

# "SHUI LO, SHIH CH'U"

Gordon Creighton

ANTONIO RIBERA'S letter to the Editor about the famous Spitzbergen UFO story—in which he believes, whereas John Keel does not—reminds us all that our files are still crammed with reports of this kind on which no definite conclusions ever seem to be reached. It is almost impossible to find two "Ufologists" who agree about anything when it comes to the actual discussion of cases.

My own knowledge of photographic *minutiae* is minimal, but I have been present on a number of occasions when highly competent individuals were discussing cases and I have been struck by the ludicrous fact that there seemed to be well-nigh not a single photo on which these experts were all in agreement! There are in fact only about half-a-dozen photographs that are said to have survived the scrutiny of the highest placed of these experts, but I have no doubt that there are plenty of other experienced judges ready to demolish the lot at the drop of a hat.

Similarly, when it comes to the question of sighting or landing reports, how many are there that *everybody* will accept? Socorro and New Guinea? No, not even those, for I have heard knowledgeable folk dismissing them both.

Toni Ribera's spirited advocacy of the Spitzbergen case and John Keel's rejection of it remind me that when *Penthouse* magazine was conducting its enquiry into the UFO mystery in 1968—and they went to a great deal of trouble and expense over it—one of the cases to which they devoted a considerable amount of attention was this one. In the second of the articles in their series entitled *The UFO Conspiracy* (p. 26 of *Penthouse*, Vol. III, No. 3) they had this to say about it:

"... A more circumstantial incident occurred five years earlier on Spitzbergen Island, leading to an official Norwegian board of enquiry. It began when news agencies reported that Norwegian military pilots had observed a plane's wreckage on Spitzbergen. After rescue crews were flown in, an official Norwegian spokesman was quoted as saying that what they had thought was a plane crash turned out to be an object commonly called a flying saucer. It was badly damaged, but United States and British experts had been notified and invited to take part in the investigation. That was the last that was heard of this extraordinary discovery till three years later, when the following item<sup>1</sup> appeared in the *Stuttgarter Tageblatt* (Germany):

OSLO, Norway, September 4, 1955: A board of enquiry of the Norwegian General Staff is preparing publication of a report on the examination of remains of a UFO crashed near Spitzbergen, presumably early in 1952. Chairman of the board, Colonel Gernod Darnbyl, during a lecture to air force officers stated: 'Some time ago a misunderstanding was caused by saying that this disc was probably of Soviet origin. It has—this we wish to state emphatically—*not* been built by any country on earth. The materials used in its construction are completely

unknown to all experts who participated in the investigation.' According to Colonel Darnbyl, the board of enquiry is not going to publish an extensive report until some sensational facts have been discussed with US and British experts. 'We should reveal what we have found out,' he said, 'as misplaced secrecy might lead to panic'.

"Needless to say, the Norwegians, presumably after conferring with their Allied experts, clammed up, and not one more word about the case was forthcoming.

"Relating the above sequence in his book *Flying Saucers, Serious Business*, Frank Edwards added that he wrote to a member of the Norwegian board of enquiry in 1964, and received four months later an evasive reply: 'I regret that it is impossible for me to respond to your questions at this time.'

"*Penthouse* had no better luck when our investigators approached the Norwegian Embassy in London on the matter. The Press Attaché, Mr. Greig, declined with some heat to seek more facts on the Spitzbergen incident. He ridiculed the entire story, said that no scientist or astronomer believed UFOs exist (how wrong he is!) and declared that neither the Norwegian government nor any other government would put out a statement that a flying saucer had crashed on its territory. He's right about the reluctance to reveal evidence, though not for the reason he meant."

Antonio Ribera has performed a valuable service in stirring up this old case again and it is to be hoped that other readers will do the same from time to time on other cases, so that gradually we may begin to weed out some of the hoaxes and fabrications. Perhaps some of our Norwegian readers will take up his suggestion and make a careful search of their national and regional press for the period in question, and let FSR know what they find?

In this way, I repeat, by giving as much publicity as possible in our journal to some of the very numerous old cases, all well known but disputed, we may hope in time to be able to clear them up and finally "put them to bed" in either the "Hoax" file or the "Genuine" file. As to which of these files they end up in I personally do not care a hoot and neither does anybody else at FSR. We only want to see the truth established about this decidedly tiresome subject of UFOs. One correspondent recently suggested that I am "very fond of the Monguzzi photos."<sup>2</sup> "Fond" is a particularly idiotic word to employ inasmuch as I personally find very little pleasure in the contemplation of the UFO problem, and should be far happier if I could spend all my free time—of which I have very little—on something else. As to my own hopes or fears about the UFOs, I do not care whether they turn out to be Mr. Gibbs-Smith's hamburgers tossed from balloons, or spots in front of the eyes of neurotic tabby cats. I simply want to know the truth because I feel exasperated and curious.

The Chinese have a pithy proverb: "*Shui lo, shih*

ch'u,"<sup>3</sup> which means "water drop, rock emerge," in other words, when the water-level in the river falls, the submerged rock appears. Or, as we would say, "the truth will out in the end." So let us have a drive to find the key individuals who know the real facts about these debated cases, or who are in a position to find them.

As regards Antonio Ribera's citation of Lord Dowding's statement of his belief in the truthfulness of the Spitzbergen story, I do not think that too much importance should be attributed to this statement. Although, as probably most readers know, that very great man did not hesitate, on a number of occasions, to declare his belief in the existence of flying saucers, he had other causes which lay much nearer to his heart and which he thought more pressing. I once exchanged a few words with him after hearing him give a lecture on UFOs and I have a letter from him on the subject, but I think that, precisely because he was so much involved in those other matters which he considered far more important (*proof of human survival beyond death, and a halt to the horrible cruelties of animal vivisection*) he had little time for anything else, and was quite unable to keep abreast of all that was reported in the UFO field. Moreover he had retired from active service in the Royal Air Force long before 1952, the alleged year of the Spitzbergen affair.

Thus we see that while John Keel rejects this case, Lord Dowding, Antonio Ribera and the editor of *Penthouse* have been among those who thought it might be genuine. The matter can only be solved at the source, that is to say in Norway itself.

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> This, as can be seen, is the report from which Lord Dowding was quoting, in Antonio Ribera's letter to the Editor of *Flying Saucer Review*. I have given the whole text of the statement again here because Colonel Darnby's final sentence about secrecy leading to panic seems to have been missing from the version attributed to Lord Dowding (who quoted him as being a general and not a colonel).

<sup>2</sup> [More on Monguzzi in due course—EDITOR].

<sup>3</sup> 水落石出

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#### UFOs and ESP—Continued from page 20

Gérard Croiset<sup>1</sup> (who is constantly in consultation with the police in the search for missing persons and objects) we read that Croiset has, for a long time, been studied intensively by Professor W. H. C. Tenhaeff, the Director of the Parapsychology Institute in the University of Utrecht, Holland. There is no further room for doubt that this strange man, Gérard Croiset, possesses an almost unique gift, and that he has exercised it in the interests of the public for many years. The Dutch physicist, Doctor J. Kistemaker, Director of an atomic laboratory near Amsterdam, has said: "When I observe Croiset, I suspect there is some relation between telepathy and the world of electro-magnetic radiation. Perhaps telepathy occurred via a form of radiation yet unknown to physics . . ."

† POLLACK, J. H.: *Croiset, The Clairvoyant* (Doubleday & Co. Inc., Garden City, New York, 1964; page 305).

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