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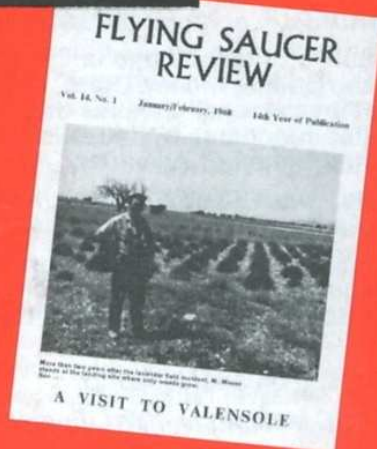
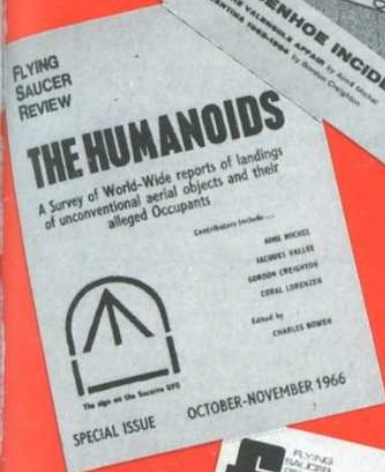
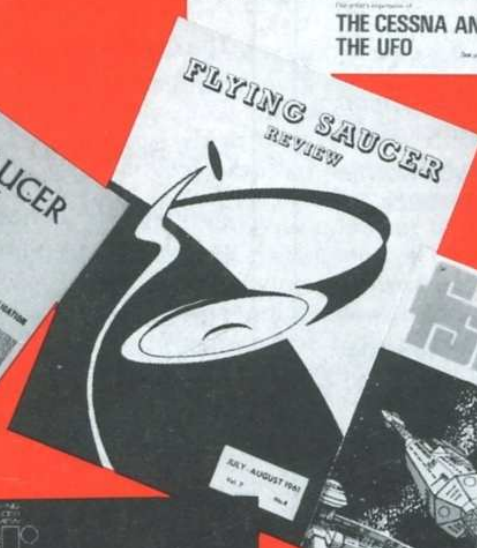
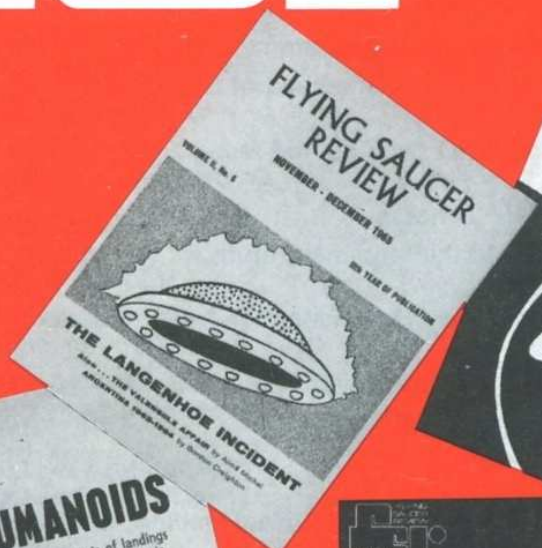
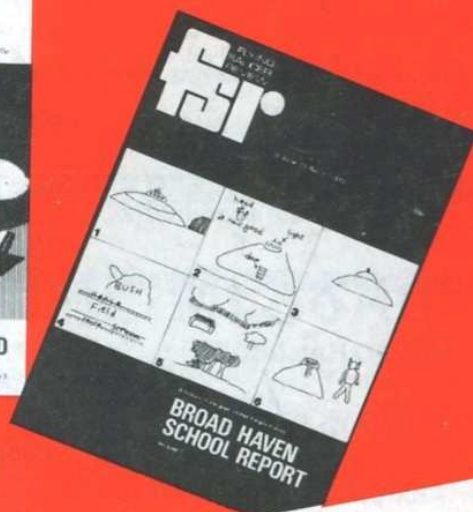
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Volume 26, No. 1, Spring 1980

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FSR's SILVER JUBILEE



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WAS THIS THE MESSAGE?

THIS issue of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW is its SILVER JUBILEE ISSUE. It had been intended to mark the occasion of the anniversary of the first ever issue, for *Spring 1955*, with some extra-special content, but the spate of production problems which dogged FSR during its twentyfifth year, left me with no alternative other than to press ahead in the normal manner and style in the hope of recovering the lost ground.

So there will be no sonorous fanfares, no "waving of flags" — apart from the montage of past issues of the magazine which adorns our cover. The closing of the REVIEW's first quarter of a century of continuous publication passed without much ado with the publication of our previous issue, Volume 25, No. 6. When one looks back over those 25 years one sees quite a few things that are encouraging: the FSR team has done a good job to the best of its ability and within the limitations imposed upon it by its continual lack of sufficient time to do everything that needs to be done, by insufficient funds and by the lack of well-equipped premises; in-depth investigation and careful research have been encouraged and assisted in the case of the UFO Investigators' Network in the United Kingdom; a proportion of the precious funds we could spare have been devoted, over and above generous donations from readers for the purpose, to the expensive business of establishing the Institute for UFO Studies — about which we expect there will soon be more to tell.

Those indeed are things to cheer about, and I can assure you that I and my colleagues share a sense of satisfaction born of survival, and, to paraphrase Waveney Girvan's words written in 1964 (FSR Vol. 10, No. 6), "To have survived 25 years of publishing in an era of adverse economics and without subsidy or patronage of any sort would normally be regarded as an achievement for a small magazine dealing with any other interest, but as the establishment would have us believe that flying saucers lack both existence and significance, then the achievement should appear much greater to the sceptic than to the believer." That said, I cannot help but observe that had the UFO mystery been solved, or had *all* governments "come clean" and revealed all they knew about the subject while devoting public funds to research — and no one can deny that they have been vigorously exhorted from many quarters to do just that — then FSR would have expired long ago and I would not be penning these lines; quite simply, the subject would have been wrested from our grasp.

That said, then the only way in which this Jubilee issue differs from our usual style of presentation is that this Editorial leader is much longer than usual, and that it is written in the first person. So, for the first, and probably only time, it will be signed, and the reason for that is that some of the things I have to say do not necessarily reflect the policy of the REVIEW. They are the products of a little "thinking aloud."

Looking back through FSR's first quarter century I was prompted to glance with interest at the five issues which made up our first volume in 1955. I needed to remind myself of the views that prevailed at that time. Needless to say the extraterrestrial hypothesis regarding the origin of UFOs would be found to be in vogue; what I needed to find were the articles, if any, which looked at other possibilities.

By 1955 ufology was already well-established, although there was little in the way of organisation. It had seen the big waves of 1947, 1952 and 1954, although the latter was still under examination; there was already a sizeable literature. "Sides" had been taken. Donald Keyhoe — who formed NICAP — and his followers were sympathetic to the idea of extraterrestrial visitants surveying the earth, but were *very* guarded on the score of landings. Needless to say they reacted scornfully against the claims of the other side, the "contactees" and their cult followers. Contactees were the human beings who claimed to have had meetings with saucer occupants, godlike creatures from Venus, etc., and to have had trips in space with them, and to have been given messages. Generally these messages seemed ludicrous in content; quite often, however, they included warnings about Man's tampering with atomic power, and polluting his environment, whereupon the detractors suggested the contactees were riding their personal ecological hobby-horses, and everyone laughed. The best known of the contactees was George Adamski who, after stating that he had met his Venusian in the desert beyond Desert Center, California, later claimed that he was taken on a trip around the Moon which, he said, was a place of lush vegetation and water — which, now, we all know is nonsense. *Flying Saucers have Landed* by Desmond Leslie and George Adamski was, despite the ridicule, a best seller; it brought many serious-minded people into the subject and its success encouraged Waveney Girvan and his friends to launch *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* with Derek D. Dempster as editor.*

With all this in mind I scanned the 1955 issues. Right from the start the bias was towards the ETH. After the Editorial, Volume 1, No. 1 led off with "Let's talk space" featuring the story of Air Force *Meteor* pilot James Salandin's near miss with an object over Southend in October 1954. There followed an account of Capt. James Howard's remarkable BOAC *Stratocruiser* incident off Newfoundland in June 1954 supported by author Leonard Cramp's "space ship" speculations.

In Vol. 1, No. 2, there was Professor Hermann Oberth's statement: "They are from Outer Space," and although the rocket pioneer condemned Adamski's claims as unfounded rumour, he thought flying saucers were "Vikings of another planetary system." In the same issue Dr. Carl Jung wrote of the United States Air Force: "Despite all the information in its possession and its so-called fear of creating panic (it) seemed to work systematically to do that very thing . . . since it has never yet published an authentic and certain account of the facts, only occasionally allowing information to be dragged out of it by journalists." Desmond Judge warned against occultism, and that we should be on our guard against flying saucers being put forward as another piece of "spiritualistic mumbo-jumbo."

In Vol. 1, No. 4, however, Meade Layne suggested, in "Mat and Demat" that UFOs emerge on to our plane of perception from a space-time frame of reference which is different from ours, while in Vol. 1, No. 5, a contributor was already describing experiments with psychokinesis.

*Dempster was followed by Brinsley le Poer Trench (Lord Clancarty) in July 1956, and Waveney Girvan took over in September 1959 and was editor until his death in October 1964.

Dr. Rolf Alexander's article was not concerned with UFOs but, in an introduction, Derek Dempster wrote that "Psychokinesis can be classified as thought-power, which many believe propels the spaceships."

So the "spaceships" were getting a fair crack of the whip. However there was a surprise in store for, when turning the pages of the one issue not yet mentioned, namely Vol. 1, No. 3, there suddenly was an article "Flying Saucers and the Psychic" by our old friend Wilfred Daniels. The veteran Staffordshire investigator wrote: "Most people who are prepared to admit that flying saucers are real, are material and mechanical, and originate from other planets, are yet unable or unwilling to accept the idea that the saucerians may be, by our standards, almost pure 'spirit' although possessing flesh and blood corporeal bodies much like our own." He had pointed out that generally people fight shy of the idea that there is "evidence of gigantic intellect, of spiritual superiority, and the ability to communicate with each other, and people of earth by means of mental telepathy." He went on to ask: "Could it not be that just *because* of their peculiar powers of mental perception, spiritualists, and those with 'psychic' sensibilities, may be the very people better equipped than anybody else to be sought out, or inspected at close quarters, by alien visitors in flying saucers?" Mr. Daniels then reminded readers that one of the criticisms levelled at George Adamski was that he was a medium, that his exchanges with the "Venusian" were made under trance conditions, and that Adamski had "painted in" the story of the physical contact in the Nevada desert to make the story seem more factual and less fantastic. Wilfred Daniels, however, found it "... easier to accept the idea of a 'trance' contact rather than a 'chance' contact."

To support his theory Mr. Daniels cited three cases, including that of Mrs. Jennie Roestenburg — who retold her 1954 story so convincingly 23 years later on the BBC-TV documentary *Out of this World* on May 11, 1977 — who was known to possess psychic powers long before her CEIII experience.

During the last fifteen years there has been a growing sense of the improbability that the mass of flying saucers, UFOs, or alien aeroforms, are themselves "nuts and bolts" spaceships. There has been a deal of speculation around the question: "From whence do they come?" If they are not exploring extraterrestrials, then are they denizens of parallel universes (metaterrestrials) who have *seeped* through some "window" or common focal point of their time stream with ours? Are they in some way connected with the elementals? Are they, as Jenny Randles and Peter Warrington have suggested, the creations of the minds of certain folk, and controlled by telekinesis? Or are they indeed, in line with Wilfred Daniels' suggestion, pure "spirit" entities of a kind which Aimé Michel has envisaged in Note 5 to his article "The 'Cat-Flap' effect" (see FSR Vol. 25, No. 4)?

We have collected so much data about the effects of these UFOs that it is quite easy to imagine how "they" work. For example my own preference is still that a possibly extraterrestrial influence is at work (although it could be metaterrestrial or elemental), perhaps keeping us under surveillance directly from its distant abode, or from, say, an orbiting body. As anything we do could be of interest to this influence — whichever its "world" may

be — it would need to “keep tabs on us” so, for its purpose, images are projected for certain kinds of witnesses to see visually, or to “see” in the mind; such thoughts as these were expressed as long ago as 1966 in the conclusions to the chapter “Few and Far Between” in *The Humanoids*.

That the visual imagery could be projected by lasers is discussed by J. G. Adams in his contribution “Projection of Humanoid Images” in FSR Vol. 25, No. 6. That the mental imagery could just as well be projected into human minds by super-intelligent beings, was shown by C. Maxwell Cade in his brilliant 5-part series “A Long Cool Look at Alien Intelligence” in FSR during 1967.

So we are left to consider the derided “messages” which were prevalent during the 1950s and 1960s. I have never made any bones about the fact that we should *not* ignore the contactee claims, but look at them shorn of the ballyhoo and cultism that surrounds them. So — and this is highly speculative thinking aloud — what if “it” (super-ET, or MT, or elemental) endeavoured to descend to our mental level and, as Wilfred Daniels postulated, selected trance subjects for its purpose, but was unlucky in its choice? Unlucky, for example, that its message fell on the minds of, among others, individuals who endeavoured to manipulate their experience for their own “philosophical” or pecuniary ends. Unlucky therefore, that other recipients of the “message”, horrified at seeing the ridicule heaped on the garrulous, extrovert “contactees” kept their experience to themselves. For if they had spoken out — even without writing books, going on lecture tours or starting a neo-religious cult — their message would have been instantly suspect, and they too

would have become objects of derision. Yet, as stated earlier, the derided messages invariably warned of the grave consequences of the dangers to which man is exposing his world.

In *The Times* of March 27, 1980, one reads of a document entitled *World Conservation Strategy* issued by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. In the frightening list of regions of galloping devastation, we read of “Deserts expanding by 23,000 square miles — the equivalent of two Belgiums, each year.” Again of “Tropical rain forests (Earth’s main generating source of oxygen in our atmosphere — C.B.) in particular . . . in danger of diminishing by half in the next 20 years, and disappearing altogether in the next 85.” Elsewhere, of vast silting and floods due to deforestation; of the “disappearance of 1,200 square miles every year of agricultural land under urban sprawl;” of loss of soil by erosion caused by bad farming and careless forestry; of the progressive collapse of the world’s fisheries.

We are all well aware too of vast pollution of the seas by oil disasters, and the effects of effluent.

Is this the way — in Aimé Michel’s words in his notes to “The ‘Cat-Flap’ Effect” — in which we human beings are committing suicide at the close of our “technological episode”?

Was this the message which some entity somewhere, an entity perhaps with a vested interest in what happened to our planet, tried to get through to *all* of us? Perhaps there is still time to heed that message.

CHARLES BOWEN
March 28, 1980.

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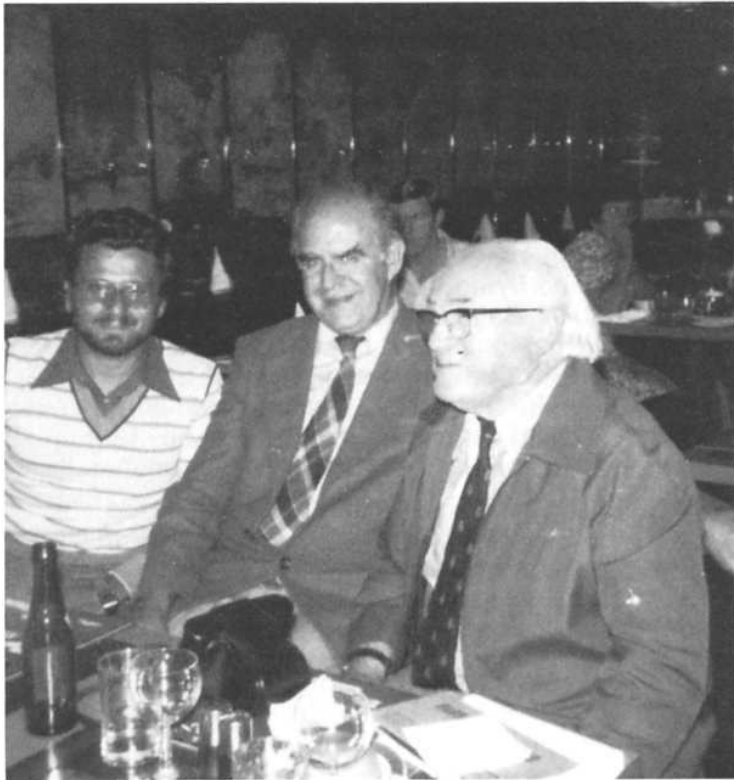
Luciano Boccone

THIS episode took place during the night of December 6/7, 1978, at Marzano, a village near Torriglia, in the Province of Genova (Genoa).

Signor Fortunato Zanfretta, aged 26, married, with two children, is a night-watchman employed by the *Cooperativa* of Valbisagno. He was carrying out one of his regular nightly inspection tours to check up on the many villas and cottages which, scattered here and there in the municipality of Torriglia, are normally only occupied during the holiday season, and was driving a *Fiat 126* car, owned by the Cooperative and equipped with a radio linking him with the Genoa Head Office.

It was almost midnight, cold, the sky clear, and visibility very good. Towards the North, in the direction of Pentema, a big fire had broken out.

Zanfretta drove through Marzano and headed for the last of the summer houses, the villa *Casa Nostra*. Suddenly, about a hundred metres before reaching the villa, and after a turn in the road, he perceived four white lights, described by him as "like four torch lights," arranged in a triangle and moving horizontally to and fro at about a metre or so above ground-level, in front of the south-eastern façade of the house. So he immediately pulled up and got out of the car to get a better view.



Dr. Roberto Pinotti (left), with Charles Bowen (centre) and Gordon Creighton in London, September 1979.

We are indebted for this report* to Dr. Roberto Pinotti and his colleagues on the Editorial Board of *Notiziario UFO*, the journal of the Italian National UFO Research Centre (*Centro Ufologico Nazionale*), published in Rome. The article appeared in their issue No. 3, year 2, March 1979, and therefore came to us in Italian, and with a rendering already made into English, which has been collated and edited by translator Gordon Creighton.

EDITOR

Thinking it might be one of the cases of housebreaking that are so frequent in that district, he switched off his engine and prepared to call the Head Office to report the matter and tell them of the action he proposed to take. All he could get however was the call-sign from one of his colleagues: "Canguro here!" He glanced mechanically at his clock. It was precisely 11.45 p.m. He went on trying to make contact, and suddenly realized that his radio had stopped working. Then, for no apparent reason, his headlights, which had been on until that moment, also packed up, as well as his dashboard lighting and the internal car light. Surprised, though not yet worried by this, he simply decided that he would go over and inspect the villa first, and then look to see what was wrong with his lights. So he got out his electric torch, and pressed and pushed the button to see that it was in good working order. Then he shut the car, switched off his torch again, and began striding towards the villa, determined to confront the burglars.

Quickly he was across the hundred metres or so separating him from the house, all the time keeping his eyes on the mysterious lights. By now he was more convinced than ever that a big housebreaking operation was in progress. All around, the most total silence reigned.

But a moment more and he was at the entrance gate to the villa. This is a wooden gate, painted white, about 80 cms high, in keeping with the rest of the villa's surrounding enclosure. The lights were still there, very clearly visible, about fifteen metres or so from him. They were still in movement, but there was no sign of any persons. And there was absolutely no sound. He halted for a second and then switched on his torch and shone it straight at the gate, and saw that the left half of it was shut while the right half was opened inwards. Then he shone the torch towards the front door of the villa, about ten

* A brief news version of this case appeared in the *World Round-up* column of *FSR* Vol. 25, No. 2, (March-April 1979).