

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.

'Shadow' and 'Portholes'

Sir,—May I refer to *Flying Saucer over Cluj, Romania*, in FSR for November-December 1969.

Florin Gheorghita's conclusion that as "portholes" are not visible, they do not exist, does not necessarily follow.

I assume that two active groups of participants were involved in this incident; (1) the Romanians and (2) the saucer operators. No others appear to be involved. It is logical then to expect that each was interested in the other and hence, if a line were projected between the two participant groups, it would be the line of vision for both groups. The "Illogical shadow" is always on this line.

I have long been an adherent to the "plasma-surrounded craft" theory, and this case is further evidence for this inasmuch as the object was self-

luminous. Self-luminous, that is, except for the area of "shadow", which, if it cannot be ascribed a logical explanation as a shadow, must then be something else. But what? The direct line of the "shadow" and the ground observers I think provides the answer, which is that the "shadow" is the craft's "porthole" (i.e. a hole in the plasma); the brightness of the plasmic envelope causing the high degree of contrast recorded.

A. Calvert, 26, Well Road, Barnet, Herts.

Croydon Library's big list

Sir,—With reference to Anne Dooley's letter in Mail Bag in the Nov./Dec., issue of FSR, I thought you would be interested to know that there are 38 books on UFOs obtainable from the Croydon Public Library. It is also interesting to note that whenever I have

visited the library there have been no more than two or three books available at the same time, and recently there have been none on the shelves and often a waiting list for some of them. I think this shows that more and more people are becoming interested in the subject, and certainly the demand for books has increased over the last few months.

David J. Salsbury, Sanderstead, South Croydon, Surrey, December 30, 1969. P.S. When I discovered that the library had not obtained a copy of "The Humanoids" I went out and bought one.—D.J.S.

(The Croydon Library list—copy to hand—will take some beating. It contains books by most of the well-known authors, with the notable exceptions of A. Michel and I. T. Sanderson—EDITOR.)

An important letter from Dr. Pierre Guérin

Dear Sir,

It is excellent that FSR should be open to a wide sweep of opinions. After John Keel and his "soft" saucers, as Salvador Dali would say, here comes now Peter F. Sharp who, in the issue for January-February 1970, has our extraterrestrial friends arriving, aboard Phobos and Deimos, into an orbit around Mars after a long, long interstellar voyage across the four-dimensional Space-Time of our physics, and has these gigantic hollow spheres becoming satellites of the red planet shortly before 1877.

I promptly felt as though suddenly taken back to twenty years before, when Keyhoe published his first book. At that time, the most serious ufologists felt it incumbent upon them to select only what seemed to be the less "irrational" from the eyewitness accounts, and consequently to eliminate all the rest which smacks of "magic". They calculated the amount of energy necessary for the accomplishment of such long journeys, and waited for physics to make discoveries in the realm of anti-gravity. Sometimes they calculated the chances of life on Mars, in the hope of getting round the immense difficulties involved in interstellar voyages. The science which they attributed to the Extraterrestrials was, at best, the science of our own 21st century.

But alas, and alas, and again, alas! The facts are obstinate. The astronomers who keep watch on the artificial satellites put into orbit around the Earth by man never see the UFOs arriving, so to speak, on our planet from Space. Having left traces on the soil in landing—traces that argue in favour of the solid, material nature of the machine—this or that UFO vanishes instantaneously on the spot immediately after having taken off. Another UFO emerges from a cloud which, a few minutes before, did not exist in the blue sky. And, finally, it seems that—with the exception

of the classical "saucer" type—the UFOs can assume various forms, as though they were seeking to mould themselves upon the machines that our own terrestrial technology is capable of imagining at a given moment in our history.

We no longer have the right in 1970 to ignore such facts. These facts show that the occupants of the UFOs possess a science that, to our understanding, is what our science is to the understanding of an ape. The UFOs have nothing whatever to do with the idea of some sort of manufactured Space sondes, similar to ours and launched from some base in our Solar System. Whether their pilots come from our astronomical Universe or from Magonia I know not: but what I can affirm positively is that they manipulate Space and Time in a manner that to us is incomprehensible and which probably makes it unnecessary for them to traverse the geodesic points of our customary Space-Time and enables them to "materialise" here and "dematerialise" there. It seems impossible to account otherwise for the observed facts. The hypothesis about launching bases on Phobos and Deimos has become null and void.

I would add that the latest photographic observations of Phobos have proved that, contrary to what had for a certain time been thought, the movement of this satellite displays no acceleration. In other words, Phobos is not slowed down by the exosphere of Mars, and this suggests that it is not hollow and artificial but solid like all natural satellites. Phobos and Deimos are moreover extremely difficult to see, even with a big telescope, and there is nothing surprising in the fact of their not having been seen prior to their discovery by Hall in 1877.

Pierre Guérin, Astronome à l'Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris