

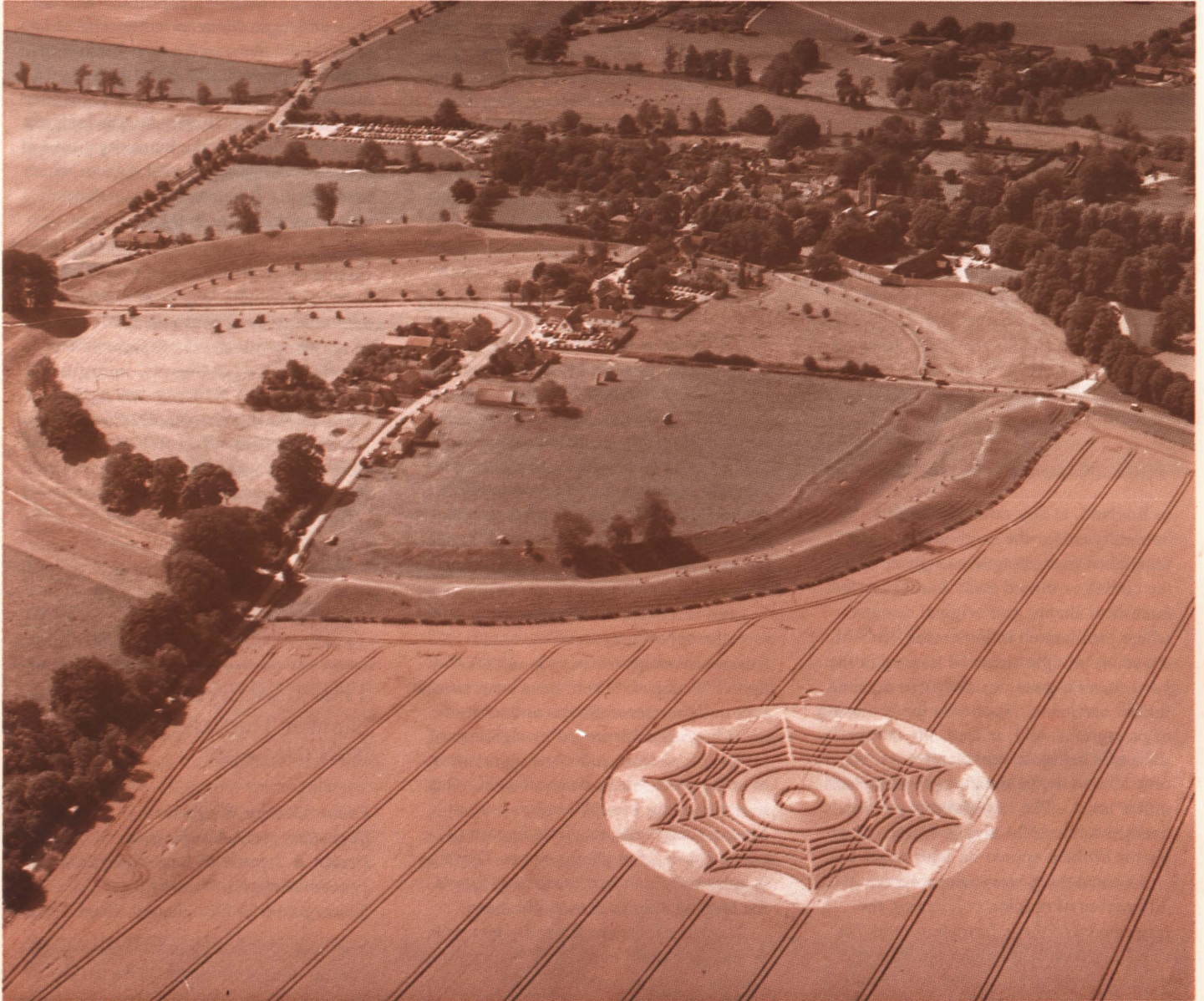


THE CEREALOGIST

NO. 13 WINTER 1994/5

• THE JOURNAL FOR CROP CIRCLE STUDIES •

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EDITORIAL NOTES

Late publication

WE REGRET LATE publication of this issue of *The Cerealogist* which has been caused by a number of factors, not the least of which has been the editor's absence abroad for several weeks in the past two months. Please bear with us since production of the magazine entails a great deal of effort and painstaking work which is done with minimal assistance.

For similar reasons many letters written to *The Cerealogist* have gone unacknowledged and have yet to receive a full answer. Such is the interest in the subject that we receive a veritable mountain of correspondence. On return from abroad it has sometimes been difficult to open the front door of this house due to all these letters (quite apart from the bills, prospectuses of competing political candidates, letters from Tom Champagne, and other junk mail). Although it is hoped that the backlog can be dealt with soon, urgent communications are better directed to us by telephone, fax or E-mail.

The outlook at this time

In England, at any rate, 1994 was a bumper year for the crop circles. At a time when many people had given up on the circles or turned away in disgust, the fantastical shapes and original designs which proliferated in the cereal fields of the south brought renewed interest in the subject and a quite unanticipated demand for the magazine. Such was the profusion of pictograms, and, indeed, the interpretations of what these represented that we are only able to depict the more striking ones in this issue. The next three pages are devoted to the 1994 glyphs though other photos of them appear on later pages too.

As usual there were widespread differences of opinion concerning the provenance of these formations and *The Cerealogist* will continue to publish the diverse views of its various contributors. A more sceptical outlook is certainly the general tenor at present and this viewpoint is articulated by Jürgen Krönig in his article *Changing Perceptions of the Crop Circle Myth*. However, even Jürgen acknowledges the generally persistent belief that there is a core phenomenon which cannot be entirely explained in terms of man-made circles.

Highly relevant too is the perspective of those farmers who have been the recipients of some of the unsolicited 1994 formations. Excerpts from interviews with two

such farmers, David Leonard and Alan Holland, are presented in *The Farmers' Story*. Both were only too well aware that the circles on their land were man-made, if not aware who was responsible. This question is addressed at some length in my own article, "*O, what a Tangled Web we weave...*"

As for 1995, we must obviously expect more of the same. Since hoaxers have been allowed to ply their trade unchecked, this will doubtless continue until such time as some farmer brings a successful prosecution.

But if one is dismayed at the extent of the circlefaking which has gone on, one should take a broader look at the phenomenon, and allied phenomena, in a world-wide context. There is plenty here which cannot be put down to misguided deceivers.

Romanian and Russian circles

We offer in this issue the extraordinary story of what appeared to be a physical flying saucer, flown by two bearded occupants, making a large crop circle at Arad in Romania. Unbelievable as it may seem, Florin Gheorghita's account of this multiple-witness event is presented here unabridged. There seems no reason to doubt the sincerity of this report although we have not been able to go to Romania to check it in person.

On a recent trip to Moscow, your editor took the opportunity to talk to some Russian investigators of crop circles and the UFO subject. There have been several reports of circles in Russia and most of these have been preceded by sightings of UFOs, or, at least, luminous objects low over the areas which were affected. One recent sighting about 70 miles south of Moscow left a distinct circle in corn of which I was given photographs. Dowsing is apparently standard practice in Russia for investigating such manifestations.

Russian circles are generally less well defined and often oval. They have nothing like the complex geometrical shapes seen in this country. It is hoped to include an article on Russian circles in a future issue.

The spiritual dimension

During the years 1988-1991, several formations in this country displayed the unmistakable format of Christian crosses: long-shaft crosses and Celtic crosses in particular. No one has ever shown that these specific crop circles were man-made and there was certainly no reason to believe they were at the time.

Many people drawn to the circles have expressed a quite unaccountable awareness of the divine origin of at least some circles, which has struck them most forcibly.

At a recent UFO conference in Nevada, a young Italian stigmatic confirmed to me just such an impression, connecting these signs with the Miracle of Fatima in 1917 and many subsequent appearances of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He himself has had several such encounters with "beings of light" and, indeed, the BVM herself. Like his own stigmata, which began to manifest in 1989, the crop circles, he was told, are signs intended to make humanity aware of the grave dangers and vital choices which confront it. It is intended to include an article on this story in the next issue.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

Front Cover: *Avebury Henge, with its great stone circles - the largest in Europe - , is said to have been constructed c.1800 B.C. In the foreground is the "Spider's Web", a crop formation made in two stages, on the nights of August 9/10 and 10/11, 1994. Photo by Steve Patterson (22 Sermon Road, Winchester, Hants SO22 5NY. Tel/Fax 01962-855115) from whom some excellent photos of the 1994 crop formations may be obtained.*



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CROP GLYPHS OF 1994

During the summer an abundance of elaborate crop formations appeared in the usual areas of southern England. They were received with a very mixed response by cerealogists.

THE 1994 CROP circle season started in late April with a profusion of formations between West Overton and the Avebury Sanctuary. Prominent here was a fine quincunx in oil-seed rape but other circles in these rape fields displayed many broken stalks and were quite roughly fashioned. Plain or ringed circles, and sets of circles, predominated.

At the end of May the first of a number of "Scorpions" was found in barley near West Kennett Long Barrow. This motif, with or without pincers and a sting in the tail, became a popular theme throughout the summer. Variants ranged from the more abstract sets of gradually diminishing circles in a curved sweep (sometimes described as "thought bubbles") to the very large and articulate arachnid found near Devizes which is pictured at top right. Some of these formations embodied very precise crescents formed by the intersection of two unequal circles with offset centres. The resulting crescents, which were either of laid or standing crop, were used to represent pincers, horns, or, in the case of a large "Queen Bee" near Barbury Castle, the insect's legs.

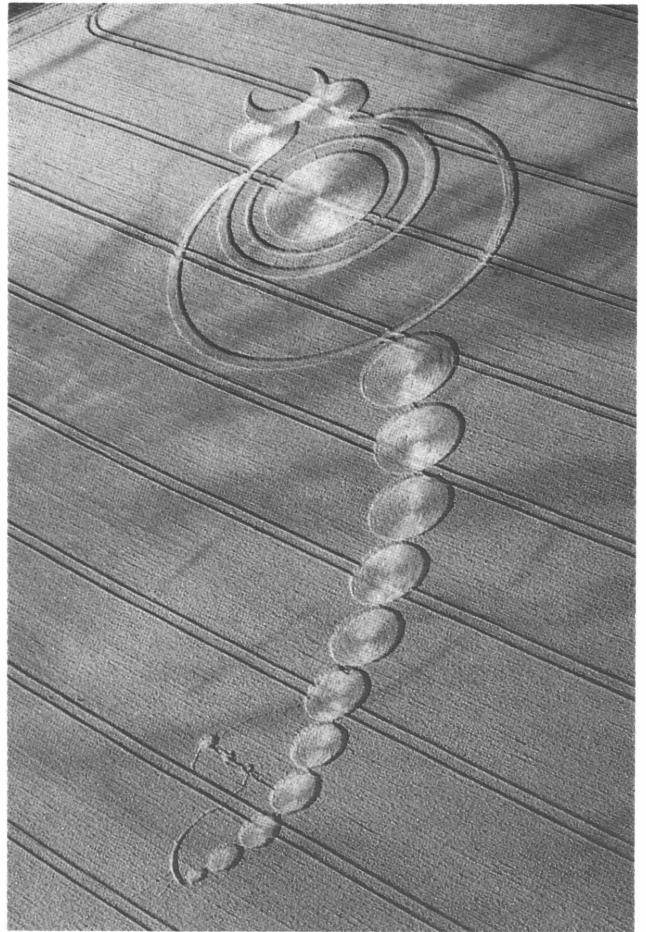
The crescent theme was also found in a magnificent set of eccentrically positioned circles which appeared under Oliver's Castle near Devizes. It was also apparent in the tapering arms of two formations, at Avebury and near Golden Ball Hill, which were thought to represent spiral galaxies. Within the main circle of both of these were small clumps of standing crop in the shape of circles and crescents. A further armless, but ringed, version of these

"galaxies", with small ring-shaped clumps in its centre, appeared near Froxfield.

In the same vicinity was a huge multiple-petalled design (based on a central six-petal flower) which was made on the night of August 3/4th. One could scarcely help noticing the similarity which this bore to the "Bythorn Wonder" of 1993 and, indeed, to a ten-petal formation, commissioned by Granite TV and made by Julian Richardson and helpers, at Hackpen Hill in July.

Another remarkable crop formation was the "Spider's Web" which appeared near Avebury Stone Circles and is shown on this issue's front cover. The highly elaborate design took two successive nights to complete.

Besides these many elegant designs, which appeared as usual for the most part in Wiltshire, Oxfordshire and Hampshire, there were many less elaborate formations to be found in other counties such as Avon, Dorset, Devon, Cambridgeshire and Yorkshire. Some displayed puzzling features and some had unusual lays which defied easy explanations. Altogether it has been an exceptional year with some very striking crop glyph designs, whatever their origins may be.

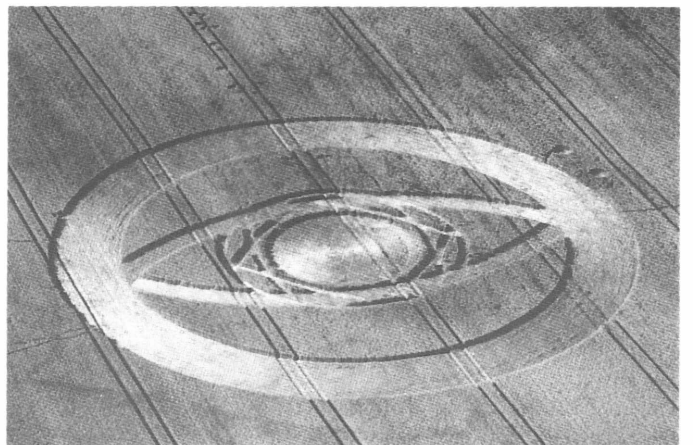
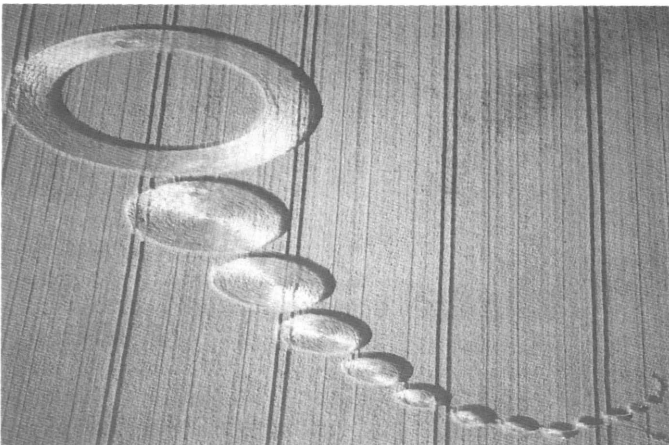


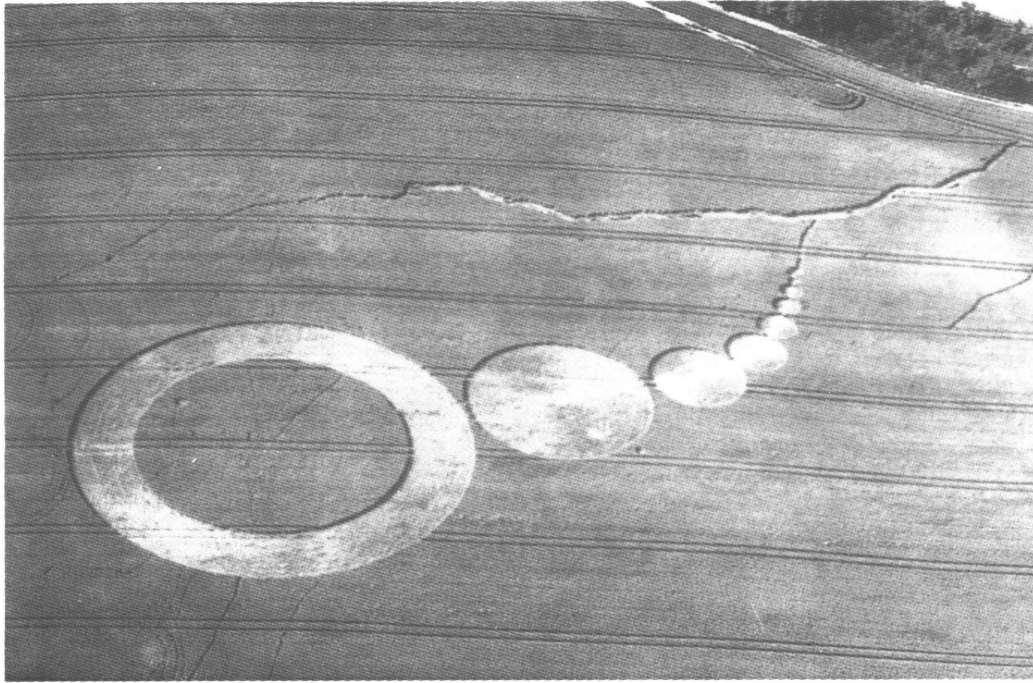
Above: The huge "scorpion" formation which was found near Bishops Cannings, Devizes, in mid-July.

Below left: Another "scorpion" with more than ten circles tapering to a tiny one 18 in. in diameter. This one was found on July 16th in wheat near Wilsford, Wilts.

Below right: This formation found in East Field, Alton Barnes, on July 21st is meant, presumably, to be an "eye" -- perhaps even the Evil Eye! Note the signature.

(Photos by courtesy of Michael Hesemann)



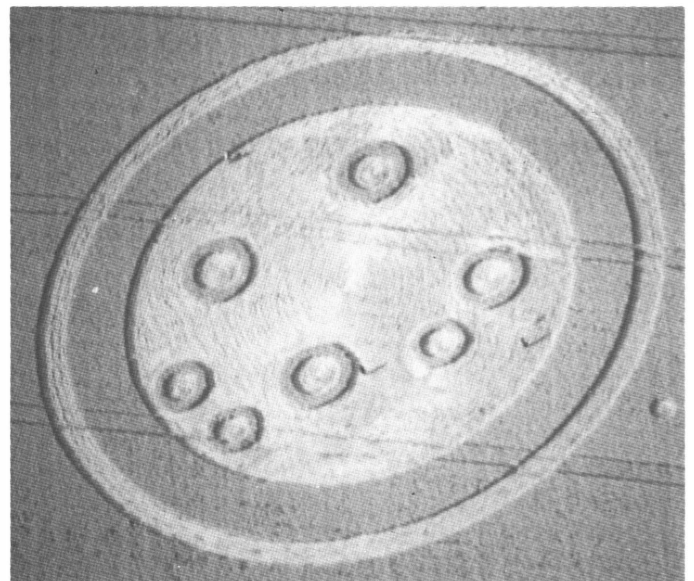
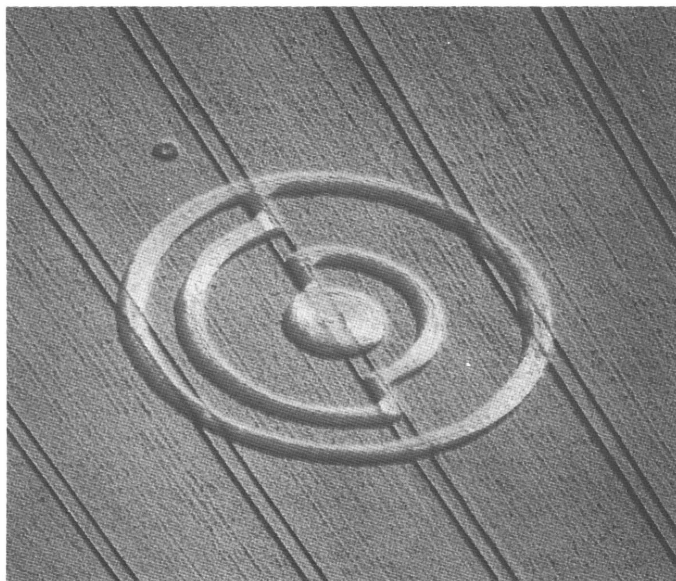
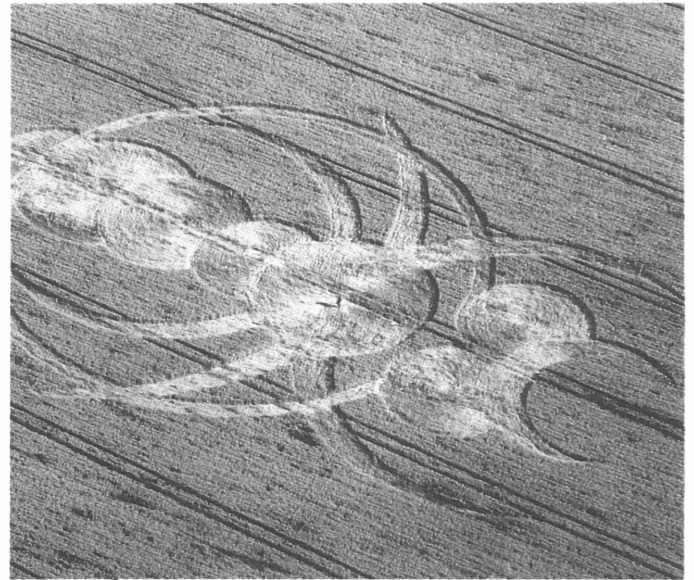


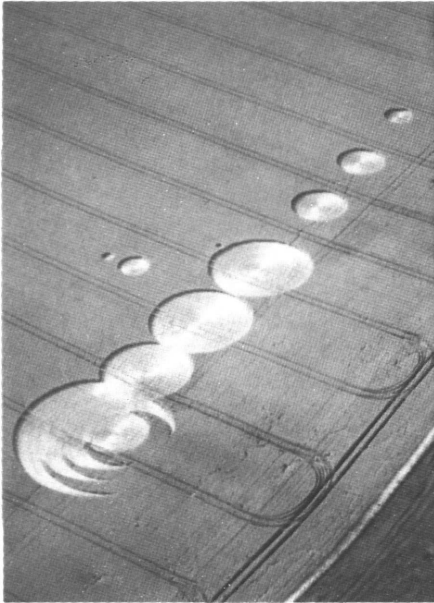
Photographs on this page, anti-clockwise from the top left:-
 (1) *Large ring and diminishing series of circles on a fairly steep slope at Ipsden, Oxfordshire. According to the local game-keeper this appeared between 5 and 6 a.m. on the clear fine morning of July 10th. Length 460 ft, with alternating swirls and counter eddies in the flow. Dowsed strongly.*

(2) *Second "Galaxy", or "Spiralling Universe", formation under Golden Ball Hill near West Stowell, Wilts (July 22/23rd). Fifteen small clumps, three rings and a small crescent of standing crop within. Plus, of course, a signature.*

(3) *Ratcheted ringed circle between Goodworth Clatford and Longstock in Hampshire which was found on about Aug 5th.*

CHRISTINE GREEN

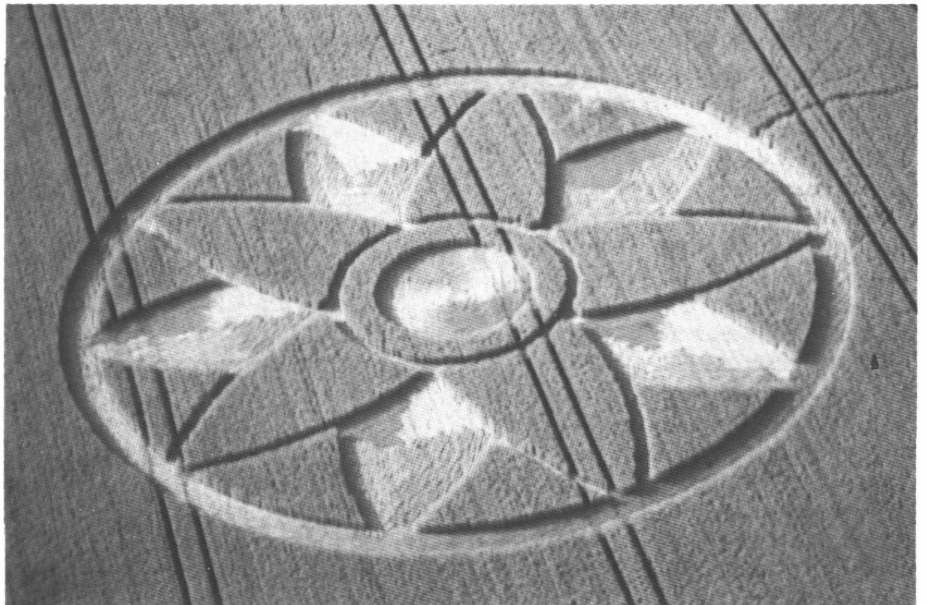




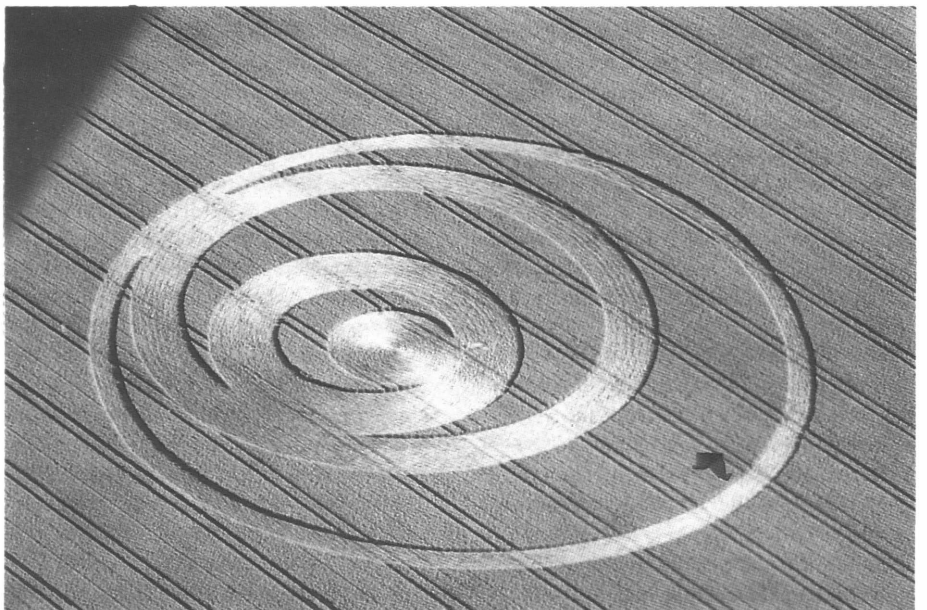
STEVE ALEXANDER

(4) A third "galaxy", possibly unfinished, containing seven rings of standing crop found on Alan Holland's land near the Froxfield to Ramsbury road on Aug 7th. Also called "Seven biscuits on a plate". Note the distinctive signature to the right.

(5) "The Queen Bee", a striking insectogram, near Barbury Castle hill fort, which appeared on July 7th. This incorporates crescents in the style of the "scorpions". The body, approx. 50 X 150 ft, is formed from segments made with overlapping circles ranged along a tramline. Note the signature.



This page, from top left, clockwise:-
 (1) The "Dragon's Claw" (or "Lobster") found below Hackpen Hill in July. A straight line of unequally spaced circles, some overlapping and one with partial crescents. Note the different signature.
 (2) Two "scorpion" formations in adjacent fields of wheat and barley at East Dean, West Sussex. These both appeared on July 23/ 24th and the one with the crescent (top left) closely resembles similar formations with this feature at East Ilsley, Oxon (Aug 14th) and Moultsford, Berks (by July 17th).
 (3) A multi-petal flower formation near Hackpen Hill which was commissioned by Granite TV for its production of an Arthur C Clark programme about the circles.
 (4) The "Three Torcs" (or "Three Nested Crescents") below Oliver's Castle hill fort. This was one of the most attractive formations of the season and its eccentric elegance was even appreciated by farmer David Leonard on whose land it was made on July 26 / 27th (see page 11).



Photographs are by Michael Hesemann where not shown otherwise.

CHANGING PERCEPTIONS OF THE CIRCLES MYTH

Journalist *Jürgen Krönig* reflects on the shifting views on the crop circles, disillusionment, scepticism and yet the persistence of a belief that there is some core phenomenon.

"BY THE WAY, what happened to the crop circles?" asked (Sir) Bernard Ingham, former Press Secretary to Margaret Thatcher, at the end of one of his recent press reviews on BBC's breakfast TV. I don't suppose that, after this remark, the studio was flooded with telephone calls from helpful people only too eager to suggest that Ingham should go to Wiltshire, Dorset, Hampshire or other counties, to see for himself that the circles were not lacking.

Of course, as a media phenomenon the circles have nearly ceased to exist. Even the coverage in the always more willing local press has concentrated largely on the alleged connection between circles and UFOs, and perhaps "alien faces", due to the energetic PR work of someone like Eric Beckjord. The lack of media interest must have been disappointing for the circle makers, but it should not be a reason for despair. There were quite a lot of people out in the fields who admired their work. Many newcomers seemed to have been drawn by quite a number of very attractive formations, often carefully placed by roads for the highest possible visual impact. Some of these visitors were newcomers to the strange world of the circles, mostly unaware of its bitter infighting and all the disappointment and disillusion of the past two years. Sometimes one could get the impression that a kind of renaissance was taking place, despite the missing media coverage and the lack of Pebble Mill documentaries which played such a vital part in creating the initial worldwide interest.

Of course it has helped that the circle makers of 1994 got their act together. They managed to produce quite a lot of excellent formations - some of them rightly deserving to be regarded as land-art. Even more pleasing, economic considerations did not play quite such an important role as in the two years before. In 1992 and 1993, many circles were all too obviously "promotional jobs" - they were meant to create publicity for new books and videos and were carefully placed beside motorways and some major trunk roads.

Compared with the confused, cynical period of those two years, 1994 was definitely a better year. Of course, the anger of some farmers is understandable; but to call the Scorpion along the A361

near Devizes mere vandalism is difficult to comprehend. Perhaps it would be a good idea if the National Farmers Union and the government would press Brussels for a crop-art subsidy and, in doing so, would pay homage to the undeniable fact that beautiful crop formations, while legally criminal damage, can and have proved that they can uplift the spirit of quite a number of people.

Last season provided further proof that it will be difficult, if not impossible, to destroy the crop circle myth which has developed over the last fifteen years. One strong indication for that I found in the *Sunday Times* of December 11 1994. In an article on urban (and rural) myths, Mark Edwards writes that the crop circles are the most famous recent example:-

"Although, as the patterns became more and more elaborate throughout the 1980s, it became more and more obvious that they must be hoaxes, there's still a niggling doubt that some of the earlier, simpler circles must have a more eerie explanation."

Then he mentions Doug & Dave, the best known hoaxers who "claimed to have created several hundred circles after having seen some in Queensland, Australia. However, they have always denied that they created the circles in Queensland, and indeed such circles figure in Aborigine legends dating back centuries."

The circles, it seems, are here to stay. Theories and explanations of their origin have become unimportant, the hunt for "hoaxers" is futile. In my opinion they should be judged on their aesthetic and inspirational quality alone. The addiction, if not obsession, to go out into the fields and create seems to have grown - mischievous debunkers have softened, hardened skeptics admit the fascination of nocturnal excursions into the cropfields, artists have joined forces with circle-veterans, and for others again circle-creation seems to be a kind of initiation ritual. Who would dare to rule out categorically that circle makers could be "agents" of the phenomenon?

Meanwhile the reputation of the circles has spread so much around the world, that I was not too surprised that, in one of the episodes of the American TV-series *The X-Files* - currently the most popular pro-



GEORGE WINGFIELD

Colin Andrews ("Mother [Gaia] is crying") and Dr Terence Meaden, exponent of the Plasma Vortex, at Cheesefoot Head in 1989.

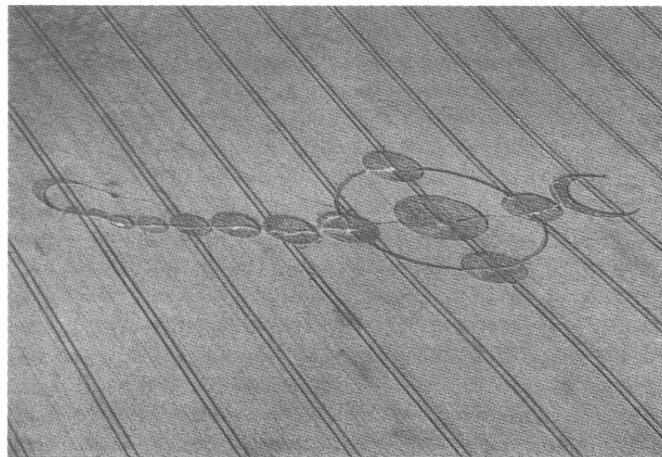
gramme on BBC 2 -, *Operation Argus* (CCCS's 1992 scientific evaluation of the circles) was mentioned. Quite recently, I spent a couple of weeks La Palma - one of the western Canary Islands - beautiful, mountainous, full of prehistoric remains and still relatively untouched by tourism. Even there, thousands of miles away from the fields of England, circles were still in the minds of some people. Noticing that I had called from Britain in order to book my room, the hotel manager asked me one night about "the circles". Of course he had heard of Doug & Dave, but he didn't want to believe that this was the whole story. Somehow, vaguely, for him the circles seem to be linked with the turbulent age which we live in, portents of the millennia, and of changes to come.

The crop circles may be a completely human phenomenon and it might even be impossible to prove that the often quoted natural, if not very significant, core phenomenon, unrelated to the modern circles, exists. It doesn't really matter. The circles have evolved into a paranormal phenomenon in their own right. And they produce paranormal spin-off effects. Thousands of reports and articles are stored away in numerous archives. The circles are mentioned in a huge number of books that cover popular science, philosophy, the esoteric and the occult. Television companies have stored away many rolls of film on crop circles, which might be needed again one day. And not

forgetting the vast crop circle literature, which started with *Circular Evidence* and Terence Meaden's first book, *The Circles Effect and its Mysteries*, I am sure that in the not too distant future, new books will be written about the strange, eccentric phenomenon, like BSE (mad cow disease) mainly British, but with international offshoots and consequences. The global TV industry, always in need of mysterious stories and impressive footage, will ask film makers to produce new circle documentaries. What will future researchers and authors do? They will look into the archives, browse through books and will watch old TV documentaries and then get on with the work. Of course, most of them will be sceptical and dismissive of any of the more outlandish explanations. But they have to work with the existing material. It will become even more impossible for newcomers to the crop circles to get to the bottom of this elusive and highly confusing phenomenon than it has been already. They will weigh Terence Meaden's plasma vortex theory against the hypothesis of a "higher intelligence" and Colin Andrews' "Gaia is crying" suggestion and compare all this with the total hoax explanation. In the end they will avoid an all too clear cut dismissal of the whole phenomenon, even if they think that most of the explanations are crazy. Remember Channel 4's second *Equinox* programme on crop circles in Autumn 1992? Even after D & D's revelations and the collapse of Plasma Vortex theory, this scientific evaluation avoided dismissing the circles completely. Or, remember two recent books widely denounced by the crop circle community as "unfriendly debunking publications"? *Round in Circles*, in the end, allows the circles to survive. And John Macnish talks confusingly in his final chapter of *Cropcircle Apocalypse* about collective consciousness and of global symbolism. If, in these two books, it is decided in the end to leave the door open on the phenomenon, what can be expected from future circle authors with so much less insider experience?

And also there remain a few unexplained side phenomena and open questions. There is the sound, recorded by BBC engineers in 1989 in a circle near Beckhampton, a sound definitely not identical with the one produced by the famous grasshopper warbler. There are a few videos around which show unexplained lights or "things". The most famous of these is still that filmed by Steven Alexander in 1990. As far as unexplained lights

are concerned, it might be of interest to quote from an article which in 1991 appeared on the science pages of the *Economist*, written with the help of a Jim Schnabel. In this article, the Plasma Vortex hypothesis of Terence Meaden and the microwave theory of Prof. Ohtsuki of Japan are praised as a "promising approach" to explain many eyewitness reports of light phenomena, diving down into the fields. The article concludes: "It is possible that New Age Hippies and anorak-clad sky-viewers who believe that crop circles are landing-sites of UFOs are closer to the truth than they think". In this context it should not be forgotten that the Japanese scientist managed to create a plasma ball in his laboratory and produced quite a neat quintuplet pattern in aluminium powder. I think it is important too to remember that numerous publications like *New Scientist* ("circles are definitely no hoax"), *Science*, and the various statements of scientists like, for instance, Dr John Graham, Director of



One of the circle makers' 1994 crop formations, of which Sir Bernard Ingham was apparently unaware. In fact, the first Scorpion near Silbury Hill, found May 23rd. [Andrew King]

the Cranfield Institute of Technology took the circles phenomenon seriously, if not as a paranormal phenomenon. Dr Graham said, after Doug and Dave's confession, that "the mystery is not solved; we will still continue to see circles in our fields". Which we do, even if it was not the elusive plasma vortex which was responsible for the land-art of 1994 and earlier years.

To make it even harder to get rid of the circle phenomenon, there are undeniably physiological and psychological effects. To refer to just one quite telling incident of 1993: A group of 20 German students from a film academy in Frankfurt visited a formation near the Avebury Avenue. (This was one of the formations which even dedicated believers will find it hard to deny was of human origin: the "Snail & Trail"). While we were talking, some of the students mentioned that they felt

affected by the circle, either in a negative or a positive way. Some developed headaches; some felt weak and tired after entering the circle; some got stomach cramps and even less pleasant complaints. Others felt, in their own words, quite suddenly energised, uplifted or the headache which had troubled them all day long disappeared. I was interested in their perception of the circles before their arrival in England. It turned out that the group was neatly divided. Half the students had come to Wiltshire, convinced that the circles were created by humans; the others were not dedicated believers, but didn't rule out the possibility of a paranormal explanation or a so-far-unknown natural cause. The effects hit both factions of the group.

John Michell talked in his column in the *Oldie* about the "persistence of crop circles" and called them "powerful catalysts in times of revelation". The way the circles have changed the world view of many people is indeed the most interesting

and significant aspect of the whole phenomenon. To quote from a letter which Bob Walker sent to me after a meeting last summer. "If pushed, I would venture that they are all of human origin This has not destroyed my enthusiasm for the circles". The circles, so he says, force people to cast off their routine ways of thinking and help to widen their awareness. This is undoubtedly an effect I've come across many times. And on balance - despite stupidity, fanaticism and other unpleasant characteristics - the psychological effect of the phenomenon has proved to be of a beneficial nature. We live in a time of dramatic techno-

logical, economic and political changes. Established world views and religions are losing their credibility and attraction. The most important secular religions of our time, scientific materialism and western consumerism, are losing their grip. The deep disillusion with politicians and the political classes all over the western world are an indication of this. A vacuum is evolving, new ideas are floating around, people are searching for new answers and belief systems. These times of transition are fascinating. The crop circles could never have had such an impact had there not been a crisis of the hitherto dominant world view, based on a materialistic and mechanistic doctrine. But in times when nothing is to be believed any more, it seems that anything can be believed. The crop circle world has certainly delivered enough proof of that too.

I WONDERED WHY THEY SEEMED SO FAMILIAR ...

Stanley Messenger, a student of Rudolf Steiner, ponders the significance of the crop circles in human evolution and the development of agriculture.

WHEN I SIT down nowadays to write about crop-circles I find it almost too painful to pick up a pen. My chest hurts and I can hardly breathe. Part of this is due to the fact that I am starting to understand certain things, which are also partly memories of a sort, which when I write them down sound so ridiculous in modern terms that I feel I cannot expect you to cross the credibility-gap involved. The only thing I can do is to ask you to treat this as science-fiction and allow it in those terms to work on your imaginative understanding. What you then start to grasp **in your own terms** may look very different, but the process will have aroused something in you which takes you a step nearer appreciating what is going on.

Of course this is not actually science-fiction, but I think I've made my point.

Crop circles, then.

Hundreds of centuries ago there **was** no corn in our terms. Grasses had evolved to a certain point and, in a way we have now forgotten how to do, we knew which were the ones to eat, just as we could perceive, directly by looking, what was poisonous and what was nourishing elsewhere among the plants. When I say 'looking' I don't mean what we mean now. Looking then was a kind of dream and a kind of double process. To some extent we could look out across the landscape and see what we see now, but it was a bit like what we would see if everything was under water. You get a similar impression now looking at seaweed with a snorkel, but even that is not quite it because there wasn't the clear distinction we have now between what was 'plant' and what was surrounding medium.

On the other hand there was something else we could see of which our awareness has completely gone, and that was the interaction going on between the forces of the sun, and also of the moon and stars, and those in the plants.

However, at the stage I am talking about something else was also going on which we found scary... In the first place we could see and feel that the plants were no longer sufficient for our bodies' nourishment, which were themselves becoming less dreamlike and more solid. And at the same time our dreamy awareness was becoming more awake to the sun and

moon as physical objects, and less aware of the currents of interaction between sun, moon, stars, plants and our own bodies. We began to be afraid that unless we did something drastic we would starve, and we didn't know what to do.

All this was happening at a sort of dim instinctual level which was a lot more like what happens now when we dream. Hardly anyone approached the kind of waking consciousness which we have now.

But there were a few, sort of leaders of mankind, who were awake enough to be aware of sources of information, teachings really, emanating from intelligences of a trans-dimensional nature, what we new-agers now call 'beings'. In other words there was an ability to ask for help, which was relied on as a result of dreamily experienced memory. What we were given was strictly a simple base technology. We were shown how to separate the pictures of the sun, moon, etc., as objects from the interacting biological currents emanating from them and creating the plants and the plant-like processes in our own systems. This information process was a highly awakening and attention-concentrating one. It led us to 'see', specifically, whereabouts in the herbage the nourishing processes were most active, and motivated us to collect these plants and encourage them to grow where we could get at them.

This was the very first inkling in mankind of what we now term agriculture. There was no more sophisticated element of selective breeding in it than just the simple act of putting the plants together. They did the rest by simple genetic in-breeding.

Thus did corn, as we now know it, arise from grasses.

The actual technology 'they' gave us is very relevant now to what has been happening in Wiltshire and elsewhere. We already knew that the way to escape the burning heat of the sun was to seek shelter beneath rocks. What was pointed out to us by the 'beings' was that this did not conceal our awareness of the currents of

energy between ourselves, the heavenly bodies and the plants. Our own intelligence showed we could have the best of both worlds by looking towards the energies of the heavenly bodies through stone instead of through the clearing atmosphere, where the emergence of sun, moon and stars as separate objects increasingly confused us. We started to erect bodies of stone through which we could look at the energies with our new, wider-awake consciousness and make more exact observations of the way in which they were directed.

These stone structures are still there in Wiltshire, the long barrows, and further west the capped trilithons or quoits of Cornwall and Wales. They were the first observatories, technological structures, only 'religious' in the sense that we were helped to build them transdimensionally.

The energy forms the 'beings' expressed themselves in as they nudged us towards these activities were familiar to us. They were the forms in which we saw and heard their presence.

Crop circles?

Well, you see, the process is now tending to go into reverse. We are busily engaged in dismantling in the fields a hundred-thousand year old creative achievement. We have nearly managed to poison off a great part of what we depend on for staying in physical bodies on this planet. The soil is leaching away into the sea, soil it took thousands of years of co-operation with transcendent beings to create. We dredge up minerals once formed by ancient plant activity and no longer needed and we pour them back into the soil at the behest of ICI shareholders. We blow up the plants into diluted flatulent caricatures of themselves to increase their bulk and so the profits to be made from them. When the plants have had enough and are thoroughly satiated by overfeeding they will die out. And so will we.

As the plants go they are beginning to manifest physically recognisable images of the forms of the energies we once saw through the roofs of the barrows and trilithons, the forms by which we recognised the sources of information by which we created the corn in the first place... forms so sophisticated that they have already revealed entirely new intricacies of geometrical interweaving as John Martineau has shown.

Crop circles. Trans-time crop glyphs, as they are called in the book *Two-Thirds*¹. No wonder so many of them reappear in the places where we first used to "see" them. No wonder they seemed so familiar.

Now, my dear conscientious hoaxers, as people insist on calling you! How much of all this are you aware of? There is an important sense in which it is very necessary that we human beings take part in all this, as we long ago did in very different circumstances. As I said to some of you, earlier in the year at Clapham, if we hadn't taken part millennia ago there would be **no corn** to see crop circles in.

But there is both sacred and profane participation.

I pointed out to you and others that a similar carry-on took place in the ancient Greek mysteries when it was a question of implanting and developing in mankind the capacity to hear musical sounds. The 'beings' of those days, dealing by then with a very wide-awake stage of human development indeed, taught people how to create mathematically accurate musical intervals, in different planetary contexts, (There were seven different scales, one for each of the known planets, the so-called Greek Modes), specifically in order to develop a capacity to 'hear' different aspects of inner planetary reality. So accurate did these have to be that even marginal errors would have irrevocably damaged humanity's true relationship to the different planetary energies of the solar system.

Even **inadvertent** errors by these first musicians were **punishable by death**. You can see why.

Dear hoaxers, if there really were any of you busily working out there at night, (were there?), what did you actually think you were **doing**? Were you **learning** anything? Were you aware **at all** of what was involved? Where you in any way aware of the dangers, of what humanity was being warned against? Or are all the indignant anti-hoaxers barking up the wrong menhir? Are you in fact pioneers, out there trying to find out with your rollers, rods and strings what is really going on by **doing** it?

These events are aspects of modern mystery schools. One mucks about with such matters at one's peril. Profanity is no longer punishable by death. But there are other dangers, possessions and insanities which may be as bad or worse.

Take care friends. Don't underestimate the sheer scope of reality. History is littered with the tragedies of people who didn't realise what they were doing.

References:

1. David P Myers and David S Percy – *Two-Thirds*, Aulis Publishers (25 Belsize Park, London NW3 4DU), 1993. [It is hoped to review this book at an early stage in *The Cerealogist*.]

UFO WITH TWO BEARDED OCCUPANTS SEEN MAKING CROP CIRCLE IN ROMANIA

In this reprint from *Flying Saucer Review**, we are told by *Florin Gheorgita* of a dramatic UFO encounter which appears to have resulted in the formation of a large ringed crop circle.

WHEREAS, FOR TWO decades past, Britain, Western Europe, and other parts of the world have had countless reports of crop circles - always without evidence of a causative UFO, it now seems that for the first time our country, Romania, can claim a crop circle case in which not only a causative UFO but also entities aboard the UFO were seen, thus providing proof of a close linkage between what so many folk have tried desperately to convert into two completely separate phenomena!

Details of the case

The scene was near Arad, a regional town in the N.W. near the Romanian/Hungarian frontier, and the occurrence happened at about 4.00 a.m. on Monday, June 20 1994, but it only reached the media on June 29, when the matter was reported and the crop circles were shown on the National Romanian Television News programme.

Peter Leb, Cornelia Nemes, and Mircea Aries of the Romanian UFO Investigation Group, RUFOR (based at Mures in Central Romania), set out for Arad to investigate and were joined there on July 1st by two local journalists (of the newspaper *Adevarul*) Doru Sava and Serin Ghilea, who had sent in the first report to the capital.

No radioactivity or magnetic anomalies were detected at the site by army specialists from the Arad Garrison who came out with their equipment. The radiation laboratory of the local Preventative Medicine Centre also checked soil samples and found nothing notable.

The crop circles

These were two in number: a small central *roundel* 6 metres wide, within a larger ring 42 metres across. The width of the actual band of this outer ring was mainly 4 m. wide, and 6 m. wide over a 70° section. The corn stalks in the *roundel* and on the larger *ring* were all heavily pressed down onto the ground, and close to it, swirled in an anticlockwise fashion. In the outer areas the stems of the corn were interwoven or 'plaited' with each in a 'whirlwind' fashion.

Witnesses' testimony

The investigators made enquiries at once of the villagers round about, and found several eyewitnesses. All of them told of something "*terrible and terrifying*". *But several were too frightened to give any statement at all.*

All the statements were tape-recorded.

Testimony of Witness A, Mr Ioan S---

"I've never experienced so terrible a thing in my life. I was scared to death. Suddenly the entire wheatfield was lit up, and I heard a terrifying whistling, and over the entire field the corn was "rippling" and bent double".

Testimony of Witness B, Catalin P--- "It was a nightmare. I've never experienced anything remotely like it - except in science fiction films!"

Testimony of Eyewitness C, Mr I. Ungur.

"I saw strange lights, but had no idea what was going on. I was so scared that I dared not look any more".

Testimony of Witness D, Muela, wife of last named eyewitness Ungur. Seeing that her husband was too frightened and disturbed to talk, his wife said:- "My husband was close to the field, and suddenly he heard a terrible whistling that made the entire field of wheat tremble. But there was no gust of wind with it! And then he saw a light that was flashing on and off, and he fled back into the house, terrified."

Testimony of Eyewitness E, Traian Crisan. This man spoke more openly than any other. Aged 48, and known as a very honest fellow. Never for one moment did any of the investigators and journalists have the slightest doubt as to his veracity.

This man's flock of sheep were at a distance of some 150 m. from the wheat field. Here is part of his statement as it was published in the Romanian UFO Journal, RUFOR No. 9 / 1994.

"I don't know what that thing was, because it didn't land. It just stayed there in the air, 3 metres above the field of wheat. I guard my sheep at nights and sleep out myself with them. And it happened at about 4.00 a.m. on Monday, June 20.

"Going over to see how my sheep were,

I saw a light approaching - a light like the Moon, only much bigger.

"I went back to my hut, and then, just as I was getting ready to eat, the light appeared again over my hut, and all the sheets of the corrugated roof and the walls shook.

The UFO's occupants

"I went outside again and I was standing there, about 5 m. from my hut, when a powerful blast of wind blew away my hat and my rain-cape. The blast was so powerful that it knocked me flat on my face, and I lay there clinging to a bush.

"The object was completely round. On it I could see a small open door, and two individuals standing in it. They stood there holding what looked like tubes of some sort. They had beards and moustaches, and I saw them just as clearly as I would be able to see you at a distance of 30 metres.

"They were no taller than I am (about 1.65m). One of them seemed to be a man aged 40. The beard was long, like the beard of an Orthodox Church priest. His face was thin, he wasn't thick-set, and his eyes were like the eyes of a Chinese (as shown in a sketch made by this witness).

"The noise made by the thing as it passed overhead was like the sound of a factory whistle, and the blast of wind was like the wind in a storm. (And the sound of the vibration of the metallic high-tension wires near by).

"The thing stayed there motionless in the air for two minutes or so, 3 metres above the wheat.

"When the men saw me, the thing moved away a bit. My sheep had fled, and were scattered all over a field of maize, and the dog, terrified, had fled into the shed and hidden himself, whimpering.

"When it went, the thing just vanished in a fashion such as I've never seen in my life and I don't think anything else like it can exist. After the lapse of two minutes or so, from its under-part - in fact right from the middle of its under-part - there came a bluish flame that looked like a thick rod about 1.5 m. long and as wide as my milking bucket.

"Then the thing shot up into the air like an arrow and its lights went out.

"The men were wearing things like earphones and had instruments in their hands. One of them was speaking into something that he was holding and I could hear his voice, but don't know what language it was.

"Just in front of the door to their big dome there was a sort of balcony. One of them was holding on to the rail of it with one hand and holding in the other hand the thing with which he was speaking.

"On his right shoulder he had something white, a triangle. But I was too scared to go closer. As regards size, I think the thing was maybe bigger than the larger ring in the cornfield. If they had landed, I think they would have broken up the rings which were still swirling beneath them.

"The dome was of glass or of plastic. Inside the dome, there was a powerful white light.

"When it took off, it went straight upwards. It made a noise like a cannon being fired, and went like the wind.

"The circles in the field were only produced just as it began to rise, and I was the very first person to see them.

"My neighbour says he was the first person into the field because in fact he was already there, guarding his crop. *But he doesn't want to talk!*

"I have never read anything about UFOs.

"I had seven years of school. I've been a farm tractor mechanic for 22 years and I have a daughter who works in a textile factory. So I do know a bit about mechanical things, but what I saw isn't like anything that I know of.

"Since that night, the sheep won't sleep here anymore and I don't know what has got into them. They sleep anywhere else now - in various places.

"When my dog hears a car coming up the road, he flees."

The statements of this last witness, who has lived through some terrifying moments, are confirmed by the brief accounts given by the other witnesses. Also by the strange big round circles in the field. All these features make this Romanian case a very important event in ufology. *For, at last, people have observed - directly - the fact that UFOs are the real "agents" that cause the strange crop circles in the fields* (see note by Gordon Creighton, below).

Moreover, this case has proved the correctness of the view, expressed by some experienced ufologists, that the pressing down of the wheat stalks into these circular shapes is produced by UFOs overhead as they take off and shoot upwards. For example, this opinion was expressed by editor Gordon Creighton in *Flying Saucer Review* Vol 38/4 (1993).

An East European UFO wave?

This summer, it looks as though Eastern Europe was visited by a veritable fleet of UFOs leaving their marks in the cornfields.

On August 10, 1994, the Romanian press carried a brief report from the Czech News Agency (CTK) about other similar cornfield rings in the Czech Republic. Here is the text of the Czech account:-

"Mayor Jan Prikop of Zihobce has reported that two concentric circles have

been found in a wheatfield outside that town. Inside these two circles the wheat stems were pressed down in a counter-clockwise fashion. The two circles were perfectly formed, with radius of 12 m. and 10 m. respectively. Within each of them there were also four more small circles of 3 to 4 m. diameter. These small ones were disposed in the cardinal positions of the compass. But, nevertheless, the wheatfield bore no other mark or traces (paths).

Jan Prikop also declared that, a week earlier, in the same region of the Czech republic, outside the village of Kolinec similar circles have also been formed.

Note by Gordon Creighton, Editor of FSR: I should have thought that anybody but a complete fool would be capable of perceiving this long ago! And, in any case, we have just had a very clear case in Puerto Rico, where two men, Rubén Pérez Vélez and Juan Caballero, claimed they had witnessed the arrival of a "tornado" over a field and the sudden production of a "circular flattened area" on to which another man was instantaneously thrown down. This man has testified that he had just been kidnapped at Adjuntas, while driving in his car to Ponce, by a smallish species of aliens ("not much shorter than us"), carried off in a UFO to somewhere else and finally cast out again as described by the two eyewitnesses who, however, apparently did not perceive any craft from which he was thrown. (See FSR 39/1, pp. 4-6). As we all know, it has long been maintained that UFOs can be invisible.

Naturally of course there have been "other and far better explanations" for this Romanian case at Arad - the favourite one being that the two men seen standing in the doorway of the UFO were none other than Doug & Dave, now equipped with Slavic beards acquired during their recent Russian visitations.

* For details concerning FSR (Flying Saucer Review), see advertisement on back page.

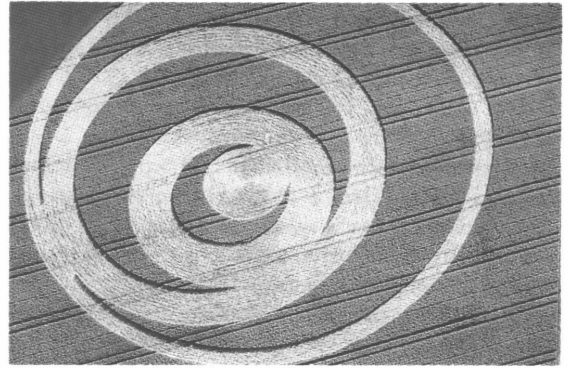


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THE FARMERS' STORY

Two farmers, who have had circles on their land in 1994, give their side of the picture in a *Cerealogist* interview. First is *David Leonard* of Home Farm, Roundway Park, Devizes, who had the "Three Torcs" formation (right) in his wheatfield below Oliver's Castle.



Cer: How have the circles affected you and the normal running of the farm?

DL: What do I say about that ?

Cer: Well, you could say it's a damn nuisance ! (laughs)

DL: Well they are, you know, but one doesn't want to use too much language that might upset somebody or other... What surprises me about it is that people have got the temerity to do it on other peoples' land --that's the thing which really needles me. The next thing, in one sense, which I shouldn't say, I suppose, is that I rather admire the way they do it, because the ones we had actually were very articulate ... I'm not sure that's the right word ...

Cer: Artistic?

DL: Yes, well I suppose articulate means they're spoken, but they were done very architecturally, if you like ...

Cer: Definitely! One could say that...

DL: I'm trying to think of the right term to use for something that I don't really like but I have to admire. But having said all that, I really think that it's high time that the police took real action. I mean, I can go on, with a funny little story attached. I don't know whether I told you what happened after the police saw me up there and they thought I'd actually done it. Well, anyway, let's start from the beginning ... My wife informed me about them to start with because someone in the village had said we'll ring up Home Farm and tell Mr Leonard. Well of course I must admit I didn't even know they were there because unless you went in certain parts you wouldn't really see them anyway, so I thought I'd better go and have a look at them and so I go off hot-foot, drive over the top of the hills and drive down to them, find a gang of people out in the middle of them which gets me a bit uptight until I get there, and find they were Germans -- and so we have a conversation ... they weren't doing any damage at all. They'd walked through the tramlines and they were measuring it up ... and carried on quite a conversation ... they were intrigued with them, they didn't know why they were there and all sorts of things like this. One had a Geiger counter and was looking very professional by then, but anyway ... for our sins we have a helicopter position in Devizes at the police headquarters, and

that ... *animal*--is the right word to use for it, because it keeps us awake all the time-- had gone off to Malmesbury, or somewhere, on some visit or other, and on the way back saw me down in this cropfield. And I might point out that this must have been about 6 or 7 in the evening, quite light-- and I was with one of these people with tape measures and things, when it started circling around over the top, and kept circling around over the top. So I got a bit fed up with it after a bit -- and this is about a mile and a half from the farm-- so I had finished talking to these German people and I got in the Subaru and started driving off down one of the tracks and the helicopter kept following me. So after a bit I got out about every hundred yards and took a camera out and made out I was taking a photograph of the track; so the helicopter kept hovering around till I moved on another 150 yds. So anyway, to cut a long story short, I got to about 500 yards of the farm and !!! --a panda police patrol car comes rushing up towards me with headlights going and all sorts of things, and I think "Well I don't know, I suppose I'd better stop" ...and I pulled it over a bit but he didn't think I'd stop -- frightened him somewhat-- and he pulled up in a hurry, got out, so I got out. I said "What the hell are you doing here? You're trespassing!" And he said, "These crop circles ...? Who are you ?" I said "I don't know that you've got any right to ask me who I am." So we carried on a rather childish conversation like that, but about a minute and a half later a patrol car came up, as opposed to a panda. About a minute after that another panda turned up. A minute and a half again after that another patrol turned up. So I was faced with four police patrol cars on this track!

Cer: (laughs)

DL: A helicopter buzzing round on top all the time so I said "What in the hell's going on?" They said "You've been making these crop circles, have you ?" And I said "You must need you *** head examined!"

Cer: (laughter)

DL: It was getting quite a comedy, really. And eventually I convinced them ... but they actually knew who I was and I assume anyway the helicopter had taken the number of the Subaru and been in contact

with Swansea [*the Vehicle Licensing Centre computer -Ed.*], I'm not sure. They said "You're Mr Leonard from Home Farm." And I said "Yes". I said "I happen to farm the land. Why do you think I should make crop circles?" This foxed them for a bit, and I said "What about these Germans then, these other people?" They didn't know they were Germans at that time. I said "Well, they're there quite happily looking at it, working it all out. They come from Germany and they're intrigued with it all." "Will you vouch for them ?" Well, I said "I can't do any more than say they're in a hostel at Woodborough." And this went on anyway for a bit, and eventually they decided that really I wasn't doing anything I shouldn't be doing and everybody departed. But it amused me that they had so much time to try to catch somebody in broad daylight doing them! I could have understood it at 5 o'clock in the morning or something ...

Cer: Well, they've chased me up on Morgan's Hill when it was getting dark and ...

DL: Did they? They didn't accuse you of doing anything ?

Cer: No, but they had the police helicopter from Devizes. It came right around and flew very low and ...

DL: That one! That **** thing!

Cer: ... I could see them peering at us !

DL: (Laughter) ...well I don't know ! Well, anyway that's that story. What else is there to talk about?

Cer: I was going to say: Do you think the damage done by those circles has cost you quite a bit of money ... can you estimate just how much that might be?

DL: I said at the time it probably cost me £1000 because they probably spoiled ...

This was a visual appraisal of it, not necessarily correct, but they probably might have done about three acres, I don't know, three acres damage, because they were quite extensive those crop circles out there, I mean, at the end of the day the damage wasn't so severe as I thought it might have been.

Cer: So what figure would you put on it?

DL: It's very, very difficult to answer that question. Though I thought at the begin-

ning if we'd lost three acres of corn ... yes at least three tons to the acre, probably ... certainly three tons ... maybe marginally over at £100 a ton, you can do your own arithmetic about that. Um ... that would have been approaching £1000 but, to be honest about it, I think at the end of the day, with all the hassle which went on, you can probably put a more accurate figure of about £250 on it. But having said that, why the hell should I lose £250 ?

Cer: I'm sorry. Can you get that on the ins... ?

DL: I was lucky. I think, if we'd could have, if we'd been beset by a lot of people looking at it. Though they could see it very well from Oliver's -- they weren't prepared to go down the steep hill and walk back up again. If it had been on the side of a main road I think we'd have quite honestly lost that sort of money without any trouble. And that would be on corn losses alone, without all the hassle and things like that, which has also got to figure.

Cer: Can you get it back from the insurance?

DL: I don't know, I haven't even bothered to at the end of the day. I mean, it's only about a month ago all this happened and we've other things to think about at the moment: I'm more interested in next year's harvest rather than worrying about last year.

Cer: So if you caught the people who made them, you ... you would prosecute them?

DL: I would certainly prosecute them for trespass. No doubt about it, it's only difficult for trespass but if they're actually doing some damage, it's not difficult. It's only difficult when they're just walking across a field ... but you've got to prove damage, and there's no doubt about the damage these people were doing. And we were fortunate actually; it could have been a very much more expensive exercise.

Cer: Oh yes, indeed. I think the law is going to change and it will make it easier for the landowner to prosecute ...

DL: Well, yes, I mean, it does want to ... certainly.

Cer: Can I ask you, did you ever regard crop circles as a genuine natural phenomenon, or do you believe that all such circles as manmade?

DL: I don't know. I could never understand how they could have been a natural phenomenon. Because I couldn't understand why it should happen in one particular place. We always heard the stories about the wind and the magnetic field -- but they never made sense to me, but having said all that, I don't think I really thought much about it, because it didn't affect us very much and I thought if some silly sod's got crop circles on their land, that's their problem, not mine, so I rather chickened out about getting excited about

it. But I still don't think they're anything to do with a natural occurrence.

Cer: Have you ever seen any strange lights ? or UFOs ?

DL: No, not really ... well, I do if I've been drinking a lot. Well, half the lights people see around here, and talk about, are probably flares coming off from Salisbury Plain, or aircraft ...

Cer: You've never seen anything strange yourself?

DL: No. I'm not a believer in UFOs and things like that. Sometimes I wish there was ... we'd have a lot of fun if they landed around here. We'd go and find out if the whisky's different in outer space, or the same sort of stuff ...

Cer: I don't think they've anything to compare with the Scotch we're drinking now !

DL: No, I bet they haven't !

Our second interview was with Alan Holland of High Close Farm, Hungerford. He was only too aware that the huge "Froxfield Flower" (photo below) on his land was man-made

Cer: How much do you think, these crop circles, how much have they cost you ?

AH: I would say, probably, we've lost a ton and a half of grain where they've crumpled it into ... it's thrust out on to the ground. A ton and a half of grain would be £150. We have had to put extra chemical on because we've got a lot of volunteers [i.e. self-sown plants -Ed.] coming through now, and the field is

actually green with the rain ... where it's spilled out of the heads, where they've trampled on it. And so, I'd say, it's cost me at least £200 just on this one circle and we've had two circles - so yes, there is a cost to us, and so it's a nuisance.

Cer: So if you can catch these people you would definitely prosecute them and take them to court?

AH: Yep, definitely if we could prove it.

Cer: Right. So will you take any special measures next year?

AH: Well, it's very difficult. We've got a vast area to get around but, um, I will alert all the guys on the farm who are out late to keep their eyes open and if we do find anything strange, we will certainly be after them. Other than that, we haven't got any plans as yet ready for next year.

Cer: Any message for the hoaxers?

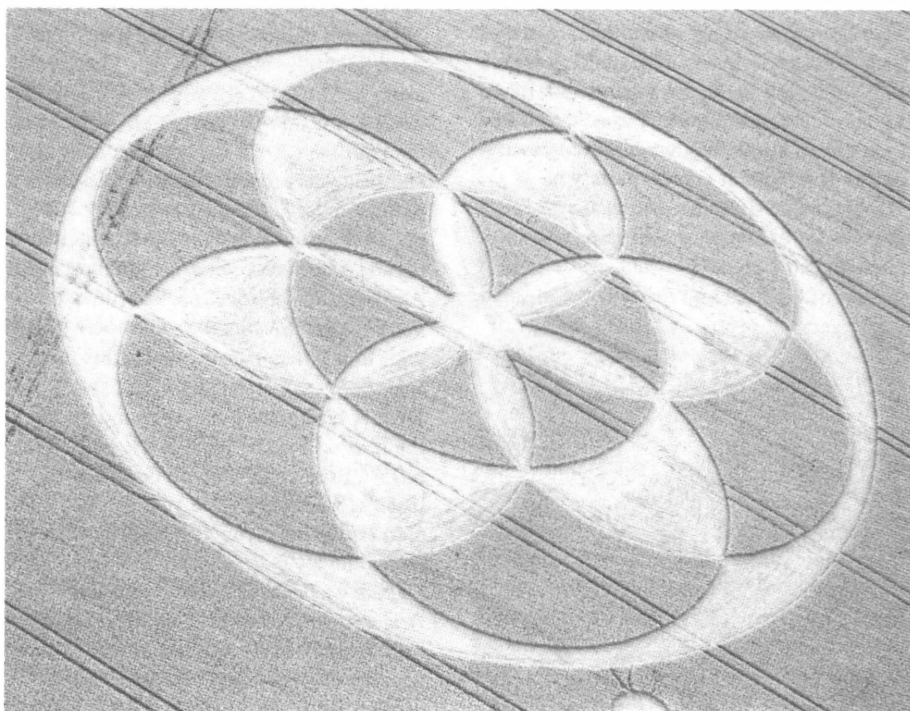
AH: We'll be after you, because it's past a joke, it's vandalism, and we will be looking out for you. So you know.... I think now it's got to a stage where it's past a joke.... a few years ago it was all a bit strange and we all wondered what they were, and in fact I suppose, in a way, we ... it was quite nice to have one on your farm but now it's an absolute nuisance because we know that --well, these certainly-- have been done by hoaxers.

Cer: Yes, quite definitely. Has anyone ever asked you if they could make a circle on your farm?

AH: No, no, definitely not.

Cer: You've never made any money out of them by charging for admission?

AH: The only thing I did this year on this particular one was I had a coachload of Americans who wanted to come and have



a look at it and I told them that they would have to put some money into a box and give it to the NSPCC which is my wife's charity, and we did just that, and I can't remember how much it was. It wasn't a great amount of money but that went to charity.

Cer: Yes, fine. Well, let me ask you one question again. Did you ever regard crop circles as a genuine natural phenomenon or do you think that all such circles are man-made?

AH: Um, (laughs)... I think they are man-made. I really don't know, um, what to think. Certainly these have been man-made but whether some of the other ones have been or not, I don't know. Very difficult. Very difficult.

Cer: Sure! All right. And you said you saw a few years ago, you saw, two circles of light in the sky?

AH: Yeah, six, seven, eight years ago, I'd been working late on the drier - grain drier - about two o'clock in the morning and looking over, above this particular field where this latest circle has been --but this is a hoax, I know-- I saw two large circles in the sky and they were, sort of a white, red and blue colour..... identical in size ... looked about, I don't know, 1000 ft off of the ground, perhaps 1500 ft off the ground. When I drove around the bottom road to investigate they'd just disappeared.

Cer: They were luminous circles were they? I mean, it was at night ?

AH: It was at night. It was at 2 a.m.

Cer: And were they moving, or were they stationary?

AH: I don't know. I was so amazed to see them. I should think, I think, my initial thoughts would be they were stationary.

Cer: How extraordinary! No sound ?

AH: No, nothing. No, couldn't have been. A very dark night. No moon, no sun. You know, it was a very dark night, just these two lights, very large ...

Cer: Definitely not aircraft?

AH: No, no. No, no. Looked a bit like, um, ... what do you call it in the circus ? The big wheel, sort of... like a big wheel..

Cer: A Ferris wheel ?

AH: Like two of those...

Cer: But, horizontal?

AH: Yes, yes, yes ... horizontal, yes.

Cer: I've heard that description before.... of ... such things. But you didn't tell too many people?

AH: No, I was afraid to tell my wife ... for twenty four hours because she might have thought I was a bit of a nutter! But I have told her since, and I have also since, on the television, seen two or three programmes where people have described exactly what I saw that evening.

Cer: That's fascinating. Thank you very much.

LETTERS

Scientific Evidence disputed

From Mr Montague Keen

John Burke (*The Cerealogist* #12) accuses me of having spread false information about Dr Levensgood's tests on crops (to establish that circles could not have been man-made). He maintains that I have harped on the fact that Levensgood has made authenticity claims for formations which have been proved hoaxes and that he (Burke) has already advised me of my errors, that he has sent me *Encyclopaedia Britannica* sources to document his points, and that I have seized every public occasion to spread false information regarding the physical evidence.

Not one of these accusations is true. The attack is all the more astonishing because I had perfectly amicable relations, by phone and correspondence last year and this. He has never given me the slightest intimation that he has ever questioned my motives or disputed my right to query some of Levensgood's methodology or conclusions. I sent him a lengthy message in June arising from his circulation of and commentary on Levensgood's most recent reports. I listed a considerable number of points where I feared Levensgood may have left himself, and his methods, open to criticism. These were all reasonable areas of doubt, not peculiar to me. I received no response.

Nor have I had any reply to two faxes to Burke arising from his attack, and from his circulation of the H-Glaze report, with which I imagine you are acquainting your readers. Burke's confidence that the "scientific evidence is positive" appears to rely at least in part on his and Levensgood's conclusion that moltenised particles of iron retrieved by Busty Taylor and Peter Sorensen from a Nautilus shaped formation near Cherhill at the end of August last year [1993] could not have been man-made but was identical to meteoric dust and must be attributed to some sort of plasma vortex. Further confirmation of the non man-made origin was in the "dramatic differences between formation samples and controls" found on the basis of Dr Levensgood's various tests.

Robert Irving has provided evidence, by no means conclusive but not unimpressive, to show that the formation was made by hand on August 21, and that iron filings from an Oxford University laboratory bottle, posted to him some three weeks earlier in a dated Parcel Force package, were scattered in several of the mini-circles comprised in the formation. It is

fairly easy to tell the difference between iron filings oxidized by exposure to moist air for several days, and atmospheric specks of iron which have been rendered molten by something akin to an intense microwave action. The matter can be resolved by having an independent analysis made of the samples, and I am inviting Levensgood to arrange this. Considering Burke's strange attack of paranoia, and his unwillingness to respond to messages, and Levensgood's increasing impatience with those who raise questions or seek clarification of his methodology, or query the appropriateness and relevance of his controls (as I have), I can't be confident of a helpful response. But meantime judgement should be suspended.

MONTAGUE KEEN
School Barn Farm, Pentlow, Sudbury, Sffk

This journal has not been sent the H-Glaze report for publication although I have sent a copy of it. Certainly our pages are open should Dr Levensgood or John Burke wish to reply to Montague Keen's criticism. I would urge great caution in accepting the view that the iron is meteoric dust especially in view of the fact that the shape of the formation from which it was recovered corresponds to a design by the known hoaxer, Robert Irving. Modern "iron filings" can be very finely milled unlike the more coarse variety with which many of us are familiar; this would presumably ensure very complete oxidation if it were exposed to a moist atmosphere for many days. However, if there are cogent reasons for believing that the recovered residue is indeed meteoric dust and not iron filings, we are most anxious to hear what these reasons are. --Editor

Early Circles at Pepperbox Hill

From Suzanne Padfield

The material in the above article was taken from a tape recorded interview on the strict basis that I would receive proofs and approve them prior to publication.

Unfortunately the proofs appear to have gone missing in the mail and I received nothing. This led to the naming of an individual in the article, without that person's consent, and this is something which should not normally have occurred.

SUZANNE PADFIELD
Cambridge

We unreservedly apologise both to Suzanne and the person named for the seeming lack of etiquette and any problems caused. --Ed

Bythorn photo and photo apology

From Mr Wolfgang Schindler

Montague Keen's article "The Bythorn Wonder: An Inquiry" in the last issue (No. 12) was very interesting to read and it clearly showed the difficulties that arise when people consider it important to decide between so-called "genuine" and "hoaxed" crop circles/figures. I don't want to add anything to this discussion; I would only like to say that to my mind the photographs both show the very same formation (or the formation at the same stage of its completion). Maybe they are not even taken from different positions. And the slight shadows cast by the standing wheat look much alike in both frames, so at least they must have been made at the same time of day under similar weather conditions; also the lines of the pentagram are discernible in both shots.

In my letter also printed in the last issue of *The Cerealogist* I made an unfortunate statement about a photograph showing Michael Hesemann, German editor of *Magazin 2000*, which was printed in issue No. 11. I mentioned his photograph because I wanted to express my feelings towards photographs of people printed in *The Cerealogist*, since I felt that photos like this are inappropriate because they simply occupy space that could be used for photographs of crop formations or drawings of them. It then was my mistake to presume that the term "disgusting" would mean something like "inappropriate" and so I used it without first taking a look in the dictionary. It was never my intention to hurt Mr Hesemann's feelings or to offend his personal dignity. Mr Hesemann, I know that ignorance is no excuse, but please accept my apology for unintentionally being so rude to you.

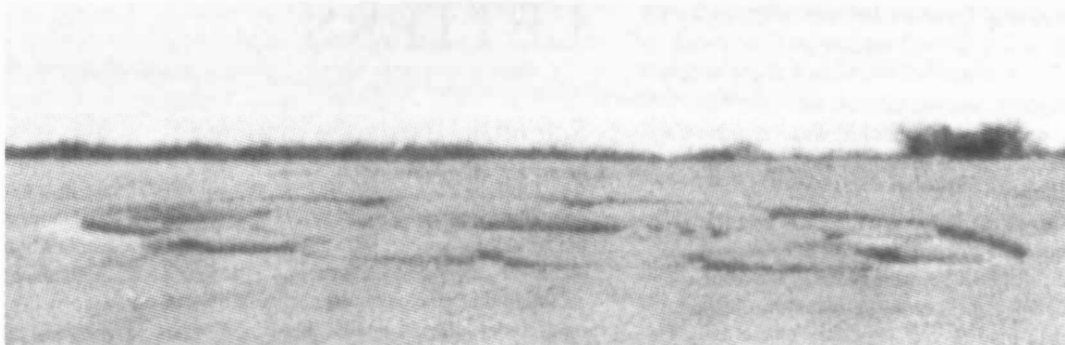
So much for photographs. All the best to everyone!

WOLFGANG SCHINDLER

Bilser Str. 32d, 22297 Hamburg, Germany

Wolfgang Schindler is absolutely correct in saying that the two photographs of the Bythorn formation on pages 18-19 of the last issue (No. 12) were identical. This was due to an unfortunate printer's error. The different photos showing the formation after the first night's work and then on completion are (hopefully!) reproduced above and the slight differences should be easily distinguishable.

I am glad to say that Michael Hesemann fully accepts Wolfgang's apology which is



Enlargements of photographs of the Bythorn formation taken by Julian Richardson on Sept 5th and 6th. Frame 17 (left), from about 375 m, shows only circular features & petals. Frame 23 (right), from about 625 m, shows lines of the added pentagram. Quality of both photographs is poor due to fortyfold enlargement and differences may be hard to distinguish on reprinting.

printed above. Therefore I have removed any reference to this from Michael's letter which is printed below. --Editor.

The Grasdorf Plates

From Mr Michael Hesemann

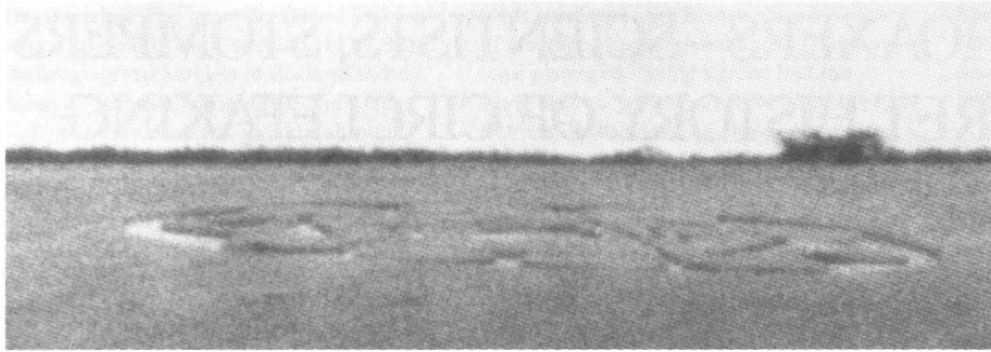
Unfortunately your sidetrip to German cerealogy did not show my nations research community in the best light. Instead of giving credit to those who did the real research for years, you gave space to the Jim Schnabels and Paul Fullers of our country, the "crap of the crop".

You published the silly attacks of two other Wannabe-researchers, Christian Kaese and Sven Bradler, from a cropcircle cult called "FGK" —which was founded by a von Däniken-imitator who "identified" Ezekiel's temple as a petrol station for alien spaceships, and which from the very beginning never allowed ANYBODY formerly involved and experienced in crop circle research to become a member of this "Research Group" ("Forschungsgruppe"), —against the mysterious "Grasdorf plates". They never investigated the Grasdorf affair deeply enough to speak with ANY of the four eye-witnesses who actually SAW the "treasure hunter" using his metal detector and digging out THREE heavy plates (we released video interviews with two of them). Neither did they speak to Mr B. who bought the silver and the bronze plate and was OFFERED the gold plate in the presence of his friend, a jeweller. Both saw the gold plate and the jeweller was convinced that it was of the purest gold. The only reason why Mr. B. did not buy the gold plate was the price: because of a metal value between DM 160,000 and DM 180,000 (about £65-70,000) the finder asked for DM 200,000 (£80,000), which is not a sum you can easily spend. But Kaese/Bradler's claim that nobody had ever seen the gold plate is simply untrue.

The true reason for the refusal of the Farmer, Mr. Harenberg, to cooperate with

Kaese/Bradler in their attempt to "get back his property" was the method they suggested: A confiscation of the plates by force. He simply did not want to get involved in such an illegal act and still believes the best way of solving this problem is the German police —and not an "FGK-A-Team" playing at self-justice. Furthermore it is just naive if they believe a professional treasure hunter would ever share his discovery with the legal owner. In the thousands of cases when professional treasure hunters detected Roman gold or silver coins, worth much less than the Grasdorf plates, they "left without leaving a trace", and tried to find a buyer a.s.a.p.. It even sometimes happens in Germany that a letter thrown into a post box on Saturday arrives on Monday, and maybe the finder had his reason to send just a picture of the least valuable disc to farmer Harenberg. Surely a photo of the gold disc would have raised the farmer's blood pressure a little more...

Absolutely impossible is Kaese/Bradler's assumption that the plates were buried in the field AFTER the pictogram appeared. Actually they were discovered in the centre of three circles. The actual discovery WAS witnessed by the Turkish farm worker Kemal Küçük and three visitors, two of them photographing the strange scene. On one picture, taken by one of the witnesses shortly before, you see his dog snooping in one of the circle-centres — the centre was completely undamaged. Also, on a photo showing the finder with his Geiger counter *in situ*, the centre is completely undamaged. You cannot bury a one foot wide metal plate two feet deep in a crop circle without damaging the crop. So the plates must have already been in the ground before the formation appeared. Why do people take pictures of crop circles? We all know. Why the farm worker? Because the local press ASKED him to take notice of everything extraordinary in order to fill the "summer gap". And also because Kemal him-



Crop circle at East Knoyle

From Mr Stephen Scammell

We know that some corn circles (but not in the early days since who would have chanced upon such a curious notion) are hoaxes, but equally we know that most are not, since there have now been many hundreds of them in many countries, far more than would have been undertaken by a few bands of practical jokers for whom such difficult labour undertaken in darkness would soon pall.

The crop circle at East Knoyle (diagram p 24) was out-of-sight of any road and had not been invaded by the public. The surface of the field is in full view from most of two farms on which harvesting was in progress and the circles were evidently, as usual, formed at night. Access could be gained to them by the usual 12" rut in the corn left by the wheels of the spraying tractor. The ears, 2' 6" - 3' 0" high, overhung the rut and closed again behind me; a person might have passed but certainly no more. Any equipment would have had to be carried in in one-man loads chest high; to form concentric rings without the least disturbance of intervening rings of corn would have required fairly elaborate equipment of some weight, all manoeuvred in darkness, leaving no trace.

The only suspicious circumstance was that the measurements all approximate to full feet - a man-made scale that originated in Northern Europe about 2,500 years ago as 12 times the width of a man's thumb. Against that is the fact that as with other corn circles when dowsed with the pendulum it showed, although then probably a week old, an electro-magnetic field wherever the corn had been flattened, whether in the circle or in the rings, but nowhere else. Some machine of greater complexity and expense than the pendulum would no doubt show the same result. It seems indeed this may provide the conclusive test in separating the genuine from the fakes.

The existence of "UFOs" is now well established in the records of many governments; even though for many reports explanations (sometimes very far-fetched) were found, a large unexplainable core of cases remained. One theory regarding these is such as would remove the above difficulty regarding the man-made scale of measurements. A circle, with sometimes rings, could be caused by a hovering and revolving disc, but the explanation is not available when rings are truncated as here.

The practical jokers have in fact done a grave dis-service to Science by confusing the evidence and thus delaying attempts at serious research by many years.

STEPHEN SCAMMELL

Clouds Estate, East Knoyle, Salisbury, Wilts

self became fascinated by the phenomenon.

Both times I wanted to interview Harenberg he was extremely busy and did not seem to be interested in any publicity. Most of the money he collected by charging an entrance fee, following the example of his British colleagues, he donated to the local church. When I revisited Grasdorf in April 1994 with a camera team from the U.S. programme "Encounters" we were able to interview nearly every member of the Harenberg family, his wife, his daughter, his mother - but he himself was too busy. Somebody who was out for publicity would surely never miss the opportunity to appear on U.S. nationwide TV. But Kaese/Bradler feel free to claim that he was guilty of a big fraud without even a trace of evidence.

One the other hand, they totally ignore four independent witnesses who disprove their version... What a fair trial, what a convincing conclusion drawn out of nothing! *In dubio contra reo??*

But the biggest mystery are the plates themselves. Leaving out the golden plate, both the silver and the bronze plate are available for anybody who is interested in scientific research. If they were just a hoax, why didn't the hoaxer use "ordinary" Sterling silver but 99.999 % pure silver with just traces of iron (which might have come from the digger used by the German Federal Institute for Metallurgy to get the sample) - knowing that silver of this purity is nearly impossible to get on the market? After analysing both plates which do not appear to be molten and cast in an ordinary way, metallurgists came to the conclusion that either raw metals were heated on a clay form on a fire on just one side - or the cast was done in low-gravity conditions. To claim that a Hildesheim painter, who never worked with metal and who painted the Grasdorf formation, was just very interested in the phenomenon itself, and became a friend of the owner of the plates- produced the plates is just ridiculous. Actually confronted with the allegation he is now willing to offer DM 100,000 (£40,000) to anybody who is able to reproduce the plates with their strange metallic

"webbing" structure. But unfortunately Kaese and Bradler called these highly remarkable plates "hoaxes" without even considering these facts. Please then allow serious doubts about their conclusions...

MICHAEL HESEMANN
D-40211 Düsseldorf, Germany

Last words on Bythorn

From the Editor of the Sussex Circular
A couple of corrections to the Editorial of the Summer 1994 issue of *The Cerealogist*:

The *Sussex Circular* doesn't deny the existence of photographs which purport to show the Bythorn Mandala at two stages of construction. Barry Reynolds claimed in issue 23 (Nov 93) that he didn't believe the photos existed, justifiably at the time as they had not been produced. In subsequent issues, we clearly acknowledged that the pictures did in fact exist. Our argument, which still appears to stand, was that no notable differences could be discerned between the photographs allegedly taken on different dates.

The *Sussex Circular* never claimed that 'Bill Bailey' was a "shadowy figure" whose real name George did not know. Indeed, we named Julian Richardson from the very start as a known person and never once used the above pseudonym. One of our concerns was that George was familiar with Julian and that he did appear at the Bythorn 'inquiry'!

That no "expressions of regret" have been forthcoming from those who "attacked" George's views, demonstrates even now no convincing evidence has been presented to show that these remonstrations were unjustified!

ANDY THOMAS

14 Bishops Drive, Lewes, East Sussex

As regards differences between the Bythorn photographs, see above. As regards differences between us over evaluation of the evidence put forward in Montague Keen's Bythorn Inquiry report, we shall have to differ. I remain completely satisfied with Montague's conclusions which were presented in our last issue. --Editor

BEHIND THE HOAXERS - SCIENTISTS, STOMPERS AND THE SECRET HISTORY OF CIRCLEFAKING

Has CSICOP waged an active campaign to debunk crop circles? *Marcus Allen* investigates.

AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION exists which appears to be solely concerned with debunking and ridiculing the work of others. This organisation is CSICOP - the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal.

It was formed in 1976 by Professor Paul Kurtz as a breakaway group from the American Humanist Association. Paul Kurtz, born in 1925, is now retired as a philosophy lecturer at New York University. Politically, he is a Social Democrat, part of the American Non-Communist Left through which the CIA channelled funding from large American Foundations such as Ford and Rockefeller, to promote liberalism in Europe during the Cold War.

Kurtz was concerned about the revival of Astrology in the US, and circulated a letter to leading scientists and academics collecting 186 signatures, including those of 18 Nobel Prize winners, to a manifesto called "Objections to Astrology", the publication of which brought about the formation of CSICOP.

Soon afterwards, Kurtz held a press conference in New York to announce "a campaign to purge the media of occultist leanings", and ensure "no TV programme dealing with parascience would go out unvetted by the appropriate authorities", i.e. CSICOP.

Among its first members were Isaac Asimov, science fiction writer; James Randi, magician and showman; and Professor Carl Sagan, astronomer and writer.

CSICOP began a journal called *Zetetic* which was replaced in 1978 by the *Skeptical Inquirer*. It is illuminating to note from the definitions of *Zetetic* and *Skeptic* how CSICOP was also changing: *Zetetic*; adj - having to do with enquiry or investigation.

Skeptic; n - a member or adherent of an ancient Greek school of philosophy that maintained that real knowledge of things is impossible.

Quite what prominent scientists were doing lending their names to an organisation whose journal denied the results to which their lives had been dedicated is a matter for them and their reputations. Perhaps other pressures were being applied beyond their control or understanding.

From the start, the *Skeptical Inquirer*'s style was jokey and cynical, and was the hallmark of many articles which it published. CSICOP's own studies did not

follow accepted scientific procedure, and results not matching their preconceived view were simply changed causing extreme damage to serious scientists, spiritualists and healers, both professionally and personally. Most notable of these were the astrological links to the "Mars Effect" on athletes.

When CSICOP carried out their own studies which confirmed Gauquelin's results, the information was suppressed. Also the hounding of Professor Jacques Benveniste, following his research into "the memory of water" and its apparent validation of homeopathic practice, were directly linked to CSICOP.

Since October 1981, CSICOP have had an official policy of not conducting any scientific experiments. This appears to be diametrically opposed to their stated objectives and organisation title.

The structure of CSICOP came to resemble organisations set up during the Cold War by US foundations and the CIA to mask their activities: just a few people to handle admin, while the use of PR gave the appearance of something much larger, including the ability to place articles in media all over the world. An extensive list of advisers and associates such as philosophers, scientists, writers and magicians numbering well over 100 as committed participants of CSICOP, raised the public profile and plausibility of the organisation.

The activities of CSICOP were promoted by scientists close to the US government, who pushed it as a scientific policing organisation. Magazines such as *Science* and *Scientific American* published articles on its behalf. However, other scientists observed CSICOP was acquiring an inordinate influence and appeared to be directed by hidden forces. Writing in the *Times Higher Education Supplement*, Harry Collins said science did not need "a scientific vigilante organisation....", apparently unaccountable to anyone.

In 1986, James Randi, one of the most prominent members of CSICOP, received a 5 year grant of \$272,000 from the MacArthur Foundation to assist with his hoaxes and attacks on all matters spiritual, psychic and holistically medical.

Uri Geller has recently won a long and costly court case against James Randi, who had accused Geller of fraud. Randi then had to resign from CSICOP in order that Geller would not sue it also.

As early as 1978, the New Age was

being attacked and ridiculed, "especially those attracted to cults and others who grouped around Glastonbury and other supposedly sacred sites". Alternative lifestyles would increasingly attract vitriolic levels of attack as their influence was perceived to grow. A British branch of CSICOP was launched in 1987 and is represented by the small circulation magazine, *The Skeptic*.

On both sides of the Atlantic, CSICOP carried out a sustained campaign against alternative medicine. There are close ties with the National Council Against Health Fraud with continual debunking and ridiculing of any therapies which do not meet its approval, specifically to do with cancer and AIDS. It is notable that approval is inevitably given to treatments deriving from the products of multi-national drug companies: Wellcome, Hoffman LaRoche, Eli Lilly, etc, all of whom are not only linked to the US foundations through hospitals and research institutes, but also to the government in the guise of the FDA (Federal Drug Administration), who approve the use of new drugs for sale, so implying their safety.

It is also legitimate to question why senior members of the US government, Politicians, the Military, Industry, Bankers, the Foundations, Religion, Universities and the Media meet clandestinely in the USA under the auspices of an organisation founded in 1973 by David Rockefeller, the Trilateral Commission, and how their decisions are then implemented - if not through their own organisations, then their offshoots and associated companies.

Despite there being no mention of crop circles as a subject worthy of inclusion in the pantheon of the paranormal, which by now covered UFOs, abductions, ghosts, faith healing, moving statues, weeping statues, metal bending and mediums, the UK Skeptics corrected their oversight with an article by Dr David Fisher in the *British and Irish Skeptic* (March/April 1990), reviewing the available crop circle literature to date. His conclusion was that "there was no reason why every one of the hundreds of recorded crop circles could not have been made by tricksters", using a "giant comb-like farm implement". Dr Fisher had not found that his researches required him to visit any crop circle prior to his article appearing.

This was published 4 months before the first issues of either *The Cerealologist* or

The Circular. The same Dr Fisher also had a letter printed in the Guardian (11/7/ 90) challenging cerealists to distinguish between a "genuine" crop circle and a hoax.

This overly dramatic gauntlet throwing act was in response to both the recently published "plasma vortex" theories of Dr Terence Meaden and the unexpected success of *Circular Evidence* by Colin Andrews and Pat Delgado. No-one had denied that some circles were being "hoaxed", or created deliberately to be passed off as unexplained. However, as nobody then had any idea what might constitute a "scientific" method of investigation, this just had to be developed as investigators went along and the work being undertaken by Professor W C Levegood and Michael Chorost of Project Argus was a sincere attempt to apply the scientific method as far as possible.

The UK Skeptics and their parent organisation, CSICOP, had cleverly killed two birds with one swipe - the onus was passed to inexperienced but enthusiastic investigators to prove their case, and the "hoax" explanation was promoted whenever possible.

That a so-called science based group of academics and researchers should immediately dismiss the crop circle phenomenon with contempt and ridicule is not just hypocritical; it also exposed some of the hidden agenda underlying their activities.

1) Demand scientific methodology is used and then ridicule any results presented as "biased" or "pseudoscientific".

2) Belittle any scientist or academic appearing to move away from orthodoxy.

3) Demand peer review of any paper presented for publication. (By definition, this is hard to achieve in totally new areas of research).

4) Do not offer assistance of any kind.

5) Heavily and widely publicize that "hoaxing" and "fraud" are the only explanations for what is reported.

6) Do not engage in discussion. The organisation's associates should be called on to provide the "expert" viewpoint. The use of academic titles such as Doctor, Professor, and Nobel Prize winner adds "credibility".

7) Adopt a caring and protective attitude as the guardians of "ordinary" people who could be "duped" by unscrupulous "tricksters" trying to make money out of them.

8) Encourage individuals who are seen to be sowing seeds of mistrust and confusion in target groups.

9) Counter any attacks against the organisation as soon as is practicable.

The British government, by 1990, was aware of the mounting public interest in crop circles. There were even reports that members of the Royal Family were taking an active interest in the phenomenon.

High level meetings between the Ministries of Defence, Environment and Agriculture, took place and having agreed that the cause was as yet unknown, ordered the fields of Wiltshire to be closely monitored by the Army, who were already present in large numbers at their bases around the county. Since then, they have appeared to follow these instructions assiduously, given the number of sightings of military helicopters flying low over crop circles.

By early 1991, a long article by a Peter Williams in *The Cerealogist* No 3 discussed hoaxing in detail. Prominently promoted was "Dr David Fisher's excellent article in *The Skeptic* of March/April 1990", and this from someone who also admitted he had never set foot in a crop circle. While declaring his open mind, he called for "proper testing of hoaxing methods", so it can "be seen as the most credible solution". The words 'colour', 'nailed' and 'mast' seem appropriate here.

By the summer of 1991, a TV programme, "The Strange Case of the Crop Circles", transmitted under the Channel 4 Equinox banner had been made by Juniper Productions (Exec Producer Michael Wills, Prod/Dir Jill Freeman). This contained a long sequence involving Wessex Skeptics, Dr Robin Allen and Dr Martin Hempstead, physicists from the University of Southampton, who were depicted in *Fortean Times* No 63 as "an anti-paranormal group" deliberately hoaxing to catch out serious circle researchers. They had paid Wiltshire farmer, Mr Martin Pitt, £100 to allow part of his field to be flattened. A garden roller and some planks sufficed to crush the crop into a small circle which was then used to lure Dr Meaden and Busty Taylor into inadvisable pronouncements of authenticity. These were then relentlessly exploited by the programme makers, to give the impression that solutions had been found for all crop circles.

Doug and Dave were also on the bandwagon with their "capers in the corn". Another mystery had been solved by the fearless investigators of MBF Services, who, in truth, cynically set up Pat Delgado with a deliberately planned deception.

The Wessex Skeptics, without the protection of a TV crew, found circle faking rather more difficult on their own. They were caught red-handed at Cheesefoot Head by crop watchers in 1991. Not having previously obtained the farmer's permission, having been caught they subsequently decided to send an anonymous donation to the farmer. The Wessex Skeptics were desperate to show all circles to be the products of humans alone, and so protect their established scientific view that everything can be explained in terms of orthodoxy.

By the end of 1991, the Wessex

Skeptics needed support. It arrive in the form of a double whammy. First, the hoax promoter and Skeptic publicist, Peter Williams, claiming that "there is no feature of any known circle that cannot be produced by hoaxing". And this, after the appearance of Barbury Castle and the Mandelbrot formations! Secondly, the arrival from the US of Jim Schnabel with bigger plans than the occasional article, and with money to match his full time commitment to debunking the circles.

The incident of the Schnabel tapes was the giveaway. At the Quest Conference at Leeds in 1992 when the tapes were played, Schnabel reportedly appeared shocked to hear his involvement made public. Adopting the time honoured principle that the best line of defence is attack, he proceeded to do just that. Aiming for George Wingfield, in particular, and anyone else who believed what they heard on the tapes, such as "a number of agencies have pooled their resources" and "we believe there is something very sinister about what is going on", Schnabel promptly dismissed everything as a hoax, which only served to confirm his own involvement.

It is a regrettable fact that some intelligent and literate people, amongst whom Schnabel can be numbered, must continually leave hints as to how clever they are. Hints which can usually only be picked up by those "in the know". So, for his article in *Fortean Times* No 69, (June/July 1993) as part of the "Hoax" series, he names all the main crop circle hoaxing groups with, amongst other details, their "alleged conspiratorial affiliations". Seven groups are listed, four of them with "affiliations" which are mockingly suggested in the snide style of Schnabel's presentation:

- Doug and Dave - Today Newspaper - MBF Services (MI5)
- Bill Bailey - None
- Merlin & Co - Sunday Sport Newspaper
- UBI -(United Bureau of Investigation) - CCCS, CPR, CSETI

The other three were altogether different:

- Spiderman and Catwoman - MI6, CIA,
- The Vatican, Beckhampton Group
- Wessex Skeptics - Chan 4 TV, CSICOP
- The Snake (Jim Schnabel) - MI6, CIA, The Vatican, Trilateral Commission

Just how many people have ever heard of CSICOP and the Trilateral Commission, let alone know what they are and what they do? Of course, if you not only know but are actively involved as a field (!) operator, then you might just want to say to the folks back home "Hi! Look what I've done so far!"

It could be argued that the inclusion of such an unlikely collection of organizations was only intended as a "wind-up", and not to be taken literally. However, enough evi-

dence has recently been found to show that links appear to exist between Schnabel and certain religious and intelligence groups.

That links also exist between the Vatican, the Trilateral Commission, CIA, MI5 and MI6 is well known, such as the Pope receiving an official CIA briefing every Friday afternoon. There are too members of these organizations who also belong to the Sovereign and Military Order of Malta (the Knights of Malta), which originated at the time of the Crusades, and now based in Rome. Its senior members are appointed by the Vatican. Opus Dei, a radical lay Catholic organization and a personal favourite of Pope John Paul II, also has adherents around the world.

It would be reasonable to assume the existence of crop circles is known to members of all these groups. Should a consensus be that crop circles represent some form of adverse influence, then it would be simple to arrange for a few people to be despatched to the fields of Wiltshire to sow the seeds of doubt amongst enthusiasts. With the co-operation of the media, the "hoax" explanation would be offered as the only solution and any adverse influence could be effectively negated. That could have been the plan but from the evidence of 1994, the circles have not co-operated!

Schnabel completed his 2 year assignment amongst the crops of England with his book *"Round In Circles - Physicists, Poltergeists, Pranksters and the Secret History of the Cropwatchers"*. A tome more noted for its fictitious comments by circles researchers than any insights into the true nature of the phenomenon. He departed these shores to author a book on alien abductions (*Dark White*).

Before leaving, Schnabel's swan song was to be his public attempt to replicate the 1992 Charm Bracelet, one year on. What he so graphically illustrated was his failure to realise that although anyone can, using simple equipment, flatten crops into any shape or design they wish, the genuine Circlemakers, whoever they are, always add an extra dimension to their creations - one of aesthetics. Something you know when you see it but cannot easily explain. Because it touches everyone differently. It has to do with proportion and balance, clarity and accuracy, and the ability to communicate at a level which transcends wonder.

Just how do you convey the grandeur of the Sistine Chapel ceiling, the enigma of the Mona Lisa, the Majesty of the Taj Mahal and the colour yellow to a blind man? You cannot do so. Any more than Schnabel and his fellow skeptics can persuade people of vision that a few crop crushers created such formations as the Barbury Castle tetrahedron, the Mandelbrot set and the Charm Bracelet at Silbury Hill.

'RUMOURS OF RUMOURS' IN THE CROP CIRCLE BUSINESS

Andy Collins punctures some recent assumptions by sceptics.

1. "The UBI group are the 'A-Team' "

THE ALLEGATIONS MADE against the United Bureau of Investigation, alias the United Believers in Intelligence or UBI, were based solely on the fact that its group members, Wiltshire youths Paul Randall and Matthew Watkins, were found to have constructed a formation for communication purposes in oil-seed rape at Urchfont, Wilts, during May 1992. Previous to this they had admitted adding extra features to a dumb-bell formation that had appeared at Avebury Trusloe during the summer of 1991. In this knowledge, the group came under deep suspicion at a time when, in the wake of recent hoaxing revelations from Southampton sexagenarians Doug Bower and Dave Chorley, the race was on among the crop circle sceptics to unmask the identities of those responsible for the many formations discovered in Wiltshire during the summer of 1990 and 1991. Unfortunately these youths were subsequently seen in the proximity of certain 1992 formations by those out to catch them in the act and this led to accusations made against them in one national newspaper and in a crop circle book published in 1993.

Since then no primary researcher in the crop circle subject has bothered to ask

them their side of the story, which was why they were more than happy to open their hearts in a taped conversation with the author recorded during the evening of Thursday, 28 July 1994. They seemed most anxious to clear their names in the light of their sudden elevation to the rank of master hoaxers in many people's eyes. Paul Randall and Matthew Watkins both deny having constructed any formation as the UBI, subsequent to the Urchfont design of 1992. However, individually Watkins admits to having made one small formation, just prior to meeting Randall on Colin Andrew's *Operation Blackbird* staged at Bratton Castle in July 1990, while Randall admits to having made a grass circle on his own this same summer.

The UBI group was originally formed to investigate not only crop circles, but also the possibilities of extra-terrestrial contact with the earth. One of its main aims was to see whether alleged ET intelligences, believed by them to be behind the construction of "genuine" crop circle events, would respond if they were to either make their own formation or add features on to an existing example. It was for these reasons alone that the early experiments at Avebury Trusloe in 1991 and Urchfont in 1992 were undertaken.

Since 1993 Paul Randall and Matthew Watkin's activities have centred around furthering the idea of meditational contact with ET intelligences using crystal-linked devices constructed from ideas gleaned from alleged psychic communications. Randall believes whole-heartedly in the reality of such intelligences and has himself experienced various UFO-related events since early childhood.

Having spoken at great length with both members of the UBI, and having monitored one of their crystal-linked meditational experiments at Alton Barnes in July 1994, I see no good reason to doubt their word in this matter. I found them to be open-minded individuals with a flare and enthusiasm for the crop circle debate. I do not believe they are the enigmatic A-team. So if not them, then who?

Another name linked with the UBI was geometrist and crop circle researcher John Martineau, whose wife experienced the strange light phenomenon in the 1990 Alton Barnes formation. He has been accused of masterminding the A-team and

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constructing some of the major Wiltshire formations of 1990 and 1991 - the sceptics claiming that he was the only one with any knowledge of the complex geometry encoded in these landscape designs.

In a taped interview with the author on Saturday, 30 July 1994, Martineau openly admitted his friendship with Randall and Watkins, adding that it was he who tipped off the CCCS concerning their construction of the Urchfont oil seed rape formation in 1992. When Randall and Watkins discovered Martineau's betrayal, they were naturally quite annoyed, so severed their links with him. That summer Martineau spent much of his time surveying crop formations in Hampshire and Wiltshire. This included a large pictogram that appeared beneath the Old Sarum Iron Age camp in July.

A few days after Martineau had entered the formation, an American female psychic visited the huge pictogram and pronounced it to be of man-made construction, adding that she could clairvoyantly see individuals with poles moving about in the darkness. Shortly afterwards this American psychic pointed out Martineau at a CCCS conference, claiming that he was one of the "hoaxers" she had "seen" in the Old Sarum formation. Quite obviously, Martineau denied these bizarre allegations, pointing out that the woman had probably glimpsed some place memory of him surveying the formation after its discovery; indeed, the rest of her psychic imagery appeared to match the description of a person who had erected a tent inside one of the circles that same night.

In the wake of this extraordinary incident, Martineau was seen by some as the leading contender for the mastermind behind the A-team's clandestine activities. To make matters worse, Martineau failed to adequately respond to these accusations and simply made light of the matter in the crop circle press. However, no real evidence has ever been forthcoming to implicate Martineau in crop circle hoaxing, and since 1993 he has dedicated his time to the geometry of prehistoric sites and the solar system. I can therefore see no further point in linking either his name, or that of Paul Randall and his colleagues, with the existence of any hypothetical A-team unless evidence surfaces to indicate the contrary.

This does not now preclude the probability of these formations being of man-made construction; only that in their haste to identify the Wiltshire hoaxers, the crop circle sceptics pointed accusing fingers without sufficient evidence to back up their claims. Unfortunately, since other primary researchers accepted their informed positions in this affair (most of them are circle-

makers themselves), these vague claims were hastily, and quite blindly, accepted by many, allowing the casebook on this matter to be conveniently closed. Now, I'm afraid, it will have to be re-opened again.

2. "Cars were seen below Barbury Castle the night the 1991 formation appeared".

Some months after the appearance of the famous Barbury Castle formation, a rumour surfaced suggesting that military police from nearby RAF Wroughton had seen empty vehicles close to where the pictogram appeared just a few hours later. Intrigued by this story, I made enquiries at the base and discovered that no such report appears in the military police's occurrence log for the night in question. A spokesman (name on file) informed me that he was completely baffled by this claim. The military police do not venture beyond the limits of the perimeter fence and any vehicle noted just outside the base is unlikely to have been linked with nefarious activities at Barbury Castle, which lies one mile south of Wroughton. He did, however, reveal that in 1991 there was also a Royal Naval Air Yard on the base which came under direct MOD control, and although he has been unable to trace *their* occurrence log for the date in question, he stresses that the same argument applies in that any suspect vehicle noted beyond the perimeter fence is unlikely to have been linked with Barbury Castle.

3. "The CSETI sighting of 26 July 1992 was disco lights on Urchfont Hill"

In the wake of the extraordinary Woodborough sighting of 26/27 July 1992 rumours began to circulate suggesting that what Greer, Mansell *et al* had actually seen that night was a bank of disco lights positioned on nearby Urchfont Hill. Urchfont Hill is 8.8 km south-west of Woodborough Hill. It rises to a height of 215 m and forms part of the downland marking the northern-most limits of Salisbury Plain - so could a bank of disco lights really be to blame?

Chris Mansell said he had seen a small orange light depart from the main object and enter the fog, before re-appearing and returning to its original position. This prompted me to check the weather conditions that night with the Meteorological Office at nearby RAF Lyneham. According to a spokesman (name on file), at midnight BST on the 26th slight rain and drizzle had reduced the visibility to just 3 km. Then, as the rain had gradually

receded, the visibility had slowly increased to 6 km by 01.00 local time. Although this report applies to the weather above Lyneham, which lies some 17.6 km north-north-west of Alton Barnes, the same conditions almost certainly prevailed in nearby Pewsey Vale.

If this is correct, then one does not need to be a mathematician to work out that between midnight and 01.00 on 26/27 July any disco lights positioned on Urchfont Hill *would not have been visible* from Woodborough Hill owing to poor visibility and rising fog. In addition to this, Lyneham recorded a 5/8th cloud-cover at 120 m and a 8/8th cover at 180m. This is so low that it virtually rules out the possibility that the lights belonged to either a low-flying aircraft or a helicopter. Moreover, even if the weather *had* permitted the viewing of disco lights positioned on a hill 8.8 km away, then they would have appeared to anyone at Woodbridge as tiny pin-points of flashing light positioned on the very edge of Salisbury Plain - something that any reasonable observer would have instantly dismissed as unidentified military activity.

Other crop circle sceptics have suggested that what Greer, Mansell *et al* witnessed was a cluster of illuminated balloons. Certainly, experiments with balloons were conducted in the Alton Barnes area during the second half of 1992, although these only occurred in response to the publicity surrounding the CSETI sightings of late July that year. Since the same individuals responsible for the illuminated balloons were also responsible for spreading the rumour about disco lights being to blame for the sighting of 26/27 July, then it hardly seems likely that they should have concocted such a story if they *knew* balloons to be the true answer. Indeed, the main perpetrator of the disco lights story has admitted to me that he believes Greer to have been "set up" by someone in his own camp, a completely unsubstantiated claim that clearly shows that he has no real explanation for what occurred that night. Many people would not believe Greer no matter what he claimed to have seen. Mansell, however, is a level-headed character who just happened to be at the right place at the right time. Having spoken to him on more than one occasion concerning this affair, I am satisfied that whatever he saw that night was aerial, moving and at least 10 times nearer to them than Urchfont Hill.

[This is an extract from a forthcoming book by Andrew Collins entitled **Alien Energy**, to be privately published by himself in late 1994, price £12, including p & p from: PO Box 189, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 1NF. It is hoped to review this book in *The Cerealogist* at an early date.]

“O, WHAT A TANGLED WEB WE WEAVE ...”

Is it art? Or is it just artful deception? *George Wingfield* pursues an unpopular theme in his examination of the origins of many 1994 circles.

IN THE EVENT, the inevitable “Spider’s Web” near Avebury, which appeared during August (see photograph), was not that tangled but it did take two nights to complete. It was very typical of many of the 1994 formations which were carefully designed and expertly executed. Was it the work of “Spiderman”, a.k.a. Rob Irving? More likely it was the response of circlefakers such as Rod Dickinson to an item in the last issue of *The Cerealogist* (#12) in which dowser Michael Newark was reported as saying that genuine circles have an unmistakable “spider’s web” pattern of ley energy lines whereas hoaxes do not. The more impressive of this year’s circle crop --far superior to most of what appeared in 1993-- were largely attributable to Rod Dickinson, Adrian Dexter and Julian Richardson.

In 1994 the circlefakers got their act together in that the principal groups were in close touch and often assisted each other in their nocturnal labours. Their clandestine activities became increasingly brazen with the farmers’ complete failure to catch or prosecute the perpetrators, even though they were spotted on some occasions leaving the scene of the crime. Nevertheless many Wiltshire farmers were seething with anger over what was being done in their fields and the police do not seem to have had any success in apprehending the culprits either.

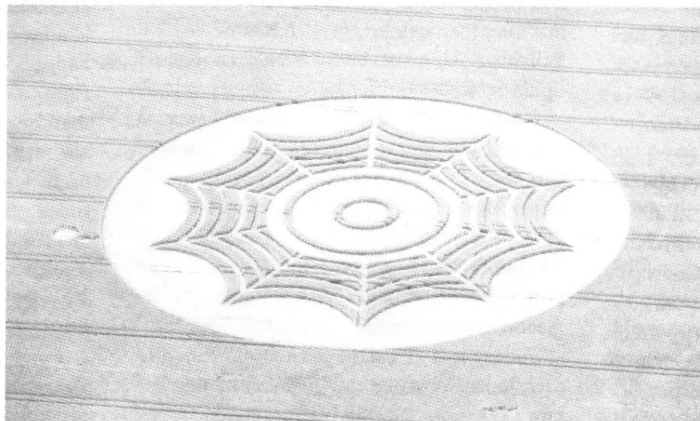
Undeniably many of the formations exhibited a degree of artistry which even some of the angry farmers ruefully recognised, though I doubt whether this would have stopped them from exercising suitable retribution had they been able. A closer look would also have shown certain repeated features which were unmistakably the designs of particular individuals. Julian Richardson has a predilection for multiple geometric petals, standing or laid, and there could be no doubting that two such designs, seen in Wiltshire, were out of the same stable as his 1993 Bythorn Mandala. One prize-winning circlefaker was particularly dextrous at making fine crescents though

others indulged in producing this shape as well. Dickinson’s abstract scorpions were fairly remarkable though the original one near Silbury Hill looks more like the work of Rob Irving, who also produced a number of strange confections which included snailshells (or nautili). Then, of course, many of the actual designs were laid by, say, Irving, Dickinson, and others as a joint effort.

Crop art or artfulness?

What motivates such people, not just to go out at night and make a crop circle, but to go out and make more and more and more through June, July and August, as though circlefaking were addictive? This question has been put to some of the hoaxers and it has elicited a number of responses. The usual, but not entirely convincing, claim was that this was all done in the name of art and the objective was to make really good circle designs. There could be some truth in this but it is hardly a complete explanation.

Crop art does of course exist in its own right and many huge designs of this sort have appeared in cropfields both in Britain and America. A recent book, *Crop Art and other Earthworks*, by Stan Herd¹ contains many colour plates with examples of this sort of *gigantic trompe-l’oeil*, including still lifes, and also some medicine wheels. Some crop portraits, such as those of Will Rogers, or Chief Santanta (an Indian chief), cover as much as 160 acres.



Sign of the times -- near Alton Barnes.

This is, of course, more suited to Kansas, say, than southern England. Nevertheless these creations are legitimately made, even commissioned, and the artists’ names are perfectly well known.

A clear distinction can be made between this crop art and the surreptitious crop circle hoaxes which have recently come to infest the fields of Wiltshire and other counties. I suggest that the circlefaker’s principal motive is the same as that of the conjurer or illusionist. The element of deception is undoubtedly a powerful attraction and at least one circlefaker has conceded that for him it is the primary draw. This same person also offered to swear on a “stack of bibles” that he hadn’t made any crop circles in 1994; the offer surely said rather more about his contempt for the Bible than what he has actually been up to in the fields this year.

Undoubtedly deceiving cropies and more casual observers must be the main attraction, rather than “art”. Otherwise there would be no point in the circlefakers siting their productions all around Avebury and Silbury Hill and other traditional crop circle venues. This strong element of deception is what leads me to use the term “circlefaking”, which I coined two years ago, rather than the words “circle making”, which is what the hoaxers themselves prefer. The former implies an activity which is not exactly honest and straightforward; it is, perhaps,

a similar word to "poodlefaking" which is also a pursuit of dubious intent. The experienced circlefaker will carry the deception a stage further by producing abstract designs, such as snails or scorpions, which he anticipates will appeal to the more metaphysically inclined croppies and, indeed, have quite possibly been already predicted by them in various crop circle publications.

Cropfield Copperfields

Therefore it seems that the main attraction for most circlefakers is undoubtedly the role of the illusionist. For a few hours of nocturnal toil one can briefly become the David Copperfield of the cereal fields, though I doubt if such activity will ensure the acquisition of a Claudia Schiffer, or equivalent! There is too, for some, the excitement and the element of fear. It seems they are trying to prove themselves, to themselves or to others.

It has also been suggested, perhaps mischievously, that their curious behaviour may well result from sexual unfulfilment. Studies have shown, perhaps similarly, that men who drive unnecessarily fast often do so to compensate for their failing potency. Maybe it is just such inadequacy, or lack of fulfilment, which leads some circlefakers to engage in their anti-social behaviour. One prominent 1994 circlefaker, who split up with his German girlfriend last year and took it extremely hard, has produced many more formations this summer and worked assiduously to produce some quite exceptional designs. It is not too difficult to guess his name.

Conversely, youthful circlefaker Julian Richardson, whose labours were prodigious in 1992 and 1993, acquired himself a girlfriend, Amanda, for the first time this year and, unsurprisingly, spent far fewer nights out engaged in secretive toil in other people's fields. However, Rob Irving, who married in 1993 (at a registry office, with Jim Schnabel as best man and witness), has been busier than ever, out circlefaking night after night despite his new-found state of matrimony, thus rendering his attractive but unfortunate wife Federica, often left at home in London, something of a wheat widow. Definitely something pretty rum here! The solitary Schnabel, at any rate, was not out circlefaking in England in 1994 (as he had done in the two previous years) so far as we could determine. Regarding the adequacy, or otherwise, of Messrs Dickinson and Lundberg nothing at

all could be ascertained.

As for the causes of Doug & Dave's behaviour patterns, I don't really think that one should speculate. Dave Chorley has retired from the scene (and, according to his partner, was intent on "drinking the brewery dry") but Bower was still up to his occasional tricks in 1994. A huge rather messy pictogram stretching nearly half a mile in length was made by him and Adrian Dexter in an unparalleled act of crop vandalism near the Ridgeway at Ashbury, Wiltshire. Characteristic loops similar to some made by Bower at Cheesefoot Head in 1991 can be seen in the detailed photographs of this formation (see also *The Cerealogist* #5, page 12).

The tortious torcs

Dexter's masterpiece, of which he was inordinately proud, was the Three Torcs (also known as the Three Nested Crescents) at Oliver's Castle, an ancient hill-



The Infinity Symbol near West Overton.

fort near Devizes. Strikingly artistic, it was considered by some to be the finest formation of the year. In making this he was assisted by his usual circlefaking partner, Paul Mann. Farmer David Leonard was not at all pleased by this vandalism, however aesthetic the outcome (see page 11).

Other Dexter designs included the Spiral Galaxy formations near Avebury Avenue and that under Golden Ball Hill. These were characterised by an assortment of circular, ring-shaped or crescent-shaped clumps of standing crop within the principal circles of laid corn and this kind of design evidently required much attention to detail. The first such formation at Avebury had all its internal astronomical detail swiftly erased soon after its appearance. Mr Farthing, the farmer, rotavated its centre not long after he was seen talking to Dexter and another person, though it is

uncertain whether Farthing realised who had made it. The sad loss of this vital information --maybe the ultimate secret of life, the universe and everything-- was reproduced three weeks later by concerned members of the hoaxing fraternity in a very similar formation under Golden Ball Hill. It is not known whether anyone has succeeded in interpreting it! Are circlefakers so obsessed with displaying their designs that, when a new "masterpiece" is deleted, as with the Silbury Hill "wheelchair" in 1993, they feel obliged to go and reproduce it elsewhere so that it is not lost to their audience?

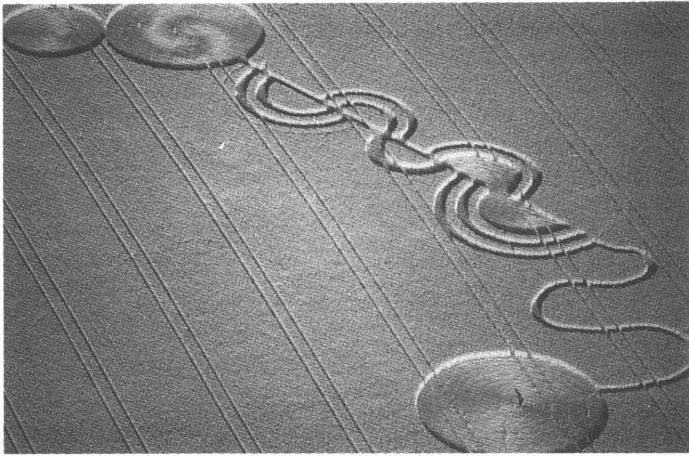
Both Dexter and Mann were at one time crop circle enthusiasts and believers. One can only wonder whether it was their disillusion with the phenomenon that has driven them, in part, to such a frenzied binge of circlefaking in 1994.

Rivalry and confusion

Julian Richardson's pre-eminence as a circlefaker has caused a certain amount of jealousy among less artistic adepts such as Rob Irving. One night, as hoaxers and croppies alike sat in animated groups in the *Barge Inn* near Alton Barnes, word got around that Richardson had been commissioned by Granite Productions to make a large pictogram in East Field as part of an Arthur C Clark TV special. It was said that farmer Tim Carson had been paid some enormous sum by Granite so that Julian --also to be handsomely rewarded-- could do his thing in Carson's huge expanse of wheat.

Needless to say the rumour was hopelessly inaccurate and there were never plans for Richardson to perform in East Field. Nevertheless these hoaxers determined to do him one in the eye and they went out that very night to make -- what else but ?-- a huge impromptu wheaten eye (see photo, page 3). In the event Richardson and his helpers did do a large flower formation for the Arthur C Clark programme but this was near Hackpen Hill. He paid farmer James Hussey £100 for permission to do this, which was reimbursed by Granite, but received scant recompense for his four hours of hard (daytime) labour and travel to Wiltshire.

This was primarily arranged by Una Dawood who contacted Richardson on behalf of Granite. It has of course given rise to a highly sceptical TV segment on the crop circles but the formation was also used subsequently to raise money for



An artless 1994 hoax at Hazel Down, whose design appears, like Irving's 1993 pictogram at Cherhill, to be based on the Switch Card symbol.

charity by Una when a visiting American group paid handsomely for admission. If this was the acceptable face of circle-faking, a further Richardson production, which we shall come to shortly, was quite definitely not.

Crop circles & UFOs as art?

On a Wednesday night at the end of July, Rod Dickinson and John Lundberg arrived at West Overton to make a new formation in a wheatfield by the A4 road. By morning light a large circle could be seen in the field containing a precisely crafted figure of eight which was formed by the standing crop they had left unflattened (see photo, p 21). Beside the formation two small equal grapeshot --the signature of these circlefakers-- showed others in the know exactly who had made it. Sharp-eyed readers may spot the same signature beside other 1994 formations although this is sometimes combined with the crop signature(s) of other hoaxers with whom they worked.

In fact the "figure of eight" cipher was intended to represent the infinity symbol, the logo of their *Infinity Focus* exhibition which had opened at the IAS (Independent Art Space) in Chelsea, London, during February and March. There was no mistaking this particular infinity symbol which, both on the exhibition catalogue and in the Wiltshire wheatfield, had one thick and one thin curving line crossing at the centre of the "eight".

The exhibition, whose theme was that nothing is quite what it seems to be, featured mainly crop circles, UFOs and some material on cattle mutilations. This is hardly surprising where the creators of the exhibits, or artists if you prefer, are circlefakers and illusionists. Dickinson's photographs of "UFOs" which he allegedly shot near Maiden Castle, Dorset, in

December 1993 should be treated with the same reserve as his circles.

The duo from London, who are close friends of Irving and Schnabel, epitomised their exhibition with a quotation by the latter, who is evidently revered as some kind of grandmaster of illusion: "Like the descent into an LSD trip where the

filters of perception are removed and every dew-drop, every phrase, floods the mind with its fulsome infinity, the journey into the heart of an anomaly can teach one the ultimate precariousness of perception. Nothing is what it seems to be --or rather, beyond a few shared basics, everything can be seen as something else." This sounds dizzily impressive (though it might well qualify for *Private Eye's* "Pseud's Corner"!) but I rather doubt that Sonny Jim was ever one to drop acid which gives the description something of a false ring.

Dickinson describes himself as a crop circle enthusiast -- "one of a strange convocation which includes meteorologists, dowers, psychics, farmers, conspiracy theorists, artists, New Agers, occultists, Reichians, archaeologists, folklorists, sociologists, culture critics and hoaxers". He clearly falls into the final category. Fellow circlefaker John Lundberg describes himself as "a seasoned UFOlogist and artist working with specialist journalist and researcher Linda Moulton Howe and Bill Ellis, author of several books on contemporary folklore, to present photographs, text and a video documenting the grisly phenomena known as 'cattle mutilation' ". Be careful who your friends are, Linda !

The circlefakers' ball

Since 1992 Dickinson, Lundberg and others have faked a whole series of crop circles, mainly in Dorset and Wiltshire. These included among others the "Disabled Symbol" (or wheelchair) formations which were seen in 1992 and 1993, the first being near Weymouth in Dorset. And in 1994 many of the "scorpion" formations were attributable to them, though Irving and others sometimes assisted with these.

Following their private "Circle Makers' Convention" in the aptly named *Who'd a*

thought it? pub in Lockeridge on July 30th (which was originally planned to take place at the *Waggon & Horses*, as advertised in issue #12 of this journal), plans were laid for several further ambitious formations to be made before the harvest brought down the curtain on 1994's circles. Foremost among these was to be a huge multiple-petal flower designed by Julian Richardson. Originally it was planned to make this right in the middle of prime cropwatching country on the slopes of Woodborough Hill near Alton Barnes. Such barefaced cheek to both the Carsons and watching croppies would surely constitute a major coup!

However, in the event, the constant surveillance of East Field and that area led to a change of venue. The huge formation was actually made on the night of August 3rd/4th by Richardson plus his girlfriend, Irving, Dickinson and one other, near Froxfield in a large wheatfield farmed by Alan Holland (see page 12). Well displayed to the nearby A4 road, this design impressed some croppies but most were only too aware of its provenance.

The finale of the circlefaking season was, of course, the Spider's Web at Avebury.

All of the 1994 Wiltshire productions referred to above put the efforts of the Wessex Sceptics somewhat in the shade. Certainly they have not gone out of business but they are not quite in the same league as others I have mentioned. They assure me that those crop circles which they have made recently have been with the farmer's permission and have been legitimately paid for --but this has not always been the case in the past! Are we to believe this latest pious plea?

Apart from the hoaxing explosion itself, an allied phenomenon is now becoming evident. This is the --to my mind-- unhealthy symbiosis of the circlefakers and the croppies. The former frequently attend croppie meetings where they sit avidly taking notes and tape recording every speaker. Evident delight is taken in the success of their various creations, particularly when they are extravagantly praised by those less discriminating cerealogists. Occasionally they look somewhat puzzled when some formation is displayed which is not one of theirs or even one that is known to them. The circlefakers are usually well behaved and say very little to cause alarm and despondency in these meetings. Then, of course, they would probably not be believed anyway!

What then of genuine circles?

Where does all of this leave the real phenomenon? One may well ask. There are some who hate me saying that anything

is a fake since once that is accepted, the seeds of doubt are sown and many -- especially those who have little first hand experience of what has occurred during the last few years-- begin to question the whole phenomenon. If well-made fakes exist which can fool cerealogists in 1994, who is to say that they are not all fakes and always have been? This is a valid question but it is not logical to jump to this conclusion just because we know that there have been many faked circles.

One should also consider the extraordinary effects which the circles have had upon people. One should consider the various reports of luminous objects seen in or near the crop circles and the other anomalous happenings which have been reported in conjunction with this strange phenomenon. One cannot ignore the scientific evidence which has been put forward by Dr Levengood and others that indicates something of a high-energy nature has occurred during the formation of many of the circles tested. One should not ignore the worldwide reports of crop circles --albeit mostly less complex than what is generally seen in England-- and a wealth of evidence that many of these are not merely the result of human deception.

If the various groups of circlefakers which I have described above were to decide unanimously to halt their summer time nocturnal activities, would there be no more circles? I hardly think so, and maybe there is indeed reason to believe that these people have become an unwitting part of the phenomenon.

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CORNELIA



CHRISTINE RHONE

"We've moved to Silbury Hill to live in the footsteps of fashion."

REPORTS & SKETCHES

Highland meadow circles

TOMONIE IS A small cluster of houses barely two miles from Fort William, lying between Banavie and Corpach, on the road to Mallaig and the Isle of Skye. From the Mitchells' house and the croft land lying in front of it, you get a magnificent view of Ben Nevis and its surrounding mountains. Most of this land, damp and marshy, is covered by clumps of marsh reeds, ordinary grass and a profusion of wild flowers, white, purple and yellow. It was on this meadowland that the four circles appeared, on the morning of August 5th. Technically not crop circles, as they were not made in a standing crop, nevertheless the circular impressions on the grass and marsh reeds were clear-cut and well-defined; three of them very small, the smallest just one yard in diameter and the largest one 28 ft across, as Bob Mitchell discovered when he measured it.

The circles are on private ground, about 55 yards from the house. Although found on Aug 5th, Bob thinks it possible they could have been formed a day or two before, without them being spotted. For although there is a path on either side of the meadowland, leading down to a grassy area with a couple of trees, where the children play, the marshy area itself is not frequented.

A couple of nights before the circles were discovered, Bob and his wife Doris were woken up at 3 a.m. by a noise that sounded like a helicopter: a powerful one, with a deep vibration that was enough to rattle the windows. Although helicopters passing overhead are by no means unusual in this area, as they are used to transport crates of fish from a nearby fish farm, a nocturnal visit of this kind had never been experienced before. The vehicle lingered over the area of land halfway between their house and the canal about 100 yards away. The sound continued for two to three minutes. Accompanying it were coloured lights, some flashing on and off - white, red and bluey-green. Helicopters apparently do have such coloured navigation lights. Neither Bob nor Doris actually saw what was making the noise - it was pitch dark - but when Bob got out of bed and went to the window, he saw searchlights. The vehicle was so close and so low, at treetop height, that he thought whatever it was would land.

Because it is not formed in a growing crop, the circle has not been harvested and is still there, clearly visible. When I first

saw it, what struck me was that you have what looks like a circle of grass surrounded by marsh reeds, and as if for some reason the reeds refused to grow in that circular area. But when you look more closely, you find underneath the young grass, there are reeds flattened down on the earth in a swirled, circular formation. These flattened reeds have continued to grow, but are turning brown, as many do at this point of the season, and this dying off may be accelerated by their proximity to the damp and marshy ground.

The wild flowers have an interesting feature in that their stalks run parallel to the ground and then become vertical again, for it is now a month since the circle was found. All the flowers show this: stalks along the ground where they were flattened and upright growth since that time. Bob said that none of the stalks of either the flowers or the marsh reeds had been broken, only bent. But while the reeds have not regained their upright position, the flowers have and new grass has grown up. This is why the circle has retained its very clear formation, with flattened reeds lying completely underneath the new grass and returned-to-vertical flowers, so looking as if the area has no reeds growing in it at all.

However a few young reeds have grown up since the circle was formed. These contain an interesting feature. Normally the inside of marsh reeds is lined or completely filled with a white pithy substance; these ones are completely hollow unlike reeds picked from outside the circle. I picked young reeds as well as mature ones from outside the circle, in case the hollow stems were simply a feature of young ones but I discovered this was not the case.

Is this a new departure for the circle-makers in this country - to form circles in reeds or grass rather than in a harvestable crop? And is this the most northerly circle to be created in Britain?

[Report by Morelle Smith, Edinburgh]

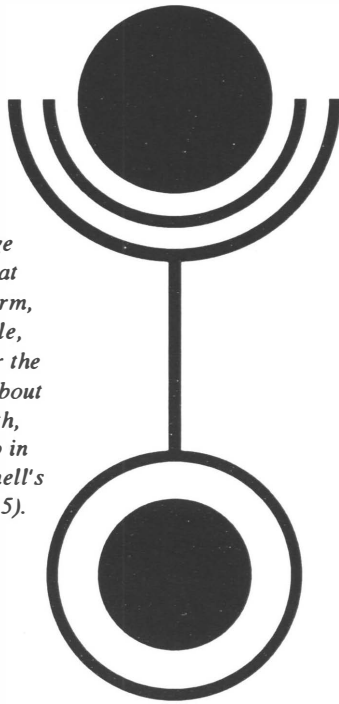
Triangular UFO by A303 road

The following report from a local newspaper, dated 19 August 1994, is of particular interest, since the sighting was in prime circles country just seven miles from Stonehenge and ten from Warminster:-

A "frantic" lorry driver, convinced he had spotted a UFO, begged police to go with him to a field on Salisbury Plain early yesterday so they could verify the sighting.

But when they got there the mystery

East Knoyle pictogram "The Menorah"



The strange formation at Chapel Farm, East Knoyle, found near the A303 on about August 13th, referred to in Mr Scammell's letter (p. 15).

object had gone. The man had been driving along the A303 at Deptford [i.e. where the A36 crosses the A303] when he saw a "triangular-shaped object with rounded edges and green and white lights hovering beside the road".

The trucker says other drivers were flashing their lights to get its attention. He then drove ten miles to Salisbury police station to report the UFO.

Two officers then took him back to the field midway between Salisbury and Warminster, only to find an empty sky.

This report may, or may not, be connected with a different report in the *Sunday Telegraph* of December 18th. This suggests that a highly secret US "stealth" reconnaissance plane crash landed at or near the Boscombe Down experimental air base at about midnight on September 26th when distress calls were heard on air-band radios. The next day several plane spotters who drove to the air base, which is near the A303 four miles from Stonehenge, were apprehended by local police at road blocks and told to leave the area. A disabled aircraft of unknown type was seen at the end of the runway, covered by tarpaulins. Twin inward-canted tail fins poked out from beneath this covering.

The description could match the supposed TR-3A Black Manta spy plane which is normally based at Groom Lake ("Area 51") in Nevada and whose very existence is not yet admitted by the US government. Besides its unusual tail fins,

it is a delta-shaped flying wing with rounded apexes. A few days after the supposed crash, a huge C-5 Galaxy transport plane flew into and out of Boscombe Down, presumably to recover the wrecked aircraft and take it back to the U.S. If what the lorry driver saw in August was a Black Manta it must have a vertical hovering capability similar to the Harrier and also be able to operate silently. Despite much speculation, no one has ever suggested such capabilities for the TR-3A, and at present we can only regard what was seen at Deptford as an "unidentified flying object".

NY State mystery circle

Town of Vienna -- Clayton and Midge Brockway couldn't believe the sight that awaited them in their cornfield off Maple Flats Road last Sunday evening. It wasn't dangerous and caused only minor damage to the crop but it's left them with a mystery.

The couple had picked some corn in the morning and left around 9:30 a.m. to go to a picnic, Mrs Brockway said. They returned at 7 p.m. followed by friends who called their attention to the cornfield about 100 yds from their home.

In the middle of the field, rows of 10 ft high corn [maize] lay squashed in counter-clockwise layers: a neat 50 ft circle. The circle resembles other mysterious depressions left in fields in England and in a Herkimer county oatfield last year.

"Nobody could believe it", Mrs Brockway said. "I've never seen anything like it", she added.

Neighbours told the Brockways there had been heavy winds around 2:30 p.m. but winds alone could not have made the depression since only a section of the field was affected according to Mrs Brockway. "I think it was a tornado" she added.

Doubtful that a tornado touchdown could have caused the circle, National Weather Service meteorologist Jeff Waldstreicher said a tornado wouldn't have been stationary or made such a round circle. A tornado would have had more of a spiral effect, he suggested. "Mother Nature isn't usually that precise", Waldstreicher said.

He could not imagine what else - weather-wise - could have caused the depression. He noted, however, that a cold front stirring winds had passed through the region around midday but no tornadoes were reported.

"It had to be a tornado, or maybe it was a helicopter, or maybe it was some little green men," Mrs Brockway said. Although she remembers hearing a helicopter before she left that morning, the depression is under some power lines.

--Daily Sentinel, Rome NY - 19/8/1994.

Australian aliens?

Was it an alien or just someone with a sense of humour? That's the question posed by the discovery of a mysterious pattern, or crop circle, in a Northfield wheat paddock.

UFO and crop circle expert Colin Norris is convinced it's the real thing and says it's time people started paying attention to the circle's "signals". And Alison Light who tracked down the strange design, is also sure it's no hoax.

Ms Light, 46, from Brisbane spotted the shape as she flew into Adelaide last Friday. On Monday she pinpointed the location as Primary Industries Department property near Fosters Rd.

She then took a closer look at the shape of the circle and contacted Mr Norris, who visited the site and declared: "Marvellous. It's 'it' as far as I'm concerned. There's nothing about this that's a hoax. It's perfect.

"It's so true in characteristics to the non-hoax ones all around the world that I can say quite categorically that it's an extra-terrestrial intervention."

Mr Norris and Ms Light say wheat in the 10 metre diameter circle has been pushed down in an anticlockwise fashion. And wheat in the small appendages on the top and bottom has been pushed in towards the circle.

Mr Norris, who has studied UFOs and crop circles for over 40 years, is confident that scientific tests on the area's radioactivity, soil, and magnetic field will prove him right. -- Adelaide Advertiser, 15/12/94.



The pattern in the Northfield wheat crop.



NICK BRANCACCIO / WINDSOR STAR

Windsor, Ontario, pictogram

Pranksters or aliens? You be the judge. A bizarre pattern appeared in a 20 hectare wheatfield farmed by the brothers Darwin and Gerry Wismer last week and was noticed by neighbour Jon Parks on Tuesday.

"I could see the wheat was down, so I stopped to look. That's when I saw it was pushed down cleanly," Parks said. He drove on and later called the *Windsor Star* to report it. By Thursday afternoon a crowd had gathered. Jon Parks and the Wismers surveyed the site that afternoon.

"I've never seen anything like it," said Parks who's farmed here since 1974. "If someone did it they went to a lot of trouble."

When local businessman Barry Purdie arrived with his 30-metre boom truck for an aerial view, things got really interesting. From the air the symmetry of the figure became apparent (see photo above).

"It's hard to believe that this was done by people," said Matt Parlette who took a Polaroid camera aloft for a bird's eye view.

The Wismers toured the site briefly, shrugged, and declined to comment. Then they set off to get their combine. This was one crop circle that would have a short life span. "Looks like we've lost a few bushels of wheat," said one. The symbol was granted a brief reprieve later when a moisture test showed the wheat was still too wet to harvest.

From the ground it is difficult to tell how the wheat was flattened. There was no evidence of a trail leading to the scene from a nearby concession road, no evidence of any vehicle or mechanical device, and no obvious footprints in the dry, hard soil. (The trails visible in the photograph were made by onlookers on Thursday p.m.)

When Acting Sgt. Bob Wollison of Malden OPP arrived his first concern was

for the wheat trampled by onlookers.

"Farmers don't like people knocking down their crops," he said. After inspecting the site, Wollison said he leans towards the mischievous teenagers theory. "Now that Boblo Island (amusement park) is closed, there's an awful lot of kids around with nothing to do," he said.

In the past 15 years similar crop circles have been found in more than 20 countries, including Canada. The most famous crop circles were found in England.

[Report from the Windsor Star & photo supplied by Paul Anderson, CCCS Canada]

Weird encounter at Silbury Hill

The following report by John Haddington concerns an extremely weird encounter in the early hours of Aug 1st 1994, experienced by three young people (whose names are known to us but omitted). They are not part of any regular crop circle group and have little previous knowledge of such phenomena:-

It was on Lammas night 1994 that a small group of people gathered on top of Silbury Hill to meditate on the creation of a crop circle. Another group nearby seemed to be there to party. At about 12.30 am some of those who had been meditating decided to quit as it had become pretty cold and a great bank of fog had rolled in from the East. They descended to the car park and drove away. It was then that the remaining three persons saw two lights in the lay-by on the A4 to the east of the hill. These were small lights about the size of a car's sidelights. One of the three had a torch which they shone at the two lights. This drew an instant response. It was as if each of the lights were attached to two larger objects that were invisible from a certain angle. These objects then

revolved to face the hill and they saw that they were tetrahedral in shape and were composed of bright orange light. These two objects then crossed over the road into the meadow below the hill and rose up in the air towards the summit of the hill.

As they approached the three observers, one of them turned to alert the revellers on the far side of the summit only to see that they were all seemingly asleep and unarousable. There was a loud crackling noise coming from these objects but it seemed to exist only in the heads of the observers. This is how they described it to me and they said it felt like a communication on a subliminal level, as it was totally incomprehensible on a conscious level.

At this point one of them shouted out an exclamation and jumped back five feet, or so, in fright at the sight of the approaching tetrahedrons, for they could see that there was a small humanoid figure inside each object. The two objects then merged into one and shrank, retreating back towards the lay-by. This single object then grew again into four or five other tetrahedrons. Two figures were then seen to emerge from these vehicles of light.

These figures too, seemed to be composed entirely of silvery light and were of humanoid appearance with head, body, two arms and two legs. They were immediately joined by four or five more of these silvery beings who emerged from the other miraculous tetrahedrons that had materialised from nowhere. A car approached from the direction of Marlborough and all the objects and humanoids immediately shrank to the size of pingpong balls and seemed to hide in the hedge until the car had passed, swinging in behind it as it cruised past through the fog.

When the car had gone, the objects re-emerged as different coloured objects. Green ones, blue ones, orange ones and white silvery ones. These then marched in line over the field to the south of Silbury Hill progressing towards the west. A further witness to this final display then arrived at the top of the hill but he only saw the very end of these events.

The two main witnesses had the distinct impression that what they had seen was of great spiritual significance, and from another dimension. Neither saw exactly the same thing as the other and the third witness, who jumped back in fright, doubts his own mind when asked for his account. The whole affair seems reminiscent of the arrival of Captain Cook in Australia. Then the Aboriginals refused to speak to the arriving sailors nor were they even able to see the ship moored beyond the reef, as such outlandish people and this huge vessel were beyond their comprehension, and unacceptable to their mind's eye.

Crop Circle-Dancing Circle

The following unexpected item, by Martin Tregar, appeared in *The Independent* (3rd October 1994) under the title "In the field of dreams". It does not appear to be a belated April Fool spoof and readers must make of it what they will:-

The thing about UFOs is that you wait all night and then two come along at once. At least, after three hours of frenzied dancing in (allegedly) UFO-created crop circles, you'd hope so; any lift home would be welcome.

It is 4.30am, and in a country lane in Wiltshire, Russell Lindsay, co-chair of the Middle-England Crop Circle-Dancing Circle (aka the alternative MCC) is trying to get his 1964 Volkswagen camper van to start; no ignition means a dawn facing red-faced, proverbially shot-gun wielding farmers, and even, if Lindsay is to be believed, members of Special Branch.

"I used to be into fire-eating and before that roller-hockey," says the disturbingly middle-class Russell, an appropriately terrier-like figure, short, slight and hairy. "Once I even tried blindfold driving. But nothing has ever created as much adrenalin for me as crop-circle dancing. Not even sex. When I dance I find my adrenal glands pumping it out."

Five hours earlier, guided to a nearby village on my mobile phone, my companion and I had come to see whether this was true. Abandoning my 1987 Ford Fiesta GTi, we crossed a field to a mud track. There we entered Lindsay's fetid van and continued our journey.

"You can't be too careful. Farmers don't like what we do because they say we damage the crops. Other people say we are satanic. Stupid things like that," Lindsay said. "Our organisation is a little circle. But within that circle you will find another circle. A corn circle."

By the time we reached our destination it was 1.30am. Here, perhaps 25 other dancers had congregated. The huge field contained three corn circles. Picking out the smallest of these, the regulars linked hands around it and, rhythmically humming, began to dance. Two steps to the right, one step to the left, they began slowly in the manner of the Greeks, but soon built up into an almost Bacchic frenzy.

After four such dances, each one over 20 minutes long, they invited us to join them. My companion wished to make her excuses but I prevented her. Bringing out clip-on bicycle lights for this final dance, they attached them to their clothing. The lights--which cynics say explain some of the strange UFO-attributed phenomena around corn circles--gave an aura

borealis effect, as beautiful in its way as a Jean Michel Jarre light show.

"It is a dance of angels," said Sian (name changed), a PR from Bath by day, as we came to a breathless halt. Even I, a sceptic, considered it a pure and simple moment. I had felt some kind of energy *and* it was good exercise. My calf muscles would never be the same again.

I mentioned my conversion to Lindsay: "You are not untypical," he said. People think we must be hippies living in communes or co-operatives. We believe these fields have an energy that is, perhaps, of extraterrestrial origin. The only co-operative that I have anything to do with is the one that gives away blue stamps. It's a shame that society's opprobrium prevents us giving out an address and denies many people joy."

As the other revellers left, night gave way to day and poetry to prose. Summoned on my mobile the man from the AA hove into view in what looked like a 1993 Metro. "You may still not know a lot about crop circle-dancing" Russell winked at my companion. "But at least you know a man who does."



Jim Schnabel

Spies 'R' Us (continued)

At a roundtable dialogue which took place at the previously mentioned UFO conference in Mesquite, Nevada, on December 2nd, the following information was included in the briefing document :-

"An identified civilian intermediary with the CIA will be present as a listener, and if he chooses as a dialoguer..."

The person in question turned out to be none other than my good friend Dan Smith (see Editorial Notes, issue #12) who appeared quite happy with this printed description. This underlines continuing CIA interest in the UFO subject and the "UFO community" and it would be most surprising if it were otherwise. Dan has closely followed crop circle developments over the last few years and maybe soon we can persuade him to write a piece for us.

It now seems beyond any shadow of doubt that Jim Schnabel *did* work for CIA during the time he was a student at Oxford and I would publicly challenge him to deny this. The exact nature of his assignment in England is not known, or whether it had any direct connection with the circles. One thing that is certain is that he is still very sensitive about his Agency connections and it obviously casts doubt on his sincerity as a supposedly impartial observer.

Very last word on Bythorn

Unfortunately a printing error in our last issue has meant that we have been unable to lay this dispute to rest. Rather than two contrasting photos, first of the formation partially completed, and then fully complete, the same photograph of the completed formation was printed twice over. To rectify this the correct photos are now represented on the Letters pages (pp 14-15).

Cloud Cuckoo Land

Somewhere in the woods a number of men and women are building a flying saucer. One, who is hammering nails into a 12 ft diameter plywood structure, keeps getting splinters in his hand. Another appears to be extremely drunk. An old ironing board stands nearby. The conference audience watch this piece of silent film footage, made at least 20 years ago, with rapt attention.

We are told this is one of the "Professor's" prototypes of a saucer which will whisk people from London to New York, or Sydney, in under an hour for just a few pounds. The technology is a development of his free-energy generator which already produces 11 kW of electricity indefinitely with no energy input. There is even a photo of one of his disks which appears to be hovering several feet up in the air.

Sadly all of his test disks have burst the bonds of gravity, and flown off into space never to return. And, although several of his electricity generators had been running for years, none could now be inspected since they had been destroyed in a mysterious fire presumably set by sinister government agents or members of the electricity boards. Never mind --place your orders now for when his internationally based company markets the generators for just a couple of hundred pounds next year (1995)!

This enticing scenario has been presented by the "professor" at two recent conferences. Our fervent wish that tales of free energy should be true is understandable, but I fear there is a vast gap between the wish and fulfilment of the dream. Until such time as someone presents us with some material proof, I suggest we should be just a little wary of some of these tales of fantasy.

BOOK REVIEWS

THE NIGHT SIDE OF NATURE

John Michell

DAIMONIC REALITY - A field guide to the Otherworld. *Patrick Harpur* (Viking Arkana, £18)

IF YOU ARE interested in crop circles you are likely also to know about UFOs and aerial phenomena, alien beings, phantom creatures, visions, abductions, poltergeists, fairy folklore and the whole range of phenomena which elude scientific definition and belong to the realm which is now often called Fortean or paranormal. A 19th-century writer called it poetically the Night Side of Nature. It is Patrick Harpur's *Daimonic Reality*.

Daimons to the ancient Greeks were the connecting agents between the gods and men. They had no fixed shapes or moral values and their ways were quite unpredictable. Through dreams, illusions and odd events or appearances, they played directly upon the human mind, giving portents, warnings, revelations or delusions, inspiring mystics and poets, misleading the gullible and making mischief among respectable people. They were the genius and imagination of the world and provided it with a sense of humour.

Under the rationalizing regime of modern science we have tried to deny the daimonic world, and in doing so we have played right into its hands. Where daimonic influence is not recognized, its activity is unchecked and we are at the mercy of it. That is the position today. Never has the world been so overrun by cults, follies, superstitions and manias, often with official, government and academic support. Monsters and weird apparitions have escaped from the pages of fairy tales, where we tried to confine them, and occur, often with nasty side-effects, in the lives of ordinary, innocent people whose education has left them quite unprepared for encounters with the daimonic world to which these things belong. You do not have to look beyond crop circles to see the confusions, delusions, obsessions and inspirations produced by the impact of mysterious phenomena upon the modern mind.

Harpur's critics have nodded approval at his scholarly review of the daimonic world, as represented in ancient cosmologies and systems of religion. They have followed him understandingly through his dealings with Blake, Jung,

Yeats and other moderns who have gained and tried to communicate awareness of nature's mystical essence. But when he comes to our own times, his literary reviewers have fallen back in dismay. Folklore is all very well in the past, but when it raps on the door and demands the attention of rationally minded modern thinkers, faces fall and clever Mr Harpur is told that he has gone too far with his amusing thesis. As for crop circles, by including them along with the other, more familiar daimonic effects in his book, Harpur is said to have lost all claim to serious attention. Everyone knows, with as much certainty as if it had actually been proved, that crop circles are a Hoax.

That is why this is such a brave book and, if an unprejudiced mind allows you to follow it through, so enjoyably enlightening. After you have read it the world seems just as mysterious as ever, but simpler, clearer, more attractive and less worrying. If you are addicted to crop circles, you can relax comfortably. Hoaxers are part of the phenomenon, possibly its major mechanism, but they are neither the first cause nor the final point of it. Hermes-Mercurius is the god of tricksters as well as of revelation. His influence has been apparent throughout the entire development of the phenomenon. He can never be defined or tied down; he mocks our literal-minded theories and methods of investigation. Chapters 11 and 12 in this book go to the heart of cerealogy, describe its real nature and indicate the most practical, well-founded approach to coming to terms with this new and insistent daimonic intrusion into the rationally-made world-order which, it was hoped, would protect us from such disturbances.

SACRED CENTRE POINTS

John Haddington

AT THE CENTRE OF THE WORLD - Polar Symbolism discovered in Celtic, Norse and other Ritualized Landscapes. *John Michell* (Thames & Hudson, £14.95)

This carefully and skilfully researched work fills an interesting and important gap in the known structure of ancient British tribal societies. John Michell has discovered more evidence of the importance to our ancestors of placing their centres of administration and ritual at the very centre

of the land which they governed. These centres were regarded as the birthplace of the tribe, sacred to its very existence, and usually had a particular dedicated rock which was the navel of the tribe's world or, in ancient parlance, an Omphalos. The Stone of Scone is such a rock and it now presides over the coronation of the British Monarch at Westminster. This stone was removed from its appointed place in Scotland and brought south to England.

It was at these centres of the land that the councils or parliaments, known as Tings, met and from which edicts were issued, chiefs appointed or elected, and Kings crowned. From these points in the landscape the land was given a natural division. In the case of Ireland the country was divided into four quarters and twelve sections from the centre point of Tara in County Meath. This was also discussed in John Michell's recent book *Twelve Tribe Nation*.

The main point of this procedure was the wish to follow the natural cosmological order of things, to divide the land in accordance with natural principles and thus live in harmony with nature and the Earth Spirit. John Michell has travelled throughout the British Isles and has visited each centre -- and those on the outlying islands of Man, Shetland, Orkney and the Faroes, to mention but a few. The book is full of excellent diagrams which amply illustrate the points made in the text and he gives a good account of the history and folklore of all those places which he has visited.

This is a beautifully written book and I do recommend it to the eager student of Ancient Britain. Also for those who would visit any of these islands, this book is, surely, an absolute must.

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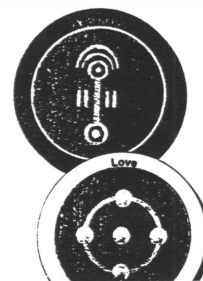
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