

FLYING SAUCERS

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The flying saucer, or flying disc, is the name given to an unidentified flying object, a UFO. It is said to be usually silver or metallic perhaps with lights, or surrounded by a glow and having high manoeuvrability.

Some UFOs have been called spaceships which, it is said, are piloted and manned by aliens. An alien in this context is a creature from another planet.

It has been said that caveman drawings indicate the existence of flying saucers but scientists and anthropologists state emphatically that there is no proof of this.

Others have pointed out that there are some such drawings and paintings but they have been proved to be hoaxes. Most original cave paintings were of animals and hunting.

It is said the flying saucers were seen by people in the Middle Ages, but it was only in June 1947 that the matter came to prominence when one Kenneth Arnold claimed to see such an object which gave rise to the birth of the expression flying saucer and this alleged event was reported in the media.

This set up an immediate chain reaction and, a month later, the Roswell incident in New Mexico became world news. People in droves throughout the USA were subsequently claiming that they had seen UFOs and such people loved the resultant media attention. It made them feel important and more so if they appeared on television. This was another example of shallow people jumping on the band wagon to gain attention. Some went as far as to 'photograph flying saucers' and such pictures were shown to be hoaxes.

The flying saucer is now considered to be an icon of the 1950s, popular in B movies and in comic science fiction.

Scientists have produced evidence that what some claim to be UFOs are natural phenomena being lenticular clouds and balloons which appear to look like saucers in certain lights.

Nonetheless, the flying saucer became a symbol of extraterrestrials and/or science fiction but what is obvious is that in the USA, the military have been making and developing aircraft in the style of flying saucers, based on the design of the hovercraft known as the air-cushion vehicle, the first of which dates from 1915.

It cannot be a coincidence that a month after Arnold's claims that the media reported on the Roswell incident of July 1947 in which crashed debris of a flying disc was found which was later to be shown to be the wreck of an air balloon. This was ridiculed as the word balloon suggested a fabric filled with hot air, not realising that weather balloons were often silver and metallic and would have anthropomorphic dummies inside just as dummies are used to stimulate car crashes and the need for seat belts.

At the time also, the USA had a secret government programme called Project Mogul which included the employment of high altitude metallic balloons to detect sound waves generated by Soviet atomic bomb tests.

Major Jesse Marcel believed that the Roswell debris was of an alien spacecraft and this gave rise to endless speculation and made him a celebrity overnight. But his testimony varied and changed and was therefore unreliable. He said the debris was akin to waxed paper, then he said it was akin to aluminium foil.

It is asserted that military personnel were silenced to prevent them talking about this incident. Others claimed that they saw the bodies from the crashed UFO but there is absolutely no evidence of this and people are always keen to gain attention and feel important.

Yet, if it had been one of America's new and secret aircraft, it could have crashed with bodies inside it.

There is no evidence of aliens or UFOs and, recently, a man from Kent who claimed that he was abducted

regularly by aliens since he was four years old has owned up and said that this was all lies, a hoax from which he and his family earned a lot of money.

There was a book published listing 400 sightings of UFOs in which the author produced evidence to show that all 400 were bogus. Ufologists, (believers in UFOs) tried to get the book banned and burned copies of it in a public square.

This whole matter of UFOs is another example of physics and mediums embracing these unproven theories to promote their unfounded beliefs in the supernatural along with crop circles and the like.

And, of course, there is the Loch Ness monster!

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