

AN UNWONTED APPARITION IN SPAIN

Eric Billois

Délégué Régional for *Lumières Dans La Nuit*, in Puy de Dôme Region, South-Central France
(Translation from French)

We are indebted to the Editor and Editorial Committee of our splendid French contemporary, *Lumières Dans La Nuit*, for this interesting Spanish report, which appeared in No. 249-250 of their Journal (March/April 1985).

EDITOR

Place: Escalante, near Santander, Province of Cantabria, North-Central Spain.

Date: July 9, 1976

Time: 5.30 a.m.

Eyewitnesses (three):- Sr. Ángel Ruiz Samperio
Sra. Margarita Cagigas Lusares
Sr. X (An aged man, in poor health, who refuses to discuss what he saw).

The Facts

ON Friday, July 9, 1976, at 5.30 a.m., Señor Ruiz Samperio left his house to go to his place of work, 8 kms. distant.

A neighbour, Señora Cagigas Lusares, who works at the same establishment, avails herself of the opportunity to travel with Sr. Samperio in his car (a SEAT 850).

The car is parked on the square in Escalante, at a spot 55 metres from his house. Opposite the entrance to the house is a very well-lit street, the visible part of which is at the most 40 metres from his door.

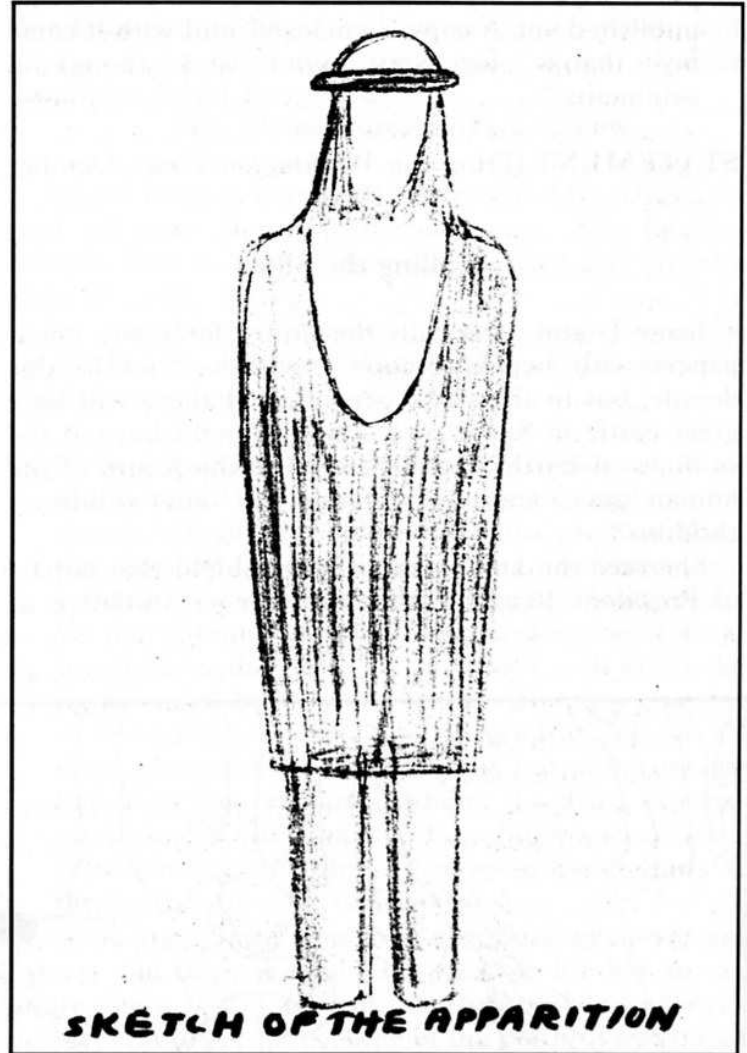
Stepping out from his house on the day in question, Sr. Samperio noticed nothing unusual, and walked to his car just as his work colleague Sra. Cagigas Lusares arrived from her own home. Sr. Samperio reached into the car to open the other door for his passenger, and observed that she, standing with her hand on her door, was frozen to the spot, her gaze fixed on an unwonted sight.

With the help of an interpreter, I recently visited Escalante, and we had no difficulty in finding two of the three eyewitnesses.

One of the local newspapers, *La Alerta* (a Santander weekly) had sent one of their journalists to investigate the affair soon after it had happened. And then, not long ago, TVE (Spanish Television) sent a camera-team working for the programme series "*La Puerta del Misterio*", directed by Sr. Jiménez del Oso, to cover the story. It can thus be seen to what extent this story, related by credible witnesses, had acquired importance in the region.

The First Witness

We found Sr. Ángel Ruiz Samperio at the front



SKETCH OF THE APPARITION

door of his home and he was quite willing to answer our questions.

Q. "What precisely did you see?"

A. A strange being, very tall, came out from that street there, right in front of us, and turned right and walked away up the high street.

Q. Very tall, you say. How tall?

A. That I couldn't say exactly, but the top of its head reached precisely up to the ledge of the first-floor window of that house over there. (See sketch: estimated height of being, 3.5 m.)

Q. You weren't just here, on the doorstep, when you saw it?

A. No. I didn't see anything when I came out of the

house. I went over to my car, parked on the square. My colleague was just coming from the other direction. I opened the door on my side and was leaning into the car to open the other door for her and, as I straightened up again, I noticed that she seemed as though frozen to the spot. Then I looked in the same direction and saw the strange being.

Q. How did it look?

A. I must explain that, so far as I myself am concerned. I only saw it from the rear. The being had just performed a very slow right turn, while remaining on precisely the same spot, prior to moving away. My colleague, who had seen it sooner than I had, saw it in profile. I should also mention that it had been a very clear night (it was just getting light), and there is a street lamp right above where the being appeared. So that I got a very good view of somebody very tall.

Q. Could you describe the "being" for us?

A. It was wearing a sort of dark tunic coming down as far as mid-thigh level. The top of its head was surmounted by a round-rimmed flanged cap, also dark coloured, from which it had, hanging down on to the shoulders, gleaming, shining, either hair or some sort of veil. The legs were in what seemed to be light-coloured trousers, as though luminous.

Q. Did you notice any other details? The feet, or the hands?

A. No. The shoulders were clearly shown, but I couldn't see any arms, or tell whether they were hanging down beside the body or stretched out in front. I didn't see the feet either.

Q. What happened next?

A. Not hurriedly, but quite quickly, the strange being moved off, and we lost sight of it round the curve of the high street.

Q. What was your reaction?

A. We were dumbfounded, we couldn't believe it; we were speechless with astonishment. When the vision had vanished, I heard the voice of Margarita asking: "*Did you see what I just saw!*" Terror-struck, I said: "*Let's get out of here!*" There you are. That's it.

The Second Witness

Sra. Margarita Cagigas, the second witness, we found easily with the indications given us by Sr. Samperio. Reticent at first (she had had her visits from the media) she finally gave in to our insistence and agreed to answer questions.

Q. Can you tell us, with as much detail as possible, what it was that you saw?

A. I was standing, with my hand on the handle of the door of Miguel's car, when, looking towards my left, I saw a huge human form appear beneath the

lamp at the corner of the street. Frozen with terror, I had the impression that the creature saw us and, very slowly, like a robot, it did a right-hand turn, showing its back to us, and then walked away and vanished from sight around the bend in the road, though — as it seemed to me — *without appearing to touch the ground as it went.*

Q. Miguel claims that you may have seen the "creature" before he did, and possibly in more detail?

A. As far as the height of the being is concerned, I am positive that it was of the height of the sill of the first-floor window of the house.

Q. As you had, if not a three-quarter view of it at first, then at least a profile of it, could you give us a more detailed description?

A. The face was very elongated; I couldn't see any facial details (eyes, nose, mouth). There was a flange around the head at the forehead level. And strange hair or a veil of some shining tissue falling to the shoulders; a black pleated tunic reaching down to the mid-part of the lower limbs, which looked as though clad in trousers of some reflective material (or, rather, some sort of *fluorescent* material, like the registration plates of cars). On its chest it had a sort of frontal piece or "dicky" which seemed to be of the same material.)

Q. What was your reaction, and what was the impression that this apparition left on you?

A. I was paralyzed with fear. That thing seemed unbelievable, its gigantic height, and the slow way in which it turned, and the way it seemed to move without touching the ground. It was truly supernatural — like a spectre. When I think back, I still feel terrified at the idea that the creature could have turned in the other direction, and have come towards *us!*

Q. And then what happened?

A. We drove off to work without exchanging a word, dumbfounded by what we had just seen. Not wanting to tell anybody about our incredible vision and not wanting to incur the scoffing of our work-mates.

The Third Eyewitness

(According to the statements of the two other witnesses.) An old man, in poor health, this individual suffered a terrible shock from the encounter and desires to hear no more mention of it and refuses to give any interviews.

The old man in question, Señor X- had the job of emptying the urine of the animals from the cesspit of the local cattle-trough in the town (which at the date in question had no system for evacuation). A very early riser, old Sr. X- carried out this task daily, before dawn. He was just stooping to fill his two buckets and then, straightening up, he saw this extraordinary and gigantic creature go past him on the road, at a

distance of only about four metres from him.

In his terror he dropped his buckets and, paralyzed with fear, he stood there as it moved away out of sight. Severely shocked, this old man will not venture out of his house now until the Sun is already up.

Yet he was the witness who was closest (about four metres) from "the thing".

After we had seen our first two eyewitnesses, we went to the offices of the *ALERTA*, in the hope of being able to consult their archives and find the article they had published about the phenomenon at Escalante.

C. G. JUNG ON UFOs

In my brief note on pages 13 and 28 of FSR Vol. 29 No. 4 about Lou Zinsstag, I mentioned that, long before his death in 1961, her great and famous uncle, Dr. Carl Gustav Jung, had radically departed from his earlier view of the UFO Problem, and knew that the UFOs were *real* and not mere "figments of the mind", as so many folk love to think. (This explanation, running neck-and-neck with "*perinatal traumata*" or "*piezo-electrical lights in the skies*", is still prevalent among the smart folk who pride themselves on a smattering of knowledge of "Psychology". Generally, if pressed, it turns out that they have never really taken the trouble to find out what Jung actually said or wrote on our subject, but have simply gone on parroting what they like to *think* he said).

One of these gentlemen wrote to me a few months ago to say that my piece about Jung and his belief in the reality of UFOs was "the typical sort of tripe to be found in FSR nowadays".

For this reader's benefit I am therefore publishing this photostat of an *Associated Press* report that appeared in the *New York Herald-Tribune* on July 30, 1958 and which came to me, via an indirect route, from Mr. Philip Goodhart, M.P., who sent it, for my files, through FSR reader Miss Mary Goodall of Beckenham, Kent.

As will be seen from the item, Dr. Jung not only considered that UFOs were "*real*", but that they "*show signs of intelligent guidance by quasi-human pilots*".

So much, then, for Jung's support of the "*it's all in your mind*" theory! — G.C.

But unfortunately there had been a change in the ownership of the journal, and the reporter who had written the article had also left them.

Not knowing the date of his article, we are sorry to say that it was not possible to find it!

As regards the feature about the case on the Spanish Television, we understand that it is to be shown next September or October, so our Spanish friends will be able to form their own conclusions.

My special thanks to Señor Julio Portilla who accompanied me throughout my investigation, and I also thank the staff-member of *ALERTA* who let us consult the archives.

*New York Herald-Tribune,
July 30, 1958*

Dr. Jung Says Flying 'Disks' Suggest 'Quasi-Human Pilots'

By the Associated Press

ALAMAGORDO, N.M., July 29.—Dr. Carl Jung, Swiss psychologist, says in a report that "unidentified flying objects" are real and "show signs of intelligent guidance by quasi-human pilots."

"I can only say for certain these things are not a mere rumor—something has been seen," Dr. Jung said in the report released yesterday. "A purely psychological explanation is ruled out."

Dr. Jung, who started his research on UFOs in 1944, released his report through the UFO filter center of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization here.

"I have gathered a mass of observations of unidentified flying objects since 1944," he said.

"The disks do not behave in accordance with physical laws, but as though without weight. . . ."

"If the extra-terrestrial origin of

these phenomena should be confirmed, this would prove the existence of an intelligent inter-planetary relationship. What such a fact might mean for humanity cannot be predicted.

"But it would put us without doubt in the extremely precarious position of primitive communities in conflict with the superior culture of the whites."

"That the construction of these machines proves a scientific technique immensely superior to ours cannot be argued."

The United States Air Force has said investigation of flying saucers reported over the last ten years has produced no evidence that such things exist. It said last November that investigations of 5,700 reported sightings showed the mysterious objects were balloons, aircraft, astronomical phenomena, birds, fireworks or hoaxes, among other things.

**"FOR MOST MEN, THE
TRUTH IS WHAT THEY CAN'T
HELP THINKING MUST BE
TRUE."**

— Oliver Wendell Holmes
(1809-1894)