

# MAIL BAG

## Welsh "UFOs" in 1905

Dear Sir,—I was very interested in the two articles written by your correspondent Roger Sandell on UFOs in Wales in 1905 (FSR, July/August 1971 and March/April 1972). For those ufologists interested in this period, a veritable hive of accounts of the "Revival Lights" of 1905, with accompanying parapsychological phenomena, is to be found in the *Proceedings* of The Society For Psychical Research, part LI, Volume XIX, of December 1905 under the title, "Psychological Aspects Of The Welsh Revival," written by the Reverend A. T. Fryer. *The Occult Review* for March, April and June 1905 also apparently contains accounts of what a Caernarvon journalist, Beriah G. Evans, and others, had seen.

On page 102 of the work by Fryer the suggestion was made that the mind of Mrs. Jones (the key figure in many sightings), was the originating cause of the appearances of lights. This suggestion was based on the fact that in so far as the cases of collective hallucinations quoted in his work were true, they had a strong family likeness, and that the seers were all in sympathy with Mrs. Jones.

Fryer also suggested a connection between the naturally caused (or otherwise) lights which had appeared frequently along the coast of Tremadoc Bay, from Pwllheli round to Barmouth in previous years (1869, 1870, 1875, 1876 and 1877), and the forms of the subjective appearances described in 1905. To quote:

"The traditional, collective memory of the objective lights (which may or may not have been UFOs—A.C.W.) may act as a guide to the imagination, providing it with materials for picture formation when it is stimulated by a sufficiently exciting cause. Mental imagery can only employ stored up impressions; however incongruous the various elements, they all may be drawn upon when occasion serves, and the lights of Dyffryn are sufficiently common and familiar to become the mnemonic material of religiously excited minds. Mrs. Jones' obiter dictum, "lamp flashing and going out and injuring nothing at all," reads like a reflection of the subconscious memory upon the lights of 1694 (quoted as 1692 by Mr. Sandell—A.C.W.), which did injure material objects. Of those lights and their effects, Mrs. Jones had most probably read or heard."

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

It would be interesting to hear what the parapsychologists have to say about the Rev. Fryer's suggestions.

That mediums (ectoplasts) can produce ectoplasmic forms in seance rooms when conditions are right, is undisputed in parapsychology. Is it not too difficult to believe that certain ectoplasts—and perhaps Mrs. Jones of Islawrffordd was such an example—when suitably excited by religious fervour, can produce ectoplasmic forms at a good distance from themselves (teleo-ectoplasty), or, to cause those who were in sympathy with them to see lights also, this being achieved by a mental stimulus, that is, direct stimulation of the visual cortex of the percipient.

Yours sincerely,

A. C. Williams,

24 Caerynydd Road, Waunarwydd, Swansea, Wales.

September 23, 1972.

## Who'd shoot a UFO?

Dear Sir,—The recent extraterrestrial activity in South Africa, concomitant with the terrestrial proclivity for attacking that which it fears ("A hot reception at Fort Beaufort," *FSR Case Histories* Supplement No. 11) prompts me to quote from a telephone poll conducted by an American newspaper, the *Detroit Free Press*, in August 1971: "If a flying saucer landed in our country today, would we shoot it or welcome it?"

74.3% voted WELCOME, with sample comments as follows: "They may be coming in peace . . . No-one shot at our astronauts . . . Give them a chance to show themselves and shoot later if they don't behave . . . I'd welcome them. Maybe they'd take me back with them. They couldn't be any stranger than what's walking around Detroit . . . Maybe all they want are some rocks."

25.7% voted SHOOT, with comments: "It's the American way . . . If they landed in Detroit they'd probably get mugged . . . The Pentagon would have a field day . . . I'd teach them to stay on their own planet. We've got enough people on welfare without supporting a bunch of Martians."

Yours faithfully,

Timothy Good,

20 Morley Court, The Avenue,

Beckenham, Kent BR3 2EY.

December 10, 1972.

## A reader, FSR, and UFOs

Dear Sir,—I'm looking forward with mixed feelings to the Aimé Michel

article on the Palaeolithic Cave Paintings. I sometimes seem to go into a fog while reading him . . .

Michel just marches in and settles somewhere about the back of my head, gnawing away. After countless readings, I still sit with his article, *Of Men, Cats and Magonia* propped up before me while I'm alone, having my morning coffee. Maybe it's really a combination of all the FSR articles and assorted books. I don't pretend to understand half of FSR. I mumble a lot while reading each issue, notably while tiptoeing through the strictly technical articles. I'm not helped by statements such as Mr. Creighton's on disappearing UFO photographs. He seems bent on tangling any coherent reasoning one might summon up when he writes, "We may be very sure that the beings who are so anxious to remove the evidence are *not* the beings whose existence is proved by the evidence, and that we are here getting very near to the nub of the whole UFO mystery." But still, I'm stuck with sharing my breakfast with Michel's precocious cat. Now after receiving the latest FSR, I expect a Saint will be joining us at table.

Since I read my first book on UFOs about five years ago, reality and possibility have taken on a different look. I was vague about them, at least those visible lighted objects seen in the sky, until one summer night in 1964 while we lived in Apalachin, New York, an enormous zeppelin-shaped object gradually appeared directly before us in the sky. Several variously-coloured lights lined its sides in rows. Shortly, three domed disc-shaped objects, also lighted, flew from it straight ahead making incredibly sharp left-angle turns, one after the other, soon disappearing towards the south. The large object still hung there, silent, lighted, immobile. Then it, too, disappeared or dissolved. It didn't move position-wise, but gradually faded from the exact spot where it had materialized. Later that same year and the one following, I saw many swiftly travelling lights and a blazing fireball tumbled erratically before the car.

It is difficult to think of those first objects I saw in the sky as anything but physical objects. They were visual—material objects. They occupied a space—a space somewhere. Yet, even though I'm certain that what I saw was a material something, was this a material similar to an apparition? Perhaps if we could touch them our