

# JOURNAL FÜR UFO-FORSCHUNG, No. 173, 5/2007

## ENGLISH SUMMARY

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### **UFO-OBSERVATIONS (pp. 130-134)**

On 26 May 2007, a woman observed a "fireball" for 5 minutes over Graz-Strassberg, Austria. It was red-orange and resembled a flame – the typical description of a fire balloon. On 25 May 2007, at Villingen-Schwenningen, a couple spotted an orange light moving in an erratic pattern slowly across the night sky – another fire balloon. Eight photos were taken of several lights on 4 August 2007 at Meckenheim. They moved slowly and in groups, and there is nothing in the description or in the images to rule out fire balloons.

On 26 May 2007 a man took pictures of a nearing thunder storm at Taunusstein on which he later discovered many small and one larger spot of white which he thought were "the passing of a flotilla of spacecraft", but which clearly are just lens flares. On a picture taken on 27 April 2007 at Attendorn, the photographer discovered – while looking at the images on a computer – two small black dots. These are most likely birds or insects passing through the frame when the image was taken. The witness had noticed nothing unusual at the time.

### **UFO WAVE OVER GERMANY (pp. 135-139)**

2007 saw the largest ever wave of UFO observations in Germany – from May to September 2007, CENAP and GEP collected 292 sightings. All descriptions sounded similar: groups of white or orange flickering lights moving leisurely across the sky. The wave started after a soccer victory, and continued over the next 5 months, still going on today. 93 % of all cases happened on weekends, and several of the sightings could be directly related to launches of sky lanterns. The author suggests that the homogenous group of sightings can be identified as Thai lanterns, which have recently become available in great numbers in Germany. Between 75 % and 90 % of observers could agree with this identification, although it is still denied by pro-UFO research organisations. The definite analysis of this wave, the third largest in Europe after France 1954 and Belgium 1989, must wait until next year.

### **PRESS RELEASE OF THE GEP (pp. 140-141)**

As a position statement, the GEP outlines their approach to the UFO phenomenon in a press release: the GEP is not a skeptical organisation, but a neutral scientific research network.

### **ROSWELL-NEWS 25 (pp. 142-144)**

As indicated in the last instalment, it is now admitted that Walter Haut did not write his „death bed affidavit“, but Tom Carey and Don Schmitt did. Also, two serious and thorough Roswell researchers have died, Robert G. Todd and Karl T. Pflock, the author of the most definite book on the case.

### **SCIENCE OF THE UFOs, PART I (pp. 145-149)**

Under titled, Facts vs. stereotypes, Richard Hall attempts to unravel the reason why ufology has been regarded as a subject unworthy of scientific study from the very beginning. He quotes as false stereotypes, among others, that UFOs are only seen by untrained observers, and that they are mainly ambiguous shapes of light into which observers read spaceships. Hall then lists several cases which he says indicate solid metallic bodies which imply alien technology, such as the Socorro case of 1964.

### **THE FALL OF PHAETON (pp. 150-156)**

The Greek myth of the fall of Phaeton has variously been interpreted as the crash of a spacecraft, or even the explosion of a planet between Mars and Jupiter. The author shows that there are different versions of the legend, and it changed over time. Phaeton was said to have crashed into the river Eridanos which was always located at the westernmost end of the Greek world (from the Po in Italy to the Elbe in Northern Germany). Also, what constituted the fall of Phaeton changed from a cosmic phenom (in Plato) to something akin to a meteorite fall in later versions (such as the Argonautika). It was a developing story which has evolved so much as to make impossible any "identification" – one would first have to state which version of the legend one wants to verify, as the two independent myths were merged with time. Notwithstanding different interpretation, the version which struck was that of the fall of something blazing into the Po river, and this might have been influenced by knowledge of Upper Italian volcanic hot lakes.

### **REVIEWS (pp. 157-160)**

Diana G. Tumminia (ed): Alien Words – An academic volume with different contributions (by Vallee, Clark, Saler, and others) about UFO myths, UFO religiosity, and different aspects of the abduction phenomenon. Highly recommended.