

Chapter Two

THE CANADIAN FIREBALL PROCESSION OF 1913

Natural Meteors or Alien Spacecraft?

Despite the controversy over their origin, scientists are in agreement that the dozens of luminous objects that paraded across the night skies of south-central Canada and northeastern United States were real—not the product of any mass hallucination or any kind of hoax. Impeccable were the credentials for the primary witness to the Procession, who also served as its chronicler.

Professor C. A. Chant of Toronto University was a member of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, and editor of its official journal. After interviewing numerous witnesses, Professor Chant wrote a full report, substantiated by other investigators during and since the event.

The “meteors” were first spotted in the winter skies near Regina, capital of Saskatchewan Province.

“At about 9:05 on the evening in question,” Professor Chant’s colorful and articulate account in the astronomical journal stated in part, “there suddenly appeared in the northwestern sky a fiery red body which quickly grew larger as it came nearer, and which was then seen to be followed by a long tail. Some observers state that the body was single, some that it was composed of two distinct parts, and others that there were three parts and each followed by a long tail . . . In the streaming of the tail, it resembled a rocket, but unlike the rocket, the body showed no indication of dropping to earth. On the contrary it moved forward on a perfectly horizontal path with peculiar, majestic, dignified deliberation; and continuing on its course, without the least apparent sinking towards the earth. . . .”

Professor Chant described the object’s color as fiery red or golden yellow. He wrote that its brilliance resembled “the open door of a furnace,” “the illumination of a searchlight,” “a stream of sparks blown away from a chimney by a strong wind.” His report continued:

“Before the astonishment aroused by this first meteor had subsided,