

Stand Up and Be Counted

Gene Duplantier has just published his latest UFO Research Directory of Organizations and Publications for the 1980's. It lists over 600 organizations and publishers directly and indirectly related to ufology, and represents a supreme effort to compile a comprehensive listing of UFO groups worldwide. It is easily realized that a list of this scope is almost impossible to keep current, and is not intended to be fully accurate, but only valid from as much information as received to date.

Included in the list are many non-UFO organizations, such as the Energy Hotline Unlimited, the Planetary Association for Clean Energy, various Bigfoot groups and psychic organizations. Perhaps a better name for the directory might have been something with a broader scope such as "Fortean Research Directory". Although most topics are related to UFO's, the peripheral displacement of these tend to be away from "hard" ufology. Despite this, the effort is still very much worthwhile, and some analysis is helpful in revealing certain aspects.

For example, there are 46 groups listed for Canada, seven of which are duplicate listings under different names (embarrassingly, I am listed four times, under MUFOS, UFOROM, Swamp Gas Journal and UFOSIS. UFOSIS, a British group encountering some problems at present, may not be aware that I am still their Canadian representative.). Of these 39, 21 (55%) are in Ontario:

Ontario 21; Quebec 9; Alberta 4; Manitoba 2; Nova Scotia 2; BC 1

There are 40 countries represented in the catalog, among them Ghana, Uruguay, Iran (the group here may not be active just now) and Iceland. It was postulated that the number of groups was somehow related to population, but while the USA leads the way with 229 groups, Japan has 6 and England has 82. Also, Brazil has 13, while Sweden has 16. It was then suggested that the size of the country had a relation to the number of groups. This, too, is not so, as is evident by comparing England (82) to France (30) or to Canada (39).

The USA was broken down by state, and the following gives the number of groups per state, for states with more than 7 groups per state:

California 46; Ohio 24; New York 24; Illinois 11; Maryland 10
New Jersey 10; Washington 7; Arizona 7; Florida 7

Thirteen states were listed as having no groups.
Gene has done a great job of publishing this, and is to be commended.

More Saucer Science Fiction

After the publication of the list of UFO fiction last issue, a few more were brought to my attention. Added now to the list are:

Clarke Childhood's End Ballantine 1971 PB how did I miss it
Keene, Carolyn Nancy Drew #58: The Flying Saucer Mystery Wanderer 1980 PB
Weverka & Sellier Hangar 18 Bantam 1980 PB soon to be a movie

Being searched for are:

Bounds, Sydney J. The Moon Raiders Digit Books 1950 PB
Fane, Bron UFO 517 John Spencer Co. SF 115 1950 PB
Garver, ? The Saucer People ? ? ?
Johnson, Edwin Strangers in Space Collins Spitfire Books 1967 PB
Newman, Bernard The Flying Saucer ? 1948 HC
Saville, Malcolm Saucers Over the Moor Merlin Bks. #M8 Paul Hamlyn Ltd.
1967 PB

Recently Added to the Literature

Tipler, Frank J.
Extraterrestrial Intelligent Beings Do Not Exist
Q. J. Roy. Astr. Soc. (1980) 21, pp. 267-281

First of all, the reasoning behind this article does seem to have its strong points. The question of ET life has cropped up many times in the scientific literature, and there appears to be an equal separation in attitude between the numbers of papers for and against its existence. The arguments usually revolve around our only tool for such a discussion, namely statistics.

Statistics tell us that we are very lucky to be here. As Tipler puts it, "the number of evolutionary pathways leading from one-celled organisms to intelligent beings is miniscule when compared with the total number of evolutionary pathways." Quite true. If intelligent life arose on a distant planet, then it would not necessarily have developed a technology to enable it to achieve interstellar travel (it is significant to not that we are not at this level yet, either).

But Tipler's summary says it all: "It is argued that if extraterrestrial intelligent beings exist, then their spaceships must already be present in the solar system." He is essentially stating the basic ufological theory. Unfortunately, not stopping there, he makes a serious error. He says: Since they are not here (14,15), it follows that they do not exist."

The powerful references 14 and 15 are none other than UFO's Explained by Klass and The UFO Enigma by Menzel and Taves. In other words, his entire fifteen-page discourse is based on the premise that Klass, Menzel and Taves are correct in their judgement that ET beings at this time are

not piloting spaceships through our skies. While questioning the ideas of Drake, Sagan and Morrison, he accepts Klass verbatim and goes on from there.

Tipler has not bothered to consult UFO literature beyond his selected references, and his narrow view is so evident as to be painful. He repeatedly refers to references 14 and 15 throughout his essay to reinforce his statements. He does not consider that there may be reasons for non-contact, only that there isn't any contact, and that settles that. A truly remarkable article.

Tompkins Jr., D.R. & Rodney, P.F.
Possible Photographic Observations of Ball Lightning
Il Nuovo Cimento V. 3C #3 May-June 1980 pp. 200-205

The authors of this article examined twelve thousand photographs obtained by the Prairie Network of all-sky cameras. Only one photo appears to show ball lightning descending from a cloud. ball lightning theories describe the ball as a lightning stroke which fails to reach the ground. In fact, in the photo, the ball appears to have drifted windward. This article as it is presented is a valuable contribution to ball lightning knowledge, but no doubt more study is required to properly assess the results. The use of the Prairie Network in this manner is indicative of the value of maintaining such a watch on the sky.

McCrosky, R.E. & Ceplecha, Z.
Photographic Networks for Fireballs
Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory Special Report 288, October 4, 1968

Although the report is twelve years old, it is useful to examine the data presented in regard to the observation of luminous bodies in the Earth's atmosphere. It shows that despite extensive systems like the Prairie Network in the USA and the All-Sky Network in Europe, very few meteorites can be located on the ground after photographic detection. While this is due in many cases to breakup, it indicates that only large bodies can be pinpointed with any accuracy. Nevertheless, photographic detection is still a valuable tool for UFO research, and such networks should be queried from time to time for relevant data.

Sprinkle, Dr. R. Leo
UFO Contactees: Captive Collaborators or Cosmic Citizens?
Paper Presented at the MUFON UFO Symposium held in Houston, Texas, on June 7, 1980

In another interesting paper, Sprinkle once again shows the change in character of UFO contactees after their experiences. He views them as becoming "Cosmic Citizens" in the sense that they show concern and compassion for other individuals after their contact, cautioning against nuclear bombs and injustice to our fellow man.

Sprinkle lists 47 hypnotized contactees and a summary of their contact, as well as noting 12 additional contactees whom he has interviewed. Examples of a few cases are given, as well as personal letters written by

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contactees to other individuals.

As many contactees are disregarded in terms of reputability, it is refreshing to see continuing research into the psychology of contactees. Whether UFO's exist in reality or not, the awareness of ET, manifesting itself in contactees, as well as in ordinary UFO witnesses, is a part of the belief state of most individuals today.

Visitor From the East

I was pleasantly surprised on October 29th to hear from Michael Sinclair, an Ontario ufologist with the UFO Research Centre: Ontario. Mike is also now a member of Project UFOCAN, like myself, an effort by David Haisell to coordinate UFO research across Canada. A basic problem with the effort is that it is difficult for Canadian ufologists to meet together for any period of time, due to the costs involved in travelling to a common center. A general meeting of Canadian ufologists would be an excellent opportunity for getting an efficient cooperative group on the road to success. Winnipeg was originally selected as a central location for a meeting, but this would involve more individuals having to travel farther from Ontario, as that is where most Canadian ufologists are residing (see article this issue).

Being somewhere near poverty level, Winnipeg seems a fine choice to me, as I'd be willing to host another conference anytime.

Mike and I discussed the running of our two groups, and compared their present state, as they both had a common origin. MUFOS and UFO Research Centre: Ontario were both initiated by Dr. Hynek in the early spring of 1976. Thanks for dropping in, Mike! The invitation is open to any other ufologist to visit my realm, here in the land of ice and snow.

Once again, time to close another issue. Special thanks to Guy Westcott once again for printing assistance.

See you all in the new year.

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