

NOTE BY EDITOR OF FSR

There remain 4½ more pages of this article which, owing to our acute shortage of space, we are unable to use. They deal, however, entirely with the curious experiments of Musinskiy, Semyonov, and Pyatkin, with their *dowsing-rods*. In our report on the 1989 Voronezh landings and sightings (see FSR 34/4) we have already mentioned the great popularity of dowsing among the Soviet Ufologists. But until now we had had no idea that they had such extraordinary faith in the widespread applicability of dowsing! As I am sure most folk today realize, the finding of water and other substances by means of dowsing is an established and absolutely unquestioned *science* here in the West, and indeed throughout the world. But, surprisingly, these Russians go much further than that. Thus, for example, at Shchedrino, they stood on the landing-site with their dowsing-rods and asked a series of questions and, on the basis of the answers duly given by the rods, they seem to have concluded that without any shadow of doubt the following facts are established. (We wonder how many of our readers would be so confident that they had got the true answers?):-

1. The machine that landed at Shchedrino was a gravitational craft ("*gravitolyot*" in Russian).
2. Pyatkin had, of course, imbibed no poisonous rocket-fuel.
3. The UFO was simply here on a regular exploratory flight.
4. The craft was crammed with highly sophisticated instruments.

5. The UFOs are studying all aspects of our Planet, its structure, its flora and fauna, etc.
6. The UFO was not engaged in any military operation, such as the study of defence installations, oil refineries, communications, etc., etc.
7. The UFO originated from within our Galaxy.
8. The craft contained several entities.
9. The contact with Pyatkin was in no way "planned" by them.

*Note that the Russians say the Shchedrino UFO "*was changing altitude and direction of flight almost instantaneously*". (Compare this with the Belgian Air Force's report that one of their huge UFO "Triangles", during the night of March 30/March 31, 1990, was dancing around in identical fashion, switching from a speed of 40 kms./p.h. to 1,800 kms./p.h., and from an altitude of 3,000 metres down to an altitude of less than 200 metres — ALL IN THE SPACE OF ONE SECOND! (See FSR 35/4.)

**With regard to the mention of *samples of grass and leaves* from the landing site at Shchedrino, I find that I have a small quantity of dried leaves and grass, in an envelope, among the enormous pile of material sent to us from Russia during this past year, so maybe this is some of it, though I am not sure, as there seems to be no accompanying note to identify it. In the circumstances I do not know what I can do with it, or might be expected to do with it. *I certainly know nobody in this country who is likely to want to analyze or examine it, or — if they did — to give me an honest verdict on it.* — G.C.

UFO PHOTOGRAPHED IN RUSSIA

by Yuri A. Smirnov, Director of Yaroslavl' UFO Study Group, FSR
Consultant

(Translation from Russian. G.C.)

FORWARD herewith, for publication in FSR, three* photographs of a UFO which were snapped in the village of Solnechnoe in the Akhtyrka (50° 25 N.; 35° 00 E.) region of Sumy Province, Northern Ukraine, at 1300 hrs. (Moscow time) on February 4, 1990 by a boy, Dmitriy Girenko.

It was a calm Sunday morning, with no wind whatsoever. Dmitriy loaded his camera, and stepped out of the house to take some photos of his new puppy. And at once caught sight of the UFO, in the completely cloudless sky. It was clearly visible, in sharp detail.

Dmitriy managed to take 14 photos of it. His film, in perfect condition, testifies to the authenticity of the event.

He handed the film to his father, who developed it. The father, a serious and respected citizen, enjoys a high reputation in all quarters, and teaches in a local school.

The photographs have appeared in local newspapers of that area, and a TV team from Kiev, Capital of the Ukraine, came out to film Dmitriy Girenko.

The lad said that the UFO was manoeuvring around in the sky over Solnechnoe "as though posing to be photographed".

Yuri Smirnov,
Yaroslavl'.
June 24, 1990.

* Unfortunately I have mislaid the second of the three. ED.



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THE GREAT CULTURES OF THE ANCIENT WORLD AND THE WORK OF ZECHARIA SITCHIN

By Martin Burgess FIIC, FSA, FBHI, FSR Consultant

UFOLOGISTS everywhere are given to a great deal of speculation. This is not to be wondered at, because there is so little really hard information unless we are lucky enough (or unlucky enough) to have experienced a close encounter. Even then, what we know, or think we know, will depend on belief. No one is motivated by the truth, only by what they believe to be the truth. This belief is coloured and structured by the general climate of belief with which each one of us is surrounded in the culture we happen to live in. We in the West happen to live, at least in the developed world, in a scientific and technological age where a fact that can be shown to be true by a repeatable experiment is regarded as more 'true', and therefore more important than other sorts of truth. However, very few of us are in a position to repeat even one of the great experiments which have structured the modern world. We have to take the scientists' words and writings on trust even if their conclusions are wrong.

UFOS Not "New"

Most Ufologists appear to be working on the study of a subject which has no proper roots. There is a general feeling that 'it all started in 1947'. There are very few serious subjects which have no past like this. The history of science and technology and the history of mankind can be traced back and back and if we bother to study these things we can see which event led to what, step by step. We cannot even speculate properly about where we might be going if we don't know where we came from. The past always governs the future.

It is true that there are reported 'sightings' in the Middle Ages, a most unreliable period because it was a time when 'belief' was given more weight than 'fact'. Many 'visions' may have, in fact, been UFO visitations.

The Legacies of the Past

However, if we go back much further in time, before the world of Greece and Rome and look at what we have inherited from the Ancient Egyptians, the Babylonians, the Sumerians, we find a wealth of material. It is not only or even mainly the archaeological artifacts but the huge libraries of written material which have survived. Much more would have survived if the ignorant and the bigots had not burned the great library of Alexandria which must have contained the whole written knowledge of the ancient world. Scholars could read it now.

There is a catch in all this. Just as we can't repeat the great experiments of the scientists, so we can't check the translations of the scholars for we ourselves cannot read Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphs, Babylonian Cuneiform, Ancient Hebrew, Sumerian Pictograms. Even if we could read these writings we would need to know the context. Translation is always

doubtful because it depends on the knowledge of the translator as well as the writer. The ancient writer may not know the full meaning of what he is describing. Just you try translating this simple English statement into any other language. "The depth of the engagement of the teeth with the pallet depends on the height of the cock."

The ancients did not always have a word for things of advanced science or technology from a different culture. The same is true today. Walk behind a pair of students of engineering from the Indian Sub-continent and you will hear a lot of English loan words. The same was true of the army of scribes who made the great clay tablet library of King Ashurbanipal in Nineveh. They used a lot of Sumerian loan words which had no root meaning in their own language when they were dealing with subjects like mathematics and astronomy because the Sumerians knew more about these subjects than they did. Sumer was the first really advanced civilization that we know of, starting some time between 4,000 and 3,800 B.C. Some branches of knowledge were not a progress upwards but a regress downwards. **This is because the Sumerians did not obtain their knowledge by observation and experiment as our own culture has done, but got it as 'given knowledge' direct from people whom they called their 'gods'.** The same is true of certain cultures in remote parts of the world today. An advanced technology imposed from outside will, if left to itself with no further back-up, gradually decline because it has no roots.

The Modern Translators

Most of these many thousands of written texts were found by archaeologists in the 19th and early 20th centuries. It took armies of scholars whole lifetimes to translate and then attempt to make sense of what had been found. The work of understanding these priceless treasures still goes on but these scholars could not be expected to understand knowledge which they did not themselves possess. This situation is made worse by the fact that modern man still thinks that the progress of man has been ever upwards and that people in the past were always more ignorant than we are now. How could the scholars translate something as a real flying machine of very advanced type when they had not even seen an aeroplane? How could they be expected to translate correctly the names of the planets from the Sumerian when Neptune had only just been discovered and Pluto had not yet been seen and would not be seen until 1930?

History needs to be constantly updated in the light of what each age knows. What was needed was the intensive work of a dedicated scholar who would be prepared to look again at all these old texts and the translations of these texts to make a theory which would fit all the old stories. He would have to have a totally open mind and be outside the academic estab-