

# UNKNOWN INTELLIGENCES UNDER THE SEA?

*Gordon Creighton*

**Invisible residents: a disquisition upon certain matters maritime, and the possibility of intelligent life under the waters of this earth**, by Ivan T. Sanderson, M.A. (Cantab.), F.L.S., F.R.G.S. (The World Publishing Company, New York and Cleveland, 1970), 248 pp.; frontispiece, tables, bibliography and index. \$7.50.

Dr. Rubens J. Villela, a Brazilian scientist seconded to the U.S. Navy's "Operation Deep Freeze", stood with other witnesses on the deck of an ice-breaker one evening in the Antarctic recently and watched the ice heave and the water beneath rush forth and churn as, hurling vast chunks of ice about, *a great silvery something shot up like a bullet through no less than 37 feet of ice and away into the sky*. "Dr. Villela and his co-spectators were not amused", we learn. The event was the subject of a formal U.S. Navy release but, curiously enough, only to the *Brazilian* press.

In 1963, while an aircraft-carrier and five smaller vessels (some reports said 13) of the U.S. Navy were conducting exercises off Puerto Rico, training their personnel in the detection and tracking of underwater craft, sonar device operators aboard many of the ships observed the blips indicating the presence of a "mystery craft" in the lower depths. They tracked it for four days, as it manoeuvred about, at depths ranging down to 27,000 feet. Driven by a single propeller, it was making over 150 knots. The fastest speed of one of mankind's submerged submarines is, to date, 45 knots (51.8 miles per hour)—a figure registered, as a semi-official record, for the Skipjack class of tear-drop-shaped nuclear submarines of the United States Navy. The "unknown" was doing four times that speed, and at 27,000 feet to boot, whereas the record dive to-date for a standard American submarine is 6,250 feet. (*U.S. Aluminaut*, November 12, 1967, 20 miles off the Bahamas.)

Ivan T. Sanderson, already known to readers as an eminent zoologist, author of *Uninvited Visitors*, and First Vice-President and Administrative Director of The Society For The Investigation Of The Unexplained (SITU), assures us that painstaking investigation has indicated that both these cases did occur.

We men occupy the land, a mere quarter of the surface of Planet Earth. We know little enough about Outer Space which we are now trying to probe and, Heaven knows, little enough too about those three-quarters of our Planet's surface that lie below water.

As every student of our exasperating subject knows, there are records in ships' logs and elsewhere, a century old and more, of "water-happenings", of metallic or fiery objects seen entering or leaving the sea.

Good Fortean that he is, Ivan Sanderson has now performed a valuable chore for us all in setting down in one handy volume for Everyman the principle features

of an extraordinary picture that is now beginning to take shape in the minds of just a few.

"Unknown Intelligences" — "OINTS" Sanderson facetiously calls them—are all around us and about us. We begin to perceive it now. Perhaps they have *always* been around us? Perhaps our eyes were just never meant to see them?

"Beliefs and theories; imagination and dream and pretension; tormented human souls, trying to reach for their small infinite, fancy they catch a star. In a forest of theories, each man climbs his own tree. He reigns on his branch and directs insults at the mocking-bird. Undisturbed, lines of facts stretch across the horizon with patience. But night falls on the scene, and men go to sleep. In this night they remain, unidentified in their relative universe. A hand from Heaven reaches down into their dreams, and they wonder."

—Jacques Vallée: *Anatomy Of A Phenomenon*.

While the vast majority of our species are thus content to spend their lives not only in blindness but also in a state of consciousness that is probably but little short of sleep, a few here and there are stirring, and begin to glimpse some very strange sights. Our seas, lakes and rivers, it seems, may all serve at times as part of the habitat of the "Great Unknown" around us.

Plenty of UFO publications have chapters dealing with the great sea mysteries, the Bermuda Triangle, the innumerable records of missing ships, missing aircraft, missing crews. Over the years *Flying Saucer Review* has devoted considerable attention to such cases, but so far as I am aware Mr. Sanderson's new book is the first to deal wholly with this eerie theme.

As to what it is all about, we at least know well enough that none of us yet has much of a clue. For this reason *Flying Saucer Review* has set out to implement Aimé Michel's injunction that we look at everything, however absurd it may seem. There is moreover far more to this book than a mere catalogue of sea and air mysteries. One fascinating chapter (9) deals with *supra-marine time anomalies*. Chapter 11 discourses on vortices, on vanishing planes and ships, and the possibility of the existence of totally unsuspected *underwater civilisations* here on our Planet.

Just as there was a case for thorough examination of the fairy-tale and mythological aspect of Ufology (Dr. Jacques Vallée has responded to it admirably with *Passport To Magonia*), there was a crying need for a concise discussion of our hydrosphere as the possible haunt of OINTS, and I predict that *Invisible Residents* will now join *Passport To Magonia* as one of the tiny handful of true "classics" in our subject. It contains an excellent table of water-happenings registered since 1948, a valuable bibliography, and an index.

## PERSONAL COLUMN

**NEEDED:** First two years of FSR (1955, 1956). Top prices paid. Data-Net, 624 Farley Street, Mountain View, California. I am still looking for these early issues!

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### UFOS OVER THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE

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# World round-up

*of news and comment  
about recent sightings*

## ENGLAND

### UFOS over Matlock

The following report is taken from the Matlock *Mercury* of November 28, 1970, and relates to an incident reported on November 21, 1970—

"Three Matlock youths . . . swear that the metallic-grey, saucer-shaped object with red and white lights that they saw flying towards Tansley on Saturday night was certainly not a 'flight of fancy.'

"Said 16-year-old Michael Spencer, who was with his brother, 14-year-old Colin, and a friend, 16-year-old David Fern, in Gritstone Road, Matlock, when the unidentified flying object was spotted:

"We were looking at the sky because it was such a clear night with a lot of stars out. By chance we saw a shooting star and then David noticed a dish-shaped object that was spinning round. We watched it for about 15 seconds before it disappeared behind a cloud," he said.

"Michael, of 5 Mettesford, Hurst Farm Estate, a clerk at Platts Motors (Matlock) Ltd., described the UFO as 'something you see in comics' with white lights at the two ends and about eight red lights on the flat bottom.

"A similar sighting was reported by Miss Eileen Burnham and her friend Mr. Michael Pidcock, an hour later about 9 p.m.

"I don't think it was a shooting star," said Eileen, an office worker at County Police headquarters, Matlock.

"The object was round with a white light, although my friend thought it was pale green. We've seen shooting stars before but this was nothing like them," she added.

"Eileen, of Parks Avenue, South Wingfield, and Michael, of Nether Cottages, Ambergate, saw the UFO moving from left to right at Bull Bridge.

"It was moving towards Ambergate," she said. "And looked as though it could have been landing."

"A police spokesman said that they went to look for the flying objects after the youths had reported their sighting, but saw nothing."

### Policeman reports UFOS

From the Nuneaton *Evening Tribune* of February 24, 1971, we learn that—

"An unidentified flying object was seen in the sky over Nuneaton early today by four Coventry policemen.

P.C. Brian Hewitt of Fojeshill Police Station said 'We were attending a job in Lythalls Lane at 6.15 a.m. when we all saw a strange thing in the sky. It was not a meteorite or anything like that.

"There were three single white lights in the sky over Nuneaton area and moving at a great speed in a westerly direction towards Birmingham. Then they turned northwards.

"They were at a height of about two miles and the lights did not belong to the same object because they were so far apart. They appeared to be in formation."

"P.C. Hewitt said they were also

travelling at a tremendous speed.

"I don't know what they could have been. I don't believe in flying saucers or anything like that and I tried to look at it in a reasoned way. I checked with air traffic control at Birmingham Airport and the first aircraft to land there was 45 minutes later than the time we saw the lights. I cannot explain it."

## AUSTRALIA

### Hissing UFO

This item was sent to us by reader G. St. George of Paris, who commented that he hopes the Australian researchers have managed to investigate the incident. The story appeared in the *International Herald Tribune* (Paris Edition) on December 15, 1970—

"Copper miners in Western Australia say unidentified flying objects have been watching them at work. T. Murphy, a supervisor at the Thaduna open-cut mine 500 miles north-east of Perth, told the AP that an oval object, coloured orange and white, hovered for two hours over the camp last week. 'It gave off a loud, hissing noise,' he said. 'It was first sighted at dawn by night-shift workers. We all watched. We don't believe in little green men from outer space, but I'd welcome an explanation.'"

## SCOTLAND

### "Flying bowl" UFO

*The Dumfries and Galloway Standard*