

While I think it is impossible to over-rate the importance of this book, I regret to have to add that I do not yet find it possible to accept Dr. Mack's thesis that the Aliens' intentions towards us are benevolent, and that they are possibly engaged in a salvage operation, with the aim of "fusing" themselves with us in order to produce a new species which maybe will be destined to survive cataclysms which he visualizes as threatening both us and them. But if you buy his book — and I urge you to do so — don't forget to study also the books of Budd Hopkins and Dr. David Jacobs, both of whom share my own view that this particular species of Alien is only interested in our sperm and our ova, and doesn't care a fig about us!

(Let us pray to God Almighty that there are also some others around who will feel differently about us. And anyway, I certainly hope that Dr. Mack will be proved to be right and we will be proved to be wrong!)

In mid-May, Dr. Mack was in Britain briefly. And during an appearance here on television, his assistant, Ms. Dominique Callimanopulos, tells me that he received no less than 700 telephone calls to the studio (Carlton/Granada, *This Morning* programme, 11.30 a.m. Tuesday May 17, 1994), from British viewers claiming to have been abducted by Aliens!

To Dr. Mack and his party this figure seemed incredible. Is it just possible that — contrary to all the rubbish that is being daily fed to us by the British media about crazy and excitable and unstable Americans who seek publicity for themselves by thinking up all sorts of wild tales about abductions by Aliens — the abduction

phenomenon might in fact turn out to be even more prevalent among these fine, steady, stable Brits than it is over there in the USA?

As was to be expected, Dr. Mack was greeted by most of the British newspapers with the usual sneering comment or with silence. (I heard that at the *Daily Telegraph* — quite naturally — the reception was not too cordial).

Clearly Dr. Mack is in for a very rough ride, both here and in his own country. After all, a top psychiatrist and a scholar and writer of his stature (he is *inter alia*, a Pulitzer Prize winner) might be considered too dangerous to be allowed to survive. We ought all to be praying for his physical safety, for we know what has befallen others.

As he tells us plainly, if he is right, then our scientific and medical and academic and political Establishments are all wrong about everything — about the nature of the Universe, about the nature of man himself, and about the supreme question, which is:-

Is there just the one day-to-day 'reality' which we think we all know? Or are there more 'realities' — and all of them maybe right here?"

If so, then the British scientist J.B.S. Haldane of Cambridge hit the nail on the head when he said: "I begin to suspect that the Universe is not only queerer than we think, but queerer than we *can* think".

Because, as Dr. Mack tells us, our abductees do constantly speak of having the feeling that they were transported into another reality that is totally different from the one we think we know. G.C. ■

ABOUT OUR COVER

By Gordon Creighton

As readers will know, FSR was launched in the spring of 1955, as a bi-monthly. There were five issues of it in that first year. Having seen a mysterious white disc with a piercingly bright bluish light on top racing through the sky in the far west of China, near the eastern marches of Tibet, in the summer of 1941, and having subsequently noted and extracted from the American newspapers, in 1944, the first reports of "Foo Fighters" when I was stationed in New Orleans just before the Invasion of Europe, I was sufficiently intrigued by what was to become "our subject" to have already started my own file before WWII had ended.

The proposal to publish a journal about the "Flying Saucers" was reported in 1955 in the London papers, I was back in England then, and I made contact at once and received the subscription form from Brinsley le Poer Trench, later Lord Clancarty. My knowledge of a number of languages gave me the opportunity to begin contributing straight away, and my first piece appeared in the second issue of FSR (May/June 1955).

Meanwhile, on December 15, 1954, the "Founding Fathers" of FSR had held their first meeting, at 4 Berners Street, London W.1. The participants were:-

Waveney Girvan	Derek Dempster
Desmond Leslie	Benjamin Harrington
Oliver Moxon	Lewis Barton
Desmond Judge	Denis Montgomery

and, for some extraordinary reason which I have never been able to fathom, they had already had the new enterprise registered with Companies House as "FLYING SAUCER SERVICE LIMITED," with its address at 1, Doughty Street, London WC1. Anyone seeing this weird title must surely have thought that it was some sort of *cosmic minicab* firm!

For our first 83 issues — in other words up to Volume 14, No. 6, at the end of 1968 — our front cover bore the full title FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, and, as readers will have noticed, I have now done what I had resolved to do when I took over the editorship in November 1982 with No. 28/2. That is to say, *I have reverted to our original cover.*

Why have I done this? It is an interesting and an instructive story, and maybe well worth the telling.

In all, FSR has had a total of five editors, viz., Derek Dempster, Brinsley le Poer Trench, Waveney

Girvan, Charles Bowen, and myself. And of all these the longest serving was Charles Bowen, from issue No. 10/6 (1964) to 28/1 (1982), a total of 18 years and 103 issues! Charles was assuredly our hardest-working and most severely harassed editor, for he managed all this while still performing his full-time ten-to-five job in the Finance Dept. of the South African Embassy in London.

Unfortunately however Charles was in my opinion somewhat timid, just as Dr. J. Allen Hynek was, and often seemed afraid to defend his corner vigorously against the skeptics and the critics. Had he stood his ground more firmly, on several accounts, I feel sure that we might have had a much greater readership today.

We all know what fun the gag-writers and the clowns of the Media have had over these past forty or so years with the term “*flying saucer*” — which however, despite them, has now gone into pretty well every language. The numerous documents so far released under the US Freedom of Information Act of 1974 show that for several years *every one of the CIA and FBI and Naval and Military Intelligence reports in the USA, as well as all the daily press reports, spoke of “flying saucers” or flying disks*”.

The poor gag-writers and Media clowns have no inkling of this. Nor have they any inkling of the fact that the term “flying saucer” was NOT first employed in 1947 by Kenneth Arnold, as we are always told. The term in fact dates back to nearly a century and a quarter ago, to January 24, 1878, and was first used by a Texan farmer named John Martin. An account published in the local newspaper, the *Dennison Daily News*, of January 25, 1878, under the heading “*A Strange Phenomenon*”, gives the first-hand report from the farmer, described as “a gentleman of undoubted veracity”, who had observed a dark flying object travelling “at a wonderful speed” over his property six miles north of Dallas. He told the newspaper that when the thing was right overhead it looked “*about the size of a large saucer*”. When Dr. J. Allen Hynek was in Britain on one of the several visits that he made to this country (and he had a private session with all the directors of FSR every time) he gave me a photostatic copy of the original report from the *Dennison Daily News*.

(Regarding the monstrous term “UFO”, and how it was deliberately introduced by the American authorities and how the American civilian researchers of “our subject” were brainwashed into meekly accepting it, followed by all the others, like a flock of sheep, I shall have something further to say on another occasion).

Returning now to the early history of FSR, it was not long before we began to find that quite a lot of our readers — particularly the native Brits, who are well known for their traditional nervousness about “what the neighbours might think” — showed distinct squeamishness about signing cheques made out to “FLYING SAUCER REVIEW”. Evidently they were pretty concerned about what their bank-manager might think of such politically incorrect behaviour! So, in the summer of 1971, I persuaded the other Directors that we should apply to the Registrar of Companies for our name to be switched

from the ridiculous “FLYING SAUCER SERVICE LTD” to “FSR PUBLICATIONS LTD.” The bank-managers wouldn’t have a clue as to what *that* meant, and would-be readers of FSR need no longer hang their heads in shame.

This change of name proved to be a definite step forward for us. But, on the other hand, Editor Bowen’s decision three years earlier (1968) to remove the bold name “FLYING SAUCER REVIEW” from our cover and to replace it by a meaningless logo, was a disastrously foolish step, as I shall show. (I wonder what demon induced him to do that?)

For almost thirty years, after my long spell of duty in foreign parts, I always worked in London and I commuted daily from my home in Hertfordshire. For the first decade or so, to a certain special department in Whitehall and then, after that, to an office inside the building of the Royal Geographical Society in Kensington, where, — while still employed by the Ministry of Defence — I was concerned with maps in various East European, Middle Eastern, and Far Eastern languages.

And during all those years that I travelled daily to London, I always made a special point of carrying and reading FSR in the train up to Baker Street and then on the Underground Line to Westminster or, later, to Kensington. And it must have happened on at least a dozen occasions that complete strangers would step across the gangway to me and say: “*Flying Saucer Review! Where can I get that?*”.

On one particularly amusing occasion, just before I got out of the train in the Whitehall area, I noticed opposite me a high-ranking officer in Royal Air Force uniform, sitting beside, and talking with, a man in civilian clothes whom I knew to have a big job in the Ministry of Defence. Ten minutes later, as I was going up the steps of my Ministry, I found that they were both just in front of me, and I heard one of them say to the other: “*Fantastic! Did you see that chap on the train who was reading a Russian astronomical journal and Flying Saucer Review!*”.

The point of my story is that, although I still continued with my practice of carrying and reading FSR on the train, after Charles Bowen had removed our name from the cover I never again had anyone ask me where they could get the magazine.

Finally, I might also mention that there is a certain public library in Hertfordshire to which I send FSR regularly, and have done so for several years past. The journal is always displayed very well and very publicly there, on shelves among other magazines, in a large area set aside for readers of journals and newspapers. I often pass through that room, and have always looked to see where FSR is, and it had always been in its usual place on the display shelf. I never found anybody reading it or examining it. It simply sat there on its shelf.

But when I walked through there a few days ago, to see how FSR 39/1 was faring, with restored name on the cover, *I found that it was out. And I found that there was a man reading it!* ■

"THE SECRET OF ROOM 801"

Very, very rarely, during the 1950s and 1960s, a little snippet of information would somehow or other slip through "the system" and emerge in the national press, and would indicate that maybe — despite all their denials — the authorities in Great Britain do after all take a definite interest in Flying Saucers.

There are of course people whose prime task it is to see that "inconvenient" items of this kind do not appear in the first place, and one can well imagine that when they do appear a head or two may roll somewhere or other in Whitehall.

But very fortunately for those who have that appointed task extremely few original press-clippings or photostats of such clippings have survived until today. And this fact also may not be unconnected with the thought that there is someone who is charged with the task of seeing that they *do not* survive.

We give below however for our readers' edification a photostatic copy of such an item that appeared originally in *Reynolds' News* of London for June 16, 1957, just two years after FSR had been launched, and that *has* survived.

Those who are perverse enough to seek to delve into such taboo matters are advised to take a look at the passage *Room 801 — Top Secret*, on pages 48 and 49 of Timothy Good's masterly compendium ABOVE TOP SECRET: THE WORLDWIDE UFO COVER-UP, published by Sidgwick & Jackson of London in 1987.

Two men, so far as we know, not only saw the inside of Room 801 in those early days, but published reports on it. They were the journalist John Pitt and his friend David Wightman, one of the very first investigators of "our subject" in Britain. Their reports were published originally in FSR 2/5 (September/October 1956) and again in FSR 29/5 (June 1984). Owing to the very interesting nature of this material, we shall re-publish it for the

third time in the near future!

The former Board of Trade official, Mr. R.R. Russell, referred to in the *Reynolds' News* report, is also known to the Editor of FSR. He still lives in the London area, and his main activity today lies in the field of psychological research. ■

FLYING SAUCERS ARE NO LONGER A JOKE

THE SECRET OF ROOM 801

REYNOLDS NEWS REPORTER

Reynolds' News
June 16
1957

IN Room 801 of what was once the Hotel Metropole Britain's Air Ministry is investigating Flying Saucers and that's official. After years of speculation it can now be revealed that Defence Chiefs are taking the Flying Saucers SERIOUSLY.

Not only is there this special department for following up all "Saucer" reports but there is action, too.

At airfields all over Britain, fighter planes are kept ready to intercept, and if necessary engage, any unidentified flying object within combat range.

The heart of all this activity—Room 801—was once an attic on the ninth floor of the former hotel building in London's Northumberland Avenue, off Trafalgar Square.

Its existence was admitted last night by an Air Ministry spokesman. He disclosed that it has been investigating Flying Saucer reports since 1947. "We have something like 10,000 on our files," he said.

Mystery remains

Many of these had been "cleared up." But there were some that could not be explained.

"This is why nobody in the know is prepared to say that A&L reports about these mysterious objects are nonsense," he added.

Earlier, I spoke to a man who has been inside Room 801. Its secrets are well guarded. But hanging over three padlocked filing cabinets is a map of the British Isles covered with thousands of coloured pins.

"The heaviest concentration of pins," he said, "appears to be over the Norwich area."

Again I talked to Mr. R. R. Russell, a Board of Trade technician, who has reported flying saucer sightings to the Ministry. He showed me some special forms on which these reports have to be made.

The Ministry, he said, always insisted on the greatest secrecy

This is a photostat of the original Reynolds News report on Room 801.