

SCIENTIFIC NOTE.

For an interesting article on ball lightning, believed by some to consist of a plasma system generated in thunderstorms, see a recent article in the *New Scientist* of 8 April 2000. I just mention this because, although I

too do not believe such a natural phenomenon could account for elaborate and complex crop-circle type formations, it does indeed involve a small flying globe about the size of a tennis ball, albeit glowing rather than white, and drifting rather than fast-moving. -Philip Creighton.■

BOOK REVIEW BY THE EDITOR:

***PASSPORT TO THE COSMOS*, © BY JOHN E. MACK, M.D.**

Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School, and Founding Director of the Program For Extraordinary Experience Research (PEER).

Crown Publishers, New York, 1999, hardback, 305 pages, with bibliography and index.

USA: \$24; Canada: \$35.50. ISBN: 0-517-70568-0

Readers will no doubt recall the terrible rumpus that was caused five years ago when Dr John E. Mack, Professor of Psychiatry at the outstandingly famous Harvard Medical School, let it be known that he had been studying the abduction phenomenon, had interviewed scores of abductees, and proclaimed that the phenomenon was unquestionably **real in some strange sort of way**.

The University chiefs launched an investigation and tried (unsuccessfully) to have him sacked, and when Dr Mack visited Britain in August 1995, and the directors of FSR laid on a dinner and reception for him at Claridge's Hotel in London, he explained to us exactly what it was that had so upset the Harvard academics.

What had "stuck in their craws" wasn't his interest in studying UFOs! **It was the mere fact that he dared to suggest that there might be other sorts of "reality"!** "That", he said "had really got them!" "That," he said, **"was my heresy!** If I had simply said that here are these cases that I can't explain, and one day a fellow-psychiatrist will find a new diagnosis -that would have been fine!

"But it's when I said that we need to change our notions of 'reality' in order to understand this -they said that if I hadn't done **that**, there wouldn't have been an investigation."

Dr Mack, already a Pulitzer Prize winner with his book on Lawrence of Arabia, *A Prince of our Disorder*, produced his first book on "our subject" in 1994: *Abduction: Human Encounters With Aliens* (Simon and Schuster, UK price £16.99, ISBN 0-671-71181-4), and it was a best-seller.

As a follow-up he has now written this groundbreaking new volume, in which he has powerfully demonstrated how the abduction phenomenon calls for a revolutionary new way of examining **the nature of reality** and our own place in the Cosmos.

His first book had stunned the world with his extensive research on individuals who had claimed alien encounters, and now, in this second volume, he provocatively asserts, on the basis of his continued research and study of over 100 cases, that this UFO phenomenon is part of a new

era of human consciousness, a time in which we must be willing to embrace the idea that alien visitation is **"real on some level"**.

For Dr Mack the alien abduction phenomenon is clearly nothing short of a cosmic wake-up call to humans that we do indeed live in a world filled with spirits and beings who can cross the barrier that we ourselves have thrown up between the "material" and the "immaterial" worlds.

Drawing on the rich tradition of non-western and indigenous cultures, which more readily accept that we live in a multidimensional Universe, Dr Mack persuasively shows that, by **broadening our definition of "what is real"**, we can begin to explore a phenomenon that has deep and lasting implications for all of mankind.

By sharing the vivid and dramatic encounters of his over 100 "experiencers", he illuminates a phenomenon that has shattered the worldviews of those who have experienced it. Time and time again, individuals from all cultures say that their lives have been radically altered by their encounters with aliens in ways that are both traumatic and transformative.

This transformation seems to be an intrinsic part of the alien abduction phenomenon, which is marked by a variety of elements that go beyond the physical manifestation of alien visitation. In *Passport to the Cosmos* Dr John Mack has further solidified his reputation as a brave pioneer on the forefront of the science of human experience -an authoritative voice that will take us into the 21st century.

NOTE BY EDITOR.

Great as is my admiration for Dr Mack's work, I must be honest and add that I am dismayed to find that he is quite so optimistic about the benevolent intentions of **all** the "Others", because I, like many, see massive evidence of a large element in the UFO phenomenon that seems surely hugely hostile to our species, and which I personally do not hesitate to label with the old traditional tag of **Devils** or **Demons**, such as we find it plainly set forth in

the very core of all three of the great "Western" religions, i.e. Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

My own view is thus, I admit, strongly "Manichaeic". Where, on the other hand, I see enormous value in Dr Mack's pioneer work, is in the fact that he is now making it so evident that these other dimensions, other planes, other "levels", "other versions of Here", or whatever you like to call them, assuredly do exist, and that it is from these other "places" that much of the UFO phenomenon (indeed maybe 99% of it) is coming.

Personally I am no believer in the ET theory. Dr Jacques Vallée has never accepted it, and I know, from

my many talks with Dr J. Allen Hynek, that he did not accept it either.

I have my own very clear perceptions, as Hynek did, of where these visitors are coming from. In a sense it is not at all far away. And Dr Hynek knew that too!

Until today very few researchers have pondered long, it seems, over this question of "Other Realities", "Other-Heres", except of course for the enormous contribution already made by Linda Moulton Howe in her two splendid volumes of *Glimpses of Other Realities*. Dr Mack's new work goes to join hers on that particular section of the shelf, and I think it takes us quite a further step forward. G.C.■

TWO SPECIAL REPORTS TO FSR. © BY BARRY CHAMISH, FSR CONSULTANT (ISRAEL). (chamish@netvision.net.il)

I. © OVERLOOKED ISRAELI PHENOMENA. JULY 24, 1999.

Here's a good reason why reporting on UFOs, though a non-profit cause, in the short run, has its long-term rewards. Every now and then someone reads the reports and offers unique opportunities that enrich a person's existence.

Such was the case this week when a documentary crew preparing a film about the history of Giants for the *Discovery Channel* arrived in Israel to tape a segment based on my research connected to the subject. I had the pleasure, and it really was fun, of accompanying their producer Alexander Brown and director Charles Wilkinson up and down the country for interviews, during the course of which significant new information emerged which has been overlooked until now. Two outstanding examples are:-

GENETIC ALTERATIONS IN YATZITZ.

Probably the most convincing proof that UFO-related giants visited Israel for two years beginning in 1993, was the incident at Yatzitz. In January 1995, Herzl Constantini and Danny Ezra witnessed a nine-foot robotic giant which left 8.5 kilometers of impossibly deep boot tracks in its wake.

I thought I had previously covered the encounter from every angle, but I had, in fact, missed a profoundly important detail which Herzl revealed in his interview this week.

Fruit trees which were growing beside the giant tracks produced weird genetically altered products the summer following the incident. Herzl rummaged through his

records and found newspapers of the time to back up his claim:

Charles Wilkinson filmed the relevant pages. They showed Herzl holding a four-headed nectarine, as an example of the bizarre alterations to trees affected by the passing of the giant.

PICTOGRAM AT BET ZARZIR.

In April 1998, Golan Marzuk discovered and photographed Israel's first thoroughly investigated crop formation. The pictogram was formed in a wheat field beside his village and it was a symmetrical 27 metres by 27 metres umbrella-shaped image.

Since the incident, the village (whose population is Druze, a rather secretive offshoot of Islam) has reported continuing aftershocks. In each case up until his interview this week on July 20/99, animals became very noisy and agitated before a misty image appeared to various different villagers.

Marzuk described the images as, "human in appearance but either small, half the size of a normal man, or large, one and a half to two times larger. They were seen just outside the homes of three of my relatives and were hazy, as though they were formed of cigarette smoke. People in the village are very upset by all this but it is not in our nature to reveal such things to outsiders. I've become very interested in UFOs since I photographed our crop formation and I want other people to have the knowledge as it emerges from our village."■

II. © THE FLYING TRIANGLES MAKE A TRIUMPHANT RETURN TO ISRAEL. SEPTEMBER 3, 1999.

The summer of 1999 saw the return of flying triangular formations over Israel and, as always, their appearance

was greeted with video cameras to solidly document them. **With the media uninterested in the phenomena, it is**