

The following extract from *Time of Contact* by 'Caius Axim', draft edition 1.9, **Chapter 1 (How alien aerospace craft fly)** could not have been written without the advice, assistance and information that scholars, librarians and archivists, researchers, investigators, analysts, scientists and authors kindly supplied directly to the author of *Time of Contact* or made available in their books, papers or articles; their contributions will (subject to their prior consent) be recorded in the **Acknowledgements**. This update of 27 April 2026 repairs a few broken hyperlinks and contains a few changes to wording, punctuation, etc.

[Mr. Gerald Heard](#) was a pioneering researcher and author of books and articles about alien craft and their possible users; he was the first and perhaps the only English [intellectual](#) to research and write books and articles about alien craft based on actual reports. Mr. Heard was also an historian, philosopher, broadcaster, and teacher whose close friends included [Mr. Aldous Huxley](#), a world-famous author, playwright, poet and screen writer. Mr. Huxley's involvement in the study and discussion of reports of alien craft and their possible means of propulsion is discussed later in this section.

Mr. Heard suggested that alien craft were propelled analogously to the way [like poles of magnets](#) repel one another: *“Can it be that these disks (and other super sky-craft) with their super-performance, with not only their appalling speed of 18,000 mph (miles per hour) but with their ability to demonstrate that dream of all airplane designers, a craft that will hover silently as long as it wishes in the air at any height, can it be that they have the power that such a performance seems to demand, the power to resist gravity with its counterforce, a negative reaction to the pull of the Earth, as on the negative pole of the magnet objects are not drawn in but driven out?”*: [Is Another World Watching? The Riddle of the Flying Saucers](#), by Mr. Gerald Heard, Chapter Eight (The Craft and their Power), page 85 of the [Internet Archive](#) edition, a digital version of a U.S. edition published by Harper & Brothers Publishers, New York, copyright 1950, 1951.

The sentence by Mr. Heard quoted above also appeared (with a few insignificant differences) in an earlier edition of the book: [The Riddle of the Flying Saucers \(Is Another World Watching?\)](#), Chapter IX (9) (The Craft and their Power), page 81, first published in December 1950 in book form in the United Kingdom. Another, later U.S. “special edition, revised and with new material by the author” was published in 1953: [Is Another World Watching? The Riddle of the Flying Saucers](#) whose “narrative has been brought down to January 1953”. In this edition the extract quoted in the preceding paragraph appeared in Chapter 10 (The Craft and Their Power) at page 43 of the online, PDF version.

Mr. Heard's book is notable as a pioneering work, and also because an encounter with alien craft in 1947 to which a chapter was devoted in the British, 1950 edition of [The Riddle of the Flying Saucers \(Is Another World Watching?\)](#): Chapter II (2) (The Mystery of Maury Island), pages 16 – 21, was omitted from the subsequent U.S. editions read by the author of *Time of Contact*; it may be possible to discover why Mr. Heard or his editor or publisher did this by examining Mr. Heard's correspondence or diaries, or the files of his publishers. However, there were instances of self-censorship until investigators, authors, editors and their readers had become fully accustomed to the exceptional content of many reports of alien craft, aliens, and their activities; some reports were arbitrarily edited or rejected, or a spurious explanation for a report was proposed, or the publication of a report was deliberately delayed, as discussed in **Chapter 6 (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI))**.

The *Maury Island* encounter began at about 1400 hours on Saturday, 21 June 1947 as Mr. Harold A. Dahl, his son and crew of two more persons were travelling in a harbour patrol boat close to [Maury Island \(Vashon-Maury Island\)](#) north of the port of [Tacoma](#) in the state of Washington in the north-western United States. They observed six airborne alien aerospace craft, one of which ejected what appeared to be two different types of material, some of which was possibly in a melted or liquid state and later solidified; samples of the material may have been recovered and analysed.

The *Maury Island* encounter is also discussed in **Chapter 2 (Alien technology)** and **Chapter 4 (Aliens)**; the encounter appears to have been followed immediately by a well-resourced operation whose aims may have included trying to deter or disrupt unofficial or private investigations or analyses of the encounter. [Mr. Kenneth Arnold](#) who personally investigated the *Maury Island* encounter in 1947 and seems for a time to have been one of the people against whom the operation was directed, wrote about his experiences: [The Coming of the Saucers: A Documentary Report on Sky Objects That Have Mystified the World](#), by Mr. Arnold (and Mr. Ray Palmer), published in 1952. Another recommended starting point for research into the *Maury Island* encounter is: [UFOs and the National Security State: Chronology of a Cover-up 1941 - 1973](#), by [Mr. Richard M. Dolan](#), published in 2002, Chapter 2: Saucers in the Skies: 1947, The Maury Island Saga, pages 35 – 42.

Earlier drafts of [Is Another World Watching? The Riddle of the Flying Saucers](#) and [The Riddle of the Flying Saucers \(Is Another World Watching?\)](#) by Mr. Heard may date from 1947, titled, for example, “*The Flying Saucers*” or “*The Riddle of the Disks*” or “*The Riddle of the Flying Saucers*” and may have been started or written in collaboration with [Dr. Walther Johannes Riedel](#), a rocket scientist and engineer who is mentioned again later in this section: [Collection of Mr. Heard's papers, tape recordings, etc.](#) held by the [Charles E. Young Research Library](#), at the [University of California, Los Angeles \(UCLA\)](#), United States.

A discussion of the publication history of the first United Kingdom edition of *The Riddle of the Flying Saucers (Is Another World Watching?)* written by the executive who commissioned the book from Mr. Heard is contained in [Flying Saucers and Commonsense](#) by Mr. Waveney Girvan, published in 1955, Chapter Four (The Flying Saucers come to England), at pages 48 - 55, and Chapter Five (“The Riddle of the Flying Saucers”), pages 56 – 74.

Mr. Girvan edited the United Kingdom-based, internationally oriented journal [Flying Saucer Review](#) from 1959 to 1964 and his *Obituary (Our friend Waveney Girvan)* was published in [Flying Saucer Review, November 1964, Vol. 10, No. 6](#), at page 5; the obituary mentioned his work in connection with possible physical traces of an alien craft’s landing, discussed in *The Wiltshire Crater Mystery – the meteorite that never was*, by Waveney Girvan, [Flying Saucer Review, September - October 1963, Vol. 9, No. 5](#), pages 3 - 8. Mr. Girvan can be heard speaking on an [audio file originally made in 1959](#) that may also be available as audio filename 12 12 on the [UFOLOGY A Primer in Audio UK AUS 1946 – 1989 Guide](#) web page on the [Internet Archive](#) website. The sound quality of this audio file is poor and might be improved by using audio processing software or services.

In France, [Monsieur Jean Cocteau](#), a French intellectual, author, playwright, poet, and film director who became a member of [L'Académie française](#) and Commandeur de la [Légion d'honneur](#), wrote prefaces that appeared in some editions of two other pioneering books: [Lueurs sur les Soucoupes Volantes](#), by [Monsieur Aimé Michel](#), first published in 1954 (the

English translation titled [The Truth about Flying Saucers](#) was published in the United States in 1956 and in the United Kingdom - including the Preface by Monsieur Cocteau - in 1957), and [Black Out sur les Soucoupes Volantes](#), by Monsieur Jimmy Guieu ([Monsieur Henri-René Guieu](#)), first published in 1956 but apparently not yet translated into English.

Many reports of alien craft suggest that they propel themselves by directing gravity-like but artificial, focussed, matter-repelling acceleration force fields towards the surfaces of massive bodies like the Earth, as discussed in **Chapter 2 (Alien technology)**; these force fields may be what were called *synthetic acceleration force fields* by [Mr. Marc G. Millis](#), Master of Science (MSc.) who managed the [Breakthrough Propulsion Physics Program](#) of the United States [National Aeronautics and Space Administration \(NASA\)](#).

[Professor Paul R. Hill](#), a NASA aerospace scientist and engineer, analysed several possible types of propulsion for alien aerospace craft “for near-Earth operation”. He rejected most of them “because their characteristics do not fit the observed operational facts”. In reaching his eventual conclusion that the craft were propelled by artificial, focussed, matter-repelling acceleration force fields he took into account reports of, for example, a person who was standing being pushed down to the ground, tree branches that were pushed aside or broken, roof tiles dislodged, vehicles rocked or tipped over, etc., in the presence of alien craft: [Unconventional Flying Objects: a scientific analysis](#), by Professor Hill, Section V (Energetic Particle Ejection as a Propulsion Possibility), pages 83 - 91, Section VI (Transmission of Forces), pages 92 - 97, Section VII (Direct Evidence of Force Field Propulsion), pages 98 - 108, and Section VIII (Force Field Evaluation: Which Type?), pages 109 - 118 of the paperback edition published in 1995.

“Flying Saucers” were later called “Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs)” in the United States; they are now officially called “Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAP)” that may be “airborne, seaborne, spaceborne, and/or transmedium” (“transmedium” being defined officially as UAP “that transit more than one domain”): Appendix B: Glossary of Terms, [Fiscal Year 2023 Consolidated Annual Report on Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena](#) “cleared for open publication” by the United States [Office of the Director of National Intelligence \(ODNI\)](#) on 17 October 2023, page 15 of 16.

Mr. Heard and Professor Hill used [inductive reasoning](#) (i.e. reasoning “from what had been observed”) to develop their hypotheses about how alien craft were propelled, as mentioned in **Chapter 6 (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI))**. Inductive and [deductive reasoning](#) were discussed in [History of Western Philosophy](#), by the mathematician and philosopher [Bertrand Russell](#), third [Earl Russell](#) (1931), elected a [Fellow of the Royal Society \(FRS\)](#) in 1908, awarded the [Order of Merit \(OM\)](#) in 1949 and the [Nobel Prize in Literature 1950](#), first published in 1946; the definition of inductive reasoning quoted above appeared in *History of Western Philosophy*, Book One (Ancient Philosophy), Part 1 (the Pre-Socratics), Chapter IV (Heraclitus), pages 57 & 58.

A letter written by Mr. Aldous Huxley to his son and his daughter-in-law contains one of the most detailed accounts read by the author of *Time of Contact* of what was probably [disinformation](#) about how alien craft were propelled, that was communicated personally to Mr. Huxley and Mr. Heard: Letter from Aldous Huxley to his son [Matthew Huxley](#) and Matthew’s wife Ellen, dated July or August 1951, [Selected Letters of Aldous Huxley](#), edited with an introduction by [Dr. James Sexton](#), published in 2007, pages 422 - 424.

The disinformation may have been created and communicated as part of an intelligence-gathering operation that possibly aimed to discover the full details of any unpublished, or published but edited reports of alien craft, their users, or their activities contained in Mr. Heard's files. Mr. Huxley's letter may be read either by consulting a library copy of the *Selected Letters of Aldous Huxley* or alternatively purchasing the book new for about £23.50; second-hand copies of the *Selected Letters of Aldous Huxley* are also available at generally lower prices, although a seller's statements about the physical condition of a particular second-hand book and their postage charges for delivering it, should always be carefully scrutinised before purchasing from sellers advertising, for example, on websites such as [Amazon](#) or [AbeBooks](#).

According to Mr. Huxley, he and Mr. Heard met two men, probably in July or August of 1951, and at the home Mr. Huxley and his first wife [Mrs. Maria Nys Huxley](#) then shared at [740 North Kings Road, Los Angeles](#). Mr. Huxley wrote about what the two men said concerning their ostensible activities and themselves; he did not provide their names, or details of their physical appearance, body language, clothing, or footwear, or their accents or speech patterns, or other personal details, or anything about the vehicle in which they presumably arrived. Any further information along these lines that is discoverable may help us to decide who or what they were, for example, Mr. Heard or Mrs. Huxley may also have written letters about or discussed the meeting with other people. In addition, the two men may have met with other people around the same time who may also have written about or discussed what they experienced.

Mr. Huxley and Mr. Heard's meeting with the two men seems similar to experiences that other people have reported, i.e. they were called upon (or by) or met with, people or humanoid entities who discussed their experiences or knowledge regarding alien craft, their users, or their activities, or supplied what now appears to have mostly been disinformation about alien craft, aliens or their activities, or who threatened them, introduced in **Chapter 4 (Aliens)**. However, there is nothing in Mr. Huxley's letter to suggest that he or Mr. Heard were threatened on this occasion. Some of the people or entities may have provided true information to people they encountered or sought out, notably warnings, for example, about the consequences of our environmental depredations, as discussed earlier, in the **Prologue**.

The two men evidently tried to persuade Mr. Huxley and Mr. Heard that alien craft were propelled using [electrogravitics](#) and that the appearance of alien craft (that have often been reported to radiate visible light from apertures in their hulls, or are accompanied by airglows that are possibly [plasmas](#) close to their hulls) may have been caused by flame-based high voltage generators that provided electrical power to their propulsion systems.

The men also said they had used electrogravitics to propel a metal disc encased in a [dielectric](#) material of high [K \(dielectric constant or relative permittivity\)](#) by applying a high voltage charge of positive polarity to the leading edge of the dielectric and a negative charge to its trailing edge. This design is similar to a device that incorporates a disc and forms part of a [capacitor](#) that is discussed in the paper [The Biefeld-Brown Effect: Misinterpretation of Corona Wind Phenomena](#), "Disc Design" in Figure 1 at *page 16* of the PDF file, by [Dr. Martin Tajmar](#) (Professor and Chair for Space Systems, [Institute of Aerospace Engineering](#) at the [Technische Universität Dresden](#), Germany), published in 2004. However, in a working capacitor electrical energy is not supplied directly to its dielectric but rather (as in the referenced "Disc Design" mentioned above) to conductors adjacent to the dielectric.

Professor Tajmar was previously a member of a team that tried to produce [gravitomagnetic](#) and gravitoelectric fields experimentally, funded in part by the [European Space Agency \(ESA\)](#) and the [United States Air Force](#) as discussed in **Chapter 2 (Alien technology)**. The generation of such fields might be based on “a new quantum theory of gravity. It might even herald a futuristic technology that could be used to pull, push or levitate any object, regardless of its composition, electrical charge or shape”: [Gravity's secret](#) by [Dr. Stuart Clark](#), FRAS ([Fellow](#) of the [Royal Astronomical Society](#)), published in [New Scientist](#), 11 November 2006, [No. 2577](#), pages 36 – 39, and [Towards a new test of general relativity?](#) originally published on 23 March, 2006 by ESA.

Papers, and a book about the work by Professor Tajmar and others include: [Measurement of Gravitomagnetic and Acceleration Fields Around Rotating Superconductors](#), and [Search for Frame-Dragging-Like-Signals Close to Spinning Superconductors](#), plus [Possible gravitational anomalies in quantum materials, Phase II: Experimental assembly, qualification and test results](#) and [Possible gravitational anomalies in quantum materials, Phase I: Experiment definition and design](#), published by the [United States Air Force Research Laboratory](#), plus [Gravity-Superconductor Interactions: Theory and Experiment](#), edited by [Professor Giovanni Modanese](#) and [Mr. Glen A. Robertson](#), published in 2012.

Electrogravitics were evidently still being investigated as a possible method of propulsion in the early to mid-1950s. It is therefore possible that the two men who met Mr. Huxley and Mr. Heard identified themselves accurately and may have been sincere in their belief about the potential of electrogravitics as a basis for propulsion systems. If they were telling the truth about themselves and their work, the meeting may have been part of an effort to publicise or obtain financial support for their work at a [family foundation](#) or at a U.S. Navy facility, both of which they mentioned.

Mr. Huxley and Mr. Heard were both interested in science and technology and Mr. Huxley, in particular, had many famous or influential friends (examples are given later in this section) and these facts alone may possibly have made them potential targets for the two men or whoever or whatever controlled or directed them. However, the author of *Time of Contact* has so far read nothing to suggest that Mr. Huxley or Mr. Heard devoted much of their time or resources to investing in new technology.

The author of *Time of Contact* has concluded that it is more probable that Mr. Huxley and Mr. Heard were supplied with deliberate disinformation by the men, in part because (as mentioned earlier) electrical energy is not supplied directly to the dielectric of a capacitor but rather to conductors adjacent to the dielectric. While it is always possible that Mr. Huxley did not correctly report what the two men said, he and Mr. Heard were evidently shown photographs of their work. The author of *Time of Contact* has been unable to discover a flame-based high voltage electrical generator of the type described by Mr. Huxley, although research continues into the behaviour of flames, for example, the paper [Dynamic behaviour of a flame as plasma in a strong electric field](#), by Takao Fukuyama et al, copyright 2019.

According to Mr. Huxley the two men also said they would attempt to detect electrogravitic radiation. Beginning in 2015 we directly detected [gravitational waves](#) that are believed to be generated by pairs of black holes or neutron stars, or black holes and neutron stars, or possibly other types of massive objects spiralling around one another before they merge. The two [LIGO \(Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Detector\)](#) systems based in the

United States were our first successful detectors for gravitational waves over a frequency range of about 5 Hz to 20 KHz. [VIRGO](#) based in Italy and [KAGRA](#) in Japan are our other operational gravitational wave detectors.

We may also have detected lower-frequency gravitational waves generated by merging pairs of very massive black holes located at the centres of galaxies: [Gravitational waves from colossal black holes found using 'cosmic clocks'](#), by [Mr. Jason Stoughton](#), published by the U.S. [National Science Foundation](#), 29 June 2023. These discoveries and new gravitational wave receivers that are planned, including the space-based [Laser Interferometer Space Antenna \(LISA\)](#), are discussed in **Chapter 2 (Alien technology)**.

In the early twenty-first century, an experiment was undertaken to try to detect and measure the Earth's [gravitomagnetic](#) field caused by its rotation, using the [Gravity Probe B](#) spacecraft launched in 2004: [Spacetime and Spin](#) web page on the [Stanford University](#) website for *Gravity Probe B*, and [NASA's Gravity Probe B](#) web pages.

The two men who met with Mr. Huxley and Mr. Heard said that they were both physicists who had apparently studied or taught at the [California Institute of Technology \(Caltech\)](#). The older man said that he had worked as a physicist for the [United States Navy](#) since 1930, had been the head of their school of radar during the Second World War, and had worked in a U.S. Navy laboratory (at what is now the [Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard & IMF](#) in the state of Hawaii). They also said that they believed that the reported alien craft were real; they discussed them and expressed great interest in Mr. Heard's files about them: Letter from Aldous Huxley to his son [Matthew Huxley](#) and Matthew's wife Ellen, dated July or August 1951, [Selected Letters of Aldous Huxley](#), edited with an introduction by Dr. James Sexton, published in 2007, pages 422 - 424.

In another letter to his son, Mr. Huxley referred to a magazine article by Mr. Heard entitled "*Is Another World Watching Us?*" that may be available online: Letter from Aldous Huxley to his son Matthew, dated 1 July 1951, referring to "*the latest 'See' magazine – September 1951*" at pages 36 - 39, [Selected Letters of Aldous Huxley](#), edited with an introduction by Dr. James Sexton, published in 2007, pages 424 - 425.

[Arthur C. Clarke](#), FRAS ([Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society](#)) the inventor, author, and presenter who was awarded a [bachelor's degree in mathematics and physics by King's College, London in 1948](#) (he received the [CBE](#) in 1989 and was [knighted](#) in 2000), discussed efforts to develop "anti-gravity" devices in a book of essays "*written during the period 1959 – 61*": [Profiles of the Future: an inquiry into the limits of the possible](#), by Sir Arthur, Bantam edition published February 1972, Chapter Five (Beyond Gravity), pages 46 – 60 and Chapter Six (The Quest for Speed), pages 61 – 69. Some military services and other organisations may have financed publicly-known as well as secret research projects to try to make "anti-gravity" devices, discussed in **Chapter 2 (Alien Technology)** including a reference to the coverage of this subject in [Aliens from Space](#), by [Major Donald E. Keyhoe](#), published in 1973, Chapter 3 (The Hidden Gamble), pages 39 - 40.

The author of *Time of Contact* has concluded that the electrogravitic system that the two men evidently tried to convince Mr. Huxley and Mr. Heard existed and could be used to propel an object, was the central falsehood in the disinformation they imparted using terminology and referring to ideas and experiments, equipment, techniques, and materials

that would seem plausible and appropriate to the level of human science and technology in 1951. We may contrast their disinformation with the disinformation communicated to people by aliens, their surrogates or their human representatives in different eras that also appeared to reflect the level of human science and technology at the time.

For example, in 1897 Captain “Jim” Hooton, a “[railroad \(railway\) conductor](#)” who almost certainly worked for [The Missouri, Iron Mountain and Southern Railway](#), encountered a landed or low-hovering alien craft plus four or five of its users, one of whom told him that “we are using condensed (i.e. compressed) air and aeroplanes” (the word “[aeroplanes](#)” was apparently used here in the sense of “[wings](#)” not complete aircraft). The encounter occurred on or about Tuesday, 20 April 1897 as Captain Hooton “started to make (his) way back towards the [railroad station](#)” at [Texarkana](#) that straddles the border between the states of Texas and Arkansas in the United States. Captain Hooton was returning from [Homan](#), 13 miles north-east of *Texarkana* where he had been hunting during a break from his duties; the encounter occurred after about 1800 hours local time, probably during daylight, as sunset in *Texarkana* would have been at approximately 1950 hours local time.

The alien craft looked like some others that were observed or encountered during 1897; their appearance seemed “to have been arrived at by hybridization between Renard and Krebs’ dirigible balloon ... ([La France](#) which first flew in 1884) and a small [locomotive of the Far West](#) (see *Flying Saucer Review*, July - August 1966, Vol. 12, No. 4, cover illustration)”: *The Problem of Non-Contact*, by [Monsieur Aimé Michel](#), included in [The Humanoids](#), published in 1969, pages 249 – 256, at page 256, and [Flying Saucer Review, Special Issue, October – November 1966, The Humanoids – A Survey of World-Wide reports of landings of unconventional aerial objects and their alleged Occupants](#), pages 67 – 70.

Captain Hooton’s encounter was discussed in **Chapter 3 (Alien craft)**; see also the article *The Strange Case of the 1897 Airship*, by Mr. Jerome Clark, [Flying Saucer Review, July - August 1966, Vol. 12, No. 4, page 14](#), which includes information that was published in a newspaper report that also contained a copy of a drawing Captain Hooton made of the alien craft: *Saw The Air Ship - Conductor Hooton, of the Iron Mountain, Tells of It*, [The Arkansas Gazette, Little Rock, Thursday, April 22, 1897](#), at page 3. The report’s existence may be confirmed by scrolling down after the above-linked web page loads, to view small, low-definition images of the referenced newspaper page for free on the [Newspapers.com](#) website; the newspaper can be read in full and at higher definition by paying to subscribe to the website.

As mentioned earlier, the purpose of the two men Mr. Huxley and Mr. Heard met may have been to learn first-hand from Mr. Heard about the reports of alien craft and possibly also of their users or their activities in his files. The men or their superiors or controllers may have concluded that this was necessary because some of Mr. Heard’s reports may have not been published, or if published may have been edited. In the past the use of physical, paper print media such as books, journals, magazines, and newspapers imposed drastic financial and practical limitations on the number and length of reports that could be published; therefore, many reports were inevitably excluded or edited.

In addition, translations from one language into another had to be done by skilled human translators prior to the availability of free, online services like [Google Translate](#) in the twenty-first century. Therefore, many observations or encounters recorded in languages other than,

for example, English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, or Spanish, were never published outside of the countries where they were reported.

In 1952, Mr. Huxley and Mr. Heard participated in a televised “round-table discussion on flying saucers” in Los Angeles, according to [Professor Dr. J. Allen Hynek](#), an astronomer, investigator and author, consultant to the United States Air Force and scientific consultant for the film (movie) [Close Encounters of the Third Kind](#). Professor Dr. Hynek wrote in a report that he made to the U.S. Air Force, that “*While in Los Angeles, I was asked to appear in a TV program with Gerald Herd (i.e. Gerald Heard), the BBC science analyst; with Walter Riddel (probably [Dr. Walther J. Riedel](#)) the rocket expert; and with Aldous Huxley. They were to have a round-table discussion on flying saucers. I declined immediately but was prevailed upon to be in the studio when the program was in progress. ... the program had the general effect of convincing the hearers that flying saucers did exist*”: [Special Report on Conferences with Astronomers on Unidentified Aerial Objects to Air Technical Intelligence Center Wright-Patterson Air Force Base](#) of the United States Air Force, now the [National Air and Space Intelligence Center](#)), [Wright-Patterson Air Force Base](#), by (Professor Dr.) J. Allen Hynek, August 6, 1952, Appendix, page 21.

A copy of the *Special Report* was kindly provided to the author of *Time of Contact* by [Dr. Mark Rodeghier](#), President and Scientific Director of the [J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies \(CUFOS\)](#). The *Special Report* was reproduced in the book [Project Blue Book](#), edited by Mr. Brad Steiger, first published in 1976, Chapter Eleven: Dr. Hynek’s Conferences with Astronomers, pages 268 – 285.

When the U.S. Air Force ended its publicly-known UAP investigation [Project Blue Book](#) in 1969, Professor Dr. Hynek, “*its civilian scientific consultant on UFO reports ... at last found himself free to write a valuable book, [The UFO Experience – A Scientific Inquiry](#)*” published in 1972. “*He then set about forming his institute, the Center for UFO Studies ... with a band of scientists of varied disciplines giving support. In September, 1974, Dr. Hynek associated himself with [Flying Saucer Review](#) as a consultant*”: Introduction: UFOs, Occupants, and the *Flying Saucer Review* - The Colorado University Study (the [Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects](#)), [Encounter Cases from Flying Saucer Review](#), published in 1977, edited by [Mr. Charles Bowen](#), at page x (10).

A newspaper advertisement for what was evidently the television programme in which Mr. Huxley, Mr. Heard and Dr. Riedel participated, was published in the [Los Angeles Times](#) newspaper, Vol. LXXI, Tuesday Morning, August 5, 1952, Part I, at page 22. The advertisement read as follows:

“AMERICA VOTES To-nite

See...

Famous astronomers, physicists and rocket scientists debate:

‘ARE THERE FLYING SAUCERS?’

KECA TV CHANNEL 7

TONIGHT 9.00 P.M.”

On 5 August, 1952 the same advertisement also appeared in the Los Angeles [Daily News](#), Sundown edition, Tuesday, August 5, 1952, at page 29, and the Los Angeles Mirror newspaper, Vol, IV – No. 252, August 5, 1952, at page 28. The television station [KECA-TV](#)

Channel 7 (re-named KABC-TV in 1954 and also known as [ABC7](#)) was located at [Prospect Avenue at Talmadge Street](#) and has always been affiliated with the [American Broadcasting Company \(ABC\)](#), which is now owned by [The Walt Disney Company](#). The inclusion of Professor Dr. Hynek's report of the television discussion of Tuesday, 5 August, 1952 in the *Appendix* to the *Special Report* dated August 6, 1952 and the evident mis-spellings of the names of Mr. Heard and Dr. Riedel, may indicate that he dictated the text of the *Appendix* to a typist, possibly over the telephone or while he was in Los Angeles.

The fact that Mr. Huxley, in particular, was a globally-known intellectual with wide interests and many famous or influential friends and other contacts, may have been one reason for the visit he and Mr. Heard received from the two men. For example, Mr. Huxley and his first wife Mrs. Maria Nys Huxley were close friends with the astronomer [Dr. Edwin Hubble](#) and his wife Grace Hubble. The friendship between the Hubbles and the Huxleys may have begun in 1937 after the Huxleys arrived in the United States (having travelled there with Mr. Heard); after they arrived in California they went to "[Mount Wilson](#) and looked at the sky with professor Hubble": Letter from Mrs. Maria (Nys) Huxley to Mr. Roy Fenton, 13 October 1937, No. 417, [Letters of Aldous Huxley](#) edited by Professor Dr. Grover Smith, published in 1969, pages 424 - 427.

Another example dates from 1939, when Mr. Huxley arranged a dinner party at the house he and his wife Maria then shared at [701 S\(outh\) Amalfi Drive, Pacific Palisades](#) in California, for his brother [Professor \(later Sir\) Julian Huxley, Fellow of the Royal Society \(FRS\)](#). The guests were to include Dr. and Mrs. Hubble, the author, screen writer, actress and playwright [Ms. Anita Loos](#) and, if they were available [Charlie \(later Sir Charles\) Chaplin](#) and [Lord Bertrand Russell](#) (mentioned earlier). Mr. Huxley made it clear to his brother that Mr. Heard would not care to attend this dinner but implied that he might attend a smaller gathering: Letter from Aldous Huxley to Professor Julian Huxley, dated 12 December 1939, [Selected Letters of Aldous Huxley](#), edited with an introduction by [Dr. James Sexton](#), published in 2007, pages 365 - 368.

In 1949, Dr. Hubble visited Aldous and Maria Huxley to show them the first photographs taken with the then-new 200 inch diameter [Hale Telescope](#): Letter from Aldous Huxley to Professor Julian Huxley, 26 February 1949, No. 560, [Letters of Aldous Huxley](#), edited by [Professor Dr. Grover Smith](#), published in 1969, pages 591 - 593. The *Letters of Aldous Huxley* may be available as a library book, or alternatively may be purchased second-hand from sellers on websites such as [AbeBooks](#) and [Amazon](#).

Dr. Riedel, a rocket scientist and engineer was the "*Honorary Vice President*" of the private investigative organisation *Civilian Saucer Investigation (CSI)* according to its journal [Civilian Saucer Investigation, VOL. I, No. 2, Winter 1953](#) at page 8 (Mr. Heard was at the time the CSI's President). A photograph of Dr. Riedel appeared in the article [Have we Visitors from Space?](#) published in LIFE magazine, 7 April 1952 in connection with [Civilian Saucer Investigation \(CSI\)](#).

The author of *Time of Contact* believes it is possible that a recording or written transcript may exist of the original television broadcast, which was made prior to the availability of professional video tape recorders in the United States beginning in 1956. However, a film (movie) or audio recording of the discussion may have been made by KECA-TV in the television studio. Alternatively, a film or audio recording of the broadcast may have been

made from a television set as it received the broadcast by the military or security services, or by a viewer watching the program at home. Researchers who are based or who can base themselves in Los Angeles, or who have contacts within [ABC7 \(KABC Television, LLC\)](#), the [American Broadcasting Company \(ABC\)](#) or its owner the [The Walt Disney Company](#), or the military or security services, may be able to discover such recordings or transcripts or other information about the broadcast.

Researchers could also review online indexes of potential sources of information such as a [collection of Mr. Huxley's and his second wife Laura Archera Huxley's papers and other media](#) that is held by the [Charles E. Young Research Library](#), at the [University of California, Los Angeles \(UCLA\)](#); a [collection of Mr. Heard's papers, tape recordings, etc.](#) is also held by the Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA. A collection of Professor Dr. Hynek's papers is held by the [McCormick Special Collection and Archives](#) at [Northwestern University](#) in the state of Illinois, United States. Researchers who are physically based in Los Angeles or Illinois are clearly best situated to seek access to and analyse information that is only available on physical media in the libraries mentioned.

Mr. Heard broadcast on science subjects for the [British Broadcasting Corporation \(BBC\)](#), and it is possible that the BBC received and may have broadcast an audio recording of the television discussion in Los Angeles. While the author of *Time of Contact* has so far been unable to discover any such recording or broadcast there is scope for further research. For example, the [BBC Programme Index](#) online lists two BBC programmes with the same title as the American television broadcast of 5 August 1952: "*Are there Flying Saucers?*"

The first BBC programme called *Are there Flying Saucers?* was a [BBC radio broadcast on Sunday, 14 June 1953](#) by [Professor Dr. A. C. B. \(Bernard\) Lovell](#), OBE, Professor of Radio Astronomy at the [University of Manchester](#), elected a [Fellow of the Royal Society \(FRS\)](#) in 1955 and knighted in 1961, who reviewed the book [Flying Saucers](#), by [Professor Dr. Donald H. Menzel](#), Professor of Astrophysics at [Harvard University](#), published by [Harvard University Press](#) on 5 February 1953 and re-published as an electronic book on 1 October 2013. In public, Professor Dr. Menzel was consistently sceptical about reports of alien craft; nevertheless he may possibly have been involved in undisclosed, official work in this area: [The secret life of Donald H. Menzel](#) by [Mr. Stanton T. Friedman](#), Master of Science (MSc.), published in the [International UFO Reporter \(IUR\), January/February 1988, Volume 13, Number 1, pages 20 -24.](#)

Two amateur astronomers who attempted to contact Professor Sir Bernard Lovell in the course of their investigation into a wave of observations of and encounters with alien craft in and around the English county of [Staffordshire](#) that peaked in the late Summer of 1967, were told by his secretary on 30 November 1967 that "*Professor Lovell was of the opinion that witnesses of alleged UFOs had genuinely misidentified various things which in fact had natural explanations*": H. In *Sir Bernard Lovell's Opinion*, [Flying Saucer Report: UFOs Unidentified, Undeniable](#), by Mr. Roger Howard Stanway, MBA, FRAS and [Mr. Anthony Reuben Pace](#), FRAS, originally published in February 1968 by [Newchapel Observatory](#), Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England, *page 61*; a second (revised) edition was published in 1972.

Further information about Messrs. Stanway and Pace including a summary of one of the reports of alien craft which they investigated, is provided in **Chapter 6 (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI))**.

The second BBC programme that was also called *Are there Flying Saucers?* was a [BBC Television broadcast on Thursday, 10 December 1953](#) evidently presented by [Arthur C. Clarke](#) FRAS, introduced earlier. According to Mr. Waveney Girvan (mentioned earlier) Sir Arthur (as he became in 2000) was entirely sceptical in this television program, apparently attributing reports of alien craft to mistaken identification by those who observed or encountered them and proposing that alleged photographs of alien craft were faked: [Flying Saucers and Commonsense](#) by Mr. Waveney Girvan, published in 1955, Introduction, *page 10*, Chapter Seven (The Adamski Photographs), *pages 89 - 90*, Chapter Ten (The Attitude of Governments), *page 128*, Chapter Eleven (Public Opinion: Past and Future), *page 137*, and Chapter Twelve (Cedric Allingham and the Martian), *pages 153 – 154*.

It would be helpful to watch a video file or listen to an audio file, or read a transcript of Sir Arthur's broadcast (if any of them exist) to discover exactly what he said in this instance. The BBC only regularly video-recorded programs beginning later in the 1950s but it is possible that the broadcast was recorded on film (or an audio recording may have been made) by the BBC in the television studio. Alternatively, the military or security services or a viewer watching the program at home may have filmed or made an audio recording of the program from a television set as it received the broadcast.

The science-fiction novel [Childhood's End](#) by Sir Arthur that was published in 1953 (the same year as his television broadcast mentioned earlier) suggests that he was aware of contemporary ideas that the observed high acceleration and speeds, and extreme manoeuvres of some "flying saucers" might be due to the generation and control of synthetic acceleration force fields. [Professor Dr. h. c. \(honoris causa\) Hermann Oberth](#) a pioneering rocket scientist and engineer, was credited by Professor Hill with being the first expert "to conclude that UFOs convert gravitational field energy to propulsive purposes": [Unconventional Flying Objects: a scientific analysis](#), by Professor Hill, Section XIX (UFO Operational Capabilities), Part E. (Performance Unlimited – Energy Gathered En Route), Professor Hermann Oberth's Contribution, *pages 294 – 295*, and Section XX (Summary and Conclusions), Part 14. (The UFO Energy Supply – Is it Enough?), *pages 328 – 329*, of the paperback edition published in 1995, and *They Come from Outer Space* (The Unexplained Nine Per Cent, paragraph 3 (a)), by Professor Dr. Oberth, [Flying Saucer Review, May - June 1955, Vol. 1, No. 2](#), at *page 14*.

In *Childhood's End*, Sir Arthur described how one of his fictional alien starships departing our solar system was observed "*drawing a fluctuating line of light across the stars ... the immense accelerations of (its propulsion system) caused a local distortion of space*". What was observed was "*nothing less than the light of distant stars, collected and focussed ... whenever conditions were favourable along the track of the ship. It was visible proof of (general) relativity – the bending of light in the presence of a colossal gravitational field*". Sir Arthur also had one of his characters say of the starships, that "*They leave the Solar System under such tremendous accelerations that they approach the velocity of light in less than an hour. This means that (the aliens) must possess some kind of propulsive system that acts equally on every atom of their ships, so that anything aboard won't be crushed instantly. I wonder why they employ such colossal accelerations, when they've got all space to play*

*with? My theory is that they can somehow tap the energy fields round the stars, and so have to do their starting and stopping while they're fairly close to a sun*": [Childhood's End](#), by Arthur C. Clarke, first published in 1953, Chapter 8, *page 108* and Chapter 12, *page 142* of a 1990 revision, paperback format book published in 2010. A [Syfy adaptation of Childhood's End](#) in three parts premiered in December 2015, and may be viewed via the [Internet Archive](#).

Sir Arthur discussed the possible use of artificially-generated, controllable acceleration force fields for propulsion, user protection and other applications in a book of essays that were "*written during the period 1959 – 61*": [Profiles of the Future: an inquiry into the limits of the possible](#), by Sir Arthur, Bantam edition published February 1972, Chapter Five (Beyond Gravity), *pages 46 – 60* and Chapter Six (The Quest for Speed), *pages 61 – 69*. The manoeuvres of which an acceleration force field-propelled and protected craft would be capable were described by Sir Arthur (for example, "*right-angled turns*") and as these appear in many reports of alien craft, he may have been aware of them when he wrote the essays. Sir Arthur mentioned his own observation of what may have been an alien craft in a documentary film in which he appeared: [2001: The Making of a Myth](#) (the version available via the [Amazon Freevee](#) streaming service in the United Kingdom; some other versions of the film may not contain Sir Arthur's report of his observation).

Researchers can visit the [British Library](#) in central London where they may listen to [historic BBC recordings](#) or read BBC printed catalogues. The [BBC Written Archives Centre](#) may hold transcripts of programmes that have not been conserved on other media.

The 1951 appointment diaries of Mr. Heard or Mr. Huxley or other letters written by either of them or Mrs. Maria Huxley, might enable us to learn more about the two men they met. Unfortunately, Mr. Huxley mentioned the loss of "*diaries*" as well as "*books, papers, MSS (manuscripts), old letters*" in [a fire which destroyed the house he shared with his second wife, Laura Archera Huxley at 3276 Deronda Drive, Los Angeles](#), on Friday, 12 May 1961: Letters Nos. 864 - 866, [Letters of Aldous Huxley](#), edited by Professor Dr. Grover Smith, published in 1969, *pages 911 - 912*.