

ON THE SIRIUS MYSTERY

Victor Goddard

AN excellent new book *The Sirius Mystery* by Robert K.G. Temple (published by Sidgwick and Jackson, £6.95; 272 pages with appendices and index), presents a serious research into knowledge which has been lost but which, apparently, was well established over 5,000 years ago; it seems to have influenced profoundly the Sumerian and Egyptian hierarchies towards civilisation. Robert Temple's researches make it evident that these leaders civilisation were actually guided in their thoughts towards their great achievements on this planet, and it is to be hoped that more and more people will become aware of his work. There is a good chance that this is likely to come about because, already, a second printing has been ordered by the publishers, and the author and his book are to be welcomed in America this year. No doubt, a new edition of the book will be published in the U.S.A. Indeed, one of the most remarkable aspects of this publication has been the widespread and extensive reviews that have been published in the Press and the many interviews which have been broadcast by radio featuring the author and his work.

Briefly, the story is that some beings called Nommos arrived in the country now called Libya more than 3,000 years B.C. before the start of the Egyptian dynasties. These Nommos were received, so Robert Temple's researches show, by a community in Libya who have been identified, after successive migrations, as a tribe by the name of Dogon. They have been found in the Mali region of the South Sahara. They have a religion and a priesthood which are based upon a remarkable knowledge of the brightest light in the heavens, after the Sun, Moon and Venus — the star, Sirius.

The mystery featured in the title lies in the process by which advanced astronomical knowledge came into the possession of men who lived so long ago and had no technological means of gaining that information. Sirius, of course, has been an object of interest to mankind considering the heavens for many years, but the fact that Sirius is more than a single star has only been known to astronomers for about one hundred years. The further fact that there is a secondary star moving around the main star has much more recently been discovered. Furthermore, there are things about this tiny, adjacent star — Sirius B — which make it remarkably interesting astronomically. For instance, it was the first-to-be-discovered White Dwarf; it has been proved to be immensely heavy — its specific gravity being several thousand times that of water. Also, its orbit around Sirius A takes about fifty years, and that orbit is uneven in its track because of some interference which is now believed to be an as-yet-unobserved Sirius C, and either Sirius C or Sirius B is believed by the astronomers to have a satellite revolving around it. But all the facts just mentioned and the final theories about Sirius C and

Sir Victor Goddard, airman of distinction, whose career with the Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force spanned from 1915, the Somme in 1916, and a spell as Captain of the Airship R36, to Air Marshal commanding the New Zealand Air Forces in the South Pacific in World War II, service with the Air Council and the Berlin airlift operation. He also pursued a varied academic career, being a science graduate of Cambridge University and a post-graduate of London University in aeronautical engineering. Since his retirement from the RAF Sir Victor has evinced a deep interest in psychical research and healing, interests which have brought him into touch with UFO researchers and research. He has been a reader of our journal for many years, and has made his own characteristic observations about UFOs in his own books, the latest of which is *Flight Towards Reality*. He is a member of RILKO (Research into Lost Knowledge), as also is the author, Robert Temple, of the book which he here reviews.

EDITOR

a satellite are included in the beliefs and religious rites of the Dogon tribe now living in Mali.

The mystery is diligently explored in the book by the author who thus clearly establishes himself as a man of intellectual integrity. And the fact that he has latterly been accepted as a Ph.D student in the University of Warwick in the Historical Faculty shows that he is also well regarded by our Intellectual Establishment.

Readers may not all need to study in detail the middle part of the book which is largely concerned to prove the reliability of the evidences which go towards solving the mystery; that is, the explanation of the influences upon the Dogon tribe and upon the Sumerian and Egyptian dynasties. But a mystery which remains is in regard to the means of arrival of the Nommos on this planet from Sirius, if, indeed, they came from Sirius B. The evidences for this supposition are hard to accept but, nevertheless, are very strong that these Nommos (capable of dematerialisation, perhaps) arrived on Earth in a space craft and that they were of a "merman" type of being, which required occasional if not habitual immersion in water. For that reason, the space ship landed in a hollow which was then inundated with water.

The reading public throughout the world has become accustomed to the idea of spaceships and, through their interest in UFOs, they may be ready to accept the idea of dematerialisation. It may be that starry-eyed acceptance has too readily been given to the modern range of literature about extra-terrestrial technologies and the beings which are said to fly in UFOs. None of that literature, however, has been based on serious original research by any of the many authors. *The Sirius Mystery* is clearly an entirely new departure perhaps not in the same

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THE EDITOR GOES WEST

Charles Bowen

AN invitation to attend the first meeting of the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) couldn't have come at a better moment for there had been enticing suggestions from other friends that I should visit the United States at about that time. The CUFOS invitation was the final incentive.

As I understood it, the meeting was intended to be largely informal, and was to be held at an hotel between Chicago and Evanston, close to the shores of Lake Michigan. It would be a welcome opportunity to meet for the first time many people who had been valued contributors to *Flying Saucer Review*, and many others well-known to many of us by reputation. Furthermore there would be old friends to meet again, Dr. J. Allen Hynek and Mrs. Mimi Hynek, Mrs. Ann Druffel, Dr. Dave Saunders, Dr. David Jacobs and Fred Beckman, all of whom had visited us in London on numerous occasions.

Apart from the meeting at Chicago, my trip was fixed to take in visits to the New York — New Jersey area, where of course



Berthold E. Schwarz

I was to meet that good friend and FSR colleague, Dr. Berthold Eric Schwarz, his family and friends. And although I thought I knew Bert Schwarz well from his correspondence and the occasional telephone conversation, his energy, drive and enthusiasm still came as something of a revelation to me.

Indeed my education began soon after we had met at J.F. Kennedy Airport, for to mark my first visit to New York the good doctor and his son Eric drove me on a worm's-eye-view tour of the towering city, through Queens, under East River, and into a Saturday afternoon Manhattan. But that was not the end of it, for after the passage of the Lincoln Tunnel under the Hudson River we were in New Jersey — the Garden State, one learns from the car registration plates — and bearing northwards on to the Palisades. I soon discovered the reason for taking this route, for after I had gazed in awe across the river at the waterfront anchorages backed by forests of concrete, steel and glass skyscrapers in row upon soaring row — anchorages which once teemed with ocean liners, but now berthed only two or three — we reached a district called North Bergen.

We had made a detour from the main route, and my host said in apparent seriousness:

"There we are; that's Stonehenge."

And he indicated a gaunt, unlovely-looking, multi-sided tower, with so many sides it looked cylindrical. To be honest, I couldn't have imagined anything less like Britain's famous stone circle, a relic of a masterpiece built over the centuries between 4000 and 3500 years ago by the Beaker and Wessex folks, aided, we suspect, by Mycenaean architects. I don't know whom the North Bergen folk hired to do their job for them; they might have had a more aesthetically



pleasing result if the Wessex folk and the Mycenaeans had still been around.

Dr. Schwarz broke my brief reverie:

"There have been all manner of UFO reports, landings and occupants, around that building," and he gave a brief synopsis of events. This latter-day "Stonehenge" had only been plagued by flying saucers: the beautiful one back in England has been accused by people, many of whom should have known better, of having been built to look like one.

Events at N. Bergen, I learned, had been the subject of a thorough investigation by local investigator Ted Bloecher and his friends, whom we were due to meet at Chicago.

And so, deeper into New Jersey and to afternoon tea at (for me) bed time, followed by a trip out to dinner with the senses protesting that it was time to be tucked up and fast asleep. Then, at last, wearily to bed where, not unexpectedly, sleep stayed away. Finally and in desperation, with "jet lag" coming in for the blame, the TV is switched on randomly to test its soporific effect. No such luck, for there on the screen was none other than Betty Hill, of *Interrupted Journey* fame, being interviewed with Stanton Friedman.

One of my many surprises was how Berthold Schwarz contrives