



THIS PHOTOGRAPH HAS RECENTLY COME TO OUR ATTENTION AND I AM SEEKING ANY COMMENTS, OPINIONS, OR SUGGESTIONS REGARDING IT.



IN THIS ISSUE - P. #2: Communiques and Bits N' Pieces, a majority of which is devoted to the Salisberrys' findings on the GB 'Road Shot'. P. #5: Reproduction of The Stars and Stripes article - Too Many Close Encounters In Gulf Breeze (8 Aug. 1990). P. #6: UFO Unbiased Approach; Science in the USSR 1989 article. P. #9: Book Sale; there is quite a mixed bag in this listing. Something for everyone & all sales final. P. #12: An interesting feature for the holidays, letters from the Journal British Astronomy Assoc. on The Star of Bethlehem. P. #15 A Tidbit from the AAAS meeting (1988) in Boston, MA., concerning analyses of a photograph on an aerial anomaly. P. #16 More on the Belgian Flying Triangle; Source: Science Frontiers - #72 NOV/DEC. 1990.

The New England Aerial Phenomena Report

COMMUNIQUES AND BITS N' PIECES

Two MUFON investigators who were awarded for "Meritorious Achievement in a UFO Investigation", at the MUFON 1990 International Symposium, by MUFON Deputy Director Dan Wright, said they believe Ed Walters faked some of the photos of UFOs that appear in his book.

Carol and Rex Salisbury said, "We entered this investigation with a natural and favorable bias toward the Walters' case but our investigation and analysis lend to the conclusion that several, if not all of the photos, are probable hoaxes."

Walt Andrus, MUFON's International Director, who has for two years endorsed the Walters' case, appointed Salisbury in July to take a second look at the case after questions surfaced about the credibility of Walters' photos.

"I don't know how they arrived at that decision". Andrus said from his office in Seguin, TX. "It is certainly premature. He has no business talking to reporters. It has never been cleared through here. He can't make representations for the organization."

Two questions played a significant role in the Salisbury's decision. The first question rose after a model was found in the Walters's former residence in Gulf Breeze in March. The styrafoam and drafting paper model was found in the attic of the home and strongly resembled a drawing Walters' made of one of his sightings.

The second question arose when Tommy Smith, formerly of Gulf Breeze, said in July that he witnessed Walter's fake UFO photos. Smith said Walters asked him to take some faked UFO photos to the Gulf Breeze newspaper and claim they were real. However, Andrus claims, "Tommy Smith can't prove any of his statements - they are outlandish lies".

The Salisberrys said Smith's testimony and the model contributed to their conclusion, but more convincing was an analysis of Walters' so-called road shot that shows a UFO hovering over a road.

Salisbury said the reflection of the spacecraft, which should be flat, actually is at an angle that does not match the road's surface. The triangular shape of the reflection also does not match the round light source on the bottom of the craft, he said.

The Salisberrys said the photo and a second photo probably was created by a double exposure - a process by which a model is photographed and the image is exposed again onto the same frame film.

"With these photos reassessed as probable hoaxes, the other photos should be considered highly suspect", Salisberrys wrote in their preliminary report. (Source - Pensacola News Journal 27 October 1990)

In a progress report released to the public involving the reopening of the Walters' case the Salisberrys state, "First, two voice stress analyses have been made on a tape recording of the telephone conversation among Mayor Ed Gray, Chief Jerry Brown, Craig Meyers, Mark Curtis, and Tommy Smith on 15 June 1990. These analyses both indicate that Tommy Smith was telling the truth in all respects regarding the allegations which he made concerning Mr. Walters and the UFO case. Second we have investigated the writing on the model which Mr. Menzer found in the attic above his garage and have determined that the paper used in the model could not have been made from house plans that Mr. Walters claims to have drawn in September 1989 for the Lynn Thomas family. This second point has been independently verified by others including Mr. Philip Klass. Third, we have

we have conducted analyses of photos #14 and #19 in the Walters book and have concluded that there is a very high probability that the reflections shown in these photos could not have been made by a hovering object as described by Mr. Walters and validated by Dr. Maccabee. It is a virtual impossibility for the reflections to have occurred as depicted in the photos. It is, however, very easy to have created these photos by using a small model and double exposure camera techniques as demonstrated by Mr. Mark Curtis of WEAR TV. With photos #14 and #19 shown to probable fakes, scientific and intellectual integrity dictate that other photos depicting the same models should be considered as highly suspect. This includes the 'Believer Bill', the 'Jane' and the so-called 'Tommy Smith' photos." (the voice stree analyses indicate that Tommy Smith did not take these photos). (Source - Paranet 29 October 1990).

The Salisberrys added that, "an independent analyses conducted of the purported 'Smith' photos by a Ph.D. level photogramatrist indicates his conclusion that the sequence looks systematic and staged with a model at 6-9 ft. This tends to support Tommy Smith's allegations that Mr. Walters had taken those photographs of a model."

In asking to describe the simple demonstration and could readers do the demonstration for themselves the Salisberrys answer, "Yes, it is very easy to do. It is basically a demonstration to show what the reflection in photo #19 should look like when reflected from the flat road surface. The data used can be taken from Dr. Maccabee's article in the 1988 MUFON Symposium Proceedings. These are as follows: distance from the camera to the object is 185 (+/-5) feet; the diameter of the light ring at the bottom of the object is 7.5 feet; the height of the object above the road is about 3 feet; and the height of the camera is about 5 feet. You then set up a scale of of 1 inch = 1 foot to do your demonstration. For example... Cut a circle of white paper 7.5 inches in diameter, place the white circle on a flat surface and move away 185 inches to simulate the camera location, then raise your eye level to 5 inches above the elevation of the white circle, and you can see how the reflection should look. If you look at this photograph which we took of our own demonstration you can see that the reflection should appear as a narrow horizontal line and not as the much taller reflection as shown in Walters' book. Walters' photo depicts the reflection as 'hanging in mid-air' instead of flat on the road as should be expected."

Another issue the Salisberrys had serious doubts about were the lie tests which they claim are misleading. In the 16 Aug. 1990, Gulf Breeze Sentinel, Ed Walters wrote an article entitled 'Tommy Smith's Statements Questioned'. In this article Ed writes: On June 19 I was challenged by Tommy's father to take a lie detector test. On that same evening I took the test and passed. Ed Walters has now taken 4 separate tests with three different examiners and passed them all. My wife Frances and Hank Boland were also tested previously."

"In an interview with Ed and Frances in SPT. 1990 in which Charles Flannigan and the Salisberrys were present, we asked Frances if she had ever taken a lie detector test and she said, no."

"She explained that a taped interview had been tested by MUFON without their specific approval. Two tapes were submitted by Bob Oeschler to an examiner in Maryland. The examiner stated, "The way the interviews were done and the type of information discussed does not give the examiner the verbal material necessary for him to be able to say if these individuals are being completely truthful with the interviewer."

"In Feb., 1988 Mr. Charles Flannigan arranged to have Ed tested by a reputable examiner. Mr. Flannigan and other investigators created a list of questions that the examiner could use. Ed chose not to be tested under these supervised conditions.

Instead he went by himself, on two occasions, to another polygrapher and paid for a polygraph. The questions that the investigators prepared were not used by the examiner, and no one from MUFON accompanied him to the testing site or observed the conditions of testing. The examiner stated that, "He (Ed) claims to desire no personal gain or remuneration from these sightings." (However, Ed and Frances did have a book in preparation at this time and were actively seeking publication, which usually means money). (Source - Paranet 29 Oct. 1990).

In another bizarre twist in Breezey Land, MUFON Deputy Director Dan Wright argued that, "the Salisberrys may have taken sides in a political dispute," (a City Council race) and further adds, "if we find Rex (Salisbury) didn't take into consideration all factors and didn't make all the necessary contacts, we may have to determine it as an incomplete report." (Source - Pensacola News Journal 30 Oct. '90).

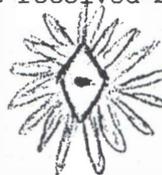
Ed. Comment: First - the Salisberrys have publicly stated they do not live in Gulf Breeze and could care less about the City Council race. Secondly - the November issue of the MUFON Journal published a Bruce Maccabee response to the Salisberrys findings on the 'road shot'. Interestingly, if the report has to be determined incomplete, as stated by Wright, this means Maccabee responded to an incomplete report! (Who's On First!)

Case Report:

Date - 4 Nov. '90, Location - Cornville, ME., (near Skowhegan)
Time - 1900 hrs.

Account: Two witnesses (17-18 yrs. old) were driving in a truck when they sighted a glow in a field with cows. They stopped the truck on a hill and saw a triangular or diamond shaped object glowing pink on its outer edges with a deep red in the center. They pulled onto dirt road and observed object for approximately 3-5 seconds. The witnesses claimed they lost sight of it when it suddenly vanished or collapsed on itself. One of the witnesses said he saw identical object about 5 days before in the same place. No noise, no rain, no excessive wind. Witnesses observed object about 1/2 mile away. Report received by NH UFO investigator Rick Giordano.

Center
: Deep Red.



Outer edges
light pink.

From The Letter Box:

Chris Allan writes, "The EXETER incident was most interesting. (Refer to Orbiter #26) I have a possible suggestion for the Robert Mark case. The Exeter incident is given by the Danish ufologist Kim Hansen in the book 'UFOs 1947-87' published by BUFORA and edited by Hilary Evans/John Spencer (pages 69-72). Hansen says that Pease AFB did investigate the case and issued a short summary, saying they could not explain it. Neither could Project Blue Book. If Pease later denied they had any reports of it at the base, but Mark insists his story is correct it may well be that as Mark only related his story in 1982 to CAUS that he has got the date wrong. How certain is Mark that his sighting occurred on SPT. 3? If he was wrong by several weeks or months this would account for Pease not knowing anything about a sighting at the base during the Exeter incident."

Ed. Comment: Chris Allan is correct in stating that Robert Mark may have his dates wrong. In a telephone conversation with Mark, 12 Dec. '90, he again related to the 1965 encounter at Pease AFB and stated, "The date may very well be wrong, it could be off by days, weeks, or even a month. I can only be sure it happened in the fall of that year."

Too many close encounters in Gulf Breeze

UFO hysteria in Florida town

By Los Angeles Times

AS A HOTBED OF flying saucer sightings, Gulf Breeze, Fla., long ago earned its dot on the map — perhaps even the intergalactic map.

Nearby are five major military bases, including one where explosives are tested, and the skies overhead are often chockablock with blinking lights and fiery flashes. Reports of UFOs — Unidentified Flying Objects — are as common there as powdery white beaches and tourists with third-degree sunburns.

But now something more ominous seems to be hovering over Gulf Breeze, casting a long shadow over the once good-natured UFO hubbub. Three weeks ago, local police made a routine traffic stop and came up with six young soldiers, AWOL from their top secret Army posts in Augsburg, West Germany. Friends say that the soldiers had come here to witness the end of the world.

The soldiers are gone, whisked away by a team of CIA and FBI agents that swooped down on Gulf Breeze faster than swamp gas rises. Speculation as to what the GIs were up to, and why they came to Gulf Breeze, has caused a sensation in the town.

A Pentagon spokesman said that the six were members of something called the End of the World cult. Mention was made of The Rapture, when some Christians believe the saved will be taken to heaven, as was a mission to kill the Antichrist. There also were reports that the group was preparing to ascend to heaven via spaceship.

"This was once known as a quiet bedroom community," complains Jerry D. Brown, the chief of the town's 15-officer police force. "But a lot of people are laughing at us because of this UFO business, and now this is what we're getting — weirdos, nuts, people we don't want here."

Visits from mysterious strangers, from Earth or any other planet, are unwelcome in Gulf Breeze, an upscale community of 6,000 residents proud to be an alternative to many of the tourist-hungry beach towns along the "Redneck Riviera," that stretch of scenic Gulf shore from the Florida Panhandle to New Orleans.

Not only is the town's reputation under siege, but both Brown and the mayor, Ed Gray III, believe the UFO hysteria was touched off by a clever hoax perpetrated by a local home builder.

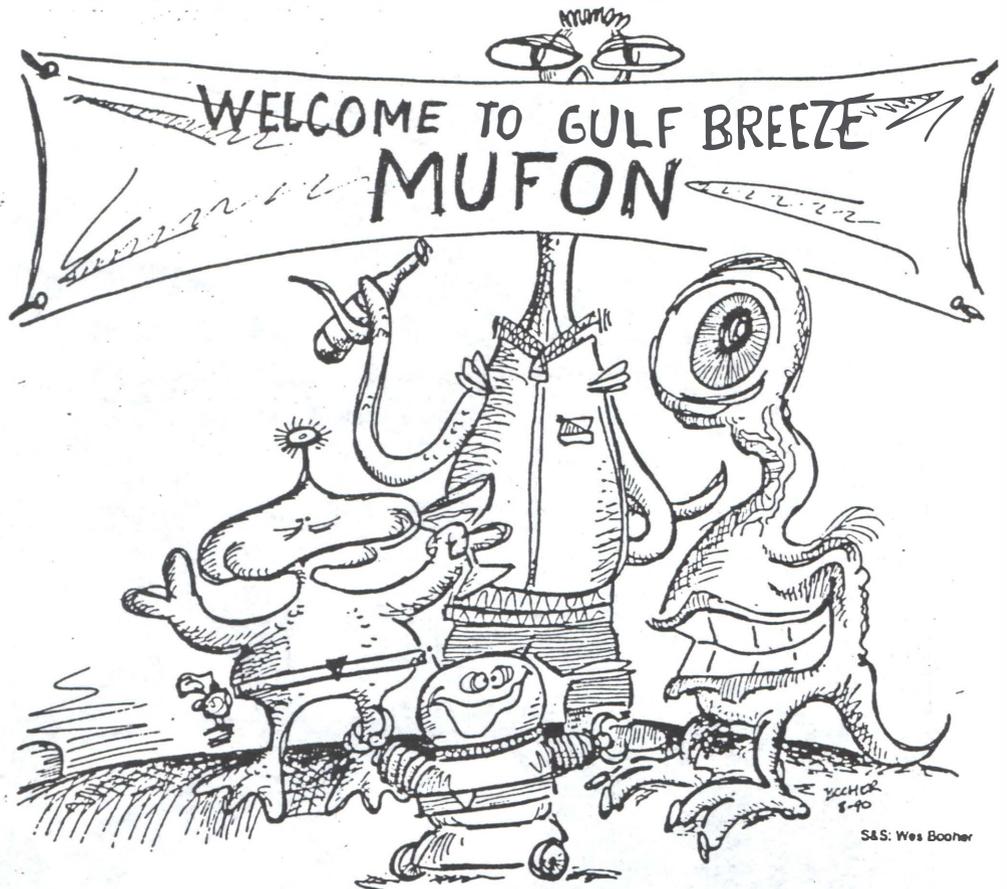
"It's all negative for the community," Brown says. "And the only one who has gained is Ed."

"Ed" is Ed Walters, an affable, wiry man of 44, well-known in Gulf Breeze for his custom-built homes, his active role as a high school band booster and for his playful imagination.

Now Walters' renown has expanded beyond this city's two square miles with the publication in March of "The Gulf Breeze Sightings." Co-authored by Walters and his wife, Frances, president of the high school PTA, the book relates in diary fashion what the couple says were several months' worth of close encounters with four-foot gray aliens who sometimes speak Spanish. The visits supposedly began in November 1987.

Due chiefly to notoriety attending Walters' accounts, the Mutual UFO Network, a national organization that tracks strange celestial activity, picked neighboring Pensacola to hold its annual convention. Just a week before the six AWOL soldiers showed up, busloads of MUFON conventioners toured Gulf Breeze, where they traipsed through the back yards of people who have reported sightings, stopped off in Shoreline Park to eyeball a swirl in the grass that not everyone believes was made by beavers, and gazed hopefully skyward over Pensacola Bay.

And, of course, there were T-shirts. One shows an alien family, back on their home planet, with the youngsters lamenting: "My folks went to Gulf Breeze and all I got was



this lousy T-shirt."

For many locals, however, UFOs are no joke. "It was bright blue, and it had several smaller lights around it," said Louis F. Martin, 66, an Air Force retiree who, with his wife, Mary, was sitting under the tall pines in Shoreline Park on a recent Thursday morning. "I never told anyone but my wife here because I didn't know what people would think. I didn't want to look like a fool."

"But now," adds Mary Martin, "a lot of people are coming forward."

Indeed, Duane Cook, editor and publisher of the weekly Gulf Breeze Sentinel, estimates that in the past 2½ years, he's heard of UFO sightings from at least 200 people, including his parents. "I don't buy the visual hysteria bit," he says.

Links between the AWOL soldiers and Gulf Breeze's reputation as a UFO spaceport are intriguing, but vague. All were assigned to the 701st Military Intelligence Brigade. Each of the six — five men and one woman — had top-secret clearance in a unit charged with providing U.S. defense forces with secure communication and conducting research into "other electronic phenomena," according to the Army. Walters says he heard that the group had come to contact him.

The soldiers were discovered after one of the men was stopped late on the night of July 13 because the van he was driving had a faulty tail light. He had no driver's license. But after the name was run through the military crime computer, Police Chief Brown was contacted, he says, by an officer at the Pensacola Naval Air Station who told him: "Call Washington. They want this guy bad. Real bad."

In fact, the government wanted all of them real bad. After being held briefly at the Pensacola naval base, the six were taken to Fort Benning, Ga., and then to Fort Knox, Ky., where the Army quickly cleared them in a

routine espionage investigation, issued them general discharges and turned them loose.

Army Maj. Joe Padilla, a Pentagon spokesman, admits that the desertion of six GIs with top-secret clearance and forged leave papers, who travel 7,000 miles to a tiny town in Florida, "was not a routine AWOL."

But, he added, after all waived their rights to present a defense, the commander at Fort Knox decided to let them go without further punishment. Anna Foster, a Gulf Breeze psychic in whose house the five men had been staying for four days, refuses to talk about the visit. And so the locals are left to wonder.

Ed Walters tends toward the "major government cover-up" theory, the same one, he says, that has been applied to his UFO experiences. "The government can't afford not to (discredit me)," he says. "They have to do away with me. Then the people of Peona are safe and can go back to sleep."

Some Gulf Breeze residents say that they are afraid the rest of the world will think the whole town is crazy. "This has hurt the community," says Gray, a Gulf Breeze resident for 28 years. "I get made fun of every day. I try to laugh it off. But others can't." As an example, Gray cites the case of a resident who recently traveled to Tampa to present a scientific paper. "She was asked not to present the paper simply because she was from Gulf Breeze and people wouldn't take her seriously," said Gray.

As for the sincere testimony of others, including a respected councilwoman and the county medical examiner, that they, too, have seen unexplained phenomena in the skies overhead, Gray insists he is willing to believe. "It would be naive to think we're the only life forms in all these galaxies," he says. "They may come. But I can tell you right now, they haven't come to Gulf Breeze."

UFO:

With every Good wish for the holiday season and the new year.

Jim Melvin

Unbiased Approach?



In 1988 the Tomsk Polytechnic held an interdisciplinary seminar on the theme "Nonperiodic Transient Phenomena in the Environment". Its program included more than 200 papers. Such a representative forum held under the motto *Paranormal Phenomena: An Unbiased Approach* should have been welcomed if not for the way some of the questions under discussion were formulated and the scientific level of many communications.

According to the organizers of the seminar, this was the first scientific forum of this kind conducted in this country which became possible thanks to greater glasnost (openness) in the scientific community. For fairness' sake let's point out that at least two similar meetings were held in the 1980s, more specifically, the first and only scientific and technical conference on the paranormal phenomena in the environment (Kiev, 1981) and a plenary session (Moscow, 1984) of the Commission on Paranormal Phenomena in the Environment of the Committee of the All-Union Council of Scientific and Technical Societies, (since renamed Union of Scientific and Engineering Societies). Each of these forums was attended by more than 200 persons. In the eight years since then the organizations that sponsored the meetings have changed as did the compositions of the Organizing Committees and the lists of likely participants in such discussions. But the general approach to the problem has remained unchanged. It is briefly as follows: the observed "miracles" baffle the traditional scientific schools and the solution of the problem is only possible on the basis of a sober and unbiased analysis of the facts. The second part of this approach is fair enough, but coupled with the first part, it leaves one disillusioned about modern scientific schools as being allegedly incapable of a sober analysis. This stand of confrontation with "official science" is all the more puzzling since, judging from their scientific degrees and ranks, a significant part of the participants in the seminars belong, and fairly successfully at that, to various "traditional" scientific schools of research. Incidentally, interesting to observe that the "nontraditional" approach is applied, as a rule, to areas far removed from the field of inquiry of a particular researcher, or by amateurs for whom all this is but a hobby.

So what do the "nontraditional schools" propose? Since their terminology is confusing to say the least, let us address ourselves to the phenomena which, for some reason or other, were incomprehensible to eyewitnesses. It was suggested that the solution of the problem of paranormal phenomena, such as UFO, should consist in finding a common explanation for all of them. After the vast majority of them (90-95 percent) were identified with some known processes* within the framework of conventional physical notions, the tactic of a "non-standard approach to the problem" has been modified. UFO buffs immediately declared that the remaining 10 or so percent of the sightings were "the genuine UFO". Admittedly, this is a sure-fire stand inasmuch as even a most authoritative panel of experts will, most probably, leave as unexplained a certain fraction of sightings.

What kind of phenomena discussed at the latest seminar in Tomsk were classed as paranormal? They included: ball lightning; earthquakes; the powerful explosion in the sky over the Tunguska taiga in the summer of 1908; sightings of uncommon flying luminous objects and also unexplained house fires and mysterious destruction of some common domestic objects without apparent causes — "poltergeists", etc. Indeed, no "traditional scientific school" will be able to provide a common explanation for all these phenomena. And if we add to that biological anomalies, we get not a scientific problem, but a hodgepodge.

Speaking seriously, the existence of unexplained anomalies in different areas of research is something fairly common and natural, something that stimulates research. But most such "anomalies" fail to catch the public eye, such as anomalies in the isotopic composition of lunar material or the difference between the theoretical and the actually measured solar neutrino fluxes. It seems to be far more important to try and understand them than interpret flights of "a bright luminous body" observed in many regions of the European part of the USSR, for example.

Sensation seems always be the result of "nontrivial" interpretations of odd phenomena, from claims of sightings of extraterrestrial visitors to manifestations of as yet undiscovered physical laws.

The natural sciences have reached a stage of development when further progress requires highly specialized experiment with highly sensitive equipment and a thorough analysis of the results achieved. It becomes increasingly difficult to discover new and hitherto unknown phenomena. This does not mean, of course, that our studies of the world are drawing to a close. This simply means that we have approached processes, objects and phenomena which until quite recently could not be studied by any available methods. This being so, should we assume that what we call paranormal phenomena also belong in this category, or shall we say that what we are dealing with in this case are some entirely new processes or even those connected with extraterrestrial civilizations? To my mind even without a detailed analysis of all sightings, it is safe to assume that this probability is infinitesimal. We know that many extremely rare phenomena have

nevertheless been explained in sufficient detail or, at least, described in sufficient detail. To all appearances, the bulk of sighting reports come from people who lack professional knowledge.

And even if one assumes that there is some grain of truth in all these reports of things paranormal, this grain must be very small indeed. Investigations conducted by different official commissions and public organizations have identified several types of the more widespread effects of natural and anthropogenic origins perceived as something anomalous. The "grain of truth" does not fit into any specific group. Most likely, this is evidence that absolutely random reports get into this group.

Summing up, I would like to stress that claims about a "confrontation" between official science and UFO buffs are hardly admissible. If there are sightings, they should be analyzed and who, specifically, would do this is of secondary importance (although, expert opinion in such matters can hardly be ignored). But there is a basic difference between the two types of approach to any such studies. I think it is inadmissible to replace truly comprehensive research by a search for confirmations of this or that theory no matter how attractive it might appear, for this is effectively a veiled refusal to do serious research

Now, to come back to the Tomsk study seminar. As I said before, its participants submitted over 200 papers and communications. Judging by the abstracts, they can tentatively be divided into several categories.

There were well-substantiated papers by well-known authors. First of all, they dealt with the question of whether we are alone in the Universe (e.g., V. Rubtsov "Anomalous phenomena and the problem of extraterrestrial civilization"; L. Gindilis "The current status of the search for extraterrestrial civilizations").

Secondly, there were papers whose connection with the subject of the seminar is dubious to put it mildly. I can mention, for example, papers such as by V. Malinnikov "A method for registering the profile of an incoming sea wave and a device for its implementation"; A. Mishonov and G. Kravtsov "The spatial distribution of color parameters of the waters of Atlantic in the tropics"; A. Polienko, "Peculiarities of rhythmical occurrence of bladder stones", and so on and so forth.

There were papers whose scientific level was impermissibly low — mere strings of pseudo-scientific phrases. Inasmuch as it is not my task to review all such papers, let me give just one example. It was a paper by V. Fomenko on "The gluonic nature of forces causing anomalous phenomena". The central idea of this "work" is that the movement of different objects associated with the development of paranormal phenomena is caused by a system of gluonic chains generated by "power bases", located inside the Earth and in circumterrestrial space. Several such chains coming together from different directions form nodes which can temporarily attach to quarks inside the atomic nuclei of the matter which is set into motion. By selecting chains coming from certain bases it is possible to move these nodes with an accuracy of 10^{-12} cm. The rest is very simple: such "chains" can be controlled by a "superminiature and super-reliable digital computer which can only be built by a superior 'machine civilization'." The UFOs are the vehicles for transporting humanoids from their bases in outer space where they reside to the Earth to accomplish various missions. All this, I think, requires no further comments.

And there were papers reflecting in varying degrees the motto of the seminar. These included communications on attempts at concrete investigations of particular processes ("The level of geomagnetic and solar activity and certain types of anomalous phenomena" by R. Goliko and I. Mirzalis; "The Dalnogorsky phenomenon"* by V. Dvuzhilny, V. Zhuravlev, et al.) and also papers suggesting hypothetical models to describe various aspects of anomalous phenomena. Regrettably, some sufficiently interesting and promising hypotheses put forward, for instance, in the papers by V. Psalomschikov, "Transient electrical and electromagnetic effects caused by the movement of flying vehicles in lower atmosphere" and A. Ivanov, "The technical factor in anomalous optical phenomena occurring in upper atmosphere" and two or three other papers were drowned in an avalanche of dull and low-standard works, sometimes containing elementary mistakes.

A broad representation of different research trends at the seminar did not improve the situation. The central problem was not identified, and unfortunately, the discussion boiled down to calls for a businesslike and unbiased investigation of the problem.

It should be noted that the seminar received one-sided and sensationalized press coverage. Summaries of the papers that appeared in a limited number of copies and were addressed to a "broad readership interested in the theme of the study seminar", could simply mislead an unsophisticated reader.

To my mind the concept of glasnost in science can hardly be interpreted as "anything goes". I think in all countries really interesting and substantive research works are selected through a system of authoritative reviews. In this particular case ignoring these obvious rules has resulted in the publication of abstracts which would be unacceptable for any self-respecting scientific journal.

The stand of UFO buffs who say they are "suppressed" by "official science" hinders the development of this field of inquiry and, frankly speaking, is hard to understand.

I think it is regrettable that numerous groups and commissions including people of various occupations have put in so much effort and time into this work but have

* This was an allegedly paranormal phenomenon observed in Ussuri Territory. In reality it was connected with the conduct of a technical experiment. (Ed.)

achieved no practical results, and that all their activities boil down to the collection of data and generation of "nontrivial hypotheses".

For fairness' sake it should be noted that low scientific standards of "UFO research" are not confined to this country alone. Most similar organizations in other countries suffer from the same ailment. Suffice it to recall that few years ago members of the Committee for the Science Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal* sharply condemned all dilettante approaches to the problem and urged higher standards of research in this field. I, for one, can fully subscribe to this call.

It has been stressed time and again in many publications that a vast majority of sightings of the paranormal were actually connected with space launchings, but no concrete analysis of the more interesting sightings was provided. For this reason many people remain unconvinced. It, therefore, seems to be appropriate to take a closer look at some such sightings.

Yu. PLATOV,
Cand. Sc. (Phys. & Math.)

* A public US organization comprising professional scientists working in different fields of research. (Ed.)

PAGE 4A Daily Times Chronicle 26 Nov. '90

Last bright view of Mars this century

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Sky watchers are being treated to their best view of Mars until 2001, with the mysterious Red Planet, Earth and the sun scheduled to be positioned in a straight line Tuesday.

Mars currently is about 20 times brighter than it was about a year ago, looking like a yellow-orange star in the northeast sky, said Alan MacRobert, associate editor at *Sky and Telescope* magazine in Cambridge, Mass.

"This is a big time for amateur astronomers to get their last good look at Mars this century," MacRobert said Monday.

Alignment of Mars, Earth and the sun occurs about every two years, and Mars is closest to Earth around that time. Although the alignment, or "opposition" as astronomers call it, will occur about 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Mars was actually closest to Earth — about 48 million miles away — on Nov. 19.

However, if viewers missed that chance, Mars still remains unusually brilliant. "Compared to a week ago, the difference in distance and brightness is very small," MacRobert said.

Mars rises about sunset, is highest in the sky about midnight and sets at sunrise. "Any-

body can go out and look at it with the naked eye," MacRobert said.

Except for Jupiter, which looks like a white star in the eastern sky, Mars is the brightest object in the night sky because the moon is only a crescent in late November.

MacRobert emphasized the alignment of Mars with Earth and the sun should have no physical impact on Earth. "People are always asking what is going to happen when planets align. The answer is: nothing," he said.

The scientists operating the Hubble Space Telescope plan to take advantage of the closeness of Mars and train their instruments on the planet Dec. 13 and 14 to see if they can spot any dust storms.

Mars was closer — and therefore brighter — during the September 1988 opposition, traveling within 38 million miles of Earth. However, the next opposition on Jan. 7, 1993 will see Mars considerably farther away — about 93 million miles.

The best viewing of Mars expected early next century will be in the alignment that takes place in 2003, when our fascinating neighbor will be just 35 million miles away.

BOOK SALE

PB = Paperback, SB = Softbound, HC = Hard Cover, BL = Booklet

Condition of book - E = Excellent, G = Good, F = Fair
PR = Poor but Readable.

UFOs and The Complete Evidence from Space - Daniel Ross, SB, (G)
\$4.00.

The Flying Saucer Reader - Jay David, HC, (G w/dust cover)
\$10.00.

The Andreasson Affair - Ray Fowler, PB, (G) \$3.50.

Communion - Whitley Strieber, PB (G) \$3.50.

The Interrupted Journey - John Fuller, PB, (G) \$3.50.

Our Haunted Planet - John Keel, PB, (F), \$2.00.

Project Bluebook - Brad Steiger, PB, (G) \$2.50.

FATE - Mar/Apr - 1987, May/Jun/Jul/Oct/Nov & Dec. - 1988,
March/Apr/May/Jun/Jul/Spt/Oct & Dec - 1989, May 1990, \$3.00
each.

UFO - Tim Machlin with Tim Beckley, SB, (G), \$10.00.

Flying Saucers/Proof In Pictures - Don Boys, BL, (G), \$2.00.

Situation Red - Lenard Stringfield, PB, (F), \$2.50.

UFO Abductions - D. Scott Rogo, PB, (F), \$2.00.

The Bible and Flying Saucers - Barry Downing, PB, (G), \$3.50.

Sky Crash - Butler/Street & Randles - PB, (E), \$10.00.

The Report On Unidentified Flying Objects - Edward Ruppelt, PB,
(F), \$2.00.

UFOs Past Present & Future - Robert Emenegger, PB, (F), \$2.00.

No Earthly Explanation - John Wallace Spencer, PB, (G), \$2.00.

Missing Time - Budd Hopkins, PB, (G), \$3.50.

Flying Saucers Serious Business - Frank Edwards, PB, (F), \$2.00

Hynek UFO Report - Dr. J. Allen Hynek, PB, (G), \$3.50.

Invisible Residents - Ivan Sanderson, PB, (G), \$2.50.

Transformation - Whitley Strieber, PB, (E), \$5.50.

Anatomy of a Phenomenon: UFOs In Space - Jacques Vallee, PB,
(G), \$2.50.

The Spaceships of Ezekiel - Josef F. Blumrich, PB, (G), \$2.50.

The Fire Came By - Baxter & Atkins, PB, (G), \$2.50

Flying Saucers - Gabriel Green, PB, (F), \$2.00.

UFOs The Whole Story - Coral & Jim Lorenzen, PB, (G), \$2.50.

The UFO Experience - J. Allen Hynek, PB, (G), \$3.50.

Intruders - Budd Hopkins, PB, (E), \$5.00.

Flying Saucers on the Attack - Harold Wilkins, PB, (F), \$2.00.

UFOs African Encounters - Cynthia Hind, PB, (G), \$3.50.

Flying Saucers: Hoax or Reality - L. Jerome Stanton, PB, (G), \$2.50.

Intercept-But Don't Shoot - Renato Vesco, PB, (F), \$2.00.

God Drives A Flying Saucer - R.L. Dione, PB, (F), \$2.00.

UFOs From Behind The Iron Curtain - Hobana/Weverbergh, PB, (E),
\$4.50.

Flying Saucers Myths Madness or Made in Moscow? - Don Boys, BL, (G),
\$2.50.

UFOs In New Zealand/We Are Not Alone - Erich Von Daniken, BL,
(F) \$2.00.

The Book Of The Damned - Charles Fort, PB, (F), \$2.00

Ghost Lights - Bob Loftin, BL, (E), \$2.50

The IFO Report - Thierry J. Sagnier, PB, (F), \$2.00.

Beyond Earth - Ralph & Judy Blum -, PB, (G), \$2.50.

The Truth About Flying Saucers - Aime Michel, PB, (G), \$2.50.

Flying Saucers The Startling Evidence of the Invasion from Outer
Space - Coral Lorenzen, PB, (G), \$2.50.

LO! - Charles Fort, PB, (F), \$2.00.

Extraterrestrial Visitations from Prehistoric Times to the Present
- Jacques Bergier, PB, (G), \$2.50.

Chariots of the Gods - Erich Von Daniken, PB, (G), \$2,00.

Flying Saucers Uncensored - Harold Wilkins, PB, (E), \$2.50.

Strangely Enough! - C.B. Colby, PB, (F), \$2.00.

Behind The Flying Saucer Mystery - George Adamski, PB, (G), \$2.50.

Flying Saucers Here And Now! - Frank Edwards, PB, (G) \$2.50.

The Outer Space Connection - Alan & Sally Landsburg, PB, (G), \$2.50.

The Night Has A Thousand Saucers - Calvin Girvin, SB, (F+) \$4.00.

The UFO Report - Irving Greenfield, PB, (PR), \$1.50.

The Philadelphia Experiment - Moore/Berlitz, PB, (F) \$2.00.

Let's Hope Their Friendly! (New Zealand) - Quentin Fogarty, SB, (E)
\$10.00.

The Sky People - Brinsley Le Poer Trench, PB, (G), \$2.50.

The Mothman Prophecies - John Keel, PB, (G), \$2.50.

Flying Saucer Invasion/Target Earth - Steiger & Whritenour, PB, (F),
\$2.00.

Popular Science - 1969, carries a 5 page article on the Condon
Report, (F), \$2.00.

The Book of Encounters - Warren Smith, PB, (F), \$2.00.

The UFO Yearbook - John Wallace Spencer, PB, (G), \$3.50.

In Search of Ancient Mysteries - Alan & Sally Landsburg, PB, (F),
\$2.00.

Encounter Cases from Flying Saucer Review - Charles Bowen, PB, (G-),
\$2.50.

- Light and the UFO - Andrew Guthrie, BL, (G), \$2.00.
- Unidentified Flying Objects - Robert Chapman, PB, (E), \$3.50.
- Letters to the Air Force on UFOs - Bill Adler, PB, (F), \$2.00.
- The Gold of the Gods - Erich Von Daniken, PB, (G), \$2.00.
- Who's Who in UFOlogy - Robert Boyd, SB, (G+), \$7.00.
- UFOs and Space Science - Daniel Ross, newsletter, Dec. 1989, \$1.00.
- What's Behind The UFO Mania - Readers Digest Article, Aug. 1987
5 pages, \$1.00.
- BUFORA Congress '79 - Selected papers, SB, (G), \$3.50.
- Aliens In The Skies - John Fuller, PB, (G), \$4.00.
- Incident At Exeter - John Fuller, PB, (F), \$2.50.
- Harmonic 33 - Captain Bruce Cathie, (New Zealand), SB, (E), \$6.00.
- Limbo of the Lost - John Wallace Spencer, PB (F - no front cover),
\$2.00.
- Noah's Ark: I touched It - Fernand Navarra, SB (G), \$3.50.
- Close Encounters of the Third Kind - Steven Spielberg PB (E) \$2.50.

ALL PRICES INCLUDE SHIPPING AND HANDLING COSTS.

20 NEWS ADVERTISER, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 1990

FEATURES

News crosses the world

Whether you believe in them or not, the idea of extra-terrestrial visits make fascinating reading.

Reporter SUE MARSH brings you the "low-down" on some high-flying craft as determined through the ideas of one UFO expert, Dr Jan Pajek.

Obviously others were as intrigued as we were over the possibility that UFO's may have landed in Hagley Park.

Our story on Dr Jan Pajak (right) and his UFO theories was reproduced in an American based UFO newsclipping service and was even translated into Italian for the UFO Express magazine.

The story was given even wider readership in New Zealand by being reprinted in

While sightseers and researchers have flocked to the British crop-fields to view the intriguing phenomenon New Zealand could well be sitting on its own tourist treasure.

"There has been a lot of publicity about the new circles found in England but many people do not realise that there are a lot of circles in New Zealand too," said Dr Pajak when he visited Christchurch during the August holidays.

"Instead of hiding these facts, the New Zealand tourism industry should be able to use these landing sites as a tourist attraction. If the sites were publicised it would also attract scientific investigations."

Although some of the latest British circles have been impressive with complex shapes, Dr Pajak believes NZ can offer better.

"In England, 'they' feel threatened by the density of the population and only land for a few minutes and then go. In NZ because we have less population, they will sometimes land for a few hours at a time - leaving clearer and more permanent marks

the May issue of the NZ Skeptic magazine.

For those who may have missed the article, Dr Jan Pajak of Dunedin was back in Christchurch during the August holidays and we took the opportunity to speak to him again.



on the land," he said. "Some of our oldest rings date back 60-100 years which means we can actually look at the history of landings in England the marks are gone as soon as the farmer ploughs his field."

Some areas of the country seem to attract greater UFO activity. These places for some reason attract numerous landings year after year while others have none at all.

Dr Pajak believes the visitors are scientists who return to the same area time after time to investigate whatever it was that attracted them in the first place.

Weka Pass is the area nearest to Christchurch which has proved a popular landing site for a number of years.

While in Christchurch Dr Pajak was planning to make a special trip to the Weka Pass to look for new landing sites and check up on old ones.

Apparently between April-July is the usual time for new landings in the area.

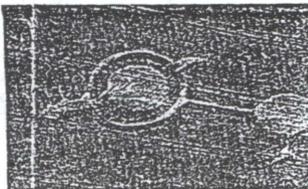
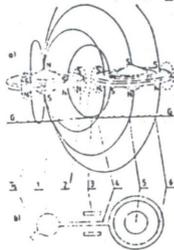
Dr Pajak has his own replies to all those sceptics who prefer to believe in the more popular belief that the landing sites are in fact caused by mushroom growth.

"Surely if the rings were caused by mushrooms they would grow bigger each year. One of the first things I did when I began my investigations was to place wooden pegs on the edge of the rings. Over a number of years I have returned to check the sites and they are still exactly the same size."

If the mushroom theory is to be believed it is logical to think that the rings could be any possible size.

Dr Pajak also points out that landings in NZ are not always rings and there are in fact some that are shaped like a four leaf clover.

One explanation



Explanations ranging from atmospheric disturbance to earthworms have been touted since the appearance of these strange circles in a cornfield in Southern England.

Dr Pajak has his own ideas and believes the circles are an example of a landing site produced by a linear cluster of UFO's, comprising two K6 type vehicles. The left of the photo shows a site produced by a stable unit and the right shows a site produced by an unstable unit. The line that joins both these sites together was produced by a holding circuit.

Both UFO's had their compensating circuits switched on, thus producing additional side marks that look and act like tail propellers in helicopters, claims Dr Pajak.

(Cr. M. Bott).

ORBITER is a bi-monthly newsletter. Subscription rates: \$20.00 U.S. and \$25.00 foreign.

Dear Sir,

Congratulations to Mr John Farquharson on his excellent compilation of evidence concerning the Star of Bethlehem [*Journal*, 89 (1), 8 (1978)]. It would seem that he raises more questions than he answers, however, and that no compilation of this sort can be considered really complete without at least some reference to the book on the subject by Professor Conradin Ferrari d'Occhieppo, Ordinarius for theoretical astronomy at the University of Vienna. The omission presumably arises because the book appears to be scarce and is only available in German (my copy came from an Austrian astronomer friend), but it does go into the problem in depth and it also contains additional matter of significance. The title of the book is *Der Stern der Weisen* (The Star of the Wise Men) and it was published in 1969 by Herold Verlag of Vienna and Munich. In his introduction, the author claims to have devoted many years to study of the "Star of Bethlehem" legend. According to the bibliography presented, his first publication on the subject was dated 1952, but he points out that some of the ideas presented trace back as far as Kepler's publications of 1606. He catalogues 33 "modern" references in all. The book, which runs to 135 pages, also includes a series of excellent photographs of the skies of the time, as set up in the Urania planetarium at Vienna.

The principal single supplement to the information which you have already published is the plausible explanation which the Professor offers for the way in which the Magi obtained a fairly precise navigational "fix" when in the vicinity of Bethlehem. The full exposition of this is quite involved, as it embraces observation of the zodiacal light when its apex was close to the two planets (Saturn and Jupiter, stationary in their orbits at the critical time) and when the main body of the light itself streamed down to the horizon like a distant searchlight, appearing to focus on a certain quarter of Bethlehem over a period of some hours on the particular evening that the Professor claims the Magi arrived at Bethlehem (7 BC, November 12, by our modern calendar). A "fix" naturally only results if the observer approaches Bethlehem from a particular direction and the topography of Bethlehem itself is also involved, but Ferrari d'Occhieppo's intriguing deduction is that the part of Bethlehem so illuminated for the Magi was one remote from the Church of the Nativity; he also offers a plausible explanation for this which does not challenge either the authenticity of the Church of the Nativity or the geographical location of the place where the infant Jesus actually was at the time when the Magi arrived.

Another point of considerable interest is that Ferrari d'Occhieppo finds that the Magi came fully briefed to predict a persecution; he even considers that to give warning of this to the Holy family may have been a principal reason for their journey.

His studies include reproductions of the text of Matthew 2, vv. 1-16, in the original Greek and in the Latin of the Vulgate; his final conclusion is that the original text was furnished by the Wise Men themselves, partly because it contains an item which only they could have known, partly because it contains technical astronomical expressions, Babylonian style, the full import of which would not have been familiar to any Jew of that time.

It is not possible to do justice in a short letter to all the many points discussed by Ferrari d'Occhieppo (the conclusions of other researchers, the not dissimilar planetary conjunctions of earlier eras, etc.), nor adequately to challenge his claim that the Magi predicted the dates of the Herodian persecution incorrectly (a tempting target for any would-be proponent of "astrological science"—Professor Ferrari d'Occhieppo actually makes it abundantly clear that he regards astrology as "bunk" and he positively delights in retailing the occasions when the Magi's expectations proved ill-founded though he, of course, concedes that the motivation for their journey was astrological in origin). The Professor incidentally also reckons that the planetary motions concerned had been calculated in the Babylon area at least 60 years in advance, so that it was by no means a sudden impulse that started the Magi on their journey; he demonstrates this from extant Babylonian tablets and he has also applied Babylonian computing methods to fill in gaps in the surviving records. The book certainly makes fascinating reading for anybody with at least some background of navigational astronomy (the present writer is an experienced marine navigator), not least for the many twists and turns which the author attempts in his determined efforts to prove his hypothesis without conceding any merit to pagan astrologers, even if in the final analysis he cannot entirely avoid leaving them with at least the semblance of a victory.

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL G. READE,
Scots Gate, Checkendon, Reading, RG8 0TJ.

Dear Sir,

I see that this hardy annual (the Star of Bethlehem) has risen once again (from the dead!). The latest review, by Farquharson on page 8 of this journal, does well to point out that astronomers cannot satisfactorily answer the question "What was the Star of Bethlehem?" since a literal interpretation of the description does not enable it to be associated with any one known astronomical phenomenon. Only by bending the interpretation to suit one's own predilections can one hope to tie it to any astronomical event or events. No one who has tried

this and also considered it to be the result of a vague prophecy in the thirteenth century BC, has tackled the problem in a systematic manner. In other words, no one has compiled and examined a list of all known astronomical phenomena since then and demonstrated why any which occurred around 15-1 BC were of such outstanding significance to spur the Magi to action.

Any satisfactory explanation of the story must surely also account for the fact that it appears in only one gospel. For, if it was true, then the event would be of profound significance to the people of those times, as is explained below, and would have been eagerly quoted by other writers to support their (disputed) claim for a divine origin of Christ.

There would appear to be much more evidence for the reality of UFOs than for the Star of Bethlehem. Perhaps someone will develop the idea that the latter was a von Daniken-type of UFO?

One non-astronomical but, I submit, plausible explanation has not been explored in Farquharson's article and that is the justification for the legendary origin of the story. The reason the story appears in only one gospel is then apparent. I suggest that the author of St Matthew's gospel invented this charming fairy story in order to convince his readers of the importance of Christ's birth. The author's own people did not accept a divine origin for Christ then, nor do they do so today. As Shakespeare said much later, "When beggars die, there are no comets seen, the heavens themselves blaze forth the death of princes". In other words the author pretended that Christ's birth was coincident with an unusual celestial event in order to give credence to the rest of the story he was telling.

Yours faithfully,

GORDON E. TAYLOR,

Five Firs, Cinderford Road, Cowbeech, Hailsham, East Sussex, BN27 4HL.

Dear Sir,

May I comment on Mr Farquharson's paper¹. It is improbable that the object of 4 BC of which records give no exact date and which appeared in Aquila, is the Star. The Holy Family must then have been in Egypt and only left when they heard of the death of Herod which is fixed by the total lunar eclipse 4 BC March 13.

It has been suggested² that, since the last conjunction was at the summit of the zodiacal cone, the base would cover the small village of Bethlehem and give the appearance of the star standing "over the place where the child was". A copy of this paper is in the appropriate box in the Association's Library with striking reproductions of a planetarium reconstruction of the three remarkable conjunctions.

Herod's two-year period can be explained by the fact that the Magi could have told him of a previous triple conjunction, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn, in 8 BC February; invisible but perhaps calculated. There was also a tradition that the Star would appear two years before the birth of the Messiah³, then regarded popularly as a nationalistic hero. Josephus certainly records disturbances connected with a star and a "king of the Jews" who would expel foreign rulers at this time⁴.

Lunar Section members might be interested to know that Albategnius, known to them from his fine crater, may have been one of the Magi; the clan appear to have survived for many centuries, and he is described as "a prince and a star-worshipper".

Yours faithfully,

CICELY M. BOTLEY,

c/o National Westminster Bank Ltd, 32 Mount Pleasant, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

References

- 1 Farquharson, J. F., *J. Brit. astron. Assoc.*, 89 (1), 8 (1978).
- 2 d'Occhieppo, K. F., *Quart. J. R. astron. Soc.*, 19 (4), 516 (1978).
- 3 Elliott, E., *ibid.*, 515.
- 4 Keller, W., *The Bible as History*, 155, London, 1977.

MR FARQUHARSON REPLIES:

Thank you for letting me see the correspondence concerning my paper. I appreciate Mr Reade's remarks and the additional information regarding the zodiacal light.

I quote the following paragraph from Paul L. Maier's book which touches on this particular theory: "Even the artistic conceptions of the star shedding its rays down on Bethlehem might not be quite so fanciful as one would think. In subtropical latitudes on very clear nights, a faint luminous band similar to the Milky Way is visible on the southwest horizon called zodiacal light. The reflection of sunlight on meteoric particles concentrated in the plane of the ecliptic, zodiacal light appears as a luminous cone shining from the planetary path down to earth at the point where the sun has set. If it appeared to the Magi leaving Jerusalem, zodiacal light might have seemed to beam down from the Christmas star to intersect Bethlehem at the southwest. But this is an embellishment to the Christmas story, on which the New Testament is silent"¹.

Regarding Mr Taylor's letter and the point that the Star of Bethlehem may have been a UFO or a "Was God an astronaut?" bandwagon, I again quote from Maier's book and I think this says it all: "Perhaps the most grotesque (theory) is that offered by the Russian, V. Zaitsev, who claims that the Star of Bethlehem was really a spaceship from a higher civilization carrying cosmonaut Jesus into this world! But beyond any (more serious) debate, astronomy does play an important role in the story of Christmas"¹.

The quotation by Taylor from Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* (Act II, Scene 2) is dealt with in a paper entitled "Comet Chronology in Numbers, AD 200-1882"², and although no reference is made to the Star of Bethlehem, it examines the tendency of historians to relate happenings to 'convenient' celestial phenomena.

Miss Botley refers to the death of Herod as being fixed by the eclipse of the Moon of 4 BC March 13. Although this is correct, it should be made clear that Herod did not die on that date. Keller states: "Herod died at the age of seventy in 4 BC, thirty-six years after Rome had made him king. It is said that immediately after his death there occurred an eclipse of the moon which modern astronomers reckon to have happened on March 13th"³.

This, however, conflicts with events as recorded by Josephus; on 4 BC March 13 Herod the Great was still living and Judas and Matthias, who were teachers of Jewish law, were burned alive that day on Herod's orders for being the authors of the action which resulted in the golden eagle statue being pulled down from the great gate of the Temple of Jerusalem. Herod, in having this statue erected, had acted contrary to Jewish law which prohibited representations of living creatures⁴. The date of the executions of Judas and Matthias can be determined with absolute accuracy for Josephus writes: "And that very night there was an eclipse of the moon"⁴. Herod, although suffering from a wasting disease, was still capable of having his son Antipater assassinated and planned the massacre of prominent people in the event of his own death. He had journeyed from Jericho to Callirrhoe to take the therapeutic waters and then returned to Jericho where he later died. He was succeeded by his son Archelaus.

Reference is made by Josephus to the Feast of the Passover and sedition by the people during that event and it would appear that Herod had died before the Passover in 4 BC April 11, but I quote a footnote: "This passover, when the sedition here mentioned was moved against Archelaus, was not one, but thirteen months after the eclipse of the moon, already mentioned"³.

I also quote a footnote regarding the lunar eclipse: "This eclipse of the moon (which is the only eclipse of either of the luminaries mentioned by our Josephus in any of his writings) is of the greatest consequence for the determination of the time for the death of Herod and Antipater, and for the birth and entire chronology of Jesus Christ. It happened March 13th, in the year of the Julian period 4710, and the 4th year before the Christian aera"⁴.

Doubt is therefore cast on the chronology that Herod died between the lunar eclipse and the Passover of 4 BC, although he undoubtedly died at some time during 4 BC and certainly after March 13 of that year. The comet/nova which appeared in Aquila in 4 BC, sometime between February and April, could have been the 'star' which the Magi saw as they left Jerusalem after their audience with Herod.

I submit that the literal interpretation of Matthew 2: 16 (the two-year period) should be accepted in preference to the supposition and traditional beliefs as advocated by Miss Botley.

References

- 1 Maier, P. L., *First Christmas*, 81, London and Oxford, 1971.
- 2 Schöve, D. J., *J. Brit. astron. Assoc.*, 85 (5), 401 (1975).
- 3 Keller, W., *The Bible as History*, 343, London, 1974. (First published 1956.)
- 4 Josephus, F., *The Works of Flavius Josephus* (translated by William Whiston, Professor of Mathematics in the University of Cambridge), 469, Edinburgh, 1841.
- 5 Josephus, F., *op. cit.*, 472.

Rumble Not Likely 'Quake

NASHUA (AP) — Downtown Nashua was rocked by a loud rumble yesterday morning, prompting a barrage of telephone calls to police from people who thought they were in the middle of an earthquake. Quake watchers said their seismic needles didn't flicker, leaving the cause of the commotion up in the air.

"It's a good Saturday morning mystery," said Dr. John Ebel, assistant director of the Weston Observatory in Newton, Mass. "I don't know what it was. All I can do is say it was not an earthquake."

"If there had been anything at all, we would have seen it," he said.

At the National Earthquake Information Center in Golden, Colo., the instruments also were quiet.

Whatever it was kept the Nashua police switchboard busy after the boom at about 9:45 a.m.

"We were bombarded," said one dispatcher, who said the rumble "went right around us."



NH Sun. Times 25 Nov. '90

Mystery rumble had Nashua buzzing

NASHUA (AP) — At least 100 people in downtown Nashua thought the earth moved, but seismologists say the rumble likely was something much more banal, such as an explosion or a sonic boom.

Whatever it was, it prompted a barrage of telephone calls to police Saturday from people who thought they were in the middle of an earthquake.

"It sounded like the longest thunder I've ever heard," said David Brooks, a copy editor working at The Nashua Telegraph in nearby Hudson.

He said some people called the paper to report what they had heard or felt. Two reported their homes shook, he said. Nashua police dispatchers said they received about 100 calls.

Quake watchers, however, said their seismic needles didn't flicker, leaving the cause of the commotion up in the air.

"It's a good Saturday morning mystery," said Dr. John Ebel, assistant director of the Weston Observatory in Newton, Mass. "I don't know what it was. All I can do is say it was not an earthquake."

At the National Earthquake Information Center in Golden, Colo., the instruments also were quiet.

Scientific discipline of subject matter: General

Interest

Specialty of this discipline:

Aerial Photogrammetric Analysis

Photogrammetric Analysis of a Photograph of an
Aerial Anomaly. I. SCOTT (Ohio State University).

This photograph was made on July 13, 1968, near Boston Massachusetts. The object was photographed using a Polaroid model 250 camera having a 3-element, 114 mm, f/8.8 lens, a shutter electronically controlled by an electric eye, and using 3000 ASA black and white film. The object had seven squares on a side that blinked on and off repeatedly, with an on-cycle of about 1 sec. At the time of the photography the separate squares were beyond visual resolution, so that only one blinking light was seen. However during each blink, two traces were visible on the photograph. The brighter light was believed to have been the one that was visually observed. Since the camera system was sensitive into the ultraviolet spectrum (230 nanometer, nm, wavelength), the second trace may have been from a light in the spectral frequency range between 230 and 400 nm. This light increased in brightness briefly and then reached a plateau as it turned on. When the object was photographed in a descending flight pattern, it appeared that its forward portion was elevated compared to the rear portion.

Person to be contacted about abstract:

I. Scott, Ph.D.
310 Hamilton Hall
Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio 43021
614 422 7409

Submitted by AAAS member:

I. Scott, Ph.D.,
Ohio State
University

I. Scott

Contact: I. Scott

Title: Photogrammetric Analysis of a Photograph of an Aerial Anomaly

Session #: 1
Abstract #: 132
Scheduled: Fri., 12 Feb. 11:00 a.m.

American
Association
for the Advancement of
Science

1333 H STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005 (202) 726-6450
CABLE ADDRESS: ADVANESCI

Meetings & Publications
30 October 1987

Dear Colleagues:

We are pleased to provide a poster session forum in which to present your paper at the 1988 AAAS Annual Meeting in Boston, 11-15 February. Papers were grouped by subject area into sessions, then organized by specialty within each session and assigned sequential abstract numbers. The above information label indicates your session number, your abstract number, and the date and time you are scheduled to give your paper.

Your abstract will appear in the Abstracts of Papers (a companion volume to the Program book), which you will receive when you register. You must register for the meeting in order to present your paper. For your convenience, I have enclosed registration and housing forms. I have also enclosed a reprint from the Preliminary Program issue of Science containing details of the Meeting program and discount airfare information.

Below is the schedule of poster sessions. All sessions will be held in Exhibit Hall A (Poster Session Area C) of the Hynes Convention Center. Please mount your poster on the assigned board during the 10 minutes immediately preceding your session. Thumb tacks will be provided. Projection equipment and electrical outlets will not be provided in the poster area. AAAS staff will be on hand to assist you.

| SESSION | DATE | TIME |
|---------------------------------------|------------|------------------------|
| 1. Physical Sciences | Fri., 12th | 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. |
| 2. Life Sciences | Fri., 12th | 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. |
| 3. Behavioral and Social Sciences | Sat., 13th | 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. |
| 4. American Junior Academy of Science | Sat., 13th | 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. |

The poster board is 8 feet wide and 4 feet high. Prepare a lightweight sign for the top of your poster space (in letters no smaller than 1 inch high) to include (1) the abstract number; (2) the title of your paper; and (3) the author(s). An enlarged copy of your abstract should be posted in the upper lefthand corner of the poster board.

The following tips may be helpful in preparing your materials. Please bear in mind that your poster will be viewed from a distance of at least 3 feet.

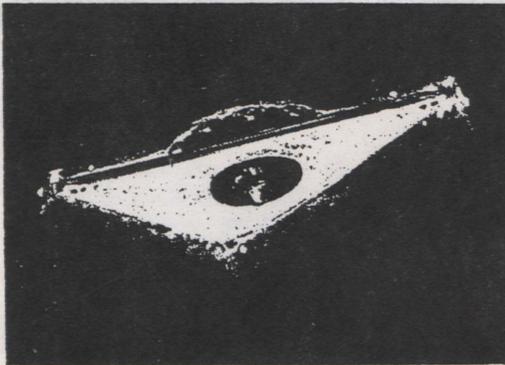
>Do not write, paint, or use paste on the poster board.

>Do not mount illustrations on heavy board because it may be difficult to keep in position on the poster board.

THE BELGIAN FLYING TRIANGLE

In SF#70, we printed a brief item from an English newspaper about a rash of Belgian sightings of "flying triangles". Our invitation to our European readers to expand on this "flap" brought numerous articles from European papers and magazines. Normally, we bypass UFO-type observations, but the Belgian flying triangles are so remarkable that they deserve a little space.

Very briefly, we have roughly 1000 observations by several thousand people, beginning in October 1989 and still continuing. Most witnesses report a dark, triangular object with three bright lights plus a flashing red one in the middle. Size estimates vary from the size of a football field to that of conventional aircraft. The object sometimes hovers for minutes at a time. It also can move very slowly and then suddenly accelerate to high speeds. Some observers report a faint humming sound; others say that it is noiseless.



Artist's concept of the Belgian Flying Triangle, with three white lights on the corners, one red light in the center. (From: Télérama, February 21, 1990.)

The American Stealth fighter (F117) is roughly triangular, and there has been much speculation that people have been seeing this craft on night missions. The characteristics reported for the flying triangle, however, are hardly those of a jet aircraft. But one must always remember that human observers are imperfect.

The July 5, 1990, issue of Paris Match presented a remarkable account of an encounter between two Belgian F16s and one of the flying triangles. We use here those portions of a translation provided by R. J. Durant to the International UFO Reporter (15:23, July/August 1990).

"On the night of March 30th, one of the callers reporting a UFO was a Captain of the national police at Pinson, and [Belgian Air Force] Headquarters decided to make a serious effort to verify the reports. In addition to the visual sightings, two radar installations also saw the UFO. One radar is at Glons, southeast of Brussels, which is part of the NATO defense group, and one at Semmerzake,

west of the Capitol, which controls the military and civilian traffic of the entire Belgian territory. The range of the two radars is 300 kilometers, which is more than enough to cover the area where the reports took place... Headquarters determined to do some very precise studies during the next 55 minutes to eliminate the possibility of prosaic explanations for the radar images. Excellent atmospheric conditions prevailed, and there was no possibility of false echoes due to temperature inversions.

"...at 0005 hours the order was given to the F-16s to take off and find the intruder. The lead pilot concentrated on his radar screen, which at night is his best organ of vision. The F-16 is equipped with very sophisticated equipment, including chase radar, which is not fixed directly ahead of the airplane, but makes a wide search in an arc of 90 degrees left and right of the nose...

"Suddenly the two fighters spotted the intruder on their radar screens, appearing like a little bee dancing on the scope. Using their joy sticks like a video game, the pilots ordered the onboard computers to pursue the target. As soon as lock-on was achieved, the target appeared on the screen as a diamond shape, telling the pilots that from that moment on, the F-16s would remain tracking the object automatically.

"[Before the radar had locked on for six seconds] the object had speeded up from an initial velocity of 280 kph to 1,800 kph, while descending from 3,000 meters to 1,700 meters...in one second! This fantastic acceleration corresponds to 40 Gs. It would cause immediate death to a human on board. The limit of what a pilot can take is about 8 Gs. The trajectory of the object was extremely disconcerting. It arrived at 1,700 meters altitude, then it dove rapidly toward the ground at an altitude under 200 meters, and in doing so escaped from the radars of the fighters and the ground units at Glons and Semmerzake. This maneuver took place over the suburbs of Brussels, which are so full of man-made lights that the pilots lost sight of the object beneath them...

"Everything indicates that this object was intelligently directed to escape from the pursuing planes. During the next hours the scenario repeated twice...

"This fantastic game of hide and seek was observed from the ground by a great number of witnesses, among them 20 national policemen who saw both the object and the F-16s. The encounter lasted 75 minutes, but nobody heard the supersonic boom which should have been present when the object flew through the sonic barrier. No physical damage was reported. Given the low altitude and speed of the object, many windows should have been broken."

(Cr. C. Maugé, P. Ferryn)

Sourcebook Project
Box #107
Glen Arm, MD. 21057
USA