

**BOOK REVIEW BY THE EDITOR:**  
***CROP CIRCLES: THE GREATEST MYSTERY***  
***OF MODERN TIMES.* © BY LUCY PRINGLE (U.K.)**

**Hardback, 144 pages, copiously illustrated (colour photographs), published  
1995 by Thorsons (U.K.), price £16.99, USA \$27.00. ISBN: 0-7225-3855-3.**

On the subject of crop circles, most FSR readers will doubtless recall and know the excellent books of our colleague Pat Delgado and one associate (*Circular Evidence*, 1989, *Conclusive Evidence*, 1992, and *The Latest Evidence*, 1992), and we now have the fine new volume from another British investigator, Lucy Pringle, which brings the entire story up-to-date. Highly recommended! The colour photographic record is truly remarkable.

As we know, the arrival of the corn-crop phenomenon produced plenty of alarm in British Governmental circles in Margaret Thatcher's day. She called a Cabinet Meeting to discuss it, and commissioned one of Britain's leading scientists and think-tank men, Lord Zuckerman, to produce an authoritative report which certainly has not so far been published (though Zuckerman did say enough, in an important press article, which I have, to show that for him at any rate the crop circles **were no joke**).

As we have mentioned from time to time, the leading US scientist who for many years past has been probing the mystery is Dr C.W. Levengeod, a University of Michigan biophysicist (see FSR 44/1, *Why No Crop Circles in FSR Now.*)

The findings of Levengeod and his co-worker Nancy Talbott have been widely publicised and discussed. Neither of them believes in any UFO connection, but neither do they see the likes of Doug n' Dave as probable explanations.

They speak in their reports of **"the application of great heat, perhaps similar to microwave energy"**, and in the latest US press reports (see local Canadian newspaper, *The Observer* of Quesnel, B.C., October 31, 1999) Dr Levengeod is now talking of **"high-energy vortices"** and of **"a highly charged atmospheric plasma system framed in the ionosphere, triggered by increased technological transmissions -e.g. cell phone activity"**.

His latest report goes on: "The presence of an increased concentration of magnetic particles, and the alteration in respiration patterns found in the formation plant samples, strongly suggest that **high-energy vortices** were involved in the organization of this crop formation near Vanderhoof Airport, Canada, in September 1998.

"The increased transmissions triggered a system that, once formed, oscillated around the Earth's magnetic lines and then descended to Earth. If such a system hits a crop field, then you end up with crop circles.

"Plasma systems have a strong magnetic field which may indicate why batteries go dead, TV reception goes funny, and why animals behave funny on nights that crop circles appear."

Commenting further in explanation of Dr Levengeod's words, Nancy Talbott, who is a staff member of BLT Research Center, Cambridge, Massachusetts, explains:-

"The **Northern Lights**, and also of course **lightning** itself, are examples of plasma systems.

"Testing on the circles at Vanderhoof -which Dr Levengeod has definitely concluded **are no hoax**- showed significant alteration in the respiration cycles of the plants, and this indicates exposure to unusual energies.

"Increases in the number of magnetic particles found in soil samples were also part of the equation that led to Dr Levengeod's theory, as well as a microscopic examination of the particles that showed spherical black bead-like formations, 1.5 micrometres in diameter, on the plant stem nodes.

"The BLT centre (to which he belongs) is the only such facility in the world that is studying crop circle formations and samples."

**In conclusion, Nancy Talbott recognises that these findings of Dr Levengeod "are a theory in the course of development."**

**She says: "It's not a final answer, but it is a reasonable conclusion that fits the known facts. It's the only model proposed so far to explain the physical findings."**

**"The problem is that science does not recognise plasma systems as descending onto the Earth's surface."**

**NOTE BY EDITOR OF FSR.**

So much for the Levengeod scientific theory. I have explained it in some detail, **not because I have come to accept it myself as an explanation -for I do not!** I merely hope it will show that this crop-circle business truly is mighty complex, and that not a million Dougs and Daves could ever account for it!

[For my own personal idea of what is still likely to be the **best** explanation found yet for crop circles, see my views as already set out on page 18 of FSR 44/1. This means to say that I accept the likelihood that **instantaneous collapses** of standing cereal crops and **instantaneous shaping** of circles and other formations, have been seen to follow just after a small white, fast-flying globe -the size possibly of a tennis ball- has manoeuvred and flown around all over the field.

And that does not mean either that I consider crop circles have necessarily anything to do with what we call "UFOs". We know pretty well nothing about **anything**. UFOs and crop circles may in all probability derive in the end from the same unknown governing agencies in the unseen world around us.] G.C.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTE.

For an interesting article on ball lightning, believed by some to consist of a plasma system generated in thunderstorms, see a recent article in the *New Scientist* of 8 April 2000. I just mention this because, although I

too do not believe such a natural phenomenon could account for elaborate and complex crop-circle type formations, it does indeed involve a small flying globe about the size of a tennis ball, albeit glowing rather than white, and drifting rather than fast-moving. -Philip Creighton.■

## BOOK REVIEW BY THE EDITOR:

***PASSPORT TO THE COSMOS*, © BY JOHN E. MACK, M.D.**

**Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School, and Founding Director of the Program For Extraordinary Experience Research (PEER).**

**Crown Publishers, New York, 1999, hardback, 305 pages, with bibliography and index.**

**USA: \$24; Canada: \$35.50. ISBN: 0-517-70568-0**

Readers will no doubt recall the terrible rumpus that was caused five years ago when Dr John E. Mack, Professor of Psychiatry at the outstandingly famous Harvard Medical School, let it be known that he had been studying the abduction phenomenon, had interviewed scores of abductees, and proclaimed that the phenomenon was unquestionably **real in some strange sort of way**.

The University chiefs launched an investigation and tried (unsuccessfully) to have him sacked, and when Dr Mack visited Britain in August 1995, and the directors of FSR laid on a dinner and reception for him at Claridge's Hotel in London, he explained to us exactly what it was that had so upset the Harvard academics.

What had "stuck in their craws" wasn't his interest in studying UFOs! **It was the mere fact that he dared to suggest that there might be other sorts of "reality"!** "That", he said "had really got them!" "That," he said, **"was my heresy!** If I had simply said that here are these cases that I can't explain, and one day a fellow-psychiatrist will find a new diagnosis -that would have been fine!

"But it's when I said that we need to change our notions of 'reality' in order to understand this -they said that if I hadn't done **that**, there wouldn't have been an investigation."

Dr Mack, already a Pulitzer Prize winner with his book on Lawrence of Arabia, *A Prince of our Disorder*, produced his first book on "our subject" in 1994: *Abduction: Human Encounters With Aliens* (Simon and Schuster, UK price £16.99, ISBN 0-671-71181-4), and it was a best-seller.

As a follow-up he has now written this groundbreaking new volume, in which he has powerfully demonstrated how the abduction phenomenon calls for a revolutionary new way of examining **the nature of reality** and our own place in the Cosmos.

His first book had stunned the world with his extensive research on individuals who had claimed alien encounters, and now, in this second volume, he provocatively asserts, on the basis of his continued research and study of over 100 cases, that this UFO phenomenon is part of a new

era of human consciousness, a time in which we must be willing to embrace the idea that alien visitation is **"real on some level"**.

For Dr Mack the alien abduction phenomenon is clearly nothing short of a cosmic wake-up call to humans that we do indeed live in a world filled with spirits and beings who can cross the barrier that we ourselves have thrown up between the "material" and the "immaterial" worlds.

Drawing on the rich tradition of non-western and indigenous cultures, which more readily accept that we live in a multidimensional Universe, Dr Mack persuasively shows that, by **broadening our definition of "what is real"**, we can begin to explore a phenomenon that has deep and lasting implications for all of mankind.

By sharing the vivid and dramatic encounters of his over 100 "experiencers", he illuminates a phenomenon that has shattered the worldviews of those who have experienced it. Time and time again, individuals from all cultures say that their lives have been radically altered by their encounters with aliens in ways that are both traumatic and transformative.

This transformation seems to be an intrinsic part of the alien abduction phenomenon, which is marked by a variety of elements that go beyond the physical manifestation of alien visitation. In *Passport to the Cosmos* Dr John Mack has further solidified his reputation as a brave pioneer on the forefront of the science of human experience -an authoritative voice that will take us into the 21st century.

### NOTE BY EDITOR.

Great as is my admiration for Dr Mack's work, I must be honest and add that I am dismayed to find that he is quite so optimistic about the benevolent intentions of **all** the "Others", because I, like many, see massive evidence of a large element in the UFO phenomenon that seems surely hugely hostile to our species, and which I personally do not hesitate to label with the old traditional tag of **Devils** or **Demons**, such as we find it plainly set forth in