

UFO CIRCLES IN THE SAND?

© By IRENE GRANCHI (President of C.I.S.N.E. UFO Research Society, Rio De Janeiro), FSR Consultant.

“Circles in the sand”? *Why not?* And made by UFOs? Well no. Of course they *have to be* man-made don't they, and not produced by UFOs? And most folk no doubt will leave it at that and dismiss the subject.

But the appearance of circles in the sand, and not seen to have been made by man, is something deserving of some thorough research. And in the *two cases* which I am about to present, there is a whole lot of evidence to suggest the full probability that they really were the results of UFO activity.

In the early hours of October 19 1993, before dawn, a retired Brazilian woman teacher, Ms. Aleida Machado, was walking along the beach at Icaraí, near Niterói, in the state of Rio de Janeiro, where she lives. She was going to see some fishermen who were about to put out to sea. *Suddenly her foot encountered some very hot sand.* She looked down and beheld a great number of concentric circles sculpted in the sand, which she at once attributed to the action of UFOs.

She felt that this should be made public, so she called the Press. But, as she soon discovered, to her dismay, that wasn't a good idea at all.

The people from the Media duly arrived - among them *TV Globo* - and filmed everything, and in the midday news broadcast the event was announced and disseminated throughout the entire country.

However, by contacting the Media, Ms. Aleida had of course also unwittingly alerted other forces - quite terrestrial ones - whose main interest would lie in suppressing such disrupting information.

Something clearly had to be done, and quickly! So, on the very next day, a 62-year-old man named Fernando Teixeira appeared on the scene, called the Press, and demonstrated - or attempted to demonstrate - that *he* was responsible for having made the sand circles! He proceeded to make two or three circles with his foot. (*But not 34 or so as there had been on the beach!*)

This was duly filmed, and shown nation-wide on the evening news programme of *TV Globo*.

Nobody really bothered of course to interview the man properly, but I was told that he had given some quite contradictory statements. He said that he habitually made such sand circles. (*But where? and when? Nobody ever seems to have seen them!*)

Early on that same day, *TV Globo* telephoned to me and invited me to their studio to watch their programme on the monitor. As I watched, I felt impressed by the perfection with which the circles had been incised in the sand at Icaraí. Had the sand been *wet*, then conceivably some talented human might have managed to contrive it somehow.



Fig. 1. Aleida Machao and the circles in the sand

But the sand was compact and dry. And what a vast difference there was between those circles on the beach and the old man's effort shown on the TV later on the same day! His work looked decidedly amateurish.



Fig. 2. Fernando Teixeira says "Oh yes! I make them regularly"

Naturally the Media had no difficulty in convincing the average Brazilian viewer that the man's handiwork shown in the evening programme was the "real thing", and that what had been shown in the morning, from the beach, was *not!*

I was given no chance to rebut any of this or to state my case. But, as time went by, I managed to gather sufficient data to indicate that Ms. Aleida Machado's initial interpretation was very likely thoroughly justifiable. This lady *deserves* justification. To such a degree was the poor woman ridiculed by the



Brazilian press and television that, in her distress, she vanished from the scene thereafter and I have so far been unable to locate her.

Meanwhile, the data that I needed kept on coming in. Sometimes it seemed to drop into my hands quite unexpectedly.

One of our C.I.S.N.E. members, a lady named Ms. Maria Campos, was on vacation in Rio de Janeiro, and staying with her brother who lives on the 24th floor of a high block on the beach at Botafogo, (Praia de Botafogo), with an ample view over the Bay and looking towards Niterói Beach, and from there she had watched a series of unusual phenomena that same night between midnight and 0.30 am. It started with a flash in the sky, and this flash was directly above the very spot where, hours later, the circles in the sand were found.

Nearer to her, a burst of light (of an *apparent* size, to the eye, of about 50cms. width) appeared. It was so

vivid that it was painful to her eyes. From it there descended a shower of multi-coloured smaller lights, "like little stars, that blinked on and off three times", as she said.

This induced her to awaken her brother, and he began to watch the "show" too.

From the larger of the lights which they saw, some smaller ones descended, and then a red one. Then once more a red one, and finally, a big rectangular-shaped white band came down from the brilliant largest light.

In another more recent case, which occurred during the night of March 26 - 27, 1995, on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro (Restinga de Marambaia) a lady named Ms. Gilda Cunha watched three such bands in succession come down from the sky. She saw all this from the windows of her building in Barra da Tijuca.

What are such beams of light *doing*? What are

they looking for? What do they want? Is there somebody waiting for them there when they reach the ground?

The lady, Ms. Maria Campos, observing these scenes from the twenty-fourth floor of a building on the Praia (Beach) de Botafogo, was moreover not the only eyewitness at that particular point. From another building on that same street yet another woman was also watching that same display of light, and she too was a visitor who had arrived to spend only a few nights in Rio de Janeiro, and for this reason I have been unable to follow up further on her case.

Then again, there was more testimony of the lights in the sky that same night, seen from other points in Rio de Janeiro, such as, for example, the area near the huge statue of Christ up on the Corcovado Mountain.

And, at another place outside Rio de Janeiro, a nine-year-old child watched a pulsating disc, seemingly metallic, at 2.00pm.

Clearly there was a burst of information coming in from all sides. Prior to all this, we had also been getting "prophetic" information.

Exactly one month prior to the appearance of the sand-circles, a group of people headed by an engineer, Sr. José Luiz Martins, were gathered in his home along with two "channellers". The latter said that something was going to happen on October 17 "that would make the E.T. presence known throughout Brazil". I learned about this only three or four days after it was said, so I can corroborate the "prophecy". And there is more to it than that. For, on the very same night when the sand-circles appeared at Niterói, another "channeller" lady, who was visiting in Belém, Capital of Pará Province in Amazonia, 1,600 miles away to the North of Rio de Janeiro, drew, on a piece of paper, *concentric circles*, and, as she did it said: "*These symbolize the expansion of Cosmic Man into new dimensions.*"

FURTHER PHYSICAL PROOF

On the morning of October 20, 1993, a series of 36 concentric circles appeared in the sand at Papucata Beach, Maceió, Capital of the State of Alagoas in the far North-East of Brazil, 1200 miles from Rio de Janeiro and Niterói and Icarai Beach. (This time no elderly man turned up to claim the authorship).

But a University Professor passed by, early that morning, and took these five photos which I now enclose herewith.

Unfortunately (Brazil is an enormous country) I only got to hear about these Maceió circles at the beginning of 1995, from a letter sent to me by a young psychologist, Ricardo de Souza Maia, who is now taking a Master's Degree in São Paulo. He apologized for not having written to me sooner about it and hoped his information might still be of some use. I quote from his letter:-

"Here are the photos which I promised to send to you, of the alleged 'mystery circles' which appeared on the beach in Maceió (Alagoas) in the early hours of October 20, 1993, two days after Ms. Aleida Mendonça Machado had found some identical ones on the beach at Icarai.

"Along with these photos I am also sending you a copy of the newspaper *Maceiópolis* to whom I had furnished a report on the affair along with the negatives of my original slides for their inspection. (I now have these under lock and key)".

To the great annoyance of Ricardo, the Maceió newspaper had given a distorted and incorrect rendering of the report that he had sent them.

Ricardo asked me to pass all this information about the Maceió sand-circles on to Ms. Aleida Machado, but, alas, as I have stated above, I failed to trace her. She has really hidden herself away so efficiently after all the public ridicule that she had received from the Press.

Ricardo has also phoned me about the case, and we have discussed it. His opinion is that the Maceió sand-circles were produced by some higher intelligence.

NOTE BY EDITOR

I know that beautiful beach where these sand-circles were, because Maceió and the State of Alagoas, were part of my huge "Consular District".

It is now all more than 46 years ago. In those days the beautiful *white* sandy beaches of N.E. Brazil were almost totally deserted and you could drive along them for mile after mile without seeing a single boat or a single soul. *In those 46 years the population of Brazil has more than doubled, and Heaven knows how much pollution and desecration prevail now on those shores.*

Of Ricardo's five colour photographs, we have selected only two for inclusion in FSR, as the other three really show far too little of the circles and in our black and white reproduction would most probably provide nothing of any value whatsoever. ■

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but it was a real, genuine, flying saucer. It was beautiful, but also mysteriously frightening. Its shape was much the same as shown in the books, and I enclose my sketch below..

Afterwards I talked about it to my family and to a few friends, and discovered that apparently I was the only person who had seen it.

And yet not a single person believed me! I find it devastating. Their first thought was that I was affected mentally, and they wanted to take me to see a doctor.

One little request please. With the UFO photos that you have promised to send me, will you please also enclose a few foreign coins, as this is my hobby?

Yours sincerely

WANG-Chao ■



SUPERNATURAL BIBLICAL VISIONS AND PRESENT-DAY SIGHTINGS

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[Among the many interesting articles lying for some time past in our files and awaiting publication is the following highly apposite and topical piece from our old friend Max Edwards. As will be seen, he has gathered together a number of threads that call for some deeply serious thinking by all of us. The question it poses, more starkly than we have seen it posed yet, is this: *Is the UFO Phenomenon evil. Does it not cover a sinister factor?*

In my opinion, this is, apart from Freixedo's books, by far the most important statement ever made yet in the entire history of the so-called "UFO Phenomenon". And, incidentally, we have plenty more ammunition in reserve which we are going to bring up in the next few months!

The article has also appeared in Issue No. 29 (Winter 1994) of *Alternate Perceptions*, an excellent quarterly published in Tennessee, USA, and edited by Brent Raynes, Eagle Wing Books Inc., White Buffalo, Box 9972, Memphis, TN 38190] EDITOR

The Flying Saucer Review's Winter 1991 issue No.36-4 felicitously published material on our ex-Jesuit friend, Señor Salvador Freixedo (pronounced approx, as "frey-sheddo"), together with an important article by his wife, Señora Magdalena del Amo-Freixedo, on pages 16 - 21. The numerous important books by Sr. Freixedo— all in Spanish — should long ago have been made available in English and other languages; at present, several persons are said to be preparing translations of just a very few of his books into English and French.

Freixedo has written on social and religious problems, on UFOlogy and on parapsychology; having worked for 30 years as an ordained Jesuit priest, his knowledge of the Bible and of theology is profound; moreover, he possesses an historian's panoramic vision, coupled with a Jesuit's penetrating intelligence and analytical ability.

Many people feel that some statement about the possible connection between Religion, Parapsychology, and UFOlogy is much overdue; that is why Sr. Freixedo's books are such an important contribution to UFOlogy - for his knowledge of the latter field is probably as

encyclopaedic as that of the *Flying Saucer Review's* Editor, Mr. Gordon Creighton.

Both Mr. Creighton and Sr. Freixedo are in agreement that an extremely ominous activity is occurring around us, of which most people seem to be blissfully unaware. Sr. Freixedo, moreover, has warned that UFOlogical investigation can be **EXTREMELY DANGEROUS** (altamente peligroso).

It is of course true that 'flying saucers' and their occupants were occasionally seen centuries, and even millennia, before their more recent and dramatic display to Mr. Kenneth Arnold, near Seattle (Wash.), in 1947. But now, it is the equally dramatic apparent INCREASE IN THE FREQUENCY of their appearances, since 1947, that poses an enigma which continues to baffle us.

It is therefore of enormous importance that MUFON, and now the *Flying Saucer Review's* issue No. 37-2, (A) should have published a key-article by Mr. John W. White, M.A.T., who is an American author of some distinction. Mr. White is to be congratulated on his courage, for it is very difficult to write simultaneously on religious matters, and on UFOlogy, without causing offence. Mr. White's thought-provoking article should be most carefully read by every intelligent UFOlogist with an open mind - no matter what his or her religious beliefs happen to be - because it appears to point in the right direction, insofar as the accumulated evidence now seems to indicate. His warning coincides on most points with that of Mr. Creighton and Sr. Freixedo, for he believes that the UFOnuts are probably an enormous and insidious danger, and that our terrestrial situation could 'soon' become nothing short of appalling.

Only on a single matter do I feel constrained to inject a differing viewpoint into Mr. White's argument. In his fourth paragraph, he writes: "Yes, one can point to the Angel of Death, acting at God's command, to slay the firstborn of the Egyptians, when the Hebrews were in captivity; but that is the exception, not the rule." Cf. *Exodus XII, 29 - Old Testament*).

The reader who studies the Biblical text on all the 'Plagues of Egypt' must be struck by the way in which