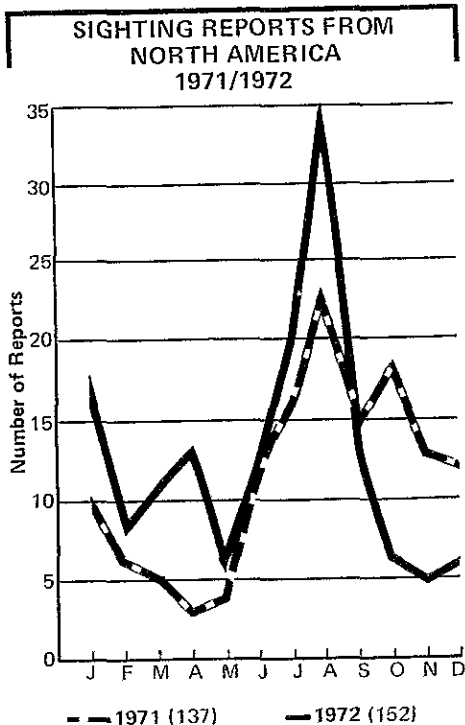
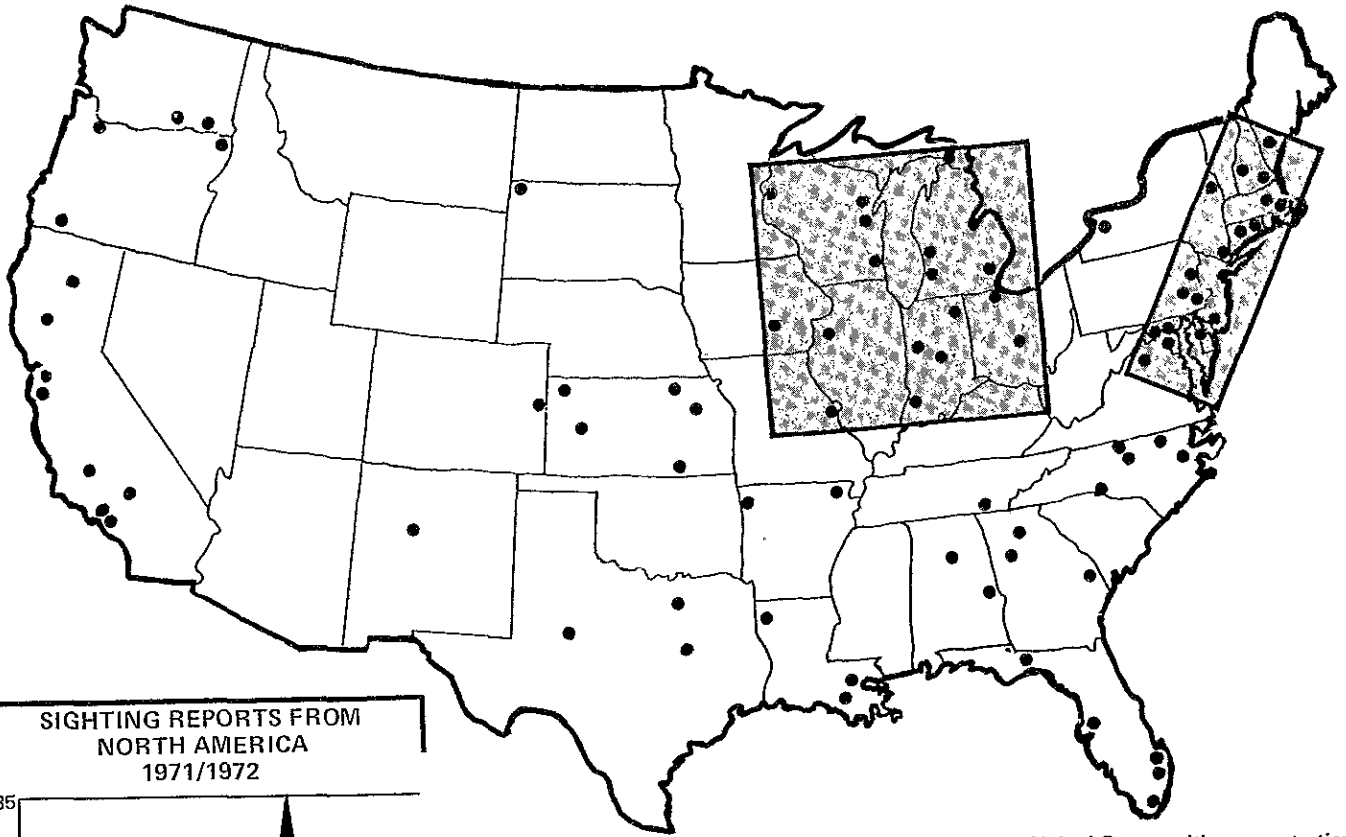


UFO INVESTIGATOR

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON AERIAL PHENOMENA
NICAP

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1972 Upholds Five-Year UFO "Cycle"



UFO reporting activity in 1972 shows wide distribution in United States, with concentration in two major areas (boxes). Of special interest is rise in reports from South and from remote areas west of Mississippi, including summer "wave" in Kansas. Alaska, Hawaii, and Canada also reported stepped-up activity during 1972. Majority of dots represent more than one report.

Preliminary statistics indicate the anticipated rise in UFO sighting reports for 1972 occurred on schedule, lending further support to the theory that reporting activity follows a five-year cycle of waves or peaks.

Although more detailed analysis of sighting data may offer a contrasting interpretation, present statistics show 1972 was the most active year in the current decade in terms of reports from North America, the primary area of NICAP's investigations.

Alternative explanations have been suggested for these statistics, including: (1) Better data-gathering techniques, (2) Increased willingness to report, and (3) Greater press coverage of sightings. Many investigators, however, feel there may be a direct correlation between reporting

activity and the number of sightings actually occurring. If this is the case, 1972 represents a continuation of the upward trend in observations noted for 1971 (*UFO Investigator*, Dec. 1971).

A number of interesting patterns are evident in the geographical distribution of 1972 reports — particularly the increase over previous years in reports from the American South. Two areas stand out as concentrated reporting regions: The Northeast corridor (Maine to Virginia) and the central Great Lakes area (Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin). Since both these regions are densely populated, the high incidence of reporting may be more a function of population than actual UFO activity.

General seasonal trend of reports in 1971 is repeated in 1972, with downward movement during winter and spring, and rise during summer.

(See Cycle, page 4)

"UFO DETECTOR" STUDY CONDUCTED AT EXETER

Can a series of sensitive magnetometers detect the presence of UFOs? This question remains essentially unanswered despite exhaustive efforts by NICAP member John Oswald during a 20-month period near Exeter, N.H.

Oswald, intrigued by the numerous sightings reported around Exeter during 1965-66, set out in late 1970 to establish and monitor a "UFO detector" network surrounding this famous New England town.

The timing for the experiment, Nov. 1970 through Sept. 1972, proved excellent, according to Oswald, who noted in a report to NICAP "that significant UFO activity occurred within the test area during the period covered."

The test results, however, were not as encouraging. Oswald reported, "Although it would appear that UFOs may have been detected on two occasions and that it is actually not possible to say that some other detector alarms were not caused by UFOs, it is clear that most of the hundreds of detector alarms recorded were caused by geomagnetic storm activity."

Difficulties Encountered

One of the difficulties encountered by Oswald during the course of his experiment was the extreme sensitivity of the detectors he had designed. "When I started building the detector network in New Hampshire, I did not think that the instruments were sensitive enough to detect sunspot-related geomagnetic storms."

Despite this problem, the experiment yielded two instances in which UFO sightings by witnesses were simultaneously detected by Oswald's magnetometers.

According to Oswald, on Jan. 13, 1971, at 7:30 p.m., at least two witnesses near Exeter observed three or four lights making strange maneuvers near power lines. Simultaneously, according to Oswald, one of his 13 detectors sounded its alarm.

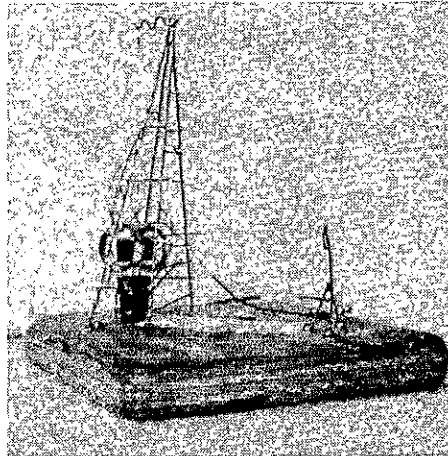
On another occasion, Nov. 23, 1971, at 1:55 a.m., a large, fast-moving oval white light was observed by a single witness. According to Oswald's report, two of his detectors sounded their alarms within seconds of the sighting.

The Detector

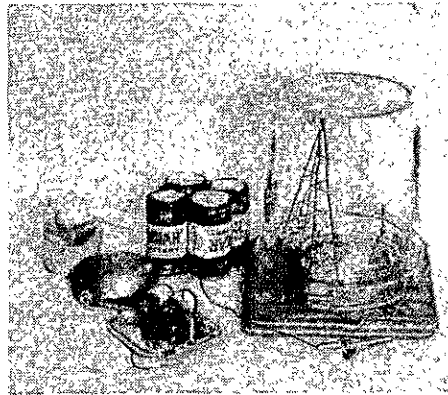
All 13 detectors used by Oswald during the 20-month period followed the same basic principle in design and construction (see Photo #1).

In each detector, a bar magnet was suspended on a fine cotton thread "such that the magnet would rotate in a horizontal plane and come to rest with its poles oriented toward the magnetic poles of the earth."

A delicate copper needle was attached to the magnet and extended from one



Photograph 1
UFO Detector Unit



Photograph 2
Complete Detector System

pole. The needle was made to protrude through a small loop of heavier copper wire several inches away.

The needle and loop were incorporated into an electrical circuit which was completed when magnetic deflection caused the needle to touch the loop. The circuit was powered by a battery and incorporated a small alarm bell.

The device, as designed by Oswald, contained a lock-on device which caused the alarm bell to ring continuously once it started until the circuit was broken manually.

The supporting structure for the magnet and needle was made of a heavy copper or aluminum wire which in turn was mounted on a square of three-quarter-inch plywood. The entire device, excluding battery and bell, was protected from the elements and air currents through the use of an inverted glass jar securely fastened to the plywood base (see Photo #2).

Visual Sightings

During the course of his experiment, Oswald investigated more than 70 UFO sightings reported in the Exeter area. To

assist him in later correlation of sightings and detector alarms, Oswald classified UFO reports into three basic categories: A—Unknowns; B—Likely Unknowns; C—Possible Unknowns. Of the 70-odd cases, Oswald classified only 12 in category A, or those having the strongest likelihood of being "true UFOs."

The two sightings recorded simultaneously by a detector and witnesses were among the 12 cases investigated by Oswald and listed in category A.

Town Turns Out To Watch UFO

A saucer-shaped UFO "as big as a school bus" has been observed by more than one hundred residents of Lexington, Ala., during recent weeks.

According to one NICAP member living in the area, scores of individuals have been gathering each night around the town in hopes of spotting the UFO.

Most of the sightings have occurred between 8 and 9 p.m., and while descriptions differ in minor details, most describe the object as saucer-shaped and reddish or bluish in color.

One of the most recent sightings occurred Sunday, Feb. 4, 1973, when two young men driving in Lexington spotted a low-flying object and followed it at 50 mph as it headed towards Rogersville and then on to Wheeler Dam. As the witnesses approached the dam, they said the UFO appeared to hover over the lake and then move off towards Huntsville. A TVA worker employed at the Wheeler Dam also said he saw it.

One Lexington resident, describing his town as a quiet town where the "old values" still count, said "there has never been anything like this to stir up a town — I don't know what or why it is bugging us, but I hope we find out."

Maneuvering Lights Seen in Rhode Island

At least a dozen residents of Wood River Junction, R.I., have been watching a circular UFO with "bright white lights" maneuver above their town in recent weeks, according to local newspaper accounts.

The object has been spotted at least twice in recent weeks, with the most

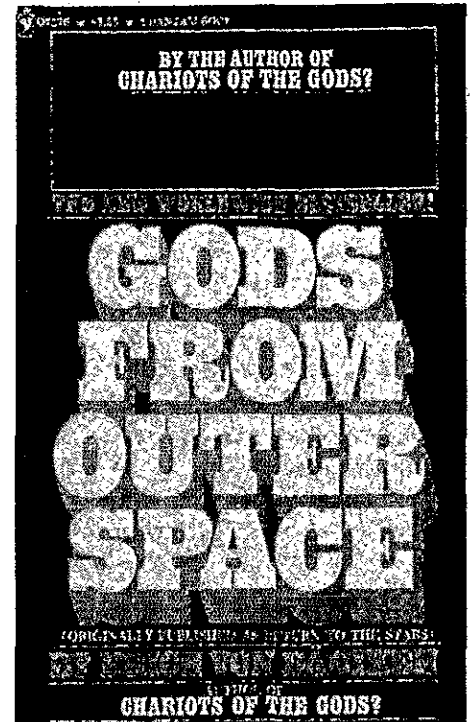
(See Lights, page 4)



Books

*Chariots of the Gods?
&
Gods from Outer Space*

Reviewed by
Dr. Magoroh Maruyama



Though these two books treat the same subject matter, they are very different in quality and represent two different levels of discourse. Overall, the first book, *Chariots of the Gods?*, is a disappointment, while the second, *Gods from Outer Space*, remedies many of the shortcomings of the first.

The first book will fail to satisfy those who have genuine curiosity and open-mindedness and are looking for details of facts. The descriptions of the objects are too sketchy, and von Daniken gives the impression of reaching his conclusion dogmatically without examining the evidence closely. From a scientific point of view, I was frustrated by the lack of substantiation and lack of adequate references to the sources of information. Furthermore, von Daniken's interpretations are often too conventional; he hastily identifies unknown objects with what our technology can produce, such as loudspeakers, antennas, aircraft runways, electricity, nuclear explosions, and batteries. He is also ethnocentric in other ways, using only the concepts and logics available in the European-American civilization.

For my taste, the style of discourse in the first book is too polemic and redundant, and often sounds like television commercials that use pseudoscientific words or inaccurate technical terms. The latter might be due to poor translation. I could not obtain the German original and therefore could not check this point.

More seriously, von Daniken often

Dr. Maruyama is a Japanese-born anthropologist who is currently working in Washington, D. C., as a government consultant. He is fluent in six languages, has taught at various universities, and has served as a NICAP adviser for eight years.

fails to consider *alternative* explanations to those he proposes, and tends to skip many logical steps in his arguments. For example, he assumes that mummy-making was a result of knowledge that body cells can survive for a long time if the life process is slowed down (page 82, GOS). No such knowledge is necessary to account for why some people made mummies. In fact, such knowledge would logically lead to something other than mummy-making.

In another instance (page 56, COG), he makes much mystery out of no mystery by referring to the "incredible" fact that three particular numbers have a common multiple. Arithmetically, any set of numbers can have a common multiple. In a third case (page 14, GOS), he considers the sudden appearance of human intelligence as a mysterious event. In science we know that certain kinds of biological processes (technically called deviation-amplifying, mutual casual processes) can create sudden changes.

One might also complain that von Daniken's understanding of society, culture, and religion is very ethnocentric, even at times naïve. Much of his ethnocentrism stems from hierarchical and uniformistic Greek logic. For example, on page 66 of the first book, he does not realize that in many cultures people had multiple ways to view the world without any help from extraterrestrial beings. Another example is his explanation for certain circular forms and designs (page 69, GOS). In many known hierarchical cultures, the basic form is a circle or group of circles. This stems from the known hierarchical structure of their logic and may have nothing to do with astronomy.

Von Daniken is also wrong in assuming that love, loyalty, and friendship are

products of "civilization" and were missing among "primitive" peoples (page 15, GOS). Science has shown us that some species of animals have a higher degree of these attributes than humans. Another point he overlooks (page 87, COG) is the ability of "primitive" people for precognition. There is evidence that some medicine men among American Indians foresaw the arrival of white people with spotted buffalo (cows), large bird-like objects (airplanes), and other things not knowable at that time and place. By this reasoning, we cannot exclude the possibility that some prehistoric people foresaw twentieth-century technology and depicted it in their drawings.

A more pervasive aspect of his ethnocentrism is manifested in his assumptions that religion is monotheistic (page 34, COG), that the world is destined to unite in a common political philosophy (page 95, COG), and that many people who do not conform to his idea of "civilization" are "savage, barbaric, primitive, and superstitious" (page 52, COG; page 67, GOS).

The second book, thankfully, contains much more documentation, though many of the defects of the first are still present.

From the anthropological point of view, it is true that many ruins and remains of ancient civilization in Central America, South America, Egypt, and several other parts of the world contain puzzles which have not yet been solved. It is also true that many passages of ancient myths and even the Christian Bible need reinterpretation. Von Daniken's works, particularly the second book, provide material to stretch the reader's imagination, and the reader is

(See Books, page 4)

newsnotes

NEW BOOK OUT ON LIFE GENESIS

An interesting new book has recently been published on *The Origins of Life*, written by one of the foremost scientists involved in the search for extraterrestrial life, Dr. Cyril Ponnampertuma. Released by E. P. Dutton as part of its World of Science Library, the book is illustrated with an extensive selection of photographs and diagrams, and includes chapters on all aspects of man's investigation into the mystery of living organisms. Dr. Ponnampertuma is the man who shared in the discovery of amino acids on meteorites two years ago (*UFO Investigator*, July 1971).

AAAA AIDS NICAP

NICAP wishes to thank the Aerial Advertising Association of America (AAAA), which recently supplied information on advertising displays carried by aircraft at various locations throughout the United States. Because of continuing problems with UFO reports that turn out to be lighted airborne signs, NICAP had requested the AAAA's help in determining which aviation companies engaged in aerial advertising. People who mistake these signs for UFOs usually think the sign's changing light pattern is a rotating disc.

SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW OPEN FOR NEW PUBLICATION

In case you missed the announcement last month, subscriptions are now being offered for NICAP's proposed new publication, *UFO Quarterly Review*. Already taking shape as one of the most interesting UFO periodicals to appear in recent years, the *Review* will provide in-depth coverage of material not available from any other source, such as case studies on new sightings, unpublished documents from NICAP files, and contributed articles from scientists in the UFO field. The *Review* is intended to compliment—not duplicate—the *UFO Investigator*, and will contain many articles not suited to the format of a newsletter. These include scientific papers, technical analyses, and historical features. To start your subscription to *UFO Quarterly Review*, send \$5.00 with your name and address to NICAP. This will entitle you to all four 1973 issues, beginning in April with Volume 1, Number 1. Don't delay, because we need time to process your order.

Cycle (Continued from page 1)

Sightings were also reported frequently from such major metropolitan areas as Boston, Washington, and Los Angeles. The latter was particularly active in 1972. At the same time, though in significantly fewer numbers, reports were received from many remote areas, including such places as Buffalo, S.D., Horse Haven Hills, Wash., and Hobo Sound, Fla.

Books

(Continued from page 3)

tempted to go beyond von Daniken's hypotheses and propose alternative hypotheses.

Von Daniken's hypotheses can be summarized as follows:

1. Extraterrestrial beings came to Earth in ancient times in the form of humanoid giants and midgets.
2. These beings were capable of communicating in human languages.
3. They wore some sort of spacesuit while on Earth.
4. The giants came from a low-gravity planet (i.e. a small planet).
5. These giants were capable of moving large mass. (This may be inaccurate from the point of view of physics. Even though a large mass is lighter on a low-gravity planet than on Earth, it is too heavy on Earth for the same amount of muscle power that would be needed to move it on a low-gravity planet.)
6. The extraterrestrials were capable of interbreeding with humans, and breeding experiments were conducted.
7. Humans were capable of interbreeding with animals, but the extraterrestrials prohibited this to insure success in the breeding experiments.
8. Catastrophes mentioned in the Christian Bible (such as floods and explosions) were a deliberate attempt to eliminate unsuccessful results from the breeding experiments, or exterminate degenerate humans who interbred with animals.
9. Large-scale structures and objects made with a high degree of precision, such as pyramids, were either works by extraterrestrials or by humans who learned certain techniques from extraterrestrials.
10. Advanced astronomical knowledge which some ancient civilizations possessed came from extraterrestrials.
11. The similarity of objects and legends found in different parts of the world that were presumably isolated from one another, may be explained by the possibility that extraterrestrials provided some means of transportation for intercultural contact.
12. There were some extraterrestrials who got stranded in the mountains between Tibet and China. They tried to make friends with humans but were killed because of their ugliness. (This means that

not all extraterrestrials were omnipotent over humans.)

Our present knowledge of anthropology can neither prove nor disprove these hypotheses. As von Daniken suggests, more archeological research is needed. We can ask, however, what alternatives might be raised to some of these theories, and what questions are left unanswered by von Daniken's evidence. For example:

- (a) If some extraterrestrials are humanoids where did all humanoids originate? On another planet? In another solar system? Or independently in many places?
- (b) What is the possibility that these humanoids were originally from Earth who migrated to other planets?
- (c) Does independent evolution on several planets lead to similar results?
- (d) How do we explain the fact that vertebrates and particularly mammals share a similar anatomy with humans? Were they all imported from another planet?
- (e) Is it possible that mammals and other vertebrates de-evolved from humans? If so, we need a "devolution" theory.
- (f) Are humans still capable of interbreeding with some other animal with some genetic modification? If so, how would we treat the offsprings?
- (g) Are there extraterrestrials who are more intelligent than humanoids, and who don't even bother to communicate with or don't want to do anything with humans?
- (h) Were dry areas or areas high in the mountains more congenial to extraterrestrials? Or are "super-human" artifacts found only in these areas because of the favorable conditions for the preservation of old structures?
- (i) How about the possibility that all these "gods" mentioned in von Daniken's books were simply terrestrial beings which have become extinct?

There may be more to think about here than even von Daniken realizes.

Lights (Continued from page 2)

recent sighting occurring Saturday, Feb. 10, 1973, at approximately 6:30 p.m.

One witness, who reportedly has seen the object on at least two occasions, said the object "looked very large, was not an airplane nor a helicopter, and moved slowly and soundlessly."

"It was revolving and had very bright white lights," said the witness. "It was nothing like we had ever seen in our life."