

Minnesota MUFON Journal

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Directors Report

By Bill McNeff, State Director, Minnesota MUFON

ETs & Prophecies

This issue is emphasizing the "very strange" aspects of UFOs and ETs. One of these aspects is predictions and prophecies of the future. For example, Bible prophecies are of interest to me, and may involve ETs in some cases, but to avoid offending anyone, I will not deal with these in this journal.

I am recounting the following incidents from memory, being short on time to check my sources, so I may have made some errors in some of the following. But, per a story documented in a popular science magazine back in the 50s or 60s, a woman driving a car in an eastern state saw a disk-shaped craft approach quite close to her automobile. She heard a "voice" saying that a certain person would have an accident later that day. After she got home, she learned that a few hours after the encounter that the person named had indeed had an "accident".

Betty Andreason, after having moved to Florida, received a warning from a strange voice over the telephone that one of her sons would be killed in an accident. A short time later, she learned that indeed one of her sons had been killed in an automobile accident.

I received a series of letters in 1989 and the early 1990s from a woman living in the Twin Cities who had "feelings" about future events which she believed came from ETs. She accurately forecast the Halloween blizzard of 1990, and also an earthquake in Central America, getting the timing correct to within a couple of weeks and the magnitude of the quake to within 0.2. (Later she made other predictions that proved incorrect, but in at least one of these cases, her prediction may have changed the future. This case was covered in detail in a newsletter a few years ago.)

Then there was also the incident in which John Dingley, in my presence (which I documented), predicted the appearance of a large triangular crop formation, nine days before such a formation appeared near Barbury Castle in England. There is a strong suspicion that some crop formations have been produced by ETs.

Such incidents would suggest, as some sources have implied, that ETs can either view or visit the future, or travel through time. If any of these ideas is true, then predictions or prophecies by alleged ET sources should be at least be viewed as having some probability of coming true. There are many philosophical problems with this view, such as the question of whether the future is fixed, or can be changed by man, or a divine being. Time travel to the past leads to the famous "Grandfather Paradox", in which someone prevents his own birth by shooting his grandfather. Time travel to the future could lead to a desire to change the future, and to action to attempt to do so.

As part of the abduction experiences reported by thousands of people, often the abductee at some point is given a TV-like presentation in which he or she



Minnesota Mufon Meetings

Sat., Nov. 10th

&

Sat., Dec. 8th

1:30-5pm

New Brighton Family
Service Center, 400 - 10th St.
NW (located 1/4-mile S.W.
of Hwy 694 and 35W.)

PARK FREE!

The building is designated as
non-smoking.

See map on back cover

Note: This building has no
special security or elevators,
so you can come and go as
you please and smoke
outdoors.

is shown a catastrophe which they are led to believe will or may befall the earth. Over time these catastrophes have varied, ranging from what appear to be large nuclear explosions to huge fires devastating large portions of the world. More recent presentations have not included the nuclear disasters, so perhaps we can imagine that these are only potential disasters which can possibly be avoided.

All of this is to prepare you for a "prediction" which comes from an alleged ET source. To protect the identity of the individual who has passed on this prediction, I will limit the details of this story. Suffice it to say that a human-looking person appeared to the witness under very unusual circumstances, alleged that he was an ET or was ET-connected, and told the witness that President Bush would not make it to the end of his term, and would be replaced by "a man named McCain and a committee of twenty". Note carefully, I am not saying that this prediction is likely to come true. The only purpose I have in recounting this is to prepare you for the possibility. For this to happen, of course, either the U.S. Constitution would have to be modified or suspended, and/or Vice President Cheney would have to be replaced by "a man named McCain". This latter could happen legally; Presidents can appoint someone to fill a Vice-Presidential vacancy.

In this business of UFO and ET hunting, there are plenty of things to amuse and amaze us. If this comes true, I will be amazed. But if it does come true, it will be just one more little bit of evidence that the UFO/ET phenomena has a lot of potential importance for humanity.

Pyramid-shaped UFO seen in Northern Chile by Dr. Virgilio Sanchez-Ocejo, ufomiami@prodigy.net, 10-10-1

A gigantic UFO was seen at the beach of Cavancha, in the northern Chilean city of Iquique. The sighting took place on October 5th of 2001. The eyewitnesses were a taxi driver and two of his passengers. They claimed that the UFO was about 300 yards long and shaped like a pyramid.

Carlos, a local taxi driver, was on his way to drop off two passengers to the coastal city of Iquique. It was around 19:45 PM. He was driving on a highway that runs between the beach and the local airport. Suddenly, he saw what appeared to be some lights coming from the south side of the beach. He initially thought it was an airplane because of the proximity to the airport. Nevertheless, he was very surprised to see that the object got closer and closer, perhaps too close for any

ordinary aircraft - as it hovered at about 1 kilometer from the highway.

Carlos kept driving. As he passed a curve, he was able to view the object from a slightly different angle. As he got even closer, he began to notice that around the object, it had red, yellow and green flashing lights, as well as a white light at the top. He also noticed that it was shaped like a giant pyramid.

"It almost looked like a giant stealth bomber. However, this object was about 300 yards in length, so it was not a plane. As it got closer, I began to accelerate the car. Suddenly, a very bright light came out from the bottom of the object, illuminating the entire beach. It was scary; the light was so strong that we were able to see the waves in the ocean. When I turned to see my passengers, they were speechless. We were all astonished", he said. The cab driver claimed that the sighting lasted about 20 minutes.

Jaime Ferrer R., Calama UFO Center, Translated by Mario Andrade

Laws of nature may change as Universe ages by Michael Christie

SYDNEY, Aug 16 (Reuters) - A team of international researchers has made a discovery that might force scientists to rewrite everything they know about physics -- that the basic laws of nature may be changing as the universe gets older.

If true, Albert Einstein's postulation that the speed of light is a constant, and other foundation stones of the science of physics in the past century, may have to be rethought.

"The theoretical implications are potentially enormous if this is right, and it's a big if," said University of New South Wales astrophysicist John Webb, who headed the research team. "But if it's right then the theoretical implications are possibly quite profound," Webb told Reuters on Thursday.

The findings by the Australian, U.S. and British researchers may also provide fodder for adherents of new theories, such as super string theory, which postulates that there may be extra dimensions in the cosmos that we know nothing about.

Scientists based their findings on observation of light from a quasar -- an extremely bright object that produces 10 trillion times as much energy per second as our sun -- passing through a cosmic gas cloud.

They first took a spectrum pattern as elements such as magnesium, zinc and hydrogen, which were present in the cloud, absorbed the quasar's light. This was then compared with a spectrum pattern created down on Earth -- and they found small unexplained differences. Those differences suggested that something, possibly the speed of light, had changed by the time it reached the Earth, trillions upon trillions of kilometers (miles) from the cloud.

GLIMPSE INTO PAST

The experimental results suggesting the laws of nature may not be constant came from observations of the quasar, 14 billion light years away, through Hawaii's 10-metre-wide Keck telescope.

Because they are extremely distant and, assuming that light travels at a finite speed, quasars can provide a glimpse of what happened during the Big Bang in which many believe the universe was formed.

Webb's team measured what is known as the fine structure constant, a concept involving a ratio of three quantities -- the charge on electrons, Planck's constant (a factor used in calculating measurements of energy) and the accepted speed of light.

Webb said they found a very small difference between the spectrum in the quasar and the one back in the laboratory, suggesting that one of the elements that made up the fine structure constant had changed.

"We don't know what is changed, we don't know whether it's the speed of light or the electron charge or Planck's constant," Webb said, but he added: "There are other theoretical reasons for preferring a change in the speed of light." He did not elaborate.

The findings do not prove the existence of extra dimensions, which are thought to be subatomic and may determine the forces of nature -- gravity, electromagnetism and the strong and weak nuclear forces.

But theories that the laws of nature may be altered by any change in the size of these tiny extra dimensions, possibly through the expansion of the universe, could explain the observations the team made with the quasar, Webb said. The findings of the international scientists are due to be published later this month.

Webb said it was early days and scientists would have to make sure the observations were correct before rushing off to invent new physical theories.

The team itself had already begun to go over a far larger amount of data from optical telescopes and preliminary results still showed the same difference.

"In a time scale of maybe two to three years, we would know whether this is right or wrong," he said. "But if it is right, then the impact on fundamental physics is huge and we will need new physics to explain what we've seen." Copyright 2001 Reuters Limited.

Authenticity of MJ-12 Documents by Richard Moss MNMUFON Assistant State Dir.

With a PhD in physics from Cornell, Robert Wood has had a career in the aerospace industry with Douglas Aircraft, then McDonnell Douglas, and now Boeing. He became interested in UFOs in 1967 when Professor James McDonald tried to get him to testify about work at Douglas related to gravity control and its relationship to UFOs.

He was on the Board of Directors for APRO and was asked to be Director of Research for MUFON in 1993. In concert with his son, Ryan S. Wood, he has actively researched the authenticity of various documents related to a possible covert UFO program.

At the 2001 MUFON Symposium in Irvine CA he gave a presentation titled MOUNTING EVIDENCE FOR THE AUTHENTICITY OF MJ-12 DOCUMENTS.

By now, most people interested in UFOs know that Stanton Friedman has been the most visible advocate for the reality of the MJ-12 documents. But, his support of these papers is not shared by everyone.

Author Michael Heiser on page 238 of his novel The Facade has one of the characters stating, "Their most notable defender is Stanton Friedman, who, although he has produced some remarkable work on the documents, has not proven their authenticity to the satisfaction of his colleagues."

Whether or not that is strictly true, work continues.

Dr. Wood began by discussing some reasons to believe, or not believe, in the reality of UFOs and documents concerning them.

The view of the general public is the notion that governments cannot keep secrets effectively. But, the Manhattan Project, the Normandy invasion, and the secret development of stealth aircraft all argue otherwise. Thousands of people worked on these secret projects, but those who had no need to know did not.

If extraterrestrial vehicles have crashed, we would expect our government to learn everything it could in great secrecy. Such a project would have produced written records. It is widely believed that documents often are leaked, and if so, some should surface and some have. The real question is whether they are real or fake.

The argument that "anything can be faked these days with high technology" ignores the fact that some documents were known to exist before the arrival of modern electronic simulation programs.

The story is consistent from document to documents and from era to era. The more recent documents begin with the famous "Air Raid" of 1942 and possibly two recovered craft. Thus, when the 1947 crashes occurred, our military recovery teams were ready.

The process of authentication of documents makes use of the dating of ink, pencil and paper; dating by whether it was a typewriter or printer, use of language of that period, identifying authors using linguistics, handwriting comparisons, comparing records of known events, comparing with known or expected security procedures, logic of content, and records of provenance or source.

It happens that there are thousands of typewriter impressions available for reference. James Black is able to look at a typewriter impression and go to the exemplars for comparison. In this manner, he easily established that the Truman/Forrestal memo was typed on a 1940 Underwood. There is no mystery to this process.

Watermarks, when available, can often be enhanced and traced.

Chromatography can be used to compare the spectra of pencil or ink marks to those of known samples. Wood said that results were consistent with the stated dates on the documents.

He concludes that classified documents held in individual files for decades are being gradually revealed through leaks. Original documents can be dated back to the 1950's and no impressive reasons exist that seriously impeach the authenticity of hundreds of pages of classified material, together with thousands of pages of supportive documentation.

As usual, this summary is a combination of original wording and my own paraphrasing. There was much more to his presentation, plus the fact that his written account in the Proceedings provided four extensive tables so that results could be organized into an easy-to-read summation.

For example, we read that Jan Aldrich suggested that the type font on the headers of SOM1-01 is Helvetica, a font that did not exist in 1954. Wood responds that two fonts, Franklin Gothic which matches closely and Square Gothic which matches precisely, were both available long before Helvetica.

Also, several complained that "Retro-virus" (apparently appearing in one of the documents), is a word anachronism not invented until the 1970's. Wood responds that Retrovirus without a hyphen has a different meaning than the collegial use of "retro-virus," alluding to a retrograde viral evolution. This concept appeared in a 1935 paper.

And on and on.

This account is a condensed summary of the MUFON presentation by Robert M. Wood. Readers are encouraged to obtain a copy of the MUFON 2001 INTERNATIONAL UFO SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS which contains the written presentations of all speakers. With postage, the price is \$28.50 from MUFON, PO Box 369, Morrison CO 80465-0369.

The importance of knowing the work going on in studying both leaked and FOIA documents with regard to the UFO phenomenon cannot be overstated. The written record of these papers argues in favor of a secret government response to the presence of UFOs, which in turn, virtually proves their existence. The skeptics can argue about the impossible physics and technology of UFOs all they want. The writings of government and military people on these documents would not have happened if they had thought the whole thing was a big joke.

Those with a special interest in the MJ-12 Documents, and others, can access The Majestic Documents website at: <http://www.majesticdocuments.com/>

EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF A CROP CIRCLE FORMING IN THE NETHERLANDS - 25/10/2001 By NANCY TALBOTT

As our recent Headline revealed, a circle researcher has, for the first recorded time ever, claimed to have found herself present at the creation of a non-human crop formation. Now, NANCY TALBOTT tells her own story...

Event Date: Monday, August 21, 2001

Time: 3.15 am

Location: Field directly behind van der Broeke home, Hoeven, Holland

Weather: Temperature high-70s, sky overcast, no precipitation

Witnesses: Robbert van der Broeke (from 1st floor kitchen), Nancy Talbott (from 2nd floor bedroom)
Crop: String-beans (approx. 1-1.5' to 2' tall, and mature)

(Portions snipped for brevity)

By 3.00am Robbert and I had been in the kitchen discussing the crop circles, their possible causative mechanisms and origins, what they might mean, etc. for several hours. I was tired from weeks of tromping about the fields during the days recording data and then nights of flash photography and videography, and realized that I felt pretty much like I was - or might have been - chasing my tail. I recalled my first visit with Robbert and his family back in 1998 and an incredibly dramatic light display I had witnessed with Mr. and Mrs. v/d Broeke on my second night in the house. And I thought about all of the other really peculiar incidents on return trips, occurring with increasing frequency - and all of the work that has been done to document and attempt to understand these events - and it suddenly seemed to me that the phenomenon was just too complex, too elusive, too difficult to study. I suppose partly out of fatigue and partly out of frustration I decided to go up to bed, telling Robbert that I was tired of all this "pussy-footing" around and asking, "why can't this phenomenon be more obvious, more direct?"

Once upstairs, I pulled the curtains closed (leaving one of the doors open), changed into my nightgown and propped myself up with pillows to read in bed for a while. The lights were on and the room was well-lit. At about 3.05am I heard a few cattle nearby bawling raucously, as cattle do when they are disturbed. From years of talking with farmers and ranchers who have had crop circles (and other unusual events) occur on their properties, I immediately realized that this bawling might be a sign that something strange was afoot and, in the back of my mind, thought "I should go to the windows and pull back the curtains because I might see something." Whether because of fatigue or some sort of intuition, I stayed in bed and did not pull back the curtains. The cattle quieted down for a few minutes but, at about 3:10am they started up again. And again I thought I should go to the windows and open up the curtains... and, again, I stayed put (in my notes from that night I have written that I was "scared"). After a minute or so the cattle were quiet again.

Then, at about 3:15am, a brilliant, intense white column, or tube, of light - about 8" to 1' in diameter - from my vantage point-flashed down from the sky to the ground, illuminating my bedroom and the sky as brilliantly as if from helicopter searchlights. My room was so bright I can't, in retrospect, understand how I could so very clearly see the "tube" of light outside - its distinct edges - but I could, for about a full second, and there seemed

to be a slight bluish tinge along the sides of the tube. Then this tube of light disappeared and both my room and the outside went dark. While the tube of light was there it was so bright I couldn't see exactly where it was touching down and wasn't sure how close it was.

Approximately one second of total darkness elapsed and then a second tube of the same brilliant white light, slightly edged in a bluish tint, appeared slightly to the left of where the first tube had been. Again the room and the outside lit up spectacularly, somehow leaving the intense tube of light clearly visible for about one second. Then, after another second's darkness the third and final tube descended to the ground. There was no sound at any time during the light incident (the neighbor's cattle were now quiet), nor did I smell anything out of the ordinary at all. There was also no physical sensation of exposure to increased electromagnetic energy (such as the tingling I had experienced a few years prior in this same house during an earlier encounter). The entire light display took 5-6 seconds; if the bawling cattle are considered to be part of this situation the total time would be about 10 minutes.

By the time the third tube of light flashed down to the ground I was half out of bed, yelling to Robbert, who was still downstairs in the kitchen. He, at the same time, was running up the stairs to get me, having witnessed the event from the first-floor kitchen Windows. From the kitchen he could see that the tubes of light had hit the bean field, just beyond the fence at the back of the garden, and he reported also that the sky had lit up like daylight when each column of light had occurred. He, however, had seen only two tubes of light, apparently because he had jumped up after the second one, leaving the kitchen to come and get me upstairs. He further indicated in the drawing he made immediately afterward that these tubes of light were spiraling down to the ground. (Actually, when I got out the drawing I had made shortly afterward, I have also indicated a spiraling motion inside the tubes of light.) Robbert had perceived the tubes of light as being smaller in diameter than I had, but he also saw them as definite, contained, columns which remained the same width all the way down. Neither of us saw anything in the overcast sky from which these tubes of light had originated. Later that night, Robbert reported that he had heard the dog next door barking furiously just prior to the appearance of the light-tubes.

Our yelling back and forth to each other up the stairway had awakened both Madelon and Mrs. v/d Broeke, who both emerged into the hallway in excited states. Robbert and I were equally agitated, due to our shared impression of the stunning force of the energy involved... and our mutual, clear, impression of it's

purposefulness. All four of us went immediately to the glass doors at the back of the house off the dining room (directly underneath my bedroom doors), somewhat timidly, not certain of what else we might expect.

Looking out these glass doors we could see nothing up in the sky and after a minute or so Robbert went to the back door off the kitchen and stepped out; I joined him and, tentatively, also went outside. So far as we could tell, everything seemed oddly normal and very dark - looking up we could see only an overcast sky. We headed for the back fence and the farm-field and there, just over the fence about 15' into the bean-field - just barely visible in the darkness - was the new crop circle. When we turned my flashlight onto the field we could see that half of the crop in the downed area was laid away from us and the other half was laid toward us, and I thought I could faintly see steam rising from the freshly-downed beans (which I attributed to the interaction of the tubes of light with a heavy night-time dew covering the crop).

At dawn the next day, from my bed, I could clearly see the new circle, which turned out to be, in fact, an ellipse of about 35' in length (running East/West) and 20' in width (North/South diameter), with a 20' long pathway adjoining the northern edge which ended in a crossbar (like the capital letter "T").

Measurements and photographs were taken and a visible difference in leaf colour inside the downed crop areas was observed to be due to the fact that some of the plants were laid away from us, showing the undersides of the leaves, and in other areas the plants were laid toward us, showing us only the tops of the leaves, thus reflecting the light differently. Along this flow-line near the centre of the formation plants growing immediately next to each other were cleanly bent over at their bases in opposite directions, with no visible damage to either the plants or the beans. There was a slight swirling of the plants in the 'epicentre' area which, in this case, occurred in the south-eastern quadrant, considerably West from the actual geometric centre of the ellipse.

The northern half of the string bean plants (heavy with beans) were swept counter-clockwise in what looked to be one wide sweep all the way around the ellipse and back along the southern edge. The eastern and western edges of the ellipse were slightly squared, ending abruptly at a row of beans on either side and leaving the plants in these rows along the edges totally unaffected. The pathway off to the North was laid away from the ellipse to its end, the crossbar at the end being laid left (West) and right (East) in simple single sweeps. The width of all the pathways was one row of beans only, about 1 to 1.5' wide.

We were unable to go into the field until the evening, due to the need to obtain permission from the farmer and to our lack of a ladder to help us negotiate the fence and the steep ditch on the other side. On the evening of the 21st, at about 6.00pm, we did go in and carried out a number of procedures.

The compass showed no deviations within the laid crop (nor at control locations outside the new event) and the electromagnetometer registered a steady 0.2m, the same reading I obtained at the control locations and at all of the other crop circle sites I had tested in the past two weeks. No EM spikes were noted. Examination of the plants showed them all to have been bent over at the base and no broken or split stems were seen. There was no visible trauma to the stems or leaves, or the very healthy-looking beans beneath them. The soil appeared relatively dry both inside and outside the laid-crop area and was fine-grained and dark in appearance (mineralogical characterization of the soil in this field a year previously by BLT, Inc.'s consulting mineralogist, Dr. Sam Iyengar, had indicated that this field is very well maintained, high in organic content and very low in clays).

Because of the Foot and Mouth disease which has been prevalent in Holland (as well as in other western European countries) during the summer of 2001, and the subsequent likelihood that US customs would not allow importation of either plants or soils from Europe into the US, no attempt was made to take soil or plant samples. I did, however, harvest a few handfuls of beans and enjoyed them at dinner a few nights later. So far, I've noted no sequelae.

In preparation for one new BLT study, which will evaluate the effects of various energies on normal (non-crop circle) plants and soils, I have had many discussions with microwave and laser experts who are convinced that the crop circles and at least some of the associated light phenomena are simply either "mistakes" by the military and/or industrial research community and/or perhaps pranks by one or another of these groups on the citizenry. If they are "mistakes" it would seem - particularly in light of the recent ghastly events in New York, Washington DC and Pennsylvania - that we are all in more trouble than was immediately apparent. And the idea that they might be pranks strikes me as perhaps even more frightening, and for the same reason: idiots at the helm is hardly a comforting image. What I suspect, instead, is that these highly trained and proficient microwave/laser engineers just aren't really "tracking" the available facts yet... like the majority, it seems, of the rest of the population.

On the other hand, in recent conversation with one of the new scientists participating in ongoing BLT, Inc. studies, a man highly regarded by his academic

colleagues, the idea that we are instead perhaps dealing with a "new kind of energy," something not seen before, has been discussed. I suspect this idea is much more reflective of reality than is the notion of an inept or adolescent military/industrial research group gone amok.

Was the occurrence of this crop circle related to my frustration over the elusiveness of the phenomenon and my wanting a more obvious indication of the agency involved? It did occur within 10-15 minutes of my having stated my disgust, and it did occur in the closest growing plants (string beans, the first time a circle has been reported in this crop) to my physical self - the whole incident clearly visible from my room; in fact, the very bed I was sleeping in. It was also placed dead-centre between the North and South boundary lines of the v/d Broeke property and about as close to their perimeter fence as possible.

Robbert and I, from our slightly different vantage points, were each quite convinced of both the intense power AND THE PRECISION of the light "tubes" - both of us perceiving the incident as "deliberate, on purpose." Are our perceptions - not just of this current event, but of multiple crop circle experiences over many years - simply anthropocentric? What are the chances that this recent amazing display was just coincidental? And if it was, why have similar events - the crop circles and all the stunning light phenomena associated with them - been occurring for the last 25-30 years, with increasing frequency and complexity, all over the world? And why repeatedly in fairly precise locations? Why don't they occur everywhere? And what are the light objects? Are they in fact becoming more complex too, perhaps mirroring the evolution in design of the flattened plants?

Are Robbert and I (and, apparently, many other people) victims of our imaginations? Or is it possible that human faculties are capable, at least in some situations, of recognizing external consciousness and/or purpose in energy-forms or life-forms currently unknown to us and unnamed? Robbert and I perceived these light tubes as "on purpose." Was there a consciousness in those light columns? Or, was there a consciousness directing them? Was it our sub- or unconscious? If not ours, was it Jung's collective unconscious? Was it a consciousness inherent in Nature? Or was it from another dimension, galaxy or, perhaps, directly from the Almighty? Robbert and I don't know. What we suspect is that the answers to these questions - in fact the actual pursuit of these answers - will greatly affect human awareness. What we hope is that 21st Century humanity will recognize this possibility soon and join in the effort to uncover new aspects of reality we may currently only faintly imagine.

(ED. NOTE: The original article in it's entirety along with pictures and diagrams can be found at: <http://www.swirlednews.com/article.asp?artID=286>)

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**Crop circles - something else the Chinese
had first by Calum McLeod
in Urumqi, Xinjiang, 26 August 2001
The Independent**

http://news.independent.co.uk/world/asia_china/story.jsp?story=90696

Is it a teardrop, a beard, the sun or the moon? And why do alien visitors to Earth leave these mysterious signs in our fields? Some answers may lie in the wilds of north-west China. There is no Chinese equivalent for "croppies" yet, but the global army of crop-circle enthusiasts just gained a key convert to their cause, virgin lands ripe for speculation, and a great leap backwards into antiquity.

Close to the Mongolian border, a Chinese explorer has discovered a series of stone circles and other shapes he claims are the 2,500-year-old prototypes of crop patterns found in recent years everywhere from Wiltshire to Western Australia. More than 70 countries worldwide, embracing each continent, have reported ever more bizarre examples appearing in corn and wheat fields, or grass, flowerbeds and even snow.

China was among the last major nations to resist a phenomenon so intriguing it has spawned its own science - cereology - and survived the pranks of confessed circle-makers. In the past year, Chinese man of mystery Zhang Hui, research fellow at the Xinjiang Museum in Urumqi, has harvested more than 20 patterns that appear to match examples found in other countries, but may pre-date them by up to 3,000 years. While croppies in the West debate which circles are genuine mysteries and which the "agrarian graffiti" of hoaxers, the Chinese finds are clearly man-made.

"The primitive peoples who lived there were inspired by the crop circles they saw," said Zhang, whose quest for the truth has taken him to the farthest reaches of China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, an expanse of Central Asian desert, mountain and grassland seven times larger than the UK. "They thought the circles were a way of communicating with the gods, and so placed rocks in the shape of the circles."

Zhang found several circles in the grasslands of Qinghe county beside the Sino-Mongolian border, ranging from simple circles to more elaborate teardrop and other shapes. Bemused by their geometrical sophistication, he went to Beijing to consult Chinese translations of reference works by British cropies. "I was amazed by the similarities," he said. "Both sets show characteristics of modern, industrial civilizations, as you would need modern instruments to make such perfect circles, yet these could be the oldest records of crop circles world-wide. They show that the phenomenon is much older than people thought."

Zhang published his findings in the latest edition of a Chinese magazine, Western, which is devoted not to gunslingers but the vast and under-populated provinces of west China. The region is home to many non-Chinese ethnic minorities, including most of China's Muslims. Several of Zhang's stone patterns surround vast piles of stones gathered to commemorate not ancient Chinese but warrior nomads known as the Scythians, an Indo-Iranian people with Caucasian features.

The Scythian connection will fuel fevered cropie speculation, since their conquests were so extensive that Western historians have identified cultural interaction with the ancient Celts, whose religious sites have been among the leading locations for crop circles. Zhang suggests links to places such as Stonehenge, for luminaries such as John Haddington of the UK's Center of Crop Circle Studies have noted that circles often appear close to the sacred sites of Celts, Australian Aborigines and Native Americans. Based in a region at the heart of the old Silk Road, Zhang is keen to explore these tenuous links between East and West.

The first publicly recorded crop circle. in 1678 in Stirlingshire, Scotland, came to be known as the "Devil's Circle". Zhang noted a similar reaction to a pattern in Qinghe, encircling a stone pile and tombstone with a deer engraving. "The nomads call it the 'magic circle', and believe whoever dares to touch the tombstone will offend the gods and be punished." He himself would have been punished if he had pursued such research two decades ago. For years, Chairman Mao waged war on "superstitious" beliefs he saw holding back his attempts to modernize China. "During the Cultural Revolution, a group of Red Guards in north-east China saw a crop circle appear in a field in a very short time," Zhang recalled from a rare eyewitness account of a formation actually in progress, published much later. "They were stunned, but at the time, nobody was allowed to believe in such 'superstition'."

In these more liberal times, 30-year-old Zhang has spent six years specializing in China's "mysterious culture". Other fans of the unexplained run China's booming UFO

Society, with regional meetings and a newsletter of regular sightings. So does Zhang agree with some Western cropies that extra-terrestrial powers are creating these fields of dreams, and not bored border guards, wind vortexes, electromagnetic fields, or even hedgehogs as one theory goes?

"It's too early to say for sure," was his sensible reply, "but there is a definite connection with the cosmos. It could be a supernatural force, or even an alien civilization." The truth is still out there.

Field Investigator Update: October 2001

By Craig R. Lang - MN MUFON FI Coord.

(with lots of input from MN MUFON investigators)

In the last month, the Minnesota MUFON case log has become extremely full. These new sighting reports have recently been added from many sources: Personal connections, the MN MUFON website, the WUFOD database, to name a few. Among these are some major sighting reports, which were referred to us from the National UFO Reporting Center (NUFORC). MUFON and NUFORC have been striving to closely cooperate with each other in recent times. One of the results is that there is a sudden increase in sighting reports for MN MUFON to investigate. Some of the MN MUFON sighting cases are described as follows:

Bill McNeff writes on several cases, which he has been working on. The first involves some recent follow-up conversations with an experimenter, with whom he has maintained an on-going contact. This person has described some very interesting sightings. [Bill M Note: These reports must be considered preliminary.]

"Dark Matter" and an "Angel":

On Sept. 20, the witness called me. He said that on July 13, 2001 he was at his cabin on the north shore of Mille Lacs, skywatching in the evening as he often does. At one point, the birds and bugs stopped flying, and a cloud of "dark matter", something like a big cell, flew overhead. He also saw "teardrops, each like a Luge (sp?) with a string attached" which would break off from the cloud and fly around. He thought that they were about "five feet across and three and one-half feet high". He watched these for 10 to 15 minutes. Then it turned really dark. About midnight he saw an "angel" -- an "angelic white" human figure with wings. It was flying toward the southwest over the lake. It was far enough away that he could not see a face or arms. This figure was self-luminous; compared to a fluorescent light, it was brighter.

He had also seen a UFO (an unknown object) in the "past couple of months", probably around June 20. This

was like a manta ray, and was escorted by a military jet. The manta craft was about 100 times the size of the jet, he said. He saw this about 3:15pm while in the parking lot at his workplace.

"The Black Flower":

The witness was at work at his vehicle mechanic's job. He was working in a bay with an open door, about two months ago, when an entirely black object "like a flower" flew in the bay door, past him on his left, and stopped at the far wall. It had a "stalk", was 3 to 3-1/2 feet tall, and had a head the same size as a sunflower blossom, about 98 inches in diameter, but the head shrank and expanded as if it were breathing or sensing or looking at him. It then zipped back out the way it had come. The whole sighting took about 5 seconds.

"Light-Bending Bug":

Recently while at home watching TV, he ran into the kitchen during a commercial, and saw a light-bending "bug" on the floor. It then flew up and stuck to or landed on the ceiling. It had light wrapped around it in a square. After about 30 seconds it "morphed" (merged) into the ceiling and disappeared.

"Spirit Energy Lights":

Three times during the past year, he has stepped outside at night during TV commercials, and sees "spirit energy" that looks like flashes of light. He had previously seen these while videotaping what he thought were rods. These spirit energy lights can get together in a cloud formation, he said. He sometimes sees a gray cloud come over first, then the spirit lights get together in the cloud and turn it pearly white. I asked him how he knew they were spirit energy lights, and he replied, "I know that's what they are." I emphasize that these must be considered preliminary reports, but they will be difficult to follow up because the witness does not have a phone at present.

Mille Lacs, Orange Ball of Light:

Bill writes of another case in which he has been involved recently, in which an Orange Ball of Light was sighted by a pilot, near Mille Lacs:

A friend of mine reported by email to me that he had seen an orange ball of light on the evening of May 4, 2001. I have known him for over a dozen years as a coworker. He wrote:

"Hi Bill -- I had another interesting event flying [a light plane] from Thief River Falls to Minneapolis about two months ago. It was about 11:30 at night. I was at 7500 feet MEL and there was a bright orange object about my 2:00 position near Mille Lacs Lake. It was higher than the ground because it was lighting the area below the light. It was a larger and brighter light than

any of the surrounding lights -- but it was still quite a bit lower than I was. I was watching it for a few minutes (it was stationary) and then the controller called and I had to change frequencies and next thing I knew the light was gone. A while later I was near the lake and now at my 3 o'clock position was the light again. I was about ready to call the controller and ask if they had any traffic lower and at my 3:00 and about then the light went out. The weather was clear. No ceiling, visibility 10+ miles and very little wind, and there were no thunderstorms or any storms during that day. This definitely was not ball lightning."

Richard Haines noticed this case in Filer's Files and emailed some questions for the witness to answer. Questions and answers are below:

Q: Did you find any sort of electromagnetic effects?

A: None that I noticed -- radios all were working fine (working with Minneapolis Center). Not using a VOR so can't comment on that. GPS was functional.

Q: Also, what kind of airplane was he flying?

A: Cessna 172

Q: Was he alone?

A: yes.

Q: He said that the UAP illuminated the ground beneath it. This is very important and deserves further study. For instance, what color did the ground look?

A: Orange.

Q: About how large (and what shape) an area was seen to be illuminated?

A: hard to estimate distance from my altitude and being at night. I was going to say about 150 feet in diameter - - but this could be way off. It was a circular illumination.

Q: With what type of light source would he say would be equivalent to what he saw to produce the color and intensity?

A: The intensity would be between a hot air balloon at night and a welder -- but not blinding. It was significantly brighter than any other lights in the area. The color was more orange than a hot air balloon flame; maybe close to some farmer's yard lights in color.

Q: Did any illumination flicker (either from the UAP or the ground)?

A: It had a pulse or a flicker to it (both the source and the ground illumination). But not a complete on/off cycle. Like a modulated light. It flickered more (more "off" time) as it was about to disappear.

Q: What down angle (below the local horizontal) was his line of sight during the sighting? Through which aircraft window did he see the UAP?

A: I would guess about 3 to 7 degrees for the first sighting (out the forward windshield) and the second sighting was about 7 to 10 degrees through the passenger window.

Steve Hero, our investigator in the Duluth/Iron-range/North-Shore area, reports on the following cases, in which he has been involved. These fascinating reports suggest that in addition to sightings being extremely common in recent months, close encounters are occurring as well.

Sighting Report: Chisholm, MN CE1 - 6/23/01

One of the witnesses stated, "My fifteen year old son was testing our new digital camera. He was shooting the sky, the river, our land, etc. When we went to download the pics [sic] to the computer today, the two UFO's showed up!! He did NOT see them while testing the camera. My husband was near him, and he did NOT see or hear anything. The photos show a disk shaped, metal object."

Steve Notes:

Two pictures were taken of an object or objects of which are of unknown origin. They may be metallic because they look like they are reflecting sunlight. The witness had claimed other unusual events had occurred after the pictures were taken. These "unusual" events included seeing a UFO, which appeared in the eastern sky between three and five a.m. It was traveling in the same direction every night. Because of the recurrence of the object and the location, I determined this "UFO" to be Venus. Other events, including this one, and the photographs had convinced her and her family that something had crashed on her property.

Deer River MN CE3/4-23 August, 2001

The witness stated he was, "In (the) house, talking on the phone thought (an object) was the moon, and noticed what I thought was the moon had moved to another position. The object was luminous and consisted of two oblong bars of light, which could have been one or two separate crafts. It was slightly obscured by trees, it made no noise and was stationary. As I was watching the craft, out of the corner of my eye, I noticed an entity directly out the window about one hundred feet away. It was dimly glowing either emitting light or was illuminated by an unknown light source. It appeared to be standing sideways and bent down several times as if to do something. Because it was in a low spot, I was unable to see legs, but it looked at me and its face had one large orifice and other dark spots. Then I heard a swishing sound that went passed the open window and then I noticed another entity next to

the house less than thirty feet away. Then everything seemed to vanish..."

Steve Notes:

I spoke to the witness and he was very reluctant to talk about the incident. He claimed to be not sleeping well and was upset and fearful about what happened to him. He mentioned that he may move in with a friend for a while to forget about the incident. After some convincing, he agreed to fill out the MUFON sighting report, which I sent to him. I have tried to contact him since then several times, and he has not returned my phone calls, or sent the form back. I gave Bill McNeff his address and phone number, and he will attempt to contact him in person.

Concluding Remarks:

Many of the reports which Bill and Steve describe in this issue, fall into the "high strangeness" category. Anomalies such as these often occur to long-term close encounter experiencers. What were "the black flower", the angel and the "light bending bug" that Bill's friend saw? How does a hovering ball of light fit into our consensus reality? These events, and so many more like them, suggest that there is far more to the UFO phenomenon than we see at first glance. What really happened to these witnesses? Were some of their perceptions actually screen memories for close encounters? Were these events just the tip of the iceberg? Or could there perhaps be a more prosaic explanation for some of them? These are just a few of the fascinating, ever-captivating questions posed the phenomenon, and the field investigators who study it.

This month, special thanks go out to Bill and Steve for their super contributions. For further details on MN MUFON sighting investigations by Minnesota MUFON, please check our website. Also stay tuned to this column each newsletter as we discuss the most current MN MUFON sighting cases. In addition, if you know of any information that might bring to light any sightings or encounters, or have any further updates on events discussed in this column, please contact Craig Lang (phone: 763-560-1532, e-mail: crlang@mm.com), or contact us through our webpage.

New reports seem to come in almost daily. Cases not yet described above are now being investigated by many of our investigators. With each event, the opportunity to become involved in UFO studies continues to expand. For those wishing to become a field investigator themselves, classes are conducted as sufficient interest is indicated. If you are interested, and feel that you have the necessary time, energy, and objectivity to be a UFO investigator, please contact Craig Lang. If you have not already done so, you also will need to join

MUFON as a field investigator trainee and purchase the MUFON field investigators manual.

We always need more investigators in our effort to better understand the UFO phenomenon. For those who decide to pursue the study of this strange phenomenon, mystery will never be in short supply.

Happy investigating...

WI MUFON TO RE-ORGANIZE

By Nick Roesler, WI ASD / MUFON Staff Photographer

MILWAUKEE- At the beginning of 2002, Wisconsin MUFON will be a much different organization. This past July, current State Director Chad Lewis (Eau Claire, WI) informed me of his intentions to step down as State Director for Wisconsin and assume a different position within the Mutual UFO Network and asked if I would assume the role of State Director, beginning in 2002. I agreed to this and since then, we have set out on a course that will re-organize Wisconsin MUFON as a non-profit corporation. In addition, we are also trying to locate a Webmaster, so Wisconsin MUFON can have an Internet presence not unlike that seen in other states.

If all goes well, Wisconsin MUFON could enjoy non-profit status by the start of the 2002 calendar year. A second project on the horizon is the possibility of organizing a lecture series / mini-symposium for either the Milwaukee or Madison areas. This would fulfill several requirements under the current MUFON International bylaws, which stipulate that general membership meetings must be held, that a MUFON group must further education on the UFO subject, and so on. Primarily, I think it would be a worthwhile undertaking because it has worked well in other locales, and depending on the slate of speakers, could help draw MUFON members from our surrounding states of Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, and Iowa.

Speaking as a MUFON officer, it is my hope to further MUFON's public education objectives and work towards cooperation between state chapters. There has been some success with this in the southern U.S., utilizing a speaker-sharing program developed by Scott Voight and Kathie Grimes (State Director and Assistant State Director, respectively) of Kentucky MUFON. In conjunction with Tennessee MUFON and MUFON-Los Angeles, they were able to bring abductee and author Kelly Cahill to the United States following the 1999 MUFON Symposium for a month long speaking tour.

It is my hope that Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan, for example, pending agreement by State Directors in the aforementioned states, can work towards a similar undertaking in the future and bring a major speaker such as Stanton Friedman, Budd Hopkins, or John Greenwald to the Midwest for a small speaking tour.

When I assume the mantle of the State Directorship for Wisconsin MUFON, this is an objective I would very much look forward to tackling, given MUFON's status as "a non-profit organization dedicated to the scientific investigation of Unidentified Flying Objects".

© October 27, 2001 Nicholas D. Roesler, WI MUFON

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