

JOURNAL FÜR UFO-FORSCHUNG, No. 224, 2/2016

ENGLISH SUMMARY

UFO Observations (pp. 34 – 38)

On 8 October 2015, at Gebenstorf, Switzerland, a witness was walking his dog when he saw a “large object” that hovered noiselessly in the sky. He managed to snap a picture with his mobile phone. Soon, additional videos appeared on YouTube, but an explanation was posted there as well – it had been a large black foil filled with helium balloons. The construction was an advance advertisement for a party.

A man had snapped a picture from his window seat in a plane flying over the Mediterranean towards Tunisia, in April 1978. The round object was identified as a drop of water on the plane’s window.

From Our Files: Further Reports (pp. 37–43)

Again, this issue features photos of UFOs that were not noticed when the picture was taken, and in which the “UFO” was identified as an insect flying through the frame while the image was taken. In most cases, contrast enhancement even shows the tiny wings of the animals. Such was the case at Schashagen-Merkendorf, on 8 July 2006; on 16 August 2007 over Tamsweg, Austria (here, the animal may also have been a bird, and farther away), and also on 5 July 2007 at Pforzheim-Haidach, and on 17 June 2008 at Geisa. A pale white object, snapped on 23 June 2007 over Hamburg, was the out-of-focus reflection of an insect, drop of water or dust particle illuminated by the camera’s flash.

Brief Notes (pp. 44–47)

MUFON-CES-Conference 2015. The conference focussed on the automatic detection of UFOs with camera surveillance systems. Further cooperation between the UFO groups was arranged.

Albert Bender, the man who made famous the men-in-black, died on 29 March 2016, aged 94.

»*UFO detection software*« for webcams. At ufoid.net, a programme can be downloaded that turns your webcam into an UFO detector. It is said that the chances of the algorithm mistaking birds and planes has been greatly reduced.

Saarbrücken 1826: A (almost) unknown classic case (pp. 48–51)

The “grayish object that looked to be about three and a half feet long, rapidly approaching the earth at Saarbruck, April 1, 1826; sound like thunder; object expanding like a sheet”, already mentioned by Charles Fort, and in several other ufological sources, is a very strange phenomenon. The author goes into detail of two contemporary accounts, one by the famous “discoverer” of meteorites, E. Chladni.

The Strangeness Enigma: Classification and Investigation of unusual Characteristics of UFO sightings (pp. 52–60)

While strangeness is generally regarded as one of the defining characteristics of a GOOD UFO, there is no clear cut distinction between the different Hendry categories regarding their degree of strangeness, nor is strangeness easily defined in objective terms. The author here outlines different definitions of strangeness, by different authors. Establishing authoritative criteria is additionally hindered by the fact that UFO, so far, is an umbrella term for all observations that remain once the conventional stimuli have been eliminated, and hardly a homogeneous group.