

*The UFO Criticism by J.N.
from Japan*

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My Standpoint

This is my personal publication. I am a forty-eight-year-old Japanese man, and have published personal journal UFO Hihyo by J·N (The UFO Criticism by J.N.) in Japanese since 1993 for a small number of domestic researchers.

I would like to tell my opinion about UFOs to overseas people also, so I made this new journal that you have in your hands. I can write only poor English, but I hope you will understand what I would like to say. If I use some rude words without consciousness, please forgive me.

Japanese UFO study has a long history and has accomplished many valuable studies. In Japan, main UFO researchers have been classified traditionally into two kinds, that is, "Sciencian" (Kagaku-ha) and "Contactian" (Kontakuto-ha). Though this classification is illogical, it is very useful. I began UFO study in my boyhood and learned much from both researchers.

However, I am neither "Sciencian" nor "Contactian." We must abandon the illusion that we can prove existence of UFOs. It is impossible for science to know about higher science. We can only know that skeptics are too credulous. Though I believe that space people made UFOs, this is merely my private opinion.

Speaking about "contact," I have no interest in the so-called "SETI." We need ideal space people who do not need us. We do not need barbarous space people like us. For ideal space people, we must be only an object of protection as "wild animals." If UFOs are made by such ideal space people, UFOs can not land on our planet openly. Our contact with UFOs must be always secret and incomprehensible, like Fatima incident in 1917.

Furthermore, such ideal space people can not give us any hint that contribute to progress of our barbarous science. If UFOs are made by ideal space people, all phenomena of UFOs must be not incidental physical phenomena but intentional coded messages. Therefore, UFO study will be unable to contribute to our science.

The earliest researchers concluded that UFOs came from outer space. However, if UFOs had not led them by showing selected appearances and behaviors, they would have been unable to come to the conclusion. I saw mysterious aerial phenomena many times in recent years, and in most cases they had appearances like unknown natural phenomena.

If UFOs need you, UFOs will appear to you. There are many cases indicate that UFOs can read our mind. Yes, UFOs know you! Nevertheless, I do not know what "telepathy" is. I have few interest in supernatural power. What I need is not such power but good fortune.

What is the purpose of UFO study? You must find your private answer. I study UFOs because they attract me.

Junji Numakawa

沼川 淳治
(Numakawa Junji)

On a UFO-shaped Boat in 1803

Skeptical Inquirer is available at a foreign-book shop in Tokyo. In an article of the July-August issue of 2000, Mr. Kazuo Tanaka concludes that an incident reported by Japanese some old essays is not a fact. Every essay has its illustration of a UFO-shaped boat and of a strange foreign woman, that were drifted to Japanese waters near some beach of Hitachi-no-kuni (today's Ibaraki Prefecture) in 1803.

Mr. Tanaka's conclusion is correct. However, it is a pity that he does not know of the oldest report. One kawara-ban, irresponsible popular newspapers of those days, wrote this incident just in 1803. We UFO researchers have known of the Kawara-ban since 1996 when the March issue of Japanese strange-phenomena magazine Muh (Nu) reported about the discovery of it. The report was based on an article in a local newspaper Ibaraki Shinbun (Ibaraki Newspaper) of that year. The below figure is a photo of the kawara-ban taken by Mr. Hirokazu Fujihira (# 1) at Nishi Library, Funabashi City, Chiba Prefecture. This is the oldest illustration of the boat.

The oldest illustration
of a UFO-shaped boat
said to appear on Japanese
waters in 1803.

Photo : © Mr. Hirokazu
Fujihira



And, this kawara-ban clearly tells that the beach belongs to Kashima-gun (Kashima County) which faces the Pacific Ocean. As Mr. Tanaka writes, names of the beach differ with reports. When I searched the beach in 1994, I concluded that it was somewhere in Kashima-gun. Because according to one of the reports, Toen Shosetsu, the beach was a territory of a Hatamoto (direct retainer of the Shogun) . I excluded municipalities in which no such territory had been from all municipalities facing the ocean (# 2) . Mr. Tanaka went other way, and it serves for me as a very good reference.

I must point out that there is a complicated problem about name of the beach. We Japanese use three kinds of letters, that is, Kan-ji (Chinese characters), Hira-gana, and Kata-kana. In addition to this complex circumstance, in those days many styles of handwriting were used widely. Today, many Japanese can not read most of them without a dictionary.

Now, three beach names are reported, that is, "Hara-to-no-hama," "Harayadori," and "Kyosha-ga-hama" which is the oldest name stated in the kawara-ban. Consulting a dictionary on styles of handwriting (# 3) , I found in 1996 that one style of "kyo" (京) resembles that of "hara" (原) as the left figure on the next page shows, and that one style of "to" or "sha" (these are two pronunciations of one character : 舎) slightly resembles letters of "yadori" (やどり) . Therefore, the oldest beach name perhaps changed into later names by misreading.

Though I could not find "Kyosha-ga-hama," I found a name of "Kyochi-gama" on a today's map, and this name was also in the Edo period (1603-1867, see pp.4-5) . "Gama" or "kama" (# 4) means a pot, or kettle, or caldron. And as the last figure shows,

one type of them resembles planet Saturn. Remember that the illustration of Ume no Chiri (see Mr. Tanaka's Figure 3) showed a Saturn-shaped boat ! Besides, people of Hitachi-no-kuni were familiar with "kama" because they produced a huge amount of salt from seawater, using some type or types of "kama."

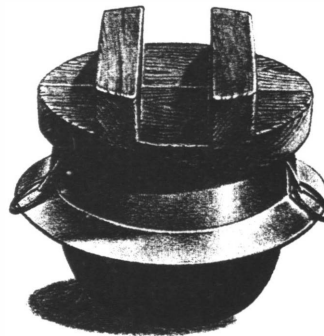
Mr. Tanaka explains reasons for resemblance between UFOs and the illustrations, using only one word of "accidental" (p.41) . However, there are concrete reasons as I wrote above.

In addition to that, I must point out that Japanese famous fairy tales speak about a little boy who uses a bowl as his boat, and about a boy who come out of a big peach that came floating down a stream. Now, the oldest illustration of the boat resembles a bowl, and one of other illustrations resembles a chestnut (see Mr. Tanaka's Figure 2) .

Moreover, in Kashima-gun there is a legend about "Utsuho-fune (bune)" that has the same meaning as "Utsuro-fune (bune) ," a hollow boat, used by the reports for the boat of 1803 (# 5) . An unknown writer of the Kawara-ban perhaps knew of this legend.

京
系
原

Similar styles of
different letters.
(from # 3)



One type
of "Kama."
(from # 6)

- # 1 He is a chairman of "Sky People Report Meeting" (see p.6) and a cartoonist lives in Chiba City, Chiba Prefecture.
- # 2 I consulted Kadokawa Nihon Chimei Dai-jiten (Kadokawa's Large Dictionary of Japanese Place Names) Vol.8 published by Kadokawa-shoten (1983) .
- # 3 I consulted Sosho Dai-jiten (A Large Collection of Running Styles of Writing Chinese Characters) edited by Sukeyuki Endo and published by Kodan-sha (1972) .
- # 4 In Japanese pronunciation, there are cases where "g" replaces "k."
- # 5 This legend was mentioned in Kashima Shi (Kashima Record) published in 1823. The old book is contained in Nihon Meisho Fuzoku Zue (Illustrated Guides on Customs of Japanese Famous Places) Vol.2 published by Kadokawa-shoten (1980) . And, in Japanese pronunciation, there are cases where "b" replaces "f."
- # 6 Nihon Dai-hyakka-zensho (Japan Large Encyclopedia) Vol.5 published by Shogakukan (1985) , p.664.

TO DEAR READERS

*I am sorry I will be unable to answer your
letter because of a shortage of free time.*

Please regard the next issue as my answer. Incidentally, I do not like the Internet.

Abductees in Old Japan

If first famous "abduction by aliens" had taken place in Japan, world's UFO researchers could have regarded easily it as a mere space age version of "Kami-kakushi" that means "Being hidden by Gods." There were many reports on it in the past Japan, and it often went with missing memory and with mysterious transfer. However, no fetus-shaped small creature appeared in the Kami-kakushi stories. Kidnappers usually looked to be human beings. And, the most important fact is that they did not use any vehicle.

The next case is reported by Kunio Yanagita (1875-1962), an authority on folklore, in his book Yama no Jinsei (Life on Mountains, 1926) Chapter 8. An elder brother of Shusei Tokuda (1871-1943; a famous novelist) was asked to search for a young neighboring man who had went missing leaving his footwear under a tree. When searchers were in the house of the man, suddenly something dropped on the ceiling noisily. The brother went up, and found the man was lying. He said that a big man had taken him. This event occurred at Asano Town, Kanazawa City, Ishikawa Prefecture, in about 1877.

As modern American "abductions by aliens" do, Kami-kakushi often attacked children (#1). Gendai Minwa Ko (A Study of Modern Folk Stories) Volume 1 (1985; published by Rippu-shobo) is a useful collection by Ms. Miyoko Matsutani, a famous writer of juvenile literature. I would like to choose words of a man: "When my younger sister Katsu was four years old, she was playing with Yoshi . . . but while Yoshi was napping Katsu was missing . . . The next morning, my grandmother Okiyo and my elder sister Okura went near a rock . . . and heard a cry . . . Climbing the rock, they found Katsu . . . Her . . . wear did not get wet but bottom in last stormy night . . . No such a not well-walkable child can climb the rock. This event occurred when I was twelve years old." (#2)

Ms. Matsutani is perplexed by the fact that persons concerned are often familiar or neighboring people of the reporters. And, many writers in the Edo period (1603-1867; #3) also reported amazing incidents. Zuihitsu Jiten (Dictionary of Essays) Volume 4 (1961; published by Tokyo-do) edited by Mr. Shokyoku Shibata collects numerous articles about strange phenomena written in the Edo period. I would like to introduce you to a few stories.

The first incident took place at a residence of an upper-class Samurai (the surname is written) in Edo (Tokyo). One night in about summer (by the lunar calendar) in 1689, a lower Samurai (the surname is written) went out of his room and disappeared. The gate was still locked. Eighteen days later, on the night he came back. He said that when he had gotten out of bed and had went out of the room a man like a Yamabushi (a sort of ascetic) had appeared and had taken him out to high mountains and mysterious places in Japan. He did not know whether he was flying or running. The Yamabushi disappeared in Utsunomiya (about 100 km from Edo), and the Samurai returned to Edo together with an ascetic. The ascetic disappeared in the vicinity of the residence, and the Samurai could not remember later events. This story is reported in Shifugoroku, written by Sansei Asaka and given an introduction dated 1716.

Next incident is more fantastic. On the night of July 20 (by the lunar calendar), 1810, at Asakusa in Edo one young naked man fell from the sky. He was a Samurai (full name is written) lived in Kyoto (about 400 km from Edo), and on July 18 he worshiped at Atago Shrine in the city. An old monk invited him and he went. He could not remember later events. He was handed over to the authorities. This story is said in Toen Shosetsu, one of the literature on the UFO-shaped boat in 1803 (see p.2).

Of course, we have no information to check these old stories. However, similarity to modern "abductions by aliens" shows us that space people have nothing to do with the American abductions (#4).

I suppose that UFOs and aliens in today's abductions are mere "accessories" for space age. My fancy is that there are people who are able to teleport, and that an accidental operation of this ability causes a mysterious abduction. I also suppose that this ability is "a stage property" to make "spectators" believe in supernatural beings

who do not exist. This believing contribute to making and keeping the social unity without which human beings can not continue to exist. Therefore, it is not wonder that today's American abductees often became religious evangelists.

Does Kami-kakushi occur also in today's Japan ? Unfortunately, few studies have done on this interesting subject.

- # 1 To our surprise, according to the above book Chapter 9, Yanagita himself was a sufferer from an attempted Kami-kakushi in his boyhood. When his mother cried, he was absent-minded.
- # 2 This is a temporary translation, because underlined words are ambiguous in the original Japanese.
- # 3 The era of the Shogun living in Edo which is the old name of Tokyo. The nominal sovereign Emperor was living in Kyoto.
- # 4 Skeptics' view about the case of Mr. and Mrs. Hill is correct. The UFO seen first was planet Jupiter as a reconstructed night sky indicates.

My Roswell Watching

An American bomber group who attacked Hiroshima and Nagasaki with atom bombs now attacks USA. The wreckage of Roswell in 1947 is obviously that of a balloon or balloons. Today, no one will call it "wreckage of a UFO" when see it. Of course, we are free to suppose that it was a balloon or balloons of space people.

The UFO-assertion is full of invalid evidences. Especially, recollections about unknown figures resembled characters or letters of Ancient-Egypt and of China and of Japan are meaningless for we Japanese. Certainly, we use kan-ji, Chinese characters. However, we also use two other letters called Hira-gana and Kata-kana. Besides, characters of Ancient Egypt do not resemble the above three (see pp.2-3) .

Why did a first-class officer of a first-class military base have to question about an elementary problem of management of a burned dead body not to an army surgeon but to a civilian undertaker ? Why is there much more information than testimony in the affidavit ? Why did a mere carrier try to damage the public load ? —

I believe in faithfulness of the witnesses. I only do not believe their memory because I can not believe my own memory about too old days.

(from page 6)

aristocracy) , entitled one of his books The Sky People (1960) . Though SPA uses a word-for-word translation of "tenku-jin," this Japanese word is given a meaning of "people who think of the sky" as Mr. Osamu Sato, the young president of SPA, said in the first issue of one of SPA's magazines, Soratobu Enban Fenomena (The Flying Saucer Phenomena) , published in 1992. However, there are cases where we give the same meaning as Lord Clancarty gave.

- # 2 ★Chikyu-gai Chisei Konseki Tansaku (Search for Traces of Extraterrestrial Intellect) . Tenri City:Published privately, 1993. Not for sale. 175 pages.

★UFOLOGY Shiryo (UFOLOGY Data) , A revised edition of UFO RESEARCHER Tokubetsu-go (UFO RESEARCHER Special Edition) in 1991. Tenri City:Published privately, 1996. Not for sale. 260 pages. This publication is one of monumental works in the history of Japanese UFO study.

★Tenku-jin Densho (Traditions of Sky People) , A joint work with his wife Mrs. Yuki Amamiya under pen names of Toru Yamaoka and Yuki Yamaoka. Tokyo:Tama-shuppan, 2000. On the market (¥1,000+tax). 143 pages.

“Sky People Report Meeting”

Mr. Kiyoshi Amamiya (1944-) is a very experienced UFO researcher lives in Tenri City, Nara Prefecture. He is respected by many open-minded UFO fans in Japan.

His lecture was held on June 25, 2000, at a small conference room in Tokyo Shoko Kaigi-sho (the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry) near the Imperial Palace, and thirty-five persons including at least one foreigner listened to him. This lecture was called “Tenku-jin Hokoku Kai” that means “Sky People Report Meeting.”

A relatively new UFO study group Tenku-jin Kyokai (Sky People Association ; founded in 1992 ; # 1) supported the lecture. Mr. Amamiya is the director of “West Japan” of this association, and has published a personal magazine THE UFO RESEARCHER (titled in English) since 1989. Moreover, he wrote at least three books (# 2) , and has close relations with Chinese researchers, and takes on CPR-Japan.

He is a disciple of a legendary contact-man Mr. Yusuke Matsumura, the leader of a big UFO group CBA (Cosmic Brotherhood Association) . Mr. Amamiya was the second editor of Soratobu Enban Daijesuto (The Flying Saucer Digest) , one of CBA magazines. However, he knows what is provable and what is not. In this lecture, he talked about mainly his own experience.

He has seen UFOs countless times since his boyhood. For instance, on August 30, 1961, at his home in Tokyo, he saw a UFO proceeding horizontally. It went to behind a utility pole and never reappeared. This behavior means that the UFO knew Mr. Amamiya's field of view !

I am a staff member of SPA, and handed to visitors at entrance a pamphlet that guided readers to Mr. Amamiya's forty years of UFO study. There were several famous researchers among attendants. For instance, Mr. Shinichiro Namiki, the president of JSPS (Japan Space Phenomena Society) ; Mr. Takao Ikeda, a vice-president of it, and the National Director for Japan of MUFON. We were surprised to find, among signatures of visitors, the name of a man who is internationally known because of his encounter with a giant UFO.

The lecture began at about 1:00 p.m. and ended at about 5:00 p.m. Attendance watched videotapes and projected 240 slides. Accidentally, this chamber is the place where Lord Clancarty, as the honored guest of CBA, lectured thirty-four years before.

1 Lord Brinsley Le Poer Trench, the Earl of Clancarty (If I use any incorrect title of honor, please forgive me. I do not have much knowledge of English

{ Continued on page 5 }



Photo :
© Junji
Numakawa

Is this a Near Miss with a UFO ??

A Japanese passenger plane, Boeing 737-200, JA8528, of the Nihon Toransu-oshan Koku (Japan Transocean Airlines) and one unknown plane had a near miss on November 14, 1998, at about 110 km west-southwest of Nii-jima (Nii Island) over the Pacific Ocean, and five persons were injured.

On January 28, 2000, Koku-jiko Chosa linkai (the Investigation Committee on Air Accidents) of Unyu-sho (the Ministry of Transport) publicized a report on this incident. And three days later, I got a thin book entitled Koku-jiko Chosa Hokoku-sho (A Report Book of Investigation on Air Accidents) from Unyu-sho. It contains four reports on different accidents, and the first is the document.

According to this report, at about 20:44 when the passenger plane was traveling from Miyako Airport in Okinawa Prefecture to Tokyo International Airport, the copilot found two white strobe lights in front of him. The two lights rapidly separated (see a figure on the next page) . He made a dive to avoid a collision. While, the captain did not saw the lights because he was watching meters.

One passenger also witnessed the plane, and besides, saw a form of it. The report arranges his or her testimony: "When I was sleeping at my place fastening a seatbelt, my body suddenly went up, and I woke up. Looking out of the window to find what had happened, I saw a plane. When I looked the outside, our plane seemed to end its diving. I saw the plane at the upper right of the window on my left, and because of its form I thought it flew in the opposite direction of our plane and on the level. The plane was as big as our plane and looked stocky, and perhaps had a white light [or lights. The Japanese language usually do not declare whether it is singular or not. Of course, we have words to declare it, and careful writers use them] ."

No radar caught the object. And, according to flight plans, neither private plane nor military plane including American corresponded to the object. The committee could not identify the lights. Speaking about the report, one TV newscaster used the word of "UFO," and in the same news-program a famous physicist Dr. Yoshihiko Otsuki, a professor of Waseda University, stated that it had been "plasma."

This near miss incident reminds us of a classic American case on July 24, 1948, testified by two pilots and one passenger (# 1) . However, in this Japanese case, the object did not show any marvelous character. Therefore, I guess the object to be an American stells bomber B-2 that is just stocky and has similar size. Of course, no ordinary radar can find it. At the time, "the Far East" was undertension because of North Korean missiles. It is natural that USA does not confess flight of a B-2.

Mr. Masaya Komagamine, the president of Kazuno UFO Research Association (Kazuno City, Akita Prefecture) , points out in a letter to me that we must research whether one can see a dark body of B-2 through a windowpane lighted by room lamps. No moon was in the sky at that time. However, there must have been numerous lights on the ground, and the faint light was given to the night sky by a physical cause. I can say no more than that at present.

Why does not the report have a drawing of the stocky plane by the witness ? Did the committee get such a drawing from the witness ? Did the drawing show the form of a B-2 too clearly to publish ?

1 Skeptics regard this cigar-shaped object with light windows as a meteor, because some of those who saw a falling USSR's rocket booster in 1968 were convinced that they saw a cigar-shaped UFO with windows. However, skeptics overlook that the booster broke into pieces. These pieces made an illusion of windows. On the night of July 24, 1948, a meteor shower was seen. Is there any person who saw a group of several meteors ?

{ See a figure on the next page. }

*Translation of
the explanation
with arrows:
"Rapidly separated
strobe lights"*

Copilot : right

*(This figure is
reproduced from
the official
investigation
report.)*



From My Sightings

■ At a short time of 9:30 p.m. on April 30, 1995, I were at my home of those days at Akazutsumi, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo, and found three strange lighted parts in the sky almost covered with clouds. The middle one was a blueish-white long sideways light at about 15 degrees of an angle of elevation in southeast (my home was on the third floor of a building on a hillside) . It was as long as my raised thumb at a straightened arm. I recorded the lights on video. After a while, I again looked at the sky. The middle light had changed into a complicated appearance, that is, there was a cigar-shaped standing luminous body leaning to the left, in the light. I questioned in my heart wether it was a UFO. And, after about two seconds, the light disappeared suddenly !

When I looked at a clock in the next room, the time was 9:56 p.m. Unfortunately, the videotape is not a sufficient evidence.

■ This picture is one cut of a video taken by me for over twenty minutes in total at Akazutsumi and Matsubara, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo, on the night of December 3, 1994. The object resembled not a projected search-light but the moon covered with clouds. However, there was no moon at that time. Indicated time is in a little error.



Photo :

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