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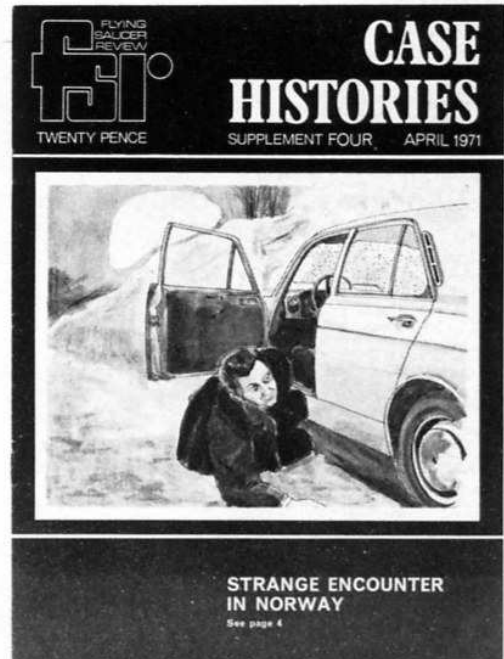
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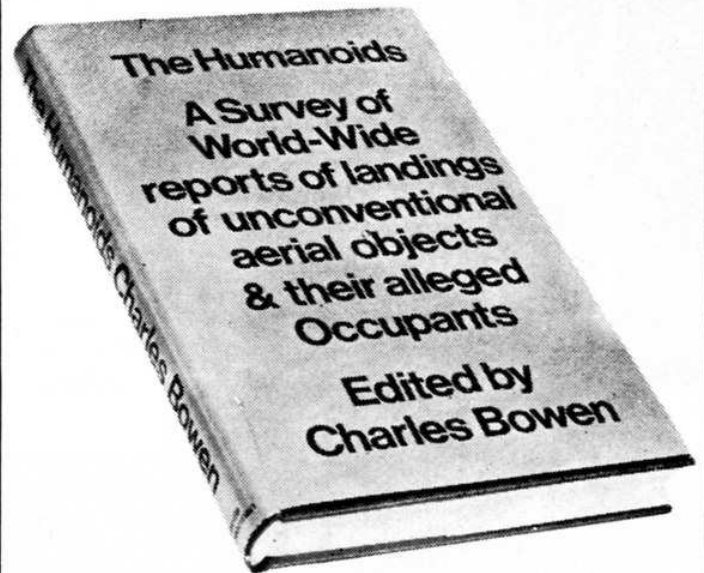
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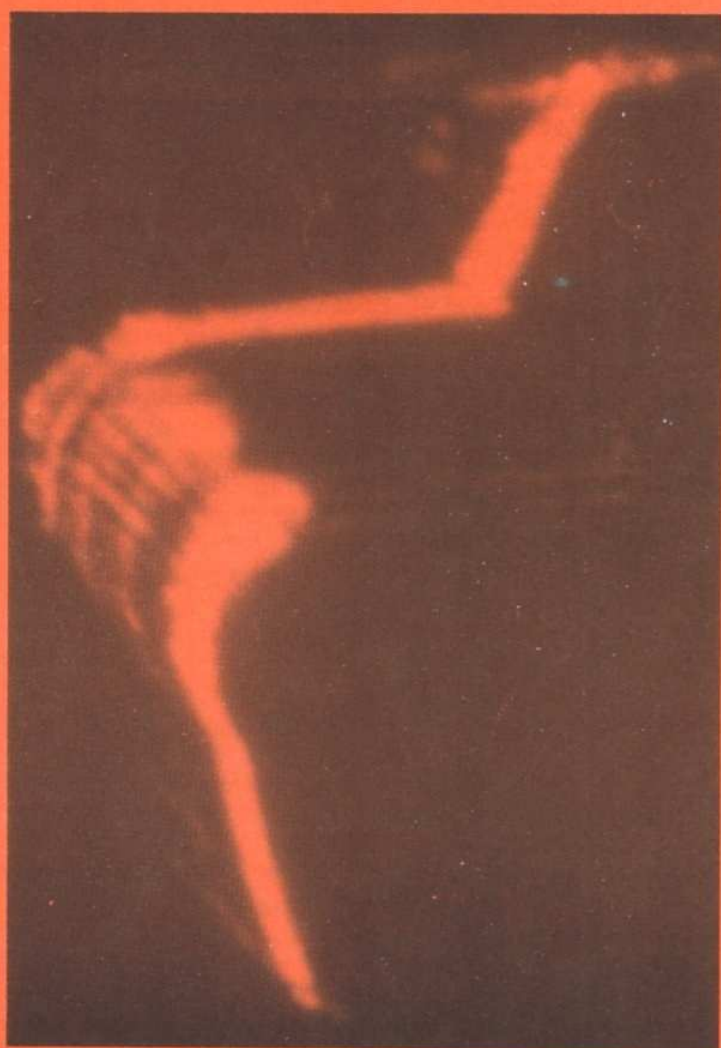
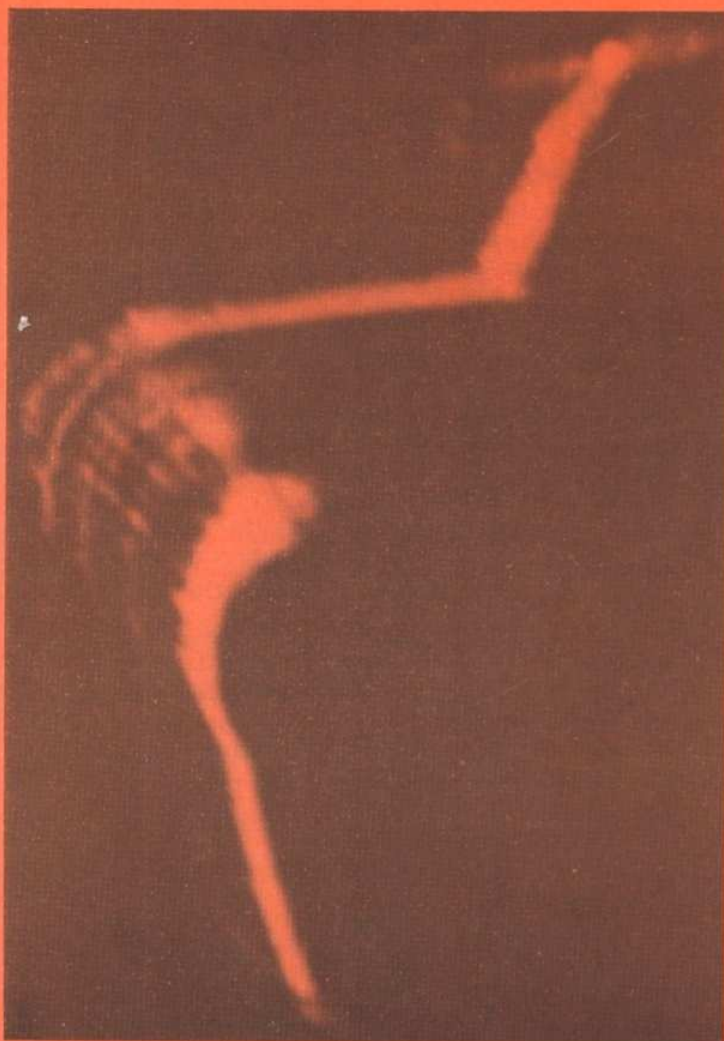
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UFO Encounters



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UFO ENCOUNTERS

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STRANGE ENCOUNTERS

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THE very idea of the observation of, and contact with UFO entities, and of the possible inter-relationship of psychic and UFO phenomena are anathema to thousands of people who otherwise would have developed an interest in the study of UFO reports. Yet it is this side of the phenomenon that is proving to be of the greatest significance and importance in that study.

Cultist fringe activities -- generated by wishful belief in the truth of everything contained in the 'messages' allegedly passed on to some of the 'contactees' -- have kept most of the die-hard dabblers in 'UFO studies' with their eyes glued on the heavens for objects viewed (*explainably?*) at a safe distance. It is not surprising that landing reports have been frowned upon and that UFO 'occupants' have been taboo for many during most of the twenty-seven years of modern UFO publicity.

Fortunately a small number of researchers -- nowadays a growing number -- have realised that the phenomenon has to be viewed in *all* its aspects, and that these include *not only* reports of well-defined unconventional aerial objects, especially where confirmed by radar, and reports of low-level objects, especially when accompanied by electronic, electrical and physical effects on living creatures, or maybe supported by photographs, *but also* reports of landings of strange objects and of observations of 'humanoid' occupants or other creatures, with or without 'messages', etc.

With regard to the latter category, we have said before (in *The Humanoids*) that the strangeness and often the very pointlessness of the activities of the reported creatures militate against the theory that the accounts are hoaxes: a hoaxer would, for example, be more inclined to give the story a beginning and an ending. Again, if the lurid 'contactee' claims are examined when shorn of the woolly cultism that surrounds them, it may be seen that they have a place in the overall pattern of the reports.

The questions arise: are ideas or images projected into the minds of close-range UFO observers, or are they controlled, say, by hypnosis? (Recall, for example, how, after their UFO encounter at San Pedro de los Altos, highly esteemed professional men repeated word for word, in all seriousness, a 'discourse' made up of the most incredible gibberish!)

Do the controllers of the objects cause witnesses to 'see' (in their minds) images of the strange objects and their stranger doings? Are these controllers extraterrestrial visitors, are they elemental denizens of this Earth, or are both types involved in the 'game'? Again, is there an overlap between UFO and psychic phenomena, or are both of these controlled wholly from the same source?

The strange encounters claimed in the reports in this Special Issue may not themselves provide the answers, but they must be put on the record for they seem to indicate the general direction in which we might profitably direct our researches.

CHARLES BOWEN