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Skeleton embedded in plaster of paris

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

March 1999

Number 371

The Cover: Walt Andrus holds skeleton of "alien" embedded in plaster of paris.

In this issue

The Alien? by Walter H. Andrus, Jr.....	3
Israeli UFO collision by Barry Chamish.....	8
Analysis of Israeli UFO collision by Jeff Sainio.....	8
Filer's Files by George A. Filer.....	9
MUFON Forum	10
Another look at Majestic by Robert & Ryan Wood.....	11
Update on Ramey letter by Dr. Donald Burleson.....	17
UFO Press: <i>UFOs Over Africa</i> by Cynthia Hind.....	18
UFO Press: <i>UFOs: The Real Story</i> by Stan Friedman....	18
Perspective on February Journal by Richard Hall.....	20
Readers' Classified ads	21
The Night Sky by Walter N. Webb.....	22
Director's Message by Walter Andrus.....	24

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The Alien?

By Walter H. Andrus, Jr.

This is not going to be an account about the infamous alien autopsy videotape distributed worldwide by Ray Santilli, that was apparently a hoax perpetrated by unknown individuals. Noted paleontologist, the late Bob Slaughter, Professor of Paleontology, and Director of the Shuler Museum at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX, deserves the recognition for this treatise motivated by his book titled *Fossil Remains of Mythical Creatures*. Please don't let the words "mythical creatures" detract from what is to follow in Professor Slaughter's first chapter titled, simply "Alien." My photos of the diminutive human-like skeleton will undoubtedly attract the attention of ufologists in our search for extraterrestrial alien bodies.



Walt Andrus

Background preceding the discovery

During the month of April 1897 numerous UFO sightings were reported in the newspapers from the Great Lakes to the Rio Grande River (more than a hundred in Texas alone). By far the most renowned is the described crash of a cigar-shaped airship just outside the town of Aurora, TX.

According to S.E. Hayden, reporter and author of an article that appeared in the Dallas Morning News (4/19/1897), early on the morning of April 17, 1897, a cigar-shaped airship flying low over Aurora, and traveling at only ten or twelve miles per hour, was viewed by a number of people. While amazed citizens watched, it crashed into a windmill on the property of Judge J. S. Proctor and exploded, mutilating the pilot and fragmenting the ship.

The pilot's remains were buried the same day in the Aurora Cemetery. All that was said about the pilot was that it was a very small person, not of this world. Numerous pieces of an unusual metal have been recovered by MUFON through the aid of metal detectors near the destroyed windmill site. In 1973, samples of this metal were submitted by MUFON to a leading aerospace firm for their analysis.

Two independent metallurgy laboratories within the same company found that the metal was mostly aluminum with six percent iron. The crystalline

Professor Bob Slaughter

During the 25 years that the late Bob Slaughter was Professor of Paleontology and director of the Shuler Museum at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, he published three books and more than 100 articles and scholarly papers. He was president of the Texas Academy of Science in 1971-72, and received the Award for Outstanding Contributions to Earth Science from the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies in 1983. He was also one of 12 American professors cited by *People Magazine* for excellence in teaching.



Bob Slaughter

Prof. Slaughter lectured on more than 50 American campuses, as well as in England, Spain, Lebanon, Egypt, Panama, Mexico, and Canada. His expeditions to Europe, the Middle East, and Latin America were sponsored by the National Geographic Society, Smithsonian Institution, and the Institute for the Study of Earth and Man at SMU.

structure of the metal baffled technicians in both labs. While MUFON was conducting its own investigation of the purported UFO crash, the crude sandstone marker on the grave and suspected metal from the grave site were stolen. I reported details in *SKYLOOK*, (the former name of the *Journal*) the same year.

When Bob Slaughter and his former wife were having lunch at the Ladonia Emporium (Texas), she introduced Bob to Peter Betters, who had just purchased and was restoring a turn-of-the-century home on Main Street. The house had belonged to Ethel McFarland, who was a relative to a friend of Bob's in Dallas, Mike McFarland. In the ensuing conversation, Peter mentioned a letter that he had found in the house referring to UFO observations made by Mr. Luther Mallow, a gentleman friend of Ethel McFarland. Mr. Betters retrieved the letter, which was written in 1925, and they transcribed the part dealing with the airship.

Quotation from the Letter

"The night of April 16th, 1897, your family's lawyer, E. M. Roland, Colonel R. N. Burt and I were (on) horseback. I was sort of a guide for a frog gigging expedition to the North Sulfur River north of town. Suddenly we saw some very bright lights on the floodplain some distance away. These lights were far brighter than any I had ever seen (you must remember that the only portable lights in that day were lanterns). We dismounted and approached on foot. When we were close enough, we lay between the cotton rows and observed

several small "people" moving around two well lit cigar-shaped ships. Two of the "people" were going back and forth between the ships, while two others worked in the semi-darkness at the edge of the light. We became frightened when the group stopped working and stared in our direction. When they began working again, we slipped away.

Return to the site

"The next day we met and returned to the site on horseback. Aside from the cotton being beaten down, all we found were two places side by side where the ground had been disturbed. It looked like two fresh graves. Roland reported the incident that day, naming me and Burt as fellow witnesses. However, he was so ridiculed that Burt talked me into joining him in denying the event. Miffed, but unflinching, Roland changed the location of the sighting to his own property. I suspect to profit in some way or to save the graves for his personal exploitation, but he died shortly thereafter. I thought from time to time that I would excavate the graves myself, but after all these years I can't find the exact location."

The letter continues: "It was early that next morning (April 17th) that the airship crashed in Aurora, Texas, less than a hundred miles to the west. It could have been one of the ships seen near Ladonia the night before. That afternoon (April 17th), C. L. McIlhaney, a farmer, reported sighting a cigar-shaped airship on the ground near the Bosque River three miles from Stephenville, Texas. He fetched the mayor of Stephenville, the district attorney, two judges, two medical doctors, and a group of about fifty returned to the site. The group witnessed two small people scurrying about, apparently repairing the ship. This could have been the other ship seen near Ladonia the night before."

Professor Slaughter's discovery

Bob Slaughter picks up the story: "In 1929, the Corps of Engineers straightened the channel of the North Sulfur River, cutting off its meanders to expedite runoff during flooding. One result was that it initiated rapid down cutting, and today the straightened channel is quite deep, exposing Cretaceous and Pleistocene deposits. These are very fossiliferous and attract numerous fossil hunters. As the only paleontologist around Ladonia, I often have fossil hunters stop by with bones for identification. One day an avid collector, geologist Richard Wallace, brought me the distal end of a fibia (lower leg bone) that looked sort of like a human, but was hollow, not unlike a bird bone. It was not fossilized, and I thought it might be a small deformed Indian, as there are many archeological sites buried in the floodplain. I asked Richard to show me exactly where he had found the bone, and he took me



Hand has opposed thumb and three fingers.

to Davis Creek, a small, but deep, tributary that cuts across the floodplain on its way to the river just north of Ladonia."

"Sure enough, we found fragments of more 'modern' bone eroding down the slope and about three feet from the surface was part of another long bone. Rather than tunnel into the bank, I decided to go topside and mark off a square and dig down, in case something would be found that needed to be documented. The burial was almost intact except for the right tibia Richard had found on the slope and most of the right ankle and foot bones disturbed by the creek's erosion.

"When the skull came into sight, I realized that there was a good chance this was the subject of Mr. Mallow's letter to Ethel McFarland. It matches very closely the faces we've all seen drawn after alleged encounters with extraterrestrial beings. The broncos is relatively large. The nasal opening is exceptionally



Skull features large eyes and sclerotic rings.

small, as are the mouth and teeth. The eyes, on the other hand, are huge, and in the sockets are sets of sclerotic rings, bony skeletons supporting the large eyeballs. Throughout the history of animals, very large eyeballs (some birds, fish, and dinosaurs) have developed these eye skeletons to help keep atmospheric or water pressure from collapsing them. All of the bones are hollow, except for the ribs, hand, and foot bones, which are solid. This creature is clearly not human in the strict sense, even though it can be considered hominoid."

Professor Slaughter's Analysis

Bob Slaughter produced his standard technical report of the skeleton recovery as he has done for other fossils discovered by him around the world:

"*Ladonia wallacia*, new genus & species"

"**Diagnosis:** LU 63444. Large eyes with sclerotic rings. Small mouth and nasals. Long bones very short for

their transverse diameters and hollow. The long, attenuated hands have an opposed thumb and three equal length fingers which, like the thumb, have but a single finger joint—humans have two. The feet likewise have but four toes, and the 'big toe' is the longest and slightly opposed, perhaps reflecting arboreal ancestry.

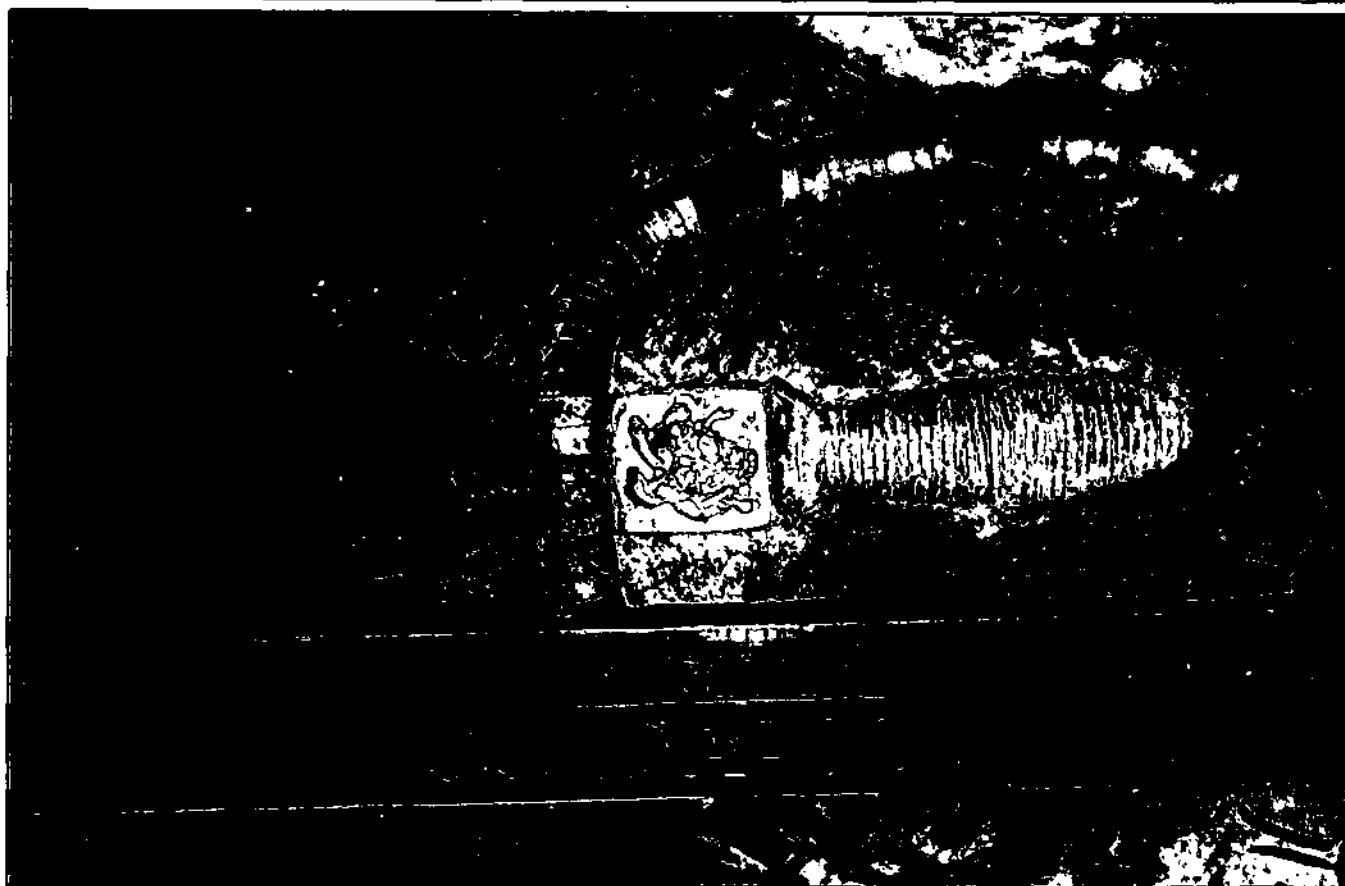
"**Type locality:** The east bank of Davis Creek, four miles north of Ladonia, Texas, 225 yards west of State Highway 34 and 100 yards from the banks of the old Sulfur River channel. (See the map drawn by Bob Slaughter, page 6.)

"**Etymology:** *Ladonia* for the town where the remains were discovered + *wallacia* named for Richard Wallace, discoverer of the skeleton.

"**Discussion:** The skeleton is wearing a sort of vest made of a material not unlike woven fibers of extruded glass. Also associated is a "belt" of metal "beads." The "beads" are a series of cradled "cups" of at least three types of metal. Considering the oxidation (patina), two are probably different copper alloys, and the other is something like aluminum. Also associated is a tongue-shaped piece of glass. It is clear with a slight bluish tint. It is harder than most glass, but not particularly well produced for such a high-tech society. Attached is what could only be considered a handle which is made of a copper alloy and is gold plated. This object seems to be independent, and not a part of something else. Its use is unknown. It seems a poor choice of material for a bludgeon. The other possibilities that come to mind are a scepter, or other symbol of status, or a unit for communication (i.e. crystal for radio communication).

"By analogy, the relatively large brain may denote a high degree of intelligence. The large eyes doubtless denote an evolutionary need for vision in low light levels. The hollow bones could be interpreted as to lighten the body in a high gravity situation (i.e. large planet). I must admit, however, in the absence of any animals evolving in high gravity with which to compare, more sturdy bones might be more appropriate to handle the increased physical stress. Hollow bones could then suggest a low gravity habitat (i.e. small planet) with the limb bones having to deal with less physical stress. Whatever the case, these relatively fragile long bones would certainly be a disadvantage for a biped on Earth.

"Although right ulna-radius, wrist, and hand bones are missing, as well as right foot bones and the distal end of the right tibia, these are due to erosion of the burial site. No other bones are broken, in spite of their fragility, and there is no other evidence as to what caused its demise. The fact that there probably were two, plus the crash the following morning of one of the space ships at Aurora and the hasty repair of another near Stephenville suggest that the group was having



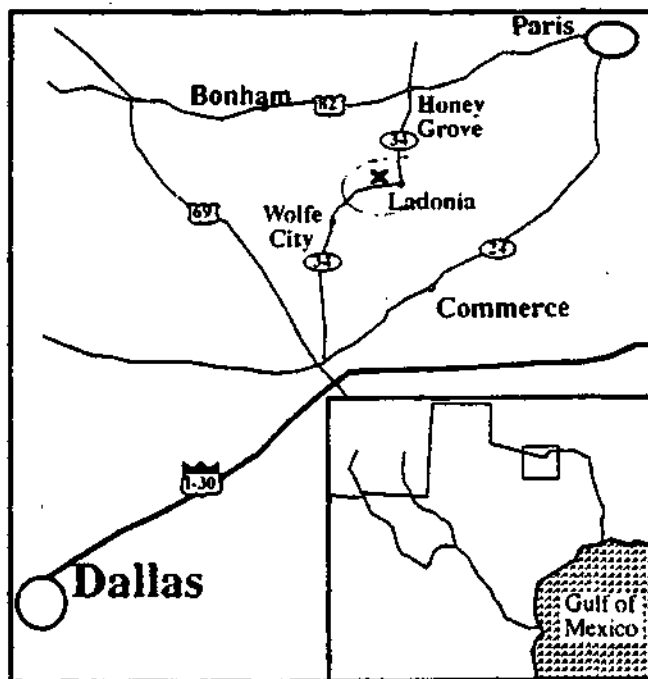
The sword and belt.

some very serious problems.”

My first information regarding the skeleton

A telephone call from Wayne Cox of Chatham, LA, alerted me to the existence of Bob Slaughter's book, which Wayne had purchased in a Dallas book store. Mr. Cox followed with a letter and photocopies of the book chapter titled "Alien." I was so intrigued that I immediately tried to telephone Bob Slaughter in Dallas to get more details. When I reached his home, the telephone was answered by Mrs. Judith Slaughter, his widow. Professor Slaughter had died of cancer on March 24, 1998.

En route to Denver for the MUFON 1998 International UFO Symposium, my wife and I stopped in Dallas to visit Judith, a very lovely lady, and to see the skeleton. After taking measurements of the bones and making a drawing of the skeleton, I took numerous photographs to document the case. In addition to the description given by Bob Slaughter in this article, I noted other items of interest. The vest looks more like metal links that a warrior might use for protection. The belt is actually composed of one-inch diameter rings of various kinds of metals threaded around a metal support. The rings will rotate freely. The sword, for a lack of a better name, has a blade of blue/green glass and a



"X" marks the spot where the skeleton was found.

cast silver-colored handle. A very distinguished emblem adorns the handle (looking like ancient English or German royalty). The sword is probably symbolic or ceremonial, since it doesn't appear to be an effective weapon. Various photographs illustrate this unique skeleton in this article. (A poster display with photographs and drawings is on view at the MUFON UFO Information Center.) Mrs. Slaughter is going to donate the "alien" skeleton to MUFON's museum, since she feels that this would have been her husband's desire, due to his UFO interests.

Comparison of a small grey to the skeleton

MUFON is making no claims that the skeleton is an extraterrestrial alien; however, I do want to make some comparisons, as did Bob Slaughter. The total height is 39 5/8 inches. The skull has very large eyes, but the skull is not large in proportion to the body. Previous studies of the small greys imply that they do not have teeth, whereas this skeleton has human-style teeth with a very narrow and pointed chin. People have reported from three to six digits on the hands and feet; however, this example has four. The four floating circular bones within each eye socket is extremely interesting. The similarities are sufficient to make it very exciting for future study.

Investigation

Personal investigation of the skeleton for further authenticity has been difficult for the following reasons:

- (1) Judith Slaughter had been married to Bob for only two years prior to his death; therefore, she was not involved when the skeleton was recovered.
- (2) Even after inquiry in Ladonia, Mrs. Slaughter has been unable to locate Richard Wallace, who found one of the leg bones.
- (3) Mike McFarland, the friend of Bob Slaughter's in Dallas, is now deceased.
- (4) Peter Betters, who found the letter to Ethel McFarland from Luther Mallow, now lives in the restored "purple" house in Ladonia, TX. Judith was unable to talk to him on her last visit, but will do so in the near future.

Motion picture planned

Mrs. Judith Slaughter has signed a contract with Sony Pictures for the rights to Bob's book *Fossil Remains of Mythical Creatures*, so as to produce a motion picture on Professor Slaughter's life. Jim Hart, the scriptwriter for the film "Contact," starring Jodie Foster, will produce the film under the company name Common Grounds Entertainment. Tentatively, Paul Newman will portray Bob Slaughter in the film. The "alien" skeleton, along with all of the other fossils and skeletons that Bob Slaughter has collected from around the world, will be featured in the film. As Judith has said, "The skeleton will be even more famous for

MUFON's museum after the film is released." The investigation into the identification and origin of the skeleton will continue.

UFO reportedly videotaped in Northern Ireland

On Wednesday, Jan. 20, 1999, at 4:50 p.m., Kenneth Mundell stepped out of his home in Inver, a suburb of Larne, County Antrim, Northern Ireland, and spotted something strange in the eastern sky. Quickly he grabbed his camcorder.

"I noticed the triangular UFO coming from the east just about 1,000 feet high in the sky," Mundell reported. "It was travelling slowly, perhaps 30 to 40 miles per hour. There was no sound coming from the craft." As the UFO approached his house, Mundell began recording its image on 8 millimeter XTR (Extra Resolution) videotape.

"When the UFO was directly over my house, it changed direction, shifting to a more northerly one," he reported, adding that the UFO seemed to "skid" across the sky, an impossible task for any known aircraft.—Thanks to UFO Roundup, Vol. 4, No. 7, Joseph Trainor, Editor, and to Kenneth Mundell.

Triangular UFOs, videotaping, landing reported in South Africa

On Friday, Feb. 5, 1999, eight people in Bloemfontein, a large city in the Oranje Vrystaat region of South Africa, watched as several metallic UFO's flew overhead for eight minutes.

Witnesses described the UFOs as "triangular-shaped, greyish-colored objects with brightly-colored lights at the corners." One witness reportedly captured "a couple of minutes" of the overflight "on videotape."

A local newspaper reported on Sunday, Feb. 7, 1999, that a UFO had flown over the town of Graaff-Reinette back in December 1998. The same newspaper also reported that "a farmer came upon a UFO that had landed on a gravel road near his farm" in a rural district near Bloemfontein.

"The engine of his truck just cut out, and he was 'frozen' in the act of getting out of the truck. A farm worker who was standing against the fence also could not move. After the UFO left, everything returned to normal. The farmer drove to the nearest police station, and the police investigated the site."

Bloemfontein is located 500 kilometers (300 miles) southwest of Johannesburg.—Thanks to UFO Roundup, Vol. 4, No. 7, Joseph Trainor, Editor, and Leenta Scott.

Possible Israeli mid-air UFO explosion analyzed

By Barry Chamish

<chamish@netvision.net.il>

In December I reported that I had acquired a video copy of a mid-air UFO explosion over the Israeli city of Rosh Haayin. I wrote that my impression was that the video captured a profoundly important moment: the first mid-air UFO collision ever recorded. I requested that experts analyze the film scientifically. Within a day, Dwight Connelly of MUFON committed himself to having the video analyzed.

The video is a compilation of two UFO events recorded by Spasso Maximovitch in 1995 and 1996. I sent Dwight both clips and he passed them on to MUFON's video expert, Jeff Sainio, for computer analysis. The following is his report. I will not comment on his conclusions. Jeff has no need of my analysis of his analysis. Let's just sum matters up like this: It appears to be the real thing. Added to Israel's list of UFO firsts is the first mid-air explosion between two unexplained aerial craft ever captured on videotape or any other media.

Several film and TV producers asked me to release the clip for their programs, but I had to turn them down. I am prevented by a copyright problem from reproducing the film, though I am permitted to display my copy. I am seeking a conference to premiere this remarkable event.

TEXT OF THE MUFON REPORT:

By Jeff Sainio

MUFON Staff Photoanalyst

<jsainio@execpc.com>

Videoanalysis

Events as reported to me by Barry Chamish:

"On 28/9/95, Spasso Maximovitch noticed an unexplainable object in the skies over Rosh Haayin in central Israel. He grabbed his video camera and captured a silvery, glowing object become two, three, and then four fiery orbs in a near square formation over a wide expanse of the northwestern sky. After this incident, Mr. Maximovitch became a constant skywatcher.

His diligence was rewarded on 24/6/96 when a similar silvery orb appeared in the lower western sky. He trained his video camera on the orb... And then a glowing white oval-shaped object appeared some 20 degrees west of the object and streaked toward it at high speed. Within three seconds it struck the stationary orb, causing a huge explosion in the sky which

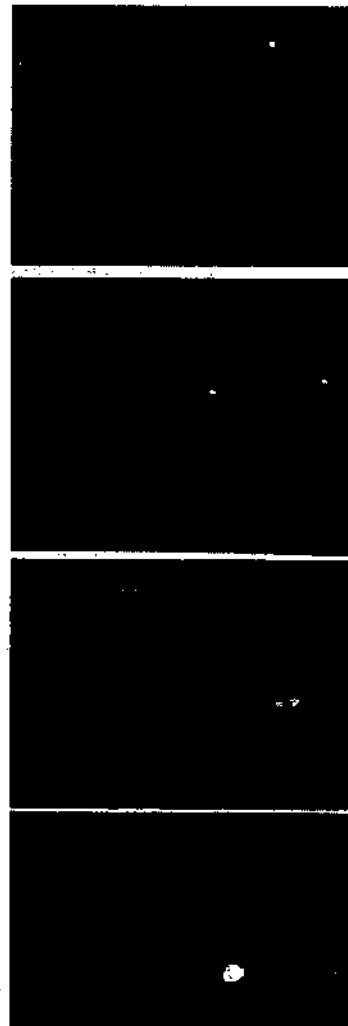
must have destroyed both objects. Stunned, Maximovitch stopped filming immediately after capturing the explosion."

The submitted video, which was in PAL format, was converted to NTSC format. It shows several events: a group of lights, one apparently dropped from another; a stationary light which is apparently struck by a moving light; and a triangle of lights. The triangle group of lights is interesting, but I could find no basis for investigating any form of anomalousness. The triangle of lights has no reference objects to indicate what or where it is.

The stationary light was much more interesting. Various lights, probably streetlights, in the video were used as reference objects, and showed that the light was stationary over some 30 seconds. An approaching airplane's landing lights will appear stationary, although motionlessness over this length of time seems unusual. A vertical tower structure, apparently made of girders, is near the light. Some horizontal structure is atop the structure. It was not sufficiently defined for continuous measurements to be made from it.

Another bright object appears to the left and slightly below the stationary object. In 2.9 seconds, it moves toward the stationary object, apparently hitting and exploding. In 1/4 second, the explosion disappears with no trace of either object.

The 4-frame sequence above illustrates the sequence. The bright object can be seen to move between the girders of the vertical structure. This is useful in determining the relative size of the moving light. (The size of the light as seen on the video, is misleading; it is presumably much smaller than what is seen, due to extreme overexposure and glare.) The light disappears or reappears completely 6 times; in 3, the change is



abrupt; completely bright-to-dark or vice versa. In the other 3, the change is gradual, with a frame showing partial brightness.

What can be learned from this? One must remember that the video is a sequence of 1/50 second time exposures. Assume the light is small, and that the moving object has only one light. If by chance, the disappearance coincides with the period between exposures, an abrupt disappearance will be seen. A large light, or several lights horizontally separated, will never disappear abruptly while moving slowly. Since six occurrences form a useful population of samples, the moving light can reliably be said to be quite small. This probably eliminates the flame from a missile as a source. Although the vertical structure was not a reliable reference object, the two lights' relative position could be measured.

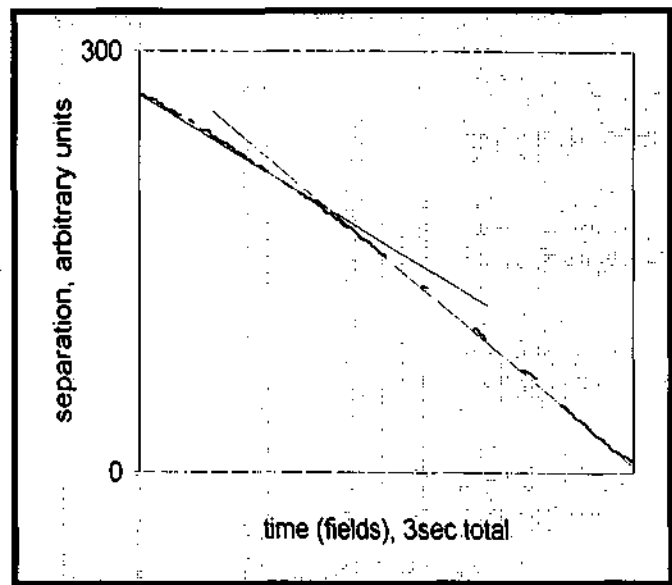
More than 500 measurements of the two lights' positions were made. The graph at right shows the distance between the 2 lights. Breaks in the data line are due to unreliable data from camera motion or the moving light going behind the girders. Reference straight lines show constant speed. The slopes of the lines show that the moving light spent about a second at some speed, then sped up about 16% before the collision.

The 16% is not due to a zoom change; the tower is sufficiently visible to verify that its size does not appreciably change. Although the graph shows noise and missing data, the acceleration certainly occurred in under a second. No reasonable object I know of is capable of a 16% acceleration in a second.

When the two objects apparently collide and explode, the apparent size of the light expands by a factor of roughly 2.5; this does not appear to be due to overexposure, but is the real size of the object. The last two frames of the video are NOT overexposed, but diffuse; since overexposure is not involved, this indicates the actual size of the explosion is shown.

The real increase in size of the bright area is certainly much larger than 2.5. In the video the explosion moves downward; this is probably due to camera motion of the startled videographer; the reference tower is too smeared to verify this conclusion.

The explosion is not due to any conventional method I am familiar with; conventional, large explosions require much more than 1/4 second to disappear, and usually generate flaming debris that falls from the explosion. Neither characteristic is seen here. The acceleration, light size, and explosion are not explainable in any conventional way that I know of, and this case remains unidentified.



Filer's Files

By George Filer
MUFON Eastern Director

ILLINOIS

CAUS thanks Allan Stagg (Allan.Stagg@ABC.com) for this report; "I was driving home from my overnight job in Chicago in the predawn hours of Thursday, Dec. 17, 1998. I was northbound on the Edens (I-94) about a mile south of the spur to the Tri-State (I-294). At 5:46 a.m. CST I observed a light that appeared about the intensity of the landing lights on commercial jetliners I often see circling O'Hare in the evenings as I head into town. It seemed no further than a half-mile up and a half-mile away out my windshield heading southeast.

"What caught my attention was a second light, about half the intensity of the first, which seemed to come up in a subtle curve from horizon line in the northeast and headed downward toward the southwest, clearly impacting the first light.

The impact caused an initial burst of light followed by a lengthy stream of white sparks trailing the first light as it continued in a southeasterly direction. The second light appeared to fall practically straight down following the collision. I was shocked at what I saw and began to brake, thinking I had witnessed a midair crash between a smaller and larger aircraft. I even looked around at other cars, early risers heading to work, for a reaction of some sort, but traffic contin-

(Continued on Page 16)

MUFON FORUM

Letters to Mufon UFO Journal

Another 'flying peanut'?

Following is a letter to Bruce Maccabee from MUFON investigator John Thompson of Georgia:

Just got through reading your article in the January issue on the 'Flying peanut'/double UFO video seems to be authentic." I must say that a UFO photo taken by a retired police chief and his family in LaGrange, GA, in February 1997 seems to be the exact same UFO. Indeed if you take the dark somewhat superimposed looking church cross away on page 5 in the *MUFON UFO Journal*, it could be the same photo!

I also noticed that you say that the 7/2/98 Ticonderoga, NY, photo was taken by "upstanding citizens of the community...[and] are employed in law-enforcement." Another eerie coincidence. A video of the retired police chief telling of his family's sighting along with the UFO photo taken by his wife was sent to Jeff Sainio, Tom Sheets (MUFON of Georgia's present state director), and George Filer in September of 1997. A copy of the photo and report were also sent to Walt Andrus soon after (but not video). If you will go to www.isur.com, you can see the photo and case copy, complete with Jeff's analysis that has been posted since October of 1997.

The angle of the UFO image in the *MUFON UFO Journal* and shown at [isur's](http://www.isur.com) website is even the same. Now it is possible that both parties saw an airplane with the wing showing up in the middle, but not seen by any of the witnesses, but two of the LaGrange witnesses said there were two UFOs to begin with and one of them displayed great motion, at great speeds, ruling out an airplane. Their two UFOs "met" in an inverted V fashion before one departed and the remaining one was photographed.

I would love to see a copy of the video taken in New York, complete with audio. In return I'll be glad to send a copy of my witness' interview and photo. Of course, Jeff Sainio and George Filer and Tom Sheets have this also, and I'm sure would give you a copy.

I considered this, by the way, as one of my best cases because of the reputation of the witnesses; a retired police chief with a masters degree; his wife; the photographer and working for the State of Georgia; and their grown daughter, a former 911 dispatcher and married presently to a LaGrange police sergeant. Also because they said they had an off-duty FBI photoanalyst who examined the photo and declared it a genuine unknown. I'm sure because of the similari-

ties of these photos, that Jeff must have brought this up with you in your consultation with him on the NY UFO video.

Proving the MJ-12 documents?

From: "Sid Fiber" <dataVoid@hotmail.com>

(Background: This is an open letter to Dr. Bob Wood and his son Ryan Wood, who are attempting to authenticate the validity of the MJ-12. These documents allegedly document the US government's efforts to conceal the discovery of extraterrestrial beings and crafts during the 1940s.)

Dear Dr. Wood,

If Truman, Bush, Einstein, and others authored the Majestic 12 documents, then the methods of forensic-linguistics will conclusively prove it. Several years ago, Dr. Donald Foster of Vassar College devised a brilliant statistical method for determining the authorship of a document that he has since applied in dozens of court cases requiring verification of document authorship.

In 1996, Foster successfully pegged Joe Klein as the anonymous author of *Primary Colors*, the tell-all White House novel. Also, at the request of the FBI, Dr. Foster conclusively verified that Unabomber suspect Ted Kaczynski had indeed authored his invective manifesto.

Foster first gained prominence by successfully applying his technique to solve an age-old mystery surrounding the acting roles of Shakespeare. His breakthrough—hailed by Elizabethan scholars and computer scientists, alike—was to assume that even Shakespeare was prone to linguistic habits which revealed themselves through statistical comparison.

Clearly, Dr. Wood, if you were to apply Dr. Foster's technique to the MJ-12 documents, you will be a giant step closer to conclusively verifying the authorship of these intriguing documents. If you're interested, you can contact him at foster@vassar.edu or call Vassar at extension x5634. Thank you and good luck.

— Sid Fiber

UFO PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

The following books are still available from MUFON that you may have missed. "Final Report on the America West Airline Case" by Walter N. Webb, \$10.00 plus \$1.50 p/h; "UFO-Related Human Physiological Effects" by John F. Schuessler, \$15.00 plus \$2.00 p/h; "Project 1947: A Preliminary Report on the 1947 UFO Sighting Wave" by Jan L. Aldrich, \$20.00 plus \$2.00 p/h; and "MUFON UFO Journal & Skylook - An index 1967-1996" by Edward G. Stewart, \$59.95 plus \$3.50 p/h. MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Rd., Seguin, Texas 78155-4099. (Check, money order, travelers checks or cash in US dollars.)

Another look at Majestic

By Dr. Robert M. Wood and Ryan S. Wood

The hunt for a genuine U.S. Government document that shows the use of MJ-12 is over. The breakthrough comes from the FOIA effort of Tim Cooper, shown as Figure 1. This document, released by the CIA, is from the Paperclip files, Record Group 330, JIOA files, released Nov. 7, 1985. It is a memo from Hillenkoetter on 12 April 49 to the Joint Intelligence Objectives Agency (JIOA) and the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) that, while otherwise unclassified, shows file distribution to a CIA Top Secret control file and to MJ-12. This is unambiguous evidence that there was such a project. To our knowledge, this is the first and only FOIA-released document designating MJ-12. A censor has lined through the distribution block, but did not obliterate it.



Dr. Robert Wood

Provenance of the documents

We are dealing with documents from multiple sources. In two instances, we have an original. Skeptics who casually assert that anyone can fake anything, especially with today's computers, are off base. The simple-minded focus by skeptics on provenance is a huge over-simplification of the problems and techniques of authentication process. For example, if you are at an antique show and an old English dresser has provenance (records of possession over the years), that can add to the value. An expert recognizes the dresser for what it is and knows what signs to look for as indication that it is a replica, not genuine, with or without the provenance records. The same thing is true in the examination of questioned documents.

We recognize that the provenance is relevant. Documents with the caveat MAJIC, Majestic, or MJ-12 have been around since 1984 with the release of the Eisenhower Briefing Document in 1987 by Bill Moore. Since then, other documents have emerged under different circumstances. A summary of their provenance is given in Table 1. There are five different sources for the Majestic documents.

Background of document evaluation

From time to time Bob Wood corresponded with Stanton Friedman, who was very good about sending his research conclusions and passing on leads. Then, towards the end of December 1994, Stan requested permission from Don Berliner to let Bob have a look

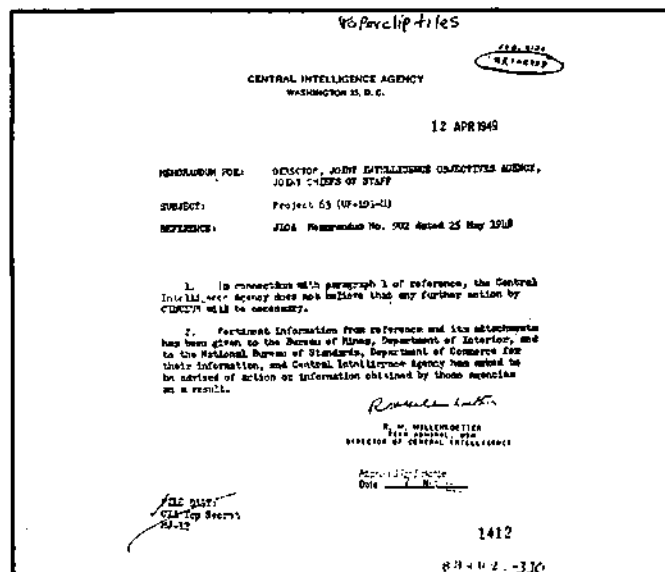


Figure 1: the reference to MJ-12

at the pages of the Special Operations Manual (SOM 1-01, 7 April 1954). Don had circulated SOM among a very limited group with the purpose of determining authenticity. In an attempt to read the words more clearly, he carefully keystroked the manual. Later, Don graciously lent his very best copies, and Bob made photographic enlargements of those and continued the replication of this manual. While doing this, Bob analyzed the factors that would determine fake versus genuine.

Stan decided to include part of the SOM in his 1996 book, *Top Secret/MAJIC*. While the publication had the positive aspect of reducing the secrecy of the document, the negative aspect was that the replication by the publisher was done carelessly, and included no discussion of authenticity. Because of this publication, a witness came forward to say that he had shredded both the EBD and SOM 1-01 while working in an admiral's office. The publication also led to Brian Parks finding identical UFOB reporting words in an FOIA document.

Then Stan sent Bob material that he received from Timothy Cooper, who said he had been receiving new documents in his post office box in Big Bear Lake, CA, beginning in 1992. Timothy already was a highly qualified, innovative UFO researcher, having filed many FOIA requests successfully, and had written a fascinating 300-page summary of what happened at White Sands Proving Ground (WSPG) in the summer of 1947. He also was the source of at least two of Len Stringfield's 1991 crash/retrieval reports. Stan Friedman spent many hours on the phone with Tim Cooper, concluding that several of his document copies probably were authentic in their original forms. Stan then contacted Bob, who lives in Southern California, urg-

ing him to visit with Timothy for closer evaluation.

On Sept. 24, 1996, Bob and his wife Charlotte met with Tim Cooper in his home at Big Bear Lake, CA. Tim said that he had communicated with leading people in the UFO field, but said, "You are the first person who ever took enough interest to come and see me." That first meeting was preliminary, and Tim had many things he wanted to say. He showed a copy of his 1947 WSPG piece and some of the source material.

Bob's interest in getting to the source material and getting past Tim's interpretation of what might have happened, even if it were correct, caused us to focus more on the papers obtained in the mailbox from his source, Thomas Cantwheel. Tim shared his reported unsuccessful attempts to learn the real identity of Cantwheel. Stan had sent us part of the Cooper-Cantwheel collection.

In subsequent visits Tim provided better copies and hunted through his files and found new documents Stan had not yet seen. Tim's filing system was not well-organized, understandably, given the tens of thousands of pages of FOIA material.

In the meantime, Bob's son and partner, Ryan S. Wood, expressed increasing interest in this subject. Ryan had had an independent decade-long interest in UFOs, and took the initiative to suggest that we might have the material and the skill to write a book. We became increasingly confident that the SOM 1-01 in its original form was genuine, having dealt satisfactorily and accurately with early objections to its authenticity. We became a partnership team, and told both Tim and Stan that was our plan, and sought permission

for selective use of the Cooper-Cantwheel collection for a book proposal. As a result, Ryan and Bob visited with Tim three more times, each time with focused questions, and each time leaving with more insight.

Fake versus genuine?

We had been thoroughly exposed to the authentication discussions surrounding the Eisenhower Briefing Documents and the attendant—and often not constructive—criticism the participants piled upon each other. It seemed to us that since all reasonable students have now concluded that there was a covert program by the U.S. to study and exploit UFOs, documentation of such a program is properly assumed to exist. The question is, were we looking at real documents or at faked and disinforming documents?

This problem is very analogous to one that Bob worked on during his earlier career with McDonnell Douglas: "How do you tell the difference between a reentry vehicle (RV) with a real warhead and a decoy designed to fool radar? The details are classified, but the principle was to establish "discriminants," measure their values, and compare the numbers with those expected for RVs and for decoys. Statistically, the answer pops out: "the probability is ten to the minus three that is a real RV."

To use a technique like this, one turns to document authentication methods used by professional questioned document examiners. Whether one is trying to authenticate someone's will, the Dead Sea Scrolls, or old UFO records, the techniques and principles are known, proven and applicable. Generally, they are (1) provenance, (2) assessment of original (3) typography and chirography (including signatures), (4) chronol-

Table 1. This table summarizes the provenance of each of the five sources of Majestic Documents, all of which include allusions to MJ, MAJIC, or Majestic.

Document	No pp	Receipt Date	Recipient	Nature of original	Origin of original	Our estimate of the real source and provenance
Eisenhower Briefing Document	16	Dec 84	Jaime Shandera Mailbox	35 mm black and white film	Albuquerque Postmark	Photography suggests professionalism. Possibly completely genuine but intentionally deceptive, or possibly an intentional leak to the Soviets.
Cutler-Twining Memo	1	Jul 85	Bill Moore, Jaime Shandera	Period onion skin paper, red declassification slash	Rec Gr 341, Box 189, between folders	This authentic piece may have been made easy to locate to ensure acceptance of the Eisenhower Briefing Document.
Thirteen document sets (See Table 2)	59	1992-1996	Timothy Cooper	Copies left on five different occasions	U.S.P.O. Box combination mailbox	Thomas Cantwheel claimed to be the source in a letter and extensive conversation with Cooper. Cantwheel is alias for the CIC agent who picked Cooper, then leaked documents.
Special Operations Manual 1-01	24	7 Mar 94	Don Berliner	Undeveloped 35 mm black and white film	La Crosse WI postmark	Mailed with a meter from a pharmacy. The hands of photographer show clearly. The purloiner probably can be identified by using analysis, interviews.
DCI to JIOA and JCS	1	?	Timothy Cooper	Xerox copy, noticed in 1998	FOIA request by Cooper	The Subject is Project 63, a Paperclip topic, but file distribution shows CIA Top Secret MJ-12

Table 2. This chronological listing identifies many of the documents obtained from Timothy Cooper and identifies some critical content.

Date and Document	No. pp.	Significance
Jun 47 Einstein-Oppenheimer draft	6 draft	Consistent with direct dictation by Einstein of questions that Vannevar Bush asked him about relationships with inhabitant of celestial bodies. First use of the term EBE. Clearly a draft, uncorrected.
4 Jul 47 IPU Travel order	1 final	Sends a CIC unit to "Condon Field, N. M." Requests report by 28 Jul.
8 Jul 47 Directive to Twining by Eisenhower	1 final	Authorizes Twining to go the WSCG Command Center for the "purpose of making an appraisal of the reported unidentified objects being kept there."
9 Jul 47 Directive to Twining by Truman	1 final	Exact same wording as above, but new typewriter and signed by Truman. Signature is being validated.
16 Jul 47 Air Accident Report by Twining	3 final	First three pages of the report by Twining on "Flying Discs."
22 Jul 47 CIC IPU report (Interplan. Phenom. Unit)	7 draft	Refers back to 4 Jul 47 order. Identifies autopsy medical officer Rae, death of three technicians handling EBEs. Rae's records are found, confirm credibility.
19 Sep 47 Hillenkoetter memo to Joint Intel. Comm.	1 draft	Cooper's copy published in Good's "Beyond Top Secret," page 467. First appearance of MAJIC as an acronym for document title. Unique RHH handwriting correcting "unknown" to "unidentified."
19 Sep 47 Twining's draft report	18 draft 1 final	Presents technical, scientific, political, and National Security considerations. Recommends Majestic Twelve be a fully funded, operational intelligence gathering agency.
25 Sep 47 Marshall and Humelsine Memo to Truman	1 final	Refers to MAJIC and MJ-12. Emphasizes that no indication of the contents of the Twining report be divulged to the public. Similar wording to authentic Wedemeyer document over secret phone, same date.
1st Early 48 Majestic Twelve Project "1st Annual Report"	1 draft	Cover page to a report we presumably do not have. Titles of Panel participants are correct for early 1948. The title was "...to investigate the capture of unidentified platform space vehicles..."
Mid- 1952 summary report	16 draft	Provides a multi-year history of our investigation into background, problems and perspectives of the "other-world visitation." Succinct statements of problems in 13 technical and political areas.
28 Jun 61 JF-K to Director of the CIA	1 final	Requests "review of MJ-12 intelligence operations."
12 Nov 63 JF-K to CIA	1 draft	Handwriting says "Angleton has MJ directive" and is dated 11/20/63.

Table 3. Some of the skeptics' concerns are easier to deal with than others. We believe that constructive skepticism will ultimately establish the authenticity of most of these documents.

Skeptical concern	Present best response
There is no significant provenance.	See Table 1. Provenance is nice but sometimes not essential
Use of the word "belief" implies an emotional position.	We want to find the truth. We have studied the documents more than anyone else so far. The words "consider" or "regard" are also perfectly good.
The use of the concept of a "zinger" is the equivalent of the "erosion of objectivity."	The evaluation of criteria other than provenance always recognizes a faker could be at work. We are just trying to assess how difficult it would have been for such a faker to have created whatever we are looking at. An exceptionally difficult item to have faked we elected to call a "zinger."
We are inconsistent with Friedman's TOP SECRET/MAJIC determinations of Cooper's material	True. The authentication work is ongoing. Friedman may change his mind. We may change our mind. The logic processes, however, should be available for inspection. Friedman has excellent archive contacts and they are very helpful.
Fakers have lots of time to dig around archives, get the proper paper	There can be extremely subtle differences between the genuine and the fake in language and style; the presence of incredibly arcane confirmed detail is very unlikely in a fake.
Since we did not discuss all the documents we have, it is a "cover-up."	We chose to not overload the community with documents of whose authenticity we are unsure.
A fatal flaw has been found in that the alleged disappearance of the New Zealand One-Fourth Regiment has been shown to be both incorrect and first published in the 60s. This ensures the whole document is fraudulent.	This will take a while to determine the correct evaluation. One reaction is that if the story surfaced in 1960s, might it have been lying around classified military sources earlier? The simplistic answer is that the author may have thought it was a true story, just being one of several. More basically, though, the presence of one flaw in a questioned document evaluation must be viewed in the context of perhaps dozens of other detailed checkable facts known to very few. We plan to show that this regiment disappearance story has been around long before the 60s.
The presence of numerous grammatical, punctuation and spelling errors strongly suggests fakery. This extrapolates to "the more errors, the more genuine it is."	Most of the pages we are seeing are unsigned, unfinished draft material (50 out of 59 pages). Technical people are not well known for their writing ability. It is incredible that a faker would permit so many errors. It is reasonable that one of the reasons we have them is that they were drafts, less well controlled by security than the final copies. Errors need to be placed in the context of the author and the typist, who may or may not be the same person.
Retro-virus was a word invented in the 70s. Thus, the 1952 report using it must be fake.	The modern usage of retrovirus has no hyphen. We have located a 1935 reference that uses the concept as a "retrograde" evolution of the virus. It is very likely that this precise word usage with the hyphen will be found in the literature, thereby reaffirming authenticity. Retro-virus is consistent with collegial usage of the time.

ogy, and (5) content analysis and authorship. By analogy, these are five "discriminants."

Bob embraced this systematic methodology relative to SOM 1-01. The overwhelming conclusion, based on four years of work, was that this is a completely genuine document published for its stated purposes. We have an array of evidence in each of the five categories above that put the conclusion of a fake in a "wishful thinking" pile.

Clearly genuine

The authenticity of SOM 1-01 could be a topic of another article later. Such an article would clearly show the reasons why this document is clearly genuine in its original form. One row of Table 4, to be discussed later, summarizes arguments for SOM 1-01's authenticity. We have dealt in detail with the five main criticisms of the SOM 1-01 in the available videotape and CD-ROM. (Order at 800-845-2151).

Table 2 shows thirteen documents of the Cooper-Cantwheel collection to which was also have applied discriminants in particular and the QD examination method in general.

Our book, *The Majestic Documents*, assembles the documents in chronological order and includes legible replicas of the original. In one case (25 Sep 47 Humelsine to Truman) similar language or phrases were available before the date of the document. This has caused naysayers to argue that they were surely faked. This "favoring fakery" as a principle of document authentication can not work unless one wishes to maintain a preconceived notion of what the answer should be. A fake document determination is incomplete unless accompanied by a rationale supporting fakery. Who was the target? What evidence supports a faker's motivation, means, and opportunities?

The question of faking

Detractors claim that almost anything can be faked with the right software, and that the UFO records include many examples of faked documents. This is unsupportable on two counts: first, software tools would have to be available prior to the arrival of the document; second, where and what are examples of such faked documents?

A careful analysis of the typography, for example, shows that the famous Truman-Forrestal memo was created with a 1940 Underwood Standard—certainly not a computerized fake. We may suspect that "The Aquarius Documents" are fake, but to our knowledge they have not undergone a detailed investigation and were never claimed to be anything more than a re-type. We have shown, for example, that the Special Operations Manual includes, amongst other indicators, a few examples of a "raised z" that virtually guarantees the manual was prepared with a hot lead Monotype

printing machine of the period (1954). We always recognize that the faker could recondition an old machine, train an operator for several years to use it, slavishly follow the 1953 Style Manual for format, and voila! we have the fake. Generally, our analyses are oriented not to be absolute and unequivocal, but to show that the faker would have had to have access to equipment, knowledge, and sophistication levels that just become unbelievable.

In each of the categories, an examiner looks for discriminants and uses them to assess genuineness vs. fakery. The mere existence of one indicator of fakery (for example, a seemingly incorrect classification stamp) should never be enough to swing the conclusion, inasmuch as it, for one example among several, is not a discriminant by itself.

The skeptics speak

Over the years, Ryan and Bob have interacted selectively with other researchers whose goal, like ours, was to determine whether the documents were authentic or not. A list of these helpful people is mentioned in our CD-ROM and on our web site. Each usually focused on a specialized aspect of authenticity for a particular document at issue. These colleagues provided about 50 skeptical questions and concerns.

Recently, as part of Mr. Joseph Firmage's Project Kairos Website (www.TheWordIsTruth.org) we chose to leverage his efforts and provide our documents in support of his vision. The Internet publication was alive with quick reaction criticisms and compliments. A recent critical review is found in a publication edited by Barry Greenwood. After deleting the cynical comment, rhetorical questions, and ad hominem arguments, we concluded that there were a few authenticity concerns raised that would interest all. Table 3 summarizes these concerns and provides the necessary clarity.

The 1st Annual Report discusses period issues, including biological warfare. This draft uses the then-coined word "retro-virus," discussed in Table 3. The whole report is a casual draft, not a finished report. These drafter education and specialties inclined them to excessive use of hyphenization and word coning, typical of bureaucracies.

"Retro-virus" is but one among many, such as other-world, one-hundred, bio-medical, multi-layers, over-all, stand-by, micro-circuitry, low-power, electro-magnetic, high-temperature, electro-hydrodynamic, super-aerodyne, out-weighed, inter-active, mid-air, rocket-plane, X-plane, body-bag, air-borne, south-western, air-sea, near-miss, right-angle, and low-level.

Another point that needs to be clarified is our position on the authenticity of the Eisenhower Brief-

Table 4. Considerations other than provenance provide impressive authentication arguments. This is, in effect, a list of the requirements that a faker would have had to deal with in order to create the documents.

Date and Document	Content and Authorship	Type and Handwriting	Assessment of originals	Chronology
Jun 47 Oppenheimer-Einstein draft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literary criticism and analysis verifies Einstein as the sole author Content credible, not argumentative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Later classified by paste-on labels Bush's initials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Xerography contrast reveals 8 x 10.5 size paper used during war 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Einstein was at Princeton at the time
4 Jul 47 IPU Field Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correct style, format Correct military argot or "tingo" Consistent with other unclass. reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Head of G-2, Chamberlain's authorizing initial, "C" Manual typewriter of the period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 x 10.5 size paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent with published recollections of living eyewitnesses
8 Jul 47 Directive to Twining by Eisenhower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizationally correct distribution Correct "Courier" language No faker would know Sandia was AEC facility 8 Jul; dispute settled days before 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authentic Eisenhower signature Period manual typewriter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Xerox copies reveal 8 x 10.5 size paper Type distortion suggest onion skin paper flimsy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Twining gone to NM on 7 July per flight logs Directive provides authority to subordinates
16 Jul 47 Air Accident Report by Twining (AAR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical analysis detail unique to flying saucers Very prosaic description of what was found without romance or glamour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> War Bonds, Save Logo authentic paper Authentic Twining signature Organizationally correct routing genuine No faker would add a line for Hap Arnold (5 star generals never retire) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Xerox copies reveal 8 x 10.5 size paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> References Presidential Directive of 9 July by Truman
22 Jul 47 CIC IPU (Interplan. Phenon. Unit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent with style of other (non-UFO) CIC reports Never-before seen mention of Charles Rea as autopsy surgeon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handwriting may be that of Chamberlain C.C.S. and J.C.S. file stamps precise and obscure today Period manual typewriter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Xerox copies reveal 8 x 10.5 size paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Date shows it was initially drafted on 9 July, before reports in from other sites
19 Sep 47 Hillenkoetter memo to Joint Intel. Comm.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very peculiar naval terminology word error corrected in author's handwriting Rare mention of Naval Research Lab at White Sands Proving Ground 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Period manual typewriter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Xerox copies reveal 8 x 10.5 size paper Type distortion suggest "onion skin" paper flimsy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letterhead address was that of CIG headquarters at the time original document was made
19 Sep 47 Twining's 19-page report draft ("White Hot" Report)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unique technologies as in the AAR All organizational and argot details prove correct historically Checks out 100% in peer-reviewed history and archives NE 102 obscure material today 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authentic signatures on disclosure sheet Names involved very appropriate No faker would know to include Wedemeyer on this list Period manual typewriter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Xerox copies reveal 8 x 10.5 size paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No technical, organizational or nomenclature anachronisms
Fall 1952 1st Annual Report on Majestic Twelve Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correct CIA administrative language and argot for 1952 Corresponds in detail to biological warfare interest and activities of the Army Term "retro-virus" dates to 1935 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Period manual typewriter "Not for public inspection" caveat stamp rare but genuine. Examples available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No images of 8 x 10.5 paper showing in 1952 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption PSB by Truman on April 4, 1951 obscure point unlikely to have been faked. * Annex B-23 is correct
7 Apr 54 Special Operation Manual, SOM 1-01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valid USAF Technical Order nomenclature on cover Par. 17, page 11, 4th column tagging scheme highly consistent current usage Pages 22-25 FOIA-validated, fit perfectly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Period Monotype press and type of print font "Raised z" is totally consistent with other Government documents printed in the period Passes computerized faking tests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent in style and size with other USAF TOs and military Field Manuals (FMs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early anachronism detractors all since shown to be not valid Two-word use of "screw driver"

ing Document. Generally, we think that it is likely that all eight pages of the EBD contain genuine material. Also, the Truman-Forrestal memo included as Attachment A appears genuine, given the 1940 Underwood Standard determination and the Truman signature accomplished by use of a pantograph (a mechanical pen with one master driving several slave pens), thereby explaining the similarity to the Truman-Bush signature a week later.

Likewise, there is no reason to suspect the titles of the attachments, since one of them also appears in the Special Operations Manual, and another is thought to be the Preliminary Analytical Report of 19 Sep 47. None of the other attachments were included.

There are, however, inconsistencies in content with the new MJ documents. For example, the EBD says we recovered four EBEs, when our other documents say five. It claims that the propulsion unit was completely destroyed in the wreckage, when it is clear that we dissected it in detail. One clear reason and motivation for a fake document might have been to try to mislead the Soviets in 1984 (the date of the leak) into believing that we had not learned anything about how they work; when, in fact, by then we probably had been smashingly successful in the reverse engineering process. So we imagine that this CIA disinformation operation would be consistent with trying to influence the KGB via the innocent UFO community. We cannot yet prove this, because the other possibility is that the EBD authors decided to not tell like the complete story at that time. After all, he wasn't President yet.

Conclusions

Although not extensively discussed above, the authenticity of the Special Operations Manual (SOM 1-01) in its original form is assured. The rationale for this conclusion is partially discussed on our CD-ROM, and will be more fully stated in our upcoming book. Table 4 identifies subtleties associated with nine documents that strongly favor authenticity of the originals. Detailed discussion of these points is well beyond the scope of this short article, but anyone with the documents, our CD-ROM, or Web site access can be able to follow the logic.

Increasing fine determination of authentication is forecast to continue. This is just the beginning of the data for the public. There is mounting evidence that the Majestic program was the real thing, and that these documents show it. We have several additional documents and analyses that we will be presenting in our forthcoming book. Until then, the best available authentication discussion is available free on the Web site (www.TheWordsIsTruth.org), or by purchasing our CD-ROM at 800-845-2151.

Filer's Files...

(Continued from Page 9)

ued on. "There were no reports on radio or television of a crash. The event was eerily reminiscent of night footage of Patriot missiles striking Scuds during the Gulf War."

Thanks to Ken Young <http://home.fuse.net/ufo/>

Maryland

GERMANTOWN— QuBr@aol.com reports that on Jan. 29, 1999, he had very clear sighting of a circular/saucer-shaped craft while driving northbound on I-270 between Germantown and Frederick: "There were lights both on the bottom and around the circumference, some of which were pulsing. I noticed about four planes that were flying in a large circle around the craft. After about 5 minutes, the craft moved upward and toward the South, stopped again, then after a few more minutes, pulsed brightly several times (still stationary) and disappeared. By this time I had pulled over to watch. After it disappeared, the other planes seemed to change flights paths, sort-of crisscrossing like they were looking for something. The sky was almost completely clear, and with the near-full moon, the shape of the craft was EASILY seen, including the parts that weren't lit. On my return southbound, I noticed several contrails coming from the West (the direction I had seen the object) heading east, with the endpoints of the contrails getting closer together (ie. same destination). Thanks to CAUS and QuBr@aol.com.

New Russian stealth fighter uses plasma

The Keldysh Research Center in Russia has reportedly developed new technology allowing a dramatic decrease in an aircraft's radar observability. The Russian approach to low observability (LO) technology is completely different from the US Stealth, and offers complete surreptitious movement of the protected object at a significantly lower price.

An exclusive interview about these technologies was conducted by Nicolai Novichkov, ITAR-TASS, with the director of the Center, Anatoliy Kortelev.

The American approach to LO (Stealth technology) applied on B-2, F-117A, and the fifth generation fighter F-22 "Raptor" is based on designing the airframes and radiation absorbing materials to minimize their radar cross section. The main drawbacks of the Stealth technology are its negative effects on the flight and agility of the stealth aircraft.

Russian scientists approach the issue from the other direction. They proposed to create a plasma formation around the protected object which prevents ra-

(Continued on Page 19)

Update on deciphering Gen. Ramey letter

By Donald R. Burleson, Ph.D.

Since my last communication I have made considerable progress with reading the Ramey letter, and am glad to see from recent issues of the *Journal* that others are making inroads as well. I have been using four different image-enhancement computer software packages, and I would estimate that I have reached at least tentative readings of around 80 percent of the text at this point.

While there is too much detail to go into here (I am giving a detailed presentation on the Ramey letter at the International UFO Museum and Research Center here in Roswell on April 10 for anyone interested and able to attend), I wanted to pass along a few points.

For one thing, it would seem that very little had been deciphered heretofore of what I call the "shadowline," the first visible (but barely visible) line of type at the horizontal fold near the top of the document. By using certain image-stretching techniques, I have been able to coax the shadowline into greatly improved visibility. The first grouping, near Gen. Ramey's thumb, seems to start with RECO- (one has to be careful to avoid subjectively jumping to conclusions, but the word RECOVERY comes to mind).

The next group is evidently some word ending in -ATION; this is difficult, but the word looks most like OPERATION, though in some imagings it nearly appears to end in -VATION or -MATION. The following short word looks like WITH, and the group after that is ROSWELL.

Under high zoom and optimal conditions of contrast, the word following that appears to be DISK (the spacing appears a little irregular). Then follows a three-character group of numerals, apparently either 074 or 274. The group following that, again under improved imaging conditions, is a five-character group (with some uncertainty as to possible spacing) clearly starting with MJ and ending with D. The shadowline ends with AT (or AS) THE.

As Stanton Friedman has mentioned, the lighting on the paper is uneven, and in particular I would point out that there is a "flashbulb zone" near the top-left, so the farther one goes from this zone, into shadow, the trickier it all gets.

I should mention too that in the line below the shadowline, with regard to the word I had trouble with before, looking superficially like MAJ-, under better imaging the M turns out to be W and the fifth letter turns out to be K, and the most likely reading is (FOR

THE VICTIMS OF THE) WRECK. I note that Don Schmitt has recently, and independently, arrived at the reading WRECK for this grouping as well.

At the end of line 8, the grouping before CREWS turns out to be DENVER, and one may note that in 1947 Lowry Army Air Field in Denver was the mortuary center for the Army Air Force; in fact Gen. Exon once remarked to Kevin Randle that he thought one of the alien bodies had been taken to Denver, so this may be an interesting connection.

Following DENVER CREWS, with reference to the printed signature TEMPLE, I am indebted to my ENMU colleague, Dr. Henry Monteith, for informing me that in 1947 there was a Maj. Temple on the staff of Gen. James Doolittle; since Doolittle seems already to have been involved in UFO-related matters by 1946, this seems to suggest yet another interesting connection, at least if this Temple is the same person.

There is more, but you can see that the letter is yielding up its secrets at a good pace. What is important now is that those of us who have made the most intense effort and have had the most success in reading the Ramey letter must correlate all our independent findings to arrive at a clear consensus. I feel that we are close to that already.

In any case, it is amusing to revisit the Air Force's July 1994 statement (in the Weaver report) to the effect that there is nothing legible on the paper in the Ramey-DuBose photo. This is baloney, pure and simple. We are on the threshold of announcing that the cover-up is over.

Daylight silver disc seen over Toronto

On Wednesday, Feb. 3, 1999, at 10:15 a.m., aircraft engineer Garfield Bowser was at the corner of St. George and Bloor Streets in Toronto, the largest city in Canada, when he spied a very large UFO crossing the sky.

Bowser reported that he "saw a wingless, noiseless, three-hundred-foot-long, fifty-foot-high object with a 'nubin' on top. It was over St. Clair Avenue West a little beyond Casa Loma."

He estimated that the object "was traveling at about 400 miles per hour. No tail fin. Elevation 15 degrees from horizontal. Altitude 10,000 feet, descending to 8 degrees from horizontal two-and-a-half miles to the north. It was very silvery, with pointy-rounded ends and a black horizontal band around it, against a very clear blue sky.

"Having been in the aircraft industry for five years and having an eye and ear for engines, this object is unlike any craft I have observed heretofore," Bowser stated.

—Thanks to UFO Roundup, Vol. 4, No. 7, Joseph Trainor, Editor, and to Errol Bruce-Knapp.

The UFO PRESS

***UFOs Over Africa* by Cynthia Hind, Horus House Press, Inc., Madison, WI, 1997.**

Reviewed by Dwight Connelly

Cynthia Hind is a veteran researcher who has earned the respect of ufologists all over the world. Her first book, *UFOs-African Encounters*, published in 1982, gave many readers their first look at ufology in the Dark Continent. This latest book broadens and updates her research in this exciting part of the world. Unlike some authors, Cynthia carries out her own research. Not only are the reports more accurate, but they are also more interesting as she adds information and impressions concerning the locales and the people involved.



Cynthia Hind

Those seriously interested in a complete picture of ufology would do well to pick up this book, since African cases are somewhat different from those in the U.S. or Europe, due to the differences in cultures.

Cynthia notes that "none of the [native Africans] interviewed treated their experiences as particularly unusual. It was always something they associated with the spirits of their ancestors, a tribal anomaly which did not surprise or confuse them. Although they were often frightened by it, as the spirits were not always friendly, they could always run away and hide, or make some attempt to avoid contact. But I could not say there was overwhelming fear."

Those who have read Bob Pratt's book, *UFO Danger Zone*, can appreciate how different Africa is from Brazil, where UFOs have caused widespread injury and terror.

Even though Africa has become modernized in many ways, Cynthia notes that there is considerable lack of information about UFOs. This, combined with a shortage of investigators and the usual fear of ridicule, has limited the number of important cases coming out of that continent.

Even so, various interesting cases are covered in this latest book, many involving native Africans. One fascinating case, however, involves an instrument engineer from Britain. One night near Christmas time in 1951, "Henry" was driving near his home not far from Cape Town when he was suddenly surprised by an in-

dividual in an off-white lab coat motioning for him to stop. Short in stature and speaking English with a strange accent, this individual said he badly needed a quantity of water. Henry drove him to a stream where they filled a container.

On the return trip Henry was directed to drive off the road a bit, coming upon an object about 30-35 feet wide and about 12 feet high. Henry was asked to follow the individual he had assisted, and did so, apprehensive, but with a compulsion to accompany him.

Entering the object by climbing a short ladder, Henry found that one of the other individuals in the object was either sick or had been hurt. He was told the individual had been injured when a window of the craft had broken when entering the Earth's atmosphere, but Henry saw no broken window. Henry offered to call a doctor, but the offer was refused.

He was later able to describe the interior in detail. Henry was told that propulsion was achieved by running liquid through pipes to annul the force of gravity. He left without incident and returned home. At work the next day he was berated by his boss for telling about his experience.

African abductions are also described by Cynthia, although she says that she has "always been ambivalent about abductions. I believe that what the abductees are reporting is the truth; that it is certainly a horrifying reality to them, where their will and their bodies are no longer their own. I also think that it is highly possible that there are creatures visiting us who are subjecting certain people to these often terrifying experiences. What I am worried about is whether it is a physical reality, or an experience taking place in an altered state of consciousness, where only the mind is involved."

This is a valuable, interesting book by a respected researcher who gives a unique African perspective to the UFO anomaly.

***UFOs...The Real Story*, by Stanton Friedman, CD ROM multi-media. Unity Publishing 1996. \$20 pp from Friedman at 79 Pembroke Cresc., Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, E3B 2V1**

Reviewed by Dwight Connelly

Stanton Friedman, considered by many to be the dean of UFO researchers, has produced an excellent multi-media device offering compelling evidence that UFOs are real. As such, it is perhaps more appropriately directed at the uninitiated, rather than at those who already know the field. There is, however, a great deal of material that should be of interest to even the more experienced ufologists.

The editorial thrust—or, some would say, bias—is from Stan's perspective. This is not necessarily a criticism, since few people in the field have done more

research over more aspects of ufology than Friedman.

There are basically two main segments to this CD: a general look at the field, including such things as abductions and crashes, and a segment on Santilli's "alien autopsy" film.

The overall look at UFOs is well done and reasonably comprehensive, although Friedman wisely limits his coverage to cases that he feels he knows something about. In characteristic fashion, Stan methodically looks at the evidence, carefully building the case that UFOs are real.

The alien autopsy segment considers the claims by Santilli, then discusses each significant question which arises from the film, such as whether the aliens have the correct appearance (based on the testimony of other witnesses to alleged crashes), whether the bodies were real or created by special effects, the mystery surrounding the alleged cameraman, etc. He concludes that, while it can not be proven that the film was faked, the evidence points in that direction.

The organization of this CD is very good. Under "UFOs the Real Story" are Conclusions, Objections, Who believes?, Technology, Galactic neighborhood, Destination Earth, Where are they from?, Crashes, Cover-up, and Have you seen a UFO? There is a handy graphic index to the various topics and sub-topics, making it fairly simple to quickly find what you want. The search feature, however, seemed somewhat poor. I tried searching for Betty Hill, for example, and came up empty, even though there is material concerning Betty Hill on the CD.

Perhaps one of the more interesting parts of the CD are the video clips, which can be accessed at various points throughout the presentation. These include everything from testing the soil from the Delphos, KS, landing site to Betty Hill telling about her abduction. These alone may be worth the price of the CD. Another feature is the ability to enlarge many of the photos by clicking on them. As an interesting aside, there are some nostalgic clips of present-day researchers as they worked or were interviewed 20 years or so ago, such as the youthful Ted Phillips at Delphos. (Ted has recently returned to Delphos, by the way.)

Overall, the production is excellent. A couple of minor annoyances was the variation in sound level from segment to segment, as well as the necessity to scroll every time a return was made to the lower portion of the photo list.



Stanton Friedman

There is a section which features references, with comments by Friedman in some cases concerning what he thinks about the material referenced. Another section features specific questions which can be clicked on, resulting in specific video answers from Stan. A nice final touch is the instruction to report sightings to MUFON.

This CD has much to recommend it, and MUFON groups might want to consider purchasing it for their lending libraries so more people—especially prospective members—can have access to it. Since it is basically a well-researched, non-sensational look at ufology, it would also be suitable for placing in public and high school/college libraries.

Filer's Files...

(Continued from Page 16)

dars from seeing it. Thus, the aerodynamical characteristics of the plane itself does not suffer. An artificially created plasma cloud surrounds the plane and reportedly guarantees a decrease of more than 100 times in its observability.

The cloud interacts with electromagnetic waves radiated by enemy radar. First, an absorption of electromagnetic energy occurs in the cloud, since during plasma penetration it interacts with plasma-charged particles, passes onto them a portion of its energy, and fades. Second, due to specific physical processes, the electromagnetic wave tends to pass around the plasma cloud. Both of these phenomena result in a dramatic decrease of the reflected signal.

Static and flight experiments reportedly proved the effectiveness of this technology. The first generation devices, which produce a plasma field surrounding the aircraft and decrease the reflected signal, were created in the Center. Later, a method of creating second generation advanced systems (capable of not only decreasing reflected signal and changing its wavelength, but also producing some false signals) was discovered. Such systems significantly complicate determination of an actual aircraft's speed and location, and leads to development of completely new approaches to LO, unachievable with conventional Stealth technology.

Furthermore, the weight of the systems developed in Russia do not exceed 100 kg, and power consumption ranges from kilowatts to tens of kilowatts. Advances in development of the third generation are on the new MIG 29. Thanks to: Anatoliy Kortelev. 26/01/99 (c) ITAR-TASS, Translation by Philip Kaploun.

Excellent UFO videos on the Internet

Dave Ledger has some of the best UFO video footage on the Internet. UFO Scotland at <http://wkweb5.cableinet.co.uk/dledger/video.htm>

Perspectives

Richard H. Hall

on the February issue of the Journal

The complexities and difficulties...and frustrations...of UFO investigation are strongly on display in this issue. The "Phoenix Lights" revisited by Bruce Maccabee are a good example of this, but so are the "Case of the Month" and Beverly Trout's reported abduction experiences.

Interpretations of complex events can be somewhat subjective; even thorough investigation often can fail to pinpoint a definite answer. So we have to learn to live with a "tolerance for ambiguity." The February issue also illustrates a commendable determination to try to find answers.



Richard Hall

Kudos to Maccabee for his impressively thorough analysis, and for his suggestion on how to settle the issue once and for all: conduct an announced flare drop, and let it be thoroughly observed and filmed. If only the authorities would cooperate, this would provide a definitive test and no doubt help to demystify at least some of the Phoenix events. But military authorities all too often seem to have a stake in secrecy and mystification, rather than cooperating with civilians who want credible answers. They should take a lesson from the French and Belgian governments when it comes to UFOs.

An important lesson for MUFON investigators (and readers) to learn is that, in any given location, real UFO sightings often breed proportionally more false sightings in various "contagious" ways. This was certainly true of Gulf Breeze, apparently true of Phoenix, and there are innumerable precedents in earlier UFO history. People hear about the sightings, rush outdoors to see for themselves, and are astonished to discover funny lights in the sky. Often they do not have a sophisticated knowledge of all the things in the sky that would be visible any time they looked; they just haven't paid attention. So false UFO reports are generated.

Weather and lighting conditions also can distort the images of sky lights, making them appear "too large" or "too bright" to be something familiar. Atmospheric distortion can alter the appearance of glowing objects: that is why stars twinkle. A very common error is to assume that because a light is very bright, it must be closer than it really is. This honest error occurred in Phoenix, and one false assumption can throw

off all your calculations. Maccabee's careful, objective investigation shows how to sift through various types of observations and data and analyze them meaningfully.

The brightness/nearness illusion occurs all the time with "fireball" meteors. I have seen two of them. Aside from being "too bright" and "too long-lasting" to be a meteor (true for typical "shooting star" meteors which fit the stereotype, but not of "fireballs"), they look just like a plane on fire, crashing in the next field over. But they really are hundreds of miles away.

Since "fireballs" are relatively uncommon, the average person tends not to be aware of them. Unlike typical meteors (tiny chunks of space debris), "fireballs" are relatively large chunks that burn up spectacularly from friction as they enter the atmosphere, and typically have a luminous "trail" streaming behind them. Since they are larger, they last longer: on the order of 8 to 15 seconds.

IFOs tend to clutter up the data base and to mislead people about "real" UFOs, those that perform in distinctly abnormal ways and defy identification even after thorough investigation. Therefore, it is vitally important for people to recognize them and weed them out. Carl Feindt sets another good example of how to go about it. These investigations help both to identify false sightings and, importantly in the long run, to establish an ever growing reliable data base of anomalous events that cry out for scientific attention.

CALENDAR

March 19-21, Journey Toward Millennium, Gulf Breeze UFO Conference, Pensacola Beach, Florida. Check out www.projectawareness.com or call 850-432-8888 for free program guide or write P.O. Box 730, Gulf Breeze FL 32562.

April 9-11, 11th Annual Ozark UFO Conference, Inn of the Ozarks, Eureka Springs, Arkansas. For details write to: Ozark UFO, 2 Caney Valley Drive, Plumerville, AR 72127-8725. E-mail inquires to: ozarkufo@webtv.net

April 10, The 1999 UFO Abduction Conference at the O. Henry Learning Center, 333 W. 17th St. in Manhattan, New York, NY. For further information, phone the Intruders Foundation (212) 645-5278.

April 24, Second Annual Kentucky UFO Conference, sponsored by Kentucky MUFON at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, KY. (All-day event) For information contact Kentucky MUFON, 607 Eldorado Dr., Elizabethtown, KY 42701 or phone (502) 769-6458.

July 2-4, 30th Annual MUFON 1999 International UFO Symposium at Hyatt Regency Crystal City Hotel, in Arlington, Virginia near Reagan National Airport. Hosted by Northern Virginia MUFON. (For details see Director's Message.)

READER'S CLASSIFIEDS

The Anomalist 7

Greg Sandow on abductions, Antonio Huneus on Soviet UFO reports, Michael Grosso on transplant memories, Hilary Evans on materializations & much, much more. Quality pb, 192 pages, our largest issue ever! \$9.95 + \$2.50 s&h, check or MO payable to Dennis Stacy, Box 12434, San Antonio, TX 78212.

THE ANDERSON LEGACY

Ray Fowler's latest book *The Andreasson Legacy* (UFOs and the Paranormal: The startling conclusion of the Andreasson Affair), hardback (463 pages) personally autographed, is now available from MUFON for \$24.95, P&H included. Send orders with check, postal money order, or cash to MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Rd., Seguin, Texas 78155. (For orders in U.S.A. only)

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Published papers by twelve speakers at Denver, Co. (192 pages) \$25 plus \$1.75 for postage and handling. Order from MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Rd., Seguin, TX 78155-4099.

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New MJ-12 Documents

Dr. Robert Wood and Ryan Wood have just published a CDROM with all the MJ documents, replicas and authentication discussion for \$16. Additionally, a 200-page book that has only the original documents and replicas is available for \$18. To order, call 1-800-845-2151 or order at: <http://w5.pittsburgh.usweb.com/kairosproducts/>

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CASH-LANDRUM UFO INCIDENT

Three Texans are injured during an encounter with a *UFO and Military Helicopters* by John F. Schuessler, 323 page softcover book now available from MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Rd., Seguin, TX 78155 for \$19.95 plus \$2 for postage and handling.

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Books and misc. literature re UFOs, the unexplained, etc. for sale. No lists available, must state specific items wanted. Must include stamped envelope for reply. Please state price you are willing to pay. U.S. addresses and funds only. All items mailed insured. Robert (Books), P.O. Box 434, Nedrow, NY 13120-0434.

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The NIGHT SKY

Walter N. Webb

April 1999

Bright Planets (Evening Sky):

Venus (magnitude -4.1) increases its altitude and visibility in the western evening sky, not setting now until shortly before 11 p.m. daylight time (mid-April). This imposing planet lies only 3 degrees below the Pleiades star cluster on the 11th and 12th. It is near the crescent Moon on April 18. Also see "The Stars" below.

Retrograding from Libra into Virgo this month, Mars brightens to magnitude -1.7 at opposition opposite the Sun on the 24th. On that date the red planet rises in the ESE at sunset and remains visible all night. Since its tiny disc is large enough (16" of arc) at this time for fruitful study, observers with telescopes can discern a small but bright north polar cap against the orange-tinted desert regions. Mars is nearest Earth on May 1 at a distance of 53.8 million miles. The planet lies near the gibbous Moon on the night of April 2-3. Saturn (0.1), moving from Pisces to Aries, can be glimpsed low in the W at dusk only during the first week of April, setting then about 8 p.m. daylight time.

Bright Planets (Morning Sky):

Mars shifts westward across the southern sky during the night. During the first half of the month, it stands in the SW at dawn. Later in April the ruddy world sets about sunrise.

Meteor Shower:

The swiftly moving Lyrids achieve their maximum on the morning of the 22nd, a peak of about 15 per hour toward dawn. Though the quarter Moon interferes during the 1st half of the night, after about 2 a.m. the sky is moonless and affords a fine view of this annual meteor display. Some of these bright white

meteors can be glimpsed for a few nights before and after the peak.

New Space Observatory:

The much delayed but anticipated Advanced X-ray Astrophysical Facility - AXAF for short - is scheduled for a shuttle launch this month. From its highly elongated orbit, the satellite will study the universe in x-rays, including such exotic objects as black holes, pulsars, exploding stars, and colliding galaxies.

Moon Phases:

Last quarter - April 8

New moon - April 16

First quarter - April 22

Full moon - April 30



The Stars:

The sky symbol of spring, Leo the Lion, now crouches due S at 10 p.m. daylight time in mid-month. Look for the constellation's familiar Sickle, which defines the lion's head and mane. The bright star in the Sickle's handle is Regulus, the heart of the beast. Farther to the E (left) lies Denebola, the lion's tail.

With the Big Dipper so favorably placed high in the N, use its pointer system to guide you to other spring star patterns. Dubhe and Merak on the end of the dipper's bowl point downward nearly to Polaris the North Star. Megrez and Phad on the other end of the bowl aim in the opposite direction to Regulus in Leo. The curve of the dipper's handle "arcs to Arcturus," the bright orange star in kite-shaped Bootes the Herdsman. If the curve is extended, you can "speed to Spica" in Virgo the Maiden.

From western Canada and the NW and N central U.S. on April 18, the 1st-magnitude star Aldebaran disappears behind the dark edge of the crescent Moon. Local times for selected cities: Vancouver, 8:04-8:47; Denver, 9:38-9:47; Kansas City, 10:31 (disappearance only). Begin watching well in advance of these times. Our satellite's eastward orbital motion can be clearly perceived.

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Director's Message...

(continued from page 24)

River. Confirmed speakers to date are **Beverly J. Trout; Budd Hopkins; Stanton Friedman** (Canada); **Jenny Randles** (England); **Bruce S. Maccabee, Ph.D.; Robert P. Swiatek; Eve Frances Lorgen; Thomas Eddie Bullard, Ph.D.; Richard H. Hall; S. Peter Resta, Ph.D.; and Ms. Kelly Cahill** (Australia).

The attractive room rate of \$89 per night has been negotiated for the symposium and this price allows up to four (4) people per room. When making reservations, be sure to identify the MUFON symposium and specify that you want one king-size bed or two doubles. Make your reservations directly with the hotel at 1-800-228-9000.

To register for the symposium, please mail a check or money order payable to: MUFON '99 International UFO Symposium and mail to 7873 Heritage Dr., Suite 574, Annandale, VA 22003. Admission to all presentations is \$65 before June 9 (\$75 thereafter). Advance registration for the buffet/party on Friday evening 6-9 p.m. is \$20 (or \$25 at the door).

The vendor room has space for approximately 50 tables. Tables will be reserved on a first come-first served basis. A limit of five tables per vendor will be in effect until June 1, at which time if there are any unclaimed tables, we will lift that restriction. To reserve a table or tables, please send a check or money order in advance payable to "MUFON '99 International UFO Symposium." Send to Ben Moss, Vendor Coordinator, 4433 Edan Mae Ct., Annandale, VA 22003. The table fee is \$50 for your first table and \$40 for additional tables. Speakers qualify to reserve all their tables at the \$40 price. The vendor room will be locked at night for security. The host committee is not available to staff or watch vendor's tables. Any additional questions can be posed directly to Ben Moss at the above address or (703) 354-6553 or through e-mail at www.benmoss@erols.com.

The State/Provincial Directors' Meeting will be held on Friday, July 2, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. All Assistant State Directors are also invited. If a State or Provincial Director is unable to attend, he/she should designate a member to represent them.

Our MUFON Symposium will conclude at approximately 6 p.m. on Sunday, July 4, giving everyone adequate time to get situated for the National Fireworks on the Mall, starting at approximately 9 p.m. This is a fireworks display that you and your family will always remember as you see the Washington Monument and the reflecting pools highlighted by probably the best display in the nation. With all the fascinating archives, museums, Ford's Theater, Kennedy Center, monuments, and sidewalk cafes, there is clearly something

for the entire family to enjoy—even a zoo. Plan to visit Washington, D.C., our nation's capital, for the Fourth of July weekend.

PROCEEDINGS COVER CONTEST

The success of the 1996, 1997, and 1998 Symposium Proceedings cover design contest has prompted MUFON to make this an annual competition. Previous winners have been **Fran Geremia, Anson Seale, and Liz Coleson**. The cover design should reflect the symposium theme, "Transcending Politics and Comfort Zones in Ufology." In addition to the theme, it must include the wording "MUFON 1999 INTERNATIONAL UFO SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS," the location, "ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA," and the symposium dates, "July 2-4." The contest submissions must be "camera ready" and not simply attractive designs, symbols, or artwork. The contest prizewinner will receive \$100 in cash plus \$100 in MUFON publications or merchandise. Please submit entries to **Walt Andrus**, the Symposium Proceedings co-editor. The deadline for cover designs is April 1, 1999.

LOSS OF STATE SECTION DIRECTOR

Corinne A. Elliott, B.A. (Helena, MT) passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 27, 1998. In addition to being a State Section Director and Field Investigator for MUFON, Corinne had diversified talents in the fields of art, music, writing, and raising three daughters. She was recognized in "Who's Who in American Writers" and "Who's Who in American Women." Mrs. Elliott joined MUFON in 1993. She will be missed by everyone, but especially by **Ronald Penrod**, Montana State Director.

U. S. NAVAL OBSERVATORY INFORMATION

David McManus (Ocean Shores, WA), a Field Investigator, has found a useful website that can be used in investigations and in filing UFO sighting reports. A person may obtain the following information: (1) sunrise, sunset, moonrise, moonset and twilight; (2) Moon illumination; (3) eclipses; (4) positions of the Sun and Moon; (5) data for major Solar Systems bodies and bright stars; (6) dates of Earth's seasons; (7) miscellaneous, and (8) DOD Information by contacting the website <https://aa.usno.navy.mil/AA/data/>

GEORGE REYNOLDS GETS MARRIED

On the brighter side, we would like to congratulate **George Reynolds** (Elkton, MD), a State Section Director in Northeast Maryland, who married **Elvira "Elvie" Dela Torre** on Dec. 8, 1998. As George jokingly said, "I actually did marry an alien!" Elvie is from the Philippines and was naturalized in 1983, making her a legal "alien."

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Walter Andrus

NEWS FROM AROUND THE NETWORK

NEW OFFICERS

State Director for Kentucky **Scott R. Voight** (Elizabethtown) has selected **Kathie F. Grimes** (Morgantown), presently a State Section Director, to also be the Assistant State Director for Southern Kentucky. The following six gentlemen were appointed State Section Directors this past month: **Stephen J. Badamo** (Lido Beach, NY); **Russel Williams** (Kempston, IN); **John C. Serrette** (Russellville, AR); **Joseph A. Murek, M.A.** (Yuma, AZ); **Steve A. Hudgeons, Jr.** (Fort Worth, TX); and **Robert D. Long** (Reading Center, NY).

NEW FIELD INVESTIGATORS

Kathleen Marden recently announced that the following individuals have passed the Field Investigator's exam: **Eric Lewis** (Scottsdale, AZ) and **Michael R. DeGraff** (Austin, TX). Congratulations are extended to these gentlemen. As a further incentive to our members to study the Field Investigator's Manual, pass the 100-question exam, and upgrade their investigative techniques, an award will be given. Starting April 1, 1999, each person passing the exam will receive not only their new I.D. card as a Field Investigator (F.I.), but an attractive blue and white MUFON lapel pin.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR, INVESTIGATIONS

As a reminder to all State/Provincial Directors, all processed UFO sighting reports should be mailed to **Dan R. Wright** at 3628 Aragon Drive, Lansing, MI 48906 for entry into MUFON's computer database file. State Section Directors, Field Investigators, and members will continue to mail their completed sighting reports to their State or Provincial Director for screening, accompanied with back-up data as per the instructions in the Field Investigator's Manual. Dan has joined the *Journal* Staff, and is writing a column titled "MUFON Case Investigation of the Month."

NEW WESTERN REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Nominations for candidates to fill the position of Western Regional Director have been sought in this column in several issues of the *Journal* to fill the vacancy created with the expiration of the four-year term of **Mrs. Marilyn H. Childs, M.S.** (Bothell, WA). Mrs. Childs had elected not to run for a second term due to

her employment time constraints.

Since the deadline for receiving names of candidates for the MUFON Board of Directors position has passed (Jan. 30, 1999), the only person nominated was **Virgil C. Staff, MA.** (Berkeley, CA), State Director for Northern California. Mr. Staff was interested in this position four years ago.

The necessity for placing ballots in the March 1999 *Journal* to all members in the western states for the election now becomes mute since there was only one person nominated. Therefore, Mr. Staff automatically assumes the position effective Feb. 11, 1999.

Virgil has been a State Section Director and Field Investigator, and has served as the State Director for Northern California since 1982. Joining MUFON in 1977, he comes highly qualified. An instructor in American history and government at Balboa High School in San Francisco, Mr. Staff retired in 1989, thereby allowing him more time for his favorite interests—UFOs and historical railroading. Considering his education and leadership talent, Mr. Staff will be an asset to the MUFON Board of Directors.

Mr. Staff has promoted his former Assistant State Director, **Ruben J. Uriarte, M.A.**, to the position of State Director for Northern California, effective immediately. Ruben joined MUFON in 1990 and has served as a Field Investigator and State Section Director. Mr. Uriarte has been employed by Highland General Hospital in Oakland as their Health Care Service Officer since 1981.



Virgil Staff

MUFON 1999 UFO SYMPOSIUM

Mrs. Susan Swiatek, Coordinator for the MUFON 1999 International UFO Symposium, has provided a current status report for the thirtieth MUFON annual symposium. It will be held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202 near the renamed Ronald Reagan National Airport on July 2, 3, and 4, 1999. The theme of the '99 Symposium is "Transcending Politics and Comfort Zones in Ufology," which is quite fitting due to the proximity of Washington, D.C., just across the Potomac

(Continued on Page 23)