

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.

Mystery Rings

Dear Sir, — Having just read your tongue-in-cheek article "Hedgehogs from the Cosmos or Tidy Whirlwinds?" (FSR Vol. 29, No. 3), something clicked in my memory.

I felt you should know that Pat Delgado's Cheesefoot Head Mystery Rings of August 1981 had their counter-part at Marieville, Quebec, Canada, at about precisely the same time, namely on August 19, 1981, which was the very day on which Pat Delgado first learnt of the rings at Cheesefoot Head. (I enclose relevant press-clippings from *Le Journal de Quebec* about this case, dated respectively June 18, 1983, and July 9, 1983.)

Although the Quebec case did not show clearly defined rings, it did offer evidence of "whirlpool" patterns in the oats, for a distance of more than 2,000 ft.! Moreover the person who provided the report on it said that the disc responsible for this was seen following their vehicle at the time, travelling apparently at a height of only a few feet above the ground.

Yours sincerely,
Graham Conway,
11102 River Road,
Delta,
British Columbia,
Canada.

January 7, 1984

Those Vanishing Library Books

Dear Sir, — In his letter in FSR Vol. 28, No. 5, Mr. Jay of Axminster referred to the disappearance of UFO books from the shelves of public libraries.

Over the past four years, my local lending library had carried the same six old books on the subject, with no additions throughout the period, but these few have also vanished, the shelf being now given over to such themes as Witchcraft, etc.

I raised the matter with the branch librarian, who explained to me that there were plenty of books on UFOs,

that these books were available in the circuit, and that I could look them up on the micro-screen, and they would order them for me on payment of the prescribed fee of 25 pence per book.

I duly consulted the Catalogue and, as a start, chose two books: Professor Hans Holzer's UFONAUTS: NEW FACTS ON EXTRATERRESTRIAL LANDINGS (Granada, 1979), and Bruce Cathie's HARMONIC 33. I duly paid my 50 pence, and waited. And waited. AND WAITED. From August 1983 until Christmas!

When I asked the library what had become of the books I had requested, I was simply told that they had disappeared! They claimed to have no knowledge whatsoever as to what had happened — simply that the books had disappeared and were no longer available. I got my 50 pence back, and enclose herewith, for your interest, the two request cards that I had filled out in August 1983. So I can agree with Mr. Jay. There IS a black-out on UFO books.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs. Joan Amos,
Lucy Cottage,
Peter Lany,
Nr. Tavistock, Devon.
January 11, 1984

Note by Editor:

Something interesting is going on (and if more of our readers would report to us on their local situation as Mrs. Amos has done, we might learn a great deal more).

Unquestionably the picture does vary from library to library. I do know of some that still hold an extraordinarily good selection of books on our subject. But, more than twenty years ago, when I was still working in the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall and held a regular reader's ticket at the big Westminster Central Library round the corner from Trafalgar Square, one of their young lady librarians more or less admitted to me that there was in existence a directive to clamp down on the reading of UFO books and to encourage the dissemination of only

the more stupid ones (and in fact there are certain ones that you can pretty well count on finding in every library).

To my own knowledge, several big London libraries have shown a marked unwillingness, and in one case an outright refusal, to carry FSR's book, *The Humanoids*, on their shelves.

In the small town where I live, not far from London, the present situation is extremely interesting. For some years past, knowing of my residence locally, they have had two or three UFO books and have been careful to keep *The Humanoids* on their Catalogue. But it has not been seen on the shelves for a long time, and anyone asking for it is likely to be told that it is "out".

On the other hand, members of the library's staff have told enquirers that there is no local readership interest in our subject. Generally speaking there seems to be some evidence of a two-stage policy of (1) removing UFO books from the shelves while leaving them temporarily on the Catalogue and then, later, (2) of dropping them from the Catalogue altogether.

In 1982 a local lady, on my advice, asked our library for the Corgi paperback BEYOND EARTH: MAN'S CONTACT WITH UFOs, by my friends Ralph and Judy Blum. (I had suggested this book because I knew it was in fact then in their Catalogue.) Eventually I was greatly amused to learn from the lady that it took the library precisely one year and one day (366 days) to produce the book for her!

Had it been one of the semi-pornographic or trashy novels that form such a large part of our popular pabulum, it would no doubt have been on the counter in the twinkling of an eye!

Incidentally, that particular lady now no longer has any doubt whatsoever about the existence of a "cover-up"!

Postscript: BEYOND EARTH: MAN'S CONTACT WITH UFOs has now vanished from the Catalogue of our local library. Stage 2 has been completed.