little lake and a stream in the middle of a valley surrounded by hills.

Sr. Carvalho, a recent immigrant into Brazil from Portugal, said: "I am not an educated man, but I do know very well indeed how to distinguish an aeroplane from a helicopter or an airship. I lived in Portugal until 15 years ago and I was a farmer near Coimbra, my native home. While in Portugal it often happened, in my earlier years, that I saw one of the great German Zeppelins, and I can tell you that what I saw here is nothing like any sort of

flying machine that exists. It was not disc-shaped, it made no noise, and the speed at which it went away was terrifying. My wife saw it, and so did my little boy José Antônio, who thought it was of course a balloon."

The wife said it had given her the greatest shock she had ever experienced in her life, and her only regret was that she had been too taken aback to run to the nearest neighbours (nearly 1 kilometre distant) and get them to come and see it. "But you can just imagine," she said, "the shock at the

sight of a huge object hanging silent and stationary in the air, and then to see it vanish from our sight at a fantastic speed, leaving everything once more just as it had been before and as though it had never occurred! And what caps it all is that, just as it was moving off, a little window opened and a 'person' was there looking at us. If I had had binoculars I could have said what his face looked like. But I wasn't able to see it. That was a sight that I don't ever want to see again!"

(Translation by Gordon Creighton)

## UFOs and SF

## Jacques Bergier

APPARITIONS of unidentified flying objects are generally considered to be either truth or lies. I myself am inclined more to the second explanation, but we are not concerned with my personal opinion. Instead of applying just a two-valued logic, let us expand a little.

Let us consider the UFOs as stories.

It then becomes apparent that these stories have been told before. All the situations in UFO accounts, including shapes in the sky, contacts, landings, kidnappings, teleportation, and so on, are to be found in detail in science-fiction stories printed ten, twenty or thirty years before the same events are described as real. What are we to think of that?

The absolute sceptic (my kind) will say:

"All these stories are invented by people who have read too much science-fiction."

What could a less sceptical person propose?

The moderate sceptic could perhaps tell a story: suppose there are beings which observe us by means other than the senses or telepathy. Suppose they can observe chemical reactions in the brain, learn something of ourselves and even put ideas in our heads by producing appropriate chemical, electrical or other reactions. Suppose they put ideas into the brains of authors of science-fiction, detect (I say detect because they cannot read or write) the stories being published and thus, believe that they have established contact.

They don't understand the difference between fiction and news. That would answer some of the questions relative to the UFOs.

Jacques Bergier co-authored with Louis Pauwels the bestselling book *The Dawn of Magic*.

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