

END SUMMER APHORISMS...

Paraphrasing a scholastic saying by Saint Augustine "Joking is human but persisting is ridiculous..."

I'm referring to the "modus operandi" of the as unknown as obtuse authors of the pictogramme made in a field of *medicago sativa* (the popular purple medic or Buffalo grass) near Coloreto (PR), with scarce precision and limited phantasy. The layout (consisting of 3 concatenated rings, like olympic rings, with an average 6 meters long diameter) must have been created during the first days of September, according to the owner of the plantation, although it was discovered just in the last decade of the month, at the time the herb had to be cut down. We owe it to the local postman's readiness (a very uncommon quality in his sector, but evidently Mr. F. is the exception to the rule) if the Scientific Supervisor of "Galileo", the seat of the Centro Ufologico Nazionale (National Ufologic Centre) in Parma, gained knowledge of this new crop circle. Which actually was not brand new, since it was practically an exact replica, although hyposized, of the crop appeared at the end of June in a wheat field in Panocchia: like a photocopy, but reduced by a factor of periodic 3.3.

Why do we think this is an umpteenth late summer artefact? It's easily said: the crop lacks all the (chemicals physical, and biological) modifications which mark a genuine pictogramme: plant stems deflection at the level of the growth nodes, hyperplasia, sometimes showing "explosion" of the same nodes, calcination marks as the result of microwave action. We detected neither anomalies of the magnetic field nor the presence of radionuclides although, to be honest, concerning these last two parameters our inquiry in loco was effected much later than the canonical 24/48 hours (from the actual crop creation) prescribed by the intervention protocol for obtaining trustworthy data. Over and above the leaching effect of the abundant rainfall of the previous week.

Thus now, more than ever, Horace's saying should be changed into "repetita taediant": the only difference consists in the fact that in the case of Coloreto the first TV station of the town which reported the news was the direct competitor of the one who had conveyed the piece of information about the agroglyph in Panocchia. File that under "*take your turn and you won't get burned*"...!

But maybe there is a reason which explains the repetition of two almost identical form of land art (a very rare instance in the world case history and surely a sole case in Italy) in such a short time. After "Galileo" stated that Panocchia crop was not genuine, in the light of the diffractometric analysis of the ground too, some people objected to the conclusions of our esobiological center, affirming they were sure (we were not allowed to know on what basis) that the above mentioned pictogramme had an unmistakable alien matrix (everyone is free to think what he likes, that's all we needed!...). Their certainty was so absolute that they raffled off a pretty good sum (200 or 300 euro, if I remember well) for those who would be able to repeat exactly the same agroglyph. Who knows if the challenge has been taken up by some fun loving boys in the mood for imitating the late lamented actor Ugo Tognazzi in the film "Amici miei" and for assuring themselves the money for the disco all the Autumn long? But a not insignificant detail was not specified in the "agreement": should the plantation, topic of the "news artists" interest, be a Buffalo grass one or was wheat inescapable?

This question, which can seem a mere taunt, actually arises spontaneously in our mind in the light of that strange phenomenon that we're used to call coincidence and that, according to Carl Gustav Jung, must be placed into the theory of the "synchronicity of the events. More simply: the day after the inspection in Coloreto our photography technician went back to get some snapshots to be edited in the web site of Galileo as a fulfillment of the investigation in progress (it was not possible to do this the evening before because the sun was setting). In the *Sativa* field he met two boys (which, together with others were already "under suspicion" for the "case of Panocchia), intent on observing

the crop. The three of them began to exchange the pragmatical banter "What do you think about it, you from Galileo?" "It's a fake" was the photographer's short answer. To which, rather annoyed, the first one retorted: "Clearly they have shown little imagination. "Ours" turned out much better...."

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