

dane." The goal of the experiment, he wrote, may have been "radar, not optical[,] invisibility, and the bizarre effects reported in connection with it—men walking through walls, other men bursting into flames—seem to have been the result of hallucinations of those witnesses who got too close to the high-powered low frequency force field involved" (Moore, 1984). But evidence even for this interpretation is slight and anecdotal. The story has more of the characteristics of an urban legend than of an actual event.

Allen's current whereabouts are unknown, though one unconfirmed report asserts that he was living in Colorado in 1991.

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ALLINGHAM CONTACT CLAIM

In October 1954, one year after Desmond Leslie and George Adamski's *Flying Saucers Have Landed* had caused a sensation with its account of the latter author's alleged meeting with a Venusian in the California desert, the London publishing house Frederick Muller released its own sensational contactee book, *Flying Saucer from Mars*, by one Cedric Allingham. Allingham claimed that while vacationing in Scotland in February 1954, he had seen a spaceship land and conversed with its occupant, a human-looking, friendly Martian. Along with some dubious-looking photographs of the alleged spaceship was an out-of-focus view of the back of the retreating alien. Allingham wrote that a man named James Duncan had witnessed the entire meeting. His sworn statement appeared in the book.

Flying Saucer from Mars attracted much attention and was immediately embraced by British contactee disciples. (In America, however, the enthusiasm was muted. One ufologist reviewer wrote sarcastically, "While in the U.S.... [Allingham] can tell his story to millions.... We hope he can tell his story to everyone. Particularly the Marines" ["Martian," 1955].) Adamski's publisher Waveney Girvan declared, "If Allingham is telling the truth, his account following so soon upon Adamski's amounts to final proof of the existence of flying saucers" (Girvan, 1956). Yet both Allingham and Duncan proved peculiarly difficult to trace. Duncan was never found, and Allingham gave only one lecture, at Kent, England, where he arrived, oddly, in the company of astronomer and author Patrick Moore, an outspoken scoffer at even relatively unsensational UFO reports.

collected early writings by Jessup and current rumors concerning him in *The Strange Case of Dr. M. K. Jessup*, in which the Allende matter figured prominently. Barker quoted UFO enthusiast Richard Ogden as reporting that Jessup's "suicide was a frame-up. Jessup fell victim to hypnotism. He was sent a tape recording that contained self-destruction suggestions. The tape employed hypnotic suggestions superimposed on music and mixed with white sound. No one can resist being hypnotized by sound waves. This is disguised hypnosis and is soundproof." Ogden offered no supporting evidence for this remarkable claim.

Legend and reality. In 1965 the Allende affair made its first appearance behind hard covers, as chapter 15 of Vincent Gaddis's *Invisible Horizons*, also the first book to discuss the "Bermuda triangle." Two years later an appendix to Sanderson's *Uninvited Visitors* reprinted both the Allende letters and the introduction to the Varo edition; at the end Sanderson remarks, "If Mr. A., Mr. B., and/or 'Jemi' are nothing but crackpots, where did they dredge up all these facts or allegations—which, although individually, have been mooted for years—require many years of research to unearth?" The following year the cover of Brad Steiger and Joan Whritenour's paperback *New UFO Breakthrough* carried this blurb: "Our concept and understanding of flying saucers are totally wrong! So say the bizarre and terrifying ALLENDE LETTERS" The last two words are in the same size type as the title of the book just below them. The same year Steiger and Whritenour compiled a magazine-format anthology titled *The Allende Letters*, said to be a "challenging new theory" about the nature and origin of UFOs. The "mystery" was mentioned prominently in Charles Berlitz's best-selling *The Bermuda Triangle* (1974) and became the subject of William L. Moore's *The Philadelphia Experiment* (1979). In 1984 New World Pictures released a science-fiction thriller, *The Philadelphia Experiment*, starring Michael Pare and Nancy Allen.

To skeptics in the UFO community, and there were many, the affair appeared to be no more than a wildly inflated response to a few crank letters. Even Allen said as much when one day in 1969 he showed up at the Tucson headquarters of the **Aerial Phenomena Research Organization** and confessed that the anno-

tations in the Varo edition were his alone. In a statement written on a copy of the book, he also acknowledged they were "false ... the crazyest [sic] pack of lies I ever wrote. My object? To *encourage* ONR Research and to *discourage* Professor [sic] Morris K. Jessup from going further with investigations possibly leading to actual research" ("Allende Letters," 1969).

Allen subsequently recanted the confession. In 1978 he took up residence in Benson, Minnesota, and the next year moved to nearby Montevideo, not far from Morris, where William Moore then lived. On June 28 the *Montevideo American-News* remarked that Allen was showing up at the newspaper office "sometimes four or five times a day. He is tall, lean, dressed in western style clothes and usually carries a wool overcoat. His favorite topics currently are Communism and the plight of the Milwaukee railroad. He claims to be the author of several books on scientific subjects and claims that his name is mentioned in several other books. He says he is a 'controversial person in scientific and pseudoscientific circles, an internationally famous linguist and writer.' In Montevideo, as in Benson, he has sought financial aid from churches and the Salvation Army."

A few days later, on July 10, Robert A. Goerman, a Pennsylvania UFO buff, learned by accident that he had known Allen's parents all his life, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Allen of New Kensington. The Allens showed him material their son had sent them over the years boasting of all the excitement his writings had caused. They produced their son's birth certificate, showing he had been born Carl Meredith Allen on May 31, 1925, in Springdale, Pennsylvania. He was the eldest of five children. The Allens described him as a "master leg-puller." His brother Randolph said, "He has a fantastic mind. But so far as I know, he's never really used it, never worked anywhere long enough to collect severance pay. It's a shame, really. He's a drifter. He reads continually but the information gets all twisted somehow" (Goerman, 1980).

Moore sought to separate Allen from the "Philadelphia experiment" story, arguing that Allen was simply passing on a tale others who had no association with him were also telling (Moore, 1981). Moore speculated that the truth was "somewhat more mun-

In 1956 Frederick Muller, publisher of several of Moore's books, put out the word that Allingham had died of tuberculosis in a sanatorium in Switzerland ("News Briefs," 1956/1957).

Years later journalist Robert Chapman concluded that no such person as Allingham had ever existed. The book, he said, was "probably the biggest UFO leg-pull ever perpetrated in Britain" (Chapman, 1969). In the early 1980s British ufologists began hearing rumors that "Allingham" was a pseudonym of Moore, now a well-known television personality. In fact, on several occasions Moore had referred to Allingham in print, indicating a curiously sharp memory of what for most people, even UFO enthusiasts, was at best a dimly remembered episode. Moreover, Moore's taste for practical jokes was notorious among those who knew him. In the late 1950s he peppered the contactee periodical *Cosmic Voice*, the **Aetherius Society** magazine, with letters, allegedly from scientists, written under various absurd pseudonyms or referring to scientists with similarly unlikely monikers—Walter Wumpe, Egon Spunraas, Professor Huttle-Glank, even Drs. Huizenass, N. Ormuss, and L. Puller. *Cosmic Voice* did not get the joke until it was pointed out in the pages of *Psychic News* (Evans, 1974).

Christopher Allan and Stuart Campbell noted certain stylistic similarities between Allingham's and Moore's prose as well as a remarkable degree of fairly arcane astronomical knowledge in *Flying Saucer from Mars*. Comparative analysis of the writing style by computer, however, suggested certain differences. These differences were resolved when the two investigators learned of Peter Davies, an old friend of Moore's. Davies confirmed that he had rewritten Moore's text to hide the latter's writing style. The Allingham pictured in the book was actually Davies in disguise, and he had played Allingham at the Kent lecture (Allan and Campbell, 1986).

The ufologists found that Moore's role in the hoax was an open secret among British scientists and celebrities. When accounts began to appear in the press (after the first exposure in the pages of the UFO journal *Magonia*), Moore acted "hopping mad," called the ufologists "nuts" (Tory, 1986), and even threatened to sue. Soon, however, he lapsed into silence.

Since then the story of his authorship of the book has been widely reported.

Moore's motive apparently was to spoof Adamski and to show up the credulity of ufologists. If so, the prank failed. Ufologists who disbelieved Adamski didn't believe Allingham either, and in time they exposed both the claim and its creator.

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AMALGAMATED FLYING SAUCER CLUBS OF AMERICA (AFSCA)

Amalgamated Flying Saucer Clubs of America (AFSCA) was formed in 1959, under the direction of Gabriel Green. Green in turn said he was "acting in accordance with the recommendations of the space people" (known as the Space Masters and the Great White Brotherhood) with whom he claimed to be in telepathic and physical contact. AFSCA grew out of Green's Los Angeles Interplanetary Study Groups, founded in 1956, and its magazine, *Thy Kingdom Come*.

Green was born in Whittier, California, on November 11, 1924, and worked as a professional photographer until personal UFO sightings and interactions with the contactee community of southern California sent him in new directions.

The purpose of AFSCA, according to Green, was to "create greater prestige and public acceptance through demonstrating that large numbers of people are affiliated with the flying saucer movement," to "provide greater pressure on congress," and to "hold a national convention" ("Amalgamated," 1957). From 1959 to 1961 AFSCA published the periodical *World Report*, superseded from 1962 to 1965 by *UFO International*. Another magazine, *Flying Saucers International*, was published between 1962 and 1969, after which the organization continued to exist in name only. Almost entirely contactee in its orientation, the southern-California-based AFSCA assumed flying saucers to be piloted by friendly extraterrestrials and saw to it that those who claimed to have met space people had a forum. At its peak the organization had over 5000 members in 24 countries.

On August 9, 1960, at a press conference at the Los Angeles Biltmore Hotel, Green announced his candidacy for the Presidency of the United States. Green ran as an advocate of "prior choice economics," meaning, he explained, "Everything is, or should be, the sum total of all that has gone before" ("Saucer Briefs," 1960). Green dropped out of the race before the election, but two years later, when he ran on a left-wing peace ticket for U.S. Senate, endorsed by no less than Nobel Prize winner Linus Pauling, he received a remarkable 171,000 votes ("Saucer Briefs," 1962).

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ANGEL HAIR

Among the most peculiar—and rare—of phenomena associated with UFO sightings is a substance called "angel hair." The most famous angel-hair case occurred in France in the fall of 1952.

On October 17, residents of Oloron saw a large cigar-shaped structure in the blue, early-afternoon sky. The witnesses included the family of Jean-Yves Prigent, general superintendent of the local high school. Prigent reported:

In the north, a cottony cloud of strange shape was floating against the blue sky. Above it, a narrow cylinder, apparently inclined at a 45-degree angle, was slowly moving in a straight line toward the southwest. I estimated its altitude as two or three kilometers. The object was whitish, nonluminous, and very distinctly defined. A sort of plume of white smoke was escaping from its upper end. At some distance in front of the cylinder, about 30 other objects were following the same trajectory. To the naked eye they appeared as featureless balls resembling puffs of smoke. But with the help of opera glasses it was possible to make out a central red sphere, surrounded by a sort of yellowish ring inclined at an angle. The angle was such as to conceal almost entirely the lower part of the central sphere, while revealing its upper surface. These "saucers" moved in pairs, following a broken path characterized in general by rapid and short zigzags. When two saucers drew away from one another, a whitish streak, like an electric arc, was produced between them.

All these strange objects left an abundant trail behind them, which slowly fell to the ground as if dispersed. For several hours clumps of it hung in the trees, on the telephone wires, and on the roofs of houses (Michel, 1956; Vallee and Vallee, 1966).

According to press accounts, a dentist named Balestra, who had observed the objects and the fall from a bridge, got caught in the material and was unable to