

A Flying Saucer Foundation

By John Lade

Mr. Lade is Secretary of Flying Saucer Service Ltd., the publishers of Flying Saucer Review, a position he has held since 1956.

AS FLYING SAUCER REVIEW begins its twelfth year, which is also the nineteenth since the Arnold sighting over Mount Rainier, Washington, U.S.A., which first gave publicity and a name to the phenomena, flying saucers continue to be seen in so many places that one is entitled to assume that their appearance and movements are unrestricted as to land or sea. It is abundantly evident that they are not secret craft belonging to any country on earth, even if the numerous similar sightings in past centuries—a feature which the REVIEW took care to publicize at a time when it was suggested that some “silence group” might attempt censorship on grounds of security—had not already ruled this out as a possible explanation.

Unless one is prepared to think in terms of mysterious manifestations from other planes of existence in place or time, before which he is helpless to advance in knowledge until further revelations occur, the student of these things is likely to favour the theory that their origin may be extra-terrestrial. People generally admit the possibility of there being intelligent creatures elsewhere in the universe, but they do not see how travelling in space can overcome the great distances thought to exist between the solar systems of our galaxy (which astronomers assume to be many). Science fiction can imagine beings living on wandering planets or in vast ships, cruising at will. Dino Kraspedon in *My Contact With Flying Saucers* asserted that our estimate of the speed of light as constant is false; that the rays which, themselves dark in space, produce light in the atmosphere of the planet and travel at far higher speeds, which may imply that distances are much less than they are thought to be; and that the red shift in the spectrum is due to the “fatigue of light” lengthening its waves as it penetrates the atmosphere instead of being an indication that the light source is receding and the universe consequently expanding.

There is no proof of any of these theories—yet. Whoever they are who control the flying saucers, they appear to be supremely confident of their superior technology to the extent of indifference with regard to our reactions, as though assuming that no one would know what to make of “angel hair”, of pieces of metal or, even, of a whole craft if one were downed and captured as it was

rumoured had happened in the early days of the subject.

Are we going to refuse such a challenge to our intelligence and content ourselves with idle speculation, as if we were no better than animals in a park whose gambols are momentarily interrupted by the passage of strangers? There is a growing number of determined people who intend to do something about it, who have not yet found a focus for their activity.

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW has found no evidence that any “silence group” exists and it has probed and probed and searched for signs of one. It has encountered indifference and apparent stupidity which are almost incredible, until one realizes that there is no branch of government to which this subject may rightfully be passed. Reports usually go to the air force and, naturally enough, when the evidence does not admit a hostile aircraft, that specialized branch of a country's defences is only too glad to find some ready explanation and to drop the question if none is forthcoming, however much “security” may have descended upon the initial investigation.

I am reminded of an occasion when a sonic boom shattered some greenhouse glass at my home, a jet aircraft being heard by several persons immediately afterwards; drawing a convincing blank from a local airfield occupied by the U.S. Air Force, I wrote in complaint to the Air Ministry and received a courteous reply together with a small sum in compensation without, however, admitting any liability and specifically stating that it was not one of Her Majesty's aircraft. No one showed interest to discover to whom this aircraft belonged, even though damage had been accepted as done. How much less can one expect interest to be shown in unidentified flying objects when no damage is done or even if it is, provided it is not the sort of damage that could reasonably be laid to an air ministry's charge?

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, the American astronomer who has for several years advised the U.S. Air Force regarding sightings, ends his article in *The Times* of January 20, 1966, entitled *In Search of Flying Saucers* thus: “I have recommended to the Air Force that a panel, including sociologists and psychologists, should examine the growth of

rumour. Possibly the study of some of the people who regard the sighting of UFOs would be more rewarding than the investigation of what they saw". As Dr. Hynek earlier in the article mentioned that sober, intelligent citizens were often involved and sometimes reported their sightings from a sense of duty, it is fair to assume that he is not suggesting that a minority of cranks should be studied, but rather that he himself as an astronomer is helpless to pull further satisfying explanations out of the bag and the only thing to do is to examine the witnesses more fully. His panel ought to include judges and alienists; or, perhaps, it would be better to convene a dozen sober citizens from the jury roster. What shall they decide? The astronomer appears to confess that he is not the wanted expert and that he hopes someone else can dispose of the troublesome witnesses.

Witnesses keep coming along and numbers of disinterested men in the street, together with women and children, in many countries continue to report unidentified flying objects, sometimes with the comment that they used to disbelieve in flying saucers but now think differently. It is not clear what more could be obtained from them, unless Dr. Hynek means that attention should be paid to the contact claims of those who say they have encountered and in some cases conversed with beings from other worlds.

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW keeps an open mind on this aspect of the subject, not having itself been so privileged. Contacts must remain suspect so long as they are haphazard and inconsequential, but that is not to say that there is not scope for examining why, for instance, George Adamski seemed to be more interested in putting across a philosophy which he was already teaching before he claimed to have met a man from Venus and ridden in a spaceship than he was in fostering other contacts, or even, endorsing those contacts claimed by others; why, also, some contactees whose stories sounded reasonable enough at first, later seemed to go haywire claiming further experiences of an incredible nature. If contact with alien, advanced civilizations unhinges the mind we should surely study the circumstances and learn to defend ourselves. If the whole subject is hallucination, then we must explain how hallucinations can also appear on radar and be photographed.

There can be no informed denial, in 1966, that flying saucers are real or, let us say in order to guard against philosophical abstruseness as real as conventional aircraft. And no one has put forward a better name; at first acquaintance slightly absurd because saucers do not fly unless thrown,

implying a situation out of the ordinary and out of control (which exactly describes the position of research on the subject), nevertheless the saucer shape has long been known as an ideal form of aerofoil. Everyone knows that they are not literal flying saucers but, likewise, everyone knows what is meant; whether the UFO concerned is saucer-shaped or some other shape it is an unidentified flying object belonging to a certain category and is not, for example, a meteor or a bird in flight.

We are no further from being at the mercy of events and I do not think that Dr. Hynek's panel would help to solve the problem or, even, that it would achieve unanimity unless it were a jury; and a jury could only be expected to pronounce upon the genuineness or otherwise of a phenomenon. Yet there are so many leads to study, some provided by the late W. Smith of Canada concerning new and unconventional instruments for making observations of hitherto unknown natural conditions; practical experiments such as the laying out of lights in order to encourage landings, which has been reported as done on several occasions although no single organization has been able to investigate these reports; the extraction of common denominators from sightings and the assessment of their possible meanings and, not least or last, the study of electrical phenomena such as the stalling of petrol engines (when diesel engines have run on) and the clues as to what new forms or applications of electricity are involved.

To study effectively these and other things is clearly outside the scope of this magazine and beyond the capacity of its publishers, who are a limited company engaged in a modest business venture. Large sums of money are needed to engage the services of scientists, laboratories and workshops, to conduct reliable investigations and to publish results. If there are to be results there must be an organization set up on a scale sufficient to obtain and produce them. It is a question of endowment of a Foundation, a non-profit-making body governed by Trustees, to determine the nature and origin of Flying Saucers.

Those who are interested, or able to interest others, to provide substantial funds for a Flying Saucer Foundation are asked to write, in the first instance, to the Editor of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW marking their envelopes "F.S.F." No money should be sent; it must first be discovered whether there will be support enough to launch a Foundation, before appointing Trustees, drawing up a constitution, organizing work, enrolling members and obtaining funds, as may be required, to achieve the objective.