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Letters

Scottish Star Wars - they got it partly wrong

Book serialisation

A FEARFUL SYMMETRY

A TRUE STORY OF ALIEN INTRUSION INTO HUMAN LIVES

By D. Lynne Bishop

Editorial

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UK.UFO.NW would like to thank Lynne Bishop and Bookfinder Publishing for allowing us to continue serialising Lynne's fascinating book 'A Fearful Symmetry'. The response to Lynne's book has been overwhelming.

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Thank you very much to all those of you who wrote in with song title's etc to our recent request. I was amazed at just how many songs were out there either about or mentioning aliens and/or UFOs. The information received is being written up into an article for a near future issue of the e-zine.

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It is often said that ufologists and those interested in the phenomenon find it difficult to laugh at themselves or the subject. This is so true. Now is your chance to change all that albeit slightly. Here is another request for you. There must be text jokes out there about our favourite subject. Collect them up, type them out and send them in. Lets see how many text jokes we can collect. Lets bring a little light heartiness to ufology. As usual when sending text to be published in the e-zine please let us know if you wish to remain anonymous.

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Readers may recall that in the last issue we published our 1997 Skywatch report. In it the below story was mentioned as recalled by Tom:

'Some time ago, an article appeared in a magazine telling of a road crew blasting a tunnel through a mountainside in France. Apparently, after one particular blast, when the dust settled a baby teradactile staggered out of the gloom, coughed once and promptly fell over dead!!!'

Thanks to an observant reader we can reveal the full article relating to this story.

From: David Skinner <david@drspc.demon.co.uk> Date sent: Saturday 22nd November 1997

Upon reading the Skywatch report, I too remembered reading of the fossilised Pterodactyl in the rock. After a few moments thought, I recalled where I had read it. It's reproduced below.

From page 147 of the early eighties' periodical "The Unexplained", chapter entitled "The Great Toad Mystery":

In the winter of 1856, French workmen were blasting a tunnel to carry the railway line from Saint-Dizier to Nancy when they came across a monstrous form' in the darkness. They had just split open a huge boulder of 'lias' or Jurassic limestone, when the thing

staggered from a cavity within the rock, rattled its wings, gave a hoarse cry, and died without further ado.

It was the size and shape of a large goose, though its head was 'hideous' and its mouth contained sharp teeth. Four long legs ended in hooked talons and were joined by a bat-like membrane, and the skin itself was black, leathery, thick and oily.

Somewhat gingerly, the workmen carried the carcass to the nearby town of Gray where, according to a report in the Illustrated London News of 9 February, 1856, a naturalist, versed in palaeontology, immediately recognised it as belonging to the genus (sic) Pterodactylus anas. The rock strata from which it had come tallied with the era in which pterodactyls flourished, and it was noted that the cavity whence it had emerged formed an exact hollow mould of its body, which indicates that it was completely enveloped with the sedimentary deposit.

United Kingdom News
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[UK 1]*****

Source: joel henry <jhenry@wavefront.com>
From: baylissl@gwent-tertiary.ac.uk

Object over Bangor North Wales UK

Joe Henry - Minnesota MUFON

On Sunday November 16th at 16:10 hrs GMT an object was sighted moving South to North over Bangor North Wales, UK. The object was observed from the upper floor of the University Library. When the object was first sighted it was bright white in colour, then it entered a cloud, when it emerged it was a Yellow/Gold in colour, and had a similarity to the rescue helicopters which operate in the area. But the object showed no characteristic rotor blades or flotation/undercarriage struts port and starboard. It had no flashing warning strobes and no insignia denoting its origin.

The shape was similar to a tear drop on its side. The motion seemed to be too smooth to be a helicopter or other aircraft. It did not reappear once out of sight. The object was at approximately 500ft with the sun to its starboard. The forward portion of the "fuselage" had a black/dark area which led me to compare it to the Sea King helicopter in the Search and Rescue colours. There was no forward canopy visible. The craft was in sight for approximately 8-10 seconds. I am an experienced ex-military aircraft observer and am proficient in aircraft recognition. Hope this is of some interest to you. Thanks for your time.

uk.ufo.nw is attempting to make further enquiries into this sighting.

[UK 2]*****

Source: Sci-Fi Channels sightings page
URL: <http://www.scifi.com/sightings/>
From: bernhard.nahrgang@ob.kamp.net (Bernhard Nahrgang)

Nazi Saucer!

Milton Keynes, England, it's not the kind of place where we expect to get new information on real life flying saucers. But after our recent report on a shaped aircraft in Canada, top secret American saucer projects and Germany's development of craft like this during World War II, a SIGHTINGS Researcher received a letter from viewer D. Robin Stowell.

A typesetter by trade, Stowell alerted us to the book, Brighter Than A Thousand Suns. An authoritative history of the race to build the first Atomic Bomb. Stowell typeset the original manuscript nearly forty years ago. And never forgot this brief reference to a Nazi Saucer that could out-manoeuvre any allied aircraft.

Four decades after publication, Stowell found a copy of the out of print reference book and confirmed what he had long remembered. The footnote describes German Saucers that were forty five yards across, capable of reaching speeds over Mach One and climbing to an elevation of nearly eight miles. Some experts believe that these Nazi

Saucers could have been responsible for the legendary Foo Fighter sightings over Europe late in World War II. But if they were, it still does not explain Foo Fighters spotted over the Pacific during the same period.

[UK 3]*****

uk.ufo.nw says: The below report appeared during the morning of Tuesday 9th December. The next two reports appeared later the same day.

Source: BBC Ceefax
Date: a.m. Tuesday 9th December 1997

Freedom of Information plans finalised

Government freedom of information plans go further than many observers expected a BBC correspondent says.

The Minister responsible, David Clark, is set to unveil the plans this week.

They are understood to include an independent commissioner who can force Government departments to release information which is requested.

But information could be withheld if the commissioner believes it to be in the public interest.

[UK 4]*****

Source: BBC Ceefax
Date: p.m. Tuesday 9th December 1997

Minister orders inquiry after BBC leak

A Minister has been forced to apologise over leaks of new Government legislation on freedom of information.

It follows a BBC report that a White Paper on the issue goes further than first thought, with plans to make public the workings of Government.

Dr David Clark, the Public Service Minister, apologised to Parliament and said he will investigate the leak.

The White Paper is due to be published on Thursday.

[UK 5]*****

Source: Teletext
Date: p.m. Tuesday 9th December 1997

Apologies after BBC reveals secrets

Public Service Minister Dr David Clark has apologised to the Commons for the disclosure on the BBC of features of a White Paper not yet published.

The Freedom of Information document should have been kept under wraps.

Dr Clark said: "No one is more annoyed than I," adding that he took the matter "very seriously" and was looking into it.

[UK 6]*****

Source: Teletext
Date: Thursday 11th December 1997

Move on Freedom of Information

Plans for an Independent Information Commissioner with powers to compel Whitehall to release files to the public are being officially unveiled.

The paper foreshadows a Freedom of Information Act allowing the public to demand information from the Government.

Civil Servants will be banned from evading their duties of

disclosure by destroying official records.

[UK 7]*****

Source: BBC Ceefax
Date: Thursday 11th December 1997

Paper to open up Whitehall to public

Plans for an independent Information Commissioner with powers to compel Whitehall to release files to the public are to be unveiled.

The White Paper is intended to foreshadow a Freedom of Information Act.

This will ensure for the first time in law the right of the public to demand information from the Government.

Details of the paper were leaked on Tuesday forcing Public Services Minister David Clark to apologise.

World News
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[W 1]*****

Source: Teletext World News
Date: 21st November 1997

Inventor of jet plane dies

Germany: Carl Neubronner, inventor of the jet plane in 1912, has died at the age of 101.

[W 2]*****

From: "A.J. Craddock" <webmaster@cseti.org>
Date: Sunday 16th November 1997

Large triangular UFO seen over Santa Barbara Channel, Ca.

At approximately 10:05 pm on Friday 14th November, Dr. Ted Loder and Tony Craddock were checking out new nightscopes from Tony's house overlooking the Santa Barbara Channel. Ted was using an ITT Night Mariner (Model G3) and Tony a Litton NightMate (Model Nav3) each with a light magnification of 30,000 to 50,000x.

They both happened to be looking through the nightscopes at Jupiter, which was about ten degrees above the horizon and over the island of San Miguel. Simultaneously they both saw a set of lights near Jupiter in the shape of a large triangle silently flying eastward down the Santa Barbara Channel. They followed it for about six seconds until it disappeared behind some trees. Both realized that the visible lights were on the outside edges of a large craft which was not itself visible in the night scopes.

A few seconds after the initial recognition, both saw the craft tilt slightly on its side so that its triangular shape could be more clearly seen. Its shape was delineated by five to eight lights along its edges clearly visible through the nightscopes. Ted Loder counted five or six lights in the shape of a triangle seen partly on its side, while Tony Craddock saw an additional one or two lights in the center towards the rear, making it appear chevron or boomerang shaped. Tony had the clearer nightscope which may explain why he was able to see the extra lights. Both had the impression that it was not lights independently flying in formation but a solid craft. The length of the craft appeared to be longer than the sword on Orion's belt and shorter than Orion's belt itself.

The craft was not visible with the naked eye and was not seen by the two other people who were present without nightscopes.

It was later estimated that the craft traveled through a visible arc of 75 degrees in about 6 seconds. It was estimated that the craft was at a distance of 5-10 miles, which would have meant it was traveling at approximately 4000-8000 mph.

Both Ted Loder and Tony Craddock are members of CSETI (Center for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence), and attended CSETI's Congressional Briefing on UFO/ET in Washington DC on April 9th of

this year. Dr. Loder is a Professor of Earth Sciences at the University of New Hampshire. Tony Craddock is President of an international petroleum consulting company and co-ordinates Santa Barbara's CSETI Working Group.

[W 3]*****

Source: Teletext World News
Date: 24th November 1997

Mutant Rats

Chile: An ecology group has warned of 2ft long "mutant" rats that have attacked barnyard animals in Santiago.

[W 4]*****

Source: Wall Street Journal
Publish Date: Friday 7th November 1997
From: baylissl@gwent-tertiary.ac.uk

Chinese Scholars Tap Physics To Learn About Flying Saucers

By KATHY CHEN

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

BEIJING -- In ever-changing China, which in places has rocketed from agrarian poverty to urban modernity in less than a decade, nothing seems impossible these days.

Not even UFOs.

That may explain why 60-year-old Sun Shili, professor of international trade at Beijing's University of International Business and Economics, is holding court at China's hallowed Academy of Science along with a South Korean delegation from something called the Embassy of Extraterrestrials.

Mr. Sun poses with a dress-up alien

In the West, unidentified flying objects and alien abductions are the stuff of Hollywood pulp and supermarket tabloids. But in China, UFOs are a matter of great national importance. Prof. Sun's group, the Chinese UFO Research Association, receives government grants, and its members include some of the nation's most respected scientists and academics -- even Communist Party officials.

These enthusiasts aren't merely trying to prove the existence of UFOs: They are attempting to figure out what makes them fly and then harness that power for everyday use in China.

"UFOs are faster than any airplane or car," Prof. Sun explains. "We hope to use the UFO phenomenon to resolve China's energy and efficiency problems." The professor, who once worked as a translator for Mao Tse-tung, adds that while "the focus of foreign UFO studies on sightings is a little passive," in China "we've always linked our research with science."

Of course, classifying the study of UFOs as "science" protects Prof. Sun and his group from Communist Party prohibitions against engaging in superstition. And China does have its official skeptics: Ji Fusheng, general director of the Department of Basic Research and High Technology of the China Association for Science and Technology, says "the study of UFOs does no harm, but I believe it won't have any concrete results."

Yo-Yo Mao

A serious scholar with a dignified air, Prof. Sun experienced what he says was his first and only close encounter in 1969, when he spotted a bright orb bouncing like a yo-yo above the horizon during a Maoist learn-from-the-peasants campaign at a rural cooperative. Not having heard of flying saucers, "I thought it was a Soviet reconnaissance plane," he recounts. Mr. Sun only considered the other-worldly possibilities of his sighting after the author of a Spanish-language book on UFOs sent him a copy to translate. At the time, Mr. Sun was working for the government, even translating for Mao during meetings with Spanish-speaking dignitaries.

Before long, Mr. Sun had become the nation's leading UFO expert. He

attended official conferences organized and funded by the government. A vice premier, Yao Yilin, wrote a commentary in 1980 urging the Chinese to respect his findings.

Sitting in his Beijing apartment in a study crammed with UFO books, Mr. Sun recounts how he helped transform the nation's UFO association from a science-fiction club, founded at Wuhan University in 1979, into a nationwide organization with 5,000 members.

One of his first moves after taking the helm in 1986 was to use his connections in government and academia to move the association's membership away from mostly students and laborers. He stepped up contact with the outside world, attending international conferences and posing for photos with dress-up aliens. Today, he brags, "80% of our members are college graduates or above."

Gao Ge is characteristic of the members Prof. Sun has been trying to recruit. The 52-year-old scientist at Beijing Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics holds three Chinese patents and one U.S. patent for aerospace-related advances, as well as China's National First-Class Invention prize for his research on improving the efficiency of jet engines. Ever since spotting what he says was an orange UFO in Miami, where he was a visiting professor at Florida Atlantic University in 1990, Mr. Gao has been trying to build his own. What he envisions is an ellipsoid with tiny wings that he says can take off vertically and move like an alien spaceship, albeit at subsonic speed.

Beds and Dragonfly Wings

Mr. Gao says he has test-flown a wooden prototype with the dimensions of a king-size bed. He is confident that, someday, with his craft's maneuverability and energy-saving "vortex generator" (a device that creates lift much like dragonfly wings) "you won't need airplanes anymore." He can't offer much more than a description, however: He says Beijing Institute has labeled his invention top secret and has banned him from showing even blueprints to outsiders.

Strolling by a lily pond at a senior citizens' recreation center in the southern city of Guiyang, another UFO buff and association member, Ma Ruian, 54, envisions a future filled with superfast submarines, floating cars and energy-saving ships shaped like flounders -- all gunned by his patented flying globe.

Mr. Ma conducts some of his experiments on this pond, using rudimentary models to test his theory. He believes that by redirecting air or water flow, his globe can decrease resistance, significantly speed up moving objects and save energy. To demonstrate, he releases a balloon fit with a special plug that controls the outrush of air. The balloon moves fast as it deflates, but Prof. Sun has his doubts about Mr. Ma's theory. "It could be a little exaggeration that the globe's speed could exceed that of a rocket," the professor says.

Fountain of Youth?

Perhaps the boldest dream belongs to Liu Zhongkai, 47, an official at the Beijing Meteorological Bureau with wild eyes and vertical hair. Patent authorities are weighing whether or not to register his invention, which he describes as a magnetic field that produces as much as a third more energy than it requires to run. Among other things, he claims, his magnetic field can alter time. "If you live to be 100 on Earth, in my UFO you will be able to live at least 100,000 years," he says.

Tinkering with his contraption -- two steel bars with coils of copper wire at each end -- Mr. Liu says his self-generating energy machine "is what UFOs must use to fly long distances because they can't use gas. It's a simple logic thing."

Which, of course, begs the question: How do these scientists know what makes a UFO run, since none claims to have ever been inside one?

"I've studied many photographs of UFOs," Mr. Ma says with a shrug. "In physics, you can work backward to figure out the theory."

That isn't to say the quest isn't tough. Says Mr. Sun: "Working with UFOs is more complicated than translating for Mao."

[W 5]*****

Source: The Associated Press
Date: 19th November 1997
From: baylissl@gwent-tertiary.ac.uk

NASA's Deep Space 1 spacecraft to study Mars

By JANE E. ALLEN

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) - Slowly accelerating through space with a solar-powered engine, NASA's \$141 million Deep Space 1 spacecraft will test a dozen new technologies for future missions.

DS1, the first in NASA's New Millennium series, is set for launch next July on a two-year mission. The 5-foot-high workhorse will cruise past an asteroid, Mars and a comet, doing scientific work with several compact, lightweight and highly efficient new instruments.

Seven members of the science team held a briefing Tuesday to discuss the spacecraft's advanced technologies, including a solar electric propulsion system.

In January 1999, the spacecraft will pass within 5 miles of an asteroid named for Christa McAuliffe, the New Hampshire teacher killed by the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger. It will snap pictures, analyze the asteroid's surface composition and brightness, and monitor effects of the solar wind.

In April 2000, DS1 will pass by Mars, conducting tests while it uses the planet for a gravity assist manoeuvre to fling it on a path toward the comet West-Kohoutek-Ikemura.

Once it catches up with the comet, it will study its solid nucleus and surrounding cloud of gas and dust.

The mission also offers ``a long-overdue opportunity to flight-test ion propulsion,'' said Joseph Wang, who runs the propulsion group at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena.

An array of 720 lenses will focus sunlight on solar panels to produce electricity to power the ion propulsion engine. Inside the engine, atoms of xenon gas are given positive charges, then exposed to a negative electrical field that attracts and shoots them out the back of the spacecraft. The result is a gradual build up of speed over many months.

The propulsion method is 10 times more efficient than burning fuel, ``but the thrust is extremely gentle,'' said Marc D. Rayman, the project's chief mission engineer at JPL. He compared the engine's thrust to the weight of a piece of paper in your hand.

[W 6]*****

Source: Deseret News Archives, Salt Lake City
Publish Date: 14th November 1997
From: baylissl@gwent-tertiary.ac.uk

UFO enthusiast in N.Y. found unfit to stand trial

John Ford, a UFO enthusiast accused of masterminding a plot to assassinate three political officials in Suffolk County, was found unfit to stand trial on Thursday. A judge ordered that he be sent to an upstate psychiatric institution for at least a year.

Ford, 48, was arrested a year ago on charges that he was scheming to kill the three officials by putting radium in their cars and lacing their toothpaste with radioactive metal.

Investigators said Ford wanted the three officials killed because he believed they were interfering with his efforts to contact aliens from outer space. Ford's friends said he believed that visitors from outer space had crash-landed on Long Island and that government officials were keeping the aliens at Brookhaven National Laboratory in Upton and had created diversionary fires in Long Island's Pine Barrens to conceal the crash landings.

uk.ufo.nw says: You can find the full reports and articles regarding the above John Ford case in our back-issues numbers{57} & {67}. Visit our web site at:

<http://www.holodeck.demon.co.uk/>

Select the button: FTP Back-Issues

-[continued in part 2]-

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