

- 5 "The Traveller" — presumably the local nickname for the bus.  
6 Like all farmers, the Chicharo brothers and old Juan

have names for all the different corners of a field. This hollow or depression is called by them "La Alberca." (In English: "The Pond.")

# AN EARLY ITALIAN CROSS-COUNTRY CASE

Mary Boyd

CHARLES BOWEN<sup>1</sup> and Hubert Malthaner<sup>2</sup> have given us accounts of curious objects seen bowling along across the countryside. I give below a translation of a similar type of story from Italy, which appears in the new Italian book *UFO In Italia*.<sup>3</sup>

The date was a Thursday afternoon in May 1931, on the Italian island of Sardinia. The eyewitnesses, Signor Pasquale Masala (who is still alive and residing at Nova Milanese, Via XX Settembre No. 28) and a friend, were out riding their horses, and had reached a prehistoric dolmen (*nuraghe*) at a place called Trudumeddu, some 7 kms. from Paulilatino, in the district of Cagliari. In that district there are a number of these *nuraghi* (prehistoric fortified conical dwellings somewhat resembling dolmens).

The afternoon was warm, with a clear sky and dry air. The time was about 4.30 p.m. The two men had dismounted and were admiring the view when suddenly and most unexpectedly a strange object emerged from the partially blocked entrance of the *nuraghe* standing in the middle of the field. The best definition that Marsala could give of the object was "a brand-new football."<sup>4</sup> In fact it was so like one, and it passed so near to him, that he actually had the impression of seeing its "stitching."

The "football," which did not rotate, was travelling from West to East at a height of about one metre above the ground and at a constant speed that he estimated at between 16 and 20 kms. per hour, "or the equivalent of the speed of a running boy." It passed right across the field before their astonished gaze and entered a thick growth of stumps of bushes and underwood up to three metres or so in height. After the first moment of hesitation and amazement, Marsala ran off in pursuit of the disconcerting sphere, which all the time was following a straight, steady bee-line of flight.

The witness noticed that the undergrowth parted in front of the "football," and the bushes bent over, but once it had passed on they closed and straightened up again. In other words, they opened up a passageway *before* coming in contact with it, as though displaced by a mysterious and invisible force that preceded the flying object.

Pasquale Masala was unable to overtake the object, due to the rough ground and the vegetation, which slowed him down, whereas the mystery sphere found no obstacles in its path.

His companion, meanwhile, had remained behind near the dolmen, terrified, and kept shouting to him to come back. So, after chasing the object for nearly a kilometre, Masala gave up and returned. The

"football" had vanished from sight amidst the thick undergrowth.

Marsala would have liked to enter the *nuraghe* and make a thorough search there, but once again he was prevailed upon by his companion, who, frightened to death, refused in no uncertain terms to help him and insisted on their leaving the place.

The two remounted their horses and returned to the village, but told nobody of their experience, either because they themselves could scarcely believe what they had seen, or because of their fear of being taken for visionaries.

The original sources for this report in *UFO In Italia* are letters dated February 17, 1972 and June 9, 1972 from Pasquale Masala to the editor of the Italian forerun and ufological journal *Il Giornale dei Misteri*, issue No. 19 (pages 8-9).

## NOTES

1 See *Cross-Country Cog Wheels* (FSR, September/October 1966).

2 See *Mystery Flying Object Rolls Along a German Road* (FSR, July/August 1972).

3 *UFO In Italia (UFOs In Italy)*, published by Corrado Tedeschi, Firenze (Florence) 1974, 249 pages. Price: Lira 3,500. The authors are Messrs. Boncompagni, Conti Lamperi, Ricci and Sani, all of whom are members of the Firenze UFO research group, S.U.F., and are regular writers for *Il Giornale dei Misteri*, which is also published by Corrado Tedeschi. The book, which will eventually run to three volumes, is a very good factual documented account of the UFO phenomenon in Italy since its inception. This first volume covers the years 1907-1953. The authors are objective, and abstain from pre-conceived theories, though they do reject the idea of "Martians and Venusians" bringing us messages of peace. They give a good general picture and evaluation of the views of various experts, among whom Dr. J. Allen Hynek figures prominently.

Until recently, except for momentary bursts of curiosity, Italians in general have been completely indifferent to UFOs, which they associated with Science Fiction and "green Martians." Those who did take an interest were more concerned with the phenomenon abroad, but it is now evident that the Italian flap of 1954 was at least equal to — and perhaps even exceeded — the Wave in France. Today however there is a growing interest throughout Italy, and especially among the young, and since 1971 enthusiastic research groups have sprung up all over the country. The CUN (Italian National UFO Research Centre, in Milan) is the principal investigating centre and publishes the excellent bulletin *Notiziario UFO*.

4 The spherical type of "Soccer" football is presumably meant.

# "PARALLELISM" AS A TERMINOLOGY & CLASSIFICATION FOR CONCEPTS IN UFOLOGY

*Jonathan M. Caplan*

THERE has recently arisen a growing suspicion that the techniques of the parapsychological phenomena bear strong resemblance to those of the UFO phenomenon itself. It is this suspicion that has motivated a strong body of opinion to campaign for the widening of the terms of reference of UFO investigation to include such subjects as occult, religion, parapsychology, spiritualism, folklore and demonology. What was once thought of as purely an extraterrestrial and physical phenomenon has thus become a tangled skein of phenomena whose physical nature and extraterrestrial source are by no means certain.

This sudden expansion of the field of study may, however, prove obscure and disastrous if the new thinking that it stimulates fails to find a clear and consistent terminology which is capable of expressing it. To give perspective, this terminology would have to incorporate a classification that would be able to convey both the old and new concepts as to the nature and source of the UFO and yet still retain a level of simplicity so as to be comprehensible. It is submitted that the vocabulary of "parallelism" achieves this. It should, however, never be forgotten that the eventual solution may lie in several of the following, as opposed to any one of them if, indeed, it lies in any. This is because the phenomenon may be composed of different sources and different natures.

## Category 1: "True Parallelism and Pseudo-parallelism"

The basis of "true parallelism" is that it postulates that the natural environment or source of the UFO is a reality other than our own, but which is parallel to it in both time and space, and recent scientific theory about the Black Holes may have given added impetus to this concept. Parallelism further implies a parallel world and thus a parallel technology, so parallelists tend to have to commit themselves to the acceptance of UFOs as controlled craft which become visible and even solid — but not necessarily so — when bridged into our reality. It thus differs from the old "nuts and bolts" (or extraterrestrial) theory in postulating a different source for the UFO but not necessarily an altogether different nature; parallelists would have to agree that UFOs can be solid craft but they would say that their solidity is a variable state to us because so is their reality.

The basis of — what I have termed — "pseudo-parallelism" is that it postulates that the natural environment or source of the UFO differs dimensionally from our own, but in space only and not

time. It is this single dimensional difference alone which distinguishes it from true parallelism, since pseudo-parallelism also implies the concept of a world and a technology and, therefore, of the UFO as a controlled craft. Pseudo-parallelism is a rather more difficult idea to comprehend since it postulates the source as a world co-existing with us but yet removed from us only by the single dimension of space. The nature and the reality of the phenomenon postulated by the concept of pseudo-parallelism is unclear and may differ a little here from true parallelism.

It is fundamental to both true parallelism and pseudo-parallelism that the phenomena co-exist with us. All forms of parallelism are based on a rejection of the extraterrestrial thesis or of the idea of visitation from deep space, and of the categorization of the phenomenon as a purely physical one. The essence of true parallelism is the idea of bridging the realities across the dimensions of time and space; the essence of pseudo-parallelism is the idea of locking into our dimension of space. There is also the suspicion with all forms of parallelism — and especially with Category 2 below — that the phenomena appear more frequently to certain people, at certain times and in certain places.

## Category 2: "Inner Space Parallelism and Inner Space Pseudo-parallelism"

All forms of — what I have termed — "inner space parallelism" reject the nature of the UFO as being a craft and so postulate that the UFO as such has no natural environment and that its source may just as equally be some great, undefined intelligence as a populated parallel world. In short, UFOs are not what they appear to be, and are not the manufactured products of the technology of another civilization. They are merely temporary transmogrifications or manifestations. "Inner space parallelism" proposes that the source of the UFO transmogrification or manifestation exists parallel to our reality in both time and space, whilst "inner space pseudo-parallelism" proposes that the source exists parallel to us in space only. Both further propose that the phenomenon is intelligently created and that its nature can achieve solidity.

Inner space parallelism and pseudo-parallelism are in many ways the world of symbols and false images. They are the world of deception too. All is not as it seems and so there is much more latitude in this category for religious and spiritual interpretation. The UFO is a symbol summoned up for some hidden purpose. There is a kaleidoscope of shifting visions, and the apparent nature of the