

# THE ROESTENBERG STORY (1954)

*By Gordon Creighton*

## PART I.

### AN INTERESTING LETTER FROM AUSTRALIA

From John Bainbridge,  
48 Church Street,  
LEETON, 2705,  
New South Wales  
Australia.  
January 4, 1990.

Dear Mr. Creighton, — I have been reading again, in FSR 34/2 (June Quarter 1989) your Editorial on the need to search for the true “Cosmic Brothers”, followed by your re-run of the early Norwegian CE-III case at Mosjoen in August 1954. Yes — I can just recall that unusual contact case. At the time, I remember I took it all ‘with the traditional pinch of salt’. And I would agree with you that ‘benign contact’ experience does seem to be becoming a rarity!

However, what has really rung the memory bell for me was your reference (in your Comments on that case, on page 7 of FSR 34/2) to the affair at Ranton in England just two months later (October 21, 1954) when a Mrs. Jessie Roestenberg and her two sons were to observe, hovering just above the roof of their house, a disc-shaped “Adamski-type” craft containing two men who seemed to have much the same build and features as the men described both by the Norwegian ladies and by Adamski himself in his own experience of two years earlier (1952).

*For I too have an extraordinary personal experience to relate to you — for whatever it may be worth in connection with ‘our enigmatic subject’ — and it is intimately connected with that very same case at Ranton!*

*Some years after that Norwegian report of August 1954 (the date would have been between February 1957 and September 1964. ED. FSR), when I was still living in England, I had been on a business trip down to London, and I was returning one evening, my business completed, by train to my home at Kendal in the Lake District.*

*We had only gone a short distance in the train — I cannot recall how far — when it seems that, owing to some hold-up or blockage on the line, we pulled in at a station and were told to vacate that particular train, and board another one at another platform quite some distance away.*

*The new train was a completely empty one, obviously brought into service to meet the contingency of the moment.*

*I entered an empty compartment of the train, and took one of the inside seats next to the corridor. Another man entered, and took the other end-seat on the same side as myself, and adjacent to the other window. Then, a little while later, a third man looked in from the corridor and, seemingly deciding that he liked the looks of the pair of us as fellow-travellers, he sat down opposite the second man, in the other corner. There were only the three of us in that compartment for the remainder of this narrative.*

*The three of us continued sitting in silence for a while, listening to the blare of the Tannoy system giving continued instructions to passengers about the train. A little while later, we three began a desultory conversation, about the weather, etc. With the ice thus broken so to speak, the third passenger — who subsequently turned out to be Arthur Roestenberg — looked over towards me, on the far end of the opposite bench, and addressed the following question directly to me alone:-*

*“Do you believe in Flying Saucers?”*

*Note well, dear Gordon Creighton, that the conversation up to that point had been an evenly balanced three-way chat on ordinary mundane matters of the moment.*

*And now this question was being directed straight at me!*

*And indeed, it so happened that I was already deeply engaged in the study of the UFO enigma! Somehow or other Roestenberg must have sensed this. Anyway, I at once launched into a conversation of some length with him, giving such information and such conclusions as I had, with, I think, the odd comment thrown in now and again by him.*

*Then, all of a sudden, he held up a large hand, as if requesting silence from me, and inclining his head and eyes upwards, as if straining to listen to something else, he stated:-*

*“He is to yourself as your own brother!”*

*In other words, it seems that he was repeating to me words which he was hearing clairaudiently from some unseen person who was also listening in on our conversation!*

*After a momentary pause, I then continued with my own narrative on the subject of flying saucers, without making any comment on Roestenberg’s interjection.*

*I might well have been very tempted to enquire re. the nature of that strange interruption in our conversation, had it not been for the behaviour of the third man present in the compartment. From the wild-eyed look on his face, as he heard my narrative — and then the interjection — it seemed as though he was about to ‘take a header’ straight out through the carriage window.*

Soon after that, the conversation went two ways, with Roestenberg relating the famous sighting over his home in the Old Vicarage at Ranton. I will not now go into the details of this, except to say that it was exactly as I had already read it for myself in FSR. (On page 9 of FSR Vol. 3, No. 1, for Jan/Feb. 1957. ED. FSR).

Incidentally, almost the whole of the conversation thus far had taken place before the second train had yet left the station. Roestenberg subsequently quitted the train somewhere in the Stafford area (Ranton being close to there. ED). Before doing so, however, he told me about a book that had been published on the Ranton Vicarage incident. And, sure enough, when I enquired about such a book at the public library in Kendal, my home town, I was to find that book, and read it. (This was of course Gavin Gibbon's THE COMING OF THE SPACE SHIPS. ED.)

Well then — soon after my arrival in Australia, which was on September 21, 1964, there were some Mormon missionaries active here in Leeton where I now reside. I remember purchasing a copy of their "Bible" for the sum of five shillings. And, as I read it, I was greatly struck by various accounts in it of 'celestial phenomena' such as could have been taken straight out of FSR 'contactee' stories. Time and again I was to note a remarkable similarity.

And I recall in fact that I wrote to you at the time, drawing your attention to what I still consider the very remarkable resemblance between the 'visitation' stories as given in the Mormon Bible, with — of course — their spiritual connotations — and the almost 'carbon-copies' of the same sorts of events as published in FSR.

And now I come to the main point of this letter. I remember that, during the course of our train journey, Roestenberg stated that he was not affiliated to any particular religion, nor was he at that stage even interested in religious matters.

Later, however, when I had become acquainted with your then Midlands representative, the late Wilfred Daniels, Daniels was able to tell me that Roestenberg had given up his good position as a building surveyor, and was now a full-time high priest in the Mormon Church!

Now — the point that I want to bring out is that, without any doubt (in my mind anyway) extra-terrestrial beings were already in direct contact with Roestenberg at the very time of our conversation on the train! Here, then, we have a religious organization (and not by any means an evil one, mind you) under direct though unseen control by extraterrestrial or interdimensional beings, from outside of our ken, who can manipulate our way of life, hopefully for the good, but in a manner quite unsuspected by the rank and file of humanity.

And, of course, this begs the whole question as to what other organizations — political, religious, or 'other' — may be under the direct control of aliens without the general human public being

aware of it?!

Finally, I would mention that, during a recent spell in hospital, I had with me two books: The Cosmic Pulse of Life, by Trevor James Constable, and The Secret Science Behind Miracles, by Max Freedom Long. I had previously read Constable's book, some time before, but simply just 'could not take it in' at that time. During my twelve days stay in hospital I read Constable twice and Max Freedom Long once. Together, I reckon those two books gave me an expansion of consciousness. They certainly took my mind off the surgery I underwent about half-way through my hospital stay.

I predict that this present decade will be the most crucial for our present civilization. Some of the most dire predictions of Edgar Cayce and of Max Heindel are supposed to be coming to fruition during this time.

And — finally — that "NO AGENDA" meeting between Bush and Gorbachev, which they held just off the Italian coast! Does anyone seriously think that this planet's top two men are going to spend their time having a "NO AGENDA" meeting aboard their respective warships? NOT PERISHING LIKELY — as the saying goes!

Could it not rather be that a "SECRET AGENDA" on some possible global menace that could affect both nations would be a far more likely reason for this extraordinary meeting? Moreover, how would you explain that sudden, unpredicted, and violent 'local storm' that forced an adjournment of the discussions of these two men! Just what could that strange occurrence portend for the world?

And as a student of the Occult, you will be aware that nothing is supposed to happen by chance.

Yours sincerely,

**John Bainbridge**

#### COMMENT AND REPLY BY EDITOR

Yes, of course. Surely ordinary commonsense indicates that unseen alien intelligences have been in control of us, and of our world ever since we came into existence. It seems certain that our Governments already are well aware of this, and know that all our religious creeds and dogmas have been sown among us by the present controllers, who are probably not our original creators. Nor have these multifarious creeds been of any benefit to man, and I personally am sure that they were all designed to make certain that the strife and bloodletting here would be endless. THIS IS PRECISELY WHAT THE CONTROLLERS (WHO ARE NOT BENEVOLENT) WANT. LOOK AT CHRISTIANS VERSUS MUSLIMS IN LEBANON; PROTESTANTS AND CATHOLICS IN ULSTER; CATHOLICS AND ORTHODOX IN YUGOSLAVIA!

HOWRIGHT LUCRETIVS WAS! AS HE SAID: "TANTUM RELIGIO POTUIT SUADERE MALORUM". "HOW MUCH EVIL HAS BEEN WROUGHT BY RELIGION"

OF COURSE — AS EVERYONE OF US KNOWS DEEP IN HIS OR HER HEART THERE IS A TRUE MIGHTY POWER FOR GOOD THAT RULES THE UNIVERSE, AND EVERYONE OF US SHOULD SEEK TO REPAIR THAT LINK WITH IT WHICH WAS BROKEN SO LONG AGO.

BUT WE ARE NEVER GOING TO GET ANYWHERE SO LONG AS WE REMAIN UNDER THE THRALL OF THE MANY DEVILS WHO HOLD THE POWER HERE AT PRESENT, AND WHO

HAVE DELIBERATELY FOSTERED ALL THESE WARRING AND BICKERING "RELIGIONS" AMONG US.

"DIVIDE AND RULE!". THAT IS THEIR POLICY. G.C.

## PART II.

### FULL DETAILS OF THE AMAZING ROESTENBERG CASE (1954) BY GORDON CREIGHTON.

Many of our readers will recall the late Gavin Gibbon, one of our earliest UFO investigators, who, sadly, had a rather short life this time. Gavin lived in Shrewsbury, in the county of Shropshire (west-central region of England), and therefore only about 20 or 25 miles from Ranton, which lies slightly to the west of Stafford.

We do not know how much publicity the Ranton case received at the time either in the national newspapers (if any) or in the local press. Personally I have never seen any press-clippings on it, but I did discuss it on various occasions with Gavin Gibbon whom I knew well and saw often at our meetings in London, and he gave me a detailed account, based on his interviews with the Roestenberg family. His first book, *The Coming of the Space Ships*, was published by Neville Spearman in 1957 or 1958. (I have long had my own copy of the book, but as usual cannot find it at this moment, so crammed is my house with books).

However, in *The Humanoids*, edited by Charles Bowen and issued first in 1967 (by FSR) and then in various editions by Spearman or Futura over the years from 1969 to 1977, Bowen gave the following précis, which I would add, is in agreement with Gavin Gibbon's book, and also agrees with some of what Gavin told me personally. Bowen's résumé will be found on page 16 of *The Humanoids*, in his chapter on cases in Britain: UNITED KINGDOM — FEW AND FAR BETWEEN:-

RANTON. It was on October 21, 1954, at a time when the great European wave of that year was beginning to show signs of falling off, that Case No. 3 came to light. At Ranton, near Shrewsbury, Mrs. Jennie (sic) Roestenberg, English wife of a young Dutchman settled in the United Kingdom, claimed that at 4.45 p.m. on that day she and her two children had watched a disc-shaped object of aluminium colour as it hovered over their house. Through two transparent panels she claimed she could see two 'men' with white skins, long hair to their shoulders and foreheads so high that all their features seemed to be in the lower half of their faces. They were wearing transparent helmets and turquoise blue clothing like ski suits.

The object hovered at a tilted angle, while the two occupants surveyed the scene "sternly, not in an unkindly fashion, but almost sadly, compassionately".

If true, this story is something of a boost for Adamski's original claim.

SOURCES: FSR Vol. 3, No. 1 (Jan/Feb. 1957)

Gavin Gibbon. *The Coming of the Space Ships* (Neville Spearman, London, 1957 or 1958).

#### NOTE BY EDITOR, FSR.

One highly interesting detail which Gavin Gibbon gave me and which, so far as I can now recall (without having his book in front of me) he did not mention in the book was this:-

"Although the metallic disc (identical in shape, size, and appearance, with Adamski's famous 'scout-ship' as shown in Adamski's own photographs) made no detectable noise apart from a "whoosh", its effect on the Roestenbergs' spaniel dog was electrifying, for the animal 'lit out' at full pelt, and was never seen by the Roestenbergs again".

*One more case, then, in support of the frequently observed fact that some UFOs undoubtedly must produce ultrasonic effects that are devastatingly disturbing for certain sensitive breeds of dogs, more especially spaniels. (See in this connection, the Catalogue that I compiled and published in FSR many years ago, running through numerous issues, and listing over two hundred cases in which animals or birds have been known to react violently in the presence of UFOs. ED.)*

## PART III.

### AND AN INTERESTING SEQUEL — A BBC TV PROGRAMME

By Gordon Creighton

I have no idea how many people read Gavin Gibbon's book, but it cannot have been a lot as the edition was probably small. Nevertheless, as it turned out, millions of people in Britain were destined to see and hear a television programme in which Jessie Roestenberg described her sighting in great detail, and with an assurance that many must have found deeply impressive. And the story of how this came about is well worth telling — as you will see!

Some time in 1976, as I recall, Mr. Hugh Burnett, a very well known maker of documentary films, at that time working in the BBC's TV Documentaries Department, approached Charles Bowen and myself about "super-programme of all time" on UFOs which the BBC proposed to make. This time, we were assured, things were definitely going to be "different". The programme would be strictly serious and objective and fair, and everyone would be permitted to have his say. (Up until then, I had never taken part in any BBC programme on UFOs — whether on radio or television — in which there had not been distortion, cutting, suppression, "slanted editing" and, in my opinion, outright skullduggery and dishonesty).

However, this time, we both felt that Mr. Hugh Burnett was an altogether different sort of fellow. We felt that we could trust him, and I emphasise that I do believe that it was his plan to be fair to us and to our subject. He had already made excellent documentaries, as I recall, on *the Haunting of Borley Rectory* and *the Loch Ness Monster Mystery*, and both films had struck me as remarkably straight and honest.

Bowen and I therefore consented to the proposal, and, in the course of the initial preparations for the programme the BBC even asked FSR to give them the names and addresses of a few really good and impressive UFO witnesses who might be invited to participate! Of course we complied, with alacrity, two of our suggestions being Mrs. Joyce Bowles of the Winchester By-Pass Encounter Story (date of event: November 14, 1976. See FSR Vol. 22, No. 5) and Mrs. Jessie Roestenberg.

As I recall it, the finished programme, titled "OUT OF THIS WORLD", was originally scheduled to be shown some time during the winter of 1976/77. When it failed

to appear, Charles Bowen, I remember, kept telephoning to the BBC, and they kept replying that they were not ready yet, and inevitably we finally began to become a bit suspicious, and in the end our suspicions were justified.

When at last the documentary was shown, on May 10, 1977 (BBC 1 Television), we found that it was a lot longer than we had originally been told it would be. Clearly somebody (either higher up in the BBC, or, more likely, in the Ministry of Defence, had dictated that certain "important additions" be made to the documentary. And so, when it finally appeared, Mrs. Bowles and Mrs. Roestenberg were there all right (and impressive indeed they both were — especially Jessie Roestenberg). And Charles Bowen and I were also there. But the film had been greatly extended by the insertion of a large amount of footage right at the outset, portraying various elements of the Lunatic Fringe performing religious incantations on the tops of hills and mountains, and the very opening scene — most memorable indeed, never, never to be forgotten, showed what appeared to be the two superb British comedians Peter Cook and Dudley Moore, roaming the flowery hillsides of Surrey armed with weird and wonderful home-made "UFO-detecting instruments".

Clearly the word that had gone forth from the Authorities was that the BBC should induce as many members of the public as possible to switch off early. (As, I am informed, a great many viewers did).

Nevertheless, the programme did get shown.

Thus did the BBC "prove" to the world that there is no such thing as censorship in Britain.

And, quite clearly, the BBC were well satisfied (as were those behind them) that the job of ridiculing and denigrating us had been jolly well done. For, to my knowledge, the documentary was shown three more times, and it is highly likely that there have also been one or two more showings since then of which I have not heard.

The three further showings which I did see were:-

(a) On BBC 1 Television again, December 28, 1977, 12.45 p.m.

(b) On BBC 2 Television, December 9, 1978, 4.50 p.m.

(c) On BBC 2 Television again, August 6, 1984, 2.00 p.m.

So, while it is true that some millions of British viewers have seen the lunatics on the hilltops and have enjoyed the antics of "Peter Cook" and "Dudley Moore", those millions have also seen Mrs. Joyce Bowles and Mrs. Jessie Roestenberg. And I'll wager that many have not forgotten them.

And, I still constantly ask myself this question: why did the BBC permit these two impressive UFO eyewitnesses to remain in the programme? I can only conclude that there may have been a little "sabotage" somewhere along the line. Maybe there was some brave soul somewhere inside the BBC who actually wanted the truth to be told, and who believed that FSR was telling it! ■

## 'FRINGE' IMAGE IS A DANGER TO SCIENCE!

By Gordon Creighton

Over recent years readers of FSR will have noticed a considerable number of articles or statements or situations which indicate the growing nervousness of our official scientific and academic "Establishment" at the prospect that the man-in-the-street might be beginning to suspect that he is being "conned" about a whole range of things, including of course UFOs.

Mr. Roger Highfield, Science Editor of the London *Daily Telegraph*, is one of those who most frequently voice these fears, and in that newspaper for January 31, 1992, we saw another interesting example of his concern.

The *Daily Telegraph* had organized "a meeting of scientists and the media", supported, as one would of course expect, by the journal *NATURE* and the Science Museum in London.

At this meeting, held on the evening of January 30, Sir Michael Atiyah, President of the Royal Society, was the principal guest-speaker.

The subject of his talk was the fact that the

funding of scientific projects depends on public support.

He said that press reporting of "fringe science", ranging from corn-circles to flying saucers, can undermine people's faith in science. As he told his audience, assembled in the Science Museum, "that support could be threatened where there was a conflict between the news-value of a good story and scientific objectivity."

He went on to say that bizarre subjects, such as flying saucers and corn-circles, or alternative medicine, often make a good story, and it is an essential role of journalism to give unorthodox views a fair hearing. But on occasion, totally cranky views are given such prominent treatment that the public can be mis-led into believing that they must at least contain a germ of truth".

"With corn-circles, this might be fun; with purported medical cures however the consequences could be tragic. But, in all these cases, orthodox scientists come over as stuffy and opposed to new