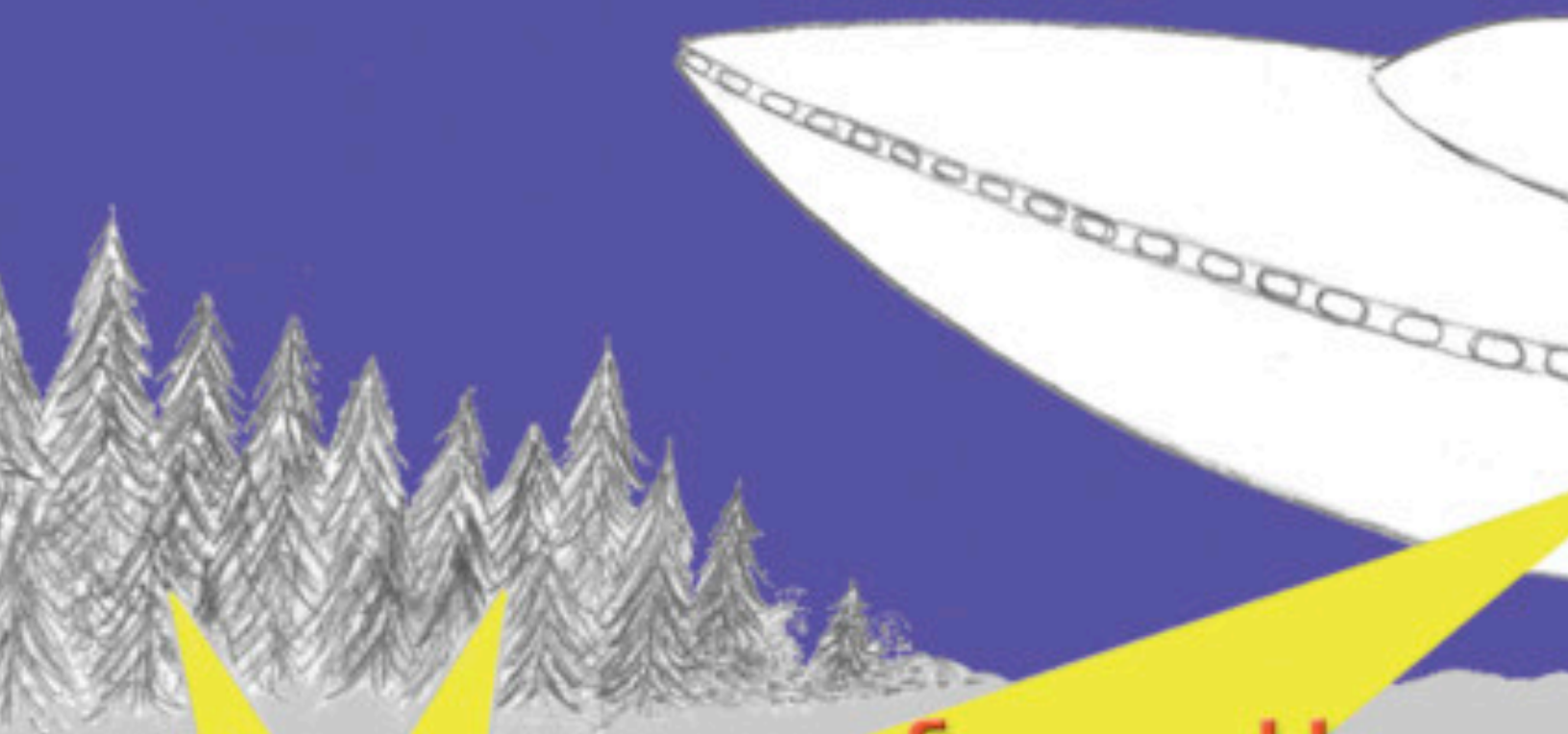


SECOND EDITION (Revised & Enlarged)

# ALIENS AND UFOs

PHYSICAL, PSYCHIC OR SOCIAL REALITY?

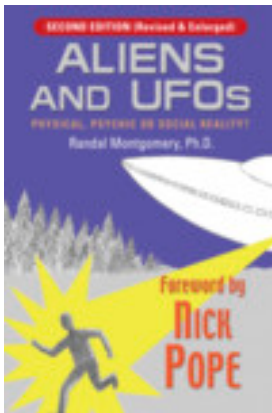
Randal Montgomery, Ph.D.



Foreword by

**NICK  
POPE**





*Dr. Montgomery applies his expertise in psychology, psychiatry, social psychology and sociology to the topic. As an attorney, he applies trial tests to the evidence pro and con. As an ex-government researcher with secret clearance, he assesses the cover up/conspiracy allegations. As an aviation buff, he analyzes UFO reports. He also compares aliens' reported powers and activities to those of old science-fiction novels, movies, TV shows, super-hero comics, religious prophets and Greek and Egyptian myths.*

# **ALIENS and UFOs**

## **Physical, Psychic or Social Reality?**

**Second Edition  
( Enlarged and Revised )**

by Randal Montgomery, Ph.D.

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**ALIENS and UFOs:**  
**Physical, Psychic or Social Reality?**

**Second Edition**  
**( Enlarged and Revised )**

Randal Montgomery, Ph.D.

*ALIENS and UFOs*

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Second Edition

*Randal Montgomery, PhD*

The author of this book may be contacted via email at [randmont@gmail.com](mailto:randmont@gmail.com). However, due to the high volume of email he already receives you may receive a delayed or no response at all. Summarizing your point in the subject line will increase the chance of a response.

*ALIENS and UFOs*

*Randal Montgomery, PhD*

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## **Ch. 1 - INTRODUCTION: THE SUBJECT MATTER, THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD, AND ME**

The people of this planet are being subjected to thousands of close encounters with aliens from distant galaxies - **if** you believe popular “news” tabloids dating back to the 1970’s and books labeled as “true” on their covers. (Extrapolating from a few questions in the US Roper survey of mid 1991, released in 1992, two percent of the respondents, statistically representing 3,700,000 Americans, met the criteria of having been abducted by aliens. This poll has been criticized, including pp. 316-320 of this book.) With the advent of the internet, one can also find many kidnapping claims on the web. On the other hand, if you do **not** read this type of material you are likely less aware of this apparent epidemic of abductions by space aliens, and presumably less likely to believe that so many earthlings are being medically examined, vaginally or rectally probed, having tiny tracers implanted, and for females even impregnated and having babies delivered in flying saucers. Those with less gullible and more educated minds may dismiss all this as mass hysteria, lies concocted for money or for the perverted fun of hoaxing, or the fantasies of the “lunatic fringe” of people who have personality disorders, genuine mental illness, or have gotten themselves indoctrinated into cults. After all, if this has really been occurring so often for half a century, one might have expected the governments of several countries to order their military and intelligence agencies to make a major effort to stop the aliens from what are classified as crimes in most countries (kidnapping, assault, rape, etc.). Yet such enlightened cynics might be surprised to learn that in fact several countries (including the USA, UK, and France) have had government commissions, agencies and their military investigate the more basic question of whether earth has been subject to close surveillance by space aliens, and whether there have been any actual close encounters between aliens and earthlings.

What is going on and how did the situation arise? This was the question I asked myself when I set out to write this book, during a summer vacation back in 1979. The book was to be both recreation and

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mental exercise. It was to be a popular book, not a dry, technical academic opus. My stated aim was, however, serious: “to clear up all this UFO mystery”. I thought it would only take ten weeks of intensive reading and writing. Ten months later, tired and confused, I had to admit that I had greatly under-estimated the size and complexity of the task. Moreover, over the decades, new evidence has arisen, both supportive and destructive of beliefs in space aliens being present in our skies and seas and even on our lands or in our midst. Some of the “classic” reports of yesteryear have since been debunked as hoaxes or explained as not involving inter-galactic oddities, while many new reports seem to consist of credible and trustworthy evidence of at least the presence of hyper-performance vehicles in our atmosphere and under water. Rather than being able to make a conclusion, the serious researcher is faced with a “moving target”. Thus, over thirty years later I am still struggling with the UFO phenomenon. The sheer amount of information, past and constantly arriving as fresh reports of sightings and encounters are reported online or in print, and as others’ articles and books on the subject are published, has created an overwhelming task.

There is a genuine phenomenon here, but is it physical (i.e. one can confirm the belief that aliens are here by photographing, bouncing radar beams off, or touching a spaceship, all of which have apparently been done; or one can “explain away” sightings and abductions via physics, geology and neurophysiology, as several respected scientists have apparently done)? Or is the phenomenon a social one (i.e. the phenomenon exists only in peoples’ minds, requiring analysis from psychological, social-psychological and/or sociological and socio-cultural anthropological perspectives)? Finally, is the phenomenon best understood and explained as psychic? (When I first got into this I thought this perspective was nonsense but it seems to be the only one to explain certain aspects). Overall, the UFO and alien abduction phenomenon (along with allegedly related events such as cattle mutilations and crop circles) has all the hallmarks of a great mystery. (Or, if you believe the cynics, one of mankind's greatest follies, a modern version of belief in fairies, witches, goblins and gods who talk

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to people.) But my ongoing study of UFOs and supposed space aliens is still is a Labor of Love.

Unfortunately I paid a career price for this new hobby. When my colleagues in sociology, criminology, demography, and psychology began to learn of my new interest, they began to treat me differently, as if I had “cracked”, or “gone flakey”. Now, over thirty years later, it is a bit more acceptable to be researching the topic of UFOs, so I envy the younger generation of social scientists who are openly “into” UFOlogy and need not “hide in the closet”. I do worry that some of today’s researchers may be naïve, too eager to jump uncritically to conclusions, and lacking in scientific discipline. A little skepticism is healthy. If my generation was biased against even investigating the topic, some of the post-1980’s professors seem biased in favor of their beliefs in abductions by aliens, government coverups etc. rather than approaching the topic with a neutral (“disinterested”) attitude. Perhaps their beliefs function as a religion for them, much as a strong dedication to Marxism does for other academics.

Enough about the author and academic politics. Let us look at the subject matter. An Associated Press article which appeared on p. 2 of the *Toronto Star* on 3 Feb., 2011 indicated that an orbiting NASA telescope has discovered over 50 planets within our Milky Way Galaxy that appear to be in the potentially habitable zone (out of 1,235 spotted). Until now only a maximum of two relatively nearby planets were believed to be in the “Goldilocks Zone” (not too cold, not too hot). Of course a life supporting environment requires more than a certain temperature range, e.g. water, carbon and specific atmospheric conditions, but the more planets “in the zone” the greater the chances one or more may be supporting some form of intelligent life. A longer article about the findings of the Kepler-11 space telescope by Kate Lunau (2011) appeared in *Maclean’s* magazine (Feb. 21, 2011 edition). That story noted that the telescope is only looking at 1/400 of the sky, a small sliver of our Milky Way galaxy, which is but one of many billions of galaxies in the universe. The telescope is watching 156,000 stars out of a couple of hundred billion stars in the Milky Way galaxy alone (Lunau, 2011: 51). Moreover these 54 planets were found in just the first six months of the 3 ½ year mission. Certainly many

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more potentially inhabited planets will be found in our galaxy let alone others. A news report from 4 April 2013 entitled “New planet-hunting technique may reveal 100 billion alien Earths” is worth quoting in part. It begins, “Astronomers from the University of Auckland, New Zealand, have come up with a new strategy that may help them to find up to 100 billion Earth-sized planets orbiting around other stars. Although the Kepler telescope 'transit' method of finding planets has been the one talked about most here (because so far it's been the most successful), it's not the only method that astronomers use to detect planets. Another that has been used for years is the 'gravitational microlensing' technique. Astronomers have only found 15 planets so far with this method, compared to over 2,300 planets and candidates discovered so far with the transit method, but University of Auckland astrophysicist Philip Yock believes that he has a new strategy for the gravitational microlensing technique that may yield far better results.” Prof. Yock is then quoted explaining the methodology and ends by saying “... we should get a good estimate of the number of Earth-like, habitable planets in the Galaxy. We anticipate a number in the order of 100 billion.” Downloaded 4 April 2013 from:

<http://ca.news.yahoo.com/blogs/geekquinox/planet-hunting-technique-may-reveal-100-billion-alien-122527840.html>

Fundamentalists from some religions believe we are alone in the universe, and some non-religious academics say that the conditions under which the human race arose involved so many factors, including accidents such as the collision with a giant meteor, that we are unique. Less extreme skeptics assert that we may not be alone but the conditions for life as we know it are still so unique to that it might require a thousand or thousands of so-called habitable planets to find one where all the conditions exist to create beings anything like us. Such planets, skeptics point out, are so far away we will never have contact with alien beings. Travelling at the speed of light it would still take eons in earth time to reach the nearest habitable planets, and many millions of earth years to reach others. (The faster one travels the

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slower time passes, but even at the speed of light a space crew would make almost no progress before they died of old age.) Yet an advanced alien civilization (or perhaps our own a century or two from now) may have the knowledge and technology to travel faster than the speed of light, or if not faster, differently. Some physicists believe there may be many other universes, connectible via “worm holes”, so if we are being visited or studied by aliens, they may not even be from our universe or dimension. My conclusion is that it is not illogical or silly to believe in the possibility of alien life, and assuming that such a life form is more advanced than ours, it is not absurd to at least consider whether they have been here or are here, or have sent remote controlled devices to monitor us.

The basic question for anyone interested in UFOs is whether any of the strange objects seen here on or above our earth are alien vehicles, be they crewed by aliens or under remote control. When I began my first draft back in 1979 I thought there were four categories of UFO's:

### **Type 1**

misidentified natural hard phenomena explainable by astronomers and aviation experts. Examples include weather balloons, the moon, close planets such as Venus, aircraft, kites, earth satellites and other forms of orbiting “space junk”. According to speakers from the European Space Agency at a conference hosted by the Canadian Space Agency June 20-24, 2011, there were then over 16,000 baseball sized or larger bits of debris orbiting, and over 100,000 smaller bits which still cause major damage should they hit a satellite or space station, and as all these items collide they create more smaller but equally lethal bits, and soon there will be no room left to send up new satellites. Applying this fact, there is now very little room for human or alien space craft to maneuver. Unintentionally, earth has created the equivalent of a fence or minefield around itself, making it hard for invading or simply curious extra-terrestrial craft to reach our surface. NASA monitors all this and advises satellite operators of impending

collisions so that the operators can alter their satellites' courses. It seems to this author that if NASA can do all this, it could detect any alien space ships zipping around as well, but it has never reported any. Type 1 can be labeled MFOs (Misidentified Flying Objects) and UAPs (unidentified aerial phenomena).

**Type 2**

misidentified natural soft phenomena, mainly optical illusions (reflections, natural mirages, autokinetic effects from viewing stars or other light sources, the Aurora Borealis, gas, plasma, lightning, etc.) explainable by meteorologists, physicists or psychologists specializing in perception.

**Type 3**

individual and mass hallucinations, illusions, delusions and fantasies explainable by psychiatrists, clinical and social psychologists, sociologists, cultural anthropologists, historians and archaeologists. Type 3 UFO's are the field of social science.

**Type 4**

the residual category of still unexplained, as yet inexplicable phenomena which would eventually be understood by either natural or social science or both. This category might turn out to be merely just blends of types 1, 2, or 3, or something altogether different (as hypothesized by some UFOlogists).

Types 1 and 2 are only problematic for those whose task it is to scientifically identify them. Our concern is with the less clearly identifiable phenomena. It is the UFO mysteries most of us are concerned about, not the mere mistakes in identification of uninteresting objects (MFOs - Misidentified Flying Objects). In between are the Unexplained Aerial Phenomena (UAPs) which are interesting even if they don't confirm speculation about alien visitors.

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Since my expertise was in category 3, back in 1979 I intended to deal exclusively with type 3. However in the course of my research I began to realize that type 4, rather than constituting a tiny portion of UFO experiences, was so obtrusive that I couldn't ignore it. Type 4, moreover, became increasingly significant theoretically and began to intrude. Was type 4 merely ignorable random error, or did Type 4 contain causal factors and/or hidden patterns? Type 4 began to emerge from the shadows even as type 3 grew more fascinating and challenging than I had expected. The perspective became more bizarre as the ability of type 1 and 2 to explain most or any close encounters waned and was overcome by evidence for the extra terrestrial hypothesis (ETH) and other dimensional hypothesis (ODH). I had not even intended to consider the ETH or ODH seriously; but I was reading about radar echoes, stalled cars, photographs, molten metal bits, crushed ground, burned trees and grass roots, burns on people's skin, etc. These things don't fit into type 1, 2 or 3.

And yet as my research evolved it also seemed that some of the so-called "hard evidence" for the ETH or ODH aspect of type 4 was becoming as suspiciously absurd and debatable as it was "hard". Robert Sheaffer (in his now dated but still important book *The UFO Verdict*, 1981) says we should not waste another minute on the 5% of unexplained cases because they are just "noise" rather than "signal", with conflicting data, lack of data or incorrect data. The other 95% are explainable as ordinary things without resorting to aliens etc. At first glance, this argument is very persuasive, but actually it is not an explanation of anything but merely the use of a metaphor from radio communications. There is a huge danger in arguing by analogy instead of by observation. The 5% do contain noise when they are poorly reported, but some of the unexplained reports are as good as those in the 95%. (By "good" I mean the amount of details provided, the length of the observation in seconds, the visual quality of the setting, the attributes of the person reporting, the presence/absence of corroborating witnesses or devices such as photos or radar, etc.) Some of the unexplained reports consist of just as good quality evidence as the unexplained. So we should not equate "unexplained" with "bad



data”. (Here I am referring to sightings of UFOs rather than close encounters or abductions.)

Contrary to what is commonly assumed by skeptics and academics, and what I assumed when I began this work over 30 years ago, many of the reports of sightings (as opposed to close encounters of the third or higher kind) derive from experienced civilian and military pilots who are (presumably) able to distinguish a self-propelled metallic flying vehicle from a balloon, another airplane, a rocket, a cloud, a reflection etc. In 2003 Jerome Clark published *Strange Skies* which is a very interesting and thought provoking book, and not merely a compilation of high quality reports of UFO sightings by experienced civilian and military pilots. Interestingly, the better qualified the observer, the more likely a UFO report is to be listed as “unexplained” by the US Air Force and others. This makes sense because professional aviators are less likely than laypeople to mistake such things as planets, reflections, and low flying airplanes for a flying saucer. Likewise many of the radar sightings have been by experienced operators who should have been able to distinguish hard targets from soft ones (reflections, clouds, weather inversions) and from fake artifacts generated by their equipment. So if a report is well-reported and still inexplicable, it is not “noise”. Just because it does not fit into a mundane explanation it should not be rejected as noise. Otherwise we end up with a low standard for reports which are easily explained and a high standard for reports which defy common explanation. Whatever the acceptable standard is, it must be consistently applied. There is a bias when reports of flying disks or triangles or globes of intense light are dismissed as optical illusions or due to the observers’ ignorance of weather or moments of individual or mass insanity, while explanations such as airplane lights, planets, shooting stars, swamp gas, birds or reflections of a town’s lights are immediately accepted even when they do not fit the facts very well.

This raises the interesting possibility that an unknown number of sightings of what could be alien space craft were never reported because the observers convinced themselves that they must have seen something ordinary. While the UFO field is full of “false positives (Type I error)”, i.e. ignorant and excitable laymen falsely seeing alien

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spaceships, there are also a large and unknown number of “false negatives (Type II error)”, where people did get a good view of something truly unusual, but never reported the sighting because they convinced themselves that they were mistaken or were afraid of ridicule, loss of job, etc. Sadly, the false positives tend to be reported by the ignorant, excitable and mentally disturbed, while the false negatives are likely to be from completely sane educated people, including pilots. Thus a lot of good data goes unreported, while we are swamped with “garbage” reports. Offhand I cannot think of any other area of research facing such a data collection problem (unless there are many credible sightings of Sasquatch which zoologists never get to hear about because the observer fears damage to reputation or career).

The Flying Saucer era as we know it began 24 June 1947 when a private pilot named Kenneth Arnold saw nine unidentified flying objects over the mountains of the Pacific North West of the USA. (The 1942 “Battle of Los Angeles” where stationary UFOs over the city were fired on by US military cannons with no effect, was considered a mystery and was in the context of the war with Japan rather than the subsequent “UFO” or “aliens” mental construct.) Since 1947 people have been encouraged to report seeing UFOs, or at least feel less reluctant to do so. Prior to then, people may have seen them and simply not reported them. Mr. Arnold’s media fame (he was portrayed positively rather than as a “nut”) made it acceptable to do so even if he encouraged tens of thousands of reports which turned out to be of ordinary things, not to mention many pranks and hoaxes.

1947 and 1952 (and certain later years) are considered by UFOlogists as years of high UFO activity, known as “waves” or “flaps”. I believe it is very difficult to say when real UFO waves or flaps occur because there is so much imitative behavior, like a fad in clothes or music. Everyone gets involved but later it dies out. Also, flaps are self-fulfilling - the more reports are publicized, the more people look in the sky at night and the more people are likely to attribute strangeness to lights they would previously have thought little about. The statistics do show waves of **reports** of UFOs, but this is really best understood as sociological data. Many authors make the mistake of equating these figures with data on waves of flying saucer

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visits to Earth, but we don't have the latter data. With no report universally accepted as a genuine sighting of an ET (extra-terrestrial) space ship, one cannot say that aliens have been more active in, say, 1947 and 1952 compared to 1948 -51, 1953 etc. One has to factor out collective behavior (hysterical contagion) and the news media role to decide if increased numbers of sightings really correspond to increased activity by aliens (or whatever "UFO activity" really is).

Ideally one would at least want high quality observations of what appeared to be flying saucers before hypothesizing that flying saucer activity occurred in waves over time. Let us restrict ourselves to the USA in the 1947 - 52 period. To my great surprise and pleasure, these data now exist albeit in less than ideal format. In *The FBI Files: The FBI's UFO Top Secrets Exposed*, a 1998 book by Nicholas Redfern who accessed declassified FBI reports and reproduced them for us, Redfern discovered that the FBI and the US Air Force (part of the Army until 1947) were collecting their own secret reports of sightings. In *The FBI Files* (1998: 9) we read that on 8 July 1947 an Army Air Corps officer saw two flying disks and this report was assessed as very credible. Likewise another now declassified report accessed by Redfern involved a private pilot seeing a huge flying disk and this report seemed to be assessed as credible by the Army investigator. (As early as July 1947 the FBI and US Army agreed to share information on "Flying Disks" as they were called before the Arnold incident caused a reporter to popularize the term "Flying Saucer".) Other high quality reports from the Army Air Corps/USAF post July 1947 also appear. For example Redfern (1998:11) cites another good quality military sighting from an Air Base that happened in Aug. 1947. (For what it is worth, all three good sightings mentioned here placed the flying disks at at least 8000 feet altitude, keeping in mind all three observers were trained and experienced in estimating altitude.) Thus, thanks to Mr. Redfern's research, we now know that there were credible and trustworthy sightings of flying disks in 1947 apart from all the "garbage" sightings that followed the publicity around Kenneth Arnold. Also in Jerome Clark's *Strange Skies*, (2003:35-36) we learn that a cluster of UFOs very similar to those seen by Arnold was carefully observed by the captain and co-pilot of a commercial airliner

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on July 4, 1947, also in the Pacific North West. (This was also the time of the famous Roswell crash, although dates of July 2 and 3 have also been offered.) The FBI noticed a drop in all reports during 1948, but it appears this may have been because the Air Force had decided to temporarily cut off the FBI from its sources. By 1949 however, there were plenty of reports, as there were in 1950, '51 and '52. (Unfortunately Redfern did not make a quantitative analysis over time, *per se*. His focus was more on the quality of reports, e.g. those over the Atomic Energy Commission project at Oak Ridge Tennessee in 1950 and early 1951, observed both visually and by radar. It is clear from his book, though, that 1947 through 1952 inclusive were years of especially high numbers of reports including high quality Air Force internal reports.)

So going back to the 5% of unexplained observations, it may be that only some small proportion, let's say 20% (a fifth) of the 5% consist of good data. Thus we are only concerned with 1% of all reports. But they are well documented (not "noise") and remain unexplained by ordinary explanations. If anything the 1% are valid evidence **against** commonplace explanations.

On the other hand I do agree completely with Sheaffer that the fact that some cases – be it his 5% or my 1% - are unexplained does not prove that what was seen were space ships or inter-dimensional ships or time-travel ships or anything else. Unexplained is unexplained and does not prove anything. Sheaffer is perfectly correct on this simple but crucial point, and it bears emphasis because in UFOlogy the tendency is to treat the mysterious and unexplained as strong evidence in support of aliens etc. Even more simply put, mysteries are not explanations.

As a well known example of the error of trying to explain the unexplained, Erich Von Daniken, in his first book *Chariots of the Gods?* discovered that experts were not certain about or could not agree about explanations of a lot of ancient markings, carvings, statues etc. (Actually in some cases the academics were fairly confident and it was only layman Von Daniken who couldn't understand.) So Von Daniken jumped to the conclusion that those things "must" have been built by aliens or were depictions of and tributes to the ancient

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spacemen. To jump to that conclusion was totally unacceptable from a scientific perspective. It broke the guiding principle of Occam's Razor - that one starts with the simplest and most mundane explanation and if that doesn't work, one keeps working one's way up the ladder rung by rung to the more exotic and esoteric. One does not leap to the top of the ladder. If our car keeps stalling or not starting and we don't know why, do we jump to the conclusion that it is haunted or has been put under a "spell"? (Of course not; only people from primitive cultures, and people in our culture who are insane, do so.) To continue with this analogy, any good mechanic would start with simple things like the battery (state of charge and connections), fuel filter and air filter (blockage), then he would check to ensure the spark plugs were indeed sparking and the PCV valve was functioning. If necessary he would progress to slightly more rare causes such as the alternator not charging the battery, leaving it flat, fouled or burned out spark plugs, water or other contamination of the fuel, worn out carburetor or clogged fuel injectors, dead electronic ignition module, snapped timing belt, or bad ignition switch. He would not immediately say you needed a new engine or transmission, or that it was a factory design defect, or that the car was "jinxed". Now I must admit that over the years I have owned some ornery cars that I began to think had a mind of their own and were out to make me suffer, so I can relate to how people end up with some far-out conclusions.

So now let us consider the most extreme UFO close encounter cases. At the beginning I mentioned that a huge number of US citizens claim to have been temporarily kidnapped by ETs (extra-terrestrials/aliens) in recent decades. Over the centuries, one finds that millions of people in all walks of life in many countries and cultures have claimed some degree of communication with non-earthlings. Since this is so prevalent now and has such a history (influencing the art, religion and politics of many civilizations), do we conclude that millions of people have had contact with ETs, or do we accept the more simple explanation that they are all crazy? If it turns out that they are not all crazy, we progress to other explanations rather than jump to the wild conclusion that they were kidnapped by space aliens.

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However in practice, climbing this analytic ladder is much harder to do. Many of the rungs are missing. I ran into this problem very early on, a few months after starting my book. Around 1980 I met a UFO-obsessed man with a Ph.D. in Western philosophy and who had practiced two decades of Christian ministry, but who was living on unemployment benefits because he had been dismissed from the University of Alberta for his “paranoid schizophrenic” ideas about UFO’s. Dr. K (as I will call him) claimed some sort of undesired contact with UFOs (he did not use the word "aliens"). He was deathly afraid of more contacts. Was this middle aged Japanese Canadian genuinely “ill” (psychologically disordered), or was he basically sane but reacting to the trauma of genuine encounters? Had he been unfairly treated by his employer? When I met him my reaction was that Dr. K was schizophrenic (paranoid of imaginary UFOs) but a short time later in the evening he demonstrated a mild form of psychokinesis involving a glass of water in front of me. It is said that people who have had close contact with aliens develop such super-natural powers. Were it not for witnessing Dr. K’s demonstration before my doubting eyes at less than arm’s length I would have laughed-off such statements as rubbish.<sup>1</sup>

Thus a major project evolved from my initial inquiry. I soon realized that type 3 was no mere concrete problem for the psychologist and sociologist, as types 1 and 2 were for astrophysicists, meteorologists and optical experts. Rather, what is required is no less than a major combined assault, by scientists and lay experts from many disciplines. It turns out my realization of 1979/80 has been independently arrived at by others. Russian scientist Prof. Vladimir Azhazha told Jacques Vallée in 1989:

UFOlogy is a complex domain that demands knowledge of bio-technology, of space physics, and of psychology and sociology. We need a multi-disciplinary approach. Historians and folklore experts should get involved. We need psychics and we need physicists. We even need philosophers.

(Vallée, 1992: 39)

As for type 3, social science is still in its adolescence and leaves more unexplained than explained. In fact only since the late 1970's have multivariate and longitudinal types of statistical analysis (imported from older disciplines) become requisite rather than optional in the social sciences. In all cases these hard techniques of design and analysis rely on disturbingly loose or arbitrary simplifying assumptions, which indicates the need for their being more securely grounded in the philosophy of science. Otherwise, one merely measures what one has created, and is easily deluded into thinking that one has discovered something and proved its existence.

This pitfall applies directly to the UFOlogist. Can the existing form of social sciences explain the UFO mystery? No, because type 3 leads into type 4, where more questions than answers are found. Type 4 is a kind of "Chapel Perilous", to use Jacques Vallée's expression. There orthodox science fears to tread because it knows the ground is uneven, treacherous and prone to becoming the cliff or the ceiling without letting one know until too late. People with low tolerance for ambiguity dread to enter because they know they will lose control and be a different person on exiting. (If they ever find a way out of the Chapel!)

So orthodox science has generally ignored UFO's (other than type 1 or 2). Rather than risk either exposing his ignorance of the topic, or risking failure in trying to explain via standard methods, the average scientist affects a snobbish air and ridicules the subject as beneath consideration. Ironically, most social scientists think UFO's are a subject for type 1 or 2 experts! So I strayed from the pack and struck out into new territory. But the more I ventured down the forbidden path, the more I realized my training and methods were inadequate. Thus, my approach in this book got more "far out" as it progressed. The result is not what I had anticipated. The subject matter's chameleonic traits, its elusiveness, its inconsistency and occasional absurdity made my orthodox explanations incompatibly weak and unconvincing. Perhaps like the anthropologist who studies a primitive tribe or foreign culture I have "gone native".

My conclusions could be wrong, but at least they are not dull! Trying to capture the nature of UFO's in all their resplendent and zany

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forms is like a drunk trying to catch mercury with his fingers in a zero gravity chamber illuminated by a strobe light. In other words, fun, frustrating and bizarre!

In the controversial world of UFOs, by which I mean belief in either the Extra-Terrestrial Hypothesis (ETH), the Other-Dimension Hypothesis (ODH), psychic projections, or the down-to-earth (literally) explanation that “its all just optical illusions and hallucinations and hoaxes”, I can’t fit myself solely into any one of these camps. Because of my own education and training I was somewhat biased toward the camp which attributes aliens and spaceships to psycho-social causes, basically imagination and fantasy from the human mind. Some authors refer to this as the PSH (Psycho-Social Hypothesis). There is good evidence and argument for this but also for the other hypotheses. We do not have a series of incidents that could all be explained away as ordinary things mistaken for the extraordinary, but neither do we have consistent evidence which is clearly supportive of one hypothesis and which clearly rejects the others. For every sighting which jibes with the ETH, there is another which is supportive of the PPH or the Psychic Projection Hypothesis. Many people have seen space ships which change shape, bright lights which “exploded” into several smaller lights before each zoomed off in a different direction, while others have seen ones which remained constant but appeared to be giant wood stoves, lunch boxes, cylinders etc. (rather than a pair of saucers with the top one upside down). Does this mean there was no space ship at all, or could it be the space ship appears differently to different observers, a form of stealth? This one sentence suggests that it may not be an either-or situation. (The ETH that aliens flew here may mingle with psychological factors.) To quote from *Dimensions*, “Instead we have a pattern of manifestations, opening the gates to a spiritual level, pointing a way to a different consciousness and producing irrational, absurd events in their wakes”. (Vallée, 1988)

As for the skeptics, they are not all close -minded and most of what they have to offer (which is a great deal) unfortunately goes unheard because the mass media and booksellers prefer to focus on the ETH and ODH. Aliens sell, but mirages and misidentifications of the



Moon, Venus and Jupiter (which still happen frequently) don't. Optical illusions and balls of electricity, while too "technical" for twenty second "media bites" on TV or a short newspaper article, are actually interesting to learn about. Skeptic Robert Sheaffer (1981) in his book *The UFO Verdict* persuaded me that the famous 1950 McMinnville Oregon photos were of a model tied to an overhanging telephone line. (The thread or fishing line can't be seen because the photographer cleverly took the shots during a sandstorm, but the clump where the thread is tied to the cable can be seen when the photos are enlarged. More recent computer analysis of the photo shows no line to the saucer itself but given the quality of the photo, in a sandstorm, that is not proof that there was no fishing line connected.) Moreover the account of the "shooting" of the saucer was not consistent, the lighting does not jibe with the account (morning v. evening), the couple who shot the photos were UFO "nuts" who previously and subsequently reported seeing UFOs many times etc. Despite these and other concerns which I mention in this book, these photos keep appearing as "authentic" in nearly every UFO book that has photos (nearly always with the telephone cables cropped out). The photo (this time including the telephone line) even appears on the cover of the recent (2010) book *A.D. After Disclosure* by Dolan and Zabel. This is ironic since in the book the authors mention that nowadays there are many good photos of UFOs whereas in the past there were many fakes. When a hoax is exposed, the expose gets only a tiny fraction of the publicity that the original story did. Over many years, later researchers only find the original stories and not the "it was a lie" report which was buried in one paragraph on the last page of a local newspaper months or years later. For example, in addition to the McMinnville photos, even the most esteemed and ethical UFO writers keep retelling as true:

- the outlandish 1897 story from Kansas about the cow that got abducted by an alien airship, actually concocted by one Mr. Hamilton, a member of a local liars' club in a competition to see who could come up with the biggest "whopper" In a similarly jocular vein I call this the "Hamilton heifer hoax". Little did Hamilton realize it was going to be one of the biggest hoaxes ever,

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fooling UFOlogists and people who read their books for 85 years until Jerome Clark discovered the truth, but even today it seems many do not know it was exposed, and it appears in books as true as recently as Van Dyk (1997) if not later, so Hamilton is still having the laugh of a century from his grave.,

- the 1950 Steep Rock “saucer with little green men landing” first reported by a Frank Edwards (the story was actually written by Steep Rock Iron Mines executive Gordon Edwards as humorous fiction for the company newsletter to entertain the workers in that remote area of Canada). This hoax lasted almost a quarter century until UFOloist Robert Badgley simply wrote to the mining company, but again more people have heard of the story than its expose<sup>ii</sup>),
- the 1964 egg-shaped, logo bearing “alien space ship” that landed outside of Socorro New Mexico for repairs, its crew wearing white uniforms, and used rocket power to blast off when spotted by a near-sighted cop (most likely a scam to induce tourism, a prank, or a NASA lunar landing craft prototype),
- the 1970 Finland incident involving Messrs. Heinonen and Viljo who claimed to have been zapped with radiation and briefly abducted while skiing (no radiation could be detected and it was eventually learned that Heinonen claimed this was his 24<sup>th</sup> UFO incident and that he had been having a sexual affair with a gorgeous but 180 year old alien!).<sup>iii</sup>

The last in the above list illustrates how when we get into the modern human abduction area things get very weird. Not only skeptics, but many people who believe in aliens visiting Earth via flying saucers, want nothing to do with the apparent mental cases who report bizarre stories of being abducted, medically molested, surgically implanted and being forced to have sex with aliens. I too ignored these tabloid newspaper stories and books at first, but as the authors of the books

rightly complained, “if no one takes us as a candidate for serious study how will anyone ever explain this?”

More recently, in *Abduction: Human Encounters with Aliens* (which I will henceforth just call *Abduction*) Harvard psychiatrist John Mack (1994) does examine and does explain. However he offers a fundamentalist explanation that his patients are simply telling the truth. They really are being beamed up (through walls, windows and car roofs, without damage to either the person or the wall, window or roof, a feat more against physics as we know it than the presence of aliens) and they really are being molested by aliens. He says the patients “present” differently than the typical hallucinating schizophrenic or person suffering from anxiety or extreme neurosis. (But he does not tell us in what ways, although in a recent conference he says they are shy rather than pushy about their experiences.) He studied 76 abductees **but only had four (4) psychologically tested!** This alone renders the study useless in my view. Dr. Mack makes much of the fact that of the four tested, only one came out as mentally disturbed, but how do we know how the four were selected? Even if those four were randomly selected, with such a small sample of less than a hundred subjects, one would expect all to have been tested; or (to save money) a systematic random sample of one out of every two or three should have been selected for psychological assessment, to deal with the hypotheses that all were simply crazy. Moreover the tests were standard ones I studied when I was a psychology major and thus did not contain questions such as “Have you ever been abducted into a spaceship by aliens?” At p. 392 of his paperback edition Dr. Mack (1994) says he cannot think of any alternative explanations other than the literal truth. How about insanity? Or severe personality disorder? Since most of his patients were still holding jobs and functioning, the milder term “mental disorder” might be appropriate.

But I must agree that these patients don’t fit the usual classification schemes, and the one “abductee” that I interviewed seemed different from the mental patients I was used to seeing at the two institutions I had worked for years before, so why not add “*UFO Neurosis*” to the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual* used by psychologists and psychiatrists? In chapters of this book where I

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discuss the huge impact of science fiction on our culture (something Dr. Mack ignores, another fatal error in my opinion) I suggest that the abduction experience may be partly socially induced, in the same vein as women who have fantasized about sexual abuse from parents, teachers, and satanic cults when it never happened. (Having said that I still suspect that some of Mack's caseload had actually suffered sexual abuse and the UFO story with all of its rape overtones and menacing faces and eyes so close to the patient's eyes was a cover or screen story their ids or subconscious had created to protect their egos or conscious memories. A reading of the family histories of the 13 patients covered in the book shows that 12 had sad, traumatic childhoods and sometimes strong hints of sexual improprieties. One of the patients was outright frigid.)

But as I said earlier, I am not wholly a skeptic and when I read in *Abduction* (1994) about how Mack's cases described ending up with cosmic consciousness (profound insights about life, the universe, world history, spiritual encounters with divinity) and a feeling that they were prophets or missionaries of a sort of ecological and humanist "love and respect all living things" religion, it reminded me of the Hippie Movement and my own youth. Some people get the same effect from psychedelic drugs; others from fasting. Sometime around 1970 I read a book simply entitled *Cosmic Consciousness* (I have been unable to trace the author, date and publisher) and it mentioned many ways of achieving such a state. For many people it just happens. The author, as I vaguely recall, thought that up to 25% of the population would have this cosmic or religious experience once in their lives. So since cosmic consciousness has been occurring for a long time, probably as long as homo sapiens, I cannot believe like Dr. John Mack does in his *Abduction* (1994) that the purpose of alien abductions is to impart cosmic consciousness on us. (Let alone on the traumatized, confused and mostly very unhappy and distraught abductees, who are unconvincing prophets who deserve more sympathy on our part than faith.) Yes they sometimes achieved the religious experience and like anyone who does are much better off than without it, but the aliens (if they even exist outside of the abductees' minds) did not give this

insight (by showing movies of the earth's future destruction to the abductees and mentally communicating with the abductees).

To quote from Jacques Vallée (1988) again, whatever is behind the UFOs has a technology capable of both physical and psychic effects, and "a technology that strikes deep at the collective consciousness, confusing us..." Vallée also added "molding us" but I think, as a sociologist, that we are molding ourselves via our science fiction soaked culture and our tendency, abetted by the tabloid papers and abduction books, to jump to the fundamentalist conclusion when frustrated by our progress at understanding the UFO enigma. In this book I try to show that our culture is so full of science fiction or "sci-fi" that we aren't consciously aware of how much it has molded our collective conscience. Aliens have become a social fact, whether or not they exist "out there", just as much as Zeus, Apollo and Poseidon were facts for the classical Greeks. In the book I also make the connection between belief in UFOs and that belief serving a religious function. Many religions are or were based on the notion of superior beings who reside in the heavens and occasionally descend to give us important messages.

So I consider myself neither a True Believer nor a Skeptic. I alternate between cynicism and being "cautiously optimistic" that there really is something there that cannot be explained in ordinary ways. I don't feel comfortable with either people who are sure there is no such thing as an ET nor do I feel comfortable with those who have no doubt that there is, and who blame government coverups for the lack of perfect evidence. (If there is evidence they parade it; if there isn't they say it's being hidden by the CIA! So evidence or no, their view is reinforced.)

There have been so many observations of hyper-performance flying saucers and flying arrowheads that even if 95% are explainable in ordinary ways the 5% unexplained has grown from a dozen cases to hundreds. (Some say tens of thousands, but most cases are not thoroughly investigated by expert and open-minded teams.)

I do believe there are USAF, US Navy and CIA concealments of information ("coverups") related to their secret air and space craft, and "mind" weapons, especially from 1980 on. I think the US has had very

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advanced flying objects since then, possibly as early as 1975, which have been reported by the public as UFOs. So to be clear, I think these agencies are hiding information about their own top secret projects (naturally) as well as what they know about UFOs that they have not manufactured. In *The FBI Files*, Redfern (1998:74) describes how the USAF tried to mislead the FBI into thinking that the Air Force was no longer interested in or monitoring UFO reports. If one government agency will “cover up” to another, what will they do to the general public?

Outside of the USA, governments are much less prone to conceal what they know of UFOs. In Central and South America the government and military seem to be as enthusiastic as the general public and seem to make no attempt to suppress information about sightings and encounters (except when pressured by US agents). The radio show *The Conspiracy Show* from AM-740 in Toronto, hosted by Richard Syrett, on 29 Nov 2012 included an interesting interview with Brazilian chemist and UFOlogist A.J. Gevaerd who talked about how the military there was basically co-operating with him. For a couple of paragraphs about the meeting and a photo see:

<http://www.abovetopsecret.com/forum/thread943443/pg1>

The URL for the radio show’s website where some material is archived is [www.richardsyrett.com](http://www.richardsyrett.com).

In a similar vein, across the Atlantic Ocean, five years prior in 2007, the French space agency CNES made its 53 years worth of UFO files available online and in 2008 the British Ministry of Defence opened its UFO files to the public, so now anyone with a computer and access to the internet can read what the British insiders read. (The files are on the National Archives site, <http://ufos.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ufos/>, not the MOD site, and it will be a few years before all files are transferred, but many are there now.)

Back in the USA, some of the pre-1980 information from the USA was disclosed by 1980. In 1973 the USAF and possibly CIA assisted in a private television and cinema semi-documentary on UFOs by Allan Sandler by not only allowing access to archives but by giving Sandler anything he wanted.<sup>iv</sup> In 1979 the CIA eventually, grudgingly, obliged Freedom of Information requests by two UFO groups and

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Philip Klass, revealing 900 pages plus (the readers found) references to 200 other pages which were apparently never released. The former did not contain any revelations and indicated that the CIA had lost interest in the topic in 1953. The NSA claimed to have no UFO data and the Federal Appeals Court on 29 Oct. 1979 exempted it under national security. Similarly the USAF successfully refused to hand over data on “unknown tracks”. UFO advocates believed that a lot of information had been withheld, and that the CIA was continuing to monitor UFOs on perhaps an unofficial basis with no specific project name (Dolan, 2009: 167, 204-205) Many old FBI files were declassified and the interesting ones on UFOs can be found in Nicholas Redfern’s *The FBI Files* (1998). Presidents Ford and Carter had a keen interest in UFOs and had promised to reveal all should they ever become president. They did become presidents and they did order their government to reveal all and there was virtually nothing new there. On the other hand - nothing being definitive in the area of UFOs - secret military projects or data would likely not be revealed under Freedom of Information requests if they were less than 30 years old and still classified as related to national security. Also groups such as the CIA, the NSA, and the USAF’s OSI and Naval Intelligence think they are above the law, and they know that presidents come and go every 4 or 8 years so they aren’t intimidated by them. In fact Richard Dolan came to the same conclusion and devotes several pages of his second book (2009: 130-139) with evidence to support the view that President Carter was purposely kept in the dark. Somewhat amusingly, the CIA complained that the NSA was withholding a lot of data and not sharing it with other agencies. (Dolan, 2009: 205)

The detailed study of the UFO that submerged near Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1967 (an event observed by many townsfolk, fishermen in their boats, and several RCMP officers), reveals that Canadian navy divers have taken an oath of silence, or are for some reason still unwilling to reveal what they found decades ago. In early 2014 I read Dolan’s second book in his series on UFOs and the National Security State and now have to admit that it is apparent that the CIA and USAF were concealing information about UFOs during the later half of the 1970s. What was flabbergasting to me in that book was all the credible

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reports (2009: 86-99) about UFOs trespassing on Air Force and Navy air bases in the last quarter of 1975, including bases where nuclear weapons were held. Eight years earlier a small red UFO came down from the night sky and hovered at the front gate to the Malmstrom Montana USAF base. The UFO caused the nuclear missiles there to go off-line. At another launch control center twenty miles away the same thing happened. No reason (other than the UFOs) could be found for the many missiles going off-line almost simultaneously and staying “down” for almost a day. (Dolan and Zabel, 2010: 49-50) The Malmstrom base was also one of the ones intruded in 1975. None of these security breaches were reported “back in the day” and the USAF and Navy still do not publicize these events, if they even acknowledge they occurred, which I doubt.

The US Army (as opposed to the Army Air Force which became the US Air Force in 1947) probably is one US entity that has not tried to cover up anything. It never hid the Army’s involvement in the Canadian flying saucer (the “Avrocar” discussed later in this book) and one of my favorite close sighting cases is one the Army made no attempt to hush. It occurred in 1973 near Mansfield Ohio where an army helicopter with four soldiers in it was chased and paced by a flying saucer. (A superb, thorough, and probably the best report on this case is in Peter Sturrock (ed.), *The UFO Enigma* 1999: 298-372.) I find this case solid because there were numerous witnesses, and because the four main witnesses were people of good character and had no ulterior motives. Moreover they, at least Captain Coyne and the co-pilot, were aviators and thus more familiar with flying objects than non flyers. The four men were interviewed separately and together by various interviewers over the years and their stories remained intact and consistent, (consistent with each other and with themselves over time). Also, very importantly, the stories of the four military men in the helicopter were corroborated by a family on the ground who stopped their car to watch the events and were also bathed in a green light. Minor inconsistencies just add to rather than subtract from the overall assessment. (A made up story is sometimes too “slick” and if all eight witnesses had described exactly the same thing I would conclude they had memorized the story.)



None of the four soldiers tried to make any personal gain out of the experience, except that Captain Coyne did appear on the *Dick Cavett* TV talk show along with some UFOlogists and an abductee. The soldiers could have easily embellished the story and made money selling a book or interviews about it, but they did not. The magnetic compass of the helicopter went “crazy” and had to be replaced. If the Mansfield case also had photographs or a movie film, and radar confirmation, to support it, it would have been the definitive case in support of the ETH (or possibly ODH).

A well-documented and oft-cited (hence “classic”) 1954 Australian case involved a Sea Fury fighter pilot seeing two large UFO’s, one on either side of him, and this was also “seen” by ground based radar who were in radio contact with pilot James O’Farrell during the incident.<sup>v</sup>

There is a similar US case three years later that involved not one pilot but a B-47 reconnaissance bomber crew who were paced by a UFO for some time and this also was “seen” by ground based radar. This classic RB-47 case occurred over four states and took quite some time even at the speeds a six-jet-engined B-47 flew. This case has been reported in many places (e.g. Jenny Randles’ excellent book *UFO Reality* (1983) and scientist Roy Craig’s insightful *UFOs: An Insider’s View of the Official Quest for Evidence* (1995) and in an episode of the television series *UFO Hunters*, which contained information from experts to dispel the hypothesis that the whole thing was due to radar malfunctioning.) Suffice it to say here that the bomber crew saw the object many times both visually and on radar, and the air base they were heading to also tracked it on radar. Whenever the UFO “winked out” visually, it also went off the radar screens. The UFO at times flew behind, beside and in front of the RB-47. Initially it made a head-on pass at an incredible speed and nearly missed the RB-47. The crew were interviewed not by UFO nuts or the paparazzi but originally by the USAF OSI (intelligence service) and ten years later by Roy Craig in his role as a skeptical, official Condon committee senior investigator (the committee allowed that this was one of the very few strong cases it considered unexplained) and two years later by Dr. James McDonald, a very respected professor of atmospheric sciences and

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senior physicist at the University of Arizona. In all cases the crew was entirely consistent and the facts could not be challenged nor explained by any known phenomenon. Project Blue Book (the USAF's official study which ran from 1951-69) dismissed the entire thing as a passing commercial airliner, which was hundreds of miles distant, which is a good reason why no one puts any faith in Blue Book, and fuels the coverup hypothesis. In fact Roy Craig (1995) could not even locate this case in Blue Book (it was not in the public report), and it was Dr. McDonald who finally found it in the unpublished archives.

A similar strong case in the UK (Britain) which also had a UFO being chased by a fighter, then following the fighter, was the Lakenheath-Bentwaters Episode of Aug. 1956. Basically UFOs were seen on radar sets at three British air bases and by the radar on board a British Venom fighter, and by observers at the control tower of at least one of the bases and by the crew of a passing C-47 Dakota (military version of the DC-3).<sup>vi</sup>

Another favorite case is also an oldie, from 1955. The crew of a B-25 Mitchell twin engined bomber chased a flying saucer over the flatlands of Alabama for a long time in clear daylight. Colonel Wm. Coleman, the pilot, said that they (referring to himself, his co-pilot and navigator) could not only see the UFO but also its perfectly round shadow on the ground as they chased it at very low altitude. They got within an eighth mile of the flying saucer. At one point when they lost track of it they were able to relocate it by flying to a higher altitude and looking down, whereupon they saw a trail of swirled dust over a farmer's field, and at the head of this trail was the flying saucer. After resuming chase they again lost sight of the much faster UFO and gave up, but later they caught a glimpse of it flying away at a height of about 25,000 feet. Years later Coleman joined Project Blue Book and asked his superior Major Robert Friend to look up his old report. It was missing! This either means it never happened, it was buried in the archives like the 1957 RB-47 case, or as Coleman suspects, credible reports with a national security aspect were removed from Blue Book and placed in some other secret file.<sup>vii</sup>

The next case I used to consider the best to date in terms of number of eye witnesses, civilian and military agreement, radar, photography,

and overall external verifiability. However with new information and a re-analysis by myself for this Second Edition I am much more skeptical of an ET explanation. I am referring to the triangular (or delta or arrowhead shaped) UFOs that were seen in Belgium skies in March of 1990. However as to the precursor events of the preceding four months, I can only summarize and leave the reader to their own conclusion.

To summarize from Dolan (2009: 501): on 29<sup>th</sup> Nov., 1989 two Belgian policemen saw a large (about 200' long) triangle shaped UFO descend and hover near them. It then moved toward a dam and hovered there. Meanwhile another UFO, also large and brilliantly lit, suddenly ascended from a nearby ravine, and it proceeded toward a town. That night the Belgian UFO organization received nearly 120 calls from civilians reporting what sound like the same objects. Sightings by civilians continued through December, although some of the December reports were of rectangular, lozenge shaped UFOs [these are relatively rare but have been reported over many years - R.M.].

At 2:25 a.m. on Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, a huge UFO was reported in some trees, rising a bit and landing a few times, then moving at very low altitude toward a meadow, while shining down three rays or light beams. After the object disappeared the witnesses reported this sighting which was investigated by authorities who found a large circle of grass in the meadow that looked like it had just been cut very low and had turned yellow. [The beginnings of a crop circle? - R.M.] The witness told the Belgian UFO investigators that the military investigators did not seem surprised and acted rather blasé, as if this were routine. Sightings continued for months. (Dolan, 2009: 501-502)

On the night of March 30-31, three delta (arrowhead or triangle shaped) UFOs appeared over Belgium. They was seen on the ground by hundreds if not thousands of civilians, high ranking officials and police (gendarmes), tracked on radar by the Belgian Air Force and chased about by two F-16s. The pilots, however, never saw the UFOs visually despite the clear night sky but directed by ground radar they locked on to the targets numerous times for as long as 46 seconds at a time. Most lock-ons were only for a few seconds, as if the UFOs were able to evade being tracked by radar. The lights alternated between red,

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yellow, green, blue and white. The chase involved altitudes of from 500 feet to 10,000. The radar sets did a good job of directing because at one point ground observers thought they saw an F-16 fly in between the three lights. (This could have been an illusion due to the angle of sight.) The UFOs executed fast, sharp maneuvers. Five seconds after a radar lock, one turned 70 degrees and increased speed from 150 to 560 knots. It lost 1000 feet of altitude in under two seconds. Later it climbed 2000 feet in one second (twice). Most reports comment on the lack of a sonic boom when the UFOs were obviously accelerated beyond the speed of sound, but UFOs (other than man made ones) never make sonic booms. One of the F-16s took a videotape and this is still in the hands of the Belgian Air Force and the CIA. Derek Sheffield's (1996) book *UFO A Deadly Concealment: The Official Cover-Up* has a transcript of all communication to and from the F-16 pilots during the chase. Most of the Sheffield book is a rather dry, detailed account of all the trouble he had obtaining the information (which adds to the conspiracy or coverup thesis).

What formerly made this the best case of all was the photograph taken from someone on the ground a very few days later. This still photo of the three lights was slightly enhanced (color shift) to reveal a solid delta winged (triangular shaped) object. You can see it online or in the book by Sheffield, (1996). However for the Second Edition of this my book I have found that the photo was not merely enhanced it was a total fake. Like so many others, I was duped and I am angry at the culprit for starting this fraud and allowing it to go on for over twenty years, misleading me and readers of the first edition of this book. The photographer, Patrick Marechal, finally confessed (in 2011, after the first edition of my book was published). This fraud can be sourced several places online, including skeptic Robert Sheaffer's blog:

<http://badufos.blogspot.com/2011/07/classic-ufo-photo-from-belgian-wave.html>

Keep in mind that the pilots apparently never saw any UFOs with their naked eyes. Also, the UFOs did not seem to have the top speed of the typical UFO and the reported 1800 kph or 1,100 mph is well within contemporary fighter speeds. The climbing and diving speeds are

stated in all the reports I have seen to be beyond 1990 military aviation capability, leading writers to conclude the UFOs could not have been manmade aircraft. E.g. supposedly the UFO dropped 1000 feet in under a second which some writers says is not possible for a manmade air craft. (Other reports say the UFO dropped 900 meters in under two seconds which is about 2950 feet in 2 seconds or 1,475' per sec., again supposedly impossible.) According to my simple calculations at 1000 mph a fighter could ascend or descend 1,466 feet per second, so it is incorrect to say such a speed is impossible for a manmade jet. Whether a pilot could withstand such a vertical dive and instant stop is another matter. Pilotless, remote-control of aircraft has been around since the 1950's so these UFOs were likely remote-controlled. Even at a more human-friendly mach 1 (760 mph) a plane covers over 1,114 feet in a second, so it could cover the 2,950' in just over 2.5 seconds. As for climbing 2000 feet in one second, firstly in the night sky how can anyone be so precise? Secondly, US (and Russian) jet fighters of the day had tremendous power and at mach 2 (1,520 mph) would cover 2,230' per sec. so it is simply not true that the top fighters could not achieve the reported speeds of the UFO, and in fact the reported top speeds are acceleration are much lower than commonly reported for UFOs.

An alternate explanation offered by some authors of the day was that the UFO was a secret, advanced NATO aircraft that was experiencing problems and being paced by Belgian fighters, or an early version of the F-117 stealth fighter (which is much smaller and not lit like the UFOs reported). In one version of this story, the Belgian air force had **not** been informed of the existence of the secret aircraft, and they were chasing rather than escorting it. One has to wonder why such a top secret NATO or US aircraft would be tested and/or performing stunts over a major city of a Western nation where it could (and did) attract attention and interception attempts. To my knowledge none of the other published writers on this have dealt with this blatant issue. For the Second Edition of this book, however, it occurs to me that one of the best ways to hide something is in plain view, and given what I will be saying later about the CIA and other US intelligence agencies supporting the idea of aliens buzzing around in their space ships, the

Belgian incident could have indeed been secret US planes (attributed to aliens) and in a test or “exercise” to see if they could evade the Belgian fighters. To keep the exercise realistic and keep the Belgians “in the dark” about the US planes, they would not have been informed. The problem with this hypothesis of mine is that no sonic booms were heard, unless the craft had the ability to go supersonic silently. Writing back in 1970-75 Hill (1995) addresses how this might be done and Wilson (1998) mentions that physicists were working on this, so it may have been possible in 1990. That an advanced delta or triangle or arrowhead shaped US aircraft existed in March 1990 is borne out by someone who saw one being refueled over the North Sea in August 1989. The witness, Chris Gibson, was working on an oil rig when he made the sighting. Gibson was a former Royal Observer Corps member and was an expert at aircraft recognition. He participated in competitions where a small image of an aircraft is flashed for an instant. He was able to ascertain the size of the mystery aircraft because it was being refueled by a KC-135 and was escorted by two F-111’s. (Dolan, 2009: 488)

The article in Wikipedia.org concerning the Belgian events [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belgian\\_UFO\\_wave](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belgian_UFO_wave) (downloaded 23 Feb., 2014) also refers to Marc Hallet positing that this was a case of a mass hallucination or mass delusion and quotes Philip Klass “law”: *“Once news coverage [in this case there had been almost four months if coverage in Belgium - R.M.] leads the public to believe that UFOs may be in the vicinity, there are numerous natural and man-made objects which, especially seen at night, can take on unusual characteristics in the minds of hopeful viewers. Their UFO reports in turn add to the mass excitement, which encourages still more observers to watch for UFOs. This situation feeds upon itself until such time as the media lose interest in the subject, and then the ‘flap’ quickly runs out of steam.”*

Another favorite case of mine is the “Phoenix lights” over Arizona in 1997 (see my Summary chapter). While it is true that the US Air Force did drop many flares that night which some people saw and mistook for alien space vehicles, this explanation is inadequate and has justifiably been called a “coverup”. According to former Arizona

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Governor Fife Symington in an interview to CNN in Nov. 2007, he witnessed a massive delta-shaped, craft silently navigate over Squaw Peak, a mountain range in Phoenix. He was quoted further as saying he was stunned and breathless because he was turning to the west looking for the distant Phoenix lights. He described being astonished as he saw a dramatically large, very distinctive leading edge with enormous lights flying through the Arizona sky. He further stated "As a pilot and a former Air Force Officer, I can definitively say that this craft did not resemble any man-made object I'd ever seen. And it was certainly not high-altitude flares because flares don't fly in formation." The incident was witnessed by countless Arizonians and his office was besieged with phone calls. The History Television series *UFO Hunters* (2008 - 9) had a good episode on the Phoenix lights, including interviewing the former Governor and showing new video of the lights. One can see at least one still photo of the lights on the web, e.g. Tumblr.com

On the web site of UFO expert Nick Pope ([www.nickpope.net](http://www.nickpope.net)) Mr. Pope cites a few of his favorites, including 26th April 1984 when members of the public reported a UFO in Stanmore, UK, and two police officers in attendance sketched it. In his book *Open Skies, Closed Minds* (1997: 79) he mentions a 1992 incident that was reported to him. A saucer-shaped UFO was seen from the Waterloo Bridge in London by several witnesses. Ten years later in vol. 22, no. 5 of the British *UFO Magazine* (Oct. 2002, p. 50) a reader wrote that in 1992 he was one of those witnesses who saw the UFO hovering over the Thames River by the Waterloo Bridge. He was only a few yards from the object which he describes as the size and shape of a car wheel cover, rotating twice a second, and seeming to have an exterior of dull yellow plastic. In his sketch one sees what looks just like a pie pan, in the usual position (not inverted). Even more strangely, it seemed to have an oil leak. He thought it was some sort of city operated tool, such as a remote controlled device to clean up oil slicks, but how could anything so small do so? Mr. Pope's website also refers to the well-publicized incident of 8<sup>th</sup> June 2008 involving a British police helicopter (crew of 3) chasing a UFO along the Bristol Channel in

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Wales until it sped off. (That incident was also well covered by *UFO Hunters* not long after it occurred.)

One of the best documented cases occurred over Tehran, Iran in 1976. Both private citizens and the Airport Control Tower saw a diamond shaped multi-colored UFO hovering in the distance. Two F-4E Phantom fighters (top-line US planes with US trained crews) were directed toward the object. One pilot came very close and was amazed to see the UFO move horizontally at least ten degrees (from the pilot's viewpoint) in the blink of an eye, a speed no human made aircraft or spacecraft can match. As the F-4 turned and approached the large UFO in its new location, the jet pilot was amazed to see a relatively small yellow glowing globe ejected downward from the main object. This object sped toward the F-4 at amazing speed, circled it and returned to the large object, as if on a scouting mission and as if it had taken a data "scan" of the intruding F-4. Shortly after when the small object was again ejected and sped toward the Phantom jet, when the frightened pilot tried to fire a missile he discovered his armament computer was dead, and he could do nothing. Shortly after, his electronics returned to normal, but by then the object had re-entered the "mothership", having apparently neutralized the threat without any damage to the F-4 or its pilot, and so the frightened pilot started to return to base. However local residents saw another UFO, a disk shaped one, zoom down toward the desert near the air base, followed by a bright glow which they interpreted as a crash explosion. The control tower staff also saw the flash of light, and vectored the F-4 toward the site, but the pilot could not find anything. A search the next morning using helicopters and military men scouring the ground found nothing. All of this information was available to the Iranian public before the Islamic revolution of 1979 and there was even a movie made which re-enacted the events, starring the actual pilot, his actual plane and the actual head of the air traffic control tower in his tower.

The Tehran case has always been well known to UFOlogists in the English speaking world, but the actual US intelligence report which went to the CIA, NSA, etc. was kept secret for over thirty years, until the editor of the American *UFO Magazine* (William Birnes) filed a Freedom of Information request and was able to obtain the reports.



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Editor Birnes later arranged with the *UFO Hunters* television series producers to perform some tests in a laboratory, which showed that a high voltage, low amperage electronic beam can temporarily disable a computer without causing permanent damage. This author notes that the small object from 1976 was about the same size and appearance as the “Foo Fighters” reported in WW II and may have been performing the same data analysis function (until it was almost fired on, when it took evasive action by neutralizing the human aircraft’s arms control system).

Another favorite case was presented on the television show *UFO Hunters*, this particular episode being broadcast on or about 10 June 2010 on the ELN network, and it dealt with a Peruvian SU-22 fighter pilot who was told to shoot down a large UFO which was hovering near the end of the Air Force runway (in 2008). The many machine gun bullets fired had no effect on the UFO. It resembled a large sphere but if it was a weather balloon the bullets would have deflated it, and there was no reason a balloon would be at a low altitude at the end of an Air Force runway creating a hazard to traffic. Immediately after being attacked the UFO soared upward at great speed. The SU-22 pilot had to use his afterburner to attempt to keep up to it in a vertical climb. As the jet reached its maximum altitude the UFO shot across the sky and this cat and mouse game continued for about twenty minutes. Whenever the jet got close, the UFO would dart away, until the chase was abandoned. (This is common.) On the TV show the editor of *UFO* magazine interviewed the actual pilots in person, using interpreters for Farsi and Spanish, and the pilots used models to demonstrate the maneuvers. While television shows are done for entertainment and to increase audiences to entice more or higher paying advertisers, rather than for pure research, and while the TV producers probably paid the pilots’ expenses to travel to Los Angeles, this does not necessarily mean their testimony was compromised. They did not deviate at all from their original reports what they said was corroborated by other observers and by the intelligence reports, and in regard to their demeanor, the pilots struck this author as totally credible. Incidentally, what is also interesting for those who believe that US intelligence agencies are still very interested in UFOs, is that a US intelligence

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report regarding the incident was made, even though in 2008 Peru (at least its Air Force) was more under the influence of Russia than the USA.

Another favorite is recent. On 7 Nov. 2006 in the late afternoon a disk shaped UFO hovered over Chicago's O'Hare airport for about 15 minutes, near the United Airlines terminal. It then silently zoomed off. It was seen by some pilots, some ground crew, and at least one United manager, who made sure the FAA was alerted. United told its staff to keep quiet, but one did report the sighting to the National UFO Reporting Center. When reporters from the Chicago Tribune tried to investigate, at first United and the FAA lied and they were unaware of any UFO incident; unassailable evidence that "coverups" occur. We also see ridicule being used, not just after but while the event was occurring. Some of the air traffic controllers (who did not see the UFO) were mocking one of the witnesses as she was reporting the sighting to them, suggesting she had been "celebrating the holidays early". (Dolan and Zabel, 2010:63-64) Incidentally I spent over twelve hours at that airport in Nov. 2012 and it is a very big place so it is not surprising that a flying saucer would be seen by some people and not all.

In addition to the above well-documented cases, there are several mind-boggling Soviet cases in Jacques Vallée's *UFO Chronicles of the Soviet Union* (1992). These cases were summarize to him by Prof. Valdimir Azhazha, a former submarine officer, after he told Vallée that Unidentified Submarine Objects (USOs) had been following Soviet subs from at least 1976 to at least 1987. A Russian icebreaker ship was plowing through arctic ice during daytime when suddenly, close by, a flying saucer crashed up through the ice and soared into the sky, vertically. All who were on deck saw it, and were showered with ice. It was not a tested or errant missile. A big hole in the ice proved to all aboard that it was not their imaginations. Azhazha also told of a 1977 sighting of nine flying saucers over a submarine supply ship called The Volga. The captain ordered everyone to take notes and make sketches lest he be accused of being drunk and hallucinating. The disks circled the ship for 18 minutes, causing its electrical and communications systems to go "berserk". Prof. Azhazha also described other daylight sightings over land by ordinary citizens numbering from about 50 to

thousands.<sup>viii</sup> Given the size of the USSR or even just Russia compared to the USA, it should provide enough material to keep a UFOlogist busy for a lifetime. Unfortunately all the reports are in Russian, Ukrainian and all the other languages of the former Soviet Empire. I should add that I am dubious of reports emanating from the former USSR as those countries are corrupt, and prone to periods of impoverishment so an “anything for a dollar” attitude prevails. One of the many interpreters I work with from various countries in my immigration practice is a Russian and he recently told me that Russia is so corrupt that I could not imagine it, and it was “1000 times more corrupt than the USA or Canada”. Moreover, having read more about Azhazha in Peebles’ *Watch the Skies!* (1994: 211-212) I think anything he alleges should be treated skeptically unless and until corroborated by the original sources.

There are many other excellent cases from all countries which defy all conventional explanations, but none which have been strong enough for the world at large, let alone the scientific community, to accept as “the end of the debate”, such as a landing on the White House lawn with aliens exiting their spacecraft asking for a meeting with our leader. I think that aliens would never land on the White House lawn as this would be seen as a political statement, supporting the USA. To balance this, the aliens would also have to land in front of the parliaments or head offices or presidential palaces of many other countries, or at least all those which possess nuclear weapons. This could create panics, or at least disruptions and upheavals. People might not be willing to obey their governments or religious leaders knowing there is a higher power. Perhaps the aliens realize this and don’t want to make a fuss. However there have been alien landings which are arguably more important from a security perspective than a White House lawn one. Starting in 1975, there is good evidence to believe that aliens (for lack of a better word since no one knows the identity) have made intrusions into several US military bases and missile stations where nuclear weapons are stored. (Dolan, 2009: 86 - 99) I would not be surprised if they have done the same thing in Russia and all the other countries which have nuclear arsenals.

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What would the alien motives be? To warn us not to use nukes and to prevent their deployment to save us from ourselves? To spy on our nuclear capabilities and test shutdowns as a prelude to invading Earth? To spy on our nuclear capabilities and test shutdowns as a prelude to quietly exploiting certain of earth's resources which the aliens want or need? To study nuclear weapons sources and prevent their deployment in international warfare to the planet, so that the aliens can continue to take from it what they want? i.e. Earth is a colony and they are trying to avoid an out and out war with us?

A nuclear war would not only destroy targets in a few seconds but would create huge firestorms and hurricane velocity winds to feed the fires, destroying everything for great distances around, and the almost perpetual radiation would make sick and kill millions over many years, and the blasts would cause dust in the atmosphere which would last for many years, preventing sunlight from entering to warm the planet. Without sunlight, forests, crops, vegetation etc. would not grow, so the vegetarian animals would starve, which would eliminate the food for meat-eating animals who would then starve, and we humans at the top of the food chain would also starve, as well as freeze to death. Freezing of water into ice and lack of sunlight to grow underwater vegetation would kill the sealife which depends on it, elimination the food source for sea life which eats other sea life, so the oceans and lakes would also die. This is called "nuclear winter" and could well end life on this planet. Political and military leaders are too stupid and short-sighted to realize that nukes are this weapons which can't be used to win wars, only to destroy everything. Countries run by fundamentalist Muslims should not be allowed to have nuclear weapons as they are keen to use them against the hated non-believers, and generally people in those countries lack education and may not know the true results of a nuclear war. Even the use of small scale nuclear weapons fired by soldiers or tanks would still cause radiation and would likely result in the other side or its allies retaliating with large ones. So the aliens may be altruistically trying to save us from this, or selfishly seeking to preserve Earth as they want certain things from it.

Today, many millions of people worldwide believe that aliens are on (or flying just above) our planet. In this book I discuss from a

sociology and psychology of religion perspective why most of us have a desire to believe this, and why some even resort to joining UFO cults. Whenever one writes a book on this topic, one is pressured to reveal one's personal views. As a lawyer, I think there have been more than enough well documented cases to conclude from a balance of probabilities test that the phenomena observed were not natural nor illusions but involved complex air-space craft controlled by an intelligence that is not human. (This does not mean the craft are "manned", they be remotely controlled.) As a scientist I must say that this evidence is far from sufficient. However if I were arguing the case in a court of law I think I would win on the balance of probabilities civil test, but not on the criminal law test of "beyond a reasonable doubt". Note that I am not saying with certainty that there are aliens in space craft watching us or interacting with us. My own personal belief, always subject to change as it has several times on this topic over the years, is that we are being studied and investigated by remote controlled machines. While there are many planets in our galaxy capable of supporting some forms of life, it is doubtful that actual alien beings are anywhere near us, given the vast distances of space and other problems with space travel. We must remain cautious in our interpretation of the evidence because in recent years many of the older "best cases" have been discredited. As if to make my point, the photo of the 1990 Belgian triangle UFO that I was so impressed by in the first edition of this book turned out to have been a photo of a faked model. The photographer confessed shortly after my book went into print in early 2011, and I did not learn of this confession until early 2014. (If the photographer had died before 2011, the world would never have known the UFO was small and made of Styrofoam.) Many other older "best cases" have later been exposed as mis-identifications of ordinary events (or in one case an extraordinary USAF emergency) or frauds. These exposes are rarely due to confessions by hoaxsters and are instead a result of computerized photographic analysis or painstaking detective work by modern day Sherlock Holmes sleuths such as British UFOlogist Jenny Randles. In regard to supposed abductions of humans by aliens, my personal belief is that this has never happened and the so-called "abductees" are suffering a form of personality disorder (e.g.

fantasy-prone, unable to distinguish reality from imagination), sleep issues (paralysis, hypnagogic or hypnopompic or “fuge” states) or more serious mental disorder such as paranoid schizophrenia. Canadian professor Terry Matheson whose *Alien Abductions* does an overpowering job of showing how the authors of the most famous and “best” abduction reports contribute as much to the stories as their witnesses (and cleverly gloss over, mis-state or omit key evidence). If aliens exist and have scientific knowledge and engineering technology centuries or eons beyond ours, they may well also be so far advanced from us in the behavioral sciences, especially psychology, psychiatry and psycho-neurology, they may be able to communicate with our brains indirectly and remotely, perhaps even trying to influence us. However if this were to occur it would not be necessary to abduct or kidnap people, insert probes, ask silly questions and make incomprehensible sermons as “abductees” commonly report.

There are many cases of close encounters reported in the UFO literature which sound extremely convincing except that they all involve only one witness, or sometimes a second witness who is the spouse, child or best friend of the first and therefore not a disinterested third party. Personally I find many of these stories persuasive on the face of it, especially a New Zealand and a Canadian one reported in Peter Hassall’s *The NZ Files*, but I know nothing of the witnesses. Maybe they had fantasy prone personalities, craved publicity despite claims to the contrary, were taking hallucinogenic drugs without others’ knowing it, were chronic liars or had ulterior motives. In *Confrontations* (1990) many of Vallée’s witnesses were illiterate, superstitious hunters and fishers living in remote areas of Brazil (or in the equally imaginative urban areas where people report the Virgin Mary and bizarre alien encounters on an almost daily basis.). Some of the alleged injuries in remote areas sound like hysterical reactions to imaginary enemies, part of the folklore, or like ordinary ailments such as heart attacks, strokes or food poisoning, attributed to alien encounters. People die from Voodoo not because Voodoo works in a physical sense but because they believe it works, so the victims scare themselves into heart attacks. So Voodoo is real in a sense, and maybe

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injuries and deaths due to strange lights in the sky are equally real in the same manner. We just don't know.

Speaking as a lawyer, with 25 years spent in hearings, courtrooms and interview rooms testing credibility, I know that an uncorroborated report is not good enough. Even if there are documents to support the written statements, and other witnesses, you need to subject all the witnesses to rigorous cross-examination. Sometimes the story falls apart. Other times it stands up. In fact, sometimes the very dubious written reports turned out to be extremely credible after I "grilled" the witness for a couple of hours (whereas other "convincing" written stories fell apart). I recall one case where the refugee claimant alleged he had been assaulted in his home in a densely populated part of Toronto, by an agent of his own country. The story seemed absurd and implausible. He was obviously trying (too hard) to bolster his weak, phoney claim, I thought. I checked out the story. It didn't hold up. I kept checking. I talked to the police and hospital and requested documents. I got a lot more information than this man's own lawyer had been able to get. (She didn't really believe his outlandish story either.) Amazingly, eventually it turned out to be true! (I could not verify why the other man punched the claimant giving him a bloody nose, it may have been personal rather than political, but the assault really did happen.) Since Sept. 11, 2001, we now accept that there are many agents of brutal Muslim regimes active in Canada, the UK and the USA. At least one, a front for Iran, openly publishes a world-circulated newspaper full of hatred for the evil West and encouraging more suicide attacks.

We must be careful not to put observers of UFOs into a Catch 22 like I and the Refugee Board Members did when we tested the credibility of refugee claims for the Canadian government. If the person told the standard, routine story for that country and that ethnic or religious or political group, with all the elements, nothing less and nothing more, we were inclined to disbelieve. This was a phoney "standard story" that had been bought, memorised and rehearsed, we thought. But if the person told a different story we were equally suspicious because we thought it had been concocted, because it did not fit the standard mould for that country. It was difficult to keep an

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open mind, especially after hearing thousands of stories over the years. But we tried hard and so must everyone who hears claims of UFO sightings and encounters.

So two forms of expertise I offer to the UFO field are face-to-face credibility checking (intensive interviewing and cross-examination) and intelligence investigation. (As a former Senior Immigration Officer I used to have secret status and liaise with the RCMP, CSIS, Interpol, the FBI and various US and foreign police forces. Once I even phoned former President George Bush (senior) about a suspiciously crude letter he had allegedly written. I ended up talking to Mrs. Bush with her husband in the background and he confirmed, to my surprise, that he had indeed written the letter. Equally interestingly, when I told my colleagues and showed them the letter, they continued to believe the letter was phoney and to explain my phone call came up with the silly explanation that it wasn't really the Bush office and that a lady had been impersonating Barbara Bush, etc. This incident showed me that things that look suspicious may on rare occasions be authentic, and my colleagues' reactions showed me to what lengths skeptics will go in the face of good evidence to defend their own prejudices.)

Another skill I can offer to UFOlogy is my experiences doing research in psychiatric epidemiology, and working in mental hospitals. Do I think everyone who reports a Close Encounter of the Third Kind (CE-III) is crazy (if not a liar)? No, but keep in mind that a CE-III consists of "seeing" aliens whereas a CE-IV is a supposed kidnapping or abduction by aliens, nearly always followed by some sort of intimate physical mistreatment while nude (especially by female victims, while male abductees from Latin America tend to report having great sex with beautiful alien women). There is obviously an epidemic of what I call *UFO Abduction Neurosis* going on if we are to believe polls which report almost four million Americans claim to have been abducted by aliens! (I will discuss this further at the end of my chapter on Abductions.) So I am not solidly in the camp that believes "they are all nuts" when it comes to UFO's and space aliens. I propose that UFOs have become a social fact, and in this book I also show how hundreds of sci-fi stories, movies and TV shows have served as memes so as to make space aliens part of Western culture since the late 1800's. Thus



space aliens arriving in UFOs are part of our collective consciousness. Since 1966 stories of abductions (presented as fact rather than psychiatric case histories) have been published regularly, so even kidnappings by aliens have become commonplace and thus accepted as real. Combine the psychological subconscious with the social consciousness and it is not surprising that half the population now “believes” in the ETH.

After many years of reading about UFO’s, I have concluded that the UFO phenomenon is not a **phenomenon** but is (actually “are”) several different **phenomena** requiring different explanations. (And preferably completely distinct names, especially since many of the entities are not objects, let alone flying objects, and some are definitely not flying objects piloted by aliens which is what most people think a “UFO” is.) What explains lights in the jungle night may not apply to lights seen near urban airports or saucer shapes seen in clear daylight or to good sightings of flying saucers by airline pilots or to frequent “abductions” experienced by some people or to cases where people are chased around their property by small bouncing UFOs.

These are all caused by different things and we continue to confuse ourselves by putting them under the evocative UFO label. In this way we are like the zoologists of yesteryear. (e.g. If it has a beak it is a bird, but it could be a turtle; if it has wings it is a bird, but some birds can’t fly and some lizards and squirrels have wings. Should we classify according to appearances or functions or whether the skeleton is inside or outside, or how reproduction occurs, or cold-blooded versus hot blooded, or something very different such as digestive systems or environment?) It seems we are still in the 18<sup>th</sup> century when it comes to getting a handle on the UFO area, but that is partly because there is no one UFO “subject matter”; rather many “things” inaccurately lumped under the heading “UFOs”.

One note is appropriate before launching into the rest of the book. In science we are very cautious and never say that we have proved anything. In fact we are too careful to even confirm an hypotheses. We always phrase the hypothesis in the negative, e.g. "there is no relationship between X and Y" and then we either “fail to reject it” (which the layperson would understand as supporting the notion that

“there is indeed no relationship”) or we reject it (i.e. “there may be a relationship”). Before we can reject the null hypothesis, assuming various sampling criteria have been met, we perform statistical tests to ensure the apparent relationship was not due to sampling error (chance). We do not then “rest our case”, write a book and line up for an award or research grant saying that we have proved something. We instead keep doggedly on, creating more null hypotheses - inspired by the results of the previous study - for testing. And on and on trying to narrow down the real cause and reject other possible causes along the way. (A statistically significant relationship does not prove cause and effect, or even a substantive relationship, and here is where careful theory construction comes in.) So rejecting null does not necessarily prove not-null.

In contrast, most UFOlogists, not being scientists, tend to jump great distances to conclusions. For them, if something looks like a flying saucer, or a psychiatric patient insists they were on one, the ETH (extra-terrestrial hypothesis) is proved. Even if something can't be explained right away by the ordinary person, there is a tendency to attribute it to aliens (e.g. Von Daniken's fascinating speculations). Even worse, when there is no evidence at all, many UFOlogists say that the US Air Force has conspired to hide the evidence, and the more the USAF denies there is any, the more that supposedly proves there is. So there is a huge gap in methodology which may never be bridged, but a few academics such as myself are risking peer (more than public) ridicule by trying. I hope this book can begin to reduce the gap, so that someday UFOlogy will be a legitimate course of studies at respected universities and not still resigned to the fringe.<sup>ix</sup> To avoid confusing most readers in this popular book, however, and to make it easier to read (“failing to reject the null hypothesis” being an awkward mouthful) I don't use proper scientific terminology. Also, since this is a popular work and not a presentation of a formal theory, I allow myself to speculate. No one has said that Jacques Vallée is a bad astronomer because of his far out speculations in his UFO books, and Erich Von Daniken's wild leaps of faith actually got a lot of people, including genuine researchers, thinking, interested in archaeology, and

a lot of excellent research came about in the (sometimes successful) attempts to disprove him.

#### ENDNOTES TO CHAPTER ONE

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<sup>i</sup> I don't believe in psychokinesis and he made no attempt to hypnotize me, nor would I have agreed to being hypnotized, and there were no props, assistants or distractions - just the two of us sitting at a small table in his apartment with a glass of water on the table - so I am at a loss to explain it. Decades later I wondered if it was a trick glass. I recall his wife pouring the water from the kitchen faucet into the glass and bringing the glass to us, and I recall he or I drinking some of the water. The glass wasn't switched as it was right in front of us. Certainly there was nothing tricky about the smooth table surface. I never contacted or was contacted by Dr. and Mrs. K again so if they were trying to fool me, what was their motive? They were very unhappy and living secluded lives. I only met them through someone who knew of them and heard that I was writing a book on UFOs. I appreciate that this may be evidence for those who believe that people who have been in close contact with aliens get psychic powers. Perhaps Dr. K was an amateur magician (my latest hypothesis) or he already had psychic powers and that lead him to falsely believe he had been contacted by aliens. As I was new to the UFO field at the time it never occurred to me to ask when and how he acquired the apparently psychokinetic power. It also bothers me that I cannot recall what happened with the water in the glass, just that it defied basic physics and gravity. I should have made notes at the time or as soon as I left the apartment. I assumed I would always remember such a significant occurrence and I do remember something bizarre happening but after thirty years not the details.

<sup>ii</sup> Toronto UFOlogist Robert Badgley discovered the hoax 24 years later by simply writing the President of the mine. The entire story as it appeared in the company newsletter can be found in John Colombo's *UFOs Over Canada* (1991: 32 - 40). Colombo actually got a copy of the newsletter from his local library. This just shows how pathetically "investigated" most UFO stories are. Writing before the discovery that the story was a joke,

even Jacques Vallée put it into his *Passport to Magonia* (1969) assuming it was true.

<sup>iii</sup> See Edward Ashpole's *The UFO Phenomenon* (1995: 105 – 107).

<sup>iv</sup> See David M. Jacobs, *The UFO Controversy in America* (1975: 295-296).

<sup>v</sup> See details in Bill Chalker's book *The Oz Files - The Australian UFO Story* (1996).

<sup>vi</sup> For this I am relying on Ronald Story's great book *UFOs and the Limits of Science* (1981: 124-127) for the source. (But Story believes the Socorro story as indicative of extra-terrestrials whereas I think from recent photographic revelations of lunar modules was a moon landing prototype device crewed by NASA astronauts in white coveralls.)

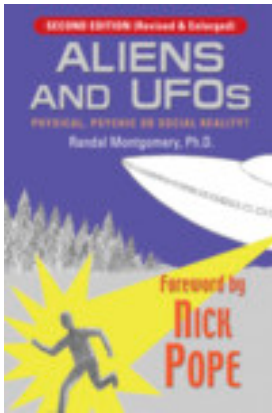
<sup>vii</sup> My sole source for all this is Timothy Good's rather sensationalistic *Alien Liaison* (1992). The book says Coleman made a report after landing but makes no mention of the crew being interviewed by anyone after, which seems suspicious as one would expect Air Force intelligence, and other national security agencies to be very interested. Then again in the 1973 Mansfield case Captain Coyne could not find anyone to deliver his report to and had to push a bit to get anyone to accept it, although Coyne was Army, not Air Force. If there really was a report and it disappeared and was not in the 1979 documents give to UFOlogists and skeptics in reply to their Freedom of Information request, this is not proof of a coverup but likely because national security related materials are exempt from the statute. Possibly after thirty years (1985) the report might have lost its exempt status.

<sup>viii</sup> My source for this was Vallée's *UFO Chronicles of the Soviet Union* (1992). I do agree 100% with Azhazha's recommendation that UFOlogy needs to be multi-disciplinary.

<sup>ix</sup> By this I do not mean that the Head of the Department should strongly believe that aliens or inter-dimensional beings visit the Earth, or visited eons ago. Nor should he or she adamantly disbelieve. He or she should have no opinion, or more realistically be open-minded and not dogmatic. The purpose of the department would not be to proselytize or propagate any

"line". This would be a faculty consisting of astro-physicists, psychologists, aerospace engineers, archaeologists, anthropologists, zoologists, folklorists, sociologists like me who have taught social research methods (quantitative and qualitative) and theory construction - just about any discipline that could contribute to the issue. Consider that Terry Matheson is a professor of English Literature of all things, yet he has made a superb contribution with *Alien Abductions* (1998.) It would be fine if individual professors held opinions (how could most of them not?) so long as they understood that they were not being hired to make converts to their view but simply to educate. Students would be required to take a range of course to get a diploma. The main purpose would be to educate students about the scientific methods and theory building, and to train them to be expert case investigators, not to turn them into believers or skeptics. Indeed their ability to mount both sides of an argument would be a requirement to graduating. If any rich reader is willing to donate money to a respectable college or university to get this program going I will volunteer to spend a half day per week contacting various institutions and helping the donator decide which one warrants the funding and who should head the department. To save money the faculty need not be full-time appointees and they could simply be cross-appointed and come in from their regular positions to teach one course.





*Dr. Montgomery applies his expertise in psychology, psychiatry, social psychology and sociology to the topic. As an attorney, he applies trial tests to the evidence pro and con. As an ex-government researcher with secret clearance, he assesses the cover up/conspiracy allegations. As an aviation buff, he analyzes UFO reports. He also compares aliens' reported powers and activities to those of old science-fiction novels, movies, TV shows, super-hero comics, religious prophets and Greek and Egyptian myths.*

# **ALIENS and UFOs**

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