

MUF06

Merseyside UFO Bulletin

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Editorial Panel: John Harney; John Rimmer; Peter Rogerson; Alan Sharp.

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IDENTIFYING UFOs

E D I T O R I A L

Possible Merseyside Conference

The editors are considering the possibility of holding a conference in Liverpool later this year. The main aims of the meeting would be to discuss and compare notes on such matters as the cataloguing and publication of UFO data and the investigation of "high strangeness" UFO reports. It is envisaged that the meeting would be on a fairly small scale, more in the form of a seminar than the usual run of UFO conferences. The date would of course be arranged to avoid clashing with any other event of a similar nature.

Readers who have any comments or constructive suggestions to offer concerning this proposed meeting are invited to send them to John Rimmer or Peter Rogerson.

L E T T E R T O T H E E D I T O R

From Mr STEPHEN SMITH, M.A.

Dear John,

May I first thank you for continuing to send me the MUFOB despite the fact that my ufological interests are at present rather passive in nature. I hope to return to the ranks of the active researchers in due course, but for the present that must await my settling in completely to a new home with my wife Sandra.

The John Keel/Alan Sharp 'confrontation' continues, I see, with unabated ferocity on both sides. I feel that neither combatant has right wholeheartedly on his side, though Alan is 'righter' than Keel to my mind, and would be 'righter' still were he to be less anti-hypothesis in his approach. The rejection of hypotheses can hinder advancement of ufology today as much as it hindered chemistry at the time of Isaac Newton. But I think I'll let the combatants just do their own things and comment on something more worthwhile.

May I congratulate Mr Peter Rogerson on not only advocating an International Catalogue of Type I UFO reports but also on getting on with the job and creating one, not just on his own, but also in conjunction with and complementary to existing documentation, and to cap it by publishing. There's hope for ufology yet.

My best wishes to yourself and to the other editors of MUFOB. I look forward to meeting you again at the next convenient gathering.

Yours sincerely, Stephen Smith, 5 Arndale Road, Sherwood, NOTTINGHAM,
NG5 3GT

IDENTIFYING UFOS

by Nigel H Watson

The so-called evidence supporting many aspects of the UFO phenomena often has doubts cast upon it in the ufological press. Recently the Piri Reis Map has been called in question in FSR (1,2, 3,4), as has the Delhi Pillar.(5) Gemini (6) has come up with an explanation of the classic "B-57" photograph. So it goes on. I should like to illustrate a couple more UFO cases which, looking at the information supplied, can be conceded as being of dubious origin.

Voskhods I and II

The first one I should like to deal with is the case of Voskhod I being attacked by flying saucers and the alleged forced landing of Voskhod II by a UFO. The reason I include these is because I have still seen them quoted in the ufological press and also because of the interesting reply I got from Soviet Weekly (7) when I asked them about

the alleged incidents. Their reply was as follows: (8)

"The allegations that Voskhod I was attacked are utterly false. That ship fully carried out its mission and then returned to Earth. There was no scientific point in leaving it up any longer, though naturally the crew would have liked a longer stay.

"It is ludicrous--even pitiful--for the writers to think that there is nothing 'interesting' to see in space (apart of course from 'hostile flying saucers'). The paintings of Alexei Leonov have helped to show the world the wonders of the Earth, Stars and Moon, seen from outside the atmosphere.

"The allegations about Leonov's trip are also absurd. His ship was never out of touch with ground stations--except when its orbit took it to the other side of the globe--and landed according to schedule. As for the 'enveloped in flames' remark, all spaceships are enveloped with flames, engendered by the heat of re-entry. This is caused by atmospheric friction, not saucer attack!"

Flashing lights in Plato

So much for that. Now I should like to deal with the report regarding 1,600 flashing lights seen in the crater Plato and reported to the Royal Astronomical Society (9) in 1871, so obviously I thought the RAS would give me some explanation for this. The Librarian, Dr E W Maddison, of the RAS sent me the following reply:

"The matter of the 1,600 (It is sometimes given as 2,000) observations of flashing lights on the Moon is a perennial one. It would seem, from enquiries that I have made, that the statement has no foundation."

And he continues later in his letter: "I have been given to understand that the story originates in the Books of Charles Fort, an American publication which is not in this library and which I have not seen; and, as so often happens, the story has been repeated uncritically in various places ever since."

Perhaps next Christmas someone might like to contribute a couple of old Charles Fort books to the RAS. Dr Maddison also mentions the fact that the story is probably a garbled version of Birt's observations on the crater Plato, which were reported to the British Association for the Advancement of Science in the years 1871 and 1872.

No reference to this case was made in any of the RAS publications between 1869 and 1871, nor was there any mention of it in the catalogue of Lunar Events. (10)

After this I might also mention the speculation on the subject of the possibility of there being a trans-Pluto planet, (11) the possibility of the infamous celestial body 'Vulcan' orbiting between the sun and Mercury, (12) and the idea of a second satellite orbiting the Earth. (12) All these have had varying amounts of publicity over the last year, and any findings have been negative.

Tungus Meteorite

The famous Tungus meteorite has turned out to be just a small comet, according to the most recent expedition to the Siberian forests.

The scientists have completely rejected the various hypotheses that this was a fragment of a hard substance or an exploded nuclear-powered spaceship from another civilisation. Such views were based on the vast scope of the catastrophe which occurred in 1908 when at least 60,000 trees suffered from the fall of the comet. Now the scientists have found concomitant substances which appear as a result of an explosion of a comet nucleus and consist of frozen gas and cosmic dust. (13)

I suppose I could ramble on about the negative side of the UFO literature for a long time, but is it not the positive side we should
(continued on page 54)

INTERNATIONAL CATALOGUE OF TYPE I UFO REPORTS

NOTES AND COMMENTARY ON THE CATALOGUE

This is the first part of the International Catalogue of Type I reports which will be a major feature of each issue of MUFGB over the next few years. It covers the period 1368 (the commencement date of the Vallee catalogue) to the end of the nineteenth century, the bulk of the reports in this period being generated by the 1397 flap, in the midwestern USA.

It is vitally important to understand that we are not claiming that all or any of the reports here were generated, necessarily, by new, extraordinary stimuli, or that all cases are equally well authenticated. We appeal to our fellow researchers to supply any information on any reports, as to subsequent identification as hoaxes, or misidentifications of normal stimuli, additional details that they feel have been omitted in the abstracts, and information on reports during the period of each part which have not come to our attention. The importance of such feedback cannot be overstressed.

As was noted in the introduction published in the previous issue of MUFGB approximately 40% of these reports are taken, in most cases verbatim, from the catalogue of Dr Jacques Vallee, published as an appendix to his Passport to Magonia. These cases are given the code Mx, where x is the number in the Vallee catalogue.

Sources

Readers are warned to preserve this key, as abbreviations included will not be explained again in subsequent issues. A full description of each work will be given only in the part in which it first appears in the text.

FSR - Flying Saucer Review (ed Charles Bowen), c/o 21 Cecil Court, Charing Cross Road, London WC2N 4HB.

KEEL I - Keel, John A., Strange Creatures from Time and Space. Fawcett Books, New York. 1970.

LORENZEN III - Lorenzen, Coral and Jim, UFOs Over the Americas. Signet Books, New York. 1963.

LDNLN - Lumieres dans la nuit (ed R. Veillith), "Les Pins", 43 Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, France.

ANATOMY - Vallee, Jacques, Anatomy of a Phenomenon. Regnery, Chicago, 1965. Spearman, London. 1966.

KEEL II - Keel, John A., Operation Trojan Horse, Souvenir Press, London, 1971.

Table of American Landings - published in FSR 17:5 and 17:6, cf below,
D/N - Data Net (ed Josephine Clark), 7900 Harvard Drive, Ben Lomond, California 95005

MYSTERIES OF THE SKIES - Lore, Gordon I.R. and Harold Deneault, Mysteries of the Skies: UFOs in perspective. Hale, London. 1969.

MAGONIA - Vallee, Jacques, Passport to Magonia. Regnery, Chicago. 1969. Material in the text, not the Appendix.

ALLENDE LETTERS - Steiger, Brad and Joan Whritenour, The Allende Letters: has the UFO invasion started? Tandem/Award Books special, New York & London. 1963.

UFO COMMENTARY - (ed Allen Benz); publisher Patrick A. Huyghe, 1419 Riversedge Road, Newport News, Virginia 23606

STRANGE THINGS - Hall, Trevor H. and John L. Campbell, Strange Things. Routledge and Kegan Paul. 1963.

Identified Cases

- The following cases from the Vallee catalogue have been eliminated:
- M2 December 7 1372 0100. Banbury (England). Almost certainly this report of a "flying haystack" creating widespread damage is an account of a tornado accompanied by electrical discharge.
 - M3 1377. Aldershot (England). This, taken from an article by Jack Vyner, is a distorted and exaggerated version of cases 3, 4 and 6.

- M4 May 15 1379 2140. Persian Gulf. This is a distorted account of the well-known "Vulture" case. The actual report was generated by bioluminescence. (See article by Richard Turner in FSR 13:5.) The description from FSR used here seems to have arisen in the imagination of Brinsley Le Poer Trench.
- M7 June 11 1831 0400. Melbourne to Sydney, at sea. This is the report of the then Duke of Clarence and his brother George, later George V of England. The account taken from Fort is incomplete. The red light described by Fort is said to have been an illumination on a brig with shattered masts and spars, which crossed the path of the Bacchante at a distance of c. 200m. It would seem the most reasonable explanation of this report is a phosphorescence covered hulk, which sank shortly after.

Comments on cases in this catalogue

- 13 This report is rather suspicious and the possibility of a journalistic hoax is not negligible.
- 15-50 Dr Geoffrey Doel, the President of BUFORA, has written several pieces claiming that the famous airship was a terrestrial device constructed by Edward Pennington, an eccentric inventor. Doel ascribes those Type I reports that do not fit into his itinerary as journalistic hoaxes. The controversy is carried on in Spacelink (ed Lionel Beer, 15 Freshwater Court, Crawford Street, London W1H 1HS) 5:4, 6:3 and 4. We feel that the similarity to the general UFO picture and the sheer difficulty of imagining even Edward Pennington could be quite so eccentric as some of the characters described justify the inclusion of the 1397 data in this catalogue. If Doel is correct he should write Pennington's biography and get the film rights, for could Hollywood resist a tale of an eccentric, alcoholic, gospel-singing, cow-butchering idealist, his beautiful daughter, son-in-law and grandchild sailing through the clouds.
- 32 Some sources list Perry Springs as being in Illinois rather than Missouri.
- 36 This report is also credited to Reynolds (Michigan) for April 14, the source there being the Saginaw Courier Herald, April 17. Clark and Farish advise us to consider this report with extreme caution. Source FSR 15:1.
- 41 Clark advises one to treat this report with suspicion.
- 48 Clark and Farish suspect a journalistic hoax. FSR 15:1.

Acknowledgement

Our thanks to Jacques Vallee for permission to reproduce items from his catalogue.

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INTERNATIONAL CATALOGUE

PART 1

- 1 July 1368 COPIAGO (CHILE)
A strange aerial construction bearing lights and making engine noises flew low over this town. Local people also described it as a giant bird covered with large scales, producing a metallic noise.
(M1; FORT 638; ANATOMY 11)
- 2 10 November 1872 evening PECKHAM (ENGLAND)
The two daughters of Dr Carver, the headmaster of Dulwich College, and their governess saw a figure in the drive outside their house. It was white, had outstretched arms and moved in leaps.
(FSR 17:1; News of the World, 17 November 1372)
- 3 April 1377 night ALBERSHOT (ENGLAND)
Sentries on two outlying posts were frightened by the appearance of two figures, "glowing with phosphorous", appearing suddenly with leaps of 10m.
(FSR 17:1; Illustrated Police News, 23 April 1377)
- 4 First week September 1377 night ALDERSHOT (ENGLAND)
The sentries were again disturbed by a figure which made prodigious leaps and touched their faces.
(FSR 17:1; Illustrated Police News, 8 September 1377)

- 5 18 September 1877 BROOKLYN (NEW YORK)
W.H. Smith saw a winged human form in the sky over Brooklyn.
(KEEL 1, 203)
- 6 October 1877 NEWPORT, NEAR LINCOLN (ENGLAND)
A strange being dressed in a garment resembling a sheepskin was observed several times; on one occasion making a prodigious leap on to the new barracks. The figure was apparently immune to bullets.
(FSR 17:1; Illustrated Police News, 3 November 1877)
- 7 1880 EASTERN VENEZUELA
A 14-year-old boy saw a luminous ball descending from the sky and hovering near him. He felt somehow "drawn" to it, but succeeded in breaking away in spite of his terror.
(M5; LORENZEN III, 206)
- 8 26 March 1880 evening LAMY (NEW MEXICO)
Four men walking near Galisteo Junction were surprised as they heard voices coming from a "strange balloon" which flew over them. It was shaped like a fish and seemed to be guided by a large fanlike device. There were 8-10 figures aboard. Their language was not understood. The object flew low over Galisteo Junction and rose rapidly towards the east.
(M6; FSR 11:3; True West, June 1964)
- 9 11 September 1880 (approx. date) CONEY ISLAND (NEW YORK)
A number of people reported a "man with bat's wings and improved frog's legs", apparently "swimming in the air" over Coney Island at approximately 300m.
(KEEL I, 203; New York Times, 12 September 1880)
- 10 2 November 1885 dawn SCUTARI (TURKEY)
A luminous object circled the harbour, at altitude 5-6m. It was seen as a blue-green flame which illuminated the whole town. The object then plunged into the sea, after making several circles above the ferryboat pier. Duration 1-1.5 min.
(M8; LDLN 48; ANATOMY 14)
- 11 12 November 1887 CAPE RACE (ATLANTIC OCEAN)
A huge sphere of light was observed rising out of the ocean by witnesses aboard the "Siberian". It rose to an altitude of 16m., flew against the wind and came close to the ship, then "dashed off" towards the SE. Duration 5 min.
(M9; LDLN 48; ANATOMY 14)
- 12 1890 night SOUTH BOISDALE, OUTER HEBRIDES (SCOTLAND)
Norman Maclean, a miller of Smarclat, was on the road above South Boisdale when he saw something like a "railway engine" approach. As it passed by, he dismounted lest his horse panic.
(Strange Things, p275)
- 13 2 July 1893 early hours HENDERSON ISLE, PUGET SOUND (WASHINGTON)
7 fishermen, and nearby surveyors, at Black Fish Bay were awakened by a loud noise, brilliant flashes of light and an "electric" feeling, causing prickling. A surveyor and fisherman Macdonald were stunned by a "water spray" from an oval object, 30 x 10m, which resembled a "giant fish", with 6 dark circles, "like dark eyes" in front. Along its length were, every 2.6m., copper bands; and at the rear a propeller covered with hair. From two projections at the front the water spray, "electrically charged", was sent. As the witnesses retreated, the object returned to the water. Later the witnesses found that their watches had stopped. The witnesses included, William Fitzhenry, H.L.Beal, W.L.Macdonald, J.K. Bell and Henry Blackwood.
(FSR 18:3; Tacoma Daily Ledger, 3 July 1893)
- 14 1896 AROLLA, NEAR ZERMATT (SWITZERLAND)
Aleister Crowley was walking in the mountains when he suddenly saw two little men. He made a gesture to them, but they did not seem to pay attention and disappeared among the rocks.
(Magick Without Tears, by Crowley)

- 15 6 November 1896 CAMPTONVILLE (CALIFORNIA)
William B. Meek saw an object like an "airship" land near his home. It was piloted by a bearded man. The pilot informed Meek that the ship had "come from the Montezuma Mountains".
(KEEL II, 78; Table of American Landings)
- 16 17 November 1896 evening SACRAMENTO (CALIFORNIA)
A number of witnesses saw an egg-shaped object with fan-like wheels in the air and on the ground. Voices were heard from it. R.L. Lowry and another man saw 4 men push it along the ground. Lowry's companion asked where they were going, and they replied: "San Francisco".
(Mysteries of the Skies, 4; San Francisco Call, 13 November 1896)
- 17 26 March 1897 night (approx. date) SIOUX CITY (IOWA)
Robert Hibard was caught by an anchor trailing from a flying machine 22 km north of the town. He was dragged over 10m. and fell as his clothes were torn.
(M 11; FSR 12:4)
- 18 23 March 1897 2230 OMAHA (NEBRASKA)
The majority of the population observed an object arriving from the SE. It looked like a huge light, flew northwestward slowly, and came to a low altitude. A crowd gathered at a street corner to watch it.
(M12; Chicago Times-Herald, 30 March 1897)
- 19 1 April 1897 2100 EVEREST (KANSAS)
The whole town saw an object fly under the cloud ceiling. It came down slowly, then flew away very fast to the SE. When directly over the town it swept the ground with its powerful light. It was seen to rise up at a fantastic speed until barely discernable, then to come down again and sweep low over the witnesses. At one point it remained stationary for 5 min. at the edge of a low cloud, which it illuminated. All could clearly see the silhouette of the craft.
(M13; FSR 12:4)
- 20 7 April 1897 night WOLF CREEK TOWNSHIP (IOWA)
Farmer Richard Butler was driving home when he observed a light in a field close to the road. He went to investigate. The light was like that of an electric lamp, and shone through windows in a dark cylindrical object resembling a "corset box". Length c. 11m., diameter c. 2.3m. Floating over this object was a cigar-shaped "bag" of similar length, diameter c. 3m. The horses bolted and threw Butler into a ditch. As he scrambled from the wreck he saw the object ascend in a southern direction, at 45 degrees.
(Quincy Morning Whig, April 13 1897; Josephine Clark, personal communication)
- 21 8 April 1897 1930 WEST LIBERTY (IOWA)
An object at low altitude paced a train travelling between West Liberty and Cedar Rapids. It was seen later travelling slowly down the line. It had a metallic appearance, with flimsy wings, and projected a brilliant light.
(FSR 14:5; D/N iv:10)
- 22 11 April 1897 2100 MILWAUKEE (WISCONSIN)
An oval-shaped object, below which was suspended a brilliant light, approached from Lake Michigan and hovered above the City Hall. A man named Mayer observed the object through a telescope and distinctly saw 4 occupants.
(Mysteries of the Skies, p 19)
- 23 12 April 1897 a.m. BURLINGTON (IOWA)
Engineer F.L. Bullard reported that an aerial object had paced and overtaken his train at an estimated speed of 245 k.p.h. (150 m.p.h.)
(D/N iv:10; FSR 14:5)

24 12 April 1897 1430 NILDWOOD (ILLINOIS)
 On the property of Z. Thacker, 19 km. north of Carlinville, an unknown object landed. Before the three witnesses could reach it, the craft, which was shaped like a cigar with a dome, rose slowly and left majestically towards the north. Witnesses: Edward Teeple, William Street and Franklin Metcalf.

(M14; ANATOMY 12; Chicago Times-Herald, 14 April 1897)

25 12 April 1897 1300 GIRARD, NEAR GREEN RIDGE (ILLINOIS)
 A large crowd of miners saw an unknown object land 3 km. north of Green Ridge and 4 km south of Girard. The night operator of the Chicago and Alton Railroad, Paul McCramer, stated that he came sufficiently close to the craft to see a man emerge from it to repair the machinery. Traces were found over a large area. The object itself was elongated like a ship with a roof and a double canopy. It left towards the north.

(M15; Chicago Times-Herald, 14 April 1897; Chicago Record, 14 April 1897)

26 13 April 1897 evening PENNFIELD, NEAR BATTLE CREEK (MICHIGAN)
 Farmer George Parks and his wife saw a brilliant object, altitude c. 30m, swiftly approaching. The object swept low, with a humming sound. Something fell to the ground; a wheel of aluminium, diameter 1m, was uncovered.

KEEL II, 33; FSR 14:5; Detroit Evening News, 15 April 1897)

27 14 April 1897 1500 GAS CITY (INDIANA)
 An object landed 2 km south of Gas City on the property of John Roush, terrifying the farmers and causing the horses and cattle to stampede. Six occupants of the ship came out and seemed to make some repairs. Before the crowd could approach the object, it rose rapidly and flew towards the east.

(M16; Chicago Chronicle, 15 April 1897)

28 14 April 1897 CLEVELAND (OHIO)
 Joseph Singler, captain of the "Sea Wing", was fishing with S.H. Davis of Detroit, when they saw on the lake what they thought was a ship, about 13m long, with a canopy. A man, about 25 years old, wearing a hunting jacket and a cap, was fishing from the deck of the object. Near him were a woman and a small child (estimated age 10 years). When the "Sea Wing" came close to the craft, a large coloured balloon rose from the object, which flew up with it to an altitude of c. 150m and circled "like a hawk" before flying away.

(M17; Chicago Tribune, 16 April 1897)

29 15 April 1897 morning LINN GROVE (IOWA)
 A large object was seen to fly slowly towards the north. It seemed ready to land and five men (F.G. Ellis, James Evans, David Evans, Joe Croasky, Benjamin Buland) drove towards it. About 7 km north of Linn Grove they found the craft on the ground, came within 700m of it, but it "spread its four giant wings and rose towards the north". Two strange figures aboard the craft made efforts to conceal themselves. Witnesses were surprised at the length of their hair. Most residents of Linn Grove saw the craft in flight.

(M18; Chicago Times-Herald, 16 April 1897)

30 15 April 1897 1200 SPRINGFIELD (ILLINOIS)
 Two farm workers, Adolph Winkle and John Hulle, saw a strange craft in a field. They had a discussion with its occupants, a woman and two men, and were told that the ship had flown from Quincy to Springfield in 30 min. and that the crew were making electrical repairs.

(M21; FSR 11:1)

31 15 April 1897 nightfall HOWARD-ARTESIAN (SOUTH DAKOTA)
 A flying object coming closer and closer to the ground followed a train, as reported by the engineer Joe Wright.

(M19; FSR 12:4)

32 15 April 1897 2100

PERRY SPRINGS (MISSOURI)

A passenger train on the Wabash line going towards Quincy (Illinois) was followed by a low flying object for 15 min. between Perry Springs and Hersman. All the passengers saw the craft, which had a red and white light. After Hersman it flew ahead of the train and disappeared rapidly, although the train was then running at 65 k.p.h.

(M20; Chicago Times-Herald, 16 April 1897)

33 15 April 1897 night

PINE LAKE (MICHIGAN)

William Megiveron was awakened by a tap on the window. Outside was a blinding light. As he stepped outside, a voice from above, claiming to be a crew member of a crippled airship, hailed him and asked for egg sandwiches and coffee. When Megiveron provided these, Canadian money was passed down in a scoop in payment. The object, which was gigantic, could be seen silhouetted against the clouds, and was at c. 100m altitude. His requests to be taken on board met with laughter, and he gained the impression that the crew were drunk. About dawn the craft moved off towards the city.

(FSR 14:5)

34 16 April 1897 (approx. date)

DOWNS TOWNSHIP (ILLINOIS)

While working in his field, Haney Savidge saw an aerial craft land near him. Six people emerged from it and spoke to him for a few minutes before leaving again.

(M22; Chicago Times-Herald, 17 April 1897)

35 16 April 1897 2030 (approx. date)

MOUNT VERNON (ILLINOIS)

Something like "the body of a huge man, swimming through the air with an electric light on his back" was seen by over a hundred persons, including Mayor Wells, who had an excellent view from his observatory. Duration 30 min.

(FSR 14:6)

36 17 April 1897 morning

WILLIAMSTON (MICHIGAN)

At least a dozen farmers saw an object manoeuvre in the sky for an hour before it landed. A strange "man" c. 3m tall, almost naked and suffering from the heat was the pilot of the craft. "His talk, while musical, seemed to be a repetition of bellowings". One farmer went near him and received a blow that broke his hip.

(M23; Lansing State Republican, April 1897)

37 19 April 1897 2230

LEROY (KANSAS)

Alexander Hamilton was awakened by a noise among the cattle and went out with his son and his tenant. They saw an elongated cigar-shaped object, c. 100m long with a transparent cabin underneath showing narrow reddish bands, hovering 10m above the ground. They approached within 50m of it. It was illuminated and equipped with a searchlight. Inside it were "six of the strangest beings" the witnesses had seen; they were also described as hideous. They spoke a language no witness could understand. A cow was dragged away by the object with the help of a strong red cable: it was found butchered in a field the next day.

(M24; ANATOMY, 16; MAGONIA)

38 19 April 1897 2300

BEAUMONT (TEXAS)

J. R. Ligon, the local agent of the Magnolia Brewery, Houston, and his son Charley, were unhitching their horses after driving home, when they observed lights in the Johnson pasture a few hundred yards distant. They encountered four men around a large dark object. The men came to the Ligon house, to take on water. One of these men ~~was~~ claimed his name was "Wilson" and that the object was one of five airships built in Iowa. Ligon senior returned to the object with the men, and saw that the craft was 42m by 6m, propelled by huge wings, two on either side, and steered by propellers, bow and stern. The occupants declared the object was made of steel, and they described its workings to Ligon.

(UFO Commentary 2:4; Galveston Daily News, 24 April 1897)

39 20 April 1897 1800

HOMAN (ARKANSAS)

Captain James Hooton was hunting in the vicinity of Homan when he heard the noise of a steam engine and found an object in a clearing. It looked like a cylinder with pointed ends, lateral wheels, and horizontal blades over it. Hooton spoke with a man who wore dark glasses and walked behind the craft. There were three or four occupants. The witness was told that this was indeed the "Airship" and that it used compressed air for propulsion. Hooton saw the wheels spin as the craft rose and flew away.

(M25; FSR 12:4; MAGONIA)

40 20 April 1897 2200

UVALDE (TEXAS)

Sheriff H.W. Baylor had his attention caught by a bright light, and strange voices in the alley behind his residence. Outside was an object with "great wings and fins", and three men who procured water from the hydrant. One of the men claimed to be "Wilson" of Goshan, New York, and claimed acquaintance with Captain Ackers, a local resident.

(UFO Commentary 2:4; Galveston Daily News, 24 April 1897)

41 21 April 1897 0100

HARRISBURG (ARKANSAS)

A prominent local citizen (given the pseudonym ex-Senator Harris) was awoken by an unfamiliar noise. An object approached from the west and descended to just above the ground, a short distance from the witness's yard. An elderly man, a woman and two young men were on board. The elderly man had a "heavy set of dark, silken whiskers, which hung down near his waist...jet black eyes and a deep, firm expression". This man took on water, and revealed that the airship worked on anti-gravity. When the witness refused the offer of a trip, the craft floated up.

(FSR 13:4; Harrisburg Modern News, 23 April 1897)

42 22 April 1897 2330

ROCKLAND (TEXAS)

John M. Barclay was intrigued when his dog barked furiously and a high-pitched noise was heard. He went out, saw a flying object circling 5m above ground. Elongated with protrusions and blinding lights, it went dark when it landed. Barclay was met by a man who told him his purpose was peaceful and requested some common hardware items to repair the craft. He paid with a ten dollar bill and took off "like a bullet out of a gun".

(M26; MAGONIA; Houston Post, 22 April 1897)

43 22 April 1897 2400

JOSSERAND (TEXAS)

Frank Nichols, who lived 3 km east of Josserand and was one of its most respected citizens, was awakened by a machine noise. Looking outside he saw a heavy, lighted object land in his wheat field. He walked towards it, but was stopped by two men who asked permission to draw water from his well. He then had a discussion with a half-dozen men, the crew of the strange machine. He was told how it worked, but could not follow the explanation.

(M27; MAGONIA; Houston Post, 26 April 1897)

44 23 April 1897

McKINNEY BAYOU (ARKANSAS)

Judge Lawrence A. Byrne of Texarkana was surveying a tract of land when he saw a peculiar object anchored on the ground. "It was manned by three men who spoke a foreign language, but judging from their looks one would take them to be Japs". The men beckoned to the witness and explained to him the workings of the craft.

(M28; Farish in ALLENDE LETTERS, p25)

45 25 April 1897 evening

MERKEL (TEXAS)

People returning from church observed a heavy object being dragged along the ground by a rope attached to a flying craft. The rope got caught in a railroad track. The craft was too high for its structure to be visible, but protrusions and a light could be distinguished. After about 10 minutes a man came down along the rope, cut the end free and went back aboard the craft, which flew away towards the NE. The man was small and dressed in a light blue uniform.

(M29; MAGONIA; Houston Post, 23 April 1897)

46 26 April 1897 (Approx. date)

AQUILA-HILLSBORO (TEXAS)

A lawyer was surprised to see a lighted object fly over. His horse was scared and nearly toppled the carriage. When the main light was turned off, a number of smaller lights became visible on the underside of the dark object, which supported an elongated canopy. It went down towards a hill to the S, 5 km from Aquila. When the witness was on his way back one hour later, he saw the object rising. It reached the altitude of the cloud ceiling and flew to the NE at a fantastic speed with periodic flashes of light.

(M30; Dallas Morning News, 28 April 1897)

47 27 April 1897 0200 (Approx. date)

DAYTON (OHIO)

Two persons returning home after visiting a sick relative were startled by the appearance of a huge cigar-shaped object. Underneath was suspended a lighted basket. In the light could be seen the forms of three human-looking occupants.

(FSR 15:1)

48 29 April 1897 2330

HOLTON (OHIO)

An object 100m long, 30m diameter, with a 12m tail, arrived from the N and hovered over the bridge. The sound of revelry could be heard from the lighted object. The craft hovered for 55 minutes. Just before it left a hook was dropped, which caught a man on the ground. The object left with him. He returned the next day from White Cloud.

(FSR 15:1; Muskegon Daily Chronicle, 30 April 1897)

49 6 May 1897 2230

MATTEAWAN (NEW YORK)

An object, illuminating the sky with brilliant flashes of white and green light, was observed in the west, midway between horizon and zenith. Two or three occupants were seen, including a boy who threw hot ashes over the side. When the object was illuminated by the flashes, it did not appear to cast a shadow.

(UFO Commentary 2:3; Buffalo Evening News, 6 May 1897)

50 6 May 1897

HOT SPRINGS (ARKANSAS)

Two policemen, Sumpter and McLemore, were riding NW of Hot Springs when they saw a bright light in the sky. About 7 km farther on they saw the light again, coming down to the ground. 1 km farther the horses refused to walk. Two men were seen carrying lights. The lawmen took their rifles, called the strangers and were told that they crossed the country in a flying craft. The silhouette of the machine, c 20m long, could be seen in the clearing. There was a woman with an umbrella nearby. It was raining, and the younger of the two men was filling a large container with water. The elder man had a beard and suggested that the policemen fly with them "to a place where it does not rain". The same witnesses went back through the same spot 40 minutes later and found nothing.

(M31; FSR 12:4; MAGONIA)

Identifying UFOs (continued from page 46)

look at, and have I not heard "sort the wheat from the chaff" before?

I will end with this quote: "He who would distinguish the true from the false must have an adequate idea of what is true and false."

--Ethics, Benedict Spinoza.

Notes and References

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- 2 SWINDALL, W J "Mail Bag" letter supporting accuracy of Map, Flying Saucer Review, Vol 13, No 4, July-August 1972
- 3 BRAY, ARTHUR "Mail Bag" letter supporting accuracy of Map, Flying Saucer Review, Vol 13 No 5, September-October 1972
- 4 It should be pointed out that Dr Davies will reply to the above two letters in a future issue of Flying Saucer Review.
- 5 WILDER, G "Mail Bag", "Stopping the merry-go-round", Flying Saucer Review, Vol 13, No 5, September-October 1972

- 6 MARKWICK, RONALD "A 'Classic' UFO photo identified?" Gemini, Vol. 1, No. 3. Edited by Mark Stenhoff, 95 Taunton Road, London SE12 8PA
- 7 Soviet Weekly, 3 Rosary Gardens, London.
- 8 A fuller treatment of this can be found in the South Lincs UFO Study Group Newsletter, No 32, June/July/August 1971; WATSON, NIGEL "UFOs and Space." Edited by Patricia Barnes, 43 Gladstone Street, Bourne, Lincs.
- 9 Royal Astronomical Society, Burlington House, London W1V ONL
- 10 MIDDLEHURST, B "Catalogue of Lunar Events", NASA Technical Report R-277, 1968. An exhaustive chronological survey of transient lunar phenomena.
- 11 MITTON, SIMON "Is there a tenth planet?" Astronomy & Space, Vol. 2, No. 1, June 1972. Edited by Patrick Moore, 39 West Street, Selsey, Sussex.
- 12 Notes and News—"Toro and Vulcan", Astronomy & Space, Vol. 2, No. 2, September 1972.
- 13 Novosti Information Service Bulletin No. 13436, 31 January 1973.

NOTES QUOTES & QUERIES

BUFORA Northern Conference, 1973

This year's BUFORA Northern Regional Conference is to be held on Saturday 12 May at the Wakefield Albany Inn. This is situated midway between Wakefield and Ossett at exit 40 of the M1 motorway, where the A533 crosses the M1. The Conference will commence at 2 p.m. and last until 7 p.m.

Further details may be obtained by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to: Mr T Whitaker, Sheraleigh, 8 Central Park, Well Head, Halifax, Yorkshire, HX1 2JT

Alien space probe?

Your sceptical editors have been following with interest the press reports concerning the alleged discovery of radio signals from an alien space probe orbiting the Earth. So far, we are not greatly impressed by the rather vague details which have been published, but we look forward to further experiments and enquiries into this matter, which have been promised.

Just fancy that!

"This is the last article I shall write on UFOs. There will be no more public communiques issued by our small and dedicated team from Warminster."

— Arthur Shuttlewood, Merseyside UFO Bulletin, Vol.3, No.2, April/May 1970.

"After eight years reporting the bizarre Warminster aerial phenomena... and almost seven of on the spot research, my own questing for truth has ended. My fourth and final book, 'Stairway to the Stars', gives my final conclusions..."

Arthur Shuttlewood, Warminster UFO Newsletter, No.11, November 1972.

Well, Amin to say!

On March 4, Radio Uganda reported that President Amin saw a mysterious flying object descend into Lake Victoria on Saturday (March 3) and then take off again. Radio Uganda quoted him as saying that the object had "great significance" and was to be taken as a "sign of good luck to Uganda." The broadcast said: "Any person who might have seen the object is advised to go for prayers in their respective places of worship."

It said General Amin was among several people who saw "a spectacular object, covered with something like smoke," descending into Lake Victoria. "After some seven minutes the object was seen lifting off like a rocket being fired, but moving gently." The radio report indicated that the object was between six and ten miles distant when General Amin saw it.

(Liverpool Daily Post, March 5, 1973)

Good grief!

The Liverpool Echo recently (January 11) quoted at length from an article in Aquarius Viewpoint, a UFO magazine of which we had not previously heard. It seems

the group which produces the magazine is led by Rex Dutta, author of the book, "Flying Saucer Viewpoint", of which the less said the better.

The article expounds some rather unconventional meteorological theories. It seems that changes in the weather are caused by rockets puncturing the etheric web of the earth. When a rocket punctures the earth's web, two holes are made, the hole caused by the rocket passing through the web and a corresponding one on the other side of the earth's web. This happens in a way "that we sneeringly refuse to understand or accept, unless we have begun a serious study of occultism." The "interplay" between the two holes causes a third point — a mid-point, like a third pole, not yet discovered, of electricity. This third pole complements, or completes, the positive and negative ones we know. Magnetic anomalies are induced at this mid-point.

If these magnetic anomalies affect downwards, we get sudden holes in the road, collapse of walls or scaffolding. (I am not making this up—Ed.) If they range upwards we get explosions. 'Unexplained' aircraft crashes can happen when they enter a field of magnetic anomaly that has ranged upwards. It seems that the North Pole repels matter and this is why the ice is thinning there, while the South Pole does the reverse.

However, a much deeper cause of the change in the ice at the poles, according to Aquarius Viewpoint, is our own collective thought power. The "saucer people" say that as we earthlings have evolved and become educated and scientific we have developed the faculty of (lower-mind) consecutive, logical, sequential thought. Powerful thought—but focussed downwards to lower self, to selfishness. Such thoughts of the downward to involution—into—matter selfish type thicken the lower part of our aura as they do the 'south pole' of the earth's collective aura. Apparently, not only does this have an adverse effect on the weather, but it also causes the earth's rotation to wobble. "There's no one else we can blame but ourselves."

Delays

Apologies to editors and publishers of exchange for increasing delays in publication and distribution of the Bulletin. These are due to pressure of other commitments.

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