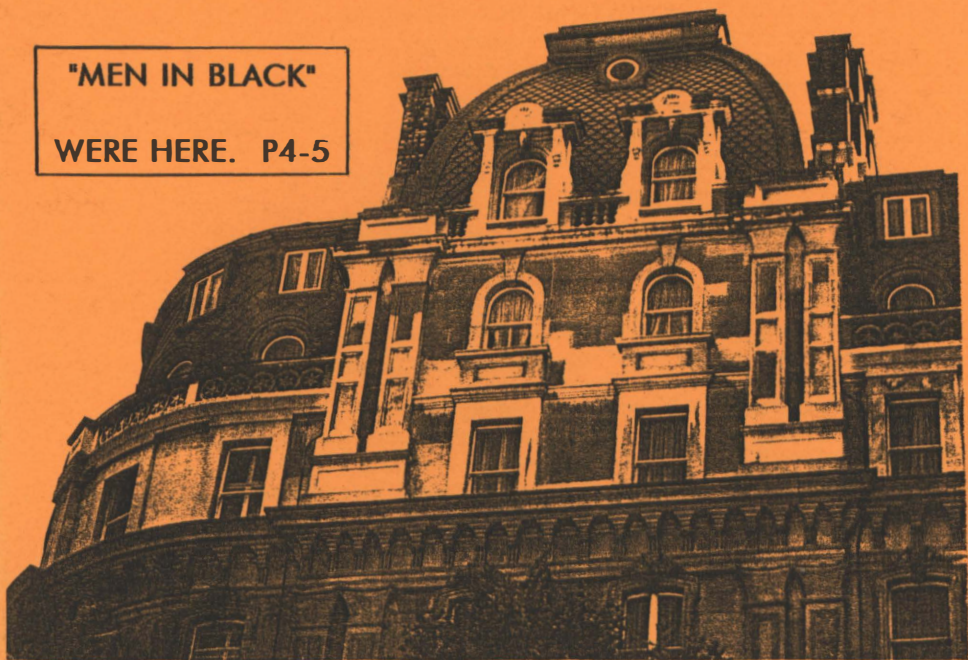


Awareness

25.2 SUMMER 2002

"MEN IN BLACK"

WERE HERE. P4-5



The Journal Of



CONTACT
INTERNATIONAL
UFO RESEARCH

AWARENESS

A Contact International UFO Research Publication

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July 2002

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Front Cover: Photograph of Metropole Building by Geoff Ambler.

EDITORIAL"RODS", "SPIRALS" AND "BALLS"

We have for some years been studying certain types of anomalies which appear on photographs, but are not seen by the person taking the shot. I first captured a spiral beam in 1994, and got several others on photographs over the next 2 years. After a gap of 5 years or so I have managed to run a sequence of 5 photographs taken at one minute intervals showing shapeless white masses on 3 of them, but a distinctive spiral on one other shot. These can be seen in the article on page 11-14.

So the "spirals" have been around for at least 8 years and other photographers as far away as Australia, have shown me examples over this period.

Pictures with balls, orbs or spheres are even more often encountered, most frequently turning up in damp conditions which leads to the conclusion they are merely water droplets causing the effects. Shots I took this year, 2002, and last year do indicate a few of these balls are over a foot in diameter, opaque and have structure lines on them which does not exactly fit in with the most obvious inference. Scientific tests using dust and fine glass beads can replicate the process and make balls appear using flash photography, but the very largest opaque ones are not entirely explained by this, in my opinion. No doubt the arguments will rage on for some time, but our "cosmic joker" concept could apply - that the joker is producing something we have not seen before, but leaves sufficient room for a rational answer which scientists will eagerly pounce on!

The very latest of these anomalies is what is termed "Rods", which are appearing on freeze-frame footage taken by home video cameras. A most interesting documentary about these objects appeared on a Sky channel a few weeks ago. Striking pictures of dare-devil sky divers dropping into a 1500ft deep vertical cave in Mexico clearly reveal "Rods" several feet long with 3 "wings" on each one. These appear only on individual frames of video footage and are moving so fast they cannot be seen by the naked eye. Some estimates put their velocity at 6-7000 mph. The nature of the solid rock cave means they cannot be physical as they would be knocked out colliding with the sides of the cave. The study of these objects pioneered by José Escamilla in the States is expanding rapidly with more and more examples being discovered on video.

The question remains - are these objects only being discovered on video because of advances in technology? Are they recent arrivals, possibly extraterrestrial, or instruments of extraterrestrials - or have they always existed alongside physical life on planet Earth? Are there life-forms in other dimensions and non-physical existing alongside solid material life? What we are getting glimpses of is UNIDENTIFIED and almost certainly FLYING - so they are the basis of UFOs. The advantage over traditional UFO reporting is that we have a much better photographic record and can make comparisons without resorting to ridiculous over magnifications of photographs and anecdotal evidence alone.

Note in this edition I have written up a short history of the CIUFOR/Contact International organisation, which may interest newer members. Apologies to anybody that served on the council that I have failed to mention.

THE EDITOR

ASTEROID NEAR MISS? Astronomers reported an asteroid, the "size of a football pitch" managed to pass between the Earth and Moon on June 14th, 2002. In terms of space distances this might be regarded as a near miss, but the chances of a collision from a rock 0.1 miles long in a distance of 240,000 miles put this into perspective. More worrying is the fact that the asteroid did not appear to be tracked in advance. The 1908 Tunguska collision may have been caused by an impact of a body this size, although it was 1923 before the site was properly examined in remote Siberia.

ROYAL "UFOLOGISTS" UNVEILED: According to research carried out by authors Dr David Clarke and Andy Roberts for their new book "Out of the Shadows", active interest in UFOs in the 1950s was being taken by the late Lord Mountbatten of Burma and his nephew, the Duke of Edinburgh. Mountbatten, it emerges, was in a small group of high ranking military personnel who believed "flying saucers" were from another world. (RAF chief, Lord Dowding was the most overtly prominent in paranormal interests.) He discussed the UFO enigma with his friend, Charles Eade, editor of the Sunday Despatch. Eade was encouraged to publish UFO material in his paper to maintain public interest, but was careful not to reveal any links with Lord Mountbatten, although it was implied that a person of high rank and status was involved.

Prince Philip's interest was revealed by a former equerry, the late Peter Horsley. It was suggested that all "flying saucer" reports sent to the then Air Ministry were copied to H.R.H, and these were discussed avidly among the staff at Buckingham Palace. Mr Horsley was in fact despatched as a UFO investigator on behalf of the Duke and quizzed pilots of a Vampire patrol who reported seeing a "flying saucer" in November 1953. Some witnesses were even invited to Buckingham Palace, and their testimony is preserved in the Royal archives.

Latterly we are aware that Prince Philip was showing interest in crop circles around the time of Delgado and Andrews book, "Circular Evidence" (c.1990), but to what extent he works the subject nowadays (into his eighties) we are uncertain.

CROP CIRCLES SLOW ARRIVAL: A very slow build-up to the 23rd year of activity is being recorded. Last year very cold weather in April and May, plus the "foot and mouth" outbreak were believed to have slowed down the forming of circles - the first not being seen to mid-May. In 2002, the first event was spotted in mid-April but only 2 more found before the end of May. Little interest in the rapeseed crop - which some years produces about 10 April/May formations - was noted. However events have accelerated through June with around 20 on the websites, and certainly July is looking fairly prolific. Reports are coming in from Wiltshire, Hampshire, Sussex, Kent, Oxon, Somerset, Bedfordshire and Yorkshire.

A truly spectacular formation, possibly occupying an 800 x 800 ft area has arrived at Stonehenge, about half a mile south of the monument on July 4th. This huge design looks like a toy windmill head with 6 giant arms coiling over, giving 3-dimensional effects. It is placed in a field tightly packed between 3 longbarrows as if testing to see whether it could fit into the space. By mid-July the usual glut of Wiltshire delights were arriving around Avebury, although spoilt by obvious hoaxes - some made professionally for TV channels.

(Full details of the 2002 UK season in the next Awareness).

OXFORDSHIRE CROP CIRCLES: After a poor year in 2001, we confirm 3 quite large formations have arrived in June 2002. Two of these are close together between Garsington and Toot Baldon, which is now the most prolific area in the county. Spotted from the air in mid-June and reported to our website, we still had great difficulty in finding them on the ground. Eventually they were found in 2 barley fields on opposite sides of the B480. The first on the Garsington side was about ½ mile east of Garsington church, but not visible from there. It was a large circle of 112 ft diameter consisting of a ring of 7ft width surrounding an inner section split into "quadrants". Two areas were flattened, while two remained upright (like a round cake cut into 4 slices, 2 opposite ones being removed). Around the perimeter of the outer ring were 3 small circles showing nested centres and linked to the main feature by short paths. SU 582 015. Over the other side of the B480 nearer to Toot Baldon was an unusual "mandala" formation showing a raised feature thought to be "Egyptian" inside a very large area of flattened crop extending 150ft. This glyph was in an absolutely flat field and almost impossible to find. SU 577005. Both formations were tired looking and had probably formed in early June on the same night.

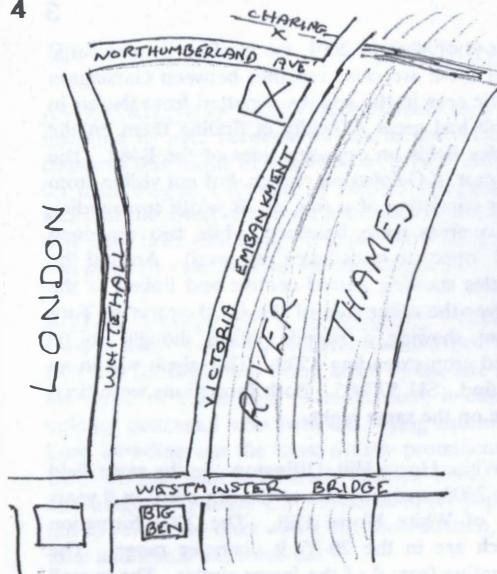
The 3rd formation occurred on June 23rd at White Horse Hill, Uffington - in the same field as the big "thought bubble" type design of July 2000, and amounts to the 5th event in 9 years over the same 2-3 fields on the north side of White Horse Hill. The 2002 formation comprises of a coiled line of 25 circles which are in the 20-35 ft diameter range. The strangest thing is a system of radial lines emanating from 4 of the larger circles. The overall impression is that of a winged insect but could be something else. As the formation lies directly in front of "Dragon Hill" - the smaller mound below the white horse - it might be that the design is a DRAGONFLY or even a mythical DRAGON applying "Cosmic Joker" logic. If visiting, the formation is best seen from the flat top of Dragon Hill - there is not much to be seen from the low-level road adjacent to the field. A limited field inspection shows the crop is green wheat and the circles are very lightly formed with no spiral definition. The impression will probably disappear by late July. SU 302876.

Details of the above formations are on the Oxfordshire website:
www.partyvibe.com/chaic/crop/index.html

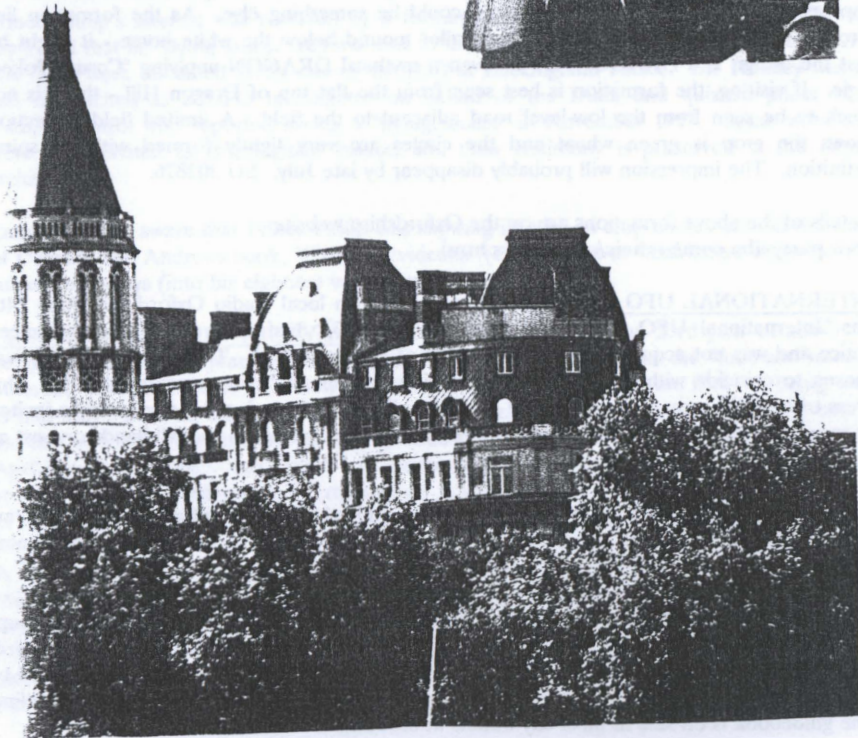
INTERNATIONAL UFO DAY: It was announced on local Radio Oxford that June 24th was "International UFO Day". Unfortunately CIUFOR had not received any advanced notice and was not acquainted with the source of such a festival. The date most likely was chosen to coincide with the Kenneth Arnold interception of "flying saucers" in 1947. Our press officer did manage to sound out several radio stations during the day and was invited to speak on 4 of these. Those appearing interested were mostly in the Midlands or west of England.

The following day, Central television contacted us and asked about "International UFO Day" NEXT WEEK! That made the date around July 2nd so we are not too clear who is running the show here. Can anyone pinpoint the background to all this?

"CHEEKY OXFORD": A guidebook detailing Oxford colleges, history, eateries and groups with a very irreverent slant contains references to CIUFOR and OCCCS in the "weird" Oxford section. Though we accept the lighthearted nature of "Cheeky Oxford", it should be pointed out that the material about us is nearly all out-of-date, inaccurate and misleading. The guidebook is on sale in most city outlets at around £6.



Head "Man in Black"
Wing Commander Myles Formby



The Metropole Building, photographed from new Millennium bridge
(Roof guard rail still visible) Photo Geoff Ambler.

"SIGNS": The first feature film involving crop circles is about to be released. "Signs" looks to be a typical Hollywood affair starring Mel Gibson. Trailers indicate some sort of alien invasion associated with the appearance of circles, but let's wait and see. Since CIUFOR's long standing annual review of crop circles is called "Signs in the Fields" - perhaps we shall be entitled to royalties! Full review next time.

BRITAIN'S "MAN IN BLACK" IDENTIFIED: With the impending release of the second "Men in Black" nonsense film, avid researchers Dr David Clarke and Andy Roberts have discovered secret files which indicates that Britain's War Office did indeed employ its own "Man in Black" and have identified him as Wing Commander Myles Formby who resided in the top secret "Room 801". This was located at the very top of the former Metropole Hotel building at the river end of Northumberland Avenue in London and can still be seen today. Apparently 801 has no lift access and the UFO hunters had to gain entry by a back stairway and gangway across the roof. Top secret it was!

Myles Formby has been found still alive today in Northern Ireland, and readily admits he was the chief "Man in Black" - chosen because of his wide knowledge of languages especially Chinese, and his background in intelligence during the WWII; plus expertise in Russian aircraft immediately post war. Cold War fears of covert Russian activities no doubt precipitated the appointment rather than any desire to find extraterrestrials.

Secret report No 7 of the Flying Saucer Working Party has now been read by the investigators and reveals no government cover-ups. Indeed the team appear to have been dismissive on the subject of UFOs being embarrassed by interviewing "Joe Public" witnesses in the street and ridiculed by hoaxers. By 1951 they recommended no further investigation of the aerial phenomena. Unfortunately for Myles Formby and his team, major UFO sightings in 1952 over Washington D.C, and Churchill's very concise enquiry on the subject kept the Room 801 activities alive for a few more years.

Once again we have established covert tracking of UFOs by the Defence or War ministries, which they have previously denied. Once again they appear to have found nothing to interest modern UFO researchers. (Extracted from Weekend, Daily Mail, 20/7/02 by Julian Champkin p21-22). Photographs overleaf.

SUPER VOLCANO ERUPTION DUE? One of the most dangerous doomsday scenarios that has been little publicised until recently is the "Super Volcano". Several of these exist on Earth and look fairly innocent as they are not smoking cones. For instance, a very large area of magma 5 miles underground, measuring 30 miles long by 20 miles wide is believed to be present beneath the Yellowstone National Park, USA. Well known for its hot springs, the surface of the park is just a thin crust covering this huge well of molten magma and, according to the experts, is overdue for an eruption - the last being 640,000 years ago. The ground has risen 30 inches since 1923.

If such an explosion occurred half of the USA could be buried in dust, and anywhere within 600 miles of Yellowstone would be destroyed by ash, lava flows or explosive force. So much dust would enter the atmosphere the entire world climate would be changed. The last super-eruption is stated to have occurred at Toba on the island of Sumatra 73,000 years ago. Our knowledge of civilisations goes back only about 10,000 years, but should the Earth have been colonised previously by extraterrestrials, all traces of their existence may have been destroyed by one or more super eruption burying the evidence.

USA FIGHTERS INTERCEPTION: Reports in the press state two F-16 fighter jets were scrambled and pursued a mysterious blue object travelling at "phenomenal speed" across Washington D.C. The jets lost it somewhere near Waldorf, Maryland. The unknown object had been detected on radar and interceptors from Andrews air force base were sent up. Military spokesmen refused to speculate whether object was a UFO.

Ground witness, Renny Rogers, from Waldorf stated: "I saw this light blue object. There was one jet right behind it, chasing it, but the object was just leaving him in the dust."

These reports were published in late July, but the actual date of the interception was not mentioned. It sounds very much like another of the blue/green balls seen over many parts of England.

TRIANGLES STILL APPEAR: Although CIUFOR has not received a "black triangle" report for some time, they are still making regular appearances in almost every country of the world. The current OVNI magazine (editor Omar Fowler) lists a number of American reports and the start of another "outbreak" in Belgium - the scene of a great flap 12 years ago. The overview is that the basic shape of the "manifestation" is a black triangle of considerable size, but there are many combinations of lights in different colours and sizes appearing beneath the main body according to witnesses. If this is some sort of secret technology you would possibly expect the lighting systems to remain constant! (Note the word "manifestation" - as we cannot prove this is a "craft". Indeed the triangles could be holograms or projections sent by the "cosmic joker".)

AGONY CORNER: (Anti-Establishment comment on latest scares and cover-ups).
MMR - COVER-UP OF THE QUARTER? Use of MMR combined vaccine (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) on babies is now believed to be the cause of increasing autism or bowel disease in developing children. A few qualified voices speak out in protest, but the overwhelming establishment of doctors and politicians declare there is no risk to health citing the vaccine has been used and approved in 90 countries over 20 years or more.

Like most of these scare stories there is a grain of truth in it. A very small percentage of babies born with weak immune systems are vulnerable, but "big business" decrees that the number is sufficiently small to hide the problem under the carpet and avoid the inconvenience of single vaccinations or an outbreak of measles. A similar policy has been applied to the smoking diseases over many years.

Channelled information received indicates human spirit is weakening - and by implication the immune system in new borns is operating at a reduced level. The vaccine acts by triggering the immune system to attack viruses of the 3 types, but indications of overloading are apparent as measles virus has been found in children with the bowel problem. The original testing of MMR was carried out over 30 years ago on a population of babies with stronger immune systems?

Nobody has proposed that babies born after 2000 are maybe different from when the first trials of MMR were carried out.

Please send "Agony" material to our Box No.

=====

by Data Research

Our team of Geoff Ambler, Tony Broad and Mike Soper were the CIUFOR representatives for the third visit to the Public Records Office, (PRO), at Kew, West London on May 2nd, the previous visit being in 1999. We found security just as tight and our reader's passes had to be renewed. The handy brochure listing all the UFO files available for inspection had not been updated since our last visit, which was a great disappointment. In the reading room, the awful personal bleep system that communicated your requested files were ready to pick up had been replaced by a card swiping method that gave an immediate (and silent) indication on a screen where your requests were at that particular moment. We were surprised to find, on this occasion, the reading tables were half empty. On previous visits it was quite congested. (There was nothing special happening on the day we attended.)

The files studied on this occasion reached up to 1971 under the 30 year rule, and we found the last 4 years are somewhat tidier than the 1960-65 period when all the odd letters and attachments from the public were stapled together in one great heap! At some stage handwritten letters seemed to have been filed elsewhere and a tele-text resumé of a sighting forwarded to appropriate defence establishments. The origin of most of these messages at c1970 was:

FM/ATCC UXBRIDGE.

We noted each case has its own file within the main file and a systematic analysis of UFO sightings for every month of cases referred to. For instance, the assessment for the month of May 1967 was as follows:

MOD Analysis May 1967 (15 cases)

AIRCRAFT	3	20%
SATELLITES	4	26.7%
SATELLITE DEBRIS	0	
BALLOONS	1	6.06%
CELESTIAL	0	
METEOROLOGICAL	0	
MISC'	1	6.06%
UNIDENTIFIED	0	
INSUFFICIENT INFO'	4	26.7%
UNKNOWN	2	13.4%

The data seems to vary considerably month by month with a small percentage being "UNIDENTIFIED" or "UNKNOWN".

The following interesting comments/memoranda have been extracted from files we examined:
Ref: J.J.A Hennessey (A very regular enquirer to the MOD)

"I see Mr Hennessey has moved again - perhaps he is keeping one step ahead of the "little green men" !

Department of the Air Force, HQ 3rd AirForce (USAFE), South Ruislip.

Mr Thomas Cochrane,
Deputy Director of Public Relations,
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1
17/5/67

Dear Tom,

We of course have no program in the UK to investigate UFOs - I don't know whether you have or not. I am sure you direct this letter to a more appropriate agency within her Majesty's government.

James T. Bear, GS-W
Press Officer, Directorate of Information.

Letter 11/5/67 To R.G Thomas, Australia

The Ministry of Defence investigates reports of unidentified flying objects solely to the extent of its concern for the air defence of the United Kingdom. Over the years we have not found any threat to our air defence, nor have we discovered any extraterrestrial connections—

W.F Allen, Whitehall MOD

Addressed to: R.F Thomas, Hon Secretary, Defence and Foreign Affairs Committee,
Australian Democratic Labour Party.

June 1967 From PS to Prime Minister.

We have considered the suggestion made in your letter of 20th May that the United Kingdom might request or raise a question in respect of the establishment of an official United Nations investigation into UFOs. We have, however, felt bound to conclude that our experience to date in this field is not such as would justify the United Kingdom taking an initiative in such a matter.

Minutes of Memo 13/2/70 (useful data on aircraft lights)

Red and Green navigation lights can be seen for 8 miles.
Rear white navigation lights can be seen for 3 miles.
Front white lights can be seen for 12 miles, but landing lights may be observed much further depending on visibility.

NEW CASES FROM PRO FILES: Analysis by Mike Soper.

Naval Sighting 1968: HMS Huntsland (24229) was steaming towards Colombo from Havana under the direction of Captain Mackenzie when on 2nd March 1968 at 1945 GMT when the ship was 9° 55 minutes South, and 12° 35 minutes West, the Master and 20 of the crew including L. Kuysler, 3rd officer, saw an enormous object glowing with a bluish light with a fore shock wave and aft shock waves both angled at about 80° and also giving off blue light. This object passed over from the SW horizon to the NE horizon. The object which was silent subtended about 3 degrees of arc. ESTIMATED SIZE GREATER THAN ONE MILE. (If 5 miles away, then the object was 500 metres in size - though at 5 miles, object and shock waves could not be silent. Note no NASA spacecraft were this size, and naturally made deafening noise until at high altitude.)

Naval Sighting 1970: Details of this sighting were obtained from a Met' Office memorandum dated 20/5/70 addressed to the Director of the Radio and Space Research

Station, Ditton Park, Slough. This is shown overleaf. Apparently unusual observations at sea were forwarded to the Met. office at Bracknell, who have passed this case on to a more scientific group. There is some suggestion these lights may have been effects from a rocket launch, but ship personnel were well aware of the appearance of rocket launches at this time (1970). Indeed we have also found a letter concerning the launch of a British military satellite from Cape Kennedy in 1969. It was observed from HMS Piako from a distance of 134 miles and the 3 crew members that were watching including the Captain, J.D Sladen identified engine burn and exhaust gases with little difficulty.

Synopsis of English sightings: The most recent files we were allowed access to showed on 11/9/71, Ms Cooper at Rochester airport saw a grey spinning disc (silent) which appeared in the west, moved to the east and finally to the SE. The time was 9.30pm.

On 20/9/71 a witness at Middleton, Lancs, 8.15pm, saw a very bright light following a plane for some seconds and then shot off very rapidly indeed.

On 13/5/71 "AH" of Manchester had repeatedly seen discs in the sky with corrugated bases and smooth tops.

On 22/11/70, Mr Webb in London area N1 saw a dark red disc which flew over, stopped, FLASHED, lighting up sky, descended to 500ft and left.

Wing Commander Whitworth Mystery: A large file of 1971 material contains references to a case of 1957. This was at the auspices of Wing Commander Walter Whitworth who had been CO at RAF West Freugh in 1957 when 5 objects with astonishing performance envelopes were detected by the civilian radar operators at Balsalloch and Stranraer. The first was huge and stationary at 50,000 ft, and ascended in one minute to 67,000 ft; then descended very fast with a trajectory containing a 45° turn to 15,000 ft before moving off. The object was 25 miles NW of Stranraer.

Whitworth requested clearance from the MOD to communicate information on these objects and also the types of radar being employed at the time to a third party. In his letter the Wing Co' stated that the object was real and gave an echo similar to that of a ship rather than a plane, and that at the speed the object was going, no plane could turn that fast. Later 4 objects of the same size and speed in line astern were seen on both radars. All this occurring on 4/4/57 was widely reported in Fleet Street without any confirmatory details of course, height, speed trajectory or apparent size. The 4 objects in line astern were not described to the press. Balloons were definitely ruled out.

The 1971 reply to Whitworth was that THERE WERE NO RECORDS PRIOR TO 1962, which is puzzling to say the least since the photostats of the newspaper articles and the letters from the time (1957) were all included in the 1971 file! A full analysis of 1957 UFO reports had also been prepared and was in this file too. These show that for 1957, 43 reports were received in the following classifications:

METEOROLOGICAL	3
PLANET	4
BALLOONS	11
AEROPLANE	4
NAVIGATION LIGHTS	5
CAR LIGHTS	1
FIREWORK	1

1 copy 2h cx 33

E/OS

LMC



METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE, Met 0 1 Rm T3
Headquarters Annexe Eastern Road Bracknell Berkshire RG12 2UR

Telex B4160

Telephone 0344 (Bracknell) 20242 ext

The Director
Radio and Space Research Station
Science Research Council
Ditton Park
Slough
Bucks

Please reply to The Director-General
Your reference

Our reference
AF/M1376/68/Met 0 1
Date
20 November 1970

Dear Sir

The following observation received from the m.v. Port Pirie, Captain J G Whyte, Panama towards Auckland is forwarded for your information.

18 August 1970 at 0628 GMT in 18° 04'S, 137° 43'W, approximately ten bright lights were observed to rise bearing WNW, passed ahead of the ship and set in the south. The maximum altitude attained was about 22°. Of these lights, three were noticed to be exceptionally bright being about the same as Venus and the rest were of the same magnitude as Antares. Because of the amount of cloud, the passage of these lights was not observed completely across the sky but when setting one of them was very bright green in colour with a bluish-white tail; the other ones burned with a yellowish-white light. The time interval between rising and setting was about a minute.

About a quarter of an hour later, at 0645 GMT, the same type and number of lights were seen again but this time rising about ESE, passing astern and setting in the north with an estimated maximum altitude of 20°. It was reported that when rising for the second time, the lights appeared to have tails like rockets and when setting they assumed the same characteristics as the lights on the first occasion. The time interval between rising and setting was again about a minute.

Cloud cover 4/8th, dry bulb 24.5°, wet bulb 22.2°, wind easterly force 3.

Yours faithfully

for Marine Superintendent

Copy to:- AD Met 0(SI)
Stf (Air)

SPUTNIK 1
UNCLASSIFIED 13

Hence out of 43 cases no explanation can be given to 13 or 30% - rather more than one might expect from a government and military controlled study.

For this reason the DDI(tech) file for 1971, West Freugh, is huge - all for a decision being made concerning the TYPES of the obsolete radars from 1957, in the supposed absence of official documents from 1957. This is most droll, and in fact we see the file consists of reams of memos sent round by people contacted in the department, the contents being typically:

- a) Complaining "why haven't I been consulted before".
 - b) Sending the problem to someone else.
- which clearly indicates THIS MUST BE A GENUINE CASE!

Hence we can be quite sure that when there was a genuine urgent relevant and immediate incontrovertible case at that time - the civil servants involved disappear under a heap of memos and not a lot happens.

In fact the vast majority of cases from 1971 are minimally notated and replied to - even sadly when the people writing in are children of age 8 who have laboriously written a 3 page letter and drawn a picture. All they get back is just the standard letter and form, and then official usually negative brief evaluation. This is all very sad since these cases, many of which contain valuable aspects of UFO behaviour are just buried.

In conclusion we would appeal for more members to examine PRO files, as we are now reaching the release stages when there is a file covering every month in the late 1960s and 1970s. A team of 3 can only get through 10-15 files in a half day session, and there must be nearly 100 now open. The PRO is on the east side of Kew following the A205, South Circular Rd. A large car park and cafeteria are on site and the only charge is for your lunch!

MYSTERY SPIRALS REAPPEAR

by Geoff Ambler

BACKGROUND: It was first drawn to our attention that strange globes/orbs were appearing on photographs taken in and around crop circles at dusk during the period 1993-4, as a result of the work done by Plymouth UFO Group. As they got more involved, what appeared to be "faces" and other geometrical shapes emerged on their films, but much of this was put down to the effects of moisture and the shape of the shutter inside cameras in use. Only a limited ability to "see" these orbs was reported.

I personally started experimenting in 1994 and picked up the occasional ball, but the most interesting results involved "spirals" - a spiral tube which filled the whole of the frame. These were certainly invisible to the naked eye, but gave the impression of rapid motion. For the next 3 years I managed to capture a number of these spirals including a sequence taken in Cornwall where "something" was apparently following from the beach to the house I was staying at. Another amazing photo taken in 1995 shows a triple beam of several colours sitting along a farm track. However for each success there are long barren sequencies of film with nothing on them. No particular set of circumstances is guaranteed to produce

anything and patience is needed.

Equally as interesting is that negatives of photographs with spirals and some balls on them appear to DOWSE over the position where they are placed in the photograph. This is done by a suspended needle and various movements are recorded over the "activated" areas. The film can also be dowsed while inside the camera to indicate energy has been absorbed. Quite often this happens but does not always result in visible manifestations when the film is developed. (Once again it should be pointed out that dowsing is non-scientific and subjective). Of course if my reactions are accurate it does eliminate camera straps, moisture or insects being the cause of what is seen on the photograph.

OTHER RESULTS: It is now established that the spirals are appearing with all sorts of cameras at locations all over the world. A photograph taken at a New Years Eve party in Perth Australia, 1999, shows a spiral beam apparently descending from the sky. This was taken by our contact Ellis Taylor, who also got multiple spirals on 2 photographs taken in October 2001 at St Neclan's Glen near Tintagel, Cornwall. The effect was to completely eliminate the background on these daylight shots of a stream and waterfall at this mystical site. (Ref website www.ellistaylor.com).

John Hanson, Birmingham, has also forwarded photographs of beams in churchyards, living rooms and apparently during the healing operations of a famous "psychic surgeon". A series of photographs have been found in the Clancarty Library taken during Roman Catholic ecstasies show all sorts of beams and wild gyrations of energies around the bodies of indulgers. It is not clear from the source of these pictures whether the manifestations are visible to the naked eye or not, and, in any case, what is visible has been interpreted in a religious way. My only "internal" beam shot was at my son's graduation ceremony where a photograph of the dignatories' platform after all had departed revealed an intense white beam running horizontally across the main table and suddenly changing direction to run off the platform into the audience below - so it seemed!

NEW SPIRALS: During a recent visit to Cornwall I tried to replicate Ellis Taylor's 2001 beams at St Neclan's glen. A dozen photographs taken along the stream there were quite "normal" however. None-the-less it gave me an impression that some of these "energy forms" may be generated from continuous tumbling water (the old water-mill electricity generating concept). The nearest location where there is falling water locally is Cuddesdon Mill, Oxon, SU 612 028. On arrival, I also aimed the camera from a sub-conscious impression that something was present in a copse next to the stream, where I took 5 controlled photographs at one minute intervals just before dusk on May 28th, 2002. After developing, there was something present on 4 of them. The camera used was my Nikon RF2 which always seems to produce better results than other cameras tried. The following features of the sequence are described below.

- (A) White form in foreground. Small white ball in distance. (see overleaf).
- (B) Full beam display. Looks about 20 feet long. The background has become much darker, so it appears to have absorbed light. The finite ending of the RHS is interesting as it shows the beam does not extend into the sky or space as other earlier pictures have indicated. (see overleaf).
- (C) Large white mass in foreground - no discernable shape.
- (D) Nothing now visible.
- (E) Mass appears in the foreground again.

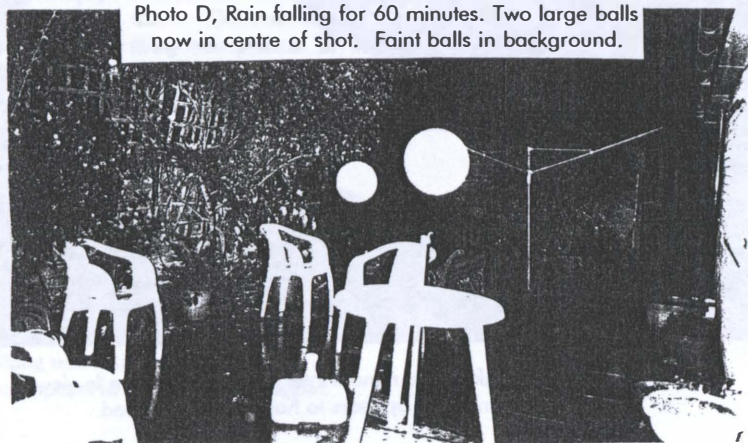
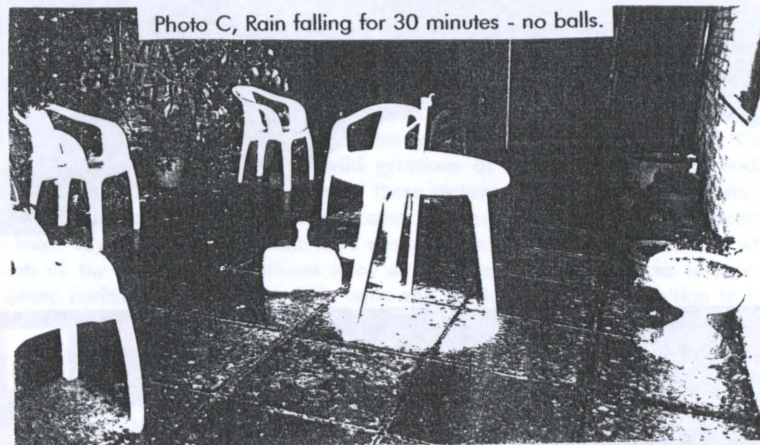
First photograph at Cuddesdon Mill, Oxon



Second photograph taken one minute later. Full spiral beam in view. Note background light appears to have been absorbed.

What impressions do you get? Remember nothing is visible to the naked eye. I have since taken a further sequence at the same place with 2 cameras in use in early evening - nothing showed, but a number of photos taken after dark with the Nikon operating flash has picked a large number of small white balls about the size of the single picked up in picture (A). These may be insects reflecting light.

The photographs below are taken across my patio at night when rain was building up. Shot (C) is the situation after half an hours light deposits. Picture (D) shows it after a further half hour. In this shot globes are appearing, but nothing at all was seen in (C). Thus are the globes being flushed down with the rain after a certain time. (I took these photos quickly ensuring no rain got on to the lens.) The largest globe must be around a foot in diameter compared to the width of the white table, and faint lines are visible on the surface. Much controversy rages over the nature of globes/orbs and a number of experiments using powder particles can be made to appear similar on film, but certainly their size does not match the very large, opaque examples which I have only been seeing the last 2 years.



“Coincidences” – are hidden forces acting?

By Geoff Ambler and Frances Copeland

Part 1 – by Geoff Ambler

I made a remark in an editorial 2 years ago that I suddenly bumped into my son, Howard, on Glastonbury Tor when neither of us knew the other would be there on a particular August, Saturday morning. Indeed, my hosts for the weekend had only suggested going to the Tor a few hours previously so there was no stitch-up, and my son had certainly not informed us where he might be that weekend. How could this have possibly happened as neither of us had visited the Tor more than twice previously in 25 years? Was it the mystical forces of Glastonbury working or a sheer fluke?

A few weeks ago at a large national auction house, I spotted a stock book of stamps belong to a person who lived just 4 doors away from my boyhood address in Banbury. Perhaps another fluke?

This year, 2002, the most bizarre series of events have unfolded. My wife Anne, was involved with the “Friends Reunited” web site and tried to link up with old school friends she knew in Perivale, Middlesex in the 1950s. A response came from a Mr John Mills (not the great actor) in Canada. Yes, she was aware of John Mills, but had no idea he was in Canada. Oddly the e-mail had the name “Frances Copeland” on it. Querying this with me as Frances Copeland was well known to us through CIUFOR, she asked “why is Fran Copeland’s name on this email?” I thought maybe there was a glitch in the system as Fran had been complaining about getting viruses on her computer. I then put this to Fran, who had no idea why “Frances Copeland” was involved in this particular email, so Anne sent back a message to Canada asking for clarification. It was quite simple – “Frances Copeland” was married to John Mills who had not got his own email address, but then we were staggered to find out after further enquiries that “Frances Copeland”, Canada was related to Alan Copeland, Fran’s husband in England. She will tell you in her own words about this.

What staggering odds exist of finding 2 "Frances Copeland's" that are related? I have made a very rough stab at the mathematics of this coincidence.

How many "Copeland's" are there? In the Oxford telephone directory there are 8 listed out of 126,560 entries, making the odds 1 in 15,820. How many of these might be called "Frances". A reference list of first names gives 1941 entries. Assuming half of these are obscure we are left with 970 possible first names of which "Frances" is one.

The population of UK is about 58 million and Canada about 27 million. As our connections in UK are mainly in the South East area let us assume only 15 million persons are involved. (It looks probable there are likely to be more "Copeland's" in the north of England from investigation and an area of Cumbria is called "Copeland"). On the basis of the 1 in 15,820 there is an expected 948 "Copeland's" in the South East of England with 970 first names, Thus the chance of a "Frances Copeland" is just 1 to the nearest whole number. Similarly the same applied to Canada produce just 2 "Frances Copeland". Multiplied together the odds of one "Frances Copeland" in England randomly meeting 2 "Frances Copeland's" in Canada are one in 5,000,000,000,000!

The chance that having made the connection, any 2 of them could be related is more complex. Possibly a quarter of the "Copeland's" listed in either country are related within a small localised area, but the Canada-UK link is less likely to produce relatives. On previous calculations there are a total of 2655 "Copeland's" in both countries under consideration, 948 in the South East of England to 1707 in Canada. Thus the number of cross Atlantic meetings possible is $948 \times 1707 = 1,618,236$. We assume very few random meetings of a pair of "Copeland's" would find they are related going back 3 generations say. Thus combining the odds of "being related" and that of being "Frances Copeland" becomes "astronomical". (Odds of winning the National Lottery jackpot is 57 million to 1 for one entry).

One has to assume a "computer in the sky" is somehow operating and linking us up in some bizarre way. Many odd coincidences no doubt exist but the chances of coming across any of them in a normal 70-80 year life span is fairly remote unless these "hidden forces" work on us.....

Part 2 – by Frances Copeland

The strange thing was that Frances Copeland came as a child to Oxford with her parents and an Uncle to see her father's brother (my husband's father). The visit was only once as a trip from London to Oxford was an expensive days travel, and travelling wasn't common as at that time the 2nd world war had not long finished. It was an event in the family if an Aunt or Uncle came to visit, as all the Copelands lived in London and were most of the time tied to their families and homelife. The fact that Frances Copeland could remember the one visit she made as a child was pretty incredible. Unfortunately Alan (my husband) could not recall this momentous event!

Yes, bizarre as Geoff says but this amazing co-incidence is an on going saga. We have found out through our E-mail correspondence that most of my namesake's family live in Bognor Regis i.e. brothers and sisters – and we spent most of the summer holidays when the children were small in – Bognor Regis. Year after year we rented the same caravan on a large site as it catered for families such as ourselves. We possibly sat next to a relative on the beach with no knowledge whatsoever! As the stories unfold we find the whole thing most startling.

On an interesting note there was a newspaper article in The Mail on Sunday dated July 14th which was entitled *Titanic gives up its secret of "lost kiss"* in which a young Irishman who was to work on the fateful Titanic was promised a kiss by Gladys the pretty 17 year old daughter of a pub landlord George Copeland, if he sent her a memento of the great ship.

On the eve of its departure from Southampton, Williamson kept his end of the bargain and mailed Gladys a card with a picture of the luxury liner on the front. He wrote mischievously, referring to a farewell drink he had in her father's pub in the city the day before when Gladys wasn't there "George wanted me to wait last night for you to fulfil your promise. This is a souvenir of the Titanic's maiden voyage." It was signed –Pat. But the Dublin-born postal clerk never lived to claim his prize!

The postcard is extraordinarily rare and was up for auction for a mere "£20,000." I wonder how much it made!

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POINT PLEASANT DISASTER PROPHECY

By Michael Soper

Stare at the wall long enough and you see no wall. Stare at the world long enough and you see no world – just a version of yourself, shadow. In this situation the only way out of these narcissistic theories is watching closely for

WHEN THE WORLD CHANGES.....

Note, the current model of the world and the UFO picture – supplies this, though phenomena are not easy. Yet what connects mind and what appears as matter will not be easy to relate at all. The main point being, that adopting the view of the great philosopher, Plato, we are all trapped in the cave, and thus have a problem with finding out what the true nature of the world is like. And during the scene change we can get some data concerning the inferred true nature of the world. Here the difficulty is that we cannot forget the spurious detail of what we currently accept as true!

Hence for example, taken together many physical facts lead to much less developed theories. There cannot be infinite accuracy – by quantum theory. Hence we consider the 'fringe, scene changing' events for what light they can throw on our model for the nature of the world.

In 1976 we were living near Perranarworthal south of Truro, Cornwall on the Falmouth Road; when at Mawnan near Swanpool the bizarre events known as OWLMAN happened. These involved nine girl guides who saw a strange being in the environs of Mawnan church and in the cinemas on general nationwide release from the 2nd of March 2002, we had the film *Mothman Prophecies*, starring Richard Gere which described exactly similar true events involving the same being which happened in West Virginia USA in 1966. Note this film is not fictional being an account of the vents in West Virginia accurately portrayed and dramatised. Here the UFO events concerning the headless winged creature flying above Mawnan church, which landed near the girls, and which had strange eyes of luminescence's where the shoulders are, happened on these dates as reported in the local press:

Cornish Owlman Cases:-

- 17th April 1976 two girl guides – hovering over Mawnan church
 3rd July 1976 10pm two camping girls – Owlman stood, then flew up, they saw pincer feet.

- 4th July 1976 Sunday morning – two girls saw Owlman's legs fold backwards.
 June 1978 One girl witness saw 'like flying demon' (all same locale)
 2nd August 1978 Trees near Mawnan Church seen by three young French girls

Compare with:-

- 15th November 1966 Point Pleasant, West Virginia, Scarberrys and Mallettes saw seven foot tall grey winged creature (two couples), mothman kept pace with car as they tired to escape, red eyes and squeaks
 August 1969 Da Nhang, Vietnam (Earl Morrison saw naked winged black woman flying over base with other witnesses).
 (Cf *Creatures from Elsewhere* ISBN 074810299X).

Folk law not just folk law in West Virginia witnesses developed conjunctivitis and the events in Point Pleasant continued for 13 months before the collapse of the silver Bridge taking 46 lives and the piton bridge support that failed was the thirteenth. The author John Keel spent a week phoning people near Point Pleasant telling them not to travel into the town the week before the event.

However, this was done, and whatever it was evidently they scan through events at a very different frequency from ourselves and thus the numerous curious phone calls that drove people crazy. The odd multiplying of events the fact that someone driving to point A found themselves at point B hundreds of miles away (without any explanation), at a time before any possible car could have driven them. The events in West Virginia in 1967 happened to people with no expectation of the paranormal at all, who were in fact just attempting to continue about their business but who could not for some reason think about what was happening as a whole, and who might have been dead had they not seen mothman before, which kept them off that bridge.

At this time I was at Keele University and in 1967 there was a frantic number of UFO sightings in Staffordshire at the Netilee estate in Stoke, at Stafford, Kidsgrove, Foxt, Weston, Hanley, Leigh, Newcastle (note both Ohio and West Virginia have Weston's in the index for each state) a major UFO flap surrounding Keele University whilst the author John Keel was in a UFO lap of his own receiving weird electronically modulated phone calls from his British author friend Ivan Sanderson. Neither was responsible for this. The bridge collapsed on December 15th 1967 the radio giving out the name Galipolis Bridge Ohio that was not exactly right. The bridge in Point Pleasant was the one that collapsed.

And that is what I mean about 'scene chaining' very much like the brilliant discontinuities in a Philip K Dick novel, these things happen in the physical world and involve joint testimony which cannot according to the supposed 'rules' be the case. I remember during the height of the flap in Keele 'skywatching' on a knoll of silver grey bark beeches next to a busy motorway where there was a 'bridge' which was really a restaurant and thinking "this is not what I normally do, why am I doing this?" This was the summer when so many bizarre things happened in Point Pleasant. Was something trying to help the inhabitants in Point Pleasant evade their trauma by successive approximate focussing?

Keele for Keel and Leek the other side of the conurbation. Leek was the name of the investigator in the film. Sightings were near Silverdale near Keele and Stoke Silverdale, Endon, Blythe Bridge are equally on three sides disposed about Stoke, and thus we have the odd result that something was gradually trying to focus onto or tune into the one chap who could see that a disaster was due.

The film Mothman Prophecies gives a surprisingly accurate account of the events of that year and with the various nods in the direction of a romantic subplot (which was the fiction in the fiction) actually does describe the events which happened in West Virginia at that time quite well. The only odd absence concerns the focussing on MOTHMAN rather than the very many UFO events that happened at that time in the same area. For some reason the UFO side of the phenomenon was played down. John A Keel has written THE MOTHMAN PROPHECIES (on www.madaboutbooks.com website) and also the book WHY UFOs (and very many others)

Consider that a COMPARISON of the events near Stoke on Trent and their synchronistic connection with events at West Virginia at the same time could pay dividends in the comprehension of the intrinsic nature of these communications.

Two things are noteworthy

- a) a PHYSICALLY LARGE RADAR REFLECTING STRUCTURE is involved (the metal silver bridge at Point Pleasant)
- b) the search is not by place, more by listening to superimposed conversations.

Thus Keel and Keele are involved;
Silverdale and Silver Bridge;
Hand, Hanley Han, Hanford.

In the Potteries these names are connected.

Newcastle, Silverdale, Keele, Stoke, Hanley, Leek, Blythe, Trentham, Endon, Madeley, Kildsgrove, Longton, Frogghall, Stone, Uttoxeter.

Virginia contains New Castle, Keeling, Silva, Enon, Maidshill, Stonewood.

Point Pleasant borders Ohio and Ohio contains, Enon, Hanover, Hanoverton, Stone Creek, Silverton, and Trenton nearby.

Consider on the fifth of March 1967 a blood transfusion van on route to Ohio going to Huntingdon was nearly hijacked by a flying disc and amusingly a cigar shaped object was seen in Lappland and at Hallam, Australia a saucer was seen.

On 3rd April whilst the missiles were being retargeted at Malmstrom AFB Montana, by a red UFO near the gate, John Keel saw a disc right by Silver Bridge (before the disaster) with a newspaper woman witness. To the North East is Pennsylvania which contains:- Keelersburg, New Castle, Leek Kill, Frogtown, Silverdale, Trent, Madley, Longwood Hanover.

What is weird is that similarly to the insanely multiplied messages Keel was getting in the summer of 1967 often waiting for him at hotels he had only decided to stop at minutes before, e.g. more than twenty something's were trying to locate him and were incidentally causing a major UFO flap in the potteries. On July 21st 1967 many US UPF groups had a problem with hoax calls, often in the voices of friends who never made the calls – often obscene and abusive. Some UFO groups fragmented at this point. I have had hoax calls myself...perfectly mimicked. POINT Unpleasant, somehow and by all means, something was trying to make a difference in the past and was getting confused with multiplicities.- thus KEEL, KEELE, LEEK, LEEK, SILVER BRIDGE W. V...Silverdale, Blythe Bridge and Endon about Stoke UK, Silverton Ohio and Sylva Virginia and Silverdale, Pennsylvania we have Pen and author and John Keel and Keelersburg, Pennsylvania.

Editor

Even though some of these connections may be dubious there is certainly enough evidence to suppose "forces" of some description were trying to communicate with humans on both sides of the Atlantic in the 1966-67 period. If they were trying to warn us of a pending bridge collapse at Point Pleasant then this is rather a strange way of doing it!

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The DEATH OF UFOLOGY???

A personal view of UNCONVENTION 2002 6-7 April 2002

Delegates were issued with wrist-bands, the type of item beloved by all-inclusive package tour resorts. But did the Commonwealth Institute on Kensington High Street deserve this? Sensibly, we were not pressed to wear them. However things started badly on the first day when several dozen people were turned away from Hall 1 (capacity 468) where Jon Ronson was speaking on "Secret Rulers of the World." Even so Hall 2, with some 400+ seats, was only one third full for Philip Walton, Chairman of ASSAP, explaining the "Paranormal Olympics." At Fortean Times' conferences, since inception, a twin-track programme has run, which means that even if one attends every session, one could only cover 50% of the programme. And Hey, one goes to conferences to meet friends and personalities! Even buy some merchandise perhaps?

The 2nd talk in Hall 1 was by veteran sceptical ufologist, Jim Moseley. He told us that American Airlines had mislaid his luggage on route to the UK. Very reassuring for other victims! He said that he had been writing a book since 1953, and it was now about to go on sale: "SHOCKINGLY CLOSE TO THE TRUTH!" (confessions of a grave-robbing ufologist); autographed copies for only £19 says the flyer. His co-author is Karl Pflöck.

Jim first came to the UK in 1964 on honeymoon, and in 1997 for the Fortean Times conference marking the 50th anniversary of ufology. He started his magazine, "Saucer Smear" in 1974 and was a close friend of Gray Barker, who in turn was a friend of Albert Bender, of MIB fame. Jim had fallen for THE TIMES tall-story that the British Flying Saucer Bureau founded by Denis Plunkett in 1952 had closed down. It hasn't! Roswell was unheard of until 1978, although Aztec in New Mexico had been mentioned in Frank Scully's book of 1950. He had interviewed many people including "Dr" Silas Newton and "Prof" George Adamski. Jim has dug up gold artifacts on the Nasca lines, and been party to composing hoax letters to well-known UFO personalities. He reckons that all the Ed. Walters photos were faked.

For a breath of air and sunshine, I joined Rick Gibson for a light lunch in the cafeteria in Holland Park. We started the afternoon listening to Colin Bennett on "Scepticism as Mystique". Sceptics, perhaps people with inflexible mind-sets, can retard progress. Colin cited cavalry officers opposing the introduction of tanks. He mentioned that inventors such as Leonard Cramp, Eric Laithwaite and Barnes Wallace, had been derided or ignored. Some of Cramp's devices worked, some did not, earning him the Fortean fix, "the partial explanation." Like Adamski, Cramp was a UFO contactee. John Keely's machines earned no explanations at all. Sceptics had made some silly claims about UFOs, he said. The point being that "sceptics hate bits that don't fit." They seem to provide universally mundane explanations for phenomena. Are they motivated by a cultural fear that their social group is doomed? Perhaps worse, "scepticism is an intellectual allergy!" John Rimmer and John Harney, sitting on the front row sporting MAGONIA press passes, barely twitched. Colin tends to write and talk in metaphors, and a member of the audience leapt up to say that his talk was boring. Actually I thought it was a good lesson for us all. Colin's book "Looking For Orthon" a new biography of George Adamski is now available in the UK.

Next on my list was Robin Simmons on "The Latest Developments in the Search for Noah's Ark." In 1906, the "Ark of Noah" was said to be visible emerging from the ice on Mount Ararat at 14,000 feet. Some remains have been spotted at 11,000 feet, having fallen over the side of the mountain perhaps, but remaining stuck in a glacier. Robin claims that key files on Ararat are missing from various archives. The problem is that the only available photos are long distance shots. Since the "Ark" is in a sensitive military area, visiting is prohibited. The alternative solution is that the "Ark" is in fact an ancient temple structure that has subsequently become engulfed by the ice and snow.

Next up was Ken Campbell talking about Montanism and Gastromancy. He told us that the Japanese had learnt English through reading "Ann of Green Gables" which would have coloured their view of the West. Ken has a unique form of humour and presentation. This included demonstrations by four young men and two girls. When a pretty petite blond in a smart dark suit, took off her skirt, and (in the interests of gastro-mancy?).....I knew that I had seen everything! Final item of the day was the screening of a 45 minute documentary film, with gaps for TV commercials, "The Search For Mothman." Not only did David Grabias' piece, tell us about the Silver Bridge disaster, but suggested that the alarming winged red-eyed Mothman image had turned up in other places prior to a disaster causing loss of life.

Hall 1 - Sunday:

Doug Skinner, a man of many talents from the USA, had already spoken on John Keel and the Mothman. He told us how "Data Gets Damned". Seems that there is a problem with "scientific method" which he compared with bees running their hive. "For every expert there is an equal and opposite expert." But can TV researchers always find one? He told us that our senses were designed by evolution for the survival of our species. They are subjective and are designed to protect our bodies; not to show us the world! There are more than the traditional five senses. How about balance, fatigue, hunger/thirst? We relay on memory which is often flawed he told us. The more complex the organism the more closely related it is to its environment. Science, he told us, is the social activity of scientists, so there is no typical scientist. Their work is influenced by instincts and social adaptability. They defend their territory and intellectual domain. They are slaves to hierarchical patterning and fear ridicule. Consequently they may not be equipped for "scientific method." He told us that telepathy kicks in, in times of crisis. Scientific discoveries have come in dreams. "Nature does not make laws, scientists do!"

Lionel Fanthorpe gave two talks on Sunday, the second on "Mazes and Labyrinths" and the first on "The World's most Fortean Object" which turns out according to Lionel, to be the human brain.

Graham Hancock, whose Ch.4 TV documentaries on ancient sacred sites have been compulsive viewing, arrived in a nick of time for his 1.00 pm slot. He had just flown back from India. Since the last ice age, he said that 10 million square miles, had been inundated by melt-water. In places sea-levels had risen 400 feet. It had not always been a gradual rise. Glacial lakes built up in the Antarctic and led to sudden releases of melt-water. He thinks that there were a series of flooding peaks. Since ice packs can be two miles deep, major changes could lead to extra stress on fault lines and result in coincident volcanic upheavals. His theory is that pre- Ice Age civilisations are now under-water. He

had been investigating under-sea sites off India and Japan. There is a Tamil tradition of a great civilisation that existed 11,000 years ago. It could have lain on the land-bridge that joined Sri Lanka to the Indian continent. Malta's famous cart ruts have been found underwater and are thought to be 3000 years old. Malta was once joined to Italy. His theory is simplicity. Exciting finds in India's Gulf of Cambay and elsewhere suggest that stories of catastrophic floods hide some awkward truths about the world's 'earliest' civilisations.

The final event was billed as "MEGA PANEL EVENT - The Death of UFOlogy?" The panel of eight consisted of: Colin Bennett, Peter Brookesmith, Paul Devereux, Dave Clarke, Andy Roberts, John Rimmer, Judith Ja'afar, and Jim Moseley. By my reckoning, that is 6½ sceptics out of the panel of eight! Colin is middle of the road. Jim Moseley led off and had probably realised that he would be shooting himself in the foot if he admitted that ufology was dead. After all he had a new book to promote! Colin told us that he had had his own genuine UFO experience, and recognises that it is a complex but real phenomena. Judith thought that we might be looking at the phenomena the wrong way. We could be witnessing the birth of something far more interesting! Paul Devereux claimed that we are suffering from amnesia. However since his tone of voice can change from pompous to resigned in almost the same sentence, he lacked impact. John Rimmer said that individual cases were not important. (He had told me on Saturday, that the mis-reporting by THE TIMES of the closure of the B.F.S.B. was merely journalistic licence! Had Colin Bennett's talk on scepticism been abjectly dismissed?) Judith commented that there had been an increase in close encounter cases in recent years. But she did not think these experiences were of an extra-terrestrial nature. Phenomenal events have changed and enriched the lives of witnesses. Panel members did not appear to dissent. Members of the panel made it clear that they did not accept the ET hypothesis. Questions from the audience relieved the debate. One Northern accent remarked that UFO waves preceded military conflicts and wars. One of the panel suggested that no new knowledge had been given to the world by UFOs. Judith Ja'afar was the one bright spot and expounded on the perils of hypnotic regression. She pointed out that investigators often added to their general knowledge by studying related subjects to better understand UFO reports.

The point of the debate was still lost on me when it ended. There was no cut and dried conclusion. I felt that we had been subjected to the same old boring sociological-psychological clichés and pointless put-downs that sceptical symbionts feel compelled to exude.

The majority of the seventeen stall-holders seemed pleased with their weekend despite the high cost of participating. Overall, I found this year's F.T.Unconvention stimulating and one welcomes the chance to catch up with old friends.

Lionel Beer

FORTEAN TIMES is now owned by 'I FEEL GOOD LTD', (London EC1V 0BQ) having been sold by John Brown Publishing Ltd. I FEEL GOOD LTD has retained Bob Rickard and Paul Sieveking as editors. CP:£2.80.

A useful summary of Graham Hancock's findings mentioned above, appeared in the *Daily Mail*, 11.04.02: THE LOST CITY OF LEGEND? Besides F.T., UFO MAGAZINE has also carried material on these undersea discoveries.

An article by Malcolm Robinson on the British Sceptic Society meeting 20/2/2002

Someone once said, "I don't believe in ghosts, but you'll never get me in a haunted house"!! I quote these words quite often to show people what those skeptical of UFOs and the paranormal usually say to me when we are in discussion about such matters. They seem to be caught between a rock and a hard place and although they don't believe in such things, far be it from me to tempt them to come on any haunting case with me!! This does not apply however to those more hardened sceptics who 'would' gladly come with me on any Investigations. UFO and Paranormal research 'need' sceptics, sceptics keep us on our toes and make sure our feet remain firmly on the ground. So I decided to jump over the fence and start walking into what some would say, was, 'enemy territory' I took in my very first sceptic meeting which was held at the Florence Nightingale pub near Waterloo Station London on a very cold and wind-swept February night.

The bar was full and the atmosphere was pleasant and after purchasing a drink at the bar, I made my way upstairs to where the main meeting was being held. A number of people had already taken their seats and more were coming in. Scott Campbell who apparently had been the main chairman in previous meetings broke into the chit chat and stated that he was now handing over the chairing of all further sceptic meetings to a colleague of his Nick Puller, Scott went on to thank everyone for making his time so enjoyable in hosting these lectures and wished his successor all the best in his new position. With that the new Chairman Nick Puller took over. Nick was a bubbly and very confident chairman and I liked his humour and style immensely. He started by talking about what had been featured in all the British press that day, ie, that at 8:02pm the world would witness a time that is truly, triply palindromic, for the time will read 20:02/20.02/2002. One can read the time, day and month backwards or forwards in numeric form and the result will still be the same, this Nick told us, won't come round for another 111 years. Now not only this, he went on to say, that great Iranian psychic Uri Geller claims that at this precise time anyone who stares into his eyes on a photograph of him which is featured in the Sun newspaper, could make their dreams come true! With that, and immense laughter coming from all quarters of the by now busy room, Nick pointed to the dart board where someone had placed the said copy of the Sun newspaper which featured the photograph of Mr Geller. Nick went on to say that he had been in Uri's web site and began to read statements from it that he found amusing, this raised many laughs from the 45 or so individuals in the smoke filled room. With his jovial statements over and moving away from the dart board with Uri's face, he then introduced the speaker for the evening Mr John Wall. John is a professional engineer who has been called a 'sniveling, insinuating little worm' by Graham Hancock, author of 'Fingerprints of the Gods'. John was here to sceptically evaluate Hancock's work and give an overview of the so called 'Alternative History Movement'. He quickly wasted no time what so ever in firstly poking fun at Uri Geller and certain things that he stood for which again raised many laughs in the audience. Sitting there, I began to realise the stark difference between the society I run Strange Phenomena Investigations (SPI UK) and this one. We never poke fun publicly to individuals who are working in this field, at best we will state publicly that we disagree with them but don't go so far as to publicly raise some laughs at the expense of them!!

The title of John's talk was, 'Alternative History and the Ma'ations From Cyberspace' subtitled, (Weighing the evidence for alternative history). John was only about 5 or 10 minutes into his talk when Chairman Nick Puller stood up and stated for us all to be quite as it was now 8:02 and that palindromic moment that he earlier referred to was now upon us. He asked each and everyone of us to look at the dartboard with Uri Geller's picture on it, and stare at Uri's eyes. He asked out loud, "Can anybody see anything thing? Is anyone getting anything". It was hard to hear Nick for the loud belly laughs that came from all quarters of the room. As some people were wiping the tears away from their eyes, Nick quickly apologised to the speaker and asked that he resume his talk.

John then continued with references of ancient civilisations throughout the world by that early pioneer Erich Von Daniken. John showed how in his belief, Von Daniken's work and conclusions were very flawed, he went on to say, "I personally would never trust anyone with the initials V.D. in a name". Needless to say, this got the desired result and the audience fell about once more. To his credit, John Wall opened my eyes to a lot about the work of Graham Hancock and others. He spoke about the face on Mars and showed how very different that face was now owing to recent photographs taken of it by NASA. In 1976 the Mars face was clear as a bell, whilst fairly recently (and he showed the slide to prove it) you wouldn't think it was a face at all, (if it ever was in the first place!) He presented some fascinating stuff about the pyramids of Egypt and told us that when he was there, the pyramids smelt of smelly western tourists!. John might have raced through his slides, but there was no denying he knew his stuff, and a subject like this requires more than the time that was allocated to him. His humour was admittedly at

the plight of Graham Hancock and whilst as I mentioned earlier these two chaps may not get on and disagree about each other's work, it's nonetheless not professional to raise laughs at the expense of others. I also found John's discussion on the famous Piri Reis map fascinating. He clearly showed that original peruser of that map, one Charles Hapgood, only saw what he wanted to see, for as John Walls pointed out, the map that Hapgood looked at clearly had the words 'conjecture' on it. ! At this point chairman Nick Puller said that there would be a short 10-minute break for everyone to refresh their glasses. Needless to say I partook of this clever advice, but before doing so got talking with a gentleman sat next to me. Like me, this was his first meeting and he said that he was on a search for the truth, "I think we all are", I replied. This chap never came back for the second half !!

Resuming the talk John went into many many aspects of ancient civilisations, and brought up the name of Zechariah Sitchin. Sitchin too has claimed many wondrous things regarding ancient civilisations and men from the stars. Mr Wall stated quite categorically that in his opinion, Zechariah Sitchin was an out and out fraud and that he was more than happy to say slanderous things about him. The audience was then shown underwater walkways and steps, although as John pointed out these were all 'Natural Formations'. Slide after slide after slide was shown by John all of 'Natural Formations' which Hancock and others believe were either terraces or walls of some ancient and forgotten culture. "Nonsense" said John. Looking at the slides of these underwater formations and hearing John point out the alternative explanation, well it seemed he had a point ! He then showed how flawed Hancock's work was in regards to the three Egyptian pyramids and their alleged precision and alignment to the stars on Orion's belt. Hancock, he said, misled his readers with shoddy assumptions, which were not quite true, whereupon John with his descriptions and drawings showed that there were no correlations from the pyramids to the stars. John called the book *The Fingerprints of the Gods* by Hancock as 'Fog' as presumably it clouded the reader's judgement of matters fed to them by Hancock. John then had a go at Astrology and gave it as much credence as he did the works of Hancock.

'Signs Of The Sky' is a book by one Adrian Gilbert, it too, said John, is heavily flawed, as is 'The Book Keeper Of Genesis' by Graham Hancock and Robert Bauval and also 'The Message Of The Sphinx'. And in regards to Graham Hancock's latest book, 'Underworld' well John thinks it would have been better called 'Blunderworld' and would make a great door stopper. He also said that Graham Hancock is an ancient world Jilly Cooper !! He didn't stop with these ancient civilisation authors; a number of interesting articles on ancient civilisations have been featured in the Daily Mail of late and John asked the audience had anyone read the Daily 'Fail'. So dear reader you can see the feelings that the guest speaker had towards his fellow 'seekers of the truth' !

All the above may sound very 'picky' by me and I really don't mean it to be so. John Wall presented a thoroughly fascinating lecture which believe you me, made me sit up and think. We as researchers need to see what the sceptics are presenting, we need to attend their meetings and shouldn't alienate ourselves from them. Far from it, we need to work side by side with them where we can both hopefully share in discoveries and put our hand on our heart when either 'we' or 'them' are wrong. My attendance at the sceptics in the pub (as they call it) meeting was an exercise for me to practice what I preach. I am always banging on about how there are two sides to every coin and for us never to take any story at face value. Good and honest research may well uncover hidden treasures, which will be a benefit to us all.

At the close of the meeting I spoke to chairman Nick Puller (calling him John, Oops how embarrassing!) where Nick proceeded to tell me that he had checked out the SPI web site and found it interesting but didn't share my views on our research into the 'Devon Case'. I expressed the view that this was not a conclusive and researched case, that article basically just told it as it was but I was impressed by his comments nonetheless.

All in all then my decision to attend the sceptic in the pub meeting was a good one, there were around 45 people there and the guest speaker was very knowledgeable. And although they kept poking fun at other researchers which I felt was over the top, the evening was a thoroughly good exercise in 'peering over the garden wall' into the next door neighbours garden !!

The Sceptic in the pub meetings are usually held on the third Thursday of every month at the Florence Nightingale Pub, 199 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7UT. Tel: 020 7928 3027. Call organiser Nick Puller on 07740 450 950. Non sceptics are welcome. Founded in 1999 by Scott Campbell and run by Nick Puller, they investigate claims relating to alternative medicines, psychic powers, pseudoscience, UFOs, alien abductions, creationism, fortaean phenomena, cult religions, water-divining, lost civilisations, etc etc.

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HISTORY OF CONTACT INTERNATIONAL UFO RESEARCH (CIUFOR)

CIUFOR was founded in 1967 by the 8th Lord Clancarty, Brinsley le Poer Trench, author of several UFO books written in the 1960-70s period. Brinsley had already created a group called the "International Sky Scouts" in the early '60s from which Contact emerged. As a well known face in Ufology, Clancarty became a media consultant whenever the subject of UFOs was discussed, and seemed to have cult followings in places like Japan. Indeed, as a result, 30-50 overseas branches were set up in the 1970s, and membership overall was claimed to have reached 11,000.

However the first ten years' records are confused and disjointed due to a continuous change of administrative personnel. The group's magazines, "Awareness" and "UFO Register" first appeared in 1968 and remain active to date. After a vague editorial start, J Bernard Delair (current President) was editor of "Awareness" for most of the 1970s, and since 1980, Geoffrey E Ambler, (current Vice-President). The magazine contains general articles on Ufology, sightings and other articles of interest by contributors worldwide. The editor of "UFO Register", a listing and analysis of UFO reports, has been Frances Copeland since 1985. These are produced 3-4 times a year (Awareness) and bi-annually (UFO Register).

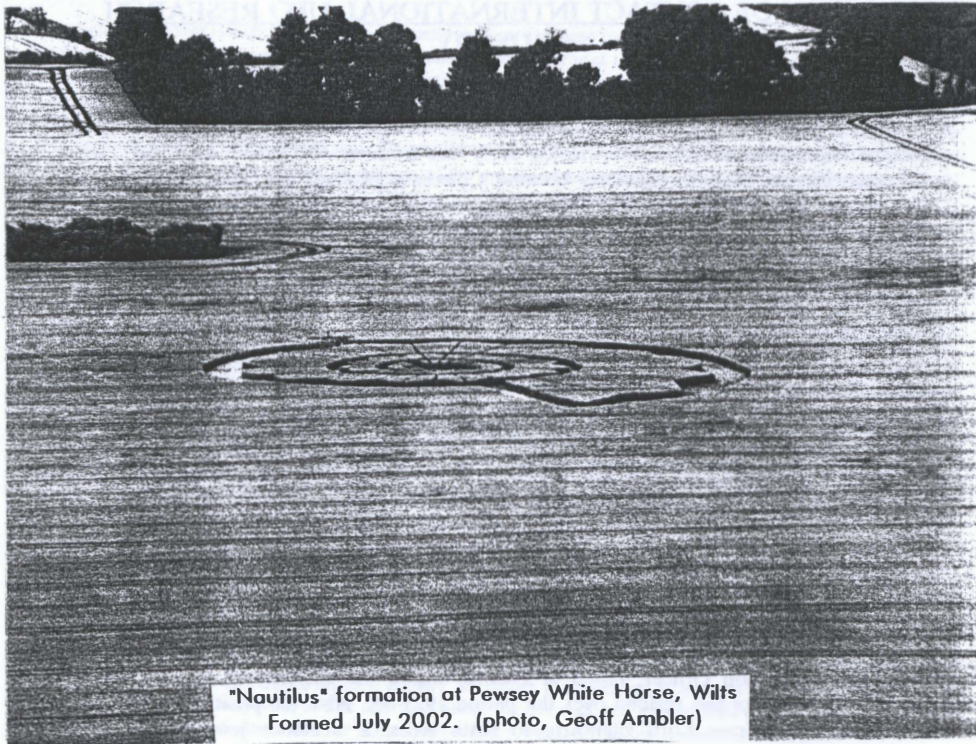
By the late '70s, Lord Clancarty was approaching retirement and apart from instigating the "House of Lords UFO Debate" in 1979 produced very little after that. It was also clear that few of the overseas branches were active and an "advisory council" held at the Clancarty mansions did little more than consume alcoholic beverages! Thus, in the early 1980s most of the running of Contact International (name at the time) was handed over to Derek Mansell, the Chief Investigation Officer, based at Oxford, where the majority of the UK branch administration officers had resided over the period 1975-80. Also the position of President was handed down from Lord Clancarty to Ruth Rees, a freelance journalist based in London.

In 1988, Derek Mansell departed for Cornwall and handed over the running of the organisation to the triumvirate of Geoff Ambler, Frances Copeland and Michael Soper. This arrangement continues apart from a period in the mid-1990s, when interest in UFOs suddenly rocketed most probably caused by the "alien body" film. A more formal council was formed with Brian P. James as Chairman. The new grouping decided in 1996 to rename the organisation as "Contact International UFO Research" as opposed to "Contact International" and "Contact UK", the British wing. This was to eliminate any possible connotations to "sexual contacts", which might be deduced from the old titles, and to recognise no overseas branches were contributing.

Lord Clancarty, (Brinsley), died in 1995 after a long period of illness, and bequeathed his extensive library to CIUFOR, and this is currently housed at Abingdon. Researchers are welcome to browse through it. Currently, large additions of books have been added from the collections of Derek Mansell and Bernard Delair and the video collection is mounting thanks to recent contributions from Bill Foley, the hot-line and chief investigating officer.

CIUFOR now limits its activities to collecting and disseminating data, and holds small informal meetings every 2 weeks at member's homes. Conferences are currently on hold due to the present waning in interest in the UFO subject, but anything is possible in future— Geoff Ambler, July 2002

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"Nautilus" formation at Pewsey White Horse, Wilts
Formed July 2002. (photo, Geoff Ambler)

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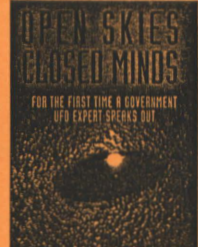
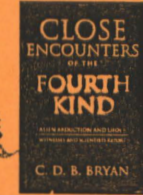
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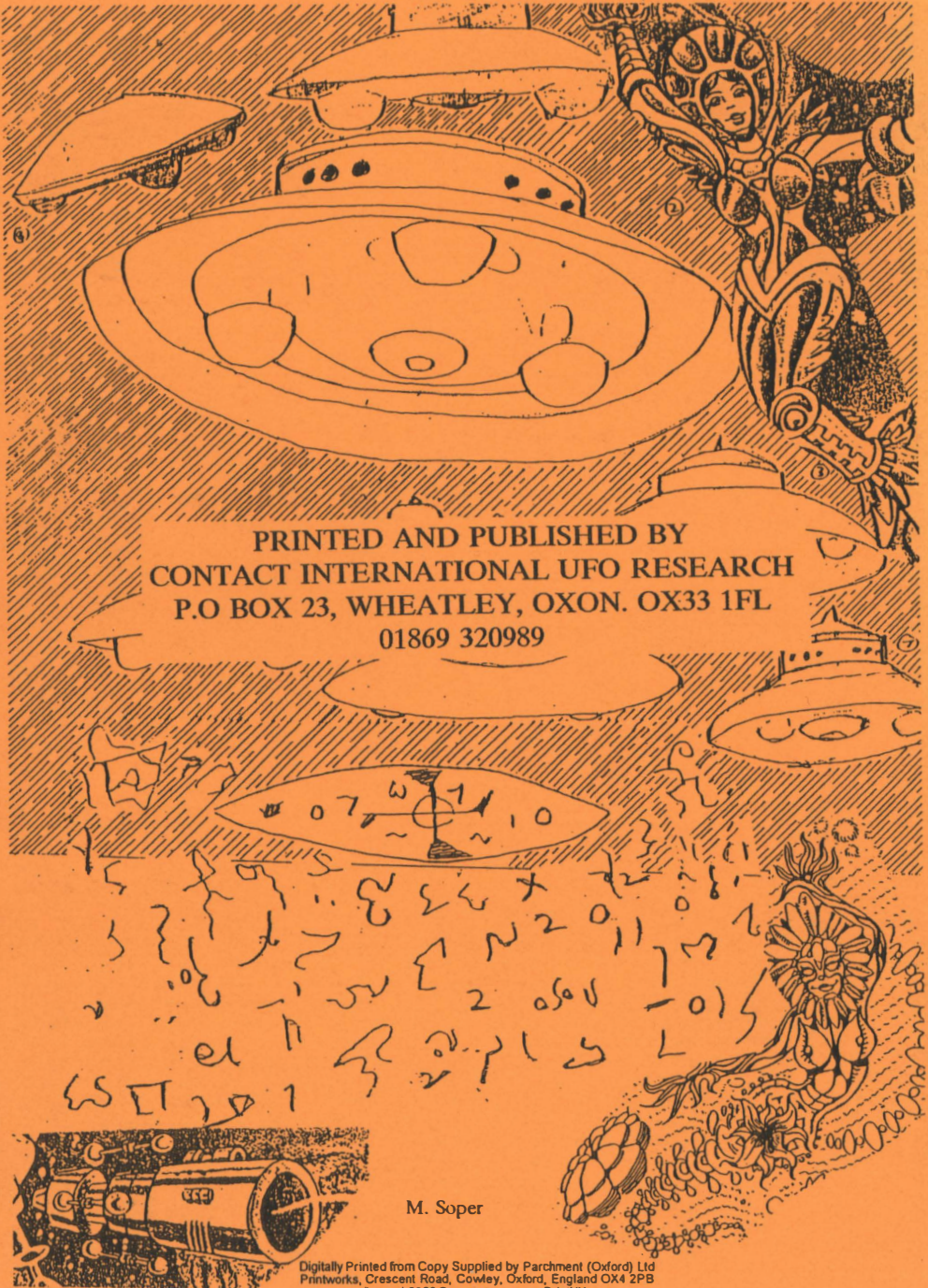
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