

# A TURNING POINT IN UFO INVESTIGATION

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A GREAT service has recently been rendered to science by the distinguished American astronomer, Professor J. Allen Hynek. Dr. Hynek is at present Director of the Lindheimer Astronomical Research Centre at Northwestern University and Chairman of the university's Astronomy Department. He has also served as Associate Director of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory at Cambridge, Mass., as well as heading its NASA-sponsored Satellite Tracking Programme. Last but not least, for my readers, Dr. Hynek was for over 20 years the U.S. Air Force's scientific consultant on UFOs, and the signal service referred to above is the publication in the USA (and subsequently in the United Kingdom) of his new book, *The UFO Experience: a Scientific Inquiry*.\*

What he has done may be described in brief as at last taking the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects out of the hands of the neurotics—lay and scientific neurotics alike. Those of us professionally concerned with UFOs have for many years had to cope with the lay neurotics and the obviously lunatic fringe. But it is not generally realised that there are just as many neurotics among scientists as amongst ordinary citizens, and we have had to wait till now for a ranking scientist to cope with the latter. A neurotic, by the way, is a person suffering from "a condition of emotional maladjustment to reality, arising from unconscious inner conflicts, and manifested by a variety of mental, emotional, physical and behaviour symptoms." Such a state is perfectly compatible with scientific brilliance. Let us listen to Professor Eysenck:

"Scientists, especially when they leave the particular field in which they have specialised, are just as ordinary, pig-headed and unreasonable as anybody else, and their unusually high intelligence only makes their prejudices all the more dangerous . . ."

A saying attributed to Alexis Carrel runs: "It is the duty of science not to discard facts merely because they seem to be extraordinary, and because they remain inexplicable." And Dr. Hynek adds that "the history of science has shown that it is the things that *don't* fit, the apparent exceptions to the rule, that signal potential breakthroughs in our concept of the world about us."

And there is also the Canadian philosopher of science, Thomas Goudge, who writes: "a necessary condition of scientific advancement is that allowances must be made for (1) genuinely new empirical observations and (2) new explanation schemes, including new basic concepts and new laws." He goes on to say that when an explanation scheme has been accepted within the province of the scientific establishment, it becomes respectable, and



**Professor J. Allen Hynek**

tends to resist the incursions of any new empirical observations unless such observations have been generated within an already accepted establishment explanation scheme. Dr. Hynek remarks that for this reason there was initial opposition to the now accepted theories of meteorites, fossils, the circulation of the blood, bacteria, and—today—ball lightning.

The attitude of official science to meteorites in the 18th century is a perfect example of Goudge's thesis; for in 1772 even the famous chemist Lavoisier joined other members of the Paris Académie des Sciences—the French equivalent of the Royal Society—in issuing an official memorandum stating that "the falling of

\* The Henry Regnery Co. of 114 West Illinois Street, Chicago, Illinois 60610, U.S.A.  
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stones from the sky is physically impossible," and that meteorites were earth-bound rocks which had been struck by lightning. It should be remembered that these men were no less *intelligent* than the scientists of today; they merely shared the same kind of prejudices, and were keeping safely within their contemporary explanation schemes.

The chief difference between the 18th century and our own day is that the prejudices have now generally settled on the great majority of second, and lesser, echelon scientists; the great men generally quietly accept the reality of those phenomena so hotly denied by their lowlier colleagues.

But occasionally the top men are also seized by the strange neurotic virus of prejudice, and even Lord Kelvin—one of Britain's greatest men of science—was guilty of incomprehensible stupidity on more than one occasion, failings which his biographers find it easy to omit. At the time when the aeroplane was clearly to be seen approaching realisation; in the year Lilienthal was killed gliding; and a bare eight years before the Wright brothers flew, Kelvin wrote as follows in 1896: ". . . I have not the smallest molecule of faith in aerial navigation other than ballooning." (Letter in the R.Ae.S. archives.)

Before discussing neurosis among scientists, here is Dr. Hynek's gloomy picture of today's attitude of the scientific establishment toward UFOs:

"The almost universal attitude of scientists has been militantly negative. Indeed, it would seem that the reaction has been grossly out of proportion to the stimulus. The emotionally loaded, highly exaggerated reaction that has generally been exhibited by scientists to any mention of UFOs might be of considerable interest to psychologists. Such reaction has been interesting to observe. I have attended many gatherings of scientists, both formal and informal, at which the subject of UFOs has been brought up incidentally, either by chance or sometimes 'innocently' by me in order to observe the reaction. I have found it amusing thus to set a cat among the pigeons, for the reaction has been out of keeping with the traditional 'weigh and consider' stance of mature scientists. Frequently the reaction has been akin to that of a group of pre-teenagers watching a movie scene of exceptional tenderness or pathos quite beyond their years to appreciate: giggles and squirming suggest a defense against something the scientists cannot yet understand. It has seemed to me that such exhibitions by mature scientists are more than expressions of pity for the uninformed. Perhaps they are expressions of deep-seated uncertainty or fear . . . Scientists of good standing have toured the country declaiming against the UFO phenomenon, refusing to answer questions from the floor while proudly pointing out that they haven't taken the trouble to examine 'all the rubbish'. The phenomenon of this modern witch-hunt, the antithesis of what the scientific attitude stands for, is itself a phenomenon worthy of study. If 'all this UFO business is nonsense', why the overreaction on the part of established and highly respectable scientists? Is it a subconscious reaction to a challenge they are not prepared to accept?"

In his book, Dr. Hynek does refer to what he calls the "Invisible College," that small band of highly qualified men and women the world over, who are aware of the UFO facts, and want to pursue the study of them. But at the moment they are lying low, and are

only known to a few outsiders.

In passing, it is interesting to see what Arthur Koestler writes about Extra-Sensory-Perception (ESP), which has passed through many of the same vicissitudes as the study of UFOs: "The majority of academic psychologists remained hostile, although the giants had always taken telepathy and allied phenomena for granted."

In face of the vast accumulation of UFO material—a recent bibliography ran to 400 pages—why is it that the majority of scientists are so hostile; hostile, as Dr. Hynek shows, to (and far beyond) the point of becoming neurotic about the subject? One surely expects scientists to be perpetually inquisitive and restless in pursuit of extending the frontiers of science, of probing forward into the unknown. One also expects them to listen to the evidence; weigh it; and then—if they are not certain—to suspend judgment; not to ridicule any subject, but continue searching for the truth. Many of the scientists and intelligent laymen one meets behave like clowns when the subject of UFOs is brought up; and they are invariably ignorant of the relevant documents. They behave just like the theologians did in face of Galileo's assertion about the earth orbiting the sun. The attitude and behaviour of the average scientist can only be classed as neurotic.

Of the make-up of such men, there is clearly in many of them a deep and unconscious sense of insecurity or inadequacy, derived from infantile and childish conflicts; they feel uncomfortable and unsafe in the presence of any manifestation which cannot be examined in a laboratory. An insecure or inadequate man is generally a neurotic one, and the roots of his trouble are often sexual. There is also the crippling sin of arrogance, and the lack of true humility, which is basically related to insecurity and inadequacy, and ensures a second-rate type of man, and a second-rate scientist.

Many scientists have also suffered from a restricted home environment; they have been reared among intellectually and spiritually deprived families. This, of course, is not their fault, and they tend to grow up—and even attain high positions in their speciality—with an essentially "provincial" type of mind that has never had an opportunity of mixing with varied and mature men and women until it is too late for them to change. This in turn leads to them failing to react productively to alien ideas and concepts when they travel at home and abroad, and meet their fellow-workers.

But outstanding in the general neurotic pattern is the scientist's fear of ridicule by his colleagues if he is known to be interested in such a subject as UFOs: an interest in ESP, on the other hand, is now slowly creeping into the area of respectability, and ridicule is lessening. Sometimes it is even a question of a job being in danger—or a job being inaccessible—if a young scientist is thought to have "cranky" interests. But there is no excuse for the senior man who has already arrived; but all too many of them bear such deep scars of their childhood conflicts that the resulting insecurity and inadequacy carries right through their lives in the form of a severe state of moral cowardice.

Fear of the unknown and the inexplicable—the very spheres in which one would expect every leading scientist to involve himself—is also deep-seated in many

men; but these neurotic fears are probably dependent for their nourishment on one or more of the items already noted. But fear of the unknown and the inexplicable should not be tolerated by any scientific institution.

Finally, we have to thank Dr. Hynek for putting both of the two official U.S. UFO undertakings in perspective, and he is in a uniquely privileged position to do this. Project Blue Book was the special "office" of the U.S. Air Force, maintained to deal with UFO reports, to which Dr. Hynek was Scientific Consultant for its two decades of life; and the Condon Report, which the U.S. Air Force handsomely paid the University of Colorado to produce, is now the main excuse for official inactivity in American UFO research. Dr. Hynek's inside story of Blue Book shows that it was a thinly disguised fraud, set up to protect the Air Force's unspoken conviction that the subject of UFOs was a nonsense subject, and even utilising faked statistics to support this thesis. Blue Book was a shabby and disgraceful business.

When it comes to the Condon Report, which I have strongly criticised in the past, Dr. Hynek is far more severe—and is qualified to be far more severe—than I was. Apart from quoting two new and most damning documents in the form of Mary Armstrong's letter of resignation as Dr. Condon's administrative assistant, and W. T. Powers' critique which was so stern that the journal *Science* refused to publish it, Dr. Hynek delivers—with massive supporting evidence—the following quiet coup-de-grace: ". . . that (a) the subject matter for study by the Condon group was incorrectly defined, and (b) the Committee studied the wrong problem."

To close, here is the great philosopher William James, writing in 1895 of his own university of Harvard: his

words are as true today as when they were first uttered:

"There is included in human nature an ingrained naturalism and materialism of mind which can only admit facts that are actually tangible. Of this sort of mind the entity called 'Science' is the idol. Fondness for the word 'scientist' is one of the notes by which you may know its votaries; and its short way of killing any opinion that it disbelieves in is to call it 'unscientific'. It must be granted that there is no slight excuse for this. Science has made such glorious leaps in the last 300 years . . . that it is no wonder if the worshippers of Science lose their heads. In this very University, accordingly, I have heard more than one teacher say that all the fundamental conceptions of truth have already been found by Science, and that the future has only the details of the picture to fill in. But the slightest reflection on the real conditions will suffice to show how barbaric such notions are. They show such a lack of scientific imagination that it is hard to see how one who is actively advancing any part of Science can make a statement so crude. Think how many absolutely new scientific conceptions have arisen in our generation, how many new problems have been formulated that were never thought of before, and then cast an eye upon the brevity of Science's career. Is this credible that such a mushroom knowledge, such a growth overnight as this, *can* represent more than the minutest glimpse of what the universe will really prove to be when adequately understood? No! Our Science is but a drop, our ignorance a sea. Whatever else be certain, this at least is certain: that the world of our present natural knowledge *is* enveloped in a larger world of some sort, of whose residual properties we at present can frame no positive idea."

C.H.G-S.,  
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# THE HEALING OF WOUNDS BY ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION

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WE are indebted to Mr. W. Hoville and Mr. J. Hoville, of NICAP-APRO Subcommittee, Dollard des Ormeaux, Province of Quebec, Canada, for photo-stats of two extremely interesting press reports which appear below.

In an earlier article,<sup>1</sup> I attempted to discuss the evidence that in certain cases people appear to have received some sort of instantaneous healing through the agency of UFOs, and I gave in outline seven episodes which seemed to be corroborative of this thesis. The press items from Canada may be thought to indicate that confirmation of the idea of healing through UFOs is making its appearance, and that we shall now have a scientific rationale for such phenomena.

1. From *The Toronto Star*, Tuesday, September 5, 1972, in a report from Kingston:

CANADIANS FIND FAST HEALING OF WOUNDS

"Two Canadian scientists have found a way to heal

wounds on laboratory animals up to 100 times faster than the weeks of treatment now required, a third member of the team said yesterday.

"Susan Halter, a Queen's University medical student who assisted in the project, said in an interview that the technique has been tried only on rats. Further research is needed before tests can be made on people.

"Dr. Alan Tanner, head of the control systems laboratory of the National Research Council, was to present the findings today in Varna, Bulgaria, where he and his colleague, Queen's anatomy professor Dr. Cesar Romero-Sierra, are attending the International Symposium on Electrosleep and Electroanaesthesia.

## SKIPS STEPS

"Miss Halter said the technique was developed while Tanner and Romero-Sierra were seeking ways to keep birds from colliding with airplanes.