

This intriguing little piece of chitchat inspired us to write off to France, where we have very well-informed contacts in both the political and the ufological spheres, and the picture which has been reported back to us is an interesting one, well worthy of being placed on record.

It seems that France's Socio-Communists have indeed just attempted to kill off G.E.P.A.N., since, being sensible chaps, they all know that UFOs don't exist anyway, and they are indeed convinced that the whole idea of the Centre was simply a silly private fad of Giscard d'Estaing's, just as our London paper had reported. But they ran into trouble and were stopped. *By whom?* Who, in France, is more powerful than the present socialist government and the present socialist President? ANSWER: THE FRENCH ARMY AND THE FRENCH SECRET AND SECURITY SERVICES! These, then, are the people who have secured the reprieve for G.E.P.A.N., because indeed they are the people for whom it was created in the first place.

No other theory makes sense, for the present French Government, having squandered the nation's resources so foolishly, is making desperate efforts to secure economies wherever it can. And therefore, if it has not closed down G.E.P.A.N., this is only because it could not do it.

So G.E.P.A.N. survives. We are left with a curious situation. Our French political/ufological commentator sums it up:—

"G.E.P.A.N. continues. But I will wager that it will never again publish anything. Like Condon before it, but in a slightly different fashion, it will end up under the wraps of military secrecy — without of course saying so. This means that in France, as elsewhere, the Military are hiding what they know about the UFOs."

"And what is it that they know?"

"Yes, Giscard d'Estaing 'was one of us!' But of course he was being encouraged by the Army, who were in fact using him."

FSR BOOKSHELF — 17

New UFO books reviewed by . . .

Janet & Colin Bord

ONE of the most interesting aspects of ufology, and potentially the most fruitful in terms of finding explanations for people's UFO reports, is the study of paranormal phenomena and their relationship to the UFO experience, along with the parallel study of witness psychology, but until recently little work has been done or published in these fields. Now Mark Moravec has collected together the results of his own studies as *PSIUFO Phenomena: A Study of UFOs and the Paranormal* (published by the Australian Centre for UFO studies and available from Arcturus Book Service, 263 N. Ballston Ave., Scotia, N.Y. 12302, U.S.A., price \$13.50 plus postage: 85c in U.S. and \$1 abroad; 138 pages; large-format spiral-bound softcover with clear type-writer print). The main topics under discussion in Part 1 are mental communication, poltergeists, apparitions, healings, ghostlights, and time lapses/abductions, followed by an analysis of Australian cases, and psychological, paranormal and physical interpretations of the data. The author only just acknowledges the possibility that there may be a physical explanation for some UFO experiences, and while accepting the importance of psychological and paranormal explanations, we suspect that a greater number of cases involve sightings of physical craft from an unknown source than Moravec allows for. However this slight interpretational imbalance does not detract from the importance and value of Moravec's work, with which all ufologists who are seriously seeking the answers to

the UFO mystery should be familiar. In Part 2 there is a 30-page list of Australian PSIUFO cases, with details of each, and sources. Part 3 consists of five appendixes, including a comprehensive questionnaire for investigators of PSIUFO phenomena. This publication is a serious, sensible and above all *relevant* contribution to UFO study. Highly recommended.

Many millions of words must have been uttered in the search for a solution to the mystery of the lights seen and filmed from an aircraft off the New Zealand coast four years ago, and now one of the participants, Quentin Fogarty, has written his version of the events and their aftermath: *Let's Hope They're Friendly!* (large-format paperback published by Angus and Robertson, Australia; price A\$9.95; 178 pages; index; illustrated with black and white photographs, and colour stills from the film). If Fogarty and his colleagues had known what was in store for them, they possibly would have decided not to film the strange lights. As Fogarty comments of the first 138 days: 'They were 138 days of hassles, mental and physical strain, rumour, soured friendships and, very occasionally, a little bit of happiness. I certainly got myself a world scoop, but at a price.' The amount of energy that was expended by those convinced that a 'genuine unidentified flying object' had been filmed, and those equally convinced that the film showed Jupiter, or ball lightning, or boat lights, or birds, or whatever, indicates if nothing else that nothing less than a sizeable chunk of a crashed UFO is needed to prove to the world that

UFOs exist. Of course that will be tricky if, as some believe, UFOs are non-physical; and those who are convinced that UFOs have already crashed are having a hard time proving it without any artefacts to show. The Kaikoura events remain as a warning to anyone who confidently expects to prove to the world the reality of UFOs by means of film or photographs. Fogarty's book is well put together and well presented, and is compulsive reading if you enjoy the minutiae of the UFO world.

Investigators of UFO reports who are frequently faced with reports of enigmatic luminous phenomena will welcome a new volume compiled by William R. Corliss: *Lightning, Auroras, Nocturnal Lights, and Related Luminous Phenomena* (The Sourcebook Project, P.O. Box 107, Glen Arm, MD 21057, U.S.A.; hardback; price \$11.95; 242 pages; indexes; illustrated). Readers familiar with Corliss's sixteen earlier books will know his methods. By searching through scientific journals he finds the anomalous reports which science has recorded but would rather leave entombed on the library shelves. Corliss resurrects and republishes them for the delight of all Fortean and lovers of *real* mystery. These abstracts are organised into coherent groupings and comprehensive references to sources are given with each section. Corliss has devised his own classification system which is common to all his publications and this particular volume has 'over 1100 examples of 103 luminous geophysical phenomena'. With more than 1100 references and three indexes of author, source and subject, the approach is serious, responsible, organised and thoroughly competent. The compiler's personal comment is minimal and clearly differentiated from the reports, and there are also numerous line illustrations and photographs. Of particular help to the ufologist will be the sections GLM 'Low level meteor-like luminous phenomena', GLN 'Nocturnal lights' and GLA 'Aurora-like phenomena'. GLB contains reports of ball lightning, and GLD 'Diffuse electrical discharge phenomena' associated with the earth's surface. Perusing this volume brings home the realisation that our atmosphere can contain many forms of luminous phenomena about which little is known. In rescuing these obscure reports Corliss provides both a service and a pleasure for all ufologists and Fortean.

It is nearly ten years since Loren E. Gross published the first edition of his valuable study of one of ufology's older mysteries, the Scandinavian 'ghost rockets' of 1946. Now an enlarged, updated edition of *The Mystery of the Ghost Rockets* is available (Arcturus Book Service, address above; price \$6.95; large-format spiral-bound paperback; 68 pages). The immediate postwar period was an especially sensitive time for a mystery of this nature to arise, and military experts of many nations made efforts to learn what the 'rockets' really were. There are of course conflicting explanations, and in Sweden the research still continues. The

material collected by Loren Gross is visually well presented, and readable. Arcturus Book Service have also started to reissue a series of papers by Loren E. Gross which together form *UFOs: A History*. The first volume covers the period July 1947 to December 1948, and is described by the author as follows: 'A minor catalogue of UFO reports and notations on various unofficial inquiries by individuals and privately funded organisations, as well as commentary on military investigations and governmental policies.' This material gives an intriguing retrospective look at American ufology's earliest days, and would make an especially nostalgic read for those who have followed the subject from that time. As successive volumes are published, *UFOs: A History* will build up to a valuable chronicle. (Available from Arcturus Book Service, address above; price \$13.95; large-format spiral-bound paperback; 160 pages; illustrated.)

James E. Oberg calls himself 'a sympathetic skeptic' so far as ufology is concerned, but it's a moot point whether he really is sympathetic. He seems to take a delight in demolishing the majority of the UFO material in this book: *UFOs and Outer Space Mysteries* (The Donning Company, Virginia; price \$6.95; paperback; 192 pages; illustrated; bibliography). In fact there is only a small proportion of 'hard-core' UFO material here — most of the chapters deal with outer-space 'mysteries'. In this field Oberg is most enlightening and clears away plenty of rubbish, such as astronauts' UFO sightings, moon mysteries especially so-called traces of alien civilisations, the Sirius mystery, the Russian jellyfish UFO of 1977. There is also a chapter on the 1908 Tunguska detonation, and another on Russia's 'missing' cosmonauts. This is all good, sensible stuff, but Oberg's handling of UFO material is less satisfactory (except for the chapter on hoaxes), so readers should not take the first 36 pages too seriously.

The realisation that we now have behind us 35 years of UFO literature has encouraged those with a mania for cataloguing to start recording it for posterity, the junk along with the pearls. Gray Barker's *A UFO Guide to Fate* (spiral-bound large-format paperback published by Saucerian Press and available from Arcturus Book Service, address above; price \$9.95; 102 pages) is purely a reference work, and as such would have benefited from the omission of the compiler's attempts at humour in his introductory passages. The UFO material published in 'Fate' magazine since its inception in 1948 is here listed chronologically, by author, by subject, and by title; and articles on other strange phenomena are also included, which increases the value of the Guide. It is fascinating to see what a range of subjects has been covered by 'Fate' in the 33 years up to 1980, which is where this listing ends. Equally fascinating from a bibliographical point of view is Tom Lind's *The Catalogue of UFO Periodicals* (spiral-bound large-format paperback published

by the compiler and available from him at P.O. Box 711, Hobe Sound, Florida 33455-0711, U.S.A.; price \$14.50 including postage abroad; 282 pages). It is totally amazing how many publications dealing with UFOs have been spawned since 1947, and most of them it seems lasted only for a few issues. Tom Lind gives as much information on each as he has been able to discover: location, publisher, address, editor, dates of first and last editions, frequency. An incredible multiplicity of titles has emerged, including some very strange ones: 'Galac Ticks from the Universal Clock', 'Lavender Sun Newsletter', 'Flying Manure Spreader News'. Both these catalogues will be of great value to anyone interested in or researching the history of ufology.

In *The Andreasson Affair, Phase Two* by Raymond Fowler (Prentice-Hall, Inc., New Jersey; price \$10.95; 278 pages; illustrated; bibliography; index) Betty Andreasson undergoes more hypnotic regressions (see *The Andreasson Affair* reviewed in FSR Vol. 25, No. 6) and a series of events are reported which are as amazing as those disclosed in the first book. She revealed that her earliest experience was in 1944 at the age of seven, when she had a contact experience whilst playing in her garden. Aged thirteen she underwent a typical physical examination during an abduction and continued with a series of visits to inexplicable locations culminating in a meeting with the 'One', beyond a great glass door, a meeting with mystical religious overtones but about which she can say nothing. Her new husband Robert Luca also underwent several ses-

sions of hypnotic regression in order to delve into his hidden memory of 1967 when he had a UFO sighting and a time loss of three hours. It was his attempts to find an explanation for this experience that had caused him to originally meet and later marry Betty. Under hypnosis he too disclosed eventful contacts, first in 1944 aged five and later in 1967. As in the first book, the events revealed are involved, obscure, sometimes terrifying for the percipients, and contain a strong religious message. The Lucases have, since their major experiences, been subjected to a continual stream of psychic occurrences, ranging from levitating, apportioning and disappearing objects to phantom prowlers in their house. They say also that they have repeatedly been harassed by low-flying unmarked helicopters whose origin cannot be determined. The author concludes with first a review of reactions to and criticisms of the first book, secondly an exposition of biblical miracles seen in a ufological context, and finally a concise review of the messages conveyed to Betty and her husband by the entities during each of their experiences. If these events are accepted as a factual account of real experiences, then they suggest that the entity/percipient interaction is not a chance event but part of a continuing plan of surveillance and selection and that every CE3 may have a series of such encounters buried within the witness's unconscious memory. Alternatively, as the functions of the mind are so little understood, the critics of the hypnotic techniques used can still maintain that the reports are more likely to be based on unconscious fantasy rather than fact.

AN OPEN LETTER TO AN IMPATIENT UFOLOGIST

Dr. Pierre Guérin

Astronomer and Physicist, Maître de Recherche, CNRS (Senior Research Officer in the French National Council for Scientific Research)

(Translation from French)

Just as is happening in the U.S.A. and here, a vigorous effort is now being made in France to prove conclusively that all the remarkable events of the great UFO Waves of 25 and 30 years ago were either fraudulent or due to misinterpretation of normal phenomena. As the events in question become more distant in time and more of the eye-witnesses die off, this task will naturally become steadily more easy. In the meantime, however, we are indebted to Messrs R. Veillith and F. Lagarde and the Editorial Committee of *Lumières Dans La Nuit* for this important statement from an eminent French scientist, which appeared in No. 215/216 of their Journal (May-June 1982).

EDITOR

You know perfectly well that the things which, for want of a better term, we call "UFOs", do really exist, even if you have no bits and pieces of one to present as evidence to the Academy of Sciences. The whole of your "parallel" activity as a "Ufologist" has been spent by you in trying to prove that reality, against the allegations of the "rationalists", and you have succeeded

in proving it, whatever *they* may continue to claim. Their persistence in denying the facts astonishes you, indeed it even disgusts you. The truth is that you simply cannot understand their attitude — and I am very much afraid that they themselves have not fully analyzed the causes of it. But I think I understand the reasons for it, and I shall try to explain these reasons