

SCIENCE COMES UNDER ATTACK — AND THE “HOLOGRAM UNIVERSE” IS PROPOSED

Paul Whitehead

THE week ending February 21st, 1986, saw two critical assaults on the scientific establishment in Britain.

First was a *BBC Television* documentary on the shoddy state of conventional scientific thought and approach. Could we believe our ears? Were we really hearing how our esteemed scientists were stuck in dogmas of their own making, fashioning a world of their choosing for the rest of us to wearily acknowledge?

Well, we had to believe our ears, because that is what was said. The conclusion of the narrator was that future generations will view the 19th and 20th centuries as we now view many previous centuries: — with a degree of amusement if not ridicule.

The storyline was this. Former civilisations paid overmuch attention to dogmatic religion and believed the word of the *preachers*. Life and thought was based around these beliefs; indeed, our whole perception of the universe (everything revolves around the earth, the earth is at the centre of the universe, God made the earth in seven days, etc.) was fashioned by the “leaders” of the day — the men of religion.

Today, the argument went, we all follow the leader again. Except that this time the leader is *science*, not religion — and the scientists may be just as wrong about the universe as were their forebears, the preachers.

Scientists were criticised for relying too much on experiments and their findings — and even fashioning those findings to suit their own particular perception of the universe. They were criticised also for ignoring alternative theories and alternative ways of trying to understand the universe.

It was pointed out that what we see with our eyes is only a small spectrum of the universe, and how we see things is largely a matter of conditioning. We are conditioned by scientists, who may be totally wrong in their views about the universe, the documentary said.

In brief, we were urged to look again at ourselves and the universe, and to expand our awareness of possibilities. We should not be ruled by dogmatic scientific thought, as previous generations had been ruled by inflexible religious doctrine.

The future held the promise of a radical new approach to science, we heard. Just as science had displaced religion, so science would be replaced by a new kind of science.

Just what that new science might turn out to be was

illustrated a few days later in an article in a quality national newspaper, the *Financial Times*.

The article started, innocently enough, about videodiscs. It moved on to storage systems (how to best store vast amounts of information on a videodisc). The answer:— *holograms*. Holography, it seems, is an ideal way of storing data, right down to the wavelength of light itself.

The writer, John Chittock, then went all philosophical. (Perhaps he had been watching that recent documentary, or reading some of those books written by philosophers and physicists that the *Flying Saucer Review* regularly mentions in its columns?)

Certainly, the *Flying Saucer Review* could never be accused of following conventional and dogmatic scientific thought. The search for “new possibilities” is what *FSR* is all about.

To return to the *Financial Times*, though. Mr. Chittock wrote:

“But now our concepts of the universe are being challenged through holography. It began, in part, with a claim that the human brain may record its memory in the same way as a hologram — namely, not as specific points or neurons related to particular bits of memory, but over the whole area as a complex frequency pattern.

“A 3-dimensional hologram does not use any lenses to focus an image — every point on the hologram records *all* of the image as seen from that particular point.”

Consequently, he wrote, “if a hologram is broken into fragments, any one piece will still reconstruct a whole image. Likewise, a neurosurgeon, Karl Lashley, claimed that his experiments in removing bits of the brain in animals failed to diminish their memory”.

Another Karl, Karl Pribram, a neuroscientist at Stanford University, USA, had encouraged “even stranger ideas”. These were as follows:

“Since a hologram does not rely on lenses, Pribram has suggested that the brain — functioning like a hologram — also does not need eyes. He has even said: ‘*Maybe reality isn’t what we see with our eyes.*’”

Eyes, Pribram said, perform a purely mathematical function in reproducing image points instead of a whole world “*organised in the frequency domain*”. (It has long been an argument by *FSR* writers that we view only a small part of the overall frequency of the universe, begging the question of what is outside that which we see.)

Mr. Chittock added that ideas similar to Pribram's had been proposed by David Bohm (an advanced scientific thinker quoted in recent *FSRs*). Bohm is professor of theoretical physics at Birkbeck College, London, and he "argues strongly for a *holistic* view of the universe".

Bohm "believes that the true nature of things is not reducible to fragments or particles — *that we should learn to regard matter and life as one whole and coherent domain*."

"This is also the essence of holistic medicine, which says you must treat the whole patient and his environment, not just the symptom."

Mr. Chittock made this bold forecast, echoing that BBC TV documentary (and our own judgements on the matter):-

"The subject is going to crop up much more in the future, and indeed has been covered in at least two television programmes in Britain in the past few weeks — one in an interview with Fritjof Capra, phy-

sicist and author of the best selling book *The Tao of Physics*.

"What they are all saying, effectively, is that the universe is just one big hologram and our brains function like a hologram within the hologram. In this domain, called by David Bohm the 'implicit order', we have the real nature of the universe, and other perceptions — relying on lenses or human eyes — *are only a fragmented impression of reality*, like indeed a photograph."

*A detailed theory on how the brain may operate as a hologram is given in the following book:- "*Mind and the New Physics*", by Prof. Alan Woolf (Heinemann, 1985, £14.95 hardback — or available in some libraries). This book, which covers most of the areas talked about by the "new" physicists, including parallel universes and the interconnection between the mind and the universe, will be reviewed shortly in *FSR*.

UFOS AND THE C.I.A.: THE EARLY YEARS

Dennis Stacy

It gives us great pleasure to publish this important article by Mr Dennis W. Stacy, who is the Editor of MUFON UFO JOURNAL. — Editor *FSR*

IN the summer of 1947, Boise, Idaho, businessman Kenneth Arnold, while flying his private plane near Mt. Rainier, Washington, reported nine silvery, crescent-shaped objects skimming through the atmosphere at a high rate of speed.

Their motion, Arnold said, reminded him of "a saucer skipping over water". An alert AP reporter picked up the description and the phrase "flying saucers" was soon emblazoned in the Cold War consciousness between the Atom Bomb and the Iron Curtain, where it has remained ever since.

Arnold's solo sighting proved to be the snowball that launched an avalanche. Reports of similar mysterious flying objects poured in from both coasts and numerous points in between. The unenviable task of investigating such reports fell logically within the province of the nascent U.S. Air Force.* What were these Unidentified Flying Objects, or UFOs? Were they of extraterrestrial origin, or the product of advanced Soviet science, derived in turn from captured Nazi rocket technology?

In response to such questions, on December 30, 1947, Major General L.C. Craigie ordered the establishment of *Project Sign* at what became known as Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. Operating under auspices of the Air Material Command's Technical Intelligence Division, *Project Sign*

was directed "to collect, collate, evaluate and distribute to interested government agencies and contractors all information concerning sightings and phenomena in the atmosphere which can be construed to be of concern to the national security". The project was given a 2A restricted classification security rating under a system which acknowledged 1A as the highest, or most secret, designation.

In the spring of the following year, three men from Wright-Patterson approached Dr. J. Allen Hynek, an astronomer then employed by Ohio State University in nearby Columbus. As Hynek recently recalled, "They said they needed some astronomical consultation because it was their job to find out what these flying saucer stories were all about." Hynek hired on as a consultant with the Air Force and remained in that capacity for over two decades as *Sign* evolved into *Projects Grudge* and *Blue Book*, the last ceasing official operation in December of 1969. "What the hell," added Hynek. "It sounded like fun, and besides, I would be getting a top secret security clearance out of it, too."

Hynek also got an insight into the way the Air Force tried to handle the growing UFO problem, or at least the increasing frequency of UFO reports. "I think their greatest mistake in the early days," said Hynek, "was not turning it over to the universities or some