

CREATING ONE'S OWN UFO

CRITIQUE OF A NEW BOOK... *UFOs: A BRITISH VIEWPOINT*

Charles Bowen

THERE was a time when almost everyone who paused to think positively about UFO reports finished up thinking that flying saucers, UFOs, or what you will, were machines bringing visitors from afar. Could they be travellers, explorers, from those other — suspectedly inhospitable — planets of the Solar System or, less hazardously, from inhabited planets of far-flung star systems of the galaxy, or beyond? Back in the 1940s and through to the 1960s, during the time when we all guessed we were living on the threshold of the space age, many of those who liked to consider the UFO reports wondered if the objects were space ships. After all they were reported as performing astonishing manoeuvres and — so it was whispered, when security was “leaked” — occasionally giving returns on electronic surveillance (radar) and counter measures equipment. The inference from all this was that they were metallic objects, held together with nuts, bolts and welds, and driven by sophisticated power units at present beyond the grasp of earthmen. Indeed, if some of the letters and unsolicited articles submitted to *Flying Saucer Review* are anything to go by, there must be thousands who still cling to such beliefs.

With regard to such matters *Flying Saucer Review* has always endeavoured to keep an open mind and, as we are in effect a platform for the UFO debate we have not shirked the responsibility of pointing to new channels of thought when the old ones have apparently fallen flat.¹ However care needs to be exercised in this process, for we dare not commit ourselves lest we find ourselves “out on a limb.” Dr. Pierre Guérin’s law on ufology states quite simply: “In ufology, any law is immediately falsified by subsequent sightings just as soon as it is formulated.”² The authors **Jenny Randles** and **Peter Warrington** of UFO Investigators’ Network (UFOIN), seem to be uneasily aware of this inescapable law in their new book **UFOs: A British Viewpoint** (published by Robert Hale, London, 249 pages, hardcover, price £5.25 net) although they seem to be unaware that it was put forward by Dr. Guérin more than 20 years ago. They appear to have committed themselves to a radically new theory although in the final chapter they belatedly push the door ajar as an escape route:—

“Perhaps *real* UFOs exist in addition to the... UFOs we have just postulated.”

The book is a brave new work in which the authors summarize the subject, outline its position in society and the efforts made here and there by

amateurs to present ufology in a responsible manner:—

“The great problem is that UFO investigation is the province of anyone who wishes to do it. There are no qualifications in the subject, and experience is the only means of becoming proficient.”

There is an excellent summing-up of media relations in which the possibilities of working together with the local press and local radio stations are discussed. These of course are rapidly growing outlets with a keen interest in items of local human interest and, as a by-product of the dissemination of news, could promote the collection of fresh information. This is, healthily, a far cry from the frantic “publicity seeking” against which FSR has railed for so long.

The authors then present their classification of UFO cases — a system extended and developed from that proposed by Dr. J. Allen Hynek — which is used in classification of UFOIN investigations. They present copious examples from their own and UFOIN’s work, and from a number of other sources, all carefully referenced. Some of their re-classifications are interesting, particularly the “transient effects” of CEI. However, when we moved on to CEII I feel I must take issue with one statement. This is in Chapter 8 (“Close Encounters: 2, with Semi-permanent Effects — CEII”) where, deploring the dearth of cases involving major physical effects they complain “... there are reports on record, although few seem to be of unquestionable veracity — though one or two from abroad are certainly interesting if nothing else...” That curt dismissal closes with a reference to *The Strange Case of Dr. “X”* in FSR Special Issue No. 3 of 1969 as an example. It so happens that the case of Dr. “X” (his name was withheld because he is a medical officer of health in the district where he lives in South Eastern France) involved UFO encounters for his baby son and himself, stigmata-like physical effects, spectacular healing of serious disabilities and subsequent poltergeist effects and so on. The case was investigated by that doyen of the world’s researchers and thinkers on UFOs, Aimé Michel, aided by Dr. Pierre Guérin and a number of scientists of various specialities. These responsible researchers were convinced of the veracity of the case which was of the utmost interest — one of the most interesting and detailed cases ever published by FSR — and in which the after-effects on the witnesses were under surveillance for several years.³

The book thereafter progresses interestingly enough to the hub of the UFO problem by way of CE III 1 (Entity cases) and CE III 2 (Contact cases): are a number of the incidents caused by objective stimulus which creates subjective effects in the witnesses? The question remains... What is this stimulus? Randles and Warrington suggest that the studies seem to omit one factor — the percipient. Researchers, they say, have overlooked the witness, and they pose the question: Do some people have the special attributes needed to see a UFO?

To my knowledge quite a number of researchers have shown themselves to be aware of the inherent importance of the witness: the names of John Keel, Dr. E. U. Condon and Aimé Michel spring readily to mind — the latter particularly evidenced in the investigation, along with Dr. Pierre Guérin and others, in the long-continued investigation of M. Maurice Masse of Valensole. As for the “special attributes,” the question as to whether or not UFO witnesses are clairvoyants (for example) was posed in FSR nearly ten years ago.⁴ It is the authors of *UFOs: A British viewpoint* who have tried to draw all these ideas together, and have proposed a startling theory wherein they suggest that UFOs are created by the witnesses themselves, and that once created they are controlled by telekinesis. How this could be achieved is put forward in the final chapter.

Perhaps it is as well the authors leave that door ajar to ensure an escape route. I have uneasy feelings about this idea of creating one's own UFO, and must hark back to the classic case of Dr. “X”, the case which the authors found “...interesting, if nothing else.” In that case the prime target of the “stimulus,” the controller(s) of the UFOs, the entities, or what you will, was Dr. “X” and it was he who was cured of severe disabilities. Yet he was “got at” via his baby son who was only 14 months old. It would appear to be beyond the bounds of possibility that the child could have read about UFOs, or even have understood anything he'd heard. (After all, the incomparable musical genius W.A. Mozart — for whom 30 of his 35 years were working years — only began to read music in his fourth year). But it was Dr. “X”'s child who, aware of the bright lights outside, called out *rho! rho!* — indicating something bright — to awaken his father. Dr. “X”, aware of the bright flashes, but thinking they were lightning, decided that his baby son wanted a drink. He got water from the bathroom, settled the child and then went in search of a rattling window. Aware by then that the flashes were not lightning, he emerged from the kitchen on to a terrace, whereat two UFOs swooped down and merged into one in front of him. Thus was the encounter made, Dr. “X” was healed of a deep cut, and of partial paralysis caused by a war wound; both he and the child were afflicted thereafter by a triangular, stigmata-like rash around their navels. I cannot believe that either of these percipients created the UFOs for the other to see.

Although some of the ideas put forward will be targets for criticism, it must be stated that *UFOs: A British viewpoint* is a book in which the UFO problem is tackled boldly. It is essential reading, and its ideas should be studied in depth. There remain

a few quibbles, like the minor irritant of careless writing here and there — surely the fault of inadequate editing. Again there is the feeling that some parts have been too hurriedly prepared, and there are strange versions of the discovery, by Aimé Michel, of orthoteny, and of the nature of angel hair. Furthermore, it was unfortunate that Dr. J. Allen Hynek of “North Eastern University” should be described as astronomical consultant to the U.S. Air Force when, in fact, he was Professor of Astronomy at Northwestern University, Evanston, and Civilian Scientific Consultant to the U.S. Air Force on UFO reports.

To close, I venture to suggest that a few eyebrows will be raised by the story of contactee Gary.

Notes and references

1. See, for example, the Editorial article “More Beliefs” in FSR Vol.20, No.6 (1974 series), the main part of which was reprinted in the paperback book *Encounter Cases from Flying Saucer Review* edited by Charles Bowen (published by New American Library).
2. See Aimé Michel: *The Mouse in the Maze* in FSR Vol. 20, No.3 (1974)
3. See Aimé Michel: *The Strange Case of Dr. “X”* in FSR Special Issue No. 3 *UFO Percipients* (1969); also a sequel, Part 2, in FSR Vol.17, No.6 (Nov.-Dec. 1971).
4. See Charles Bowen: *UFO seen from East Ham* in FSR Vol.16, No.2 (March-April 1970).

BOOK REVIEW: UFOs OVER LEYS?

THE LEY HUNTER'S COMPANION Aligned ancient sites: a new study with field guide and maps, by **Paul Devereux** and **Ian Thomson** published by Thames and Hudson 1979, £6.50, ISBN 0 500 01208 3

SINCE the concept of leys was first published in Alfred Watkins' books in the 1920s, the subject has experienced ups and downs in popularity. During the last 10 years, however, leys have caught the imagination of many, and great effort has been expended in order to upgrade the data and thus prove to the sceptical archaeological world that such an unlikely idea as aligning ancient sites should be taken seriously. Much of the credit for improving the status of leys is due to Paul Devereux, editor of *The Ley Hunter*, and now he and co-worker Ian Thomson have produced the definitive guide to leys, *The Ley Hunter's Companion*. This book not only tells you how to plot leys and study them in the field. It also gives a full, 80-page, introduction to the subject and describes 41 English leys in detail.

In case readers are wondering why a book on leys should be reviewed in FSR, the answer is that a UFO-ancient sites link is postulated in the book. As yet, the evidence linking the two is not strong; and there is no evidence to link UFOs with the actual leys. In fact my only real criticism of this book is that in the ley descriptions, the frequent references to UFO sightings might lead the reader to think that a link

between leys and UFOs is proved, whereas the sightings mentioned are sometimes not even over the ancient sites on the ley, but just in the general area. As there are so many reported sightings of UFOs in Britain each year, it is unlikely that some UFOs will pass over ancient sites; but whether this is by chance or design is as yet not known. Recent work by the Dragon Project, which is studying energy patterns at ancient sites, is providing new evidence which is exciting all who believe that UFOs are somehow connected with terrestrial energies, natural and manmade, and future publication of the Project's findings may provide more positive proof of a UFO-ancient sites link.

Apart from UFOs, other intriguing facets of 'earth mysteries' are explored in the book, such as astro-archaeology, cosmology, folklore, dowsing, earth energies, and even evidence from the American continents. The highly readable text is enlivened by over 200 illustrations — engravings, plans, ley diagrams, maps, and photographs, including some aerial views of leys. This book is a 'must' for all who are intrigued by Britain's ancient past, and especially for those who have heard of leys and want to know what they are all about. Highly recommended.

JANET BORD

BOOK REVIEW: SWIMMING AGAINST THE TIDE

Lifetide by Dr. Lyall Watson, published by Hodder & Stoughton, London 1979.

LYALL WATSON is an eloquent writer, a fact proven by the phenomenal success of his first book on the paranormal, *Supernature*. Fourth in this series, *Lifetide* presents what he suggests is a "more mature look at marvels." It is certainly that.

This new work is an honest attempt to examine the reason why man is a conscious animal. As usual this is written from the author's botanical and zoological background — providing illuminating insights into why man is *not* unique as a thinking, reasoning creature.

After one's ego has been shot to pieces by stories like that of 'Washo' — the chimpanzee who has been taught to speak in sign language so that it can now actually use colloquialisms — one finds that later in the book it is demonstrated that man still has more to offer than most other animals. While not denying the possibilities of "God" or "reincarnation" as fantastic explanations for weird phenomena, Dr. Watson sets out in search of explanations based more upon his own theory of consciousness development (the *Lifetide*), in the meantime leaning heavily on the ideas of Professor Carl Jung — whom he obviously regards as a prophet out of his time.

This approach seems laudible, and in many instances is quite successful. At the very least it sets one to thinking: "Does it have to be an exotic or incredible thing that causes paranormal occurrences?" That cannot be a bad thing.

Apart from being an illuminating book for all who are interested in the paranormal, *Lifetide* has singular interest for ufologists for Dr. Watson sets down for the first time his opinion of the UFO phenomenon. In a section, either aptly or ironically headed "Delusion," he presents a well-researched and concise summary of modern thought on the subject. For example there is this perceptive passage: "...It was probably inevitable that the inability of even the most dedicated and objective researchers to provide final, unequivocal proof of the physical existence of

UFOs, would engender disillusion; and logical that this failure should produce a pendulum swing to more psychic solutions. But there has been the usual mindless rush for easy answers and two rival schools have come into existence, each latching onto one of the two oldest scapegoats in the mystery business, God and the Devil."

Dr. Watson appraises the work of many leaders in the field (including Gordon Creighton of FSR), and comes out with considerable favour for the views of Jacques Vallée, whom he says "rises clear and clean from the morass of ufology." It is not clear which precise solution he is proposing for UFOs. He recognises that "it is not enough to fall back on basic biological dreams and cultural clichés," since he accepts the existence of some degree of physical evidence. Evidence which, as he points out, is "never quite enough to satisfy critical scientists, and yet often just enough to keep some of them coming back for more." He feels that "this elusiveness of all the relevant phenomena may be the best clue we have to their true nature."

I was fortunate to be invited to participate in a television programme debate which coincided, early in 1979, with the publication of Lyall Watson's book. Here it was possible to find out more clearly what he thought about UFOs. I found, to my surprise, that his thoughts did not differ very markedly from my own, that the phenomenon may well stem from our own consciousness and its presently misunderstood ability to externalise into transient physical reality what is in essence a deep rooted, and much needed, human myth.

Lifetide is an impressive and thought-provoking work. I feel that Lyall Watson is on the track of a great truth, and is approaching ever closer to his goal with each new book. Yet I wonder whether the typical ufologist — fuelled by this very trigger for the existence of the phenomenon, human subconscious need — will accept these concepts willingly or fight bitterly against their challenge to the exotic, external reality of UFOs. The answer to that should prove very interesting.

JENNY RANGLES

UFO "SPIES" ON A TRAFFIC JAM

Tony Faulkner

Our contributor is a police officer in Hertfordshire who came into contact with UFOIN over an investigation two years ago. He now investigates cases for the network in the local area. Classification: March 17 1979 Hertford, Hertfordshire CE1 EM, Physio Level A

ROSINA KIRK is a 42-year-old housewife who lives in the village of Puckeridge, about 7 miles north of the county town of Hertford. It was 7.00 p.m. on a cool, dry evening with scattered cloud, and she was being driven along the A10 by-pass towards the town by Miss Valerie Wilsher, the 22-year-old girlfriend of her son. Also in the car, in the rear passenger seat, was the 20-year-old married daughter of Mrs Kirk.

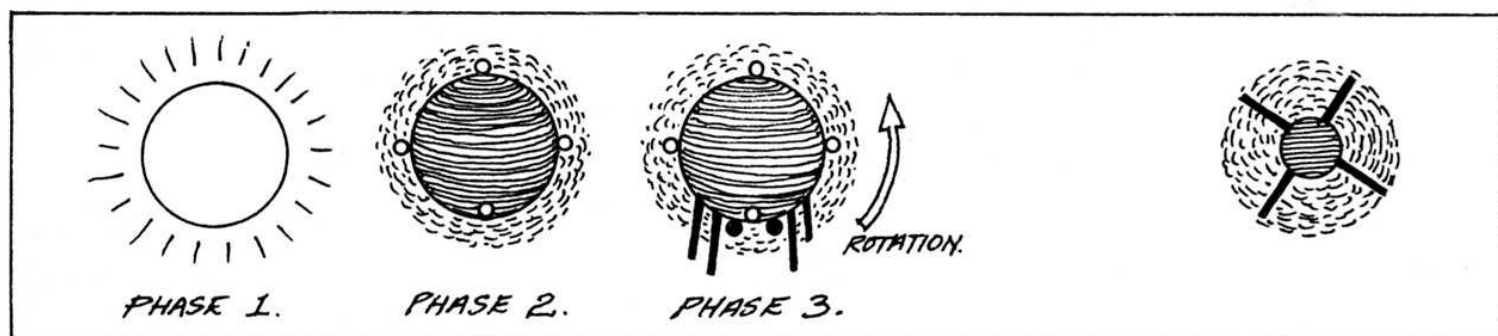
They had just passed the Foxholes roundabout, not far from the centre of the town, and had hit rather a lot of traffic. In fact a bit of a jam was building up with movement rather slow. Mrs Kirk happened to glance out of the left hand window (looking WSW) and saw, to her surprise, a very strange sight at about 60 degrees elevation.

At first it just looked like a very bright star, but she was well used to seeing stars, meteors, and both aircraft and helicopters (Luton airport is ten miles to the West and this has a great deal of holiday jet traffic, especially during the Summer months). Really puzzled by the extraordinary brilliance she watched

erly direction, thus passing from Mrs Kirk's left coming almost directly towards her. Seconds after this motion began she noticed that it had started to rotate. The whole object was turning in an anti-clockwise direction, as evidenced by the white lights, at a speed that she likened to a second hand sweeping around a watch.

By this time her daughter had seen the object too and was impressed. Valerie, the driver, only saw it through her mirror since she had to concentrate on the traffic, but she still saw it for some time after it had passed over and behind the car, moving off northwards. By that time it was apparently low and at an elevation where it could be seen in the mirror.

The object was coming closer and seemingly moving faster as it descended. Mrs Kirk was leaning out of the side window to watch. Her daughter in the back seat had a less clear view, but she cried out in fear "Oh, my God, it's going to come down on the car." Mrs Kirk estimated that it was not, although it



The object as seen by Rosina Kirk

it as the car crawled forward. It was definitely hovering for some time.

The outline of the light was sharply defined, and the brilliance estimated as that of a sports stadium floodlight. Apparent size was that of a ten pence piece at arms length (when asked to compare it to an artificial satellite she said "Nothing like it...this was a gigantic ball"). However, the next phase was the sudden appearance of what Mrs Kirk calls "smoke," which encircled the ball. This occurred virtually instantaneously. Although the smoke was quite distinct from the central ball this now faded, and was replaced by the appearance of four ordinary white lights.

These new lights were on the four points of the by now dim ball, with the vapour surrounding them. At this point the object started to move in a north-

Artist's impression of object seen by other witnesses

was certainly descending appreciably. Whilst leaning out she could hear no sound of an engine. It is true that they were on a busy road with their own car engine running, but she feels that due to the proximity of the UFO (and the virtual absence of wind) she would have heard a noise from an aircraft or helicopter. In any event she was as convinced as she could be that this was like nothing she had ever seen before in her life.

As it approached, two red lights appeared together on the underside. These were appreciably dimmer than the other lights, and like all the others remained steady (unlike aircraft navigation lights). As it passed over and behind the car she noticed a further feature. On the underside were four protrusions that she calls "legs." These were short and thin and coloured black. They rotated around the object with the lights.