

The REALL News

The official newsletter of the Rational Examination Association of Lincoln Land

"It's a very dangerous thing to believe in nonsense." — James Randi

Volume 14, Number 5

September 2006

Tin Moons and False Prophets *Remembering Salzburg — The First Alien Abduction* by Martin S. Kottmeyer

In his comprehensive study of the Alien Abduction phenomenon, Thomas Bullard cites three cases that he regards as 'first' abductions. The Betty & Barney Hill case of September 19-20, 1961 is the first in a cultural sense. It is the first high profile case and seems the model for the phenomenon as we have come to know it. It would be un-American to deny the Hills full credit. The Brazilian case of Antonio Villas Boas allegedly happens in October 1957 and is told to a reporter and ufo investigator in February 1958, but, though it precedes the Hill case, it was little known until brought forward in the writings of the Lorenzens in the mid-1960s. The third case appeared in a Canadian newspaper on December 11, 1957 and allegedly involves events in May 1951 happening in Salzburg, Austria. The name of the abductee is not given, which is good enough reason why it has tended to be called by ufo buffs by its geographical setting. The backdated nature of these two foreign cases creates headaches about how to treat them chronologically and historically, but the Salzburg case minimally is the first alien abduction case to be documented. (1)

While the Villas Boas incident is embraced, even celebrated, by certain ufologists, the Salzburg case has usually been ignored, even forgotten, by writers of alien abductions. However it managed to acquire one honor beyond the one bestowed by Bullard. Jerome Clark has indicated in his writings that of all

the entity cases of the Fifties, the closest match to modern descriptions of the Grays appears in the Salzburg case. Such a claim it must be warned depends critically on whose definition of Grays is chosen and how one weighs the importance of various traits in rejecting the label. Clark's working definition consists of Grays being "hairless gray dwarfs, with oversized heads, slanted eyes, slit mouths, noses consisting of two holes, and thin bodies." Thus he feels it is fair to consider the Salzburg entity as the first to have enough traits to wonder if it should be called a Gray. (2) In my work I usually adopt a more spare definition of big bald head and slight body as the basic minimal requirements. I accept the Salzburg alien can be categorized a Gray, but others precede it.

The Salzburg case premiered in a newspaper, *The Citizen*, published in Prince George in the province of British Columbia. The author is editor Ron Powell. The original clipping was found and reproduced by researcher Chris Aubeck on his **Magonia Exchange** website not long ago. He titled the item "Older Than The Hills." The abductee's story is not especially long, so let's tell the whole thing verbatim as it appeared in that clipping:

"I was working for the United States Occupation Army in Austria. On May 15, 1951, I was driving for QM Colonel Cousin. He commanded me to drive Mr. Haste to Linz from Salzburg. Mr. Haste was teaching classes to United States soldiers in Linz three times a week.

"This particular day I came back as usual from Linz at about 11 o'clock at night and arrived at the motor pool five miles north of Salzburg. I

("Tin Moons" continued on page 4)

In This Issue

Tin Moons and False Prophets.....	1
Owen Twiddle.....	14
Gleanings.....	15

Purpose

The Rational Examination Association of Lincoln Land is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) educational and scientific organization. It is dedicated to the development of rational thinking and the application of the scientific method toward claims of the paranormal and fringe-science phenomena.

REALL shall conduct research, convene meetings, publish a newsletter, and disseminate information to its members and the general public. Its primary geographic region of coverage is central Illinois.

REALL subscribes to the premise that the scientific method is the most reliable and self-correcting system for obtaining knowledge about the world and universe. REALL does not reject paranormal claims on *a priori* grounds, but rather is committed to objective, though critical, inquiry.

The REALL News is its official newsletter.

Annual Membership Rates: Regular, \$20; student, \$15; family, \$30; patron, \$50 or more; subscription only, \$12.

Board of Directors

Chairman	Wally Hartshorn
Vice Chairman	David Bloomberg
Secretary-Treasurer	Jim Rosenthal
Newsletter Editor	Clark Olson
At-Large Members	Mike Henebry Bob Ladendorf Janet Trutter

Editorial Board

Clark Olson
Wally Hartshorn
Jim Rosenthal

Unless otherwise stated, permission is granted to other skeptic organizations to reprint articles from The REALL News as long as proper credit is given. REALL also requests that you send copies of your newsletters that reprint our articles to the above address.

The views expressed in these articles are the views of the individual authors and do not necessarily represent the views of REALL.

REALL Contacts

Chairman, Wally Hartshorn chairman@reall.org
Editor, Clark Olson editor@reall.org
Web Site www.reall.org

From the Chairman

Wally Hartshorn

Long time, no REALL News! No, you're not imagining it — this is the first issue since the May issue to make it out the door. Good grief!

The Saga

June is traditionally a slow month for REALL, due to no meeting space and the annual picnic. As a result, we just put out a postcard reminding people about the picnic. Shortly afterwards we received **three** articles from Martin Kottmeyer! Nice!

And then my computer died.

Oh, it wasn't completely dead. I could boot it up and it would run for 10 minutes, maybe a half-hour, but then it would quit without warning and that would be it until the next day. That makes it rather difficult to layout a newsletter.

So on June 22 I placed an order for a new computer from Dell. It would be a nice, top-of-the-line Dell XPS700 power machine — but Dell said it wouldn't ship until July 31. Ouch!

Why the delay? Well, I figured that probably something like the special video card was on backorder. Oh well. I could wait a few weeks.

In the meantime, the July meeting was coming up. The library wasn't available on our normal meet-

A Nod to Our Patrons

REALL would like to thank our patron members. Through their extra generosity, REALL is able to continue to grow as a force for critical thinking in Central Illinois. To become a patron member of REALL, please use the membership form insert. Patron members are:

Randy & Betsy Alley,
Edmonds, WA
Karen Bartelt,
Washington
David Bloomberg,
Springfield
David Brown,
Danville
Alan Burge, D.D.S.,
Morton
Bill Hahm,
Bloomington

Wally Hartshorn,
Springfield
Bob Ladendorf,
Springfield
John Lockard, Jr.,
Urbana
Bill Mellon,
Valparaiso, IN
Jim Rosenthal,
Springfield
Doug Smith,
Springfield

ing date, which happened to fall on July 4. And in any case I was going to be out of town for a few days during that time.

So I booted up the computer long enough to dash out a quick postcard saying that the July meeting was cancelled.

As July 31 approached, I learned that Dell hadn't shipped **any** of their XPS 700 computers. There was apparently a manufacturing problem and all orders had been delayed. However, the problem had finally been fixed and they had begun building machines. Great! (In the meantime, Intel had just released a new chip, the Core 2, which could run crop circles around the chip in my no longer top-of-the-line power machine. Oh well.)

The next meeting was on August 1. Still no computer, so still no newsletter! I quickly put out some postcards reminding people about the August 1 meeting (complete with an image of a man with an axe walking away from a decimated computer — an image which entirely summed up my feelings).

Then on July 31, the ship date of my computer was changed to August 7. Uh oh!

Then on August 7, the ship date of my computer was changed to August 14. Oh no!

On August 10 I learned that Dell had found another problem and that everyone's systems would be delayed by "up to 4-8 weeks", depending on the options chosen. **Really** oh no!

Then on August 11 my computer shipped. Uh... Well, whatever, so long as I got my PC!

My machine finally arrived on August 15, nearly 8 weeks after I had ordered it.

One thing I learned during that period — I rely upon the Internet for **a lot** of information! Email, weather, news, answering questions like "who was that guy who was in that movie with that girl?" — I get all of that information using my PC.

And I also use it to layout *The REALL News*.

So I guess I ought to get on with it!

Feature Article

As I mentioned, Martin Kottmeyer recently sent us 3 articles. The first one appears in this issue. Martin's specialty is exploring the relationship between alleged UFO encounters and remarkably similar events in popular culture. This month's article, "Tin Moons and False Prophets," examines one of the very first alien abduction reports. Martin notes that, while the alleged encounter is clearly false, it is also quite instructive to examine possible sources for the elements of the tale and how ufologists have treated the case.

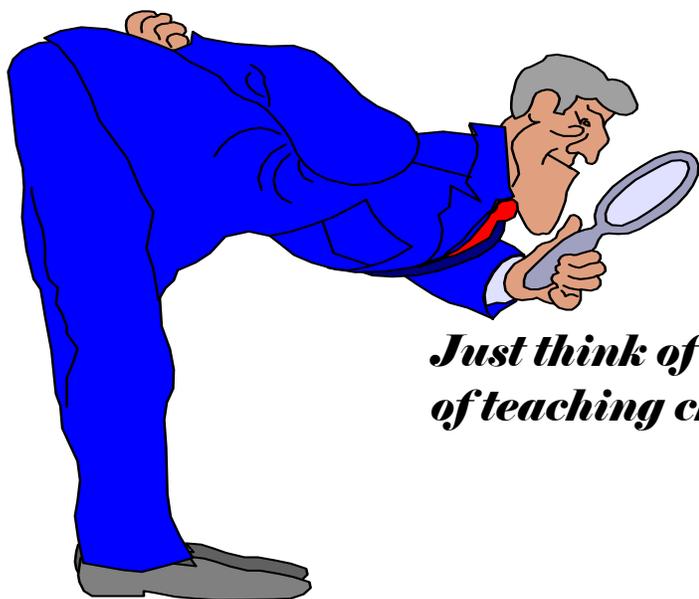
Paranormal Investigation Course

Long-time REALL member Rich Petraitis wrote to let us know that he will be teaching a course called "Investigating the Paranormal", scheduled for this Fall at the College of DuPage, in Lombard. Students will learn rudimentary detective's skills necessary to assess the veracity of paranormal claims and to better interview witnesses of purported ghostly marvels. The paranormal sleuth's mandatory reference book will be "Missing Pieces" co-authored by the late Dr. Robert A. Baker, and private detective, Joe Nickell (available from Prometheus Books.) All interested in enrolling, or seeking additional information, should contact the College of DuPage, Continuing Education Department at (630) 942-2208.

Local Crop Circle!

One of the topics that Rich mentioned was crop

("From the Chairman" continued on page 14)



***Just think of the tragedy
of teaching children not to doubt.***

— Clarence Darrow

Citizen Editor Talks To Man Who 'Visited Mars'

By RON POWELL
Citizen News Editor

This week a man came into the Citizen news office and when he had left some four hours later my ears were ringing with one of the strangest stories I have ever heard.

As you may see by the headline on this article, this man claimed that he had visited Mars in a flying saucer. At this point there may be loud bursts of laughter from all sides, but let me explain...

This man, a resident of the district, who, at his request, will remain nameless in this article, dropped into the office and said in a reasonable, sincere fashion, "I have a story I would very much like to tell you, but I'm afraid you might think me completely crazy or else laugh at me."

Such a statement, of course, only served to whet the newspaperman's appetite for me and I told him to give it a whirl and find out what his reaction would be.

He then went on to tell of being picked up in a flying machine shaped like a saucer by a creature not of this world and of being transported through space at a tremendous rate of speed to a planet he claimed was Mars.

My initial reaction was one of complete skepticism and I was alert for any signs of vague white looking for an opening to ease him out of the building.

But, as the stranger went on with his weird tale in a calm, quiet manner, I began to relax a bit. Just a few years ago Sputnik circling the earth would have been crazy too. It was almost as if he was telling me about a trip to some foreign country.

I tried to look for loopholes in his story and tried to catch him up on many of the smaller details. He couldn't be caught.

The interest for me became so great that I told him to start right at the beginning and tell his story with as many details as he could remember. This interview is recorded below in his exact words.

By the time his story had ended more than four hours had passed. We shook hands and he went away, seeming a bit relieved that someone had at least listened to him.

Stranger Than Fiction

After giving the story full consideration I can't say whether I believe him or not. If it is a hoax, it's a good one. If it is the truth, it is certainly stranger than fiction.

For myself, I can't help but recall the quotation from Shakespeare's Hamlet: "There are more things in heaven and earth, than our philosophies."

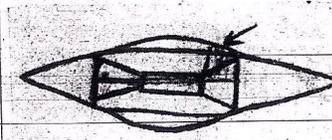
The man's detailed story is as follows:

I was working for the U.S. occupation army in Austria on May 15, 1951. I was driving for QM Col. Cousins. He commanded me to drive Mr. Haster to Linz from Salzburg. Mr. Haster was teaching evening courses to the United States soldiers in Linz. My job was to drive him from Salzburg to Linz three times a week.

This particular day I came back as usual from Linz

at about 11 o'clock at night and arrived at the motor pool five miles north of Salzburg. I started for home after leaving the car at the motor pool. I lived two miles north of the motor pool. I took a short cut and on the left hand side was brush. It was dark, no moon.

Suddenly someone came out of the brush and came close to me. I could only see the outline in the dark but



THIS IS A ROUGH sketch of the flying saucer made by the man who claimed he was taken to a planet he thought was Mars. It is a cutaway view showing a square black plate in the center of the floor with beams running from its corners. The arrow points to the glass or plastic room the man was in during the trip.

he seemed to have a helmet on. He was about my height, maybe a little shorter. He had something in his hand and he pointed it at me. I thought it was his finger, but it made a click.

After the click he waved his hand quickly and I went to put my arm up in front of my face, but I was paralyzed. I felt like falling down but I didn't. He put a black, square plate on my chest and strapped it around my back. I could hear a dog barking away off in the distance, but I couldn't hear him walking. He must have walked very easily. I could see his outline as he walked around me.

Couldn't Move Or Walk

After he strapped the plate on me he walked in front of me and he pointed the thing in his hand at the plate on my chest rather than my head like before. He walked away and pulled me after him. I couldn't move or walk, but he just pulled me along after him. I wasn't actually in the air, but my full weight wasn't on the ground. It seemed as if I was light.

Behind the brush was a small field. In the field, hidden from the road, was a round object about 150 feet in diameter. It was dark and I couldn't tell what it was. My

(See "CITIZEN EDITOR TALKS TO MAN" Page 3)

(*"Tin Moons"* continued from page 1)

started for home, leaving the car at the motor pool. I took a short cut, and on the left side was brush. It was dark, with no moon.

"Suddenly someone came out of the brush and came close to me. I could only see the outline in the dark, but he seemed to have a helmet on. He was about my height, maybe a little shorter. He had something in his hand and he pointed it at me. I thought it was his finger, but it made a 'click.'

"After the click he waved his hand quickly and I went to put my arm up in front of my face but I was paralyzed. I felt like falling down, but I didn't. He put a black square plate on my chest and strapped it around my back. I could hear a dog barking in the distance, but I couldn't hear him walking. He must have walked very easily. I could see his outline as he walked around me.

"After he strapped the plate on me he walked in front of me, and pointed the thing in his hand at the plate on my chest rather than at my head like before. He walked away and pulled me after him. I couldn't move or walk, but he just pulled me along after him. I wasn't actually in the air, but my full weight wasn't on the ground. It seemed as if I was light.

"Behind the brush was a small field. In the field, hidden from the road, was a round object about 150 feet in diameter. It was dark, and I couldn't tell what it was. My first thought was that a spy had captured me for some reason.

"The thing that led me sort of rose from the ground and took me after him to the top of the object. He did something, either stepped on something or pushed some button, and a door opened and he pulled me after him down into the dark. I

was plenty scared and I wondered what would happen next. I got down into the dark and I could finally feel a floor under my feet.

"I knew that where I was was either glass or plastic, because the stars could be seen shining up above. Then I saw what looked like the outline of what looked like a door, and he pulled me through into what I later found out was a room of glass or plastic.

"He kept his finger, or what I thought was his finger but later saw was some form of pencil-shaped object, pointed at me until I was inside the room. He kept it pointed at me all the time, then when I was in the room he took it off me and I sank down to the floor. He went out and I could see his outline. There was a sort of shaking sensation, and I knew the door to the room had shut.

"The next sensation I had was rising up into the air. I had never flown in my life. In a few minutes I could see the left half of the moon shining. I was scared, but I figured I was dreaming. Then I started to feel my hands and feet again. I sat up, and then I got up on to my feet. By this time we were in the sunlight.

"I looked across the ship and I could see the person that had brought me there. He was standing over by the wall, and there were some levers there. He looked like a person, like we are. A little bit shorter than me.

"To me at that time he looked like a devil. He had no hair at all. I could see through the sort of glass helmet. His head was sort of cylinder form. A very high forehead, with big eyes. You could see lots of little eyes in the two big eyes. It seemed to me it looked like the eyes of a fly. No nose at all, just two holes. He had a very small slit for a mouth. It looked like he had skin, it was sort of

white. There were two holes for the ears. His skull was very large.

"The torso was round kind of like a tin can. The legs were of proportionate length. His arms were a little bit shorter than our arms, I would say. His hands seemed to be three long fingers. I couldn't see any neck, but he was wearing material that was like silver but wasn't shiny. This covered all of him except the head part, which had on the helmet. He didn't look at me at all.

"The main part of the ship that I could see from the room I was in appeared to be round and the walls were like glass, but you couldn't see through them. The floor was made of plastic or glass. In the middle of the floor, under the glass, was a black plate, something like I had strapped on my chest. From the corners of the plate, which looked about ten feet square, black beams ran to the walls of the ship.

"I could see under the black plate and there seemed to be a duplicate room on the other side of the ship. I could see the same kind of levers on the wall as the Thing was standing beside.

"As soon as we came out in the sun, I could feel burning heat, but he pulled a lever, and a covering like blue water came over the roof. Then the sun was normal, but I could still see through it.

"My first thought was that I was dreaming, and then my second thought was that I was dead and that my soul was rising up.

"The ship was not rotating or going sideways, but kind of gliding straight up. I could see the Sun like a ball of fire, and the Moon was like a silver ball, but the rest was darkness. Suddenly, as I looked up, the Moon was right above us and it seemed to come down at us. Suddenly we were both standing on what had been the roof. We seemed to be about a quarter of a mile above the Moon.

"I could see clearly the craters on the surface of the moon. There were lots of them. The ground seemed to be a grayish colour, and I could see rocks and hills. We were in the sunny part of the moon. The ship glided to the right and into the darkness.

"Then the driver stopped the ship. I could feel it sort of waiting. It was dark all around outside, but the sun seemed to shine into the ship. I saw

the thing take one of the pencil things that he pointed at me, and he pointed it downwards. I thought at that time he must be from the moon and that he was signaling someone down below.

"There was no noise from the ship or from the signal. After about five minutes we started to move again to the right. My first thought was that we were going back to Earth. But I could see the outline of America and Asia and I could see clouds.

"The Earth and the moon were going away from me very fast. Then I began to think this was from another planet.

"Suddenly another planet seemed to loom up in front of us, and I thought we were going to crash into it. I was sure of this but the driver suddenly stopped it again, but there was no jerk. I realized then we were still quite a way from the planet, and then we started to glide sideways down towards the ground.

"I looked out over the land and it looked like paradise.

"As we went down I looked over the land, and on one side were red fields. On the other side there were what looked like grey-green fields. Some places in the fields were what looked like big chimneys rising from the ground. It was bright daylight and the sun was shining with no clouds in the sky.

"We were approaching the red fields and I could see rivers with blue water in them. The rivers ran straight and at intervals there were bridges built across them and I could see roads. The bridges were just like our bridges.

"From up high I could see no sign of life.

"Then we glided to a field that was filled with the saucers like I was in. There appeared to be hundreds of them. They were of different colours, grey, gold and silver. But there were no black or red ones.

"The driver stopped the ship about a quarter of a mile above them by just pulling a lever. Then we went straight down until we were about 20 or 30 feet from the ground, and he parked the ship on a high platform.

"As we went down I could see the same kind of people were in them like my driver.

"When we got on the platform the driver pulled a lever and the glass slid back, and he went

outside. He put the pencil-like thing to his chest and slowly dropped to the ground like a falling leaf. He then started to walk very fast along to the third or fourth saucer. He pointed the pencil at his chest again and sort of jumped into the ship. He was inside that ship for about ten minutes. I could see that the Thing in the other ship was smaller than the driver of the ship I was on.

"While he was inside the ship I looked around at the other saucers and I could see the same type of people.

"Suddenly. Quite a way away I saw two ships that had people from Earth on them. One ship was sort of dirty looking and there was one man, one woman, and two kids on it. In another saucer nearby that kind of golden I saw one man and one woman.

"I was going to wave at them but I felt scared. I was waiting for them to wave but they didn't wave. After I saw them I thought that I would have to stay here with them now.

"Down on the ground I could see big red flowers growing. They looked something like our sunflowers. There were some green patches between them. There were flowers as far as the eye could see. The earth could be seen in patches too and it was just the same as our Earth.

I got to thinking that I must be on Mars. I remembered what I had learned in school about it being red with canals, and it seemed to me this must be Mars, although I wasn't 100 per cent sure because I kind of lost location of things when we had left the Moon.

"Then the driver of the ship came back from the other ship. He got back inside and closed the door again. Then we took off the same way we had come. We went up and up into the darkness and then I could see a moon that looked like a tin ball. We came quite close to it, and I could see it was smooth and silvery, without any signs of craters on it.

"I didn't know where we going then. I thought we might be going further yet. After about ten minutes, I could see what looked like half our moon and I realized we were approaching the sunny side of Earth.

"I was very glad to see that it was the Earth. But we came at it with such a terrible speed that I thought for sure we would crash. The driver stopped the ship again when we seemed to hit the

atmosphere, and he glided down towards Earth. I seemed to know he was going to take me back to where he found me, but I had the impression he was going to kill me because he would want to keep it secret.

"We came into the darkness and then went down to the ground and I knew we at the same place he picked me up.

"I was really afraid he would kill me. He opened the door and took the small pencil thing and pulled me out the door the same way he pulled me in. He guided me right back to the road. At that time I could walk, but I was very light and he was just pulling me.

"He took the pencil from my chest and pointed it at my head. At that moment a dog started to bark at us from about a quarter mile up the road and it seemed to have startled him, because the pencil-thing clicked and nothing happened to me.

"I knew from the first experience I should be paralyzed, so I just pretended to be so that he wouldn't know. He took the plate off my chest and went back to the ship.

"I stayed the way I was until I saw the outline of the saucer going off into the distance. Then I ran home.

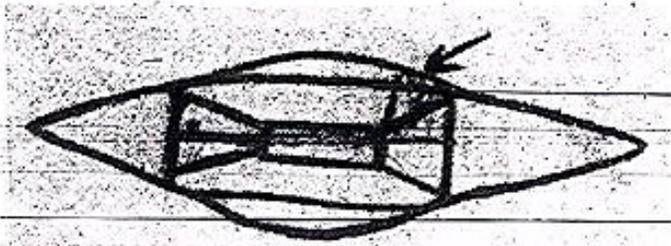
"My wife was still up and she saw me all excited. She asked what had happened and I told her, "Nothing, I'm just sick."

"I couldn't tell her about the experience because she would have thought I was completely crazy. I noticed the time when I got home and it was 12:20 a.m. The whole trip had taken about an hour. I think when the Thing pointed the pencil at my head it was to make me forget what had happened, or else to kill me, I don't know which.

"I have not told anyone else about this for two reasons. First, no one would ever believe me, and they would want to lock me up as a crazy man. Second. I am sure those people on Mars know everything that is happening here, and if I had told people about it before they would have taken me away again, or killed me.

"I'm telling people now in order to help people to know what is going on in space. My heart is bothering me now, and I feel I won't be living too much longer, so I have nothing to fear from those Martian people.

"From this experience I've had, I feel those people's culture and scientific knowledge is much



THIS IS A ROUGH sketch of the flying saucer made by the man who claimed he was taken to a planet he thought was Mars. It is a cutaway view showing a square black plate in the centre of the floor with beams running from its corners. The arrow points to the glass or plastic room the man was in during the trip.

ahead of ours. They don't need satellites to launch their spaceships and they have conquered many of the problems of space we are trying to conquer. They seem to power their ships with rays, maybe light rays, but it's not with motors like ours.

"My experience and seeing those other earth people on that planet show me those creatures have a great knowledge of the people here and are much ahead of us. The creature treated me only as an animal.

"After that incident I couldn't stay in that country, and in October of that year I came out to Canada. I have finally felt I want to make this story public.

"With two satellites up circling the globe now, maybe a few more people will believe my story. Anyway, I have told you it just as I remember it happening – and it is as clear as yesterday."

The two satellites referred to in the last paragraph were Sputnik 1 and 2. They were launched by Russia in the Fall of 1957 to great amazement and concern. They were the first man-made creations to orbit the earth and inaugurated what came to be known as The Space Age. Nobody should think it is coincidence that the first alien abduction arose within weeks of this achievement.

Bad to the Bowen

Though the list of people commenting on the case is short, it is headed by Charles Bowen, then heading up *Flying Saucer Review* the best regarded saucer publication in the ufo field. In the July-August 1967 issue of *Flying Saucer Review* he made an extraordinary defense for the reality of the story. It in-

cludes many wonderful claims that are instructive for reasons he could never have foreseen. (3) It can now be stated with total confidence this abduction is fundamentally unreal. The rhetoric used to defend it is thus certainly fallacious and provides a gauge and warning about the trustworthiness of the style of reasoning employed. It also opens up the opportunity for a salutary lesson in how ufo stories are built from the culture of their time.

Time has played havoc with the Salzburg case. In the decades since it was told, many probes have been sent to Mars. They have conclusively established that the straight-line canal network seen by Lowell, his contemporaries, and enthusiasts up through the Sixties does not exist and was a collective delusion, widely-believed but ultimately no more than a fashionable fantasy. Probes landed on the surface have consistently found a lifeless rock desert with no vegetation. There are no fields of red sunflowers or gray-green vegetation. The Martian moons are neither smooth, nor silvery, nor do they look like tin seen up close. They are close to black. They are blanketed with craters. They are absolutely not artificial structures.

In his defense of the case Bowen suggests that the Salzburg tale was staggeringly prophetic. He noted that in 1959 a Dr. Iosif Shklovsky made headlines when he proposed that the moons of Mars were artificial. As the author of the Salzburg case was speaking in 1957, it could not be pre-existing belief making him see the artificial nature with his own eyes.

Bowen was unaware of the fact that this particular idea had been around a very long time. Science fiction scholars have found this idea suggested at least as early as 1887 in Hudor Genone's (pseudonym of William James Roe) *Bellona's Bridegroom: A Romance*. (Lippincott) In it, an inventor invents a metallic hydrogen substance that permits a form of anti-gravity. He and some friends build a



Mariner 9 image of Phobos taken on its 34th orbit. Source: Nicholas M. Short *Planetary Geology* Prentice-Hall, 1975, p. 281

vessel and take it to Mars. Along the way they discover Phobos and Deimos are abandoned vessels much like their own and eventually learn that they originally came from Jupiter and Saturn. (4)

It also turns up in Harl Vincent's "Lost City of Mars" (*Astounding Stories*, February 1934). In this one, the canal-builders created an artificial satellite, Phobos, and moved there to escape problems with a race called the Drylanders. (5) The artificiality of the Martian moons is also foreground in the juvenile space opera by Donald A. Wollheim *The Secret of the Martian Moons* (Winston, 1955). One can fairly concede that it is no fault of Bowen that this SF ancestry is little known. Unfortunately, there can be no excuse for Bowen missing the fact that both Donald Keyhoe and Morris K. Jessup had suggested Phobos was artificial in books written in 1955.

"As the world's astronomers began to watch these moons, they were puzzled by the movements of Phobos, the object closer to Mars. For it followed a peculiar orbit, apparently not in accord with the natural laws of the universe. But with artificial satellites then undreamed of, there was no suggestion it might be a space station, under control of intelligent beings." [Keyhoe's emphasis] (6)

"Dean Swift was prescient in regard to his astronomy, predicting that Mars had two satellites, one of which was close to Mars' surface and made two revolutions daily. It has been pointed out that this inner body is too close to Mars to be in adjustment with any known postulate of the natural distribution of satellites relative to their parent body. This may be an indication that Mars' inner satellite is artificial." (7)

Keyhoe was the most high-profile advocate of saucers in the Fifties. Jessup had the best credentials. Bowen had to have read their books, but either passed over these lines or merely forgot them in the

rush of the moment. Even George Hunt Williamson, one of the earliest contactees and one who was a veritable fountain of astronomical misinformation, said his Martians told him that they built Phobos and Deimos to prevent their planet from being thrown out of the solar system when the 5th planet blew itself up from atomic experimentation in the distant past. (8) If a scientific illiterate like Williamson was aware of this concept, it could hardly have been obscure. The concept of artificial Martian moons also appeared in Gerald Heard's *The Riddle of the Flying Saucers* (1950), one of the first nonfiction ufo books to be published. (9)

Shklovsky's innovation was suggesting that a 1945 study showing Phobos was spiraling down faster than expected meant it was hollow. Later studies suggested the rate of the spiral-down was less than thought and was explained by tidal drag involving deformation of the solid body of Mars. (10) Shklovsky's 1991 autobiography *Five Billion Vodkas Bottles to the Moon: Tales of a Soviet Scientist* (11) briefly recalls how his "notorious" artificial satellites of Mars "kicked up such a fuss in 1959." He explains they weren't a joke, but reflected his "natural bent for fantasy" and wanting to explore the "fabulous possibilities" of advanced intelligence in the universe. Over time his belief in a universe teeming with life diminished in favor of the possibility we are the only intelligent species in our local system of galaxies as a richer philosophic concept. (12)

Bowen also suggests that the Salzburg tale was prophetic on the point

that it got right the darkness of the sky as the ship rose above the atmosphere into space. "Nobody had been up there at that time to confirm the idea" of astronomers that this would be true. Manned high-altitude ballooning was quite famous in the mid-Fifties and received cinematic adulation in a 1956 film "On the Threshold of Space." Project Man-High balloonists reached 19 miles altitude in 1957, high enough to see thin bands of blue like a succession of halos in the stratosphere and above a dark velvety



Airborne Camera, p. 112 caption reads: "First photograph of the earth from 65 miles, 1946. The camera was spaceborne by a V-2 rocket launched from New Mexico, Applied Physics Laboratory, The John Hopkins University."

violet several shades deeper than twilight. (13) Even prior to this, unmanned rockets equipped with movie cameras had shown the blackness of space. In 1946, a V-2 rocket equipped with a 35mm motion picture camera was launched from White Sands, New Mexico and it continuously filmed its ascent to 65 miles altitude. The photos clearly showed the blackness of space. (14) Dr. Werner von Braun, who was involved in the V-2 tests after the War, stated the absolute blackness of space in a popular article in the March 22, 1952 issue of *Collier's* titled "Crossing the Last Frontier." The notion this was obscure knowledge or merely theoretical is untenable.

Bowen consulted with an engineer about the craft in the Salzburg case and he found the detail of the liquid sunshield interesting. This was an idea known to have been considered by Fifties rocket scientists. Werner von Braun's *Collier's* piece from 1952 contains exactly this notion of a rocket containing "a canopy and windows built of a double-pane glass having a liquid coolant between the panes." An engineer consulted today would probably raise an eyebrow at a different detail — saucers using levers instead of electronic control mechanisms.

The vegetation seen by the Salzburg abductee reflects then-current arguments for the possibility of vegetation on Mars. While astronomers had strong doubts about the presence of green chlorophyll on Mars because of the nature of the light-absorption spectra taken of the planet, there had been some thoughts that Sinton bands in these spectra pointed to some sort of organic chemistry closer to lichens than grass and trees. The gray-green fields seen to the side of the red fields are a direct allusion to this popular speculation, generally attributed to G. Kuiper. (15) The Sinton bands were eventually determined to be caused by deuterized water in Earth's own atmosphere. (16)

Bowen raises a curious doubt about the tale that

even at the time had to have looked perverse. He states that Martian canals seen in photographs taken through telescopes would need to be more enormous than the canals in the story that are small enough to have bridges spanning them. There were contradicting opinions on whether there were canals visible in them. Earl Slipher, the acknowledged authority in Mars science, can be seen in 1957 Disney documentary "Mars and Beyond" denying canals could be seen in the photos. Even ignoring this, any irrigation system would surely have networks of smaller branching. They would simply not be visible in photographs.

Bowen questioned whether the presence of bridges was consistent with advanced systems of travel like flying saucers. Air travel did not make much of a dent in surface transportation on Earth when it arose and there will likely always be good reasons to

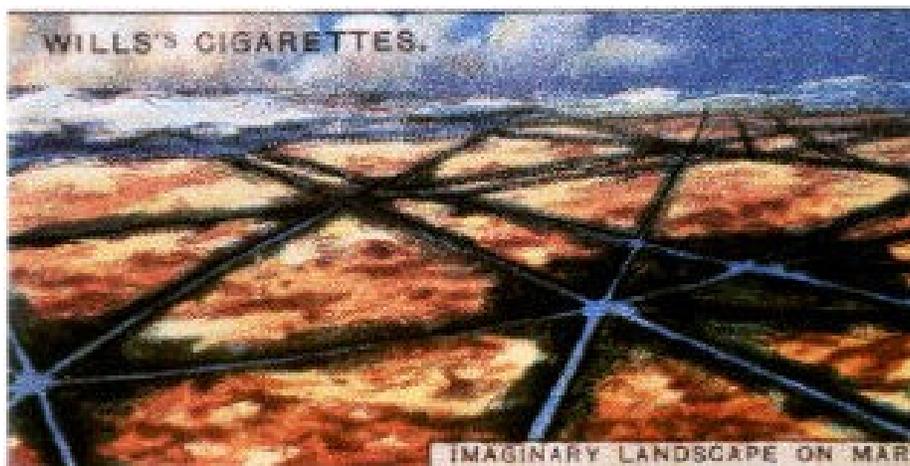


Image source: Martin Caidin & Jay Barbree *Destination Mars: In Art, Myth, and Science* Penguin, 1997, p. 72

retain it. The more annoying thing is that the abductee says the bridges look "just like our bridges." The problem, of course, is that there is such a wide variety of forms to earth bridges. They can't look like 'all' of the bridges of Earth, so which ones did he have in mind? The lighter Martian gravity, at least in principle, should have permitted some differences like thinner cables or support pylons. Some probing of this matter could have led to interesting nit-picking by engineers.

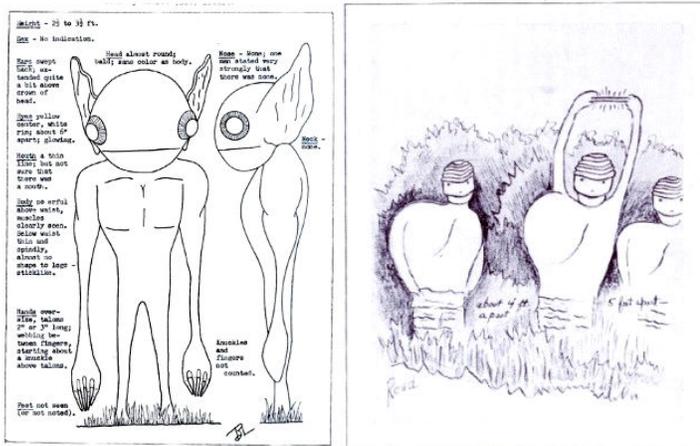
Now we get into Bowen's discussion of the similarities of the Salzburg Thing to other ufo entities. He points to individual features shared among ufo entities as matters of possible significance particularly when it is clear to him that there is little possibility of cultural transmission when the Salzburg entity is first with a detail. Similarly, there is little chance cases subsequent to 1957 could have been influenced by the Salzburg Express tale given it was poorly placed, little discussed, and never advocated by major writers. I think Bowen himself recognized there are peculiarities in his analysis. The cases he

compares it with never share lists of similarities, just isolated details. The other entities always display features that are unlike the Salzburg Thing and lead to a conclusion that percipients can't be encountering the same alien.

The Salzburg Thing has a very small slit for a mouth. The Hill case is purportedly similar in this detail, but there are clear problems. Barney may have had the impression of mouthlessness, but Betty saw lips with a bluish tint. She also saw Jimmy Durante-type noses, black hair, and navy-blue uniforms. Betty's aliens are talkative in a way quite contradictory to the silent Thing in the Salzburg Express.

The 'lady' in Antonio Villas Boas's 1957 encounter has lips described as "very thin, nearly invisible in fact." But there is a nose described as "straight, not pointed, nor turned-up, nor too big." She has blonde hair, "...nearly white - like hair dyed in peroxide." There is no clear statement the head was abnormally large. She also has normal-shaped ears. The fingers and nails seem normal.

He notes the entity in the M. Masse case was de-



Images source: Bloecher, Ted and Isabel Davis *Close Encounter at Kelly and Others of 1955 CUFOS*, 1978, pp. 1-68, 178-89. 138-48.

scribed as having a lipless hole, rather than a slit; calling into question whether it belongs in the group for comparison. Bowen knows this. He writes, "In other respects the alleged kidnapers bore no resemblance to the beings encountered by Villas Boas, the Hills, or M. Masse." So what could such differences signify, if not their unreality?

There are a couple of possibilities to consider with reference to the similarities. Slit mouths were not unknown before in prior entity cases. Drawings

of the 1955 Kelly-Hopkinsville entities have the mouths drawn basically as lines. The March 1955 Loveland, Ohio encounter also presents drawings of beings with mouths drawn as simple lines. In Loveland there is even a reinforcing verbal description of the mouth being only a "thin line." It is also probably not unfair to call the mouth areas of the aliens in films like *The Man from Planet X* and *Earth vs. the Flying Saucers*, lipless and slit-like. So this is a feature in the cultural baggage of alien imagery being carried around by most people



Note the antennae on the skull of Wally Woods' Martian slavers, a probable allusion to insectoid affinities. Source: Mike Benton *Science Fiction Comics* Taylor, 1992, p. 56; *Captain Science #4* (1951):

in the Fifties, ready to be pulled out when the mind started rummaging around for the bits and pieces to construct an alien.

Indeed, it isn't really all that hard to speculate on the possible building blocks used by the author of the Salzburg Thing. The big, bald head was virtually stereotypical of aliens, being present in films like *The Man from Planet X* (1951), *The Thing* (1952), *Phantom from Space* (1953), *Invaders from Mars* (1953), *This Island Earth's* MuTANT (1955), and *Invasion of the Saucermen* (1957). This was also true of science fiction pulps and comics.

Most notably, Wally Wood, one of the more famous comic artists of the Fifties had big-brained "Martian slavers" featured in his *Captain Science* series.

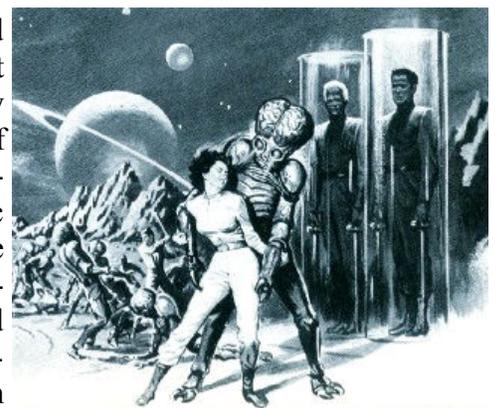


Image source: *Cinefantastique* magazine

Setting large-brained aliens on Mars is, naturally, a reflection of Wellsian ancestry. The bald mastermind carried around by mutants in *Invaders from Mars* was similarly an obvious nod to the kaldanes in Edgar Rice Burroughs' *Chessman of Mars* (1922). The Salzburg Thing was thus behaving in good SF tradition in taking Ron Powell's abductee to Mars.

The talk of big bug eyes pulls the focus in on *This Island Earth's* MuTANT. Though the body size is a mismatch, it gets a number of other things right, like the absence of any nose or ears. The eyes are appropriately huge and buggy, albeit the presence of faceting inner eyes is not obvious. The being however is explicitly described as "similar to the insect life on your own planet – larger of course with a higher degree of intelligence." So the odd mix of a big-brained, bug-eyed humanoid has here a clear precedent.



Source: digital photo of video "This Island Earth"

The MuTANT also is entirely speechless throughout the film. It was bred to do the menial work of the world of Metaluna. One could easily see it as the model for the Salzburg Thing, especially for the implicit punch-line that the being is so lacking in initiative — a menial drone per its insect nature — it must take the author to Mars to get orders on what to do with him. Though I would resist calling the mouth of the MuTANT a mere slit, the lack of normal lips is hard to miss. Instead there is a grill of horizontally aligned rigid gills in the mouth area. It is seemingly functionless. In any case, I am not suggesting the author was religiously copying the form, but was picking and choosing features he liked from it, like au-



image source: Lorraine Dille Williams, ed., *Buck Rogers: The First 60 Years in the 25th Century* TSR, Inc., 1988; p. 49; "Meeting the Mongols" (1929)

thors are wont to do. The MuTANT has claws and long arms, while the Salzburg Thing sensibly has three fingers and short arms, more appropriate to the task of piloting a saucer.

The anti-gravitational chest plate placed on the captive author is seemingly unique in the entirety of the ufo literature, but has obvious roots in science fiction. Both the Buck Rogers comics and the movie serial starring Buster Crabbe featured square anti-grav units belted to the body. In the story, they were made of a substance called inertron that fell upwards, a gimmick rather like Genone's metallic hydrogen of 1887 and H.G. Wells's 'cavorite' in *First Men in the Moon*. (1901). It seems obvious to me that when the author points out the similarity of the black plate beneath the floor inside the saucer to the anti-grav chest plate on the author, he intended to convey the impression the saucer was weightless due to this metal.

The mention, near the end of the tale, of light rays as a means of propulsion is odd and seemingly inconsistent. While Bowen expresses interest that Sid Padrick made remarks about light transmitting energy in saucers, it is probably more relevant to note that George van Tassel, an early contactee, spoke of saucers transmuting light particles for propulsion as early as 1952 and one book reporting on the contactee phenomenon — Helen & Bryant Reeve's *Flying Saucer Pilgrimage* (17) also asserted light energy was used in saucers. It's not impossible such light drives have historical roots in science fiction — e.g. the pulp stories of Edmund Hamilton — but that was not a common-place gimmick there. It frankly sounds more like something coming out of the occult subculture where light is frequently presumed to pos-

sess an array of unlikely magical properties.

Lastly, there is the matter of mental control and the possible intent to induce amnesia. Bowen suggests this is too much like the Hill case to be mere coincidence. Yet consider this. Given the Canadian origins of the tale, it may be relevant that in the July 7, 1954 case involving Ennio LaSarza, the victim told Royal Canadian Air Force authorities, “they fixed me with a hypnotic stare until I fainted; when I came to they and the ship had vanished.” (18). Contactees like Meade Layne and George Hunt Williamson asserted aliens had this ability in their writings. Similarly, we see mental control of humans exercised by aliens in films like *Buck Rogers*, *Devil Girl from Mars*, *This Island Earth* and *Invaders from Mars* and they induce amnesia in films like *Flash Gordon* and *Killers from Space*. In short, this is not a terribly impressive coincidence given the high visibility of such alien magical powers in the wider culture.

Bowen concludes his argument with an assertion that, “if the story was pure invention, then the hoaxer had little in the way of the saucer-landing literature on which to lean.” But did he need much to lean on to begin inventing? Why should we think a hoaxer would lean only on ‘saucer-landing literature’ in constructing his story? As here demonstrated, the entirety of the story can be pieced together and elaborated from material available in the culture of the Fifties. Its unreality is a certainty because it contains things like the canals, broad expanses of vegetation, and artificial moons that we know were merely fashionable beliefs about Mars in this period. Their evidential foundations were tentative and inadequate, because Mars was a globe millions of miles away not yet visited. Available telescopes could only catch poorly-defined glimpses of its surface.

There should probably be a caveat here against calling the author a hoaxer. I personally don’t regard as certain that this was a purely conscious work of fiction. There was a detail that struck in the crawl of Bowen’s consultant. The Thing and the author suddenly found themselves on the ceiling at one point. It is absolutely an oddity that is strikingly reminiscent of odd shifts of point of view sometimes seen in dreams. The peculiar brevity claimed — it all happened in roughly an hour’s time — and ten minutes is spent waiting for the Thing to get his orders, also seems almost too thoughtless. Granted, it does not violate relativity. You could get to Mars and back

traveling less than the speed of light, but the energy expended would be phenomenal. The pointlessness of the trip — wouldn’t a simple call for orders be more probable than taking the author to Mars? — also possesses the violations of common sense frequent in dream material.

I also resist thinking it is ‘merely’ a dream or a hallucinated experience. I prefer to think it is a hybrid creation. It likely began from a dream and, over time, was revised and reworked, improved and polished so the discontinuity with real-life became erased. If others prefer to think it is a completely conscious hoax, I won’t complain. I just personally think it is more complicated than that.

Red Planet Gray

As a final matter, we need to explain why the tale of the Salzburg Express is special. Jerome Clark resurrected it in his search for the earliest example of alien images that conform to present definitions of what are called The Grays. These are now the dominant alien form seen in ufo culture, but they are much harder to find amidst the ufo culture of the Fifties. In his important paper “Where Were the ‘Grays’?: The Historical Abduction Enigma” (19) Clark is clearly ambivalent on what to make of this tale. He is impressed that the description of the Salzburg Thing “is a reasonably close approximation” to the humanoids in abduction literature, specifically Hopkins’s books. But he grants there is reason to recoil from believing this is an “actual interplanetary jaunt.” Indeed he is inclined to accept it is “possible that any similarity between this and the later cases is no more than coincidental and the tale is a delusion, a hoax, or a joke.” So he exits, quoting Bowen’s assessment that the author of the Salzburg Express would have to have not only a “fertile mind, but also a touch of the prophet.”

It should be observed, however, that Clark shifted the ground of contention. Clark is talking about the author of the Salzburg abduction foreseeing the future form of the Grey; Bowen was talking about Powell’s abductee foreseeing the existence of artificial moons around Mars, the blackness of space, and slit mouths being fashionable among later aliens. Bowen lacked any ground to think “hairless gray dwarves with oversized heads, slanted eyes... and thin bodies” were an alien ‘type’ when he was writing in 1967. The cases Bowen reviewed bore few mutual resemblances by his own admission.

Clark's version of the claim that the Salzburg Express's author was prophetic is as blind to prior culture as Bowen was. Bald big heads were already a stereotypical feature of aliens in films and comic books. In pulp literature, such heads were usually tied to bodies either short, thin, or nearly gone due to a common evolutionary argument that bodies would trend in such ways in the future due to the pressures of civilization making thinking increasingly important, but muscles increasingly irrelevant. The senses of hearing, taste, smell, also tend to degenerate, thus reducing their attendant structures. Even in ufo culture, there were earlier images conforming to pulp logic: the March 1950 Dimmick retrieval yarn; the 1950 Wiesbaden, Germany April Fool's photo; the September 10, 1954 Quarouble, France Martian; and the October 9, 1954 Franz Hoge case from Germany. (20) Ron Powell's abductee is more properly regarded as following the crowd than paving new paths.

In his *Strange magazine* piece, Clark performs an interesting bit of charity in describing the Salzburg case. He writes,

The craft flew into space, past the moon and on to a planet the abductee took (though uncertainly) to be Mars, where it landed on a platform above a field on which many similar vehicles were parked. (21)

That the abductee explicitly expressed uncertainty while on this planet with fields is true enough. But that uncertainty had dropped away by the end of the tale. There the author states, without hedging, "I am sure those people on Mars know everything that is happening here" and "I have nothing to fear from those Martian people." More importantly, no reader in the Fifties could be uncertain this involves Mars since "the rivers ran straight," there are expanses of red vegetation, and there is a smooth silver tin moon orbiting it. This is not the Mars of today but it was the Mars before the Mariners, the Viking landers, and Pathfinder arrived. Clark's line is equivalent to being uncertain that someone who speaks of yellow brick roads and an emerald city is talking about Oz. Clark's version leaves open to unwitting readers the possibility the Salzburg has potential authenticity. To read and understand the entire story, however, is to be forbidden the luxury of belief.

Bottom-line: To the psycho-socially minded, the

Salzburg Express is an instructive exercise in how an abduction story can reflect the errors and fashions of its era. This is an abduction tale with not even a ghost of a chance of convincing scientifically informed people it should be taken at face value. Seeing Grays in such a fictional setting cleanly demonstrates the elements of the type already existed in the culture of the Fifties and had an affinity for combining together. The clustering of these defining traits and their presence in a narrative featuring flying saucers and abducted Earthlings did not and does not guarantee the material reality of the experience.

The Salzburg abduction is false. It was not prophetic. It is not even mysterious. It is merely and not-so-merely a purely human invention. It is also a treasure. The presence of the nearest to best Gray entity of the Fifties on a Mars landscape that only existed in the human imagination is an easy to understand sign that the basic idea of the Grays was both already extant decades before its ascent in the ufo abduction mythos and a viable casting choice for an advanced entity that dispassionately, even bureaucratically, abducts humans onto flying saucers. Contra Clark's guess, this is no random coincidence. Both the Salzburg Martian and the Hopkins' era Grays derive from the cliché of our bulbous-brained future held by science fiction and pop science writers in the first half of the 20th century.

1. Thomas Bullard, *UFO Abductions: The Measure of a Mystery*, FFUFOR, 1987; p. 5-6.
2. A sidebar to his survey "Close Encounters of the Third Kind: 1901-1959" *Strange magazine* #10, Fall/Winter 1992, pp. 6-9, 54-7.
3. Charles Bowen, "Fantasy or Truth? A new look at an old contact claim" *Flying Saucer Review*, 13, #4 July-August 1967, pp. 11-14.
4. Everett F Bleiler, *Science Fiction: The Early Years* Kent State University Press, 1990; entry #861; p. 281.
5. Everett F Bleiler, *Science Fiction: The Gernsback Years: A Complete coverage of the genre magazines Amazing, Astounding, Wonder, and Others from 1926 through 1936*. Kent State University Press, 1998; entry#1605; p. 464.
6. Donald Keyhoe, *The Flying Saucer Conspiracy*. Fieldcrest, 1955, p. 124.
7. Morris Jessup, *The Case for the UFO*, Citadel, 1955, pp. 23-4.
8. George Hunt Williamson, *The Saucers Speak*

- Neville Spearman, 1954 , pp. 47-9.
9. Gerald Heard, *Is Another World Watching?* 1950/ Bantam, 1953; chapter 13.
 10. William Sheehan, *The Planet Mars: A History of Observation and Discovery*, University of Arizona, 1996, chapter 14.
 11. WW Norton, p. 250.
 12. *ibid.*, p. 19.
 13. Louise B. Young *Earth's Aura* Avon, 1977, pp. 18-20.
 14. Beaumont Newhall *Airborne Camera: The World From the Air and Outer Space* Hastings House, 1969, pp. 112-3.
 15. William Poundstone, *Carl Sagan: A Life in the Cosmos* Owl, 1999, pp. 29-30.
 16. David Darling *The Extraterrestrial Encyclope-*

dia Three Rivers Press, 2000, p. 391.

17. Amherst, 1957.
18. Robert Dickhoff, *Homecoming of the Martians*, Health Research, 1964, p. 90
19. A sidebar to his survey "Close Encounters of the Third Kind: 1901-1959" *Strange magazine* #10, Fall/Winter 1992, pp. 6-9, 54-7.
20. discussed in "Headhunt -Varicose Brains, Part 3" *Magonia* #77, March 2002, pp. 3-17.
21. A sidebar to his survey "Close Encounters of the Third Kind: 1901-1959" *Strange magazine* #10, Fall/Winter 1992, pp. 6-9, 54-7.

Martin S. Kottmeyer lives in Carlyle, Illinois and is a long-time contributor of articles to The REALL News. ☹

(*"From the Chairman"* continued from page 3)

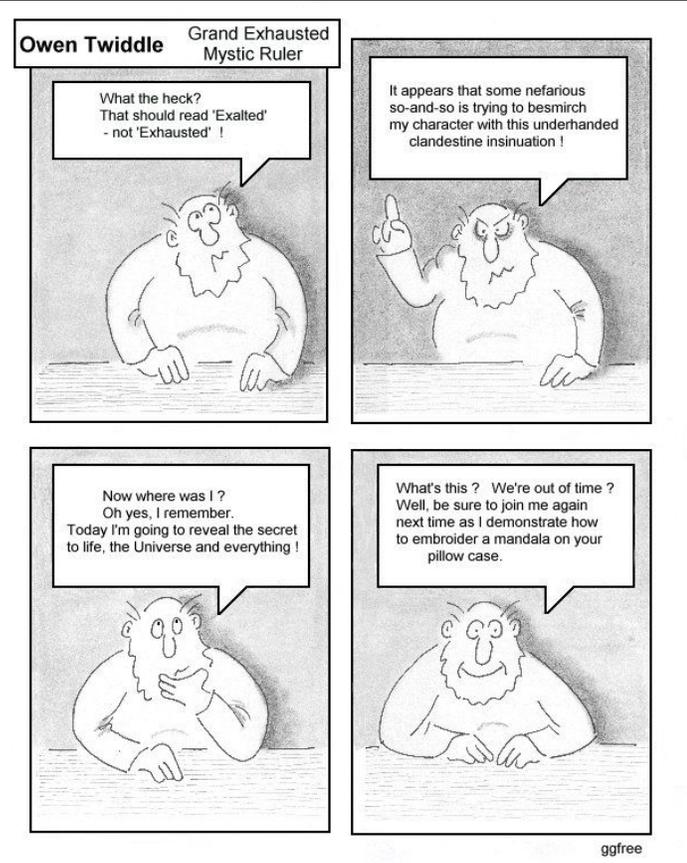
circles. Good timing, Rich! Illinois just had its very own crop circle! Jim Stahl, a farmer near Geneseo in Henry County (about 150 miles NNW of Springfield), found a crop circle in his soybean field on August 19.

A Copley News Service article about the crop circle ran in the *State Journal-Register* on page 8 of the August 26 issue. The formation actually consists

of five circles, three of which are about 50 feet in diameter, while the other two are about 20 feet across.

The Henry County sheriff issued a release that stated, "If anyone happens to see a UFO with attached soybeans, please contact Henry County Crime Stoppers."

You can see some photos of the formation at <http://www.qctimes.com/articles/2006/08/20/news/local/doc44e7fbd98ee61971677788.txt> (good luck typing that in!) or at <http://www.whbf.com/Global/story.asp?S=5308780>.



Darwin's Deadly Legacy (or not)

Dr. D. James Kennedy, host of *The Coral Ridge Hour*, has put together an hour-long special called "Darwin's Deadly Legacy." In this program, he blames Darwin's Theory of Evolution for, among other things, the crimes of Adolf Hitler.

The program features "Ann Coulter, author of *Godless*; Richard Weikart, author of *From Darwin to Hitler*, Lee Strobel, author of *The Case for a Creator*; Jonathan Wells, author of *Icons of Evolution*; Phillip Johnson, author of *Darwin on Trial*; Michael Behe, author of *Darwin's Black Box*, and Ian Taylor, author of *In the Minds of Men*; and Francis Collins, Director of the Human Genome Project."

Wait a minute... Francis Collins, Director of the Human Genome Project is on a program blaming Darwin for Hitler and the Holocaust? Yep. Except, when Dr. Collins was contacted for comment, he said that he "he was interviewed about his book, and that was then inserted into the video without his

(*"From the Chairman"* continued on page 15)

Gleanings

by Clark Olson

Brief book review

Francis S. Collins, 2006. **The Language of God. A scientist presents evidence for belief.** Free Press, NY, 294 p., illus. Collins is, of course, the head of the Human Genome Project and also describes himself as a devout evangelical Christian. This review is necessarily brief because much of the book is concerned with his relationship with God, an issue which is not so relevant to the mission of REALL. He starts out with historical approach to scientific and public understanding of cosmology, origins of life and evolution in a conventional way and brings in a number of recent developments in biology. I would have preferred much more detail in the area of genomics, his specialty, but I suppose that would have made it a bigger book and one less suited for a lay audience.

He continues with comparisons of different approaches to science and religion. He presents negative views on “atheistic scientism”, as in Dawkins and Dennett, as well as creationism and ID. He tries to reach some sort of a balance in an idea he calls “BioLogos”, but he sort of lost me at that point. However, we should be thankful that he addresses Evangelicals as a prominent scientist who clearly supports evolution. Since he does spend some time talking to religious gatherings perhaps he can make a bit of a dent.

By now readers are probably aware that the Kansas state school board will be returning to a pro-evolution stance and presumably restoring science standards. Lawrence Krauss, of Case Western Reserve, comments on this development in NYT Sci Times, of 8-15-2006. He notes that creationism has evolved. Creation science (presumably evolved from Biblical creationism) has evolved to ID, to “teaching

the controversy” and apparently now to something called “creative evolution”! This may be what Collins had in mind. Krauss goes on to talk about Dr. Steve Abrams, a veterinarian who is head of the Kansas board and a Young Earth Creationist. Krauss is disturbed that someone with such a view of reality could become head of a state school board. I’d add, how could someone like that get through the biology it takes to be a veterinarian in the first place. Sadly though the creationist websites list a lot of medical people as supporters.

Janet Factor tells me that Jay Leno had some people on his program a few months ago who apparently think the world is flat. Along with that I saw some results that 20% of the population thinks the sun goes around the earth! This view is on web site fixedearth.com.

Member Bob Warman passed on his Spring ACLU Newsletter to me some weeks ago. The issue contained a summing up of the Dover, PA trial from last fall. In the discussion they mention that “...when Americans are given the stark choice between ‘religion’ or ‘science’ they are likely to choose ‘religion’ ”. I’m not sure whether they are thinking of some specific poll or study, or whether that is their conclusion from the polls on evolution vs creation.

Earlier in the summer there was a flurry of creationist letters in the *State Journal Register*. By my count, between 5-23 and 7-12 there were 12 letters plus one “In My View” editorial by 9 writers for evolution and 6 letters from 4 writers against ev. This group of letters started out with comments about the Flores human fossil and hybridization between early humanoids and chimp ancestors. Many anti letters were pretty open about their Biblical creationist orientation but some like John Mark Henry try to mask their view in anti-science. ☹

(“From the Chairman” continued from page 14)

knowledge.” Shortly after this was reported, Coral Ridge Ministries removed any mention of Francis Collins in their publicity.

The Coral Ridge Hour is carried locally on WAND TV at 10:00 AM on Sundays, so I recorded the program on August 27 so that we could watch it. Unfortunately, it turns out that WAND is running the

show about 3 weeks behind, so they won’t show it until mid-September. Shoot.

Oh well. The episode that I recorded still has plenty of amazing anti-evolution claims, as well as some preview clips from “Darwin’s Deadly Legacy,” so we’ll view it anyway, to give ourselves a taste of what is in store for us. See you at the meeting! ☹

Our Next Meeting

The Coral Ridge Hour
"Darwin Sucks"

Okay, that isn't really the name of the episode. The real name is apparently "The Root of the Problem", but I like my title better. Dr. D. James Kennedy, host of *The Coral Ridge Hour*, explains why evolution is bad and why the people at the ACLU are also bad for forcing this bad theory on our poor defenseless children. Or something like that.

I was hoping that we would be watching "Darwin's Deadly Legacy", but the program schedulers at WAND TV thought it would be more fun to air an episode from three weeks ago. (See the chairman's column inside for details.)

Never mind. This episode will give you plenty of material to shake your head at, so join us for this (as well as a brief bit of UFO-related *Creature Comforts*).

Springfield, Illinois

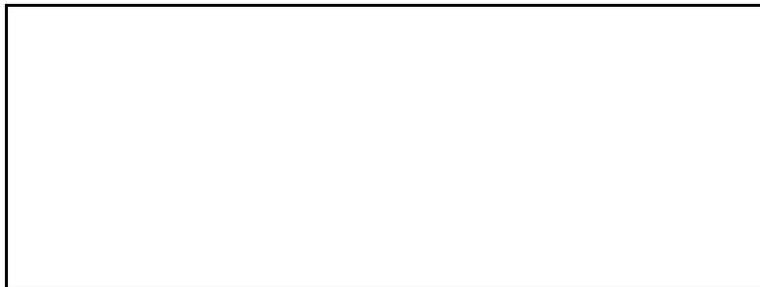
Lincoln Library (7th & Capitol)

Tuesday, September 5, 7:00 PM

Free and Open
to the Public

www.reall.org

Rational Examination Association
of Lincoln Land (REALL)
P.O. Box 20302
Springfield IL 62708



In This Issue

Tin Moons and False Prophets.....	1
Owen Twiddle.....	14
Gleanings.....	15