

# CONTACT FROM THE PLEIADES?

*Janet & Colin Bord*

**F**OR the past few years hints of an amazing series of contact experiences by a Swiss farmer have been drifting to the ears of ufologists. During this time they have waited for Eduard Meier to approve publication of his experiences and colour photographs of UFOs, and at last he has. **UFO . . . Contact from the Pleiades, Vol. 1** (Genesis III Productions, Ltd., PO Box 32067, Phoenix, Arizona 85064, U.S.A.; price around \$25, but write for precise details) is both one of the most amazing and disappointing books ever published. From it we learn that Eduard Meier is a Swiss farmer/caretaker, a father of three who lives in Hinwel, Switzerland. He rides a moped, uses an Olympus 35ECR camera, and had his left arm amputated after a bus accident in 1963.

On the afternoon of 28 January 1975 Eduard Meier, following an odd compulsion, took his camera and set off into the countryside not knowing where he was going. At 2.12 p.m. he says he saw a silver, disc-shaped craft circling overhead, and that he rapidly started to take some photographs. The craft landed. Mr. Meier ran towards it and, allegedly, an entity came out and walked towards him. This was his first contact, and he says that in the subsequent weeks, months and years he has had many more contacts with these space beings. As proof we are told that he has produced hundreds of good quality 35mm colour photographs, 8mm cine film, and sound recordings of the UFOs in flight. Landing traces and physical samples have been recorded and other eye-witnesses have

filmed some of the events themselves. These contacts have continued right up to the time of the production of this book. Mr. Meier had at that time compiled over 3,000 pages of notes and dissertations said to have been dictated to him by the space beings.

If only half of these claims are accurate, they would prove to be a great turning point in the development of mankind. If they are not, then we are being presented with one of the most elaborate and skilled hoaxes that ufologists have ever seen.

What sort of evidence does this book present? First let us say that the colour photographs of the UFOs are much more detailed than most published UFO photographs. The publishers apparently decided that they would use a large area of each photograph, showing the UFO in relation to the ground below, rather than only enlarging the UFO itself, as is usually done. As each UFO is a comparatively small object in the picture, this has necessitated using a large page size in order to give a good-sized image of the UFO. The size they have chosen is 12 inches square. All but a few of the 29 UFO pictures fill a whole page, and several are printed across two pages. As an introduction there are 6 pages of uncaptioned "mood-setting" pictures of the starry heavens. Also in the book are about 18 smaller colour pictures of investigators and witnesses on sites and in conference in Meier's house, and a colourful but uninformative spread of 'abstract' pictures said to be derived from computer analysis.

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Hosted by BUFORA, the 1st London International Congress in 1979 was attended by 400 delegates from 21 countries. The programme now being prepared will cover case histories, research developments and various hypotheses presented by authoritative speakers from the U.S.A. and Europe.

As there is a limit to the number of delegates please watch for further notices and keep 24th and 25th May 1981 free. Papers for the Congress are invited and should be submitted to BUFORA by January 31st '81. All enquiries for Congress information to Hon. Sec.

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The structural details of the five different types of UFO seen by Meier are catalogued and illustrated by line drawings. The final seven pages of the book illustrate the connections which many of the early civilisations of the world are said to have with the Pleiades (which is where Meier's space friends say they come from).

The text is disappointing, giving only a bald outline of the events, and though we are told that 'Every social, technical, historical and spiritual subject imaginable was discussed' with the Pleiadians, the editors have not considered any of their knowledge or ideas of sufficient interest to publish here. Instead the reader's intelligence is subjected to such idiocies as "A single second in the timeless [*sic*], amounts to many million years in normal space" (quote from Ptaah, Pleiadian cosmonaut, 1975) or "By creative thinking man acquires knowledge and wisdom and a sense of unlimited strength which unbinds him from the limitations of convention and dogma" (quote from Semjase, Pleiadian cosmonaut, 1975). The epilogue says that Meier's experiences still continue, and that there will be a second volume with 'more exciting, never-before-seen photographs . . . plus a few startling details not yet publically [*sic*] known.'

How convincingly is the evidence presented in this book? As UFO investigators and researchers of some 12 years' experience, we are used to examining reports that appear to have been carefully investigated and which are presented in an orderly, lucid and sober manner. The worthwhile investigator presents all the facts he can gather and any personal opinions are clearly indicated as such. Unfortunately this lavish production has few of these qualities. Rather it appears to be a glossy public relations exercise promoting the arrival of the Pleiadians. From its silvery 'Certificate of Authenticity' inside the front cover to the promise of further 'startling details' in the epilogue, the whole production is designed to appeal to a gullible consumer public eager for more marvels.

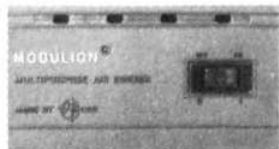
As with any contact investigation, its acceptance depends a great deal upon the credentials which the investigators have established for themselves. Of the various names on the title page, the only one known to us is Lt.-Col. Wendelle C. Stevens (ret.) who is, we understand, an American UFO investigator and writer of good repute. The other investigators are not well known as ufologists, and little attempt is made to introduce them to the reader or establish their credentials. The scientists, technicians and laboratories concerned with the 'computer and laser photo examination' and the 'metal samples analysis' are not identified, and no reason is

given for this, so there is no possibility of checking back.

Typical of the extravagant PR approach is the lavish use of blank white paper. Far more information of a factual nature could have been printed on the large, empty pages; also a smaller typeface could have been used. That there is information not mentioned in the book is confirmed by Wendelle C. Stevens himself, who wrote an article on Meier for the May 1978 *UFO Report* magazine. There he wrote that Meier had inspected the interior of a UFO and has been on several interplanetary journeys, one of which took him away for five days. Did he use his camera then? In September 1976 an Australian newspaper published a short item on Meier with four photographs, including one of a close-up of a blonde woman said to be Semjase, the female Pleiadian contact whose quotes of 'space philosophy' appear frequently throughout the book, but no photograph of her is published here.

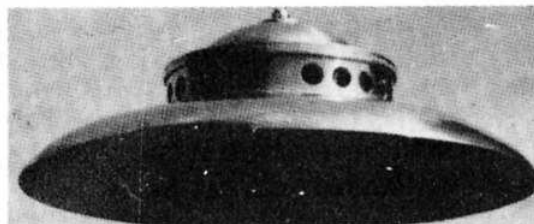
On the page headed "The Investigation" (all pages are unnumbered) the name of Jim Lorenzen, director of APRO and known internationally as a reputable UFO investigator, was used, much to his subsequent annoyance. In an open letter (APRO Bulletin 28/2) addressed to the publishers of the book he presents points which cause him to believe the Meier story to be a hoax. He also described the photographs as "art" in a statement which he prepared for use in the book at the request of Wendelle Stevens, but which was not published. Some of the facts which, says Lorenzen, cause him to doubt the genuineness of Meier's claims are: (1) Meier makes UFO models of the same appearance as the UFOs in his photographs; (2) Meier has been found destroying evidence of such models; (3) Meier claims to have visited other planets, to have travelled to the past where he photographed a pterodactyl, and to the future where he photographed San Francisco during an earthquake; (4) Lorenzen also says that Meier claims space contacts in 1964, whereas the book implies that it all began in 1975. The complete absence of any mention of these aspects of the Meier story in the book is unexplained.

There are a number of other points for dissatisfaction. If Meier has produced hundreds of "clear sharp" photographs, why are 8 of the total of 29 colour plates (sometimes of poor quality) repeated on other pages but trimmed to show different areas? And if Meier has more than 3,000 pages of notes from conversations with Pleiadians, why has not some of this information been presented, or are we to understand that the frequent "quotes" from spacewoman Semjase are representative



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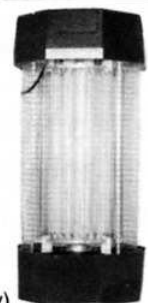


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of this written material? We are told that "numerous witnesses" have seen and photographed the comings and goings of Meier's contacts, which now number "well over 130" meetings, but none of these witnesses are named and none of their testimony or photographs are published. Do these witnesses really exist?

The photographs themselves raise some interesting questions. Although the investigative team lays great stress on the positive results obtained through the computer analysis, we have yet to be convinced that this method can infallibly sort out the genuine from the faked. The results still have to be interpreted by a human investigator. Noticeable about these pictures, and possibly of some significance, is: (1) All the UFOs are seen against the sky, even when close to the ground with rising ground in the distance; (2) All the skies are overcast and without cloud detail, although the photographs have been taken at different seasons; (3) In several photographs where the UFO is in sunlight all of the ground below appears to be in shadow. Anyone planning to hoax a UFO photograph by double exposure would prefer the conditions described under points 1 and 2. Strong cloud or landscape detail would be likely to show through the UFO. Point 3 could indicate that two photographs have been combined, each

having a different type of lighting on it. All the pictures have the same 'look' about them, because all the UFOs appear to be equally distant from the camera.

If Meier is on such terms of familiarity with these ufonauts, why are there no dramatic close-ups of a hovering craft, partially obscured by large trees which are at a known and measurable distance? One picture does show a UFO partly hidden by a close tree branch, but it is impossible to judge its distance from the camera. And is it not time that his group of friends raised a subscription to provide Meier with a better camera than his present one with its jammed focussing? One of the current models of auto-focussing, self-winding compact cameras would seem to be ideal.

If this is a hoax, then it is elaborate and well thought out, and must be a group effort. It is more than one able-bodied individual could construct, and Meier has only his right arm. Although Lorenzen's criticisms appear to leave little doubt as to the true nature of this affair, Wendelle Stevens has, we understand, an answer for each of his points, though as yet we have not heard what they are.

We hope other reliable, unbiased investigators will be invited to examine the whole case, and we will await their findings with great interest.

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# THE CHEMILUMINESCENT CONNECTION

*Gordon Creighton*

I feel that I owe an apology to FSR readers over my recent article, *The Spruce Budworm Connection*<sup>1</sup>, which was submitted as a genuine attempt to report what the very foremost of minds were thinking on the troublesome subject of UFOs.

When I wrote the piece, I was feeling reasonably satisfied that the judgement of eminent American entomologists Dr. Philip S. Callahan and Dr. R. W. Mankin, as well as of such experts as the science correspondent of the BBC and of the London *Daily Telegraph*, could surely be taken as decisive, namely that these glowing things seen flying around all over the place are indeed luminous moths.

But then, with some mortification, just as my spruce budworm piece was about to appear in print, I found that a far more authoritative statement had turned up in the Soviet journal *Aviation and Cosmonautics*<sup>2</sup>. This indicated that far, far bigger experts than even the American wizards of Project Blue Book or the pundits of the BBC and the *Daily Telegraph* had now entered upon the sacred task of pontification, and had come up with a fresh and indeed a final ruling, namely that the so-called "UFOs" are after all not luminous spruce budworm moths, but microscopic chemically active particles of ozone, nitrogen dioxide, organic compounds, etc.

Writing in the London *Daily Express* for July 30, 1979, Antony Buzek was good enough to furnish British readers

with an account under the headline UFOs: HAS RUSSIA FOUND THE ANSWER? of the startling new Soviet discovery:—

"Forget all those little green men coming to earth and demanding: 'Take me to your leader.'

"Forget about flying saucers, spaceships, UFOs or whatever you choose to call them. The Russians have a down-to-earth, scientific answer for all that high-flying nonsense — and its chemiluminescence.

"The Iron Curtain is certainly no obstacle to — dare we call them — UFOs. They've been coming down thick and fast, in all shapes and sizes, over Russia and Siberia.

"And from many carefully recorded Encounters of the Soviet Kind comes what may be a true answer to the flying saucer mystery, all recorded very scientifically, of course, in the Soviet journal *Aviation and Cosmonautics*.

"First let's look at some of the Soviet encounters related by military and airline pilots. On October 11, 1977, three new Soviet military aircraft were tested near the city of Ryazan. At 1800 hours, flying at the height of 27,000 ft. and keeping a distance of 50 miles apart, these reliable, trained observers spotted a luminous, pulsating object. Its front part blindingly white; the rest, also white, looked as if surrounded by white cotton yarn.

"It first approached the aircraft, flew alongside, and finally began to ascend at an angle of 70-80 degrees. As it was drawing away, the intensity of its light faded, and