

## Historical Sightings 1015 - 1492

**1015** Japan: Two objects were seen “giving birth” to smaller luminous spheres over Japan.

**1027** During August in Egypt, a number of "stars" were seen to fly over Cairo and the Nile Delta.

**1034** Europe: A rare typeset book from 1493 contains what may be the earliest pictorial representation of a UFO. The book *Liber Chronicarum*, describes a strange fiery sphere, seen in 1034 soaring through the sky in a straight course from south to east and then veering toward the setting sun. The illustration accompanying the account shows a cigar-shaped form haloed by flames, sailing through a blue sky over a green, rolling countryside. This may be the first work that contains illustrations of UFO's.

**1113** England, Wessex: A group of churchmen from Laon in France were going from town to town in Wessex, bearing with them relics of the Virgin Mary, which they used to perform miracles of healing. At the coastal town of Christchurch, they were astonished to see a dragon come out of the sea, “breathing fire out of its nostrils.”

**1133** Japan: A large silvery disk is reported to have come close to the ground.

**1078** England: "In this year appeared the wilde fyr such as no man before remembered, and moreover it did harm in many places.”

**1180** Japan, Kii province: A term equivalent to our "flying saucer" was actually used by the Japanese approximately 700 years before it came into use in the West. Ancient documents describe an unusual shining object seen in the night as a flying "earthenware vessel." The object, which had been heading northeast from a mountain in Kii province, changed its direction and vanished below the horizon, leaving a luminous trail.

**1200** England: William of Newburgh describes a silvery, flat, shiny disc-like object, which appeared near the abbey and frightened everyone near it.

**1207** England, Tilbury: Gervase of Tilbury writes in *Otio Imperialia* about an aerial ship which caught its anchor on a pile of stones. An occupant came down from the ship and managed to free it, however he was asphyxiated by the atmosphere.

**1211** England, Kent, Gravesend: During a Sunday mass it is said that the congregation saw an anchor descend and catch on a tombstone in the churchyard. The churchgoers rushed outside to see a strange “ship” in the sky, with people on board. One occupant of the vessel leaped over the side, but did not fall: “as if swimming in water” he made his way through the air toward the anchor. The people on the ground tried to capture him. The man then “hurried up to the ship.” His companions cut the anchor rope, and the ship then “sailed out of sight.” The local blacksmith made ornaments from the abandoned anchor to decorate the church lectern.

**1235** Japan: What might be called the first official investigation of a UFO sighting occurred in Japan in 1235. During the night while General Yoritsume and his army were encamped, mysterious lights were observed in the heavens. The lights were seen in the southwest for many hours, winging, circling and moving in loops. The general ordered a "full-scale investigation" of these strange events. The report finally submitted to him has the "soothing" ring of many contemporary explanations offered for UFO phenomena. In essence it read: "the whole thing is completely natural, General. It is only the wind making the stars sway."

**1239** England: Matthew of Paris: "On July 24 at dusk, but not when the stars came out, while the air was clear, serene and shining, a great star appeared. It was like a torch, rising from the south, and flying on both sides of it, there was emitted in the height of the sky a very great light. It turned towards the north, not quickly, nor, indeed, with speed, but exactly as it wished to ascend to a place high in the air."

**1254** England, St Albans: Some monks at saw in the night sky a "kind of large ship elegantly shaped and well-equipped and of marvelous color."

**1270** England, Bristol: A spaceship was seen, which landed, and an occupant came down from a ladder and was suffocated in the Earth's atmosphere.

**1271** Japan: The famous priest Nichiren was about to be beheaded at Tatsunokuchi, Kamakura, when there appeared in the sky an object like a full moon, shiny and bright. The officials panicked and the execution was not carried out.

**1290** England, Yorkshire: The Abbot and monks of Byland Abbey, (the largest Cistercian abbey in England), were about to commence a meal when one of the brethren ran in to announce a great portent outside. They all ran outside and saw a large silver disc fly slowly overhead and caused the utmost terror.

**1320** England, Durham: After the abbot of Durham Abbey died and was buried, a strange light was seen to descend from the sky and move about over his grave.

**1332** England, Uxbridge: "There was seen in the sky a pile (pillar) of fire the size of a small boat, pallid and livid in color. It rose from the south, crossed the sky with a slow and grave motion, and went north. Out of the front of the pile, a fervent red flame burst forth with great beams of light. Its speed increased, and it flew through the air."

**1347** Europe: Black Plague, 1347-1350: Reports from this period feature strange cigar-like objects flying low through the sky and dispersing noxious mists. Soon after these objects passed by, plague would break out in that area. Other features from this period similar to modern UFO reports include sightings of mysterious MIB-like scythe-wielding "reapers" clad in black hoods & robes, and mysteriously slaughtered cattle and other animals. One year before an outbreak of plague, a "column of fire" was seen over the Pope's palace at Avignon. A monstrous "whale" was cast ashore at Egemont shortly before another plague outbreak, and numerous times during this period "rumblings like thunder" were heard even when there were no storms. Blazing "comets" were seen numerous times in the heavens - some of which may have been real celestial objects

frightening an omen-crazy populace - of which numerous were said to be accompanied by "flames" (aurorae?) hanging low in the sky.

**1361** Japan: A flying object described as being "shaped like a drum, about twenty feet in diameter" emerged from the inland sea off the western Japanese coast.

**1387** England, Northamptonshire: A fire in the sky, like a burning and revolving wheel, or round barrel of flame, emitting fire from above, and others in the shape of a long fiery beam were seen through a great deal of the winter.

**1394** England: "A certain thing appeared in the likeness of fire in many parts of England every night. This fiery apparition, oftentimes when anybody went alone, it would go with him, and would stand still when he stood still. To some it appeared in the likeness of a turning wheel burning; to other some a round object, the likeness of a barrel, flashing out flames of fire at the head; to others, the likeness of a long burning lance."

**1453** Constantinople: "A fire descended from the sky, stood over the City, and enveloped her with light all night long." Written during the siege of Constantinople.

**1458** Japan: An object as bright as the full moon, followed by curious signs, was seen in the sky.

**1461** France, Arras: A fiery thing like an iron rod of good length and as large as one half of the moon was seen in the sky for less than a quarter of an hour. This object was also described as being "shaped like a ship from which fire was seen flowing."

**1468** Japan: A dark object, which made a "sound like a wheel," flew from Mt. Kasuag toward the west at midnight.

**1479** Arabia: There is a woodcut of a UFO in an illustrated volume of *The Prodigiorum Ac Ostentorum Chronicon*, a text published in 1557 by Conrad Lycosthenes. It is one of the best-illustrated books of the Renaissance depicting medieval superstition. On page 494 is a woodcut showing a spaceship seen over Arabia in 1479.

**1492** From *The Life and Voyages of Christopher Columbus*. Christopher Columbus and Pedro Gutierrez while on the deck of the Santa Maira, observed "a light glimmering at a great distance." It vanished and reappeared several times during the night, moving up and down, "in sudden and passing gleams." It was sighted 4 hours before land was sighted, and taken by Columbus as a sign they would soon come to land.

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