

X factor UAP Witness: A Methodological Approach for Generating Reliable Eyewitness Reports on UAP Events (pp. 2–22)

As objectifiable, technical evidence for UAP events is still lacking, eyewitness reports are the main source of information for researchers. Based on recent results and experience in criminal investigation, Jochen Ickinger outlines, in this first part of his essay, how investigators can generate reliable reports from witnesses of UAP which is of central importance in UAP research. He discusses how to lead an interview, how to get a witness to draw images of what he has seen, different types of interviews, their advantages and disadvantages.

Pre-1947 UFOs (pp. 23–28)

Three sightings are discussed here. First, an observation of a balloon off the Norwegian coast, in 1897, which was related to the attempt of Andrée to reach the North Pole, second, a large bolide over Austria in 1925 that was witnessed, but differently described by several people, also the initial report was exaggerated, and generated observation recounts of other meteors from different dates, third, a light-serpent over Bergamo, Italy, in 1926, which might just have been the retelling of a local folk-tale.

Obituary: Erich von Däniken (p. 28–30)

Well-known Swiss author Erich von Däniken died on 10 January 2026. His books played an initial role in raising interest in UFOs and extra-terrestrial life in many UFO researchers.

Brief notes (pp. 30–32)

Obituary Fran Ridge – Aged 83, Fran Ridge, one of the pioneers of instrumental UFO research, has died. He established the MADAR network and was always helpful and encouraging to other researchers.

Camera catches light phenomenon in Hessdalen – An automatic camera has taken pictures of a Hessdalen phenomenon, a slowly moving light. However, movement was not unusual, and a drone could well have been the stimulus.