

“TRACTORS OF THE GODS? WEIRD MARKINGS FOUND IN N.W. AUSTRALIA

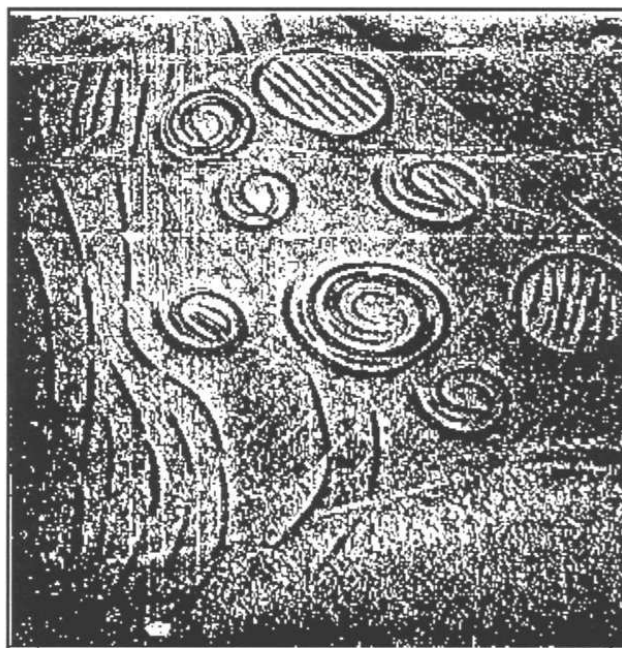
According to a recent item in *The Australian Geographic* (kindly brought to our attention by Mr. Colin Bloy), some strange new patterns have been discovered on parched ground in a remote corner of North-Western Australia. Consisting of a series of huge spirals, circles, and broken wavy lines, and somewhat reminiscent of the famous desert markings on the arid Nazca Plateau in Peru, the new finds lie close to the North-West Coastal Highway, near Roebourne (20°44S, 117°09E) (Australian North-West Territory).

These configurations were first noticed by a Mr. Dick Smith when he was flying over the region in June 1988. He photographed them, and subsequently requested Mr. Chris Hill to try to find out what they were and how they had come about. By virtue of the sheer size of the markings, they can only be appreciated from the air and perceived as what they are.

Chris Hill apparently assumed at first that the answer would be simple and that they would merely turn out to be “something to do with erosion control, or some other form of land management”.

But when he called in at the local offices of the Department of Conservation & Land Management, they said: “*It doesn’t sound like anything we’d do!*”

His next call was on Mr. Graeme Rathbone, Divisional Engineer for the West Australian Main Roads Department. He replied that his people never carry out any sort of earthworks except in connection with road-building. And these newly discovered “earth-designs” lie too far away from the Highway to



be anything of that sort.

Copies of the aerial photographs were next sent to the Roebourne Shire Engineer, Ron Copeland, who too made extensive enquiries, but all to no avail.

So-“extraterrestrial mystery” or, maybe, “something more down-to-earth?” Chris Hill concludes: “If none of our members of the Australian Geographic Society know anything about these mysterious designs, what should I do? Call von Däniken?”

“PARANORMAL IS ALL PETER PAN”

- ADRIAN BERRY, *DAILY TELEGRAPH* SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

By Gordon Creighton

Recent years have seen the appearance of a number of parapsychological reference books with titles such as “*An Encyclopaedia of the Paranormal*”, or “*Compendium of the Unexplained*”, etc., etc. The latest of these that we have seen and perused is Ms Lynn Picknett’s “THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL: THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE UNEXPLAINED” (Macmillan, London, 1990, price £17.99).

Clearly such a book is for certain folk like the proverbial red rag to the proverbial bull. Mr. Adrian Berry, the *Daily Telegraph’s* Science Correspondent, and one of Britain’s top astronomical writers, is obviously one of “such folk”, and he lost no time in wading in with a slashing attack.

In a major, half-page, review on Page 14 of the *Daily Telegraph* for Monday, November 5, 1990, and

under banner headlines, he lashed out: “PARANORMAL IS ALL PETER PAN: ADRIAN BERRY EXAMINES THE PROS AND CONS OF THE SUPERNATURAL AND THE LATEST TOME OF THE UNEXPECTED”.

And then, in the first two paragraphs of his “review”, Mr. Berry fell right in; he made the revelation, the astounding admission, that (so far as I am aware) no scientist before him had ever dared to make!

Here is how he opens (my capitals for emphasis) “FEW SUBJECTS MORE INFURIATE SCIENTISTS, PHYSICAL SCIENTISTS IN PARTICULAR, THAN CLAIMS OF ‘PARANORMAL’ EVENTS SUCH AS SPOON-BENDING, LEVITATION, AND COMMUNICATION WITH THE DEAD. THEY ARE RESENTED BECAUSE, IF CONFIRMED, THE WHOLE FABRIC OF SCIENCE WOULD BE THREATENED.

ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC, SCEPTICAL COMMITTEES HAVE BEEN SET UP TO INVESTIGATE SUCH EVENTS AND THEY ALMOST INVARIABLY CONCLUDE THAT THE CLAIM IN QUESTION IS A FAKE”.

Our readers are asked to study very carefully these fourteen words, in particular, of Mr. Adrian Berry's statement:-

“THEY ARE RESENTED BECAUSE, IF CONFIRMED, THE WHOLE FABRIC OF SCIENCE WOULD BE THREATENED”.

Well now - what a “clanger”! We can cite two scientists (as it happens, both are French and both are students of Ufology) who have issued statements pointing very clearly in this same direction. But unquestionably Mr. Berry must be the very first scientist who has made so complete an admission. *What he is confessing is that, were the scientists to look honestly at the claims of Parapsychology and Paraphysics, then the entire caboodle of their own much vaunted “Science” would collapse in ruins!*”

We can all be grateful to Mr. Adrian Berry for this handsome admission - however “inadvertent” it may have been!

AND SOME COMMENTS FROM EVE!

It happens that Eve agrees neither with the esteemed Adrian Berry, nor the even more esteemed Editor of FSR! The best physicists are quite ready to admit that their ‘reality’ consists of mathematical models, based on observations of HOW things work, and indeed, how we can make things work to serve our own ends. Any poet can do a better job of penetrating the sort of reality most of us care about than they can.

Parapsychology and Paraphysics do not threaten our science at all because scientific method is not equal to the task of dealing with them. How, for instance, could one set up an experiment to account for Shakespeare, or Mozart? Or even Heavy Metal for that matter, which to me is even more baffling!

There are enormous difficulties in setting up experiments where the paranormal is concerned. Last year some of the FSR team, with the Editor and myself, tried to do something of the kind on two occasions with a young healer and spoon bender whom we will call Jim.

On the first occasion a British medical doctor prepared a few tests at his own house. Jim was not even there when the materials were prepared for him, and

laid out on a large bare table. Jim was wearing a jumper. On this occasion, and in front of our eyes, he bent two rather tough spoons by the traditional method, and some wires inside two sealed test-tubes prepared by the doctor. We ourselves had tried to bend the spoons beforehand, and in vain.

On the second occasion we were all at a teatable at the house of a dental surgeon, and Jim declared at first that he did not feel he could do much today. Scientists do not like people whose powers fluctuate. However, he went on aimlessly stroking the good spoon he had been eating with, and set it down beside him, in front of one of the other guests. The guest sat looking at it with astonishment, since the spoon was gradually hunching up in front of him. At this point our hostess began looking apprehensively at her nice cutlery, and hurriedly cleared the table. The dentist was dispatched in search of something not too valuable for Jim to bend. He came back with a piece of metal, about 1/4" in square section and about 8" long. This was a tool he had made himself, and hardened himself, when he was a student. This Jim stroked for a while, whereupon it bent double like a hairpin.

Now that Jim was ‘on form’ the dentist produced his own prepared material, wires sealed inside two test-tubes and a little square sealed, transparent plastic box with a ball-bearing in it. The idea was to bend the wires, and to see if Jim could make the ball-bearing move inside the box without touching it. In the disconcerting way such people have Jim held up one of the test-tubes: in one the wire had certainly not bent - but in the other there was no wire at all! While several people tried to find the little wire, the dentist amused himself by trying to see if he could make the ball-bearing move by thought-power. Surely there was something else in the small sealed transparent box? Yes, indeed, - there was the missing piece of wire!

I know perfectly well what the sceptics will say - all these strange events were just conjuring tricks. But I have yet to meet a conjuror whose material is all prepared for him by other people in the way this was done. Sleight of hand cannot work if all the containers are sealed. Unfortunately, one also has yet to meet anyone whose powers are ‘paranormal’ and therefore depending upon some subtle state of mind, who can also tolerate sceptical and infinitely boring laboratory conditions.

How sorry one feels for anyone whose experiences, for whatever reason, are not quite ‘normal’. There are apparently few folk, ‘scientists’ or otherwise, secure enough in themselves simply to suspend disbelief, observe, and *consider ...*

FOLLOW-UP ON ALLEGED PHOTO OF LITTLE ALIEN

On Page 21 of FSR 36/1 we reproduced one of the famous photographs of the alleged "little Oriental alien".

Leonard H. Stringfield, the world's leading civilian authority on the problems of reported crashed disks and reported bodies of alien crews, has now made an exhaustive investigation of this story and has published his findings, which are given on Page 135 of his latest fine publication, **UFO CRASH/RETRIEVALS: THE INNER SANCTUM, STATUS REPORT VI**, issued in July 1991. (See our advert. for this most important book on the inside front cover of this issue.)

Mr. Stringfield shows that the 'alien' was a wax dummy dating back to 1967, which was on display in Montreal. And we wish to add that, if Len Stringfield says it's a hoax, then we are satisfied to go along with him and accept that. - EDITOR