

Nevertheless it is certain and it is desirable that the work of collecting case-material should not be confined to a mere chronicling of the facts, but must examine closely and profoundly all possible causes of

the phenomenon — a complex phenomenon which consequently involves an organic study, inasmuch as, amid the myriad welter of reports, *unquestionably something real did happen. ...*

THE "FLYING MAN" AT CASTELLEALE (ITALY)

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(Translation from Italian)

We are indebted to Dr Roberto Pinotti, General Secretary of C.U.N., for sending us the text of this report, due to appear in C.U.N.'s journal "Notiziario UFO", No. 106/1987. EDITOR

THIS strange affair occurred in November 1974 in a tiny hamlet of a few houses, Case di Mordano, near the village of Castelleale, lying deep in the rustic countryside of Romagna Province in northern Italy. The eyewitness was a woman aged 42 at the time and named Signorina Giovanna Sensoli. Miss Sensoli, whose address is Case Mordano 5, Castelleale, has had no education and is illiterate, of a peasant family. (But, be it noted in passing, she has good health and has 10/10 vision.)

This case has been repeatedly and thoroughly investigated by me over a long period of time, involving several return visits there, due both to the interesting nature of the story itself and also to the fact that several unpleasant happenings, including a number of deaths, have befallen the Sensoli family during the period of our enquiries (1976-1983).

Our first interview with Miss Sensoli goes back in fact to November 1976, when we were able to secure a taped recording of the happening. However, it was not a very satisfactory tape, as we found in due course, owing to the number of confusing voices heard on it and the failure to prepare a proper statement. Moreover, I had some friends there with me at the time who, although interested enough, did not help to secure a good recording.

The Account

Here is the story:—

"It was about 5.30 p.m. on a day in mid-November 1974. As was my usual wont, I was attending to the animals in the farmyard beside the house, when I was struck by their strange behaviour. Chickens and rabbits were running about as though terrified and hiding in any corner they could find. I looked around to see what was going on, and noticed some of the fowls were looking upwards. So instinctively I did the same, and, to my great astonishment, I saw, hanging in the

air above the house, at roof-top height, and about four metres from me, a "man", who was seated on a box that was swinging to and fro and who was looking around as though seeking something.

"He was big — about 2 metres in height — and dressed in a very shining one-piece garment with green, red, and white markings, and in a pair of skiing boots with square toes and square heels.

"His features seemed to be dark, but a helmet with visor covered his face, and I only managed to see his eyes, more or less like ours, and to tell you the truth we gazed at each other for a brief instant.

"Well, this man was hanging there in the air above the house and rocking to and fro, with one foot stretched down towards the roof as though he wanted to support himself on it. From the "box" (which was about 50 cms. deep and about the same width — I don't know how long —) there was a rod sticking up, a rod with coloured stripes. It must have been the control-handle for the motor, and it gave out a sharp hum that I could hear very clearly.

"A bit disconcerted at the sight, I shouted several times to my mother, but she didn't reply at once. Meanwhile, maybe because of my shouts, the man had moved away slowly eastwards across our threshing-floor area, which is 20 metres wide. I went over in the same direction, and, looking in the same direction to which the man was looking, I saw a very vivid light, as big as the Full Moon, coming from the North and also slowly moving eastwards.

"As soon as I caught sight of it, I was overcome by a wave of heat. And, although there was a bit of mist at the time, the whole place around, the house and the threshing-floor, were lit up vividly for a few seconds like bright daylight.

"After passing across the threshing-floor area, the man halted above a flat-topped hayrick, as though going to land on it. I approached him once more, puzzled by his incomprehensible gestures, and once

more we were staring at one another, this time at a distance of about three metres (this being the height of the hayrick).

"A few instants later, he departed, heading eastwards, with that light following at a distance behind him.

"At a bit over a kilometre or so in that direction lies the small cemetery of San Clemente, located on a hill. I watched the two objects — the man and the light — circle several times around the cemetery, and halt for a few seconds over it. Meanwhile, my mother had finally come out, and I showed her where to look, but she, not knowing what had happened, simply said "*It must be a parachutist!*" She was merely able to make out *something* in the distance, but unfortunately without being able to discern any actual details that might confirm my testimony.

"I did not see the light again, but the man must surely have dropped down into the cemetery and have spent the night there.

"The whole thing lasted about fifteen minutes."

This declaration was never signed by Miss Giovanna Sensoli, despite all my demonstrations of good faith, owing to her fear of some sort of subsequent bad repercussions for her.

I had first learned about the case from my friend Giuliano Tonini, whose wife, along with her relatives, had already known the Sensoli family for a long time and had been in the habit of visiting them, in view of their mutual interests as farming people.

That was in 1976, and I made my tape-recording with Giovanna Sensoli a few months later, in November 1976, two years after the happening.

It was on an afternoon during the grape-harvesting period in 1976, which we spent with the Sensolis, that Giovanna decided to tell me the story. This may have been out of a desire to confide her secret to somebody, or it might have been due perhaps to her being prompted to it by some conversation or something she had heard. (Members of the family of Tonini's wife subsequently made enquiries in an attempt to ascertain what precisely had induced Giovanna Sensoli to "talk", but they never got anywhere. All that they did manage to arrive at, in their subsequent discussions on the matter, was the decision that they were all in absolutely unanimous agreement that Giovanna Sensoli's story was genuine — and was also terrifying. Moreover Tonini's family, who have all known Giovanna for many years past, all assured me that she was totally reliable and serious.)

Further Investigations

After having made my tape-recording of Giovanna's story and having listened to it, I felt dissatisfied with it as insufficiently good evidence, and in the winter of 1978 I decided to try to have a series of fresh interviews with her, but without a tape-recorder, having noticed a certain amount of fear and

reluctance on her part. And this we duly did, on August 15, 1980.

(The accompanying sketch was made after this interview of August 15, 1980, and subsequently we asked Giovanna to give us answers to a number of further specific questions which would have helped us to secure a much more accurate drawing. But she never replied to them.)

Then, as already stated, between 1980 and 1983, a series of very serious disasters struck the Sensoli family, and it became impossible for me to push our enquiries further. I was able to visit Castelleale again in June 1982 and in May 1983, but only to take photographs of the site.

On my last visit (May 1983) I did not manage to see Signorina Giovanna, as she was busy out in the fields. But her father, who is confined to a wheelchair having had both legs amputated, claimed not to recognize me any more, and called on the neighbours to come and help get rid of me.

I explained my position, and explained the photographic equipment, which frightened the father so much. And only then was I finally able to learn how Giovanna had been heard shouting at the time of the sighting in November 1974, and to hear the details of her own first account of the close-encounter, as related by her to them a few weeks later.

Unfortunately of course their fears of making any unusual revelations — which had induced them to keep silent or to hide away during my visits, or may be also the long lapse of ten years that had occurred — meant that their statements could be of little use to me. Nevertheless, they did confirm for me various details regarding the "identikit" description of the "flying man" absolutely in accordance with what Miss Giovanna herself had said.

Statement by Neighbour

I give below what I managed to learn during that last visit of mine in May 1983. The speaker is one of the neighbours in the house, talking to me in the company of his wife and of another lady who had come running up when she had heard the shouts of Giovanna Sensoli's *father*:—

"Giovanna told us that one evening, when she was seeing to the chickens in the yard, she saw a quite large man come flying over and put one foot on the roof of the house. He was sitting on a seat or box, I don't remember the details very well. He was dressed in an overall with coloured markings and a helmet covering his face. I remember that she spoke of "*big eyes*", and *two big "cows' teeth"* sticking out from under the visor of the helmet, which terrified her greatly. That evening, in the winter of 1975 or 1976, we don't recall when exactly, we heard Giovanna shouting to somebody of her family, maybe her mother, to come, but we ourselves didn't see anything.

It wasn't until a few weeks later that she told us what I have just told you!"

(Despite the incredible nature of the story, the neighbours say they all believed Giovanna, whom they all consider most trustworthy.)

The various aspects of this case at Castelleale give rise to a number of extremely interesting considerations relating to the socio-cultural framework and background of the eyewitness.

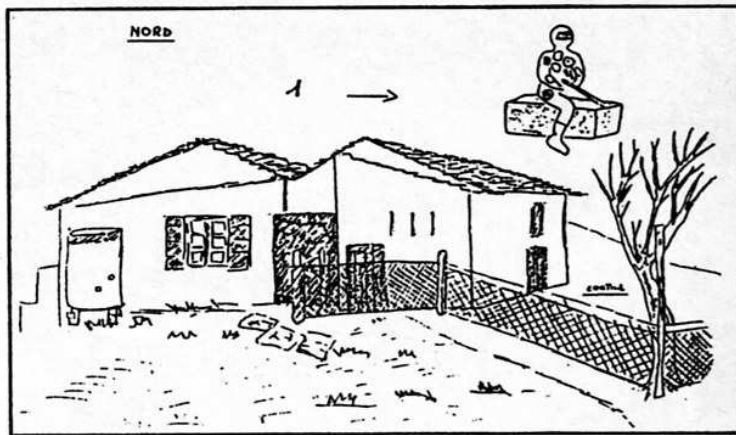
If, in the course of a ufological investigation, such factors as the conditioning by mass-media, questioning by outsiders, materials read, plus any other sort of means that might in any way modify a piece of testimony, all play a decisive and determining role, THEN, IN MY OPINION, HERE IN THIS AFFAIR AT CASTELLEALE, WE ARE CONFRONTED WITH A TOTALLY "UNPOLLUTED CASE".

Let us just consider a few aspects. Peasant life, such as it is in all its aspects, bound strictly to the astronomical and meteorological cycles of the agricultural year, getting up at sunrise and going to sleep at sunset; plus the prevailing illiteracy due to social conditions and the exigencies of the labouring life; the utter and total absence of all those cultural amenities so dear to us: all of this, I say; renders it totally impossible to consider any sort of premeditated fraud on the part of Giovanna Sensoli. I believe that the peculiarities inherent in the case and also the ufological elements in it are such that they cannot possibly have emanated spontaneously from Giovanna Sensoli.

Naturally of course nobody can absolutely guarantee that at some moment along the way, something or somebody may not have been able to precondition Giovanna Sensoli so profoundly that she has never displayed any contradiction whatsoever in the details of her story over a span of eight years, but if we consider the purely *technical* elements that are present in the case, we shall realize that these are quite numerous — particularly for anybody like Giovanna who is totally unaccustomed to such things.

And another interesting aspect, and worthy to be noted by us, is the type of interpretation placed on this affair by Giovanna herself. For in fact it represents a complete corroboration of those sociological considerations already touched upon by us above.

To the question: "And what do you *yourself* think



The "Flying Man".

about all this?" Giovanna declares with conviction:—

"Both of them (the 'flying man' and the light following him) went down into the cemetery and stayed there all night."

Well — a "spiritualistic" explanation (if perhaps we may call it such) is certainly no novelty to us in the case-records of Ufology, and assuredly comes as no surprise for us. And once again I insist on emphasizing the close link between the eyewitness's testimony and all those typical religious traditions and preconceptions which are still present, everywhere, in our deep Italian countryside. Not with a view to indicating any conclusions — such not being our intent — but simply in order to underwrite that impression of *absolute good faith* which was with me throughout in all my meetings with Giovanna Sensoli.

It is true that, in individuals who are particularly disposed in such a direction, there might exist a need to "see" certain specific things, particularly when there is involved within it a conditioning which I would define as "religious". But it is also true that in such cases the phenomenon is generally explained in the other, more strictly "spiritualistic" fashion.

NOTE BY EDITOR, FSR. Weird as this story is, the student of our subject will find not a few that resemble it quite closely in some respects if he wades through the vast body of material that has accumulated in the past forty years.

"MARTIANS IN MILANO"

In a preprint which he has sent us of issue No. 106/1987 of his journal, *NOTIZIARIO UFO*, Dr Roberto Pinotti, General Secretary of C.U.N. and FSR Consultant, draws attention to the following case, which was reported in the Italian press on December 19, 1962, and which describes the alleged sighting of a disc, with occupants, right inside the city of Milano. (A case

very similar, in fact, as Dr Pinotti points out, to his more recent "*CE-III Encounter in Firenze In Summer 1985*", which we have just published in FSR 32/3.) EDITOR

(Translation from Italian) "Marziani" A Milano Milano, December 18, 1962.