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ENGLISH SUMMARY

UFO OBSERVATIONS (p. 134-145)

A number of observations in this issue were again due to sky trackers and the reflections of their light rays on low clouds. Because the witness was moving in a car, he thought that the rotating white lights he observed at Mechelgrün on 16 October 1998 were following him, and he became very frightened. The same impression had a couple travelling in her car close to Basle on 6 June 1999, she felt being followed by "three rings of white light rotating around a common centre" - sky tracker lights again.

A close encounter between Venus and Jupiter that was visible all over Germany on 23 February 1999 triggered several reports describing two brilliant lights in the southwest, among them sightings at Heusenstamm, Essen-Werder and Reichenberg.

The brilliant white light moving horizontally on 23 June 1998 over Lüdenscheid was very likely a meteor, while the "silvery bright point of light" which circled for some time over the same city on 17 May 1998 before it shot away might well have been a balloon in the wind.

Our old friend, the fire balloon, was the trigger for an observation of a warm red round light seen at Erfstadt on 24 July 1999 (the witness accepted the identification). Six tiny lights crossing the sky within one hour at Krosigk on 14 July 1999 were most probably only satellites (an explanation the witness accepted), and the "small white point of light" in the night sky, spotted by a witness at Greimerath on 29 August 1998, was in all likelihood a satellite as well.

A case with insufficient data is an observation of March 1995 at Hamburg-Volksdorf. A woman saw "an object which consisted of three lights". It was very small, close to the tree tops and moved steadily.

The incident of 20 December 1995 at Kiel is most interesting. Two witnesses in a car saw a UFO, however, both described it in very conflicting terms. One had a complex sighting of a Gulf Breeze-type saucer, the second could only see something like foil floating in the air. Actually, both are descriptions of the same sighting, but have nothing in common. While the first report suggests a sky tracker, the second recalls a fire balloon. The case poses important questions of how to deal with detailed cases where we have only one witness.

UFOS - IS A SCIENTIFIC STUDY POSSIBLE? (pp. 145-151)

The author states his reasons why he is not satisfied with the usual definition of a UFO. First, he says, a UFO is a description of a sighting which cannot be explained, on the other hand, UFO also means a modern myth (true or not) of space aliens visiting us. He suggests a definition of UFOs should include both meanings.

UFO CRASH AT RAMSTEIN CANNOT BE CONFIRMED (pp. 152-153)

According to the late Philip J. Corso, American troops shot down a UFO in May 1974 at Ramstein AFB. However, interviews with locals, enquiries at fire-

fighters and the police as well as a newspaper search uncovered no unusual activity. The UFO crash, then, was a false claim.

SPACE DEBRIS AND "UFO-CRASHES" (pp. 153-154)

One of the most famous UFO crashes reported from Germany, the fall of a conical piece of metal on December 31, 1978, at Bruchhagen, was due to a part of the breaking up Skylab.

NEWS FROM ROSWELL (pp. 154-156)

A new book on Roswell, Robert J. Shirkey, "Roswell 1947: I was there", is so full of mistakes that one thing is clear: the author was not there! Philip Corso has claimed that the development of wings-only-planes was triggered by the discovery of the Roswell UFO. This cannot be true, as the first plane of this type was built by Northrop in 1920.

PERMANENT MAGNETIC FIELD METER AND UFO DETECTOR (pp. 156-158)

The author gives a brief outline how a magnetic field meter he has invented works, and suggests how it might help to establish real UFO landing traces.

REVIEWS (pp. 159-163)

Jerome Clark: The UFO Encyclopedia: A all encompassing encyclopedia describing all aspects of the UFO phenomenon in 273 individual articles by America's leading ufologist. Recommended.

Robert Sheaffer: UFO Sightings: This book, an update of the author's earlier "UFO Verdict", sceptically discusses major UFO events such as the Hill case, West Virginia's mothman, the Exeter incident, Men-in-Black and the New Zealand UFO movie