

NEW BOOKS

IN our October 1966 special edition, *The Humanoids*, I briefly reported the Scorrison* contact claim in *Few and Far Between*, and ventured my opinion that the case sounded rather too good, too "manufactured" to be true. Since then, Eileen Buckle has completed an entertaining book around the affair, entitled *The Scorrison Mystery*, 336 pages, with illustrations, and published by Neville Spearman Ltd. at 30s.

Miss Buckle tells the story of the claim by Mr. Bryant that when he was out walking on April 24, 1965—the day after George Adamski died—he was suddenly confronted by a hovering aerial object. He also claimed that he had encountered three entities from the "craft", one of whom said his name was "Yamski" and, among other things, that he regretted the absence of a certain character named "Des" or "Les", that—in answer to Bryant's question—the craft was propelled by *ideo-motor movement*, and that a month later he would return and leave "proof of Mantell". And, according to the claim, the pieces of scrap were duly deposited.

The author proceeds with an account of BUFORA investigations and those of herself and friends. Miss Buckle also gives her own views on some aspects of the flying saucer mystery, and, interestingly, on the possibility of an overlap with poltergeist phenomena.

Unfortunately the impression is conveyed of something of a school outing atmosphere about the trips to Devon, and those elsewhere in search of confirmation that Mr. Bryant's pieces of metal were indeed from ill-fated Captain Mantell's aircraft. I cannot easily escape from my first impression that the case is too good to be true, yet there is one lingering doubt in my mind. . . .

It is unlikely that Mr. Bryant reads Spanish, and equally unlikely that he has access to Central and South American newspapers. While preparing material for *The Humanoids* Gordon Creighton rang me about an item he had discovered in *Noticias Populares* of August 23, 1965. This was the story of Mexican students who claimed to have met strange visitors who took them for a ride in a disc-shaped craft (see case 54, p.43 of *The Humanoids*). As we knew the full details of the Bryant claim, we decided to play down the following item while the investigation of the Scorrison case was proceeding. The translated extract from the item in *Noticias Populares* reads: "The many instruments possessed by the machine are not manipulated directly with their hands by the crew, but they do it with thought. They communicate with each other telepathically, for which reason a strange silence reigns inside the craft."

The question remains: did Mr. Bryant come across an English-language story of this account, a version that we missed? And, having seen it, did he feel prompted to draw on the Greek (*ideo*: idea, or thought) to coin the phrase *ideo-motor movement*? Or did some scholarly friend—who could also have provided the Greek tag found in the phial accompanying the pieces of scrap metal—help him out? If neither of these explanations fit the bill, then the Bryant story is indeed an interesting one.

(As we go to press we learn with regret that Mr. Bryant died recently.)

People sometimes ask why I have devoted so little space to events at Warminster. The answer is that we did publish an article, *The Warminster Phenomenon*, in the July/August 1965 edition of the REVIEW, in which we discussed the strange aerial noises, their effects on wild life, the discovery of a straight-line pattern based on "noise" reports which we related loosely to Aimé Michel's famous orthoteny, and the rather good sighting report of the Phillips family. From then on, such a tremendous ballyhoo built up that it became impossible to distinguish true cases from false. There was so much publicity and talk of a book to be written, and a strange character who sent a photograph, only to write a few weeks later hoping we had not published it because it was a fraud, that it became politic to lie low. One cynical friend observed: "This is building up for a contact claim".

Well, the book has arrived. Published by Neville Spearman Ltd., *The Warminster Mystery*, by Arthur Shuttlewood—205 pages, price 25s.—gathers the whole of the kerfuffle, and more besides, between two covers. There is the gradual build-up, many photographs, including Faulkner's, and an incredible number of sighting reports, of which some are well-reported. And, slipped in carefully, as suspected hoaxes, there are the contacts—by telephone. Beings from another planet—or this one?—getting in touch with Mr. S. from a nearby call box. However, before we dismiss such an idea out of hand, I think we should first turn to the final part of John Keel's article on page 20.

Charles Bowen

* West Country experts tell me that this is the correct spelling, and not as spelt in my article in *The Humanoids*.

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