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June 1969



NORTH AMERICAN REPORT ON RECENT UFO CASES AND RESEARCH

Speaking at the July 29, 1968, House of Representatives symposium on UFOs, Dr. James E. McDonald supported the extraterrestrial hypothesis, but added a proviso: ". . . if the UFOs are not of extramundane origin, then I suspect that they will prove to be something very much more bizarre, something of perhaps even greater scientific interest than extraterrestrial devices."



BEYOND CONDON . . .

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An international journal devoted to the study of Unidentified Flying Objects

A COMPLEX PROBLEM

THE launching of V2 missiles against British cities signalled the opening of the Space Age: now, nearly twenty-five years later, the mighty descendants of the V2s hurl astronauts into the near reaches of space and around the Moon.

During that same quarter of a century, Man has become uneasily aware of other, stranger objects in the skies—although historical researchers in our field are busily showing that UFOs have been around for much longer than that—and, furthermore, he has been puzzled by, or has ignored, accounts of landings of these objects and of their alleged occupants.

Small wonder then that Man, himself stepping over the threshold of space, has speculated for more than twenty years that the objects come from distant planetary civilizations; that they are "spaceships" surveying us here on Earth.

Yet in twenty-two years not one of the thousands of UFO reports has substantiated this theory, unless a handful of the more sensational, but dubious, "contactee" claims can be accepted as substantiation.

Bedevelled by this stalemate, we at FLYING SAUCER REVIEW have tentatively paraded, and have suggested, alternative lines of enquiry. These have been no more than interesting speculations, and certainly not dogmatic assertions that *herein lies the answer to the UFO mystery*.

What, for instance, if our "visitors" are denizens of our world, yet at the same time of another world; an unseen, unheard, unfelt, unsmelt, but occasionally-sensed reality of a "parallel universe" where the timestream is different from ours? What if those denizens, solid physical entities in their own environment, have long known a way through to us, either by projection, reflection or by some other means whereby they can dematerialize in transit, and re-materialize here, and vice versa.

The idea of parallel universes is far from outrageous: a little study will show that it was believed in ancient religions, is postulated by philosophers, and is considered by present-day physicists.

From ideas such as these it is but a short step to the question of a possible overlap between UFO phenomena and psychic phenomena. We do not suggest that UFOs and their reported occupants are ghosts, but we do suggest that one day we may happen upon a common and perhaps even tangible physical cause for both UFOs and psychic phenomena.

A number of North American investigators and writers have been reporting research field work which seems to indicate that they could well be heading in this same direction: others are making even more surprising claims.

As we believe that every aspect of this remarkable subject should be closely examined, we have gathered between these two covers a representative selection of North American reporting and research, both orthodox (ufo-wise) and unorthodox. It is an interesting study which could help us along the road to an understanding of this most complex problem.

Charles Bowen
London, January 1969

PART ONE

Problems of Methodology

UFOs IN 1952

As the "flying saucer flap" of 1952 mounted, the administration and faculty of Ohio Northern University, a small Methodist institution located in Ada, Ohio, set up what they called PROJECT "A", THE INVESTIGATION OF PHENOMENA. Some 30 members of the faculty of four related colleges—engineering, pharmacy, law and liberal arts—coordinated their efforts in eight fields in an attempt to study unidentified flying objects.

Chief proponent of the study was Dr. Warren Hickman, dean of the university. He had been with Ohio Northern since 1949 and became dean in 1951. A cum laude graduate of Colgate University, he was chief of the file section for Eisenhower's S.H.A.E.F. command in Europe during the war and was recognised by the Brookings Institution for his competency in foreign affairs. Hickman said: "It is time somebody did something about it. We may find an astral body, army research, atomic reactions, flights from outer space, but whatever it is, we must find an accurate answer." The basic objectives of the PROJECT "A" centred around four points:

First: To objectively collect data from all possible sources dealing with "flying saucers" and to analyse this data in various departments of the university.

Second: To make public the results of research of a private institution unhampered by bureaucratic restrictions.

Third: To stimulate and promote objective study of all types of illusory phenomena by individual observers, and to issue reports of the project investigations.

Fourth: To aid in creating more accurate observers for the civilian air defence programme.

Procedure was explained as follows: Data on saucer sightings was collected, categorised as to geography, type, time, number of observers and others and then was subjected to scientific analysis in eight departments of the university. These departments were physics, mathematics, astronomy, chemistry, psychology, history, electrical and mechanical engineering and philosophy and religion. The precise methods of "scientific analysis" were not defined.

With the objectives and methods procedure set up, and with the faculty cooperating in the effort, the university set out in the summer of 1952 to solve the mystery. The school

received nation-wide publicity and soon reports began to flow in from every state in the union, and from Germany, Australia, Canada, and Denmark. The total number of reports received was not revealed.

In March 1953, PROJECT "A" released its first and only report, which revealed that of the many sightings reported to the university only 54 could be definitely categorised as not having a known natural explanation. Some 20 per cent of the sightings received, PROJECT "A" stated, did not fit explanation by light reflection, cloud formation, ionisation or other natural phenomena. Most of the sightings examined were in the southwest continental United States during the summer months of July, August and September of 1952. It is noteworthy that the U.S. Air Force's PROJECT BLUEBOOK claimed to have received 1,900 sightings for that year, with over 300 being classified as "unknowns". Years later, the 1952 total was modified to 1,501 without explanation of the reduction.

Early in 1953, the C.I.A.-sponsored Robertson Panel convened in Washington D.C. to examine the material collected by Captain Ruppelt's BLUEBOOK teams. That panel decided upon a policy of suppression, and suggested that the public should be "educated" to dismiss the phenomenon. Soon afterwards, Ohio Northern University released their solitary report and abandoned further research with a vague announcement that lack of cooperation on the part of the press, the public and the military made it impossible to continue. This was contrary to their earlier statements on how freely the reports were flowing in.

A close study of the PROJECT "A" REPORT indicates that it was apparently assembled in haste and it lacked the detailed analysis promised in the preliminary announcements. It did, however, comment on phenomena such as the "falling leaf" motion of the objects which has been repeatedly observed over the years, and might serve as a crude model for new studies.

Additional information on this project has been impossible to obtain at this late date.

J. A. KEEL.