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TITLE: Are flying saucers a myth?

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TOPIC TAGS: ~~optical phenomenon~~, unidentified flying object, atmospheric *optical* phenomenon

ABSTRACT: Various eyewitness accounts of UFO's are described. It is concluded that UFO's are a myth. The single and chance appearance of UFO's complicates or completely excludes the possibility of investigation. Stereoscopic photography is not reliable: it is impossible simultaneously to follow from two points the accurate outlines of a solid flying object. All pictures made by one-objective cameras have room for doubt. It is true that there are pictures which do not raise doubts. They always show objects of round or oval shape with diffused outlines, probably ball lightning. The nature of ball lightning is unknown because of the utter lack of information about the time and place of its formation. It cannot be described as being of outer-space origin. Even during superficial analysis, it is found that the mysterious flares on clouds are reflections of electric welding, signals from aircraft near airports, or remote summer lightning. The November "saucer" of 1957 above Sofia turned out to be a scouting balloon of NATO. When

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The Western public whose attention is distracted from politics or economics, there appear flying saucers, Loch Ness monsters, or Saoumen.

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