

were only three such percipients at Fátima, namely the three children, all of whom saw the luminous entity, and our two authors mention a "fourth percipient" whom they have discovered, and who had seen a female entity on a previous occasion. For the hundred or so other people selected by the authors from

those among the vast crowd who saw or heard or felt other extraordinary phenomena but did not see the actual radiant being, I have used the terms *witness* or *eyewitness* (*testemunha* in Portuguese.)

G.C.

AN ENCOUNTER WITH "RAT-FACES" IN ITALY

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(Translation from Italian)

There have recently been reports of encounters with highly unpleasant-looking "rat-faced" creatures. Here is an Italian case from 1978. We shall shortly publish a very similar Brazilian case that happened a year later, in 1979.

Ed.

TAKING advantage of the fact that, though cold, it was a sunny day, Signor Angelo D'Ambros, aged 61, a resident of Gallio in the north-eastern Italian Province of Vicenza, had gone on the morning of November 24, 1978, to gather firewood in a copse in the nearby locality of Gastagh. The time was just about a quarter of an hour before noon when, turning around to set down a branch which he had just been chopping up, he was gripped with horror at the terrifying sight that met his eyes, for there, extremely close to him, and watching him, were two "beings" with only approximately human-like features.



Fig. 1. Sketch by Ugo Furlan, based on discussions with witness.

Long Ears and Tusks

They were suspended in the air at about 40 cms. from the ground. One of them, he estimated, was about 1 m. 20 cms, in height, and the other about 1 m. They were extremely thin, and had a yellowish skin that was stretched so tightly that he could see great veins standing out on the head and hands of the bigger creature, which was the nearer to him of the two. Their heads were large and elongated, like pears, smooth and bald, with enormous ears that rose straight up and ended in a point. They had great white eyes, sunken and without eyelids, set above a nose of pronounced dimensions which almost reached down beyond the lower lip, the latter being pretty fleshy, and large mouths displaying, at their extremities, two long, pointed "tusks."

From immediately below the knee right up to the neck, the two creatures appeared to be clad in dark very closely-fitting overalls, which also covered the arms down as far as the wrists, leaving the hands and the rest of the legs and the feet uncovered. The hands and feet were of a remarkable size and out of proportion to the rest of the body, with extremely long fingers and long nails.

At first the two creatures were side by side but, straight away, the shorter of them began shifting constantly between the right side and the left side of D'Ambros, in very rapid leaps and without moving its long feet, almost as though it were gliding on an invisible surface, and making, with these continuous movements, a very faint sound of air displacement and a rustling of the vegetation as the tips of its long ears-



Fig. 2. Signor D'Ambros shows the author, Antonio Chiumiento, how the entity tried to seize the billhook

brushed the lowest branches of the nearby trees.

Trying to overcome his terror, which had almost literally frozen the blood in his veins at the sight of these two beings — these “monsters” as he termed them during our investigation — he shouted “*Help!*” at the top of his voice, and then managed to summon up the strength to ask them repeatedly who they were and what were their intentions towards him. But it was all totally useless. From the mouth of the shorter creature came only incomprehensible mumblings.

Struggle to Seize Chopper

Suddenly, after the witness had fixed his gaze attentively on the taller creature, which had remained virtually motionless in the same position, shifting only slightly, and always at a distance of about a metre from him, the creature attempted to get hold of his machete or billhook, seizing it by the part at the tip which has no cutting-edge. D'Ambros was resolved not to let him have it, it being his sole means of self-defence in the event that the creatures should demonstrate clearly hostile intentions. So he gripped it very

firmly by the handle, which is enveloped in a thick sheath of solid leather, and has a hook on the end for hanging the tool up on a wall or on a belt.

The creature again tried to seize the billhook, grasping it this time a little lower down, with the result that the witness seemed to feel a slight electrical shock. Then, perceiving that D'Ambros still had hold of the tool, the creature returned to the attack, this time using both hands to grasp the machete lower down and much more fully, still by the non-cutting edge. In this, its third attempt, the creature employed exceptional force, which d'Ambros was able to resist thanks only to the fact that his own strength had been so considerably increased by the sheer desperation that had overtaken him as he realised that his cries for help had brought nobody to aid him, and the result was that once again he felt — and this time pretty clearly — an electrical discharge in his hand and up his arm.

At this point the witness got really furious, as it seemed that the creature was absolutely unwilling to desist from its attempts to get the machete off him, so, with the other hand, he grabbed a large branch that

he had previously cut, determined to hit the creature with it and put an end to a situation that had brought him to the very brink of panic.

The two creatures presumably recognised the threat inherent in this gesture, for they fled instantly.

The Landed UFO

The witness, completely recovering his normal calm, now felt impelled by such an irresistible curiosity as to the provenance of the two "dis-human" creatures, with their so 'near-human' features (apart from their height), that he even found enough strength to pursue them, and ran as fast as he could along the mule-track along which they had come. As the track takes a sharp turn he soon lost sight of them, but despite that he continued to search for them until finally, in a near-by clearing, at a distance estimated by him to be from twenty to thirty metres, he beheld a strange oblong "object" standing on four landing feet straddled fairly widely apart with their ends thrust some centimetres into the ground ("with legs with the ends cut off", as the witness put it).

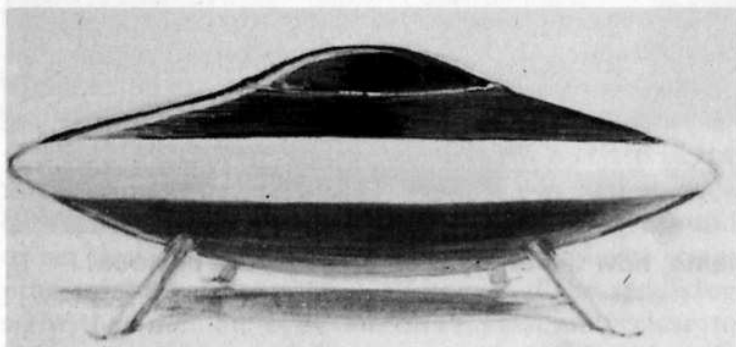


Fig 3. The craft seen at Gastagh by Signor Angelo D'Ambros. Sketch by Ugo Furlan, based on discussions with witness.

On the middle of the top, the object, which was discoidal, was surmounted by a small dome. The "disc" (he referred to the object by this term several times during our investigation), of a solid, metallic, and extremely substantial appearance, was of bright red colour on the upper part, including the dome, and blue on the lower half, with a white middle band clearly separating the two differently coloured halves. The legs were of an aluminium-greyish shade. The mysterious craft was about four metres wide and about two metres high at the centre where the dome was, without including the legs.

Scarcely had he caught sight of the craft when he saw one of those long hands closing, from inside the dome, a sort of trap-door by drawing it backwards.

A few seconds later the disc took off slantingly at a staggering speed and in total silence, producing a burst of red flame and vanishing from his sight in an instant behind high fir-trees.

D'Ambros returned home at once, keeping to himself the secret of this 'strange episode' which had left him distinctly disturbed, and turning it over and over in his mind to such a pitch that he had no desire to eat his lunch, till finally he decided to talk about the 'event' to his son-in-law, Luciano Munari, the caretaker at the Jacobo da Ponte Technical High School in Asiago.

Return to the spot

Signor Munari decided to get somebody to accompany him next day to the scene of the alleged unwanted happening. And in the clearing he found an almost completely circular area about 3.5 m. in diameter, in which the grass looked black, not so much black with burning as from oil, and was distinctly flattened and rotated in anticlockwise fashion. When he ventured to touch the blackened grass his hands remained quite clean. He also found two U-shaped impressions some twenty cms. long and about three cms. wide and three cms. deep. In this connection it should be mentioned that in May 1980, when the Gastagh wood was no longer covered with snow, in the course of an on-the-spot investigation which we carried out there, the above-mentioned traces were no longer to be found. (The witness's son-in-law blamed the presence of stones there for the fact that they were unable to find the marks that should have been made by the other two legs.)

As further corroboration — so Munari told us — that D'Ambros really had observed something out of the ordinary, it was still possible to see that, at the spot from where the craft had taken off, there were some bramble bushes that had been completely uprooted — this being the result of the displacement of air as the 'object' departed.

What was unfortunate however was that Munari had not thought to take his camera with him, with the result that, when he got back home, many of his fellow-townsmen still would not believe him. In reply to these doubters, he said he would go back to the wood the next day to take photos, but, alas, it snowed again on the Asiago Plateau during the night of Saturday November 25/Sunday November 26, with the result that not until Sunday, December 3 was he able to betake himself again to the presumed landing site, along with the local photographer and some other people who had believed neither his father-in-law nor him.

So they shovelled away the snow from the spot where Munari remembered having seen the two U-shaped impressions, in order to be able to photograph them, but as the pictures were black-and-white the detailed features of the marks did not show up at all well when they were developed. Dissatisfied with this, Signor Munari resolved to go back there once more, on Sunday December 10, 1978, to photograph the two marks again (this time in colour) and, fearing that they

again might not show up clearly, he circled them with yellow paper.

The Story Reaches the Press

It should also be mentioned that the affair was the subject of an article published in the local daily, *Giornale di Vicenza*, for December 1, 1978, under the title: "I Was Attacked by Two Martians: They Wanted My Billhook.", this being due to an initiative of Munari. No sooner had the article appeared than Signor D'Ambros received visits not only by vast numbers of curiosity-seekers but also by a number of Vicenza residents interested in UFOs, all bent on putting various questions to him.

It having been established (as D'Ambros and Munari had already done) that the blade of the billhook bore an imprint roughly of the size of a little finger (but consisting of horizontal lines) and that the cutting edge of the tool had assumed a strange dark red colouring, the students of Ufology requested and (after due production of their identity cards) managed to secure the billhook on loan, with a view to taking it to a research laboratory in Vicenza for the necessary tests. But unfortunately, one of these individuals, Signor Carlo Spaliviero, of Via Spalato 14, Vicenza, told us, the laboratory whom they had approached wanted a lot of money from them, with the result that they finally decided to bring the billhook back to Gallio without even thinking of having the imprint on the blade photographed.

As Munari told us, once he had got the billhook back (still showing the dark red colouring on the cutting part) D'Ambros started using it again, so that very soon neither the "imprint" nor the strange discoloration were visible any longer.

In continuation, we should moreover mention that we learned about this case thanks to one of our fellow-investigators in Vicenza, who sent us a copy of the newspaper article in question, although unfortunately not immediately at the time. (In any case, we would have been unable to go to Gallio at that juncture as we were already engaged in the investigation of several other interesting sighting reports from the three Venetian Provincial Regions.)

Investigation by C.U.N.

When we did go to Gallio for the first time (and this was only in the autumn of 1979), the D'Ambros family told us that, when, a few days previously, they had visited the UFO landing site while out gathering mushrooms, the grass there still looked black and dirty, and had in fact not grown again at all there with the onset of spring. Unfortunately we were not able to make an on-the-spot inspection though, as it had just snowed again on the Asiago Plateau only two or three days before.

During our second investigation, which was in February 1980, Signor Munari made the following statement to us:—

"Had it been I — I, who am aged 29 and who read the newspapers and often look at Television — had it, I say, been I who had told you this strange story, you might well have thought that I had been fantasising — but, in the case of my Father-in-law, it would in fact be quite impossible for him to have concocted such a tale. And even though he may have distorted a few of the details in his account of the affair, in view of the naturally frightened state in which he was, and the fact that he only has perfect sight in one eye, the other eye having been injured in an accident at work (as a result of which — and this is taught in Ophthalmology — the distance vision gets stronger while the vision of fairly close objects becomes weaker — though only very slightly) I am inclined to conclude — particularly after having seen for myself the scene at the spot in the wood where he had told me that the object had stood — that without any doubt he was involved in some incredible happening. I would like to add too that my Father-in-law told me that, as he was chasing the beings, he had almost slipped and fallen to the ground. Well now, when we got to the place next day after the event, he pointed out to me already from quite a distance the very spot where he had slipped, and in fact when I got there I was able to see for myself the mark made by him as he had slipped.

"After this episode involving my Father-in-law, I decided to read up a bit on this subject of UFOs, and I bought the book *UFO Report*, by J. Allen Hynek, as a result of which I was able to establish that there was a very evident resemblance between the two U-shaped marks which I had photographed (particularly as they looked before it snowed) and the mark shown in one of the photos in the book, with stones all around it." (Signor Munari is referring here to the photograph of marks left by a possible UFO landing at Socorro in New Mexico on April 24, 1964: Author).

Investigation of the Parties

Having paid several visits to Sr. D'Ambros in Gallio, we have been in a position to verify both the characters and the life-styles of the members of the D'Ambros and Munari families, and we came to the conclusion that they are people who enjoy the highest reputation in their community, and very plain straightforward folk, deeply engaged in their own daily activities.

Signor d'Ambros in particular, who, as he told us, only attended elementary school as far as the end of the fourth class, appeared to us not to be a person of

great education, and consequently hardly likely to be subject to flights of fancy. The alleged UFO left (or rather, was said to have left) marks on the ground, and the billhook, according to the statements of several people, showed an "imprint" left by a "hand" of the "being", and had acquired a dark red coloration on the cutting part of the blade. The probability that the UFO sighting here under discussion had a natural explanation is, *in our opinion*, minimal, if indeed not totally non-existent, as, having ourselves conducted a thoroughgoing investigation of the case, we are convinced that something physical and material, involving Sr. D'Ambros, did occur in the Gastagh locality of Gallio.

To our way of seeing it, it is impossible to dispose of the case by attributing it to a hallucination, since there is no proof whatsoever in support of such a solution.

Similarity to Kelly-Hopkinsville Case

There is moreover another event which has remained rightly famous and which presents some analogies with the strange episode at Gallio and concerns, in a specific and concentrated fashion, the appearance of the presumed "living beings."

The event to which we refer is the one that took place on August 21, 1955, on a farm at Kelly, in Kentucky (U.S.A.) not far from the town of Hopkinsville. On that occasion, in fact, the seven eyewitnesses (all the adults of the Sutton family who lived at the farm) agreed that the "creatures" were rather short, not more than a metre in height and with oblong, egg-shaped heads, hairless, and of the same colour as the body. They had big elephantine ears and seemed to be weightless and they floated down, rather than fell down, from the trees. The eyes were large and protruding, the arms out of proportion to the rest of the body, and the fingers terminated in "claws curved like the beak of a falcon" (according to the expressive description given by one of the eyewitnesses.) The vegetation rustled when they passed through it.

Corroborative Local Reports

Here are some of the collateral testimonies to that given by D'Ambros, two of which were the subject of an article that appeared in the *Giornale di Vicenza* (local daily) for December 2, 1978 under the title "*Gallio UFO Also Seen Over Santa Caterina?*". We shall therefore give a résumé of the investigations in question duly conducted with the efficient collaboration of Signor Silvio Formilan who is in charge of the C.U.N. branch at Schio (Vicenza.) We must however point out that a photocopy of this second article also unfortunately only reached us belatedly.

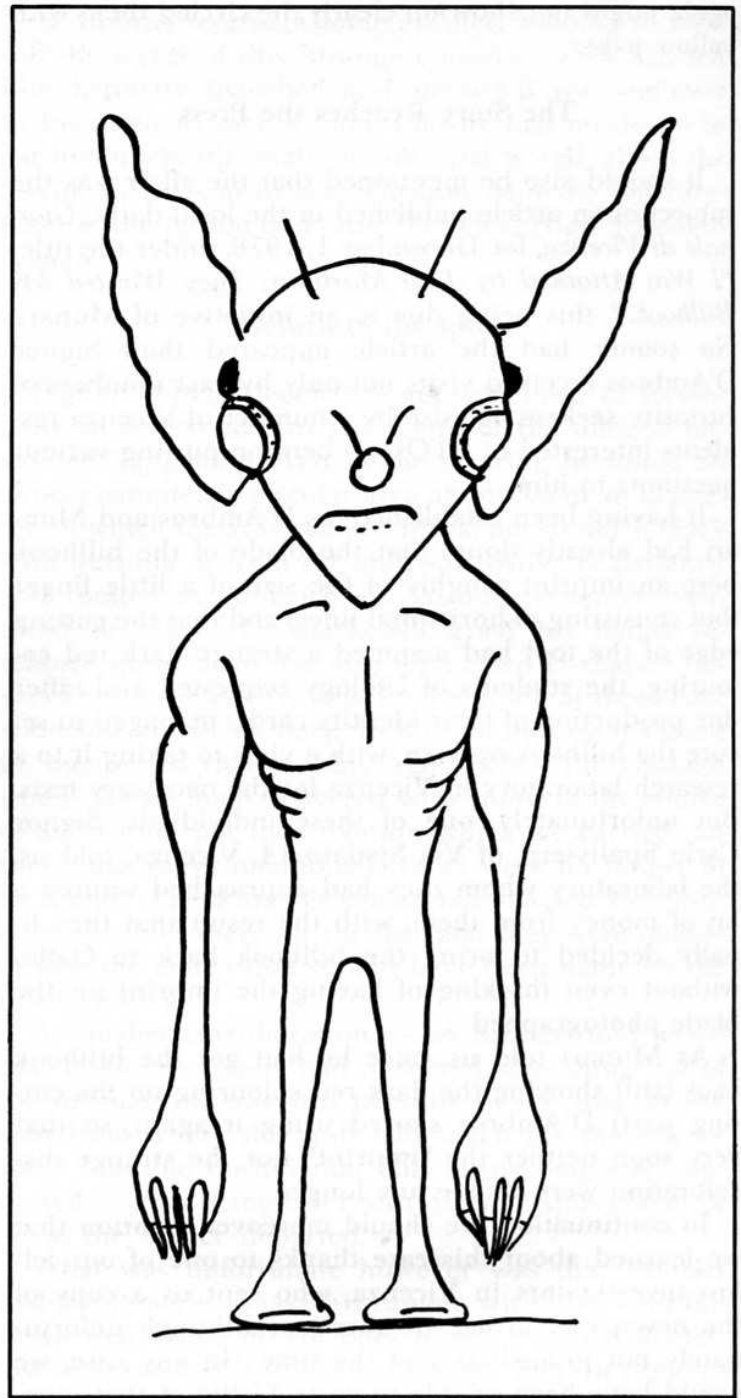


Fig. 4. The Kelly-Hopkinsville creature, sketch by Bud Ledwith (From Dr. J. Allen Hynek: *The Hynek UFO Report*).

Object Seen by a Woman

On November 24, 1978, Maria Borsato Ksáusa, born in March 1939, was proceeding in her own car from Marostica (Vicenza) where she has her principal work in the Medicines Depot of the Hospital, to Crosara, a small town on the Asiago Plateau, where she lives and where she owns a restaurant with a public bar. At about 12.15, as she was going up the winding

stretch of road between Capitelli and Crosara, at the very moment when she was intently observing the hills overlooking the winding route and taking in the autumnal tints of the woods, she observed, the day being a fine clear one, with no wind and with good visibility, an 'object' with the features of a large oval balloon, with no projections, which was moving, not very fast, through the sky at, as she put it, "half the height of the hills." The lower part of it was dark and of a decidedly metallic appearance, while the upper area was of an intense orange colour, bordering on red, almost like the rear reflectors of a car. In its central part the 'object' had a light-coloured band, of the same shade as asbestos, which clearly divided the two differently coloured zones, and the 'object' appeared to her to be longer and higher than the helicopters observed by her on other occasions.

It was moving, apparently without producing any sound, on a horizontal course northwards, all the time skirting the hills lying on her right, that is to say, going into the valley of Santa Caterina di Lusiana, which lies between Gallio and Lusiana. The sighting, which lasted for about five minutes, was of course from inside the travelling car, and was consequently not unbroken. The witness said that there were also other cars on the road during the sighting.

Object Seen by Bus-driver

The husband of this lady Maria Borsato Ksausa, hearing that a certain Signor Franco Busa, a driver of the "SIAMIC" firm, had seen 'something anomalous', related what his wife, in her turn, had seen. So in this way the report of the sighting reached a reporter on the staff of the *Giornale di Vicenza*, who thought it would be a good idea to interview Signora Maria Ksausa by telephone. (We must mention straight away that the "SIAMIC" driver, who lives on the Viale Europa in Lusiana, would not agree to our suggestion that we interview him at some suitable opportunity, saying that the publication of the affair in the *Giornale di Vicenza* had already brought him repeated ridicule from his fellow-townsmen.) However Signor Busa did summarily confirm to us that he had seen 'something strange', and we shall therefore report it here with all the necessary caution and reserve, just as it was described in the *Giornale di Vicenza*:—

Signor Busa had just left Crosara in the vehicle with which he operates a public bus service, and was driving towards Santa Caterina when, coming round a bend, he observed a strange 'object' apparently stationary in the air on the edge of a wood towards Lusiana, which is the most southerly of the seven townships on the Asiago Plateau. Lying to the south of Gallio, from which it is distant about 12 kms. as the crow flies, it is about 3 kms. E.N.E. of Crosara. His attention being centred on his driving, a particularly

vital matter on those mountain roads, he was unable to observe the 'object' in detail. In fact he simply told the reporter of the Vicenza paper that it was 'oval' in shape and almost entirely of a reddish-orange colour, so vivid that for a moment he thought the woods were on fire. The unwonted 'object' was also seen by a young lady who was in the motor-coach driven by Busa. The thing was approximately above Mt. Xàusa, and came in sight two or three more times according to where the coach was on the road, and then after that both of them lost sight of it. (For the reason already given above, we have not been supplied with either the time of the sighting or the name of the young lady in the coach.)

Object Seen by Family

Signor Giovanni Pertile, born in 1933 and residing in Marchesane, at No. 24, Via Rivana Bassa, in a district of Bassano Del Grappa (Province of Vicenza), had got up at about 5.30 on the morning of November 24, 1978. While he was performing his ablutions, he noticed a strange 'phenomenon' in the sky. He was no stranger to these kinds of 'experiences' since, as he told us, he had seen what was presumed to be a UFO in the sky over Prague sometime around 1970 and two strange luminous 'things' in the sky over Marchesane on August 5, 1977, all three occasions, as he said, being at around 3.00 a.m., when he had to get up early in view of his profession of truck-driver. Perceiving that it would be a good moment to have his wife and children believe him, he decided to awaken the whole family.

Thus it was that his wife, Giuseppina née Bonato and his daughter Isabella and his son Daniele were all able to observe a round 'thing', brighter than the headlight of a motor-vehicle and with indistinct contours, stationary in the East at a position of about 45° from the horizon and at a distance that it was not possible to estimate. It had a reddish-orange central nucleus and a white halo around it. It remained like that for a few seconds, and then it grew larger, to more or less the apparent size of the full Moon. Then it turned completely white and immediately after that it was in another position, remaining there for a few seconds. The 'thing' kept on doing this repeatedly, always describing a 'triangular trajectory' and returning to its original starting point. It must be emphasised that the atmospheric conditions were of the very best and the phenomenon remained visible in the sky for twenty minutes over an area of the celestial vault corresponding to a diameter of some 15° — so much so that Signor Pertile was able to take some photographs of it with his Konica Autoreflex A with normal

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A NEW BOOK ON THE UFO SITUATION IN CHINA

FSR has now made contact with the UFO researchers on the Mainland of China, and is receiving their journal, FEIDIE TANSUO (Fei-Tieh T'an-So, *Journal of UFO Research*), published in Lanzhou (Lanzhou), N.W. China. Its first issue, dated February 25, 1981, selling at Y 0.30 (its print was said to be 300,000!) was allegedly sold out in no time. However the merest cursory examination of the journal (in size and format resembling TIME Magazine) shows that No. 1 was taken up almost entirely with translations of congratulatory messages from foreign investigators or with generalized discussions of "Life in Space", etc. Of real reports from China of any great interest (other than the run-of-the-mill "lights in the sky") we have seen little so far, and one may doubt whether we shall see anything very spectacular published in that quarter, if only because of the strong and evident Marxist fear of "being laughed at" or of stepping out of line. One particular sky phenomenon reported in the journal is however a sort of gigantic "Catherine Wheel" in the sky, of which both photographs and sketches are given. This is interesting, as there was a recent Swedish report of something apparently identical, which we hope to publish in due course.

Establishment of C.U.R.O.

In the autumn of 1982, Mr Paul Dong (real name LIN Wen-Wei), the representative in the U.S.A. of the FEIDIE TANSUO and the scientific adviser to its publishers, the *China UFO Research Organization* (CURO), announced that the group had now gathered a total of 600 Chinese UFO sightings of all dates, which they proposed to translate into English and publish in due course.

The Assistant Editor of FEIDIE TANSUO is a 42-year-old Chinese journalist named SHI BO, born in Shanghai and now working in Peking. A typical feature of this gentleman (the Chinese are the world's most brilliant linguists while the Japanese are probably the worst) is that, although he has scarcely ever set foot outside of China (not an easy thing to do these days, Comrades!) he writes perfect French.

Although the evidence for "ufological phenomena" runs in abundance right through the vast literature and historical records of China (the writer of this note was unfortunate enough to see a UFO himself over Western China in the summer of 1941 and has since paid a heavy price for it) the Chinese did not even become aware of the "UFO Problem" until the more acute abominations of the so-called "Cultural Revolution" were over — in other words not until about

1978 (more than thirty years after Kenneth Arnold's famous sighting which initiated the UFO furore in the Western world).

In September 1978 Shi Bo started to set up a UFO reporting network throughout China, and even began to make contact with researchers in the U.S.A.: — that centre, as Aimé Michel observes, of all that is evil and imperialistic and reactionary in the eyes of the Comrades. Shi Bo also made contact with Henri Bastide in France, which in turn led to a suggestion that he write a book on the UFOs in China. This he has now done, and the work duly appeared early this year (Mercure de France, Paris) under the title *La Chine et les Extraterrestres*, with a preface by Aimé Michel. The book has footnotes added by a French scientist of high repute who, not surprisingly, wishes to remain anonymous "in view of the venomous and personal quarrels so characteristic of UFO researchers".

(What a wise chap.)

Curious current "freedom" in China

Ruminating on this curious "loosening up" in China on UFOs, just at the time when everywhere else there is a clamping down on them, Aimé Michel speculates that it might indicate that the Chinese authorities are doing this deliberately in order to break an American-Soviet "concordat" on silence about the UFOs. He may of course be right, but it is surely far, far more likely that the new Chinese Ruling Class have hitherto been much too busy oppressing their own people to dwell upon or learn about UFOs, and that when in due course they do find out a little more about them they won't lose much time in putting an end to all this nonsense of UFO investigation just as is being done in Russia where (to our immense pride) FSR was recently banned from the mails. (Though if you do absolutely have to see FSR in connection with your work, you can still travel to Moscow from Siberia or Kazakhstan or wherever you are, and "sign the book", and be permitted to consult us in the august precincts of the USSR Academy of Sciences who, for some very curious reason, still take quite a few copies of each issue of our journal!)

Similarity of Chinese and foreign UFO reports

As Aimé Michel emphasises, what is most striking about Shi Bo's book is the fact that, although the thousand-million-odd Chinese know virtually nothing about the great world outside, have never heard, until recently, of UFOs, and have never read or heard of