

These could continue for another fifteen—and so could the arguments (however stupid we may consider them) that the objects were this, that or the other and not one of them a flying saucer in our understanding of the term.

We have very strong reason to believe that by no means all of the contact claims are fraudulent. Nor do we believe that all the claimants are mad. We do not believe that the Italian claimant whose story we printed was mad. We trust the Italian reporter and our own interviewer who were both convinced that he was sane. The claimant may be fraudulent, but the days when fat rewards were to be made by false representations are over. Incidentally, the rewards were often grossly exaggerated and the critic was inclined, perhaps through ignorance, to over-estimate the returns to either publisher or author of even a highly successful book.

We have another reason for giving the contact stories a hearing in our columns. It has been most noticeable that the professional debunkers of saucers concentrate on sightings. With hardly an exception they ignore accounts of landings and confrontations (friendly or otherwise) with beings allegedly from other planets. It is also significant that Keyhoe, in his long fight with the United States Air Force, has never once, as far as we know, employed orthoteny as a weapon. Is it because Michel's discovery gave support to more than one incident when pilots were seen to emerge from the saucers? Again, as far as we know, the United States Government has never once repudiated Adamski, although its Air Force is only too ready to pounce upon some poor

sighting in an attempt to kill it stone dead before it can do its work of conversion. Does the United States Air Force ignore the landing accounts because it knows that on this front it is weakest? If so, it must be grateful to those investigators who choose to fight where it is most vulnerable.

What the REVIEW finds difficult to believe is that spaceships should have been visiting this earth for perhaps hundreds of years and never once coming down lower than our tree-tops. If the objects are piloted, then some creatures must be inside. Signor Zuccalà claimed that they were completely covered by some form of armour from which, apparently, antennae sprouted.* It is easy to laugh, for the description reminds us of our own space-fiction stories, but we forget that fiction so often anticipates fact and usually bases itself upon the plans that science is already working on—it is an anticipation and not a contradiction of the possibilities of the future.

What we can do to satisfy our Antipodean reader and others is to guarantee to print any reasoned exposure of a perjured claimant, but accusations based merely on a personal incredulity just will not do.

It was in accordance with this declared policy that we printed Van den Berg's contact claim and alleged discovery. We have gone further and have invited him to England where one of our readers has offered to place a factory at his disposal. We make no apology and we are prepared to stand by whatever result is achieved. How otherwise are we to arrive at the truth?

* See FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, July-August, 1962.

A FLYING SAUCER BROOCH?

As a result of the successful launching of the flying saucer tie for men, we have been asked by one of our women readers whether it would not be possible to issue a brooch with a similar design. The problem is, of course, one of economics, but if our women readers would write to us we would receive an indication of the possible demand.

The design would be similar to that of the tie and we would like to take this opportunity of explaining to the few who have found this design too discreet that in sartorial matters the male is essentially conservative and a tie with a loud design is unlikely to be worn—whatever its motif or purpose. The brooch, like the tie, would be obtainable only from the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW and the wearing of it would indicate an interest in the subject and a willingness to discuss it. For this reason it is essential that sales should be restricted to those genuinely interested in our subject: too wide a distribution might easily defeat the object of the exercise.

THE ITALIAN SCENE — Part I

Signor Siragusa's Message

IT would seem that only in Italy, at the moment, is it possible to conduct a nationwide enquiry into flying saucers and to publish the results fearlessly in a popular magazine. The Italian students of the subject must always be grateful to the Editor of *Domenica Del Corriere* for his courage; in issue after issue it has devoted considerable space not only to sightings and protographs of UFOs, but also to the much less fashionable contact claims. Readers of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW will recall that of recent months Italy has produced reports of numerous alleged contacts—for instance, that of Mario Zuccalà was reported in the July-August, 1962, issue and Luciano Galli's in the September-October, 1962 issue. Whether, in fact, Italy has been more favoured than other countries of late is a moot point. It may be that thanks to the open-minded approach of papers like *Domenica del Corriere*, the Italians more than anybody else have been encouraged to come forward and testify in public.

In its issue of October 28, 1962, the *Domenica del Corriere* sent its reporter, Renato Albanesi (a disbeliever at the outset—a puzzled man at the end) on a tour of investigation. His first report came from Catania in Sicily and read as follows:

I seem to be heading into the unknown, but I am in fact about to ascend once more Europe's most familiar of volcanoes, Mt. Etna. The car in which I am sitting is being driven by Signor Eugenio Siragusa, a native of Catania. Aged 43, he is employed in the Customs and Excise, and lives at Corso Province 146, Catania. Signor Siragusa says that he has met and spoken with beings not of this Earth, who came out of a flying saucer.

He appears to be physically very healthy and mentally entirely lucid. He is a vigorous young man, the authentic type of swarthy Sicilian, with bright and sincere eyes that never reveal any trace of doubt or uncertainty when he is relating the details of his extraordinary adventure. He has a wife, Rosaria Mirabella, and two sons, Liberto, 18, and Franco Marzio, 13. He declares that he has twice met these mysterious beings from another world, the first time on April 30, 1962,

and the second time on September 5, 1962.

How did Siragusa ever manage to meet them? He swears that the "space-beings" notify him in advance by "mental probes" or, rather, by means of "solex extra-sensorial perception," i.e. in common or garden parlance, by telepathy. (And this is one of the points that, frankly speaking, leave me perplexed.) Yet a further detail must be added: Siragusa maintains that, some few evenings before being called to his appointments with the space-people, he saw luminous bodies, some in the shape of saucers and some in the shape of cigars, passing at great heights over his house. These last-mentioned cigars are the space-ships, the true and actual bases of the saucers.

The mysterious people who communicate with him by means of mental probes explained to him later that the two cigar-shaped ships are distinguished, in their space-terminology, as ALPHA-2 and ALPHA-8. They are each 600 metres long, and each is capable of holding 500 saucers. These declarations by Eugenio Siragusa have been confirmed to me by his wife and his two sons.

In order to dissipate my hesitations about Siragusa, I have asked for information about him from people who know him, and also from several of his office colleagues. All of them agree in declaring that he is a man worthy of attention and esteem, scrupulously correct in his work, and that no grounds exist such as might favour any doubt about him.

In order to get a better idea of all that Siragusa has to say, I am now on the way with him to visit the places where these fantastic meetings took place.

We were following the road that runs up gently from Catania towards Etna. This morning the volcano is clear of clouds at a certain height. The tip, white with snow, stands out sharply, with its plume of smoke against the sky.

When we have reached a lava-flow, Siragusa stops the car and, pointing to a small peak looming above us, says: "Here. This is the spot. That is Monte Manfrè. There are a

couple of extinct craters up there. The machine was there, inside one of them." The place is deserted, well-wooded. Amid the vegetation, piled up, lie chaotic masses of lava. An apocalyptic landscape. It seems as though expressly made for the purpose of fantasy.

In their "mental probing," Siragusa explains to me, the extra-terrestrials had not spoken of this Monte Manfrè, but they had transmitted to him details as to the day, the hour, and the direction that he was to take (roughly, I imagine, as is said to occur with carrier-pigeons).

Here was a young oak tree under which the meeting had taken place. "They were underneath here," said Siragusa, standing on the spot where he said the two space-men had been. "They were so close to me that we could touch each other. I estimate that they were about 1 metre 65 cms. in height (5 ft. 4 in.). They were wearing helmets of metallised tissue. It seemed to be all made in one piece. On their legs they had space-suit trousers, on which some silver rings were noticeable. From the belts of both figures, a light flashed at intervals, yellow-green-blue, which, I don't know why, gave me a feeling of great tranquility.

"One of them came to a distance of 1½ metres from me, and said to me in Italian: 'Listen, and transmit this message to the most powerful men of the Earth.'" The voice did not have a human timbre, and seemed to come as if it were from a recorder, and had a metallic tone. It occurred to me that the beings had no vocal chords, but were emitting sounds by means of other strange organs.

"They dictated the message to me. I managed to retain it in my memory, and typed it out at once as soon as I got back home.

"At this point the two space-beings said to me in a priestly manner—and still in that metallic voice: 'Peace be to you,' and made a solemn gesture with their hands as if they desired to bless me. I was so dumbfounded that I was not able to ask them a thing."

We now had reached the edge of the crater—shaped like a gigantic funnel—on the floor of which the saucer had landed. Siragusa says that the saucer was about 15 metres in diameter, but that he could not see it very clearly. What he could see was principally the light that emanated from the craft.

Renato Albanesi does not quote the message in full, but states that it consists of vague and somewhat rhetorical advice to desist from H-bomb tests and to "disarm our hearts." He adds that

"the tenor of this prolix message is precisely one of the principal factors that have caused us to doubt the truthfulness of the whole affair." In his attitude, Albanesi is not alone, but it must be borne in mind that this sort of message, in equally rhetorical terms, is alleged to have been received from contact claimants from Adamski onwards and it is strange that it should be so. It is a message that most of us are prepared to accept, but we do not know how to implement it. It is not unnatural that the inhabitants of the earth expect those who come from afar should be able to arrange the practical side of affairs or to suggest how it can be done. Otherwise, it remains a contradiction that those who are supposed to be our intellectual superiors should be so naïve as to expect people like Signor Siragusa to effect such a revolution in our way of life.

However, nothing daunted by considerations like these the message was sent to the Pope, de Gaulle, Kennedy, Kruschew, the Queen of England and the President of Italy. Only de Gaulle replied, or rather the Chef de Cabinet on his behalf. The letter is no more than a formal acknowledgment of receipt.

Signor Siragusa's story is then continued:

Throughout the whole of August he and his family saw saucers passing over their house. On September 4 came the mental summons, giving him an appointment for the following day.

"I arrived at this spot," he says, "at 10.03 p.m. Look. You see that road cut through the lava?" (We are at a point a few hundreds of metres from Monte Manfrè.) "I was going along, up that road, when suddenly I perceived two individuals at least 2 metres 15 cm. in height (7 ft.). They were beneath that aspen tree. I was extremely close to them—3 ft. or a little over. The light that was given off from their belts, as though they carried lamps, prevented me from seeing their faces well. They were dressed like the others, but the overalls seemed to me to be lighter in colour."

Everything happened just as on the first occasion. The two unknown beings commanded Siragusa: "Inform mankind of the following message . . ." and proceeded to dictate it to him by the usual method of "mental contact." Siragusa concluded: "When they had finished dictating to me, they said: 'Peace be with you,' making the same gesture as their two colleagues did in April."

This time, however, Siragusa was able to get a much better view of the saucer. "It was an enormous spinning-top, of a diameter of 25 metres (82 ft.), suspended in the air. From the

under part a metal cylinder over three metres long reached right down and touched the road. It had in it a small door. It was a sort of lift."

Siragusa says he was present at the take-off of the saucer. (And that same evening—it was mentioned in the newspapers—a luminous object was seen to cross the sky above Acireale, Bronte and Acitrezza.)

Albanesi says that only two opinions are possible. Some investigators have turned the saucers into a sort of religion, while others regard the matter from a purely realistic angle. Albanesi then concludes this story with the following remarks:

So far as Italy is concerned, the latter say that these bases are, specifically (1) on Mt. Etna, (2) on Maiella, (3) on Lake Como (whence the sightings along the Adriatic coast and on the Lario), and (4) along the Po, in the neighbourhood of Ferrara.

The extra-terrestrials are said, furthermore, to consist of two groups, namely those with a stature of from 1 metre 60 to 1 metre 80 (5 ft. 3 in. to 5 ft. 10½ in.), and those who are over 3 metres (9 ft. 10 in.).

The first-mentioned category are said to be circulating among us, while on the other hand the second type, no doubt because they are too tall, are said to remain concealed near their terrestrial bases in order to maintain contact with their planets of origin.

In conclusion: the intentions of these beings are said to be more than benevolent and pacific, in regard to ourselves at any rate, since they consider this planet of ours merely as a halt-station in the Cosmos.

In our next issue it is hoped that we may be able to publish further accounts from Italy which came to light as a result of Albanesi's investigation.

CELESTIAL FOOTBALLS

A strange story from Kimberley

ACCORDING to the *Diamond Fields Advertiser* for June 19, two extraordinary objects fell out of the sky on Sunday morning, June 15. They came to earth in the backyard of Mr. D. van Graan, of Ceres, near Kimberley, South Africa.

These objects, said Mr. van Graan, were about the size of soccer balls and made of some sort of material, about a quarter of an inch thick, with holes in it: it was soft, but he did not think it was made of rubber, plastic or leather.

In a statement to a *Diamond Fields Advertiser* reporter Mr. van Graan said: "I was in my pigeon loft when I thought I saw a flash of lightning, so I turned round and then I saw these two objects fall into the yard. They looked as though they might have had something inside originally."

Mr. van Graan put the objects into a paper bag in his pigeon loft. When he looked again on June 18, he found to his surprise that they had shrunk to about the size of a tennis ball and whereas they had been brown they were

now white. He has given one to the town clerk, who will try to have it identified.

The Meteorological Department at the D. F. Malan Airport said that from the description it did sound as though their department was the right one to deal with the mystery.

The South African Air Force spokesman said it could not be theirs as they did not fly on Sunday. Anything dropping from a Sputnik would have been burnt up in the atmosphere.

(Credit to Mr. Phillip J. Human.)
