

theory. When held close together, the opposite poles of the materials repelled each other. Had the inhabitants of Nazca discovered linear motive power thousands of years ago? He next showed me a model clay vessel closely resembling a "UFO" (see photo). This had been found along with many other artifacts some year ago, and the original was now in the Aeronautical Museum of Peru. The Nazca people reproduced all of their feelings and thoughts in their pottery, ranging from the birth of man, to the feelings expressed in facial features and depicted on various artifacts. In this instance, the dome shaped object appeared to be a craft. Its flight capability was signified by the bird emblem portrayed around the dome, and stars appear to be shown around the circumference lower down.

Could this have been their interpretation of a UFO seen many thousands of years ago? Had the craft landed and contacted the people of Nazca, and were the huge figures in the desert and on the hillsides a signal to bring down the UFOs? We know that many of the old Andean folklore tales speak of "Gods coming down from the sky". There are theories that they taught the people the rudiments of agriculture, and certainly the weaving of cotton, grown in the area, has been depicted in some of the oldest line drawings visible on the desert.

Finally one evening, I was fortunate in meeting Dr. Maria Reiche. I had requested an interview, and this took place in her hotel room, with her sister Renate and a young Peruvian companion nearby. I was sorry to learn that Dr. Reiche, who was now aged 85, had a stroke fairly recently. She was now almost completely blind and could only take her evening walk with the

assistance of two companions to support her. Fortunately she was still in complete command of her senses, and we chatted about her work over the past forty years, her meticulous study of the figures and lines, and her mathematical work on trying to find the unit of measurement used by the ancient Nazcans. This subsequently turned out to be what Dr. Reiche has called "the elb," a measurement taken from the elbow to the end of the fingers. (A unit of measurement used within recent memory by old people in various parts of the globe.) The Nazca lines, she believed, were mainly astronomical in importance, but the figures were, even now, still a mystery. She had calculated that one abstract design had 365 angles in it, one for every day of the year, but there was still so much work and research to be done.

The damage to the lines and figures was discussed, and Dr. Reiche pointed out the difficulty in keeping the figures clear and undamaged. It was far too easy for a driver to turn off the road across the Plain and to damage the lines and figures. The road was unfenced, and completely open. There were indeed large notices, warning of dire consequences if you strayed from the road: imprisonment and large fines. But who was there to enforce the security of the figures on the Plain? I was amazed to learn that although Dr. Maria Reiche has been honoured by the Peruvian Government and now has a home for life at the Tourist Hotel, she alone is striving to protect the ground drawings of Nazca. She employs three motorcyclists to patrol the road in an effort to stop people defacing the figures. The cost of this operation is paid for solely by the
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BOOK REVIEW

Dr V. V. Rubtsov and

Dr A. D. Ursul

***Problema Vnezemnykh Tsivilizatsii: Filosofsko-Metodologicheskie Aspekty.* (In Russian). English title: *The Problem of Extraterrestrial Civilizations: Philosophical-Methodological Aspects.* Publishers: "Shtiintsa" (Science Publishing House), Kishinev, Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic, USSR. Second and Enlarged Edition, 1987.**

The first-named of the two authors of this new Soviet book on alien civilizations is Dr. V. V. Rubtsov of Kharkov, Capital of the Ukrainian Republic, who as FSR readers will no doubt know, is one of our valued Consultants. (See his letter, about the book, on page iii of FSR 30/3 [1985]). The book appears under the official patronage of the scientific committee on philosophical and social problems of science and technology which in turn is under the Commission for the History of Science and Technology of the Academy of Sciences of the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic, and appears with the recommendation of four eminent academicians who have read it and given it their blessing. The book, with XIII pages of introduction plus 278 pages of close text, 38 pages of copious footnotes, and 1½ page summaries in English and French, has eight chapters, grouped as follows:-

1. The History of the Development and the Contemporary State of the Problem of Extraterrestrial Civilizations.

2. Some Astrosociological Notions and Hypotheses.
3. Existence, Search, Contact.
4. The Communicative Aspect of Contact with a Civilization.
5. Contact as Cognition.
6. Direct Contacts between Cosmic Civilizations.
7. The Problem of "Palaeovisits" (Visits in the Past).
8. The Problem of Extraterrestrial Civilizations and the Illusions of the Bourgeois Consciousness.

As it stands, I am sure that the book is an admirable and utterly comprehensive piece of work, meticulous and carefully thought out as most Soviet scientific publications are. We therefore extend our hearty congratulations to authors Rubtsov and Ursul for having been able to bring out this work in Russia.

But since I do not believe in the "E.T." Theory, and consider that there is so far no evidence whatsoever that any alien beings from Outer Space have ever visited Planet Earth, I very much regret to say that I do not perceive that this book really has much bearing on the problems that are of interest to *Flying Saucer Review*.

The book deals with the theme of possible *Exobiology* — that is to say, with the question of whether other civilizations exist OUT THERE. On that score I must say most emphatically that I agree with the two authors and indeed, I think, with the vast majority of Soviet scientists, in accepting that it is *wellnigh certain* that the entire vast Cosmos teems with life and intelligence, much of it possibly of an (for us) unimaginably high level, throughout its whole, seemingly endless extent.

The essence of our difficulty seems to lie in the fact that, right from the very outset of the "Flying Saucer or UFO Era" in or around 1947, the subject of our alien visitors, and their craft, got mixed up with mankind's long-established but poorly developed observational science of Astronomy. *I do not think that "flying saucers" or "UFOs" or "alien occupants" have anything whatsoever to do with Astronomy, but I feel very sure that man's erroneous assumption on this score is itself an important part of the massive campaign of deception now being conducted against us. It is the "aliens" themselves who have consistently fed into mankind this fatuous belief that they originate from Outer Space. And this belief has cost us enormous sums of money in Space Programmes and has been an enormous drain upon our energies and our scientific capacities.*

The attempt has been made, consequently, to think up a new branch of science, which we are beginning to call "Exobiology" and inevitably of course it is linked up with Astronomy.

My own guess is that our current wild and costly attempts to get into "Outer Space" will yield no information about "aliens" since there are very likely no physical aliens (i.e. "physical" as we know this term) in our own immediate vicinity in this part of the outer rim of our Galaxy. And we must be clear about one thing: *what is going to be travelling out from here into distant Space in the future is not going to be Homo Sapiens himself — but a multitude of his mechanical devices*

and instruments. (If we are to judge by the physical condition in which the Soviet cosmonaut Romanenko was recently found to be after his record spell aloft, then our particular species is not going anywhere else for a very, very long time; at any rate, not until we are capable of creating some sort of artificial gravity and I doubt whether we are anywhere near that goal.)

If we examine the contents of our journal, FSR, we see that it is true that a very great deal of it revolves around speculation about alien life in Outer Space — Exobiology. Many of our contributors still think along these lines, and it has not yet been possible for us to separate the two strands of thinking. Perhaps what we need first of all is a new term, like, for example, "ESOBIOLOGY". Whereas "Exobiology" means "outer" or "extraterrestrial" life, Esobiology would mean life of an "inner" kind. *That is to say, life on the inner planes or inner levels, or, if you will, "life on other dimensions, but nevertheless right here".*

Long-term students of our subject, such as both Dr Hynek and Dr Jacques Vallée, long ago discarded the idea of "extraterrestrial visitors" to Planet Earth. As Dr Hynek used to say: "For one thing, there are just too many of them!"

(If of course any of these aliens from the Pleiades, Tau Ceti, Orion, Andromeda, or any of the other stops out on the line really do start landing here, why then of course G. Creighton will be the first to queue up to eat cold crow.) G.C.

THE UFOs AS A MATERIAL PHENOMENON

V.J. Ballester Olmos, FSR Consultant, and J.A. Fernández Peris
(Translation from Spanish)

DURING the past six years we have been engaged on an ambitious project to investigate all the so-called "UFO LANDINGS" that have occurred in the Iberian Peninsula. With backing from the U.S. *Fund For UFO Research*, we centred our investigations upon the existing documentation regarding about 600 known reports, subjecting them to study, and discarding all those for which a reasonable explanation could be found. Our objective has been to arrive at a comprehension of the principal parameters of the UFO Phenomenon in Spain and Portugal so as to be enabled to proceed to subsequent studies with all the requisite methodology.

The results of this programme of work have now been published in our *ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH UFOs* (Plaza & Janés, Barcelona, 1987). Now, for the first time, any reader will have at his disposal, in one volume, all the data at present available on the UFO landings in the Iberian Peninsula.

We think it will be of interest if we lay stress upon one of the strangest of the features that characterize the landing-phenomenon: *namely its material nature.*

In a great number of the reports, the eyewitnesses describe phenomena of a physical nature, of a consistent materiality — with a "manufactured" appearance — strikingly different from what might be thought of as phenomena of a purely "energy" nature. At times the reports go so far as to mention objects possessing structural elements on their surfaces, such as "cupolas", "portholes", "antennae", etc.

The eyewitnesses describe having been confronted, with actual objects, three-dimensional, solid bodies

the precise material composition of which we are, however, still far from being able to ascertain.

We recognize that these statements are very difficult to accept. Despite the many years that we have dedicated to the study of this problem, we ourselves are still astonished and incredulous, and we are not asking anybody else to accept anything. The evidence is, however, there to be evaluated; and the respective pieces of testimony, well bolstered by the trustworthy quality of their narrators, are there too, at hand for verification.

In many of the cases, the observers speak of what they beheld as having had a *metallic appearance*. Let us look at an example:—

1. Three UFOs "shaped like projectiles"

At 7.15 p.m. on November 14, 1980, at San Martín de Tous (Barcelona, N.E. Spain). The farmer J.P. aged 35, was driving his tractor, in a field some eight kilometres outside the town, when he perceived that a nearby hill was completely lit up. So he started off, on the tractor, up towards the central part of the flank of the hill in question, as he needed to pick up some tins of gasoline.

As he approached closer and closer to it, the strange light grew stronger and stronger, and more white in colour. Arriving at a bend in the track, he was astonished to find himself confronted by three objects which were emitting the light. They were stationary in the middle of the road, at about 20 metres from him. They were cylindrical, with the upper parts rounded, "like a rifle bullet stood upright", and of a