

# A 1949 BRAZILIAN CONTACTEE

## — PART 2

*Richard W. Heiden*

Continuing the detailed version of the remarkable claims by a Brazilian student, which had been touched upon by Gordon Creighton in his item "Soaking wet 'space flight'" in FSR Vol. 22, No. 4.

READERS learned, in Part 1 of this article in the last issue of FSR (Volume 27, No. 5) that Senhor Mário Restier, aged 23, of Barra Mansa in the State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, had claimed that on December 4, 1949, he was taken aboard a landed craft by two apparently friendly crew members. When he agreed to be taken for a "trip" he was immersed in a tub full of liquid which, he says he was told, would eliminate the discomfort of large accelerations, and so on . . .

After what seemed like six or eight hours, Mário felt homesick and wanted to return to Earth and, as if they could read his mind, his six guides told him, "We know that you are desirous of returning to your planet." They took him to a ship just like the one that had brought him, and each one said good-bye to him in a musical voice.

Mário was impressed by the fact that throughout the experience none of the guides gave any indication of pretense to show which one (if any) was the leader.

The process on the return trip was just the reverse of before — the crew asked him to go into the tub, he slept there, he woke up, his space-clothes dried, they dressed him in his original clothing, and they landed. Mário was let out near the place where he had been picked up, though not at the exact same spot.

When he got to his father's place ten minutes later, the latter scolded him for having disappeared for so long without telling anyone, worrying his family. It was only then that Mário Restier established that it was April 14, 1950. He was away from Earth four months, but, by his estimate, it was only three days at the most!

In one of the factories Mário had picked up a sample of opaque material measuring 10 cm × 20 cm × 2 mm thick. He brought it home, and found that it did not melt in flame, and he could not break it. This helped convince his father that he was not just making up a story about the four missing months, or had had an hallucination. Nevertheless, the elder Restier advised his son not to tell anyone about his experience, in view of its fantastic nature.

After his return, Mário was suddenly impelled to acquire and systematically study books on general physics, electronics, optics, and nuclear physics. His formal education had consisted of high school and a course for television technicians.

Mário Restier's experience was first published in

the *Diário de Notícias* February 6, 1968, in an article by Carlos Neto.<sup>3</sup> The case was then investigated by Dr. Walter Buhler of the Sociedade Brasileira de Estudos sobre Discos Voadores (SBEDV).<sup>4</sup>

The witness's father had died in November of 1962, but an aunt of Mário's told Dr. Buhler that she remembered that many years ago, she had heard about the strange experience from a brother (Mário's uncle), in whom Mário's father had confided. Dr. Buhler also checked with a pharmacist who had been a close friend of the witness's father, but he did not remember hearing anything about the UFO experience.

Dr. Buhler was naturally surprised that Mário Restier should finally decide to "come out with the matter" after 18 years. Mário even made contact with a "Miss Sharp, of a foreign embassy," who gave him "facilities and recompense" so that, with his help, a propelled craft might be built, similar to the one whose operation was explained to him in the saucer and in the factories of the planet. Through Miss Sharp, Mário was offered a trip to her country, all expenses paid, so that there "the subject can be examined by experts . . ."

Mário hesitantly confided in Dr. Buhler that he had, in fact, had a second UFO contact, in September of 1956, about four years after he went to work in the iron and steel industry. This one occurred at about 8.00 p.m. on the way to another place his father had, in Bocainha, near Barra Mansa. When he saw the craft in the air, he had the feeling that someone wanted to talk with him. After he had walked some 100 metres more, it came down and landed 2 metres from the road. The man who got out was dressed just like the men on the planet he had visited, and his height was the same, though Mário did not recognise his features. He greeted Mário something like this: "Mário, you are again in union with us with respect to your project to build an engine . . . You can go ahead with it . . . We will be watching . . . It will never be used for the bad of the people of Earth . . ."

Mário asked him about the time difference, as the first contact had seemed like only three days. He replied that this fact was explained by the "Space-Time Contraction" and by the "Synchronism of Time."

This contact did not last more than ten minutes, and Mário did not enter the craft. He explained to Dr. Buhler that he did not tell this to the press or to other people because it would seem like "he wanted to pull

a lot of embers to his sardine" (Portuguese expression equivalent to "blow his own horn").

Mário told Dr. Buhler that the principle of propulsion had to do with two atomic reactors rotating at great speed around a very resistant axis. Two "condensers" would catch certain particles that were carried away by two "deflective coils," with the establishment of two "fields" — one vertical and one horizontal — which, in turn, would produce a large magnetic field, enough to neutralise the Earth's. A powerful solar battery would eventually be needed to start the engine when it is in space. The aliens found it interesting that Terrestrials had found their own means to partly substitute for the different material and methods used on their planet. To construct the "vehicle," they recommended to Mário that he reduce the design to a smaller model than the one he had travelled in, and whose operation was demonstrated to him on the screens.

Mário found that he could have finished the construction in two years if everything went well. Four steps would be necessary:

1. Studying up on the subject in books, which "he thought would take two months."

2. Raising the job site, the necessary conditions and tools existing in the country that could be "adapted to help in the construction."

3. Making up a list of necessary materials and machinery, including an electronic computer and a programmer. A preliminary budget for the construction would also be made.

4. Construction of the "engine."<sup>5</sup>

It might be noted that until 1959 (ten years after his first experience), Mário suffered from acrophobia (fear of heights) whenever he looked out the window of a building.

Dr. Buhler's own assessment of the case was as follows: "Sr. Mário impressed us favourably as a stable

and sincere man, but we cannot judge the technical aspects involved, and we have still not seen or examined the interplanetary artifact that he says he had brought back from his trip."

#### Notes and References

3. This article was probably the source of the account in *Saucer News* (editor Gray Barker, Clarksburg, West Virginia) 15:2 (whole no. 72, summer 1968), pp. 17-18. But *Saucer News* did not give any references. Mário Restier's contact claim was also the subject of an article in the Rio de Janeiro *O Dia* of April 22, 1976, which was translated and/or cited in *Flying Saucer Review* 22:4 (published November 1976), p. 23, and *Official UFO* (editor Russ A. Rueger, New York) 1:12 (November 1976), pp. 21-22.
4. *SBEDV Boletim* nos. 60-61 (January-April 1968), pp. 12-18 and 24-25. *Boletim Especial 1975*, pp. 38-39. The present account is drawn from the SBEDV's report.
5. Mário Restier's compulsion is similar to the one that overcame a Wisconsin man who was driving with his daughter when they saw an aerial UFO with occupants visible through the windows. This sighting took place June 15, 1973, near West Bend, Wisconsin, 45 km north-west of Milwaukee's city hall. Afterwards he immersed himself in the study of physics and spent all his spare time in his basement laboratory working on flying saucer propulsion.

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He said he could not recall the colour of the light, except that it was very bright. He had not seen the actual craft itself. All he knew about it was what he had heard from the guard. He had heard no noise from the craft. Apart from this, he says he remembers nothing else, but he thinks he would not have been able to say anything more than this, since all that had caught his attention at the time was the extremely vivid light.

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# FSR BOOKSHELF — 14

New UFO books reviewed by . . .

*Janet & Colin Bord*

**I**N the mid-1970s the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal was formed, with the intention of attempting "to encourage the critical investigation of [the many kinds of paranormal and fringe-science claims] from a responsible, scientific point of view." In the ensuing years it has seemed to many non-members that the attitude shown by the Committee's spokesmen, in material published in their journal *Skeptical Inquirer* and elsewhere, is somewhat less than open-minded. New-comers to the Committee's activities can judge for themselves by reading *Paranormal Borderlands of Science*, edited by Kendrick Frazier (large 474-page paperback published by Prometheus Books, 700 East Amherst Street, Buffalo, N.Y. 14215, U.S.A., price unknown), which is a collection of 47 articles from the *Skeptical Inquirer*.

The subject range is wide, and includes psi phenomena, Uri Geller, psychic photography, metal bending, Amityville horror, biorhythms, astrology, Bermuda Triangle, cattle mutilations, dowsing, Von Däniken, psychic archaeology, Velikovsky, Tunguska, and UFOs.

Among the articles there is some silliness (notably "Do Fairies Exist?" by Robert Sheaffer) and some valuable material (including the fascinating insight into "cold reading" — how psychics convince sitters that they know all about them).

The UFO material is not particularly earth-shattering. Philip J. Klass writes on "NASA, the White House, and UFOs" and on "UFOs, the CIA, and the New York Times;" James Oberg examines and explains the UFO sightings allegedly made by astronauts, and the 1979 Persian Gulf "UFO" (satellite rocket booster falling to earth), David I. Simpson describes the 1970 Warminster UFO hoax, and Anthony Standen discusses "The Semantics of UFOs." However there is also a valuable 9-page review by Ernest H. Taves of *The Andreasson Affair* in which he points out the flaws in the investigation into Betty Andreasson's "abduction" and explains it in non-UFO terms.

Despite its uneven quality, this collection of articles is well worth reading. Although the sceptics are not always right, they can often blow a breath of fresh air on to subjects too long the province only of "believers." To make up our minds on any subject we must consider *all* points of view.

In FSR Vol. 26, No. 3 we reviewed the book *UFO . . . Contact from the Pleiades* which describes the contact claims of the Swiss Eduard Meier. Since then no evidence has been forthcoming to support his

claims and Meier has apparently made further claims and Meier has apparently made further claims which remove him from the realm of hoaxers and give him the aura of prankster and conman. In America **Kal K. Korff** was so incensed by Meier's effrontery, and the gullibility or chicanery of his American supporters and publishers, that he has attempted to gather the evidence together and expose their fraud. Much of this evidence, unfavourable to Meier, has been published before in various journals, but what is new is Korff's conversations with some of Meier's American supporters who originally accepted his wild stories and cleverly faked pictures and are now seen wriggling about trying to unhook themselves. Regretfully Korff's book is not well organised and will make muddled reading for anyone who is not already familiar with the story.

Ground Saucer Watch, the American group who say that their computer analysis of UFO photographs can show if they are genuine or not, have 40 of their computer photographs reproduced in the book. Unfortunately for the reader, the reproductions are too small (2½" × 3½") and of such poor quality that little can be learned from studying them, and as is usual with GSW analyses, their explanations of the methods used and how they arrived at their conclusions are inadequate and muddled and so their conclusions have to be taken on trust by the reader. Neither author Korff nor principal Meier advocate Wendelle Stevens appears to know what sort of camera Meier claimed to have used, for on page 38 Stevens is reported as saying that the mirror on the camera was jammed closed and Meier was therefore unable to view through it. Korff enlarges upon this statement by remarking that Meier used an Olympus single lens reflex, but all the evidence in the captions of the original *Pleiades* book shows that Meier's camera was one of the compact range-finder cameras made by Olympus, having no removable lens and therefore needing no reflex mirror. This sort of muddle over easily established technical detail is all too typical of so much UFO research and provides assistance to the hoaxers by muddying the trail. The book, a large size (8" × 11") staple-bound 124-page paperback, is a self-publishing exercise which would have benefited from some professional editorial help. The writing is often clumsy, and typographical errors abound.

In short, **The Meier Incident — The Most Infamous Hoax in Ufology!** is a blunt instrument wielded without much skill, when what ufology really needs is a scalpel used with precision. Nevertheless all UFO