

probable that there was at least one UFO which descended to ground level to the south of the village on the Friday evening. Independent witnesses observed humanoids seen on many previous occasions, and commonplace effects on the percipients and the animals were noted. Whatever it was that was ob-

served that night was certainly mysterious and, something the Llanerchymedd villagers will not forget in a hurry.

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FSR BOOKSHELF-1

NEW UFO BOOKS REVIEWED BY ...

Janet & Colin Bord

MOST readers will know of the South Wales 1977 UFO wave which included sightings of silver-suited figures at Ripperston Farm. Last autumn saw the publication of three books about the wave.

The Welsh Triangle by Peter Paget (Panther paperback, £1.25) is aimed at the less critical, not to say sensation-seeking, section of the paperback-buying public. The back cover promises "Astonishing evidence" and "the facts they tried to silence." The author has visited the area and talked to witnesses, and the events at Ripperston Farm and elsewhere are dealt with fairly accurately though briefly. There is also plenty of padding consisting of other previously published cases not connected with Wales. Also, the "triangle" of the title is a wholly spurious device only existing in Mr. Paget's imagination but obviously designed to link his book with those best-selling paperbacks on the Bermuda Triangle. He believes the UFO entities are space explorers who have established a subterranean base on Stack Rocks and are watching the activities at a secret underground base the Americans have built at RAF Brawdy, on the north side of St. Bride's Bay. In the tradition of pop paperback writers the author is prone to make wild, unsubstantiated statements such as "...research shows that every standing stone in Britain is in a direct line with two or more other prehistoric sites" (p.93). As no one knows how many thousands of standing stones there are, nor where they all are, this is obviously ridiculous. Likewise the statement that UFOs follow leys (p. 96). This is a pleasing idea but regrettably no one has yet come within a mile of proving it. A book to read for amusement, but not to be taken too seriously.

A more professional effort is **The Uninvited** by Clive Harold (Star paperback, 95p). Here the author concentrates exclusively on Ripperston Farm, giving a chronological account of the events there. But he writes in an irritatingly fictional style with a great deal of reported speech, and descriptions of events that he could not have witnessed personally. If the over-dramatized presentation is not too disturbing, then you will probably find this gives a more intimate day-to-day picture of the lives of some of the principals concerned with this strange business than does Peter Paget's somewhat bare account.

Undoubtedly the best of the three books is **The Dyfed Enigma** by Randall Jones Pugh and F.W. Holiday (Faber and Faber hardback, £5.95). Everyone concerned with serious UFO research will want to read this, as both authors were local men (regrettably F. W. Holiday did not live to see publication) and had been seriously interested in the UFO problem for a number of years. The book covers the major cases of the St Bride's Bay area during 1976-7 and its great asset is the detailed accounts of the author's interviews. However, we are less happy with Chapter 6, "The Ley Correlation." A possible link between UFOs and leys (not 'ley-lines') has intrigued many authors, including ourselves, but so far no one has produced satisfactory evidence for this link. Pugh and Holiday have found that occasionally a UFO sighting seems to have taken place on or close to a ley, but a few seemingly valid instances of this are supported by a number of dubious leys which overall weaken their case. Although they state (p.106) that leys are alignments of 'a great number' of ancient sites, their ley plans show many 2-point alignments. Such an alignment is not a ley! And 3-point alignments are not necessarily leys, either. The UFO/ley case made out in Chapter 6 is much weaker than the authors would have us believe. **The Dyfed Enigma** will be reviewed fully in Vol. 25 No. 6.

Today the line between fact and fiction is becoming increasingly ill-defined and a book such as **An Account of a Meeting with Denizens of Another World, 1871** edited and with commentary by David Langford (David & Charles hardback, £4.50) merely causes greater confusion. It purports to be a recently discovered account by one William Robert Loosley (1838-93) who wrote that in 1871 he had an encounter with a UFO and two robot entities on a Buckinghamshire hilltop. He told no one, but later wrote his account and concealed it in a secret compartment in his dark. Editor Langford makes out a fairly convincing case for the existence of Loosley, but presents nothing to convince us that his manuscript ever existed. We have reviewed this book at greater length, with a challenge to the author, in *Fortean Times*.

Jenny Randles and Peter Warrington's UFOs: A British Viewpoint (Robert Hale hardback, £5.25) has been reviewed at length in vol.25 no.4, but as professional photographers of more than 30 year's experience, we were particularly interested in the book's UFO photographs and their interpretation. To avoid future confusion, we should point out that the technique used by George Manson to fake the UFO photograph, "sticking cut-out shapes on to glass and then photographing a sky scene through it," is not described by photographers as "back projection." Back projection is the "projection of a picture on the back of a translucent screen instead of on to the front of a reflecting one" (*The Focal Encyclopaedia of Photography*, 1969 edition). The nearest technique to that described in the photo caption is one used by Hollywood studios and known as a glass shot. This is when a large sheet of glass is placed vertically in front of a scene and a skilled artist paints on to the glass a fake background, for example, which when seen from the camera viewpoint matches up perfectly with the real scene in the foreground.

Another surprise in the book's photo section is the first picture, which the authors appear to cautiously accept as genuine but which to us has very much the appearance of a hoax. The giveaway is the first trace in the dark sky which echoes the same path as the main light trace, thereby indicating that it was not the illuminated point source of light which was moving while the camera remained still with the shutter open, but that the camera itself was moved about while the shutter was open and two sources of light, one bright and one dim, traced identical paths on the film. Judging from the rest of the scene, they may possibly have been lights on the outside of a public building.

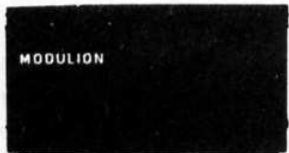
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The affair of UFO author M. K. Jessup and the Allende Letters is one of many apocryphal stories from the 1950s, along with the Maury Island sighting and Bender's MIBs, which for ever seem to hover on the edge of the ufologist's consciousness, never able to gain acceptance as genuine cases, and yet the possibility always remains that perhaps there was some real fire behind all the smoke. Briefly, in the 1950s M. K. Jessup, an astronomer and UFO author, was publicly urging that government funds should be directed towards antigravity research and to exploring

the possibilities in Einstein's Unified Field Theory. He received some weird, misspelt letters from a Carlos Allende saying that the navy had done similar experiments in the 1940s and had caused a destroyer to disappear and reappear elsewhere. The affect on the crew had been disastrous and the experiments had been stopped. At the same time a copy of Jessup's UFO book had been anonymously sent to the Office of Naval Research in Washington. This copy had various coloured annotations and underlinings implying that the writers knew a lot more about UFOs than anyone else on earth. The navy were sufficiently interested to ask Jessup to come and discuss it with them. All attempts to locate Carlos Allende failed and since then the story has intrigued many UFO writers who, with varying accuracy, have related the above details with their added comments. **Charles Berlitz and William Moore** have in **The Philadelphia Experiment** (Souvenir Press hardback, £4.95) taken up a cold scent and apparently researched every possible line of enquiry. They have uncovered some intriguing details but we do not feel we are giving anything away if we say that the final conclusion remains inconclusive. Perhaps the answer still lies buried deep within naval files, or perhaps the whole affair never took place. Those readers to whom this story is new will want this book as a comprehensive account of a ufological mystery; old hands who have been following the saga for years will need it for the latest facts and thinking about one of ufology's perennial enigmas. The book has photographs and a bibliography, but no index.

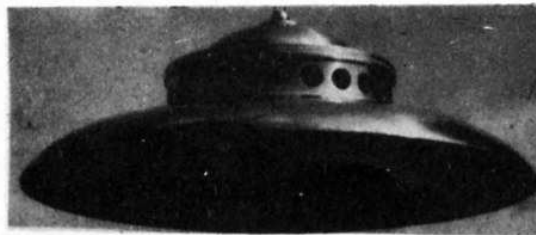
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Finally, a brief word about a book in which we have more than a passing interest. In FSR vol.25 no.3, in our article *The UFO/Bigfoot Connection*, we mentioned that our new book **Alien Animals** was due to be published in the autumn of 1979. Those who have tried to obtain it have been unsuccessful because publication was postponed to March 1980 (Paul Elek/Granada hardback, £6.95). In the book, besides describing sightings of lake monsters, giant birds and birdmen, phantom black dogs, out-of-place big cats, and Bigfoot, we discuss the many theories as to their nature. We found that the alien animal phenomenon has certain similarities to the UFO phenomenon, a discovery which does nothing to solve the UFO mystery but does give us all plenty to think about.



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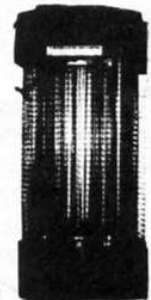


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THREE MORE REVIEWS

John M. Lade

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS: A Better Explanation, by Clifford Wilson, Ph.D. and John Weldon, paperback; Master Books, San Diego, Cal., U.S.A.

WE ARE NOT ALONE, by Walter Sullivan. Signet paperback; New American Library Inc., P.O. Box 999, Bergenfield, New Jersey 07621, U.S.A.

UFO PHENOMENA AND THE BEHAVIOURAL SCIENTIST, edited by Richard F. Haines. The Scarecrow Press Inc., Metuchen, N.J. and London.

THE better explanation deserves careful consideration: the authors of **Close Encounters: A better explanation** feel strongly that UFO and allied manifestations are activities of anti-Christ. What they have to say is backed by evidence, much of it drawn from past issues of *Flying Saucer Review*. We are aware that some have abandoned our subject as evil; perhaps they expected too much from it. This reviewer has never thought that UFOs have any more to do with spiritual reality than has the discovery of a new tribe in some jungle. Christianity, surely, widens human horizons and there are parts of the gospels which could be taken to refer, both favourably and unfavourably, to the astonishing developments in this century. However, we recommend all who share our aim of understanding the phenomena, to weigh the arguments and strong feeling of this book.

Turning to the scientific approach, the next book, Walter Sullivan's **We are not alone**, has a good index and list of references, dealing with the search for intelligent life on other worlds and the observational evidences prompting the application of new methods of communication in this exercise. Nikola Tesla, asked to predict likely developments in this century and having, like Marconi, received radio signals he believed to be artificial, replied in 1900: "Faint and uncertain though they were, they have given me a deep conviction and foreknowledge, that ere long all human beings on this globe, as one, will turn the eyes to the firmament above, with feelings of love and reverence, thrilled by the glad news: 'Brethren! We have a message from another world, unknown and remote!'" This belief, that communication with extraterrestrial intelligent life would unite humanity, is appealing and it was Adamski's hope; however, one wonders whether it puts the cart before the horse: earthly interest in a Venusian brother could

be less than in the military possibilities of his scoutship. Nevertheless, the century has one-fifth still to come.

Dr. Haines' compendium **UFO Phenomena and the Behavioural Scientist** offers much more than the layman might imagine. Particularly interesting is Dr. Leo Sprinkle's investigation of the Carl Higdon case (reported in *FSR* Vol.21, No.3/4): the variety of occupants and vehicles is one of the greatest puzzles of the UFO phenomenon. Chapters in the book are contributed by eleven authorities and each argues for his own discipline; e.g. Chapter 5: "...UFO sightings are related to social factors." Another argues that electric shock from charges in the earth are responsible. One author comments: "In the final analysis, the major differences between science and superstition is the ability of science to make quantitative predictions about the occurrence of some phenomenon." This, surely, would apply to natural phenomena only: if intelligence or volition on the part of aliens or puppeteers were involved, then developments would, to that extent, be in their hands. If the phenomenon is superstition, the creation of human belief, we are reminded of the pantheon of Greek mythology. Flourishing from the sixth century B.C., the Delphic oracle declined during Roman times and "Christianity struck the final blow. Nobody believed any more in the prophecies of Apollo... The romantic lover of the past, Emperor Julian, made a last effort to revive the ancient religion, but the Pythoness gave a hopeless reply to the Emperor's delegates which indeed proved to be her own swan song: 'Tell the King that the rich palace of the god lies deep in the earth. Apollo no longer dwells here.'" (*What to see in Greece*, by Ev. Pentreas). Classical mythology did not revive with the Renaissance: the Church saw to that. Did it leave a gap for a materialistic age and are we witnessing, in the UFO phenomenon, the growth of a new mythology suited to powered flight and space travel?

On another tack and agreeable to the argument in Chapter 7 that human consciousness creates, is this quotation, in the Introduction, from an article by Nichols and Alexander (1977) dealing with the impact of science fiction upon man's various enterprises: "...it is almost ironic that the media that have made science fiction more accessible to the masses (TV, radio, movies) were once the speculations of science fiction. There is an amazing connection here, a subtle yet also overt interrelation wherein the medium expounding the message also is (and increasingly becomes) the message itself. We live in a scientific age, an age of future shock — an age in which it is becoming more difficult daily to distinguish between everyday reality and science fiction." If we keep our eye on the ball, what we ought to be doing is studying the various propulsive systems UFOs appear to use and experimenting to understand and control the natural forces involved, which may be simpler than we imagine. The world needs cheap, safe energy. Also, think what it would mean to be able, silently, to rescue a hostage and lift to safety the starving victims of guerrilla warfare!