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Crop circles in Serbia

I read with great interest Richard Taylor's article "Coming soon to a field near you" (August pp26–31), but was somewhat amazed that he presents crop circles as relatively modern works. As described by Janet and Colin Bord in their book *Mysterious Britain* (Paladin 1978), turf mazes were widespread in Britain in prehistoric times, when they were thought to extract the Earth's energy and convey it to people who suffered from certain diseases. People who danced along the maze pattern were said to be healed by magnetic energy from the soil.

In 2001 crop circles appeared in wheat fields in Vojvodina, the northern autonomous province of Serbia. Many speculations were made concerning their origin, including one that a state-run farm had invented a means of "harvesting from the air", as a farmer put it to his amazed friends in the local pub. One woman, who was probably acquainted with the healing interpretation, claimed that she regularly visited the circles, with much benefit for her rheumatic pains.

I happened to give an interview to a local radio station on the subject, and my explanation was broadcast, together with that of an expert on the Serbian scientist Nikola Tesla, who – according to many Serbs – invented pretty much everything on Earth and whose ideas were, accordingly, applied to the case in hand. Unfortunately, my interview was broadcast on the same day that the former president Slobodan Milosevic was delivered to the Hague on charges of war crimes, so it did not get much publicity.

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