

ator was hovering over Kent for some considerable time, the radio-sonde balloon was drifting over Sussex! The object seen by the Vampire aircrew was also seen over Kent — although, in all fairness, it would be begging the question to assume that this was (i) the same object or (ii) that it had not flown out of the area in a south-westerly direction.

This latter question-begging is, I suggest, trivial in comparison to that which seems, in the face of fact, to have been indulged in by the Air Ministry!

I am reliably informed that there are three large wooden filing cabinets in the D.D.I. (Tech.) "attic." In each cabinet were three drawers, locked by Yale-type locks, and doubly secured by a hinged plate locked in turn by a large padlock. In these drawers, so he was informed in 1954, lay the 15,000 u.f.o. reports which had been investigated since work began in 1947.

I have worked in an Intelligence Branch of the War Office; oddly enough, its Headquarters are now on another floor in the same building that houses D.D.I. (Tech.). I am therefore sympathetic to D.D.I. (Tech.) in more ways than one. This sympathy, however, is confined only to the security side of D.D.I. (Tech.'s.) work.

It is virtually impossible to make head or tail of the Air Ministry where policy in this matter of u.f.o.s is concerned. It is patent that its left hand knoweth not what its right hand is doing. This is borne out by the

contradictions and rebuttals that volley back and forth in successive official Air Ministry statements.

Whether this might be part of the policy itself, necessitated perhaps by security, I know not, but I do know that it is not good intelligence. After some nine years of admitted and denied interest in existent and then non-existent flying saucers, I am beginning to understand the pedantic wag who, in a well-known reference work, divided the word "intelligence" into the two categories, "common" and "military."

It would be to the advantage of us all to know what steps are being taken to resolve this mystery. It would perhaps be the *coup de grâce* to quite a high percentage of those who profess to be in fuller possession of facts than even the Air Ministry. It would, however, restore the faith of this country's "Ufologists" in Air Ministry "Bumbledom" if some representative of D.D.I. (Tech.) or, better still, the Secretary of State for Air, Mr. Nigel Birch, would at this late date put us in the picture where Air Ministry u.f.o. research is concerned.

Until some such statement or report is made public, I recommend readers to this pithy observation by Thoreau:

"Some circumstantial evidence is very strong, as when you find a trout in the milk."

PROPERTIES OF THE UFO PHENOMENON

Dr. J. Allen Hynek

(A paper recently given at a MUFON meeting)

THE CRUX of the argument between those who take the UFO phenomenon seriously and those who don't, reduced to its essentials, is whether the UFO phenomenon represents something really new to us and to science, or whether the contents of all UFO reports (regardless of the professional or technical expertise of the witnesses) can be explained in pedestrian terms and, therefore, all serious talk about UFOs is just a grand illusion.

New Empirical Observations

From the standpoint of the philosophy of science, as Professor Goudge, former Chairman of the Department of Philosophy at the University of Toronto, has pointed out (and as I have quoted him in *The UFO Experience*), the question is whether the contents of UFO reports represent new empirical observations, in the sense that the first observations of bacteria or the first observations of the induction of electrical currents, were new empirical observations which could not be

explained by the scientific paradigm of the day but required new explanation schemes and new concepts.

Now it is quite clear that the contents of many initial UFO reports emphatically do not represent new empirical information: the host of misinterpretations of balloons, aircraft, planets, meteors, advertising planes, etc. attest to that! The question is, are there *some* UFO reports ... it doesn't matter how many ... whose contents *do* represent something entirely new to us, in any area of human experience?

In asking this, we must not limit ourselves to asking, "Do UFO reports represent someone else's NASA, or are they from a parallel universe, or are they left over from some past Atlantean civilization?" We ask only: do the contents of some UFO reports represent something truly new ... new empirical observations?, as Professor Goudge has asked.

The contents of the UFO reports can indeed be regarded as something new if the properties ... in particular, the *combination* of properties ... of the UFO phenomenon do *not* match the properties, or combination of properties, of the things which are com-

monly *misinterpreted* as UFOs. That is, a meteor exhibits high speed and a helicopter can hover near the ground, but neither a meteor nor a helicopter can exhibit, sequentially, hovering and meteoric speed. Yet there are hundreds of cases in which the reported UFO has exhibited both the ability to hover and to travel at speeds completely unattainable by a helicopter.

List of the Reported Properties

Let us therefore list the most frequently reported properties (the dynamics, characteristics, behavior, etc.) of the UFO phenomenon and find out whether there is a difference between them and those of IFOs. Do they, or do they not, match the properties of the things most commonly used to explain away the UFO phenomenon? An illustration from literature might be helpful here: Suppose someone claimed they had a heretofore undiscovered play by Shakespeare. How could this be tested? Well, for one thing, experts would compare the style, the phrases, the kind of words most frequently used, of the alleged Shakespeare play with those of his known plays. Suppose, for instance, that the former had words in it that were not used in Shakespeare's day, or expressions that were completely foreign to those of his day; the alleged play would be declared an obvious fraud since its "properties" did not match those of the true plays.

In our context, it is not a question of fraud but merely of finding out for ourselves, rather than trusting to "authority", whether the properties of the "knowns" (the IFOs) match those of the "unknowns", the UFOs. If they do, then there is no way of distinguishing between the two and all UFOs might well really be IFOs. If diamonds could not be distinguished from coal, then the existence of diamonds would be extremely hard to prove!

Aristotle and the Horses' Teeth

We should not accept the word of those "authorities" who claim, without having done the testing, that UFOs and IFOs are really the same. There is a story told of two monks in medieval times who got to arguing about how many teeth a horse had. So, in true medieval fashion, they consulted the works of the great authority, Aristotle, but nowhere could they find that he had said anything about horses' teeth, and so the argument was never settled. Meanwhile, in the field just outside their windows, some horses were

grazing. It never occurred to the monks to go out and find out for themselves, which would have been the truly scientific method. No, they had to depend on authority, and were helpless when authority failed them. Let us not emulate them, but find out for ourselves.

Look at the Evidence

At this point the "authorities" may look upon us with pity and deplore our naiveté. Don't we *know* that a person can be misled and *think* that a meteor hovered in the air when, of course, it really didn't, or that a helicopter hovered noiselessly a few feet off the ground and then took off with unheard of acceleration, when it really didn't? Don't we *know* that even if a dozen independent witnesses say they saw something hover noiselessly and then take off with incredible speed, that they were all deluded and that none of this really happened?

No, we do NOT know that these witnesses could be that grossly misled, and we ask, what is your proof that what *you* say is correct? *If, in a court of law, a dozen witnesses testify that they saw the defendant murder the victim, is the jury justified in returning a verdict of "not guilty"?* Yet that is exactly what our cocksure authorities are asking us to do ... to bring in a verdict of "There are no new empirical observations inherent in the contents of UFO reports". Furthermore, we have been in the courtroom to hear the testimony of the witnesses, while they have been loitering outside the courtroom doors!

Go for the Horses' Teeth

In my attempt to "find out how many teeth a horse has", I have gone to the horses themselves ... to the UFO reports. I have reviewed the contents of over 400 cases, from many sources, selected on the basis of the extent to which each case was investigated. I included many cases I have personally investigated and many cases whose investigation was undertaken by persons whose competence and integrity were well known to me. Preference was given to United States cases but many foreign ones were included when I felt the quantity and quality of the evidence warranted this. Furthermore, I graded the cases A, B, and C as to overall quality. Obviously, the latter is somewhat subjective but the experiment can be repeated by anyone, using material they select, and I urge that this be done. A computer is useful; I used a program written especially for this purpose.

UFOs do display new properties

What were the results? The details will be published separately after further analysis has been finished, but the main elements of the results are clear: many of the most frequently reported properties of the UFO phenomenon, as reported from over the world and by responsible and competent persons, and those properties taken in combination, are different from the properties of those events, phenomena, and objects generally offered as explanation for the UFO phenomenon. The UFO phenomenon, therefore, represents new empirical observations and thus, by definition, does not fit into the present scientific paradigm.

Historical Precedents in Science

But this should hardly surprise us: this is not new in the history of science. Think of the history of fossils,

or of Harvey and the circulation of the blood, of Semmelweis and puerperal fever, of Lieuwenhoek and his "little animalcules", of Pasteur and the bacterial nature of disease, of Wegener and continental drift ... and of all those things now fully a part of our present scientific paradigm but which were once well outside the bounds of the science of earlier days.

Niels Bohr, father of atomic physics, once wrote, "Progress in science is impossible without a paradox". It is the things that don't fit in with our customary thinking that lead to breakthroughs: those that fit merely lead to refinements.

And no one, that is, no one who has diligently studied the subject, can doubt that in the UFO phenomenon we do have a first-class paradox ... certainly something that does not fit! It is only a matter of time ... as it was for all the other things and concepts that once were spurned and derided by contemporary science ... before the scientific community slowly comes to recognize the significance of the UFO phenomenon.

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MORE BOOKS ON UFOs IN CHINA

On page 21 of FSR Vol. 29, No. 2, we announced two forthcoming books by Mr. Paul Dong, namely *Zhong-guo Si Rechao (The Four Major Mysteries of Mainland China)* and *Feidie Bai Wen Bai Da (Questions and Answers on UFOs)*.

The first of these is now out and we have received it. It is in an English language edition (and we have not yet heard word of any Chinese version of it). It is published by Prentice-Hall Inc., New Jersey, 1984, price US\$8.95. Foreword by Dr. Hynek. As I explained in FSR 29/2, the four major mysteries are (1) UFOs; (2) Psychic Phenomena and Faculties; (3) the ancient Chinese art of Qi Gong or Ch'i-Kung (Breath-Control); and (4) the Yeti/Bigfoot Problem.

Lack of Entity Encounters

In a forthcoming issue I shall give an abstract of the important UFO cases in the 74 (out of 209) pages that deal with UFOs. Though the book is excellent and fascinating, and a *must* for anyone who can get hold of a copy, I must emphasise that it is an enormous disappointment for those whose principal interest is UFOs. It gives plenty of reports of lights in the sky and flyovers, but very, very little indeed about entities or close encounters — much less, indeed, than Shi Bo's book, on which we reported in FSR 28/6. And the reasons for this are not difficult to fathom out. Firstly, as Paul Dong tells us, *the coming of the UFOs to China has been very traumatic indeed, a very great shock for the Chinese people. Secondly, of course, and I mention this again below, nobody in China feels free to talk about anything.* But yet it might be argued that Shi Bo's book, which gave so much more information, disproves this thesis. It does not. For, so far as I can ascertain, it does not seem that Shi Bo's book was ever published inside China, in Chinese!

In his Foreword, Dr. Hynek comments as follows on the disappointing aspects of the UFO Section of *"The Four Major Mysteries of Mainland China"*:

"There seems to be an absence, however, of 'Close Encounters of the Second and Third Kinds', that is, cases in which the UFOs have interacted with the environment, and especially cases in which humanoid creatures are described. Whether this is due to the reluctance of the Chinese to report such very bizarre happenings (in view of the late severe restrictions on the reporting of any UFOs) must remain conjecture until we can sample in greater depth the Chinese UFO 'scene'. My own feeling is that in time these Close Encounter cases will surface. Even in the United States there is great reluctance on the part of witnesses to report the truly strange sightings."

Dr. Hynek's final sentence hits the nail absolutely on the head of course. First of all, we outsiders — or at any rate a few of us — have now become quite blasé about the outrageous UFO Phenomenon, and we are accustomed to lapping up the most stupefying cases without turning a hair. We are already really very spoilt.

Need for Caution in China

But in China things are bound to be very different. *Any citizen of any Communist state has had to learn to watch his step if he wants to stay alive, and he knows that official policy may swing around like a weather-vane in the twinkling of an eye. Especially is this so for anyone who has gone through what China has gone through in the last 35 years — especially during the so called "Cultural Revolution". Such a person is going to be mighty prudent about what he says to ANYBODY about anything — let alone UFOs. (China has no proper legal system in the civil courts, and according to a report in the London DAILY TELEGRAPH this month, the Chinese have executed some 10,000 people since August 1983. And that is already a much milder regime than it was under Mao. Were I a Chinese, I wager you wouldn't find me in any hurry to talk about UFOs!)*

No Vehicle-stopping Cases

So we shall have to wait. One curious thing I note in passing, namely that the book seems to contain no mention of vehicle stoppages in China (nor does the other book, *Questions and Answers*.)

But Paul Dong does emphasise that neither he nor any other of China's civilian UFO investigators have any access whatsoever to military or official files (any more than the public do in the USA or USSR or Britain or Europe or any other country in the world).

Government Secrecy

In China, as everywhere else, such files are rigorously secret, and in any case you may bet your boots that in no country on our planet will any Government ever 'come clean' and publish the sort of stuff that we have been publishing in FSR for nearly thirty years. We shall continue to hear the usual chatter from time to time about 'forthcoming Ministry revelations'. And you may rest assured that when they come they will be the usual reports of puzzling lights in the sky (nice and harmless) or choice stories about light-houses and such-like.