

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

Ten years, plus

Sir:—Congratulations on the REVIEW's 10th birthday! I hope your most interesting magazine will continue to be published for years to come.

It is with a deep regret and a sense of personal loss I learned of the death of Waveney Girvan. I have always enjoyed his editorials and treasure his book *Flying Saucers and Common Sense*.—Mrs. A. Cuadra, 14 Stanton Court, Orinda, California, U.S.A.

The Lens Flare/UFO problem

Sir,—Please allow me to express my sympathy at the death of Mr. Girvan. I am greatly obliged to him, for without him and his open mind my views about the UFOs would hardly ever have reached the public. It is quite natural that such an inquiring mind as his was also subject to errors. I can assure you that even many professional photographers have only a poor idea of the tricks that light can do in their cameras.

With reference to your article *UFOs? No? Lens Flare? Yes!* in the January/February number, I think that the camouflage-theory can be discarded safely.

1. Let us grant that there is such a "shape" simulated. Will it then be likely that it appears in the correct location opposite a light source?
2. How do the UFOs "know" from which direction they are being photographed or how do they manage to simulate the correct shape for observers in different directions?
3. Different lenses produce under the same circumstances different lens flares. Have the UFO occupants considered the possibility that they are being photo-

graphed simultaneously with different objectives? The simulated image would then produce the same images in both cameras, while the genuine reflex images would be different. This is a method to test your theory!

—Luis Schönherr, Erlenstrasse 15, Innsbruck, Austria.

Herr Schönherr's point is taken, but he appears to have missed ours! When we suggested, very speculatively, that UFOs could be simulating lens flare shapes, we did not for one moment imagine that they (the UFOs) could be concerned with appearing on photographs. We were looking for an explanation for the visual sightings of the "shape". Could this be a shape evolved in the knowledge that mere mortals will say on seeing it: "Ah! When we see that shape on a photograph, we know it is a lens flare, so that thing up there cannot possibly be a UFO!" All part of the deception and confusion stakes.—EDITOR.

The Brazilian Farmer's Story

Sir,— . . . The Brazilian Farmer's story, about which I received information from Walter Buhler two or three years ago, really worries me. Quite honestly, I am not at all sure that it concerns a craft from "outer" space. My reasons are the following:

1. The men in the crew were wearing "space suits" which did not enable A.V.B. to see their features. Obviously they did not wear the suits because of a difference in atmospheric pressure, as the girl was without one, and A.V.B. did not notice anything affecting him in that way, apart from the nauseating effect after they "treated" him. I am therefore assuming that the suits were worn as a protection against some kind of radiation caused by the craft.

2. Come to think of it, the sponging of A.V.B.'s body may have been a means to neutralise or lessen the dose of radiation already picked up by him. The small superficial ulcers on his face and arms appear to confirm this, as it seems logical to assume that A.V.B. had both arms and face exposed when entering the craft.
3. We have a similar case on record which for security reasons we are unable to publish. I can assure you this is not just another dramatic statement, as it took us four or five years to accumulate all the available evidence. After having sifted the evidence we could only come to one conclusion, and that was that the craft involved, as well as the crew, were of earthly origin.
4. Apparently it is known that the U.S.A. as well as the U.S.S.R. have bases for experimental "UFOs" in the Brazilian jungle. An overseas friend of mine refers me to the European issue of *Life* magazine of June 26, 1950, where mention of the same is made. Unfortunately, I have never obtained a copy.

Maybe the above will give you some food for thought on the A.V.B. case, as it is obvious from accounts received from all over the world that it will be increasingly difficult to discriminate between alien craft and our own as time goes on.—Henk J. Hinfelaar, Editor of *Spaceview*, Journal of N.Z. Scientific Space Research, P.O. Box 21-007, Henderson, New Zealand.

Sir,—Following an article in the January/February number—page 13—"The most amazing Case of All"—here are two ideas—which will probably have occurred to others of your readers.

1. If these space people moved in

and out of their machine still wearing their breathing helmets—how was it that the young farmer did not report any change of air condition when he entered the space craft?

2. The story itself, this is perhaps frivolous! But why so odd or improbable? Supposing other planets *are* inhabited; that “unidentified flying objects” do visit this earth—presumably with a reason. This case might be one of several others that have not been reported—rather naturally. This young farmer might have delivered say—four or five million sperms. Given an advanced space people—they would possibly be ahead of us in artificial insemination—we might assume that at least one million sperms could be “planted”—perhaps *many* more. This happened some eight years ago. Assuming “their” growth rate to be similar to ours (it might be faster), in ten or twenty years from now that planet could have one, two or three million persons sufficiently similar to ourselves—to be able to invade and live on *this* planet. And if this is not an isolated case—why should it be—it would seem that we might be in for trouble—or help—in twenty years time.—“A subscriber from the beginning”—(Name and address supplied).

From Antonio Ribera, on on Lens Flares, and “Adhemar’s” UFO

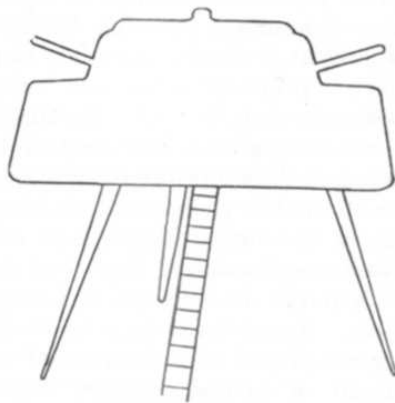
Sir,—It was for me a shock to learn about the death of Waveney Girvan, whose cards with his nervous writing I treasure now. In my name, and in those of my friends of the CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS INTERPLANETARIOS, please accept our deepest sorrow for this great loss in the field of ufology.

Regarding the article *UFOs? No! Lens Flare? Yes!* published in the January/February number of the REVIEW, I accept the verdict, generally speaking, but I should like to put forward a remark regarding the Salvat-Llaurado photograph, explained away as another lens flare. Could NICAP, and Mr. Luis Schönherr explain away for me too the **trail, exhaust fumes** or ionised

air which appears at the left side of the “object”, along its longitudinal axis? This is the only doubt I still entertain about its being a material, solid object, and not a lens flare. If you look carefully at the Salvat-Llaurado photograph, you will unmistakably see this trail.

Regarding also the amazing article published in the same issue about the Brazilian farmer’s story, please compare the drawing made up from Adhemar’s description of the saucer with the photograph which I enclose. The photograph was published in the Italian *Domenica del Corriere* of September 8, 1963, and the accompanying legend says that it was taken on June 23 of that year in the hills near Genoa, by an anonymous correspondent of the paper. Now the similarity between both “objects” is amazing to say the least. Both have three feet, a ladder in the middle section; they remind one too of the “apparatus” half-seen by Marius Dewilde, which also stood on stilts. My photographic copy is poorer than that published by the *Corriere*, and this in turn must have been poorer than the original copy. It is a pity we cannot study the negative, but the general shape, the ladder and the legs are well seen in my copy.—Antonio Ribera, Roca y Baille, 5, Barcelona, VI, Spain.

Unhappily, Senor Ribera’s print is not suitable for reproduction. I have, however, asked our artist to make a simple line copy, which we reproduce below. It is indeed a pity that the photographer has chosen to remain anonymous, and that we are unable to check the original photograph’s validity. Antonio Villas Bôas’ (Adhemar) rough sketch was known to us in 1962.—EDITOR.



A correction

Sir,—Might I correct a mistake in the January/February issue of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW?

On pages 23 and 24 you have a

report about Graham Thompson seeing a bright red object over Whitby. Then, at the foot of the middle column on page 25 you suggest that this sighting might be connected with sightings over Gateshead.

It is not generally known that there are two places named Whitby in the British Isles. One is the well-known former home of the Venerable Bede, situated on the coast of the North Riding of Yorkshire. The other is in Cheshire. Once a separate village, it is now to all intents and purposes a suburb of Ellesmere Port. As the extract is from the *Ellesmere Port Pioneer* and the person who sent it in lives in the nearby Wirral, it is clear that this sighting took place over Whitby, Cheshire. There is obviously no connection with the Tyneside sightings but with those other sightings from Merseyside and the Wirral area reported on pages 24 and 25 of the same issue. Indeed, Frodsham lies only 8 miles to the east of Ellesmere Port and Whitby, Cheshire, so it is with the Merseyside sightings that the object seen by Graham Thompson must be connected.—Gavin Gibbons, Milhams, Stanley Lane, Shrewsbury.

Thank you, Mr. Gibbons! We should have smelt a rat on seeing that the cutting was from Ellesmere Port Pioneer.—EDITOR.

Gyroscope shaped object

Sir,—In the January/February issue of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, a report from Scotland held outstanding significance for me, because of the reference to the gyroscopic-like frame you have in your files and an issue of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, 1958. A report of a huge gyroscopic-like object seen over Rugby in a virtually cloudless mid-day sky.

Seen by myself and four other persons, the object was visible to the naked eye and also viewed through powerful 20× binoculars.

As an ex-Royal Naval Air Service Meteorological Observer, the object was, and still is, unclassified, though very real, and any confirmation of this mysterious object, however slight, will always be welcomed.

As one of your earliest readers, I wish you every success in the quest for the truth.—William McGregor, 172 Addison Road, Rugby, Warwickshire.