

# FSR BOOKSHELF — 6

New UFO books reviewed. . .

Janet & Colin Bord

**I**N *The Tujunga Canyon Contacts* (Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, N.J. 07632, U.S.A., price \$9.95), **Ann Druffel** and **D. Scott Rogo** get to grips with a complex series of UFO events, and their painstaking detective work may well prove to be of seminal importance in the future. Ann Druffel, an American UFO investigator for 23 years, and D. Scott Rogo, a parapsychologist with several important books to his credit, have, with the aid of hypnosis, investigated a series of abductions and night visitations that were experienced by a group of women in and around the Tujunga Canyon area near Los Angeles, California, from 1953 to 1975.

Early in their enquiry Druffel and Rogo found that one of the women, whom they name Jan, seemed to be the triggering influence in these experiences. Although she did not play a prominent part in any of them, none of the abductees experienced UFO phenomena until they were associated with her. The investigators consider that this 'contagious' effect may be significant.

Throughout this book there is a sober evaluation of the hypnotic techniques used, and the investigators seem well aware of the pitfalls as well as of the value of regressive hypnosis when applied to UFO abductees. Such investigations are establishing that close encounter and abduction reports cannot be usefully studied in isolation. The mind and total experience of the witnesses are as important as the events they report. The main text of this book was prepared jointly, but each author has written a separate concluding chapter, both very readable and both quite different. Thus we see how this complex phenomenon can be viewed by different individuals in the light of their own predilections and can be "all things to all men." Among all the huge amount of writing on the subject of UFOs, there are a few books that are of real value and will stand the test of time. *The Tujunga Canyon Contacts* may well prove to be one of these.

In our last column we reviewed several new books on the "ancient astronauts" theme, and since then two more have come to our notice, confirming the continuing interest in this dubious branch of ufology. If the content of *Sungods in Exile* by **Karyl Robin-Evans, M.A., D.Phil.**, (Sphere paperback, £1.25), were true, it would be incredible. Unfortunately the book reads too much like a science-fiction story. The author is said to have visited the Dzopa tribe in the Tibetan mountains in 1947, and there learned their extraordinary history: they 'were not of the natural inhabitants of our earth', but came from the star Sirius. The why and how of their journey to earth were told to Dr. Robin-Evans, and shortly before his death he completed this ostensibly factual account of his adventures in Tibet.

Also now available is a reprint of the paperback edition

of Richard Mooney's *Colony: Earth* (Panther paperback, £1.25), written in support of man's extra-terrestrial origins.

Readers with an interest in sociology and its application to the field of inexplicable phenomena may find relevant Sociological Review Monograph 27, edited by Roy Wallis: **On the Margins of Science: The Social Construction of Rejected Knowledge** (a 338-page paperback published in 1979 by the University of Keele, Staffordshire, price unknown). The book comprises thirteen papers by individual (or pairs of) contributors on such subjects as "Reflections on Deviant Science", "In the Beginning: The Battle of Creationist Science Against Evolutionism", and "The Construction of the Paranormal: Nothing Unscientific is Happening", the final paper being "Ufology: The Intellectual Development and Social Context of the Study of Unidentified Flying Objects." The author, Joseph A. Blake of the Wright State University in the U.S.A., tells us that "The task of this paper will be to explore ufology as a developing science, in comparison with and against the backdrop of conventional or normal science," but the brevity of his paper (23 pages) has resulted in a restricted development of his thesis, and we feel that it is more likely to be of interest to sociologists with no prior knowledge of ufology, than to UFO researchers of long standing. The previous paper, Ron Westrum's "Knowledge About Sea-Serpents," is in some ways more relevant, since it points up similarities in sea-serpent and UFO phenomena and people's attitudes towards them.

In **UFO-UK** (New English Library paperback, £1), **Peter Paget** gives the reader a medley of UFO reports whose linking theme is that they were all made in Britain. To relieve the monotony of a long recital of lights in the sky, he has included chapters on the Mrs. Joyce Bowles abductions, the Ripperston Farm encounters, UFO cults and societies, and the debates in the United Nations and the House of Lords. *UFO-UK* will be of interest to those who know little or nothing of these matters, but the author's uncritical and superficial approach will not commend his writing to serious ufologists. Although his publishers claim in their publicity handout that Mr. Paget is "Britain's foremost authority on UFOs," his limited knowledge of the subject is revealed when he misuses the acronym 'LITS' (light in the sky), apparently not aware of its meaning and using 'lit' to refer to a single sighting.

Everyone who enjoyed **Leonard H. Stringfield's** three-part article "Retrievals of the Third Kind" in FSR 25/4, 5 and 6 will be pleased to learn that he has now written a report on his researches to date (published

January 1980). Although there are inevitably some duplications of data, this latest publication contains plenty of new information that has come to Stringfield as a result of publicity concerning his research.

If all his first-hand witnesses are speaking the truth and really have seen crashed UFOs and the bodies of dead aliens, the implications are astounding, not the least of them being that perhaps the supporters of the extra-terrestrial hypothesis are right after all. But. . . all those crashes (49 reports, some perhaps referring to the same event), and all so conveniently in unpopulated areas. . . And if autopsies have been performed on the corpses, why, in the medical data given on pages 10-11, is there so much emphasis on the creature's *external* appearance? We are told that it had no digestive system, but there is no information on what *was* inside the body. Did it have a heart and lungs, for example? An autopsy involves dissection of the body, and the fact that Stringfield's queries on the alien's internal organs were "circumvented" suggests that we should be suspicious of his informant. The nature of the alien's interior is, after all, as revealing, if not more revealing, than its exterior. Whatever the truth in this controversial affair, Stringfield is to be applauded for his efforts to obtain the facts. Whether they *are* facts, or merely fantasies, remains to be seen. **The UFO Crash/Retrieval Syndrome, Status Report II: New Sources, New Data**, is a 38-page, large-format paperback published by Mutual UFO Network and obtainable from them at 103 Oldtowne Road, Seguin, TX 78155, U.S.A., price \$5 including postage by seamount.

Those readers who are particularly interested in UFO propulsion will wish to know of a book by **Robert Kingsley Morison, An Experiment With Space** (Ascent Publications hardback, £3, distributed by Volturna & Marsland Press, 52 Ormonde Road, Hythe, Kent). The author has assembled his ideas on gravitation and levitation, 'based on the vortex principle, which has attained respectability in connection with turbines and fluidic research and the origin of the solar system'. Our knowledge of physics being slight, we cannot presume to comment on Morison's theories, though we would disagree with the blurb which tells us that "the ideas can be followed by nearly anyone." This should be amended to ". . . followed by anyone with a scientific background." The small-format, 64-page book is neatly laid out and well produced, and all profits from sales are to be donated to Amnesty International.

Two recent books by astronomers may be of interest to some readers. First, **The Search for Life in the Universe** by two American astronomers, **Donald Goldsmith** and **Tobias Owen** (large-format paperback, published in U.S.A. by The Benjamin/Cummings Publishing Company and distributed in U.K. by Addison-Wesley Publishers, price £8.40). This book has 430 pages of detailed exposition suitable for "the educated layperson" or as a student textbook, and covers everything from the history of the universe and the origins of life to the possibility of interstellar radio and television messages. Chapter 21 asks: "Extraterrestrial Visitors to Earth?", and in it the authors, who know little about ufology, explain that they have relied on the writings of Philip Klass for their information. Klass's notorious manipulation of the facts in order to deride all UFO reports has been well documented and adequately dealt with elsewhere. The familiar arguments against the ETH are presented here, and the authors conclude that given sufficient time and funds, contact will eventually be made, and we "shall no longer be alone in the universe." This book has many diagrams and photographs, an index, and each chapter ends with a reading list and a list of questions for use by teachers.

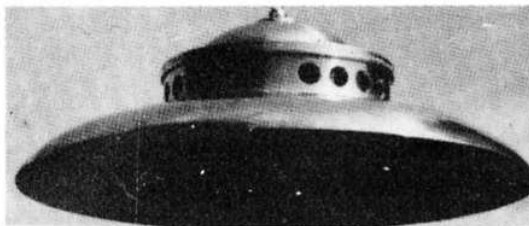
In **In the Centre of Immensities** (Paladin/Granada paperback, £1.50), **Sir Bernard Lovell**, best known as the Director of the Jodrell Bank Radio Telescope, presents a densely written philosophic history of the study of the universe from Aristotelian astronomy to recent space technology, ending with a chapter on modern man's technological dilemma.

In view of the television series, the newspaper serialisation, and now the book, few people can be unaware of **Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World** written by Simon Welfare and John Fairley (William Collins hardback, £8.95). The 218-page book is well illustrated in colour and black and white, and has been very attractively produced. Twelve chapters cover a wide variety of subject matter, from ape-man to standing stones, from the Tunguska explosion to giants; and Chapter 10 deals with UFOs. This chapter is built round the 1979 House of Lords UFO debate, and is accurate enough — as far as it goes. For some reason the CE3 aspect is played down. The authors tell us on page 175 that "actual meetings with humanoids or aliens. . . are very rarely reported," which readers of FSR will know to be untrue, if we can take "meetings with" to include



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“sightings of.” If such events are rare, how come FSR’s editor was able, in 1966, to compile a book, **The Humanoids**, devoted to such cases? The chapter closes, as does every chapter, with a few well-chosen words by Arthur C. Clarke.

As for UFOs, he tells us that “the subject bores me to tears,” after which confession we can hardly expect a dispassionate summing up of the evidence. He appears to accept that hitherto unknown phenomena and

psychological aberrations are to blame for the reports. Throughout this book, Clarke’s comments jar somewhat, as he is scathing and sceptical about most of the inexplicable phenomena competently described by Welfare and Fairley. It would have been a better book if Clarke’s comments and photographs (there are two of him) had been omitted, and the title reduced to ‘Mysterious World’ — but then it would not have received such wide publicity nor sold nearly so well!

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# THE BOTTOM OF ANOTHER BARREL

**Review of a new novel which conjures up a nightmarish picture of ufology.**

*Jenny Randles*

**N**ORMALLY *Flying Saucer Review* would not concern itself with books of the fictional kind, for that is what **Genesis**, a new Corgi paperback by **W. A. Harbinson** (published October 1980, 612 pages, £1.75) turns out to be. The theme, however, is UFOs, so it merited a mention.

For me it proved to be a horrifying book. Not only horrifying because its content is a kind of souped-up horror story conceived around the UFO mystery, but also because of the dreadful image it conjures up both of the subject and the people involved in it. Again there must be UFO enthusiasts who, weaned on the cover-up idea that so obsesses the author, will find sinister undertones in what Corgi Books label “. . .the epic novel of the world’s most fearsome secret.”

Novels based on ufology are rare: the theme of the very reasonable *Miracle Visitors* by Ian Watson (Panther Books) was written around the Vallée/Jung school of thinking. This new offering, however, seems to be culled from the hard-line ufology of Keyhoe, Stringfield and Co. There was scope for a literary exploration of the cover-up mythology. *Genesis* tries to do that, but its idea isn’t entirely original, for our own Gordon Creighton touched on it — albeit in a light-hearted manner — in his article “Those cunning British: the truth at last.”

The complex plot introduces elements from all over the world, but is centred on Britain — an abduction in Cornwall and regression hypnosis by a London doctor — and the plot revolves around the activities of two full-time American ufologists-cum-scientists, whose role is never quite explained. Apparently they do not work for the government, yet they stroll in and out of military bases with a freedom that is ridiculous to say the least. Nor is it explained who pays these redoubtable workers during the course of the action between 1974 and 1978. One of them is an older man with an incurable disease; the other is a whizz-kid who either spends a globe trotting life following up UFO incidents, or wallows in strong drink or drugs. This younger one is hell-bent on breaking the great cover-

up mystery before his buddy dies, and one is forced to assume that his methodology is standard both for him and other associates of his: in one scene he beats the truth out of one percipient who, soon afterwards, dies of a heart attack. Other methods involve getting his witnesses drunk, or drugged, and then hurling four letter words at them; he even resorts to rape to elicit the truth from one unfortunate.

In parts of the text Mr. Harbinson actually intermingles real events and characters with fictional ones, even the late Ed Ruppelt of Project Blue Book fame, and poor James E. McDonald who, unhappily, can no longer speak up for themselves. Other characters are paraded who seem to parallel living investigators, and FSR also gets a mention, but fortunately only in the author’s notes, where it is recommended as “mandatory reading” — but with a “selective eye.”

Basically the author presents a theory (based on obscure documents said to have been discovered in West Germany) that everything which we link with UFOs — 19th Century airships, the Tunguska explosion, Foo fighters, ghost rockets and the Bermuda Triangle — are the work of a mad genius, at one time associated with the Nazis, who has discovered — and applied — secrets of longevity, and who has found a hide-out in Antarctica. Naturally this person is bent on world domination, but I’ll leave the rest of the story for anyone who may wish to read it.

For myself, all I can do is shudder at the false picture of UFO investigators and researchers that will be created by this monster novel. The horrifying aspect is that many may read it who could well have their own UFO experience at a later date, and keep their peace when they recall the behaviour of the fictional investigators. My only hope is that many readers will not be taken in by the fanciful and artificial nature of the book, which as far as the painstaking researchers and careful documenters of ufology are concerned, belongs to the murky waters at the bottom of another barrel.