

# THE HOLY FOOTPRINT ENIGMA

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WHEN patrolman Lonnie Zamora came upon a discoid object standing on landing-legs<sup>1</sup> in the course of routine police-work, he was encountering a phenomenon that has existed within human experience for at least 5000 years. After two human-like figures had entered the object and it had taken off, the military, police and civilian investigators were left with various marks on the New Mexico desert. These marks included footprints presumably impressed by the figures.

The phenomenon of "holy footprints" is of great antiquity. The Bronze Age knew about such footprints, and the people of those times seem to have worshipped them, as Peter Gelling, Senior lecturer in Ancient History and Archaeology at Birmingham University, makes plain.<sup>2</sup> At Scania in Scandinavia a series of petroglyphs shows a pair of "holy footprints" being translated into a crossed disc. And a cross was the Bronze Age symbol of divinity. At Poole Farm barrow, Dorset, there is a good representation of such footprints on a decorated slab.

At this stage in the UFO guessing-game surely no one is seriously defending the position that beings are traversing an Einsteinian space/time continuum at something less than the speed of light in order to show themselves briefly to provincial policemen in remote places. If so, our innate belief in the logicity and grandeur of the galactic universe must be soon undermined.

Personally, I wouldn't trust an establishment scientist further than I could throw him as regards interpreting the "holy footprint" business objectively. Too much is at stake including all the accepted machinery of causation. You would hardly expect high priests of the scientific *status quo* to take part in the slitting of their own throats.

If it be argued that the figures seen by Zamora emerged from (and returned to) a tempic field different to the one inhabited by ourselves, then serious anomalies could result. Suppose that such footprints were imprinted during geological ages far earlier than the time of man's alleged appearance on earth and became fossilised. Science would either have to deny the paradox or radically change its outlook. Ergo, it would deny the paradox.

When Professor A. E. Wilder Smith<sup>3</sup> claimed to have inspected and photographed human footprints at Glen Rose, Texas, which were in a carboniferous formation alongside dinosaur tracks, I asked the British Museum and an American palaeontologist well known to me what they thought. Both flatly denied that the tracks could be human. They were able to do this without seeing the evidence.

Professor Wilder Smith has three good doctorates and holds a responsible medical post. Presumably he knows a human foot when he sees one. And presumably Dr. Roland T. Bird of the American Museum of Natural

History—who took pictures of the evidence at Glen Rose—knows what a dinosaur track looks like. Of course this doesn't prove that Wilder Smith's assumptions are correct—and that is just our trouble. We don't know who is right because there is too much at stake. Science isn't changed by producing a single inconvenient fact; it is easier to bury the fact. Changes take place only when so many facts have been buried that the stink rises to high heaven.

The problem is immense because it undoubtedly involves the concept of organic evolution. Nowadays everything is loaded on to Darwin's band-wagon and a major change from this would be traumatic. This even though Lyell's original objection that no one has ever seen (or demonstrated) evolution taking place has still not been adequately met. The evolutionists try to evade the difficulty by claiming that it may take half a million years to evolve a new species. They could be right. But there are no grounds for putting the possibility forward as a proven fact when it remains an arguable belief based on fossil evidence. The coelacanth showed how far fossil evidence can lead one astray. The "Lady Of Lloyds" skull showed that there were people in Britain, half a million years ago, who would pass muster for modern folk.

It is high time that the ufologists and psychical researchers joined forces to tackle what many responsible thinkers today feel are phenomena of similar nature. It is time that some qualified researcher such as Dr. A. R. G. Owen, geneticist, biologist and mathematician, Fellow of Trinity, Cambridge, and award-winner of the Parapsychological Foundation, was given a million of public money to set up a laboratory-investigatory unit to deal with the whole of this material.

After investigating Capesthorpe Hall, home of Sir Walter Bromley-Davenport, M.P., Dr. Owen came away satisfied that a window-rattling episode experienced by Sir Walter's son was probably an actual physical effect. Mr. William Bromley-Davenport described the incident thus: "I woke up and saw an arm—with nothing attached to it—reach out from nowhere and rattle the window near my bed."<sup>4</sup> He instantly investigated but found nothing.

There is not the slightest doubt that such phenomena do occur and that they are objective. But as long as we squander our national wealth in producing fantastically expensive aircraft to hurry wealthy travellers from one cocktail bar to the next instead of utilising it to explore the mystery of manifestation then little effective progress can be expected.

It seems clear that Albert Einstein's mathematical statements about space are only a partial realisation of the truth. It is true that they explain a good deal about matter and motion including quantum mechanical interactions. What they do not explain is how an "arm" can rattle a window paranormally or how mysterious

figures can leave "holy footprints" on the New Mexican desert.

It seems probable that the UFO and its kissing-cousin the apparition originate from the space within the atom. Since such forces do exist I prefer to treat with great caution all arguments which claim, without hard proof, that organic evolution is a blind process of trial and error. Presumably an entity that can manipulate a window might manipulate a gene. We have certainly no proof that it could not.

A prime clue to the mystery we contemplate may be the pyramid embossed on the belly of "Dr. X" and his baby son by the entities manifesting in the November, 1968, French UFO.<sup>5</sup> Pyramids, whether of mud-brick (Ur), stone (Gizah) or chalk (Silbury Hill), were the old-time symbol of the divine geometry on which the wonder of being was thought to be based. It is worth thinking about. Now we have seen the geometrical beauty of the DNA molecule, the concept of a space composed of multiple tempic fields arranged, possibly, in a conical pattern is no longer as fantastic as would have been the case as recently as ten years ago.

It may even be possible to answer, tentatively, the

familiar *cri de coeur*: "Why do they not communicate with us properly?" Considering that all the data from the various space programmes is filtered through military channels, and even life itself—via virus weapons—is distorted to produce destruction, a passport to the tempic fields (if such exist) would be the ultimate disaster for obvious reasons. It is not without significance that the "permitted" knowledge of nuclear fission has not, in fact, produced doomsday as the pessimists feared, but a military stalemate.

#### References

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- 3 Wilder Smith, A. E. (1968). *Man's Origin, Man's Destiny*. Harold Shaw: Wheaton, Illinois.
- 4 Owen, A. R. G. (1971). *Science And The Spook*. Dobson Books: London.
- 5 Aimé Michel, September 1969, *The Strange Case of Dr. "X"*, FSR Special Issue No. 3, *UFO Percipients*. [See also Part II, recently published in FSR, Vol. 17, No. 6, November/December 1971—ED.]

## THE PIRI-REIS MAP: FACT and FICTION

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ANY student of unorthodox phenomena will appreciate how much existing difficulties are exacerbated by the presence of vast quantities of fanciful rubbish written about the subject by uninformed and unashamed cranks. But an even greater obstacle is presented by more honest authors, in which the original nonsense becomes sanctified through repetition, without the original material being checked at source. This "merry-go-round of mutual quotation" has been mentioned by Rosenburg in the Condon Report in connection with historical mysteries.<sup>1</sup>

Many of these same authors then feel disposed to criticise the scientific community for ignoring their dubious claims, and sweeping the problem under the carpet. The reason for the scientific indifference is, of course, that the completely fallacious nature of the material is frequently apparent at first sight.

In order to demonstrate clearly that unorthodox stories, even though apparently well-documented and deeply entrenched in the literature, are really a complete fiction, it was decided to conduct an in depth study of a typical case—the Piri-Reis map. Although not directly connected with UFOs, it has nevertheless been mentioned by several UFO authors, including Keyhoe,<sup>2</sup> Sanderson,<sup>3</sup> Keel,<sup>4</sup> Tomas<sup>5</sup> and von Däniken.<sup>6</sup> It provides a good subject for scrutiny, because copies of the map exist, together with several scholarly books on the subject, so that with sufficient effort the stories

could be checked detail by detail. The main sources of material for this were two full-sized multichrome facsimiles of the map kept at the Cambridge University Library and the Royal Geographical Society, and three books devoted entirely to Piri-Reis, by Kahle,<sup>7</sup> Akcura<sup>8</sup> and Afetinan<sup>9</sup> (the most detailed). The maps, as well as a navigation manual known as *Bahriye* also written by Piri-Reis and published in 1520 and 1525, are often mentioned in books on historical cartography as a demonstration of the sophistication of Turkish involvement in contemporary developments of the time.

Piri-Reis, nephew of Kemal Reis, was a Turkish admiral of the early sixteenth century, who devoted a lot of time to cartography and navigation. In his *Bahriye* he remarks:

"This poor man had previously constructed a map which displayed many more details of different kinds than maps hitherto in existence, and even included recent maps from Hindu and Chinese works of navigation which were up to then unknown in the country of Rum."

The map itself was discovered by B. Halil Etem Eldem, Director of National Museums, in 1929 at the palace of Topkapu, and aroused great interest.

It was drawn in Gallipoli in 1513 on gazelle hide, and presented to Selim I in Cairo in 1517. It is clearly a fragment of a larger world map, and shows the coastlines of Spain, West Africa, a number of Caribbean