

# MAIL BAG

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.

## Bergier in a maze

Dear Editor,—Please accept my contributory notes on Mr. Derek A. Allen's letter (FSR Vol.20, No.3, 1974), dealing with Jacques Bergier's passage on the magnesium crystal from Brazil.

I own both the German and the English translations of *L'Homme Eternel*, and both contain this passage. I also own Bergier's book *Mysteries of the Earth* ("Editions J'ai Lu", 1970) where, in his Prologue, he says:

"For me, having extraterrestrial beings intervene in our history is no more absurd than having microbes intervene in the state of our health. In both cases, it is a matter of interventions that are imperceptible to our senses, but are revealed by deeper study and confirmed by instrumental analysis.

"Charles Fort said: 'We are the property of someone.' I go further than he does, in declaring that we are the creation of someone; and less far, in postulating that we are under surveillance and that perhaps 'they' intervene in our activities and in our history."

Why Bergier has started later to contradict his own statements, convictions and findings, is, to say the least, not to the advantage of his reputation, but he may have been warned — or threatened — to reverse his initial positive view points on this subject, and told to start publishing the opposite and rather sinister theories — he may even have had a call from the so called "men in black." For my part, I feel more convinced than ever by the evidence that has so far been recorded, not to mention the ever growing numbers of previously "unbelieving" scientists and others, joining our ranks.

While on the subject, finally allow me to express my appreciation to Aime Michel for *The mouse in the maze*, and focussing on his last sentence, about it perhaps being "something more disturbing than a maze", and permit me to observe "rather something more deep, mighty serious and powerful!"

Accept my very best thoughts and wishes to you all for 1975!

Yours sincerely,

E. R. Pitlo

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January 1, 1975.

## Base over apex

Sir,—I read with utter horror (FSR Vol.20, No.3, World Round-up, p.32) that

"...a special 'flying saucer' department set up by the Ministry of Defence is examining reports of sightings from Birmingham."

Bureaucrats have of course, in all ages and all climes, always been notorious for their gross inefficiency and their complete lack of contact with reality.

There is indeed a nasty little rude, crude, and popular British saying which runs (I quote it here as some of our overseas readers may not have the pleasure of knowing it) that civil servants . . .

*don't know their ass from their elbow*

(It will be noted that, in order not to lower the high tone of FSR, I have employed the three-letter word *ass* as used by the Americans — rather than the correct but more robust four-letter Anglosaxon term. Incidentally there does not seem at first glance to be much connection between the humble donkey and the human pygmy integument, though of course you can sit on both.)

Now this coarse little British saying is exemplified to perfection in the reports of official activity around Birmingham. For it is clear that these gentlemen who have been despatched from the Ministry in London are blissfully unaware that *flying saucers do not exist*, and that it was their very own Ministry who proved long ago that they do not exist, as we saw for ourselves in that memorable and never-to-be-forgotten television programme from Banbury Town Hall, mounted by the BBC's *Man Alive* team in close collaboration with their mentors at the Ministry, and shown to the British viewing public on February 2, 1972.

I don't know what other people think about all this, but my own feeling is one of profound sadness. For here we are, in a country which, as we are assured, is on the very verge of bankruptcy. And we — the poor miserable, long-suffering tax-payers — have to endure the daft spectacle of these civil servants gallivanting around our rural areas, buttonholing the aghast yokels about non-existent UFOs and, no doubt, swilling to excess in the village pubs, And all this, mark you, at the taxpayer's expense. (Civil servants detailed on such duties which

take them away from their normal place of work not only travel at public expense but also draw a daily *subsistence allowance* for food and lodging.)

Are there no more important jobs to be done? Surely these minions from the Ministry of Defence could be performing some really vital or essential job. Such as, for example, helping to put through our government's proudly announced plan to disarm our country and weaken NATO, *cutting our defences by no less than one thousand million pounds* in the face of those well-equipped hordes which constitute the greatest and finest army, navy and air force this planet has ever seen.

Gordon Creighton

London

## Dr. Schwarz and Mrs. Lansing attacked

Dear Sir,—I received last night a copy of your issue, Vol.20, No.4. The first article I noted was "Stella Lansing's Clocklike UFO Patterns" by B.E. Schwarz.

As a photographer myself, I cannot believe that most of those photographs could have been published with a straight face! There does not appear to be one that I would judge genuine! My reasons:

1. Note figures 1, 3, 5, and 6. The clocklike pattern "spills out" of each frame of the film into the next. This should immediately be regarded as a sign of tampering! It indicates that the image *was not recorded by the camera, but inserted in some way afterwards.*

2. Note figures 2a and 2b. They are in a position on the negatives which would be impossible for a normal exposure to reach. Conclusion: they must have been inserted later, either accidentally or on purpose. BUT Note: since it is impossible to tell whether this is movie film or still film from your article, even this conclusion may not stand! Highly suspect.

3. Note in all of the exposures which show the clocklike pattern the pattern seems almost identical. Taken with the fact that the pattern is not confined to the frame and appears where an exposure could not normally be made with a camera, indicates again that there were *not introduced through the camera* as maintained by Mr. Schwarz and Mrs. Lansing.

4. Note figures 2ci, 2cii and 2ciii. They seem far too closely to resemble

ordinary household objects photographed in low light and then "sandwiched" with other negatives to produce a composite photograph. 2cii in particular appears to be a transparent attempt to use a common household saucer with a chipped edge, "sandwiched" along with other enlargements of other images (see following notes).

5. Of particular note are the photographs printed on pages 6 and 7 of the article. It can be seen that there are no points of reference in these photos. The images are suspended in blackness — something which immediately arouses suspicion in the photographer, for without a point of reference there can be no assurance that the picture is not a clever composite.

6. The pattern shown in many of the photos (i.e., clocklike) is also suspect, in that it is an unlikely formation for any craft, extra-terrestrial or otherwise to travel within.

I urge you to study your information more closely and consider, possibly, a retraction, in view of your subsequent (as reported in the latest issue of FSR) publication of a special report on this "case".

I believe that if you have your experts investigate these photos it will be found that the clocklike pattern can easily be duplicated by use of either a watch with a luminous dial (radioactively treated perhaps) and/or the "spoking" pattern on a radar screen photographed with high-speed film in the dark or otherwise introduced on film in some fashion.

It would seem apparent to me, Sir that you have, unwittingly, been taken in by Mr. Schwarz and Mrs. Lansing. I am by no means a "disbeliever" in the UFO phenomena, but believe that the best way to solve this mystery is to publish the truth and not such questionable material as the above photos.

Yours sincerely,  
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#### Editor's comments:

Although I am nauseated by the unthinking nature and arrogant tone of Mr. Bowman's letter, and disturbed by his insinuations about Dr. Schwarz and Mrs. Lansing, I feel the letter should be published. Allegations like these have a habit of turning into rumours, and spreading, if they are not refuted.

Mr. Bowman and some other readers have hastened into the attack without, it seems having read the text carefully, or without waiting patiently

for the succeeding parts of this lengthy study.

Mrs. Stella Lansing is a medium who has frequently seen strange unidentified flying objects and nocturnal lights. She has filmed them, and has at times obtained unexpected images on her films. This we have shown in two earlier issues, namely Vol.18, No. 1, and Special Issue No. 5, UFO ENCOUNTERS. I understand that the clocklike patterns of UFO shapes are more recent manifestations of these intrusions on film. Nowhere in the articles is any claim made that the objects were seen flying in the clocklike formations, and that the images were focussed on the film objectively through the camera lens.

The point of the article is that at times when this medium, or contactee, sees UFOs, or is subjected to an urge to film something, strange images, including the clocklike patterns appear by paranormal means on the negative. A kind of "Ted Serios effect" could be one way of trying to describe it.

It should be noted that experts have studied the films and are puzzled by them; I would think it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that they have considered whether or not Dr. Schwarz, and/or Mrs. Lansing, arranged dark room sessions for pre-filming of their (handless) watch, or popped off to the nearest radar station for an "impingement" exercise, and found the idea as ludicrous as I do.

Mr. Bowman chooses to impugn the integrity of, and to insult a doctor who is prominent in his profession. I have known Dr. Schwarz for many years, which is hardly surprising as he is a valued member of the consultants' panel of FSR. Although I have not met him personally I have spoken with him many times on the transatlantic telephone, have the utmost faith in him, and nothing but admiration for his devotion to his work. Dr. Schwarz has spent a small fortune in his investigations into matters psychic and ufological; he is fully aware of the apparent overlap of UFO and psychic phenomena, and is not afraid to say so.

I certainly would not publish anything if I thought there was the slightest suggestion of trickery. It may not interest Mr. Bowman, but I feel I should record the fact that my British colleague Dr. Ivor Grattan-Guinness recently visited Dr. Schwarz at his home in New Jersey, and also met Mrs. Lansing and was present at filming sessions. He was very impressed, and has reinforced my opinion of Dr. Schwarz.

One final note: the history of "psychic photography" stretches back over some 100 years, is lengthy, and is well-documented,\* and there has never been any claim that the weird

images have impinged on film through the lens of a camera. Mr. Bowman may be a photographic expert, but this phenomenon — and Mrs. Lansing's abilities and those of Ted Serios would seem to be part of it — has nothing whatsoever to do with conventional photography. In which case it would not surprise me to learn that Mr. Bowman lacks the competence to comment on these matters.

C. BOWEN

\* Readers (including Mr. Bowman) are referred for example to the book *The Great Problem, or, Does Man Survive?* by Dr. George Lindsey Johnson FRCS, MA, MD (Cantab), FRPS [for the benefit of Mr. Bowman and other overseas readers who might not recognise these qualifications: Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, Master of Arts, Doctor of Medicine (Cambridge University) and Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society] published by Ryder and Co. of London in 1928 [a copy of which is in the possession of Mr. Gordon Creighton]. Dr. Johnson was a surgeon at the West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases, London, and in Chapter 8 we read how, in 1920, he took a party of researchers to Crewe to see Mr. Hope, a well-known photographic medium. They had with them a large selection of photographic plates purchased at random from five dealers in London. Mr. Hope was not permitted to approach the members of the party, and he was photographed by them with several cameras. The plates, when developed, showed all manner of unexpected images: people, deceased people, written messages, and objects like flowers. A sealed box containing unexposed plates was held to Mr. Hope's forehead and he was asked to project images on to plates in the middle of the package. The experiment over, the package was later found to have two plates in the centre, between other unaffected plates, and these carried photographs of documents on them, one in unknown 19th Century handwriting, and the other, a message written in the handwriting of, and signed (writing and signature verified) by the Venerable Archdeacon T. Colly, who had died some years previously.

#### One of many Welcome letters

Dear Sir,—I have recently received my copy, Vol.20, No.4, of FSR and as a subscriber since the beginning, I feel I must write and congratulate you on producing such an excellent publication. I think you have a world wide respect. Your editorials and articles by your staff and consultants are a distinct breath of fresh air in these somewhat disturbed times.