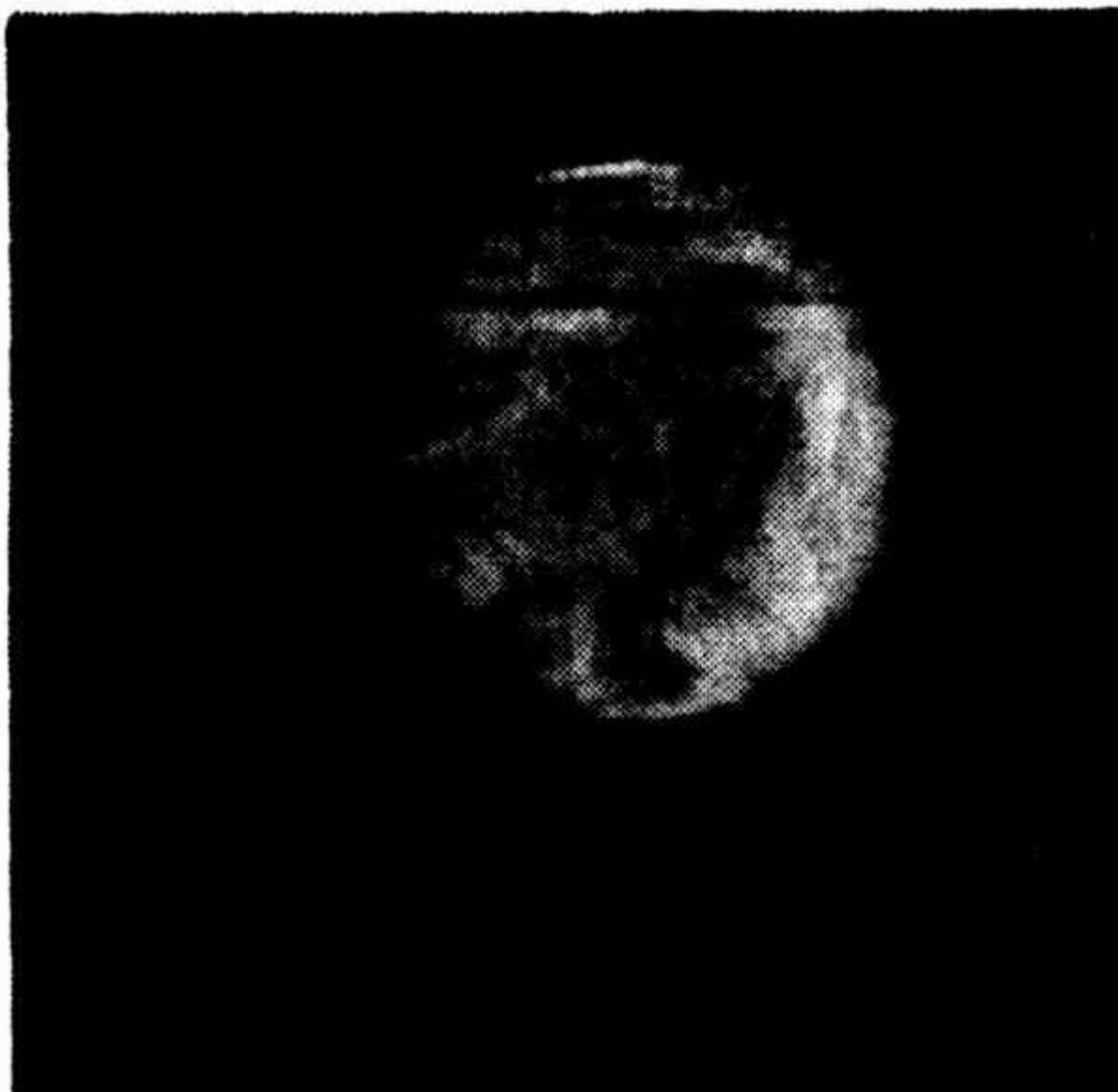


NOEL HAWKEN, in London, says: "Don't mention Flying Saucers"

***BRITAIN WON'T GET***

***EXCITED***





● *This might seem a Flying Saucer, but it is merely a trick with an ashtray and the city in the background.*

**QUESTIONS** at high official and

**Q** scientific level about British interest in flying saucers are met with a smile—but that does not mean Britain is dozing through the age of luminous chinaware.

**W**ith customary pragmatic common sense British experts are obtaining all the information they can, sifting it and framing assorted hypotheses to explain it.

They believe it absurd at present to ask: "What are Flying Saucers?" or "Where do Flying Saucers come from?" That merely begs the question.

They prefer questions like: "What causes so many people to report flying objects?"

"What are the real experiences of these people, and how can they be explained?"

"Do their reports and suppositions add at all to our knowledge?"

"Assuming that some reports are accurate, what do they actually imply?"

If the British seem a little detached, it has to be re-

membered that reports of unidentified objects over these islands are not a novelty.

They have been reaching the authorities ecclesiastical and secular for at least 700 years. If all the reported objects had been real, dossiers would exist of an extraordinary collection of broomstick witches, dragons, comets, seraphim, and devils—comparable with the phantasmagoria of Hieronymus Bosch.

## Collecting

**C**URRENT research is at various levels and of various qualities. For example, the Air Ministry has a unit collecting and examining all reports of unidentified flying objects (it never uses the term Flying Saucers).

Reports are classified according to the reliability of the source, details of time, weather, and so on. In this way most objects have already been accounted for.

On others, no further information can be obtained

membered that reports of

formation can be obtained. More remain mysterious.

But the Air Ministry types are the last in the world to decide that, because something cannot be explained,

the first wild notion about it must be true.

Not one of these men is known to favor the little men from Mars. They feel that when the existence of saucers is established, it will be time enough to form theories about which celestial speck they come from.

A surprising number of scientists are involved in some way in the saucer phenomenon—physicists, psychologists, aeronautical engineers, sociologists, and others.

The questions that interest them form a strange pot pourri:

- Perception and self-deception, hallucination, and mirages;

- Tabulation of the variety of lights, flashes, meteorites, fireballs, reflections, and so on, provided by the sky;

- Visual tricks of light, due to rockets and jet planes at high speeds and high levels;

- The psychology of rumor eccentrics, pranksters, publicity seekers, and people with a neurotic need to "get

with a neurotic need to "get in on the act";

- The ideas and superstitions deliberately spread for commercial purposes;

- And most fascinating of all — the possibility that "there might be something in it after all."

It is wrong to think of British experts as sourfaced spoilsports, who want only to destroy belief. If the evidence ever begins to be convincing, the scientists will be the most charmed and excited people on the globe. But so far . . . no!

Another large enquiry body consists of Flying Saucer and space ship societies.

## **Warned**

**I**N the vagueness, sincerity, credulity and mystery that surround the subject, the Air Ministry deprecates all attempts to stir up apprehension. And Air Force men are warned particularly not to spread Flying Saucer stories.

If it does nothing else, this possibly cuts down the volume of rumor while Britain waits calmly—firstly

**Britain waits calmly—firstly  
to learn if there is a mystery  
at all, and then for possible  
solutions.**