

THE "TIBETAN CONNECTION" AND HOW TO WRITE A BEST-SELLER

Gordon Creighton

One of the more agreeable "spin-offs" of being the Editor of FSR is that, in addition to all the fine articles sent in, it provides such a steady flow of letters from both lunatics and hoaxers.

One of the more remarkable and most successful of the latter category was the Devonshire-born Cyril Hoskins, the "plumber from Plympton", who, partly through a chance remark from a person well known to many of us at FSR, was enabled to "take off" as a writer and make a fortune by posing as a "Tibetan Lama".

The story is too lengthy to be given here now, so it must go on the back-burner for another occasion. But it is a curious fact that every year we are still receiving letters from readers who are devoted followers of the "Lama" and who want to know why we never mention him and his works, so I am prompted to reply now and give a few further details amplifying what I said in my original article about Cyril Hoskins twenty years ago (FSR 19/6), based upon our own knowledge of the "Lama" then and on a confidential report on him compiled by a Liverpool detective, Clifford Burgess.

The son of a Devonshire plumber, Cyril Hoskins was born in rural Plympton in 1911, and for the first few decades of his uneventful life he bore the somewhat un-Tibetan name of Cyril Henry Hoskins. By 1984, when working as a clerk with a time-and-motion-study firm in Weybridge, Surrey, Mr. Hoskins had decided to become a Chinese, and gave himself the name of "Carl Kuon Suo", allegedly born in Tibet. This surprised his neighbours greatly, for his outward appearance seemed so completely European, apart from his weird "Chinese" clothes and his habit of walking around Weybridge with his cat on a lead.

Meanwhile, he had embarked on a course of reading books about the fascinating and mysterious land of Tibet. In these books he found transcriptions of common Tibetan words such as "Rampa", and "Lobsang", and he decided that a Tibetan name like "LOBSANG RAMPA" sounded very nice. "Lobsang", in Tibetan written as BLO-BZANG (ལྷོ་བཟང་) meaning "GOOD MIND" is one of the commonest Tibetan personal names — about equal, I suppose, to our "JOHN". He had evidently also spotted the word "RAMPA" at the end of the name of some lama in one of his books, and thought he rather liked the sound of that too for his new *surname*.

Sadly he came unstuck over this. For how indeed was a good Lama from Plympton and

Weybridge to know that "Rampa" in Tibetan is not a name, but a monastic degree of learning conferred by the great Buddhist Lamaseries, written RAMSPA (རམ་སྤ་པ་) roughly equal, I suppose, to our degree of "B.D." — *Bachelor of Divinity*. This was to prove a particularly unfortunate choice of "name" because, spurred on by the steamroller successes of his string of best-selling "books about Tibet", Mr. Hoskins was later tempted to reminisce in one of them about his dear old grandmother in Tibet, calling her "Grandma Rampa" — i.e. "Grandma B.D.", or "Grandma M.A."!

At the time when, against the advice of the three leading British experts on Tibet, a London firm of publishers launched his first hoax, "THE THIRD EYE", the Lama of Plympton and Weybridge had never been beyond the shores of this, his native island. Later, to escape publicity when his hoaxing activities were receiving considerable attention in both the *Daily Mail* and the *Daily Express*, Mr. Hoskins withdrew — not, as one might pardonably have surmised — to the fastnesses of Hlasa, the Place of the Gods (ལྷ་ས་), but to Dublin and then, later, when Dublin proved no refuge, to Canada. These were his first journeys abroad.

Mr. Hoskins had, however, already been on cosmic trips in flying saucers ("My Visit To Venus"), and an early Editor of FSR had displayed an incredible degree of gullibility by accepting, from the Hand of the Master, a couple of fascinating articles about such trips and publishing them in our Journal!

Years later I heard one of the senior partners of the publishing firm talking on the BBC radio service about the book "The Third Eye". He said the "Lama" had looked slightly nonplussed when they asked him "to write a few words in Tibetan" for them to use on the title-page. Some days later he turned up again with something that even they recognized as *Chinese*. (Twenty years ago, you see, there were probably not even a dozen Tibetans in the whole of Britain, and most of us had never seen one, and still haven't. But there have always been plenty of Chinese waiters ready to oblige).

When the plumber had eventually sloughed off his earthly body in Canada and soared up into the Buddhist Paradise of DEWATSAN (དཤཱ་བ་ཙན་) a Canadian reader of FSR sent me a photostat of the death certificate. It showed that Canadian officialdom was no more knowledgeable than us Brits where "Things Tibetan" were concerned, for it gave the plumber's place of birth as *Tibet*. (I suppose we can say that "Devon's loss was Heaven's gain.")

COMPARISON OF TWO SPECTACULAR REPORTS FROM CHILE AND CHINA

By Gordon Creighton

“Old Hands” who were reading FSR 30 — and more — years ago, will recall the veritable steady flood of UFO reports that we were constantly receiving from two splendid Correspondents in Argentina and several others covering Chile, Peru, Uruguay, Paraguay, and the entire region of the Andean Cordillera in general.

The Falklands War inevitably cut us off from one of our most valued Consultant/Correspondents, the lawyer Dr. Oscar Galíndez of Córdoba, Argentina, and for years after the end of that conflict we never heard a word from him or indeed expected to do so! Then suddenly, about 1990 or 1991 we received a letter from him about “matters ufological”, and so we had high hopes of renewing our old relationship. But silence again descended upon our trusty and doughty old friend and we have no idea what has happened. What is known however is that Oscar A. Galíndez is now an Argentinian Provincial Judge, and we take this opportunity to express to him our felicitations. We trust that all still goes well with him, and as always, we send him *un fuerte abrazo*. He is not forgotten here!

Our other long-standing and equally valiant Consultant/Correspondent for FSR in Argentina was Jane Thomas of Buenos Aires, whose press reports and translations also were gathered up by her from all the other Spanish speaking Republics. Jane (of French and German descent and totally fluent in at least four languages) is of course still on our Masthead for she is now Mrs. Maria Angela Thomas Guma and lives with her American husband Harold Guma in the Simi Valley in California, whence she still reports for us on the South American scene.

Her press reports still trickle in from all the Republics, and we published the last one in FSR 37/1 (Spring 1992). That one was a real piece of team work, because Alejandro Agostinelli of Buenos Aires had dispatched it, our U.S. Consultant Richard Heiden had passed it on, and Jane had put it into English for us. As for the last batch of Spanish-American UFO press reports sent to us by Jane before that, it is our sad duty to record that it never saw the light of day in FSR, for Mitzi Trollop, the erstwhile Senior Resident FSR Cat, tipped an entire pot of glue on the Report, which, we recall was a huge one. We did our best to salvage some of it, but all in vain. (Meanwhile Mitzi Trollop has died, of sheer old age, and travelled on to the Great Cattery In The Sky — where we trust that the cosmic mice are abundant — and her little earthly remains lie with those of our other cats and dogs beneath the splendid hanging catkins of a fine *Garrya* tree at the end of our garden. A little link with Jane, for I understand that the *Garrya* tree originated in California).

The volume of material reaching us from all parts today is so great that much of it still lies unused in our files. Here for example is an interesting press-report from the town of Arica in the far northern tip of Chile.

It dates from 1990 and was sent to us by one of our Spanish Consultants, Señor J. Plana Crivillén of Barcelona, whom we now thank belatedly. Our older readers will recall that the Arica region used to crop up persistently in our earliest reports from South America, so evidently things have not changed much.

UFOs OVER CHILE

(Report from Spanish newspaper *El Diario Vasco*, Monday, August 6, 1990. Credit and thanks to J. Plana Crivillén, FSR Consultant, Barcelona.)
(Translation from Spanish, G.C.)

UFOs were sighted a week ago over the town of Arica in Chile. (In the far North, 2130 kms. from the Chilean Capital, Santiago de Chile).

These objects are seen here very frequently, and, in the opinion of the local inhabitants, they testify to the existence of a *UFO base* somewhere among the mountain systems of the country.

On this occasion, a week ago, two UFOs were observed. The eyewitnesses, when interrogated later, made it clear that they felt that indubitably they had seen two *extraterrestrial craft*. They said that no machines made on Earth could have been capable of the manoeuvres that these two UFOs were performing in the skies overhead!

The most spectacular and most widely known UFO case in Chile occurred on April 25, 1977, when it seems that Armando Valdes, a Chilean Army sergeant (N.B. In Spanish the term cabo is employed for both sergeant and corporal, G.C.), was kidnapped near Putre by a UFO for “fifteen minutes of terrestrial time”, but other features of the case, as well as his watch, showed that he had been absent for five days. The authorities refused to make any investigation of the case at the time.

NOTE BY EDITOR, FSR: As I am sure it will interest many of our younger or newer readers, I reproduce below my original article about the vanishing Chilean sergeant which we published in FSR Volume 23, No. 5 (February 1978).

Likewise, because of its great similarity and highly interesting nature, I am also republishing below the relevant part of my translation of the Chinese book “*Feidie Bai Wen Bai Da*” (*Questions And Answers About UFOs*), published in Hongkong in 1983 by our Chinese Consultant Mr. Paul Dong (Liu Wen-Wei). I published my English translation of this in FSR Volume 29, No. 6 (August 1984).

As will be noted, the Chinese extract in question relates two cases from China that also seem to involve “time-distortion”, or “extensive time-lapse”, or however one might attempt to define these strange occurrences. The second Chinese case, amazingly like the case of the