

- Menzel, Donald H., and Lyle G. Boyd. *The World of Flying Saucers: A Scientific Examination of a Major Myth of the Space Age*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday and Company, 1963.
- Merriam, Mr. "Brilliant Atmospheric Phenomena." *Scientific American* 1 (1859): 178.
- Michel, Aimé. *The Truth About Flying Saucers*. New York: Criterion Books, 1956.
- Miller, R. DeWitt. *You Do Take It with You*. New York: Citadel Press, 1955.
- Moseley, James W. "Recent News Stories: 'Angel Hair' in Nebraska." *Saucer News* 8,4 (December 1961): 11.
- Pinotti, Roberto. "The Italian Scene." *Flying Saucer Review* 16,3 (May/June 1970): 7-9.
- Pottage, Barrie. "Ring Clouds and Angel Hair." *Flying Saucer Review* 10,3 (May/June 1964): 14-16.
- Randles, Jenny. "Cloud-Like Object with Angel Hair Effect." *Flying Saucer Review* 24,2 (1978): iii.
- Sharp, Peter F. "Angel Hair." *Flying Saucer Review* 10,1 (January/February 1964): 14-15.
- Story, Ronald D., ed. *The Encyclopedia of UFOs*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday and Company, 1980.
- "Strange Craft Litters French Town with Thread-Like Substance." *Civilian Saucer Investigation Quarterly Bulletin* 1,2 (Winter 1953): 4-5.
- Stringfield, Leonard H. *Inside Saucer Post ... 3-0 Blue*. Cincinnati, OH: Civilian Research, Interplanetary Flying Objects, 1957.
- . "This Questionable Affair—Angel Hair." *C.R.I.F.O. Orbit* 3,9 (December 7, 1956): 1-4.
- Vallee, Jacques, and Janine Vallee. *Challenge to Science: The UFO Enigma*. Chicago: Henry Regnery Company, 1966.
- Webster, Robert N. [pseudonym of Curtis Fuller]. "Things That Fall from UFOs." *Fate* 11,10 (October 1958): 25-31.

ANGELUCCI, ORFEO MATTHEW (1912- ?)

Orfeo Angelucci, born in New Jersey in 1912, saw his first flying saucer in 1946. As part of a science experiment—Angelucci was an enthusiastic amateur scientist—he sent a number of balloons aloft. The balloons attracted the attention of a curious circular flying object which hovered and maneuvered gracefully. Later he would hear of flying saucers, and on May 24, 1952, in Burbank, California, he would see

another one and this time receive a message from its occupants.

As he would tell the story in print and on lecture platforms, he was driving home from work at an aircraft plant when he "sensed a force of some kind about me" and some minutes later spotted a red, glowing, oval-shaped object. He kept it in view as he continued to drive. Finally, overcome by curiosity despite his acute physical discomfort, he began to follow it. It hovered briefly, and Angelucci got within 30 feet of it before it streaked away. Just as it was about to vanish, it shot out two smaller objects. These objects, a soft fluorescent green and only three feet in diameter, approached Angelucci, and a masculine voice, speaking in English, said, "Don't be afraid, Orfeo, we are friends!" The voice reminded him of the 1946 sighting and said, "We were observing your efforts that day as we have watched you since then." A crystal cup materialized on the car fender, and at the voice's urging, Angelucci drank the "most delicious beverage I have ever tasted. I drained the cup. Even as I was drinking a feeling of strength and well-being swept over me and all of my unpleasant symptoms vanished."

Between the globes a screen appeared, and on it were the images of a noble-looking man and woman. As they gazed out at him, Angelucci felt they were "oddly familiar." They seemed to be reading his mind, leaving him in "a kind of spiritual nakedness before them.... Before these two incredible Beings I felt that I was only a shadow of the shining reality I sensed them to be." The screen disappeared, and the voice resumed speaking and gave him a spiritual message about the aliens' love of all human beings stemming from an "ancient kinship of our planet with earth." Angelucci was the first earthperson they had contacted, and at some point they would seek out two more: one in Rome, the other in India. Like Angelucci, they were "simple, humble and presently unknown persons."

On July 23 Angelucci experienced the "dulling of consciousness" he had felt at the onset of his earlier contact, and he entered a shadowy object which looked like a "huge, misty soap bubble." The interior was beautiful, "made of an ethereal mother-of-pearl stuff, iridescent with exquisite colors that gave off

light." He entered "a kind of semi-dream state," heard music ("my favorite song, 'Fools Rush in'"), and sensed that the object was in flight. In due course a window opened, and he saw a planet "of a deep, twilight-blue intensity ... [T]he iridescent rainbow surrounding it made it appear like a dream vision." A voice told him that this lovely world was the earth. As Angelucci wept, the voice went on, "Weep, Orfeo. Let tears unblind your eyes. For at this moment we weep with you for Earth and her Children. For all of its apparent beauty Earth is a purgatorial world among the planets evolving intelligent life. Hate, selfishness, and cruelty rise from many parts of it like a dark mist."

After other sights, sounds, and messages Angelucci underwent a mystical experience in which, in a beam of blinding white light, "I seemed to be projected beyond Time and Space.... Every event of my life upon Earth was crystal clear to me.... IN THAT SUBLIME MOMENT I KNEW THE MYSTERY OF LIFE! ... I drifted in a timeless sea of bliss." Soon afterwards he returned both to normal consciousness and to earth.

At the direction of his space friends, Angelucci went public and spread the gospel through lectures and interviews. The resulting ridicule caused him to doubt his own sanity and to alienate him (as it were) from friends and family. But late on the evening of August 2, he met space people face to face for the first time. He was told that the space people "function in dimensions unknown in your world." A devastating war would soon come, followed by a "New Age of Earth" and brotherhood.

Angelucci was among the speakers at an August 1953 flying-saucer convention in Los Angeles. Not long afterwards, climaxing six months of "vivid dreams of a hauntingly beautiful, half-familiar world" and strange psychological symptoms, he found himself on another world where he sensed he had lived before, and he met space friends who told him his real name was "Neptune" (Angelucci, 1955).

Back on earth Angelucci was by now a contactee celebrity, and his *The Secret of the Saucers*, published in 1955, was among the most popular contactee books of the period. He shared platforms regularly with other prominent figures in the movement, including

George Adamski, Truman Bethurum, Daniel Fry, and George Van Tassel.

To the outside world and to many ufologists, these contactees seemed no more than charlatans. Nonetheless to at least some observers Angelucci looked like a special case. If to ufologist **Isabel Davis** *Secret of the Saucers* represented nothing more than an expression of "vanity frustrated" (Davis, 1957), to one of the century's most eminent men, psychologist and philosopher C. G. Jung (see **Jung and UFOs**), the book was a "unique document that sheds a great deal of light on the genesis and assimilation of UFO mythology." Jung wrote that Angelucci's visions—and that is what he thought they were, as opposed to conscious inventions—came "like a gift to the psychologist. The individuation process, the central problem of modern psychology, is plainly depicted in it in an unconscious, symbolic form ... although the author with his somewhat primitive mentality has taken it quite literally as a concrete happening" (Jung, 1959).

Even the jaded Paris Flammonde, who produced a New York radio show on which flamboyant contactees were frequent guests, characterized Angelucci's tale as "certainly the most beautiful of the mythology of the Age of Flying Saucers" (Flammonde, 1971). The if-anything-even-more-cynical Long John Nebel, host of the Flammonde-produced show, admitted to being "impressed" (Nebel, 1961). Religious-studies scholar Robert S. Ellwood, Jr., was struck by Angelucci's "charm, humility, and sincerity" and said he represented the "religious wing of the UFO contactee movement at its best" (Story, 1980). Psychotherapist and social historian Robert Plank was certain there could not be "any doubt about his subjective honesty. The reader has no choice but to assume that Mr. Angelucci believes that everything he reports has actually happened" (Plank, 1968). As early as 1953 Angelucci publicly offered to take a polygraph test (Angelucci, 1954) and was one of two contactees (Van Tassel was the other) to respond positively to a challenge by the **National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena** to undergo such an examination ("Interim Report," 1957), though none ever occurred.

After the 1950s Angelucci, though he continued to