

WEIRD "FLYING GLOBE" PHOTOGRAPHS IN ROMANIA

Florin Gheorghiuță

Exclusive report to FSR. Translation from the French by Gordon Creighton

TRUE scientist that he was, the late and lamented Professor J. McDonald conducted all his analyses of UFO sightings as authentic scientific studies, thereby setting a new high level for research in this field. One very successful example of his work, published in FSR, was the study of the Lakenheath case,¹ which he had already presented as a paper before the American scientists during the celebrated AAAS Symposium in Boston.² His minute and detailed analyses of the true facts showed clearly, beyond possibility of refutation, that in the skies over a district in Great Britain there had occurred aerial phenomena of a remarkable degree of strangeness. But, among the details of the case that were inexplicable — even to Ufologists — the feature of the linking up of the two luminous phenomena while in flight seems downright fantastic ("Observers on the ground declared that one white light linked up with the other, and then both vanished, joined together").

This coupling together of luminous flying phenomena has in fact been reported on very numerous occasions, and in the most diverse regions of the world, as will be found on record in the literature of the subject. For example, in my book *O.Z.N.: O Problema Moderna (UFOs: A Present-Day Problem)* I gave an extract from an old Romanian document which describes a similar happening. Nevertheless it seemed that nobody, up till now, had ever succeeded in photographing this type of phenomenon.³

1974 brought a great surprise for Romanian readers, with the publication of two articles in our press about local UFO sightings. The large-circulation review *Flacara* (published in the Capital, Bucharest) gave the principal place in its pages to accounts of the collective sighting of February 8, 1974, at Valenii de Munte.⁴ In the course of that particular sighting, more than sixty witnesses were able to observe two luminous balls as they met and combined in the air, above the outskirts of a forest. After remaining there stationary for some time, the new unified luminous body moved away at high speed.

The second Romanian press article⁵ triggered off a great wave of public interest by giving the first admissions received from a lone student of the UFO problem, who for some years past had been observing and photographing strange luminous aerial phenomena and even *fantastic silhouettes*. But the fact which, right from the outset, has intrigued many people, is that this man has always seen all these interesting things — and photographed them too — at almost precisely the very same spot where, in August

1968, the remarkable photographs of the Cluj UFO were taken by E. Barnes,⁶ that is to say, at the very same place, the Baci Forest, four-and-a-half kilometres from the centre of the town of Cluj, and a few hundred metres distant from the Barnea glade.

The amateur investigator in question, Al. Sift, is 38 years old. A student of Biology, he is employed in a specialized establishment. His interest in the UFO problem had its genesis in a truly fantastic event. It was in 1953, when he was still a student, 17 years old. Being a nature-lover, he used to go for little outings in the Baci Forest near Cluj. One day, in the middle of the summer, he saw, at some distance from him, a curious luminous globe fall from the sky onto a large bush, and then suddenly vanish among its branches.

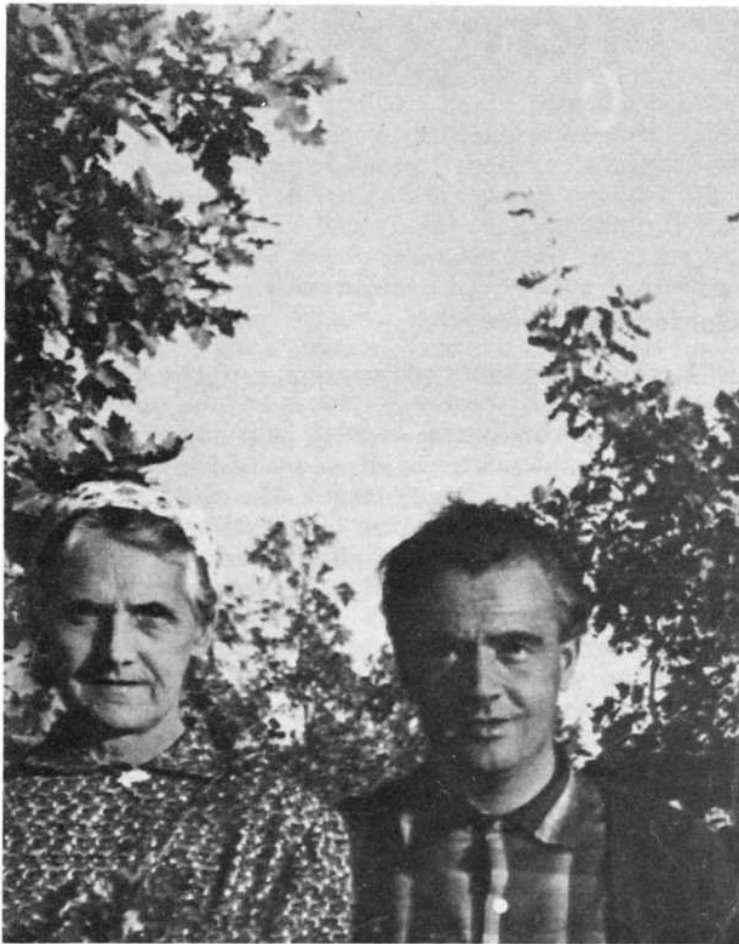
Rushing to the spot, and still seeing nothing there, the young man pushed a stick in among the foliage, hoping to find some traces of what had fallen. But a most disturbing thing then happened...

Sift found he could no longer see the stick. Nor could he any longer see part of his hand. But he felt a tingling sensation throughout the hand, and great heat in the soles of his feet. And then, immediately afterwards, this was followed by the sensation of something cold pressing down upon the whole surface of his body.

Terrified, he fled from the spot. All that evening he suffered from vomiting, and from mental disturbances.

Some years went by, but the young biologist still had the desire to find the key to the strange phenomena that had befallen him on that fine summer's day. And so, in his leisure hours, Sift kept returning to the same spot. And in recent years he has again started seeing the luminous flying phenomena there. So he decided to try to capture them on film. And this aim of his became even stronger when he discovered, on photographs of a purely domestic, family nature, the presence of certain "aerial" things that had not been seen by any of the people present (Photos 1 and 2). And — a staggering fact this — these invisible "things," particularly globes and certain outlines, have continued to appear on many of the photos taken by him.

On more than one hundred occasions over the past five years the biologist declares that he has seen luminous forms flying around at low altitude and some of them landing on the ground. Consequently he has managed to secure a series of photographs and, above all, to make a study of the various manifestations assumed by the phenomena. These



manifestations include movements in a straight line, or in curves, or even in zigzag.

One very important fact that he was able to determine is that, as they approached the ground, the "luminous forms" frequently became smaller. But the most astonishing of all were certain other aspects of the phenomena which he was able not only to observe but to photograph.

For, in a number of cases, as the shapes lost their luminosity, they changed — while still in the air, and at a height of a few metres from the ground — into triangular black boxes.

When the triangular black boxes landed, they left behind them clearly defined triangular markings on the grass.

And then the triangular black boxes would vanish suddenly.

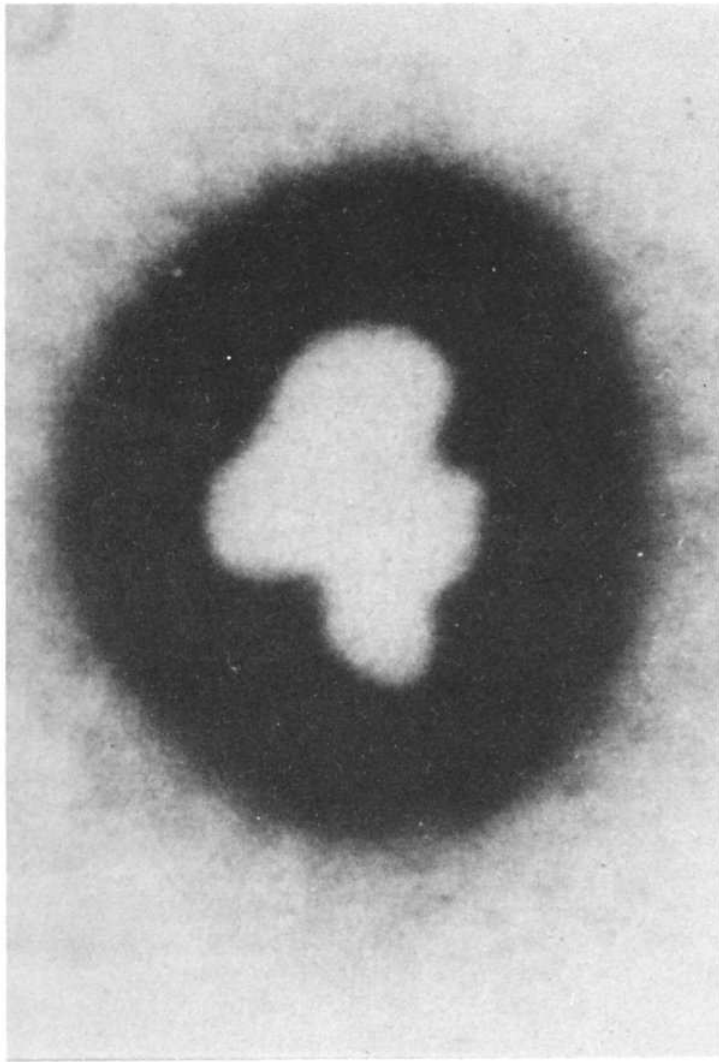
There are also certain other disturbing features which the photographs reveal, for during the last few years matters appear to have grown much more complicated.

There have been luminous aerial forms, not seen by the human eye, which have appeared this year on photographic film taken by a small group of physicists whom I urged to go to the spot and study these phenomena.

The large, invisible elongated ball which appeared on a photograph taken by a well-known physicist

Left: Photograph 1 (taken September 16, 1969)
Below: Photograph 2





Photograph 3, taken by a well-known physicist

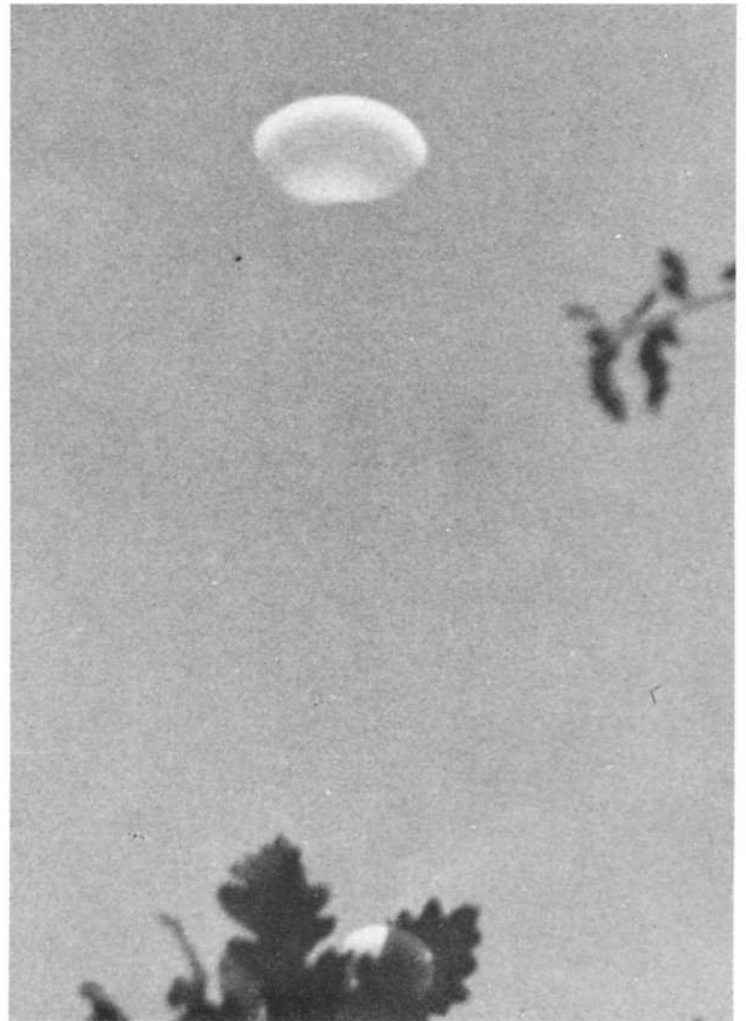
(Photo No. 3) is very similar to the ball seen by Sift and his aunt five years earlier, on September 16, 1969, in a colour photograph of members of the family (Photo No. 1).

Subsequently, strange globes, invisible to the eye, have appeared on a number of photographs taken in a certain area of the forest and also in the sky over Cluj. But — and this is perhaps the most staggering thing of all — certain globes seen flying about over certain areas were invisible because of a completely dark halo. Sift even managed on one occasion to photograph a rapid “meeting” between two of the “luminous flying forms.” They joined up right before his eyes, at a height of a few tens of metres above him, and then flew off again as one body.

Another time, in a photo taken at random on March 10, 1974, there is a black halo and, concealed in the centre of the halo, are four shining globes — invisible however because they did not reflect the sunlight.

In May 1975 I made contact with Sift. He had maintained silence till then, so I knew nothing of all these matters than had been happening to him but I have now been able to make a close study of his collection of strange photographic images, a collection that is probably unique.

Making my systematic analysis of the material

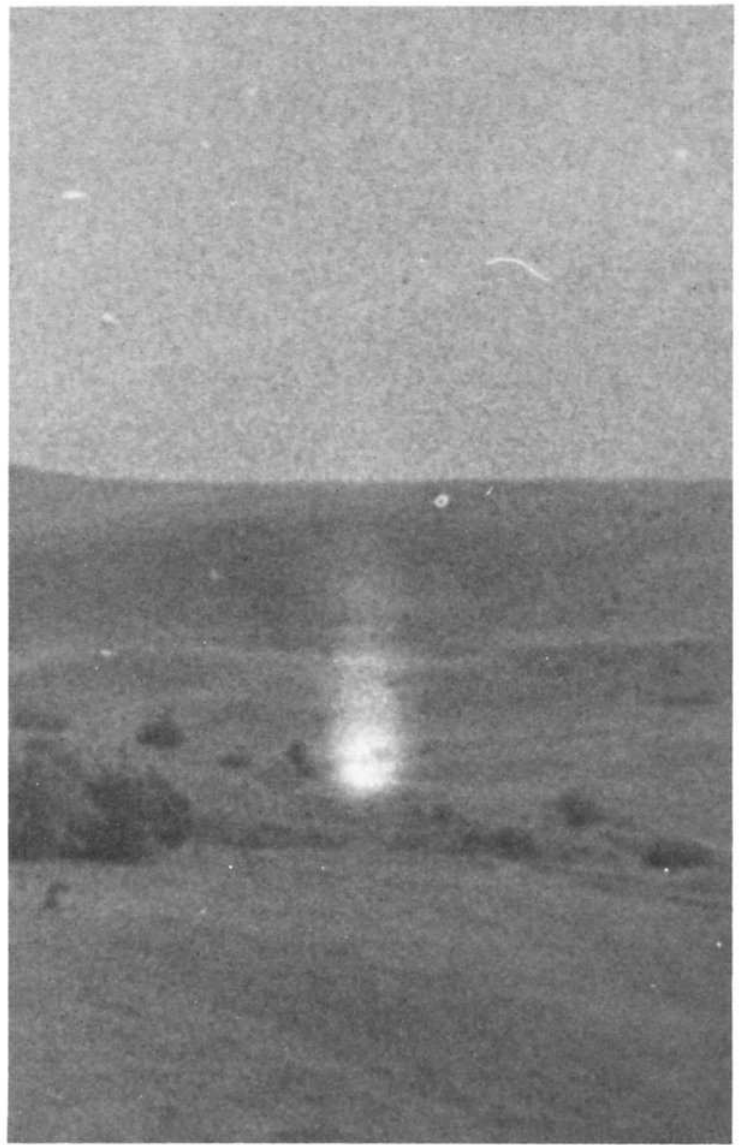


Photograph 4, taken March 10, 1974, showing block halo and four shining globes

and of the statements made by the various eye-witnesses, I have uncovered new aspects to the UFO problem, and I feel that the time has now come for certain realistic criteria of our present-day Science to be applied to these questions. In the mean-time, however, here are a few conclusions at which I have arrived in my studies and analyses over the past few months.

The great majority of the luminous flying phenomena seen at Cluj by the biologist Sift have angular shapes, and in general their dimensions change as they descend towards the ground. The majority of them fully resemble the luminous phenomena photographed over the American town of Columbus, Ohio, in October 1973.⁷ (However, the sketches shown me by Sift, displaying various triangular — and even lamellate forms — date from the years prior to 1973, and in any case Sift knows nothing about the Columbus photographs.)

As they were landing, some of these shapes lost their luminosity and then turned into “black boxes,” after which these “black boxes” suddenly became invisible. But from some of Sift’s photographs it is possible to see that there was something contained in these black boxes, and that this something left them, without being seen. The marks left on the grass by the “black boxes” have had dimensions that



Above, Photographs 5 and 6: "Comet tails"

were clearly symmetrical and proportional (the sides varying between 3.2 m. and 1.6 m., although when in the air the luminous dimensions were bigger than these).

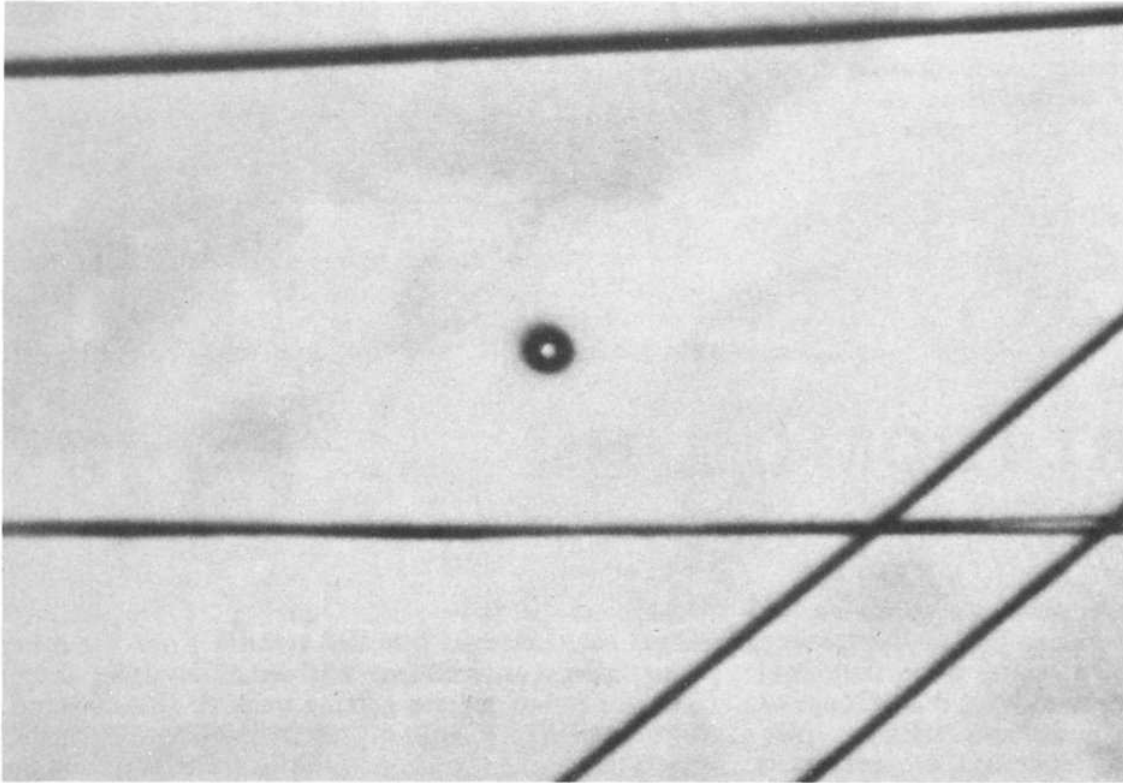
The other part of the luminous phenomenon consisted of globular shapes, with the same character and same intensity of luminosity. As they hit the ground or hit the trees, and likewise in the photos taken while they were still in flight, they seemed to present no material nature. (In the second photo taken on September 16, 1973, the sphere is transparent!) Their actual sizes, as one is able to establish this from various of the photos, seem to range from a few tens of cm. up to more than one metre. When in flight, the globes emit either great shining haloes or even "comet-tails" (see the first photograph taken on September 16, 1973 — Photo No. 5) or, on the contrary, they emit dark haloes which conceal them from human eyes. In this latter case, something takes place in the air layer surrounding them, the solar photons being annihilated (either because some "braking" process is exerted upon them, in a field of some other energy which is unknown to us, or

through the agency of anti-photons). When they land, the vegetation at the site is frequently affected by it. I myself saw one circular area where a big luminous "globe" had landed and where, one year later, the grass was still not yet healthy again.

As a start to his study of the phenomena involved in all this, Sift deposited pieces of film, well protected, in the grass at various sites. (He is possibly the first person in the world to embark upon this type of systematic research.) After several days had elapsed, he developed the film, and was able to verify that, in a number of cases, it had been subjected to a powerful irradiation.

Even the best specialists whom I have consulted have been unable to identify what type of radiation this is. It seems that a number of strange burns on trees, only in one small area of the forest, have also been caused in this manner.

The way in which these "luminous balls" move about in the air, and the changes in their sizes and in the intensity of their brilliance, have nothing whatsoever to do with the season of the year, the wind, or the weather. On the contrary, *their*



Left:
Photograph 7, a
"dark halo",
taken on 8.6.74



The invisible UFO of Cluj (taken on 24.4.74)

behaviour seems to be actually intelligent. Can it then be believed that intelligence is able to appear in the form of quantic globular constructs?

Some of the other photographs also show apparitions that resemble masses of ectoplasm, all of which greatly complicates the problem.

The photographic documentation from Cluj consequently demonstrates that a large proportion of the unidentified luminous phenomena flying around in the Earth's atmosphere are not real material objects possessing an "engine" and possessing instruments, after the fashion of what we have conceived the UFOs to be (and the *real* UFOs, too, are themselves able to produce shining aerodynamic haloes that are extremely similar to these other phenomena). In no case however can anyone claim that these luminous phenomena of which we speak are simply ball-lightning or agglomerations of plasma, inasmuch as all the Cluj photos show quite clearly that what we have here are phenomena of a totally different kind. Objective analysis of the photos reveals the presence of a species of "globes possessing, as it were, a quantic structure," and behaving intelligently. Are they teleguided, or are they perhaps themselves intelligent beings from other worlds, as suggested by Arthur C. Clarke and others?

The question of any ultimate relation which these globes may turn out to have with the true UFOs will assuredly constitute another chapter in the immense scientific problem of UFO study.

This new documentation from Cluj represents yet further proof of the existence of a wider, more fundamental physics that is unknown to us, that we have not studied, and that modern Science must grasp hold of and seek to understand.

These new photographs, and the entire Sift collection, all from the same spot where, in 1968, the

best photos existing in the whole of Ufological literature were secured, call for profound study by specialists of all kinds. This new contribution from us in Romania thus serves to underline once again the crying need for a truly well organized international study of the UFO Phenomenon.

Notes and References

1. James McDonald: *UFOs Over Lakenheath*; FSR Vol.16, No.2, 1970.
2. AAAS Symposium in Boston (1969). FSR Vol.16, No.1.
3. F. Gheorghită: *OZN - O Problema Moderna* (p. 143)
4. Review *Flacara*; No. 979, March 9, 1974 (Bucharest)
5. Review *Flacara*; No. 988, May 11, 1974.

6. F. Gheorghită: *Flying Saucer Over Cluj*; FSR Vol.15, No.6, 1969.
7. Eileen Buckle: *Major Flap in the USA*; FSR Vol.19, No.6, 1973.
8. F. Lagarde: *The Aveyron Enquiry*; FSR, Vol.16, No.6, 1970, and FSR Vol.17, No.1, 1971.

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THE REPORT FROM CLUJ

Comments on F. Gheorghită's interesting article

Gordon Creighton

THIS highly interesting report from Romania, an Eastern bloc country, seems to be drawing us very near towards the nub of something important, and should be studied in conjunction with the writings of John Keel about "hard" and "soft" UFOs. Also possibly of maximum importance in this question is the wellnigh forgotten, oft-derided book of Trevor James, *They Live in the Sky* (New Age Publishing Co., Los Angeles, 1958). I was in correspondence for some years with "Trevor James" (nom de plume of a New Zealander who in his time had been a radio officer aboard various ships, including the RMS *Queen Mary*). The photos which he and a colleague claimed to have taken, with infra-red film, over Mojave desert, show what seem to be *life-forms* of various types, which may well be native to this planet, though not necessarily present in our kind of various types, which may well be native to this planet, matter or even in our three-dimensional framework. I have suggested to Florin Gheorghită that he and his friends might also try their hands at photographing in the infra-red and see what they get.

According to Trevor James, the film which he used was standard Kodak (I.R. 135). "To ensure that *only invisible light* was recorded," he employed an 87, 88A, or 87C Kodak Wratten filter.

In further elaboration of his thesis, in the course of recent exchanges of correspondence with me, Monsieur Gheorghită has given further details about the Romanian phenomena which I think it may be helpful to insert here.

I therefore give below some snippets from his letters describing something which, as FSR readers will realize, is best not discussed in letters at all, but only in the safety of direct conversation between one researcher and another.

(1) "In certain photographs which I have recently received I have seen, for the first time in my life, the feet and the silhouettes of beings emerging from something; beings that were not visible to the human eye."

(2) "My astonishment grew even greater when, after the well-known local physician, Dr. Vasaru, had taken photographs there, I myself also secured

(always at precisely that same spot) very strange images on the film, although neither I nor the other persons present with me had seen anything there! (Can it be that we are getting back to the substance of legends?)"

(3) "I have seen various silhouettes in the photos taken by Al. Sift - always at precisely the same spot - over the past six years. The presence of such silhouettes has always been accompanied by very interesting physical phenomena, on which might be said... but not in this letter. On May 19, 1974, I myself took two photos at the spot which came out with something very strange upon them. And then, after that, I too had (as a result) on my forehead a swelling bigger than the swelling that you can see on Sift's forehead (Photo, right), which swelling was caused by our little friend who arranged for himself to be photographed between Mr. Sift and his wife. Like myself, Dr. Vasaru saw nothing there, but on two of several photos taken by him there he got very strange effects, just the same as those on photos taken there by Mr. Sift some years earlier."

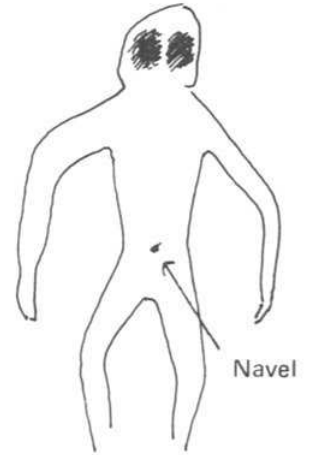
(4) "In the second book by the French Investigator Henry Durrant, *Les Dossiers des OVNI* (published by Laffont, Paris, 1973) I found, between pages 224 and 225, a photo, taken at Alberton, Australia, in 1967, in which the film was burned by a shining plasma. This is the same phenomenon that has occurred on a number of pieces of film left in the grass at the spot by Sift."

(5) "Last Sunday I was asked to go to the mystery spot with a group of young folk and their teachers. I was much impressed by the fact that, after the lapse of one year, the grass is still affected over the circular area where Sift saw a shining globe, with a diameter of more than six metres, land."

(6) "The 'personage' visible between Sift and Mme Sift has two over-large eyes, long arms, and his body is outlined by his principal bones... Sift has also secured other similar photos. Two of them show invisible crew-members, using vehicles of the same 'impossible' sort of construction. I greatly regret the impossibility of discussing this remarkable series of photographs with somebody (Sift now has more



Above: Sift and his wife, with "entity" between — ©A. Sift
 Below: Sift and "entity", enlarged



Rough outline of "entity"



than a hundred of them), particularly as I have now been able to establish categorically that there is a fundamental physical phenomenon that accompanies them. The photos are shattering."

(7) "Recent written communications which I have received, from many serious, reliable people, speak of the continuing appearance of phenomena over Cluj. Why Cluj continues to be the centre for such activity intrigues me very much."

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Whether all the strange features in these photographs (and especially the queer little "visitor" between the Sifts) are going to show up all right when we print the photographs in FSR seems debatable, but I hope that readers will perceive for themselves that something pretty weird is going on in this town in north-western Romania, not far from the Hungarian-Romanian border. I hope too the readers will perceive that getting photographs to reveal all that they contain is not our sole difficulty. It is clear that we have not heard the whole story, but only so much of it as can conveniently be conveyed through the post (with all that this entails). It is our hope that some very competent and qualified observer from outside Romania will be able to go as soon as possible to Cluj, see Florin Gheorghitã, see the Sifts and their weird collection of photos, and get the whole extraordinary story and bring it back to FSR for publication.

Additional Note:

Florin Gheorghitã's book, *O.Z.N.I.: O Problema Moderna (UFOs: A Present-Day Problem)* was published in 1973 by Editura Junimea at Iasi in Northern Romania, price Lei 9.50 (167 pages of text, plus 40 photos and sketches). So far as we know, this is the first book on UFOs to have been published in the Romanian language. There is no translation of it yet, we gather, into any foreign language. It is to be hoped that somebody will make one.

THE ELEPHANT'S TOE-NAIL

or The Illusion of Science

John Whitmore

EARLY in 1974 Dr. Andrija Puharich, in his book, *Uri: A Journal of the Mystery of Uri Geller*, reported that he had repeatedly observed and participated in two types of phenomena that challenge scientific theory. The first was that paranormal metal bending and de- and re-materialization of objects often occurred around Geller, both at his will and at random. The second was that Puharich and Geller had established speech communication with extraterrestrial agencies that claimed to be the source of Geller's apparent powers. Neither of these phenomena are new. Both have occurred throughout history, and religious and other literature contain many references to such phenomena, although scientists have a habit of discounting these observations of our ancestors, presumably as barbaric delusions.

Predictably, the main body of science chose to ignore or to ridicule both types of phenomena reported by Puharich. However, a few open minded scientists attempted to investigate the first, and in so doing, risked their reputations and academic status, for such things are conditional upon one's willingness to remain closed minded, and to comply with the unwritten agreement never to reveal the weakness of the system on which one's livelihood and authority depend.

Equally predictable was the attack upon these researchers by such stalwart defenders of the faith as Martin Gardner, Philip Morrison, and others. Undaunted, the researchers devised experiments and theories in an attempt to validate and explain the phenomena, in spite of the burden called "acceptable scientific method" to which even they subscribed, and managed to convince themselves, if not others, that the phenomena of metal bending and de- and re-materialization did indeed take place. Some tried, in the main unsuccessfully, to publish their findings in journals controlled by the scientific establishment, while others were less courageous, perhaps but less foolhardy.

One of the insanities of acceptable scientific method is the need for repeatability upon demand. This may be scientific, but to anyone with a modicum of common sense, it is nonsense. It is as if one were to say that unless the world mile record holder, Walker, runs the mile in under 3 minutes 50 seconds on virtually every occasion that he attempts to do so, he never did in the first place, provided, of course, that wind, weather, location, and other conditions remain constant! It is not scientific to suggest that the fact of his being several months older, or pounds heavier, than he was when he set the record might explain why he could not do it today. Neither is it scientific to suggest that internal or external emotional fluctuations might account

for his inability to replicate every time. Worse still, science tends to say that if I cannot run the mile in under 3 minutes 50 seconds, then Walker could not have done it either.

Because of this ludicrous rule of science, many of the most interesting Geller phenomena could not be taken into account. Nevertheless, these intrepid scientists were able to obtain a reasonable amount of repeated data. Because their peers either could not accept these findings, were threatened by them, or were jealous that they themselves had not come up with this data, they said things like... "Your controls were not good enough. Go away and do it again," or "Give us back your research grant."

When that failed to stop the research, they produced their ace in the hole in the form of a magician called The Amazing Randi, amazing only for the number of untruths that he is able to conjure at any one time. However, Randi finds it profitable to agree with the scientific establishment, so naturally, they believe him. Because he is able to replicate his tricks every time, and Geller can not, that apparently makes Randi scientific, and as such, he is allowed to become the spokesman for science.

Randi's contention is, of course, that Geller cheats, and by way of substantiating this, he performs his own tricks to demonstrate how Geller could have done it, claiming that this is how Geller does it, which is a very different thing. Scientists tend to think that if a subject could cheat, he would, and that if he cheated once, he cheated all the time. These are wild assumptions that science would not allow anyone else to make. Perhaps Puharich's greatest mistake was that he did not present Geller as a magician in the first place, so that all the magicians would have been beating their brains out to prove that Geller was a psychic, and everyone would be happy.

Why, we may ask, are scientists so anxious to discredit Geller? The reason is that what he does does not fit within their scheme of things, so they either have to stop him, or alter their scheme, which would cause them to lose face. Scientists claim that their *raison d'etre* is to explain all things that are known in the universe, and to find new things to explain. Science presumes to tell us what is, and how. Although this is a simply stated task, it is a monumental one, and it is terribly arrogant for science in its present form to assume that it has the capacity for such an undertaking. If science has not consciously set out to become the authority for validating reality, it certainly enjoys having been granted this status by a public who, until now, have needed authority figures to validate their experiences, and it fights tooth and nail to retain this authority.

It is surely ludicrous to attempt to explain the wonders of the universe in the limited terms of