities which could identify the object as a conventional airplane or helicopter. The video shows the UFO rotating on its own axis and curious protuberances on its top which in spite of the camera's zoom lens, cannot be seen with any clarity.

Pedro Amorós subjected the video to a number of computer analyses, filtering and processing the image until achieving the necessary clarity around the UFO's edges. To the surprise of all the parties involved, the UFO turned out to be a teddy bear-shaped toy balloon.

The moral in this case is that advanced computer programs, currently available to any PC user, provide researchers of the so-called UFO phenomenon excellent tools which make the hoaxing of videos increasingly harder.

In other words, it is increasingly easier to discover which UFO films are genuine or not, provided that one really wants to find out, instead of merely having an attractive journalistic headline.

Fortean phenomena (the anomalous occurrences that were the passion of author Charles Fort) are not exclusive to the U.K. or the U.S.. Pilar Abeijón is the editor of her own newsletter on the subject and a member of the Mundo Misterioso crew. This is her first contribution to INEXPLICATA. Welcome aboard!

Fortean Fish-Falls in Galicia?

by Pilar Abeijon

A resident of the Moncelos parish (province of Lugo), had the surprise of his life when he discovered that one of his properties was inundated with small fish and algae after a massive storm that had affected the area.

That Thursday afternoon, a torrential downpour had hit all of Lugo Province. Jaime Fernández, a Moncelos parishioner, concerned about the possible material damages the storm could have inflicted upon his properties, grabbed hold of a flashlight and decided to inspect the storm's impact on an esplanade not far from a greenhouse. His surprise at finding the bunches of small fish and a kind of algae scattered all over the premises is easily imaginable.

"Upon seeing the fish, my first thought was that someone had thrown their garbage onto his farm, since it's located by the roadside," Jaime explained. "But it later dawned on me that there were algae like the kind you see in fish tanks right next to the fish..."

A few days after the curious event, some of the small fish and algae fallen from the skies remained visible over a two hundred square meter surface, even though the vast majority of them had already fallen prey to birds and cats. Our initial impression, when Jaime's mother described the events, was that some fisherman without a permit had been caught in the act by the

Guardia Civil

and had scattered the proof of the crime within the farm. But this hypothesis would collapse upon examining some of the fishes and ascertaining that they were *jureles*, a type of maritime fish quite common in the Galician estuaries. We were further able to learn that particular type of algae is not found in riverine environments and that the only fish to be found there were lowly trout.

Throughout history, as countless oral and written accounts can attest, rain has not been the only thing to fall from the sky: on many occasions, to the astonishment of eyewitnesses, small creatures like frogs, toads, spiders, mice, snails, scarabs, worms or even fish, as in this instance, have rained from above.

In Spain, regions such as Extremadura and Andalucía have often found their streets plagued by frogs and fish after powerful storms have gone through the area in May and late summer. The most spectacular one of these took place in 1944 at San Vicente de Alcántara (Cáceres).

One afternoon, a black cloud covered the sky and a mixture of rain and hail fell upon the community. The locals hurried to shelter themselves within their homes, and once the storm had ended, they could see that the ground was covered with thumbnail-sized toads. The town's children, amused by the event, played at who could catch the greatest number of batrachians..

In certain countries, this type of phenomena occurs with such regularity that local residents eagerly await the event to profit from it. This occurs in Yoro (Honduras), for example.

Here, when the rainy season starts, the locals anxiously wait for the *chaparrón de peces* (literally, "fish cloudburst") with nets, buckets and other containers at the ready for catching the hundreds of sardines that fall from the sky.

In the Argentinean town of Timbuos, there is a popular saying that whenever the north wind blows over the Iber Lagoon, a rainfall of frogs can be expected.

However, the most coherent explanation that can be formulated in the light of these unusual phenomena has to do with the formation of strong wind currents and whirlwinds due to the differences of temperature that exist between the various air masses. These currents would be capable of dragging an infinite number of small objects that they have found in their wake and carry them through the air, such as frogs from a pond or the smallest fish of a given river. Once the wind loses strength, the animals fall with the rain many kilometers away from their point of origin, causing the bewilderment of all those who witness the event.

The second hypothesis, formulated by researcher Charles Fort at the turn of the century, has little acceptance among most researchers since it involves "teleportation". Fort believed in a force capable of transporting objects from one place to another without having covered any distance at all. Given its effect, this force could cause any object to disappear and make it reappear elsewhere. On certain occasions, there has also been talk of an event similar to rains of animals, but one that is much more curious and harder to explain: rains of objects.

The oldest such event recorded appears in the biblical Book of Joshua (10:11), describing a battle between Amorrites and Israelites which was influenced by a rain of stones caused by Yahweh, leading the latter to victory.

Ancient chronicles and etchings allude to rains of other absurd objects. During the year 746, crosses rained from the sky in Sicily. Fruit rained from the sky throughout the Middle Ages; Devonshire and Wansworth (U.K), Napa (California) and Reading and Chester (Pennsylvania) are allegedly the sites of ice storms that assume the shape of large blocks capable of inflicting heavy damage, whether by crushing cattle in the field or smashing the roofs of houses. Even more incredible are the rainfalls of blood seen during the 19th century in Paris, Granada and Bristol, or the nauseating chunks of meat that fell over Kentucky in 1876. The frightened residents of these communities attributed the unusual phenomena to divine retribution for mankind's moral decadence.

Despite the fact that this type of unusual phenomena appear to be legends or mere exaggerations by the gullible, the fact of the matter is that there are accounts that can be considered reliable and cases involving falls of small animals, such as the fish in Lugo, can be rationally explained. They remain curious events, nonetheless...

Roadside Encounters: UFOs, Aliens and Missing Time

by Javier García Blanco

Javier García Blanco is the editor (along with Angel Briongos Martinez) of Spain's DESCLASIFICADO magazine and the director of the LACIP organization. This is his second contribution to INEXPLICATA.

"That thing had the side of eight cars or more. In other words, when it was on top of us, it looked like a skyscraper..."

So certain were the words of Pedro Mateo, a veteran radio personality and graphic artists who kindly described to this author the UFO he had encountered during one of his journeys some twenty years ago. At that time he was in the company of his wife, Gloria Jiménez, and heading toward Barcelona, where they were scheduled to catch a flight that would take them to their destination, the German city of Dusseldorf. But Providence had something else in store for the couple.

"It happened on June 26, 1977. I have it etched upon my mind because we were flying to Dusseldorf that day, and most of what happens to me I write in a notebook. We had left Zaragoza very early--around five o'clock in the morning--and we were hoping to have lunch with my brother, who lives in Barcelona, before boarding our flight to Germany.

"When the event occurred it was already dawn and the sun was out. It was then, shortly after having passed [the town] of Los Garrigues, in Lérida, that we saw that thing appear on the other side..."

"What did the object look like?" I interrupted.

"Well, how can I describe it...it was disk shaped. A sort of..."

I offered Pedro Mateo my field book and he quickly drew an oval object with an indistinct edge to it.

"When I saw it for the first time, it was at a distance. I wasn't overly concerned since it was so far away. But suddenly, it began to move with incredible ease...soundlessly, and at a rate of speed that quickly put it over my car. And I got scared," Pedro told us, visibly moved. "It was then when I noticed a sign that read: Gas Station 1000 Meters. I sped as fast as I could, and when I looked I was driving at 160 kmh. Seconds later, we noticed the object disappearing the same way we saw it arrive.

"To us, it was a matter of seconds, but when we looked again, there was the sign that indicated the gas station's existence 1 kilometer away. Well, I told myself, it must be another sign. When we finally got there, it was a very odd gas station. Highways have always had service stations, and we found this gas station with two posts and a broken down shed, with the kind of pump one sees in American movies. A man emerged when we reached the site. I'm 1.76 meters tall," Mateo explained, "and that guy must have been 1.90, very tall, and dressed in very faded blue coveralls."

Pedro Mateo and his wife, still frightened by the mysterious encounter they had experienced, quizzed the man regarding the unusual object.

"I asked the man, listen, did you see something strange in the sky? and he covered his face with something that looked like a sandwich to me. He replied that nothing had happened all morning. Since we weren't going to buy any fuel, he got into the shed once more, but at no time were we able to see his face, since he covered it with that thing he kept in his hands..."

Three Hours Lost

Somewhat more relaxed, the Mateos decided to continue their drive to Barcelona, where they would meet their flight later on.

"I didn't look at my watch at the time," he gestured to his wristwatch. "and when we reached the airport, which can't be more than an hour away from where we were, it was already 2:15 p.m. and our flight was being called from the loudspeakers! Without knowing how or why, we'd lost around three hours. I was hoping to get there around 11:00 a.m., and my brother would be meeting us for lunch. However, when we got there, barely had time to catch the plane."

"But the most curious thing," Mateo explained with a certain degree of astonishment, "is that we didn't discuss the subject during the flight. Not for a long time. Not even on the way back."

Hours later and without further delays, they reached Dusseldorf. Having reached their hotel, Gloria Jiménez was ready to change her clothes when she noticed that her underwear was torn on one of its sides. In spite of this disquieting detail, some of the most disquieting and mysterious things would be discovered during the return trip, while driving in their *Seat 1430*.

"When we turned the radio on it played perfectly. But when we put a music cassette in the player, we realized it had been

erased. We tried with all the others, but none of them worked. What's even more surprising is that we tried taping over the cassettes once we got home, but it couldn't be done.

"And as if that wasn't bad enough, a pair of bifocals I used for reading and which I'd left on the glovebox had disappeared. They vanished after the event, and I've never seen them again. Furthermore, some time after, the car's paint job --red in color-- turned pinkish on the roof, on the hood and on the passenger side. The car got very ugly."

But not only the car and some of the objects within it had disappeared or experienced some sort of alteration. Pedro Mateo himself and his wife would find something in their bodies that would make them shiver.

"After our experience, someone left me a novel about some Americans, a racially mixed couple who'd experienced something similar to what we'd been through. Since then--and this is something I haven't told anyone--I've had a very strange wart on my testicles that doesn't hurt at all, and my wife has another on her genitals."

The incredible story of the Zaragozan couple would be completed some years later, when during supper with friends in a restaurant near Los Garrigues, they were able to prove that the strange filling station at which they'd stopped that day did not exist, and had never existed.

"We Lost All Notion of Time and Space..."

Only a year earlier, another Aragonese couple had lived through an experience similar to that of Pedro Mateo and his wife. On April 2, 1976, Alberto Ballarin and his wife, Maria Josefa Torres, were driving along highway N-240 heading toward their home in Monzón. At 10:30 p.m. they reached the town of Angües, where they made a brief stop.

After taking on fuel at a local service station, they resumed their trip, leaving the town behind and getting into a long stretch of road some 3 kilometers long. It was then that they noticed the presence of something strange on the road.

"We were on the road again when after only a few minutes--two or three--we saw something very strange coming down on us."

In the distance, they were able to see a strange light moving at some 55 kmh on the other lane of the road and in the contrary direction. Their first impression was that it was another vehicle, but as it grew closer, they were able to verify that the object lacked headlights or wheels, and that it engaged in an oscillating motion, "as if riding the waves."

The object, which was shaped "like a flattened pear," was some 3.5 meters tall by 7 or 8 meters wide. The UFO was hovering half a meter over the road surface and in perfect silence. Shortly afterward, the mysterious object crossed paths with the car and both witnesses were able to tell that the object gave off "large white or yellowish sparks, similar to those of a Catherine wheel." The husband urged the wife to turn around at try to see the license plate of the strange vehicle that had just passed them by. Logically, the woman only observed a bright light that rose

heavenward at great speed, losing itself in the heights.

"Look! look! my husband said," remembers María Josefa, "and I saw it up in the air, surrounded by a great brightness. Then, we suddenly found ourselves in front of the San Román *parador*. We didn't pass by the bridge nor the town of Lascellas. We lost all notion of time or space for fifteen minutes."

They reached home at 10:50 p.m., fifteen minutes faster than they should have, since that particular journey was one they always conducted at no more than 70 kmh given the difficulty presented by certain stretches of road. After the event, the couple felt "a great sense of calm, tranquility and well-being" which they experienced for a number of days. Furthermore, Mr. Ballarín noted that ever since, "the car runs better, has better engine performance, and even brakes better."

That very same night, Jaime Tresaco, Manuel Polo, Jesús Lleguet and Victor Bergua were assailed by a UFO on the N-136 highway linking Zaragoza and Huesca. Days earlier--on March 31 and April 1, specifically--other persons witnessed UFO activity in the vicinity of Huesca.

Car Chase at Los Monegros

But these cases involving Aragonese couples should not be considered isolated events. Numerous individuals claim to have been the victims of harrowing UFO chases while peacefully driving along lonely roads--such as those found in the almost deserted region of Los Monegros and the Alcupierre Mountains.

Jesús García, a 44 year-old truck driver, will never forget the ordeal he suffered during one of his many trips to the Aragonese capital. One night in early 1995, Jesus was going down county road 1104 in his Opel Corsa as he headed back to work in the capital city. The time was approximately 1:30 a.m. when he suddenly became aware of a light following him. At first, he took it to be another vehicle and gave it no importance, but shortly after, a quick glance at his rear view mirror proved the unconventional nature of the object behind him.

"When I looked through the rear view mirror, I was able to see a rectangular object surrounded by multicolored lights blinking at regular intervals. That's when I became uneasy."

Feeling somewhat nervous, Jesús continued on his way, trying to put some distance between himself and his unexpected companion. But the strange object seemed to have its own agenda.

"I remember the radio being on and suddenly, the object sped up and got right behind me. The radio stopped operating at that point and I could only hear interference. Now I was really scared and I floored the accelerator. I had the car going at 140 kmh."

Anyone who has ever driven down the highway joining the towns of Farlete and Monegrillo will know from experience that it is hardly suitable for high speed driving. In spite of this, the frightened witness sped away with the understandable intention of getting rid of his pursuer. A few kilometers later, and after putting a hill between himself and the unknown object, he lost sight of his unwanted "tail".

A few months later, toward the end of July, another surprising encounter played out on Aragonese roads, specifically on the road that joins the locality of Alcubierre with Zaragoza. On July 25, Ana Casamayor was travelling along with her sister-in-law and youngest son along the road in question. But that summer afternoon would be different: "something" up in the sky would draw their attention. The journey proceeded normally until Ana became aware of something in the sky--a large oval-shaped object which remain suspended at a given altitude in mid-air.

"We were coming down from the *sierra* when we suddenly noticed that thing to the right. It was quiet, silvery and without any edges. It was dish-shaped, but not so rounded. It was tilted at an angle and seemed metallic."

In a matter of seconds, without giving them a chance to react, the mysterious object took off at high speed. After passing beside a hermitage nearby, the object vanished from sight, reappearing in the distance as it flew in a southerly direction.

"We didn't stop. It took us by surprise, of course...it began moving only seconds after we saw it, almost passing right over us...it headed in the direction of Casino Montesblancos. After losing sight of it, we managed to make out a small, silver, shiny point, which receded into the distance..."

As Big as Bullring

Another experience had occurred in the past not far from where Jesús García experienced his road pursuit. In the late 1960's, Francisco Martí Cuatrtero and four more young men who were doing military service in Zaragoza ran into a UFO of enormous proportions.

In the early morning hours of November 1, 1968, the five recruits were returning to Zaragoza after a pass granted due to the feast of All Saints. It was around 4:30 hours as they drove along the Los Monegros road with only 40 more kilometers to go before reaching their destination. Suddenly, one of the fellows noted: "Look, the sun's coming up." Within seconds they realized that the luminous disc was not the sun, since it was rising on the opposite side of the horizon.

The object grew closer, and when the car was half a kilometer away from the object, the radio stopped playing, the engine stopped and the headlights dimmed. The recruits would later notice that their wristwatches had also stopped at the very same time.

Terrified and in the thrall of a nervous breakdown, the young men looked on in amazement as the gigantic disk --described by the eyewitnesses as being the size of a bullring--landed some 500 meters to their left. After three endless minutes in which the object remained silent, it rose again and after a sudden acceleration, vanished from the eyes of the recruits. Once the UFO vanished, the car's engine, headlights and radio returned to their normal operation. Upon reaching their destination, they reported the sighting to their superiors, who initiated an investigation and subjected the recruits to detailed questioning.

In the Middle of the Road

Burgo de Ebro is a small town located at a certain distance from Zaragoza. During countless occasions, its residents have witnessed strange lights over their community's skies. One of the locals, Baltasar Caveró Andreu, a humble shepherd, received the fright of his life when he ran into a trio of strange creatures in the middle of the road.

It was sunset and Baltasar was headed back home in his motorcycle after having placed his flock of sheep back in their pens for the evening at a distance of some 2 kilometers from the town. Halfway along the road, he noticed three men standing in the road. Despite the poor highway conditions and the fact that Baltasar could not rive very fast, he came within some 40 or 50 meters of the strange entities.

"I thought: it must be the Guardia Civil," he says. "But it wasn't..."

Puzzled, the witness turned on his high beams. The "men" turned around and began running downhill. Deciding to find out exactly who they were, Baltasar followed them some for some 200 meters, but after doubling a curve, he was unable to find any trace of them. "I even stopped my motorbike, but I couldn't see anyone. I had no idea what could have become of them."

The three "men"--standing approximately 1.80 meters--were clad in white and had blue bands on the back of their outfits that reached from their shoulders down to their waists.

Caveró returned home feeling disturbed, surprised by the unusual event he had witnessed. There was a further surprise in store: "I ran into them again two days later."

On that occasion, Baltasar was heading to the pens to make sure his animals were well when he noticed something unusual was going on: the sheep and sheepdogs were exhibiting strange excitement--the animals were huddled against one of the walls. As he tried to open the lock to the pen's large door, he noticed two of the strange beings in white he'd seen earlier. They were still dressed in white and were flattened against the wall as if to avoid detection. The terrified shepherd fled the scene and headed for the Guardia Civil headquarters. Unfortunately, the beings were already gone by the time officials reached the pens.

Baltasar Caveró's case--researched a few years ago by J.J. Benítez--is only one more of the numerous encounters which occur on the lonely roads and trails linking the thousands of small towns of our geographical region.

Conclusion

Antonio Ballarín, Jesús García and Pedro Mateo are only some of thousands of witnesses who have had close encounters with UFOs or humanoids as they drove their vehicles along Spanish highways. These cases evince the phenomenon's interest in the human being and a desire to let itself be seen.

What is the purpose of the frantic high-speed pursuits in the middle of the night? Why do they assail frightened witnesses, turning a normal drive into a dangerous "adventure"? Who knows. The fact is that at this very moment some confident driver may be at verge of becoming the protagonist of an anguished "experience"

as he/she drives on some deserted road. And don't forget--you could be next...

EX LIBRIS
A Random Sampling of Hispanic Ufology in Print

Abducciones

by Magdalena del Amo-Freixedo. Cenlle (Ourense): Editorial Bell Book, 1998. Foreword by Salvador Freixedo. Softcover, 309 pages. Illustrations. e-mail: freixamo@interbook.net.

"The UFO phenomenon," writes Magdalena del Amo-Freixedo, "does not constitute a matter of belief. Rather, it is a problem of information." This indefatigable traveller, writer and journalist is also the author of *Los Habitantes Ocultos del Planeta*, *Experiencias con lo Trascendente* and *El Asesinato de las Niñas de Alcácer*. Don't let the one word title fool you: Abducciones deals with more than abduction phenomena. It explores the darker side of the UFO phenomenon world-wide and presents a refreshing view of the U.S. ufological community as can only be offered by someone standing outside the group. Indeed, Del Amo-Freixedo is holding up the mirror to us, and we may not like what we see.

Abducciones is a serious and detailed study of the problems experienced by the alleged victims of UFO abduction. Since the book is intended to be read by a non-U.S. audience, it dwells on cases that are well-known to readers on our side of the water. But the cases dealing with Latin America and Spain will certainly attract anyone's attention. Abducciones pays particular attention to the sexual component of the abduction phenomenon, stressing that our "uninvited visitors" (to use that old expression) have undue interest in "matters genital, reproductive and generational." Examples of this are found in a number of cases every bit as eye-opening as the Villas-Boas Case (Brazil, 1952) which appear in several chapters.

This book can fairly lay claim to being the most important UFO/paranormal book published in Spain during 1998. We urge our readers to dust off their high-school Spanish and make the effort to read Abducciones. You will be pleasantly surprised.

INEXPLICATA gives Abducciones ★ ★ ★ ★

MEXICO WATCH:
UFO and Paranormal Goings-On South of the Border
by
Dr. Rafael A. Lara Palmeros, CEFP

— Carlos Díaz and the UFO Reality Research Center

We had already made mention, in publications which are no longer in circulation (Samizdat Special Report: Mexico 1995 and Mexico 1996), of the suspicious handling of UFO research by both Carlos Díaz and Jaime Maussán. Our suspicions are now confirmed. In late November and early December 1998, Michael Hesseman and one of Billy Meier's sons visited the Mexican city of Cuernavaca (Morelos) to fine tune the formation, composition and comissioning of the UFO Reality Research Center, whose director will be Mr. Carlos Díaz, aided by his wife. This center is to be located in the city of Tepoztlán, a town not far from Cuernavaca and the site of alleged UFO activity for many years. The house, a two-storey residence purchased with the proceeds from Mr. Díaz's businesses, boasts a conference room, a film viewing room, a storefront for the sale of naturopathic products as well as the photos taken by the contactee. It shall also have tourist information concerning locations of "ufological interest" within the area.

Aside from the Diazes participation, the research center shall benefit from the technological consuting services of Lic. Victor Quezada's "SOL" group, which will be in charge of photo analysis. A relevant fact is that the alleged contactee initiated his the conquest of the Internet by placeing not only his 3 classic photographs on line, but another 10 images taken both by day and by night.

It is worth noting that the opening of this erstwhile research center will greatly benefit local restaurateurs, tour guides, peddlers of pseduo-esoterica and others who will proffit from the arrival of visitors and curiosity-seekers to Tepoztlán (the majority of the restaurants in the area feature photos of Carlos Díaz and his alleged UFOs. Many will wonder what Jaime Maussán's role will be in all this. The journalist's attitude is confusing, to say the least: on the one hand, he has allegedly told the media that Carlos Díaz is swindler and on the other hand, he will become the tenant of the lower floor of Díaz's residence in order to "manage" the contactee's business affairs.

The self-proclaimed "Great Researcher from Tepoztlán", "The New Guide of Mexican Spirituality", "The New Mexican Guru" and his coterie have embarked upon a new adventure involving dollars, the unwary and UFO disinformation, which is even sadder and more perilous.

Is this merely the opening scene of a new play?

MEXICO WATCH:
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Argentinean UFO Cult Features Extensive War Arsenal

Guillermo Romeu, the spearhead of a UFO cult known as RADAR 1, was found dead of a gunshot wound to the head on January 12, 1998. The investigations undertaken by judge Marcelo Hunkeler uncovered an arsenal of weaponry and high technology which the cult had apparently stockpiled since its creation in 1991. According to the statements made by Romeu before his death, the weapons were "...for purposes of training and defense against the Greys, since they are extremely hostile and are using us as a source of food."

Romeu's concubine, Cecilia Díaz, indicated that the cult would continue to pursue its activities and that it would have more weapons in San Isidro (Argentina). According to a statement issued by Angel Centeno, Argentina's Secretary of Worship, the cult may continue to exist since it is legally registered with the government. These activities are currently taking place at a location to the north of Buenos Aires.

The headquarters of RADAR 1 -- which also calls itself Iglesia Manantial, the Wellspring Church -- was searched by police, who found weapons and clothing that the members were expecting to use against an alleged "extraterrestrial attack" which is supposedly imminent. The church also owned a radio station from which they broadcast the idea of the "colonization of Earth" by alien forces.

Occult Revelations in Corporal Valdes's Experience

Chilean researcher Jorge E. Anfruns sent new information--hitherto unknown--concerning the strange events suffered by corporal Armando Valdes Garrido in the early morning hours of April 25, 1977.

As might be recalled, at 4:15 a.m. on that day, army corporal Armando Valdés underwent a highly important UFO experience in the Llussuma Mountains near Putre (Chile) in which he felt attracted by an unknown source of light and vanished from the sight of his platoon, which remained combat-ready. He was found 15 minutes later in a semi-conscious state, with his wristwatch calendar five days ahead of the current date and with a dense growth of beard. In mid-1998, Valdés left the armed forces and as a consequence, was freed from the order to keep silence regarding his fantastic experience.

Now an evangelical minister, Valdés interprets his odyssey as a demonic manifestation and would sooner forget about it.

According to the most recent documentation available on the case, corporal Valdés was diagnosed as a schizophrenic by psychiatrist Mario Dussel ("...during the psychiatric evaluation, he jumped from one subject to another and went as far as to draw a UFO on an image of the well-known Rorsasch Test"). According to Dussel, Valdés underwent seven electroshock treatments and

presented a severe affective discordance. One wonders: why Valdés was not discharged from the military?

MEXICO WATCH:
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It is believed that this decision is closely related to a UFO experience suffered by [Chilean dictator] Augusto Pinochet himself, who expressed a belief in the corporal's story and considered him a "go-between" with the aliens.

It must be noted that a number of personal effects and weapons vanished from the site of the putative UFO landing, which presented a subsidence greater than 30 centimeters, and the fact that other soliders may have also been abducted. All of this information forms part of corporal Valdés's "untold story", which also includes his two subsequent UFO sightings while stationed at a barracks in the city of Providencia.

_ Was the Chupacabras Captured in Honduras?

In mid-March 1998, the media announced the alleged capture and slaying of the mythical "Chupacabras" in the vicinity of Florida de Opatoro in the western department of La Paz in Honduras.

The mysterious beast was preserved by the town clergyman, Father Abel del Pilar, who indicated that it was an amphybious creature. The dessicated remains have awakened the imagination of the local peasantry as well as journalists, who without asking for expert opinions, determined that the Chupacabras had been slain in Honduras.

Deputy Ramón Villeda Bermúdez, a career veterinarian, believes that stories of the creature's capture are "foolish, since they concern a fish that has been modified on purpose to resemble a small devil." The animal in question is a type of fish commonly found in Europe and Asia and belonging to the genus Rhynobathus, similar to manta rays.

The Honduran Goatsucker is little more than a fish with a lengthened and sharpened muzzle whose pectoral fins extend to its skull.

Accounts concerning the capture of the elusive predator have once again proven spurious.