

ever considerable evidence that it is not the entire craft that spins, but only an outer part or flange. In such a case, the inner capsule or cabin, containing the crew, would presumably not spin at all.

6. This photograph was taken on Sunday, December 26, 1965, near Cappoquin, County Waterford, Eire, by Miss Jacqueline Wingfield, a British Museum colleague of FSR Consultant the late Charles Gibbs-Smith, MA, FMA, Hon. Companion of the Royal Aeronautical Society. As FSR readers will know, Mr. Gibbs-Smith was recognized as the leading British expert on the subject of human flight, and his handbook on the question, published by H.M. Stationery Office, has been for years the standard

authority on all matters pertaining to the history of aviation. After close examination by numerous British and American experts, the Cappoquin photo was published as the lead-story in FSR Volume 12, No.2 (March/April 1966). The great "plume" or "elongated halo" (not seen by either Miss Wingfield or her companion, Miss Lisbet Mortensen from Denmark), is a remarkable and powerful feature in the photograph, the authenticity of which has never been placed in doubt by anyone. To my knowledge, because I was present, it was seen and inspected and analysed, and "blown up", by numerous very qualified people, British and American.

## MAIL BAG

Correspondents are asked to keep their letters short and give full name and address (not necessarily for publication). It is not always possible for the Editor to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek

Dear Editor, — So Dr. Hynek died on Sunday, April 27. What he achieved in Ufology — a word that, if I am not wrong, he himself coined — will be remembered as long as things unknown to man will fly in our skies and in our minds. May I evoke some personal recollections of this man whom I was happy to know — on two occasions I think he showed himself to me deep down in his heart.

The first time was on the occasion of my first meeting with him, in my apartment at Vannes, the old quarter in the southern part of Paris where I was living then, at the close of the 1950s, and where all my files since the Scandinavian Wave were stored.

It was not without emotion — a feeling of something historical if I dare so to put it — that I was awaiting his arrival, though I knew that he would be 'piloted' to my apartment by my old friend the astrophysicist Pierre Guérin, as well as by the celebrated Franco-American astronomer Gérard de Vaucouleurs and one of de Vaucouleurs' assistants, the best interpreter I could have dreamt of.

Dr. Guérin had already warned me, the evening before, that what they wished to do was to verify whether, and in what measure, the UFO case-histories with which I had documented my books were *actual*, or were invented, or were embellished.

Dr. de Vaucouleurs' assistant was a photographer.

The three of them spent two days in reading through my files and in photographing the material, but it was not long before I had perceived that Hynek was not only a learned astronomer, but also a thoroughly intuitive man, well able to sound out the hearts of people. In appearance, he did not in fact look like an American, but, with his elegant little "goatee" beard, rather like one of those Central European\* masters in Psychology, such as Freud.

After two days of scrutinizing, photographing, and debating, there came a (for me, at any rate) solemn little silence. Then Hynek gave a sigh, and said: "Well, now I can tell you. Until now I had been convinced that you had invented all these landing cases."

Then, after another silence, he continued: "Well... and now, *so what?*"

I felt at the time, and still feel, that at that very moment Hynek had changed his mind.

I do not mean to say that he had suddenly "become a *believer*" something which, incidentally, I myself was not then, and still am not. (As always, my motto is "LOOK AT EVERYTHING, AND BELIEVE NOTHING").

But I mean that, from that very moment onwards, he had decided to "LOOK AT EVERYTHING". And this is precisely what he did from that day onwards, devoting the whole of

his life to Ufology, with that courage which we all know, never caring a fig for the gossip of his professional colleagues, but guided always by one aim — the search for the *truth*.

The other recollection which I shall always have of him and of what sort of a man he was dates back to the time when, later on, I visited him in his home-town, Evanston, and went with him to his Observatory, near the lake, (Yerkes Observatory, University of Michigan), and there beheld what I had dreamed of seeing once in my lifetime, when, as a child, I had built my own first little telescope — the biggest astronomical lens in the world!

Of course I enjoyed the chance to see that famous lens, but, most of all, I think I enjoyed the chance to discover Hynek in his private life; to meet his children, who are now grown up, and, above all, to meet his wife, Minnie. Mrs. Hynek, running her house and home and family with the age-old wisdom of womankind, struck me as one of those paramount American women of History, endowed with insuperable personality.

It can scarcely be said that we Ufologists let our wives have a completely quiet life, free of bickerings and annoyances.

I think of her and her dear ones with grief, and I share their sorrow, as so many of us do all over the world, to whom the name of Hynek remains as that of the leading character in the

greatest mystery of these times.

Yours sincerely,

**Aimé Michel,**

La Haute Combe,

F04570 St-Vincent-Les-Forts,

Alpes de Haute Provence,

France.

May 15, 1986.

*\*Correct indeed, for Dr. Hynek was of Czechoslovakian parentage, born in Chicago. — EDITOR.*

Dear Gordon, — This letter is to serve two functions, first to comment (briefly) on the passing of my close friend and colleague J. Allen Hynek and second, to send you a manuscript for your publication consideration.

I first met Allen at his observatory at Northwestern University in 1972 while I was on official travel. I had made arrangements to drop by the campus during a conference in Chicago, and I was met by this spry and dapper gentleman who obviously was a professor type. After introducing myself and sharing some of my background I kept noticing that he was looking at me "sort of funny" ... as if I was not really who I said I was. Perhaps each of us was just checking the other out. What a marvellous experience to be able to share quickly some of the subtle and challenging characteristics of what we now call UFO phenomena. Neither of us beat around the bush; we just talked about the scientific evidence as we knew it to exist (at that time). Allen remained a hard-working person to the very end, and set a standard for the rest of us to try to live up to. As so many others will say along with me, I will miss him and his cheery greetings. But in my memory I will see his broad smile and hear his voice and remember some word of support for my own work. And I will look around for another mentor to fill his shoes. I don't expect to find one!

I wish to submit the enclosed MS entitled "A Review of Proposed Explanatory Hypotheses for Unidentified Aerial Phenomena". I would also like to dedicate it to the memory of J. Allen Hynek (if published). This MS is really submitted for any comments and additions you might care to make. If, in your estimation, it is premature or incomplete I will understand. If so just say so and return it. Hopefully it will be of use to our readership as sort

of a rational check-list to consult when necessary.\*

I hope that all is going well with you and your work. I marvel at your energy and intellectual prowess. I read and speak only a few foreign languages, for instance and can't keep up with my reading list. Keep up your fine leadership at the journal.

Very Sincerely,

**Richard F. Haines, Ph.D.,**

Research Consultant,

325 Langton Avenue,

Los Altos, CA 94022,

U.S.A.

May 26, 1986.

*\*It will be a great honour for FSR to publish this, just as soon as we can get it into the pipeline. — EDITOR.*

### Major Donald Keyhoe

Dear Sir, — I was greatly troubled when I saw your recent reference, on page 24 of FSR 31/2, to "the late Major Donald Keyhoe".\*

As it was the first indication I had seen that the good Major was no longer with us, I at once called him on his personal telephone number which he gave me long ago. It was a real pleasure when I heard his voice answering the phone. We talked a bit, and I learned that he was in reasonably good health. He sounded like his old self and I was very glad that I had called him. He thanked me for doing so.

I thought therefore I would advise you so that you might print a correction note in a forthcoming issue, so that other readers could be informed that Major Donald Keyhoe is not deceased.

Yours sincerely,

**C. W. Fitch,**

711 Edgewood Road,

Cleveland, Ohio 44143,

U.S.A.

May 4, 1986.

*\*It is proving difficult at the moment to pin down the precise sources (they were several) for the unfortunate report about the death of Major Donald Keyhoe, and we greatly regret the trouble we have caused by falling into this trap. For we do not doubt that it was a trap, and those who read Aimé Michel's letter in FSR 29/6 about the rumours of the demise of himself, and our note about the similar reports of the death of John*

*Keel, will perhaps share our own conclusions as to what probably lies behind it all. — EDITOR.*

### "Indirect Hypnosis" and Sensitives

Dear Editor, — I wish to thank Sra. Irene Granchi for explaining the term "indirect hypnosis" (FSR 31/2).

Unfortunately, it is still a disturbing concept, since it basically involves telepathy, i.e., using one controversial and little-known phenomenon to investigate another. Not exactly the best way to convince the unbeliever!

What evidence do we have that the process works in any particular case? There is a great deal of evidence that most "sensitives" inadvertently tap their own subconscious imaginations when producing "readings".\* But rare indeed must be the true sensitive so powerful as to be able to read faithfully another person's thoughts without error or omission. Such a person would be a menace to society!

Fortunately, there are scientific experiments for testing the accuracy of hypnotic regression. This involves providing the subjects with a precisely known experience, say a movie, and then, a couple of weeks later, comparing their memories under hypnosis with those of un hypnotized controls. (For those who are interested, hypnosis tends to produce more details, but also more mistakes.)

May I suggest that every "sensitive" used in indirect hypnosis be tested in this way, in order to be sure that his/her abilities are both genuine and accurate. If this is not done, then, scientifically, the exercise must be regarded as completely worthless and counter-productive.

Yours sincerely,

**Malcolm Smith,**

7, 23rd Avenue,

Brighton,

Brisbane,

Queensland 4017,

Australia.

April 26, 1986.

*\*Nobody who has the slightest knowledge of psychic matters can fail to perceive that the ordinary "medium" or "sensitive" is simply a piece of "blotting-paper", picking up impressions from all sides and feeding them out again as "messages from the Spirit World", as we see almost daily in all these much-advertised public demonstrations of "clairvoyance". — EDITOR.*