

THREE SIGHTINGS FROM LONG AGO

/ Grattan-Guinness

THE UFO literature, especially the writings of Vallée, shows that information and even speculation on the subject is older than might be imagined, and that scientists have been among the witnesses. In this short note I record three elderly cases. The first has been mentioned in the literature, but the other two may be new.

1. *The philosophical transactions of the Royal Society of London*, no less, records a sighting; and, moreover, one by one of its then secretaries, the physician Cromwell Mortimer (d.1752). He reported his sighting as an addendum to a description of a meteor sighting by someone else. Here is his text *verbatim* save for the rendition of 18-th century 'r's as 's's), together with his diagrams:

As I was returning home from the *Royal Society to Westminster*, on *Thursday*, Dec.16. 1743. h. 8. 40'. *p.m.* being about the Middle of the Parade in *St. James's Park*, I saw a Light arise from behind the Trees and Houses in the S. by W. Point, which I took at first for a large Sky-Rocket; but when it had risen to a height of about 20 Degrees, it took a Motion nearly parallel to the Horizon, but waved in this manner,



and went on to the N. by E. Point over the Houses. It seemed to be so very near, that I thought it passed over *Queen's Square*, the Island in the Park, cross the Canal, and I lost sight of it over the *Haymarket*. Its Motion was so very slow, that I had it above half a Minute in View, and therefore had Time enough to contemplate its Appearance fully, which was what is seen in the annexed Figure,



A seemed to be a light Flame, turning backwards from the Resistance the Air made to it. BB a bright Fire like burning Charcoal, inclosed as it were in an open Case, of which the Frame CCC was quite opaque, like Bands of Iron. At D issued forth a Train or Tail of light Flame, more bright at

D, and growing gradually fainter at E, so as to be transparent more than half its Length. The Head seemed about half a Degree in Diameter, the Tail near 3 Degrees in Length, and about one Eighth of a Degree in Thickness.¹

2. *The Gentleman's magazine* for 1793 contains the following communique from one J.O. to its editor, Sylvanus Urban (alias John Nichols (1745–1826)):
Mr. Urban, Jan.19 [1793]

Perhaps some of your learned correspondents in astronomy can account for the following extraordinary appearance on the Sun, on this day, Saturday 19, Jan. 1793. It having been very clear and frosty, till about 12 o'clock; a fog arose, by which the sun, as is usual, appeared like a red globe. The attention of many people, myself among the number, was excited, by observing an oblong opake body, nearly on his center. It was so visible, as to be seen without any assistance of a telescope, and even when the fog dispersed, and the Sun became very luminous, the spot was still very visible, although the power of light was very great upon the eye, which will dazzle and weaken the sight. As so extraordinary a phaenomenon must create great wonder and surprize to those who are not involved in the profound researches of philosophy, an explanation of the above cause would give great satisfaction.

Those whose minds are affected by superstition may be led to believe it is a sign of some tremendous event.²

3. The great mathematician Carl Friedrich Gauss (1777–1855) corresponded extensively with the astronomer Heinrich Christian Schumacher (1780–1850). On 18 September 1845 Schumacher communicated news that he had heard of an apparent sighting (my translation):

Erman³ sends me a report of Capocci⁴ about bodies, which he has seen pass in front of the sun on 11. to 13 May ... he has also seen bodies of indeterminate shape like shadows pass, and for this reason the idea occurred to him that there could be nearer bodies and therefore that one must pull out the eyepiece [of the telescope] further in order to see them clearly. In fact, when he pulled out the eyepiece 1 to 2 centimeters, he saw these bodies pass by with a very definite outline. They had irregular shapes. A few went quickly like shooting stars, others remained visible 2 to 3 seconds and so on.

Schumacher goes on to express doubts as to the possibility of such a sighting, but in reply on 22 September Gauss did not entirely rule it out.⁶ It seems from this exchange that Capocci's sighting was reported in the local press.

I. Grattan-Guinness: Notes and References

1. C[romwell] M[ortimer], Appendix to 'Part of a letter from the Reverend Mr. Geo. Costard to Mr. John Catlin, concerning a fiery meteor seen in the Air on July 14, 1745', *Phil. trans. [Roy. Soc. London]*, 43 (1744-45: publ. 1746), no. 477, 524-525. This has been reprinted in Harold T. Watkins, *Flying Saucers on the attack* 1967, Ace Star), 198-199.
2. *The gentleman's magazine and historical chronicle*, 63 (1793), 8. I am indebted to Professor J.N. Crossley for this item.

3. G.A. Erman (1806-1877) worked chiefly in terrestrial magnetism and related fields, and also undertook many expeditions. His father-in-law was Bessel.
4. The witness, Ernesto Capocci [de Belmonte] (1798-1864), was the first astronomer at the Capodimonte observatory in Naples until 1848, and so presumably saw this effect there.
5. See C.A. Peters (ed), *Briefwechsel zwischen C.G. Gauss und H.C. Schumacher* 6 vols.: 1860-1865, Altona), vol. 5, pp.46-47 (letter no. 1012). I am indebted to Dr. T. Gerardy for the details of this reference.
6. *Ibid.*, 50.

Little Haven Humanoids (continued from page 7)

circling the same field was at 1.00 a.m. on April 27. The light was in the air and somewhat higher than the hotel TV mast. Mrs Grenville at once switched off all the lights and waited in the dark with a camera for half an hour but there was no further activity.

Mrs. Grenville also told us that her daughter, Franscine, had complained about a violent and un-

usual rattling of the window of her room at 1.00 a.m. on a very calm night. Abnormal rattling of windows on calm nights has been described on four occasions during the current Broad Haven wave of sightings. There have also been numerous complaints about TV interference for no obvious reason.

Mrs Grenville summed up her reaction by saying: "I don't know what it is, but I was petrified. If I see it again I am definitely moving from here."

Police encounter at Bury (continued from page 13)

touch with a UFO study group via the Universities, and so on. They had told him 'not to bother with them'!

It is most interesting to compare this report with one which occurred at 03.25 on August 15, 1975. This involved several independent witnesses, who saw a remarkably similar phenomenon. There were two policemen in patrol cars, one north of Bury and one in Bury itself (who followed the object eastwards towards Heywood). It was additionally discovered that staff at the Rochdale Infirmary, and

security men who were driving in North Manchester, saw the same thing. Piecing together all of their accounts (which were recorded the same night as the sighting occurred by investigator Jeff Porter) a clear picture of the path of the object was recorded. No aircraft were found to account for it, and it remains one of the most baffling LITS* cases on the files in the UK. The addition of this report makes it even more remarkable.

* LITS: Light in the sky.

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TALKS WITH BETTY HILL: 1 - AFTERMATH OF ENCOUNTER

*Berthold Eric Schwarz, M.D.**

JOHN FULLER'S *Interrupted Journey*¹ describes Betty and Barney Hill's† abduction aboard a UFO, where they were intensively studied and examined by the occupants. Because of emotional psychosomatic complications following this experience, the Hills sought psychiatric assistance and were seen in hypnotherapy by the eminent psychiatrist, Benjamin Simon, who treated them over an extended period of time.

Little has been written about related experiences of the Hills before or after the initial contact in 1962. Fuller wrote an earlier book describing UFO activities in Exeter, N. H.,² an area 14 miles from the home of the Hills and Simon³ prepared a short article for a psychiatric journal.

Barney died February, 1969, age 46, of cerebral hemorrhage, the same disease that his father died of. Since then Betty has continued to appear on various TV interviews as well as to lecture to various UFO, university, and scientific organizations.

Earl Neff, Cleveland ufologist, showed me Xerox copies of the Air Force Manual, "Introductory Space Science," Chapter 33, which is used in an elective course, Physics 370 at the Air Force Academy. This chapter explores the UFO problem and contains interesting paragraphs on the Hills. He also showed me Xerox copies of a subsequent edition which is highly diluted compared to the first. However, official government correspondence omitted mention of an original and detailed chapter which was only discovered by Neff's persistent sleuthing.

Beyond such official recognition, the significance of the Hills' experience assumed enormous scientific importance when in 1968 Marjorie Fish⁴ constructed a model and analysis of Betty Hill's star map. Betty had seen the star map aboard the UFO, and two years later (1964) she recalled it following post-hypnotic suggestion and drew it during automatic writing. Miss Fish showed that Betty's star map was correct and that some of the stars Betty drew were not known to astronomers in September 19-20, 1961, having been discovered later. Of all aspects of the case, Marjorie Fish's tour de force more than any other has excited the interest of scientists.

Having studied people who have had alleged close UFO sightings, contact with occupants, etc., I was naturally curious about Betty Hill, by far the most thoroughly studied, and most famous of those who have had UFO contacts. My curiosity was further whetted when I met Betty and her mother at an APRO symposium in Baltimore, January 23, 1971, and later at an APRO meeting in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, June 15, 1974, when I again visited with Betty and also met Barney's sister Lillian. I learned

that Betty had had many unusual experiences that might have been related to her UFO contact. These events might give clues to the kind of person Betty is and how they might fit into the jigsaw puzzle that comprises the UFO mystery.

Betty impressed me then, and more recently when I visited her home in Portsmouth, N. H. (January 18, 1976), and in a study in my office+ (March 11-13, 1976), as a highly intelligent, open, straight-talking, good-natured lady of unquestionable probity. A graduate of the University of New Hampshire and a social worker for many years, Betty has a splendid sense of humour and a good grasp of reality. She graciously consented to these studies and experiments.

The anecdotal nature of much of the experiential data which preceded and followed the UFO abduction is an admitted shortcoming. However, because of the uniqueness of the Hills' UFO capture and the subsequent Fish confirmatory analysis of the star map, it is essential to record material that has been hitherto either omitted or overlooked. Since the person should not be studied apart from the other data, the UFO experience might be more fully understood if all its segments are included. To omit some material because it is subjective or anecdotal, and not the more desirable objective data, is folly and wasteful, and blurs the total picture. Therefore this report describes apparently relevant events that followed shortly after, and long after, the Hills' abduction as well as some possibly related situations that occurred long before the abduction. In a concluding section, a clinical experiment in audio taping is reported.

Home Sweet Home Potpourri

Occasionally, after the abduction, when Betty returned home she would find that although other coats would be in the living room closet, *her* coats would be unaccountably thrown in a pile in the middle of the living room and topped with Barney's scarf.

Other disruptive household events included this recent (1975) situation: Betty returned home and noticed that a kitchen clock had been set back three hours and 15 minutes. It was an electric clock, made by her mother, and although she has four other

* Consultant, Brain Wave Laboratory, Essex County Hospital Center, Cedar Grove, New Jersey 07009, U.S.A.

† For ease in communication Mr. and Mrs. Hill, as well as some other persons in this article, will be referred to by their Christian names.

+ A 10-channel electroencephalogram taken at this time was normal.