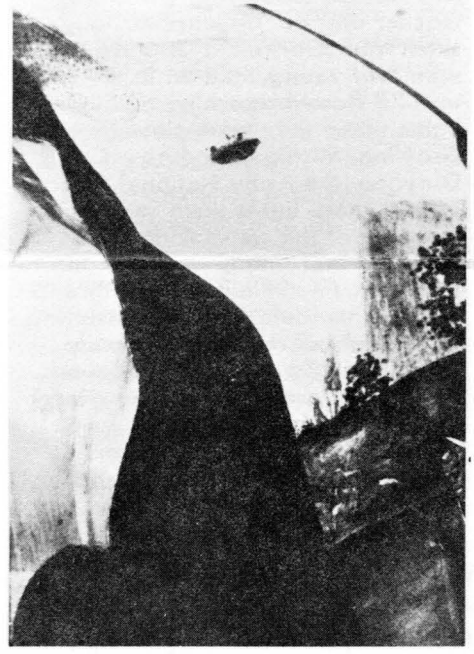
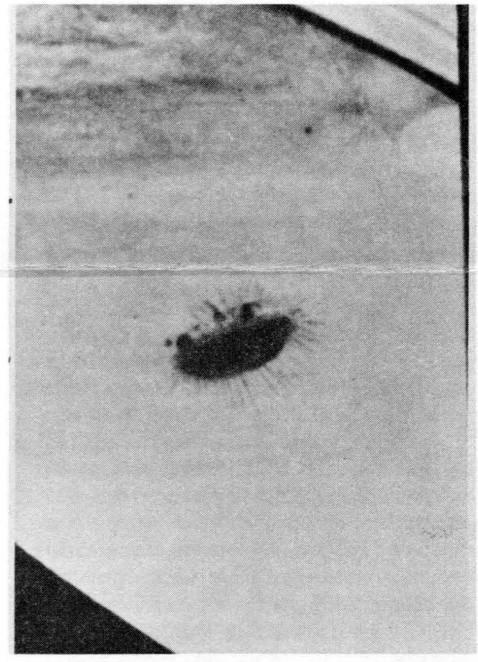
CENTER FOR UFO STUDIES
a not-for-profit Illinois corporation
1609 Sherman Avenue, Suite 207, Evanston, Illinois 60201
(312) 491-6666 — 24-Hour Telephone

ASSOCIATE NEWSLETTER

COPYRIGHT 1980 CENTER FOR UFO STUDIES JULY, 1980 — VOLUME 1, NUMBER 3





15th Century Painting Of UFO In Nativity Scene

In the November 1978 issue of NOTIZIARIO UFO, the official publication of the National Center of Ufology (Via Vignola, 3 - 20136 MILANO, ITALY) appears an article by Daniele Bedini which includes a photograph of a very interesting painting by the 15th Century artist, Filippo Lippi. With the kind assistance of Italian exchange student George Morea of Bolzano, Italy, we present herewith his English translation of this very interesting article.

"When we start talking about Ufology, we generally name Kenneth Arnold. On June 24, 1947 he announced that he saw UFOs from his personal plane while returning from a business trip. This event was only the beginning of a long sequence of UFO cases, but especially helped to begin a deep study of the subject. Research of the subject revealed the discovery of numerous cases which let us think about a much older origin of the problem of the UFO.

"The evidence would include the drawings of strange beings with very special clothes, similar to space suits of the astronauts of today, and drawings found by Aime Michel in caves in regions of France which looked like strange objects with the shape of a dish and which fly leaving a trail of some form in the air. We could go on endlessly. These and other cases lead us to believe that there is a close connection between man and different beings at different times in our history.

"Coming closer to this century, it is interesting to notice numerous painters, including famous ones, who made some paintings with possible UFO meanings. The strange egg-shaped clouds from works by Piero della Francesca and the darker ones of Masolino da Panicale (which let us think of something other than an atmospheric phenomenon because they resemble very much modern UFO pictures) can also be interpreted as unusual natural phenomena, "contesse."

"Those pictures are already well-known by most ufologists. While it is not known at all, we think we have located a picture which can hardly be misunderstood because the phenomenon is so clearly evident.

"This picture was noticed by chance during a visit to Palazzo Vecchio a Firenze (Florence, Italy), in the Saturn Salon. It is 'The Madonna and St. Giovannino,' a nativity scene attributed to the school of di Filippo Lippi, a Florentine painter of the 15th Century.

"Looking at the picture, in the upper right portion we can clearly notice the presence of a lead-colored flying object that can be described as an egg-shaped object in the sky apparently in motion. It is possible to imagine the motion by the presence of bright rays. The color (of the rays) is bright yellow, like gold, all around the object and they almost suggest the direction of motion. These factors are in contrast with the complete steadiness of the rest of the painting.

"Particularly interesting is that the objects is being watched by a shepherd at the right of the Madonna, drawn by the painter with the shepherd's right hand above his eyes looking (at the object) with all his attention. Also, the object is being watched by the shepherd's dog that is clearly barking, as happens in many cases of UFO sighting reports.

(Continued on Page 2, Column 1)

15th Century Painting Of UFO In Nativity Scene

(Continued from Page 1)

"We can definitely exclude the chance that it is a symbolic drawing or mystical or mythological or even atmospheric, since in the upper left portion of the painting the sun is already present, with small rays of sunlight below it, clearly a mystic meaning.

"Now the question is, what did the painter want to represent, since in the 15th Century no man-made flying objects existed? We can make several hypotheses.

"We know something about Lippi's personality . . . a man who was, in his time, unconventional, very impulsive and very sensitive. So, we should observe the impressions that several art critics expressed about him. For example, this is the note made by Piero Bargelli in his "Florentine Paintings of the 15th Century" about a painting by Lippi. 'For one thing, in his pictures he paints backgrounds filled with moving lights and mysterious shades, just like Leonardo di Vinci began to do later,' and under that, 'Filippo Lippi is an expressive but not compositive painter.' So, we could almost think of the intention of the painter to communicate to the masses through his own work a special personal experience (or sighting) and connect this event with the particularly evocative subject of the nativity. This is a concept well-known by some ufologists.

"Accepting this hypothesis which connects the flying objects with an external origin, we can notice that in the lower part of the object some spheroid structures are evident which remind us of particular detail in some of (George) Adamski's pictures. However, we don't think it is correct to proceed to additional interpretations. We would rather leave room for other hypotheses.

"To finish, we want to underscore that, besides any discussion of the drawing and the object painted by Lippi, the author hopes that he has added a small piece to the big puzzle that is the ufologic problem, a contribution that gives evidence many centuries old of strange flying objects that continue to appear today as if to let the human race consider (the immensity of) space and man's insignificance." □

Michigan Close Encounter

TYPE: CE I
DATE: June 17, 1980
TIME: 11 PM
DURATION: 5 Minutes
WITNESSES: 6
PLACE: I-75 near Grayling, Michigan
INVESTIGATOR: Allan Hendry

On Tuesday, June 17th, at 11 PM two women (a 34-year-old school teacher and an 18-year-old baby-sitter from Cincinnati, Ohio driving with four young children in the car up I-75 started watching a couple of lights when they were close to Grayling, Michigan and near Camp Grayling, the Army National Guard Camp. These lights were seen to the right of the car moving across the front and finally disappearing to their left. Two minutes later, three more lights could be seen appearing to the right of the car and slowly paced along with the north-bound car up I-75 gradually getting closer and closer until finally they were directly over the top of the car.

The women guessed the lights to be about 100 feet above them, but only the 18-year-old baby-sitter got an especially good look by sticking her head right out the window as the car was frantically driving along at 85 miles per hour.

For three minutes the objects exactly paced the car's speed and stayed almost directly overhead, but all that could really be seen of the shape was, vaguely, a long oblong-shape like a capsule and three bright lights . . . a single steady white light, a blinking red light and a blinking blue (or green) light somewhere located on the body of the object.

It was so dark outside that the witnesses couldn't even position where the lights were. What really startled them, besides the slight zigzag behavior and the sharp turns these objects could make, was the lack of noise. The car radio was off, the windows were open and one woman had her head stuck out the window and for three minutes they couldn't hear a sound from the object.

Now, Camp Grayling, which they were driving near, did acknowledge that they had a number of helicopters out on formation that time, that night, that area. They can't just definitively pin down exactly where they were, but they were willing to acknowledge, of course, that three helicopters should have made quite a racket flying that low directly over a car. So, the single really mysterious element in the case seems to be why these women weren't able to hear any noise if these were indeed helicopters and, yes, they did have formations of helicopters up that night possibly the way they were described. The real catch is . . . Camp Grayling simply can't pin down the exact flight paths of the choppers that were there.

Hendry also checked with Empire Air Force Base which he knew is in the area. They run a training operation tied in with the FAA. Sgt. Smith there was not able to pin down anything. Hendry also checked with the Traverse City Coast Guard Air Station and they said it wasn't them. It was nothing they were flying. Status: UFO. □

Does your local sheriff and police department have our 800 number for reporting sightings? Thanks for checking for us. □

AN UNEXPECTED OPPORTUNITY!
A Limited Number of Copies (Used)
Of the Well-Known
REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS
By Edward J. Ruppelt
Are Available Now.

This book is significant because its publication in 1956 was the first time that any one in an official capacity stated publicly that the UFO question should not be dismissed. Captain Ruppelt provides a short history of the establishment of project blue book and the reaction of Washington officials to the vexing UFOs. He includes a good roundup of the early UFO cases, reporting them objectively and leaving open the question of their existence and identity.

Four years later 3 more chapters were added in another edition with more information about sightings, contactees (including Adamski) and a conclusion that UFOs are a "space age myth." An insert of these additional chapters is included with each book. Price $11.00 post paid.

UFO Information Service, 1600 Sherman Ave., Suite 207,
Evanston, IL 60201

Behind The Scenes In UFO Research

"Say, what time did that UFO come through here?"

On the way toward solving the big problems in research, a lot of little problems have to be dealt with. A Center sponsored research project "A Search for Recorded Instrumented Perturbations in the Vicinity of Selected UFO Reports" by Joseph P. Accetta is a case in point. (Accetta's paper will be featured in the second Journal of UFO Studies, published by the Center.)

Accetta had requested a list of "good" UFO reports where the location and time were known precisely. The best place we knew to look for such a list from a broad range of sources is UFOCAT, the Center's computerized file of some 62,000 reports. Location is easy to pin down, but exact time turned out to be a different matter. First, there is the problem of Standard, Daylight Saving, or even Greenwich Mean times. UFOCAT provides of field for identifying each of these, but it's surprising how few reports specify one. Next there is the question of how exactly the time of the sighting is known. Obviously, we could not consider reports with generalizations like "dusk" or "a little before 10 PM."

To examine the condition of time of day data for reports in UFOCAT, a sample of about 2800 reports was printed out. Of the first 1400 reports, 611 had complete data for hours and minutes. Closer examination showed the following:

Minute Field	Number of Reports
00	179
30	182
15	47
45	62
x5 (not 15 or 45)	54
x0 (not 30 or 00)	62
x1	1
x2	3
x3	7
x4	5
x6	1
x7	5
x8	3
x9	0
	611

About 60% of the reports are listed by their sources as having occurred exactly on the hour or half hour, about 3% of the possible minute field choices. Since we have no reason to believe that UFOs keep to this kind of a tidy schedule, we concluded that the times are very likely just approximations, and the vast majority of these reports would not qualify for our needs. (Remember, we can afford to be choosy, since we have over 62,000 reports at hand.)

The quarter before and past the hour together account for about 18% of the reports; apparently a big improvement in accuracy, but not good enough.

Times ending in 5 or 0 other than 00, 15, 30, or 45 (such as xx10 or xx35) account for about 19% of the total, and these times are about 13% of the possible codings (8 of 60). On the average, each of these times would have 14.5 reports in our list of 611. And we began to get really interested — the numbers seemed to be telling us that these reports could be expected to have reasonably accurate times, one of the primary requirements for the research project.

Finally we looked at the number of reports where the minute field ended in any digit other than 0 or 5. Only 25 reports from our list of 611, and a nicely random distribution suggested that here we have a list of reports that probably have accurate times, or at least some effort has been made to get the time exact.

We made similar tallies of the other 1400 reports in our sample, and got very similar results. (Of the 2800 reports in this sample, 55 or about 2%, had minute fields that end in the digits 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, or 9. And 2% of 62,000 is only about 1200 reports, a much more practical list to search in.)

Since our task was to find only about 100 qualifying reports in the total UFOCAT file of 62,000, we decided it would be easier to look for "good" UFO reports in the list of presumably accurate times rather than the reverse. Our plan was to print out a list of reports with times ending in 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, or 9 and to refine that list to about 100 "good" reports that otherwise qualified for the project. Our backup plan, in case this list did not produce enough qualifying reports, was to search the apparent next most accurate times; that is, minute fields ending in 0 or 5 other than 00, 15, 30, or 45. As it turned out, that step was not necessary. We were able to refine the "exact" times report list to a reasonable number of qualified reports for Accetta's study. □

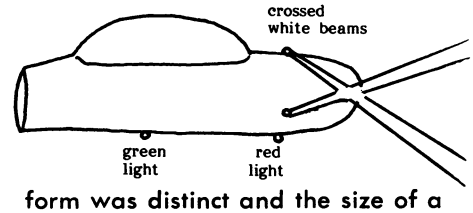
Fred Merritt 800618

Would your local service clubs be interested in a program on UFOs? Write to us for information. □

Ohio Close Encounter

TYPE: CE I
DATE: March 25, 1980
TIME: 10:15 PM
DURATION: 2 minutes
WITNESSES: 2
PLACE: Fairborn, Ohio
INVESTIGATOR: Richard Siefried

Ohio housewife Debbie Harris was driving in the company of Sheri Gustafson on the Dayton-Xenia road, three miles east of town, when Harris noticed "overly-bright" beaming lights in the sky. Since the 18-year-old women saw no motion, they assumed it was an illuminated tower. When they pulled up alongside it, they stopped the car to watch. It appeared to be within 70 yards of their car in this rural area and 20 to 30 feet above the ground, yet no sound could be heard. Both witnesses drew sketches similar to the one depicted here, and noted that the



form was distinct and the size of a small plane. After hovering to their north for two minutes, the object shot off rapidly toward the northeast and disappeared behind a hillock. The weather was cloudy, but with good visibility.

When investigator Siefried examined the area on May 3rd, it turned out to be a rock quarry. He found the badly decomposed remains of a cow (39 days after the encounter) in a plastic tub approximately where the UFO would have been hovering; also found were some parallel gouges in the earth across the street. Status: UFO □

Computer Changes Delay Probe Mailing

It may sound like the same old feeble excuse, but CUFOS has been advised by the publishers of PROBE magazine that the initial mailing to IUR subscribers of the JULY 1980 edition of PROBE has been delayed due to an unanticipated move from one computer mailing service company to another. The situation is being expedited and disgruntled IUR subscribers should be receiving their new mailing very soon. (Wasn't it nicer when we could blame these problems on people? Its not very satisfying to get mad at a machine.) □

1980 MUFON UFO SYMPOSIUM Well-Organized, Well-Attended

The recent (June 7th) 1980 MUFON UFO SYMPOSIUM, held in Houston, Texas suburb Clear Lake City, was attended by numerous CUFOS ASSOCIATES, including Mark Rodeghier, John Timmerman and program speaker Fred Merritt. The following report by Mark Rodeghier gives some indication of the quality of the event.

"The MUFON UFO SYMPOSIUM is always a welcome break in our schedules because it is a chance to be with many other people who share our interest in UFOs. The papers that were presented this year were of the usual quality, but the pre-lecture and post-lecture discussions with fellow colleagues were of more import to this writer. The MUFON SYMPOSIUM is a chance to meet old friends, make new friends and establish plans and projects which can be "hatched" only at such a gathering. We definitely recommend that our readers attend the next MUFON SYMPOSIUM in their area, or even take a trip to coincide with the meeting. Everyone seriously interested in ufology will find the experience most satisfying and rewarding.

"As for the papers, I believe that two in particular presented results of great interest. Dr. Leo Sprinkle's paper entitled "UFO Contactees: Captive Collaborators or Cosmic Citizens" presented his conclusions based upon the experiences of over 200 people who claim to have had psychic impressions related to UFO encounters. Dr. Sprinkle states that "These individuals (the witnesses) seem to exhibit a caring concern for all humankind, as if they are experiencing compassion for all other persons . . . They seem to have developed many of the characteristics which have been described as 'cosmic consciousness' ". Sprinkle is suggesting that the effects of contact with UFOs may be benign, if people are open and honest with their UFO experience and with themselves. In effect, he thinks that the UFO phenomena is actively involved in changing the behavior pattern of certain individuals, but in a positive manner. This is in contrast to Jacques Vallee's ideas as expressed in his book MESSENGERS OF DECEPTION that the phenomena is evil and is manipulating society for its own nefarious ends.

Congratulating each other are Fred Merritt, CUFOS Vice-President and one of fourteen speakers at the recent 1980 MUFON UFO SYMPOSIUM at Clear Lake City, TX, and Paul C. Cerny, long-time UFO Investigator of Mt. View, CA, to whom the published PROCEEDING of the SYMPOSIUM was dedicated.

"We may be somewhat biased, but the paper presented by Fred Merritt from CUFOS, "UFOCAT and a Friend With Two New Ideas," also has this writer's vote as being most significant and interesting. By using just data straight from UFOCAT, Merritt was able to investigate both sighting-duration by sighting-type and physical trace cases. We cannot go into detail here concerning his results, so let me present only those concerning the physical trace cases. Merritt found a strong, statistical relationship between 32-ft. disc-shaped UFOs with noise and circular traces. He found that 16-ft. UFOs are most frequently associated with occupants (humanoids) and that 4-ft. objects lack occupants and do not seem to be disc-shaped. UFOs averaging 128 feet in size are most frequently associated with electromagnetic effects. (It should be noted here that these dimensions quoted are mean values for certain size ranges.) Classifications such as these are beginning to give us hints into the characteristics and behavior of the UFO phenomena. They demonstrate that the "character traits" of the phenomena are not randomly distributed and that they can be productively studied. In other words, we can begin to propose serious hypotheses to explain the UFO phenomena, backed up by rigorous analysis of the data such as in Merritt's paper. Such is the promise of this type of research.

"Before closing, mention should also be made of the excellent documentary film about cattle mutilations (see OHIO CLOSE ENCOUNTER, this issue), "A Strange Harvest," produced by Linda Moulton Howe from KMGH-TV7 in Denver. Her film has demonstrated, at least to this observer, the close relationship between cattle mutilations and UFO sightings, a very disturbing relationship. She also documents a continued indifference, if not cover-up, by local, state and federal authorities to the problem of the mutilations. After viewing her film, one can only conclude that the phenomena grows curiouser and curiouser and a possible solution recedes even further if it to encompass events such as these." □

Mark Rodeghier

Chief Investigator Hendry's Report

Allan Hendry, Chief Investigator for CUFOS, reports that he has recently mailed 26 application forms to persons wishing to become field investigators. The completed applications, including gifts to become CUFOS ASSOCIATES, are being received.

Also, Hendry has just recently mailed 133 current cases to field investigators for follow-up reports. He has another similar amount of reports of sighting to mail. □

National Board Members Appointed To Fund For UFO Research

(Washington, D.C.) Ten prominent individuals in the United States and Great Britain have been appointed to the National Board of the Fund for UFO Research, Inc. The National Board will approve grant proposals for investigation of various aspects associated with Unidentified Flying Objects.

The National Board members are:

Eugenie Clark, PhD, Professor of zoology, University of Maryland

Barry H. Downing, PhD, Presbyterian clergyman and "scientific theologist"

Charles H. Gibbs-Smith, internationally known aviation historian and Keeper Emeritus of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London

Richard Haines, PhD, experimental psychologist at NASA's Ames Research Center, California

Richard C. Henry, PhD, professor of physics, Johns Hopkins University

Ward Kimball, producer of educational films associated with Walt Disney Enterprises

Lou Purnell, Assistant Curator for Spacecraft, Smithsonian Institution Air and Space Museum, Washington, D.C.

Peter Rank, M.D., practicing radiologist and Director of the Departments of Radiology at Methodist Hospital and two clinics in Madison, Wisconsin

Herbert E. Roth, Coordinator of flight training for the Boeing 727 fleet, United Airlines, Stapleton International Airport, Denver

Ronald Westrum, PhD, sociologist, Eastern Michigan University

The Fund for UFO Research is a nonprofit scientific and educational organization incorporated in the District of Columbia. It was formed by a group of scientists, engineers and writer-editors in 1979 to provide a mechanism for channeling money into research projects that will increase scientific knowledge about and public understanding of UFO phenomena.

The Fund depends on support from the public for its work. Contributions may be deducted (Internal Revenue Service ID No. 52-1164176).

Using contributions from the public, the Fund has financed the publication of a study of the radar-visual-photographic UFO sightings over New Zealand in December, 1978. The paper was written by Dr. Bruce S. Maccabee, a physicist specializing in electronics, optics and laser physics. Dr. Maccabee is an employee of the Naval Surface Weapons Center in White Oak, Maryland. He spent over a year investigating the New Zealand sightings and film.

In his article, published in **Applied Optics** this month, Maccabee responds to a claim by New Zealand scientists that one of the lights filmed on Dec. 31, 1978, was a squid boat. Dr. Maccabee says the light is definitely not a squid boat.

The organization is currently considering funding of several other research and educational projects on Unidentified Flying Objects. Grant proposals and contributions are welcome. For further information, write to the Fund for UFO Research, P.O. Box 277, Mount Rainier, Maryland 20822. □

Dr. Hynek On New Talk Show

The popular MIKE DOUGLAS SHOW has become the JOHN DAVIDSON SHOW and will be closely watched by television fans throughout the country. Those of you who would like to watch Dr. J. Allen Hynek in a new interview with John Davidson (taped in Hollywood on June 23rd) should mark your calendars for the JOHN DAVIDSON SHOW to be broadcast on August 5th in conjunction with the rerelease of the Columbia motion picture CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND. As of this writing, the premier showings of the Steven Spielberg production are scheduled for the 1st of August, in Phoenix, Arizona. Tell your friends who have never seen Dr. Hynek to watch on August 5th the JOHN DAVIDSON SHOW. □

Does your local radio station have and broadcast our free public service announcements? If not, ask them to write to our office for the copy. These announcements are designed to attract good sighting reports and support for our work at CUFOS. □

Editor: John P. Timmerman

CUFOS

CENTER FOR UFO STUDIES

a not-for-profit Illinois corporation

The CENTER FOR UFO STUDIES was founded in 1973 as a not-for-profit educational and scientific research organization for the study of the general class of phenomena known as the unidentified flying objects. The CENTER has become an international clearing-house for the exchange and investigation of UFO sighting reports and a major source of reliable information about UFOs for school libraries, local study groups and the general public.

Funding for all CENTER activities is derived solely from interested individuals and private organizations. All such contributions are tax-deductible and a schedule for ASSOCIATE financial participation can be found on Page 6. ASSOCIATES of the CENTER receive various publications, including a monthly newsletter, a quarterly bulletin, a semi-annual journal and other special mailings, according to the level of associate participation.

The CENTER operates a toll-free telephone number available to law enforcement agencies and scientific organizations for the transmission of sighting reports. The public telephone number is (312) 491-6666 and it is available to pre-paid calls on a 24-hour basis.

All reports coming to the CENTER are carefully evaluated for investigation, such investigation often involving highly technical laboratory and field tests. If the report cannot then be explained in terms of a misperception of an ordinary object or phenomenon, it is filed for statistical study into the CENTER's computer bank, which now contains over 100,000 entries.

For persons wishing information about the subject of UFOs, the CENTER maintains an extensive library at its offices in Evanston, Illinois, distributes its various publications, offers recommended publications of the CENTER and others through its Information Services office, distributes to broadcasting stations throughout the country pre-recorded public service messages, maintains a speakers bureau and is searching for additional ways to accomplish this purpose.

ASSOCIATES wishing to become personally involved in CENTER activities are encouraged to write to the office in Evanston for additional information. □