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# **FLYING SAUCER REVIEW**

SPECIAL ISSUE NO. 3

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## UFO Percipients

Special Edition No. 3 August 1969

CONTENTS		
Introduction:: The Unhappy Cover-up:		
Charles Bowen	• •	1
The Strange Case of Dr. "X	":	
Aimé Michel	٠.	3
Some Uses of Hypnosis in UFO Research:		
Dr. R. Leo Sprinkle	• •	17
Gary Wilcox and the Ufonaut	s:	
Dr. Berthold E. Schwarz	٠.	20
The "One-eyed entities" of Belo Horizonte:		
Gordon Creighton	••	28
UFOs and Parapsychology:		
H. S. W. Chibbett	• •	33
The Pirassununga Landing:		
Nigel Rimes		39

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## THE UNHAPPY COVER-UP

IN comment recently published in his Merseyside UFO Bulletin, John Harney drew his readers' attention to the fact that the current trend in UFO research is to concentrate on closer investigation of witnesses.

It is hardly surprising that this turn around is taking place, for it has become evident to some investigators that witnesses may have been affected in some way by their experiences, and, after all, a witness is a solid, tangible fact, present and generally available for inspection. Inevitably this is more than can be said for the objects, or the occupants—if any—which witnesses claim to have seen. Too often in the past the tendency on the part of investigators has been to listen only to the things the witness says; to judge either *yea* or *nay*, and if yea, to compare what he says he saw with things in the records that other witnesses say they have seen. If what he says sounds ridiculous, then the testimony is dismissed as a hoax, and the witness discarded as "disreputable".

One of the pioneers in the art of protracted study of UFO witnesses is that doyen of European investigators, Aimé Michel, author of *The Truth about Flying Saucers*, and that fine study of the great 1954 wave, *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery*, of many articles in *Planète* and in this REVIEW, of which he is also an editorial consultant. It will have been evident to regular readers of this journal over the last few years that Monsieur Maurice Masse, the witness of Valensole, has been the subject of repeated, but quietly conducted investigations, and that he has been kept under surveillance by people living or working in his locality. The result: the revelation of a most interesting pattern of extraordinary behaviour by the witness since his sighting in July, 1965, and his alleged encounter with UFO entities.

It is fortunate that Valensole is well within the reach of so competent a researcher as Aimé Michel, aided so faithfully as he is by a reliable and highly qualified team of helpers. The difficulty that besets most others in the field is that they lack the time, the funds, and the helpers, and that the distance to the site is too great.

However, as good as the Valensole investigations have been, the cry still goes up from the hearts of some of our more "senior" UFO investigators that the need is for a qualified and reliable "professional person" type of witness. I suppose there is something to be said in favour of such a witness, although the testimony of an "unqualified" person, couched in three and five-letter words—with an occasional four-letter word—is no less likely to be true than that of a qualified person, especially if the unqualified person is a trained observer, like a policeman or a soldier. Again, there are some among us who are inclined to speculate that UFOs are solid objects encroaching on our air space, and touching down on our soil, apparently with the object of experimenting or practising with the control of human beings by some form of radiation by which "pictures" can be projected into their minds, and by which they can be hypnotised. If something of this kind is happening, then as I see it, it matters not one iota whether the witness is a physicist or a farm hand. It should all be "in the mind", whatever or whoever the witness happens to be.

Be that as it may, we have at last got our highly qualified witness: at least, Aimé Michel and his friends have got him—and they appear to have been making an awfully good job of their investigation. For six months I have been sitting on the side lines with mounting excitement, gathering in the snippets of information M. Michel has sent my way. And now, at last, we are able to prepare a new special issue which has been built around the remarkable case of the doctor in the South of France. Even while I write, the investigation goes on, with the full and willing co-operation of the doctor, and I understand some strange things have been revealed. The realisation is dawning that there may be found in the case of Dr. X possible corroboration of features in other major cases, even perhaps that of Betty and Barney Hill. I stress that these are my views, and not those of M. Michel.

The full story of the continuing psychiatric and hypnotic tests and investigations over and above those opening details of the case which are published in this issue, will be published by M. Michel in a book. This, he tells me, will only be done if he can find a way to protect the identity of the witness. And thereby hangs

another sad feature of UFO investigation.

That feature is, of course, the repeated and very necessary requests for anonymity by both witnesses and certain of the investigators. What a tragedy that this unhappy cover-up is necessary; necessary because both witnesses and investigators who are in the professions, or who hold other responsible positions, are afraid of the reaction of some of their colleagues, or superiors. Afraid that their professional standing or their reputation is at stake for daring, on the one hand, to admit to having had a UFO experience, or, on the other hand, to

wish to study this absorbing and persistent phenomenon.

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW will always respect requests for anonymity. Indeed, although we regret the necessity for the unhappy cover-up, we are thankful that at least there are some to whom Herbert Spencer's words do not apply:

"There is a principle which is a bar against all information, which is proof against all arguments, and which cannot fail to keep a man in everlasting ignorance—that principle is contempt prior to investigation."

\* \* \* \* \*

Aimé Michel's excellent study is supported in this issue by a remarkable work by Dr. Berthold Schwarz, prepared specially for FSR. Also there is a discourse on the use of hypnotism in UFO investigation, by Dr. Leo Sprinkle, an interesting investigation by Nigel Rimes of a new case in Brazil, a paper on UFOs and parapsychology, by Harold Chibbett, the significance of which will not be missed.

I hope fervently that at least some of those who, in the past, have preferred contempt for this subject in place of sober, reasoned investigation, will learn the truth about UFO percipients like Dr. X, and decide that, after all, it might be more profitable to investigate than to condemn a subject about which they know nothing. And when the tide begins to turn, perhaps our qualified persons will be able to emerge from the toils of the unhappy cover-up that has so bedevilled UFO research throughout the years.

CHARLES BOWEN London, June 24, 1969

## **FLYING SAUCER REVIEW**

is the world's leading magazine devoted to the study of the UFO phenomenon, and to the recording of the facts of that phenomenon.

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Most of the contributors who have collaborated in our three special issues, **The Humanoids** (now out in book form, see p. 38), **Beyond Condon...** and **UFO Percipients**, write frequently for our regular bi-monthly FSR. If you have not already made the acquaintance of our regular magazine, then we suggest you hasten to write to our subscription department.

Articles in the September/October issue of 1969 include:

Healing from UFOs

The San José de Valderas Photographs

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