

The Reader's Guide to UFOs

By Bernard Schoenburg

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CHICAGO—George Eberhart has never seen a flying saucer, but after compiling a list of more than 15,600 books and reports about UFOs, he says he's pretty sure there is something to the stories.

"That there is some phenomenon out there which behaves at odds with what we consider reality seems pretty well established from the evidence I have seen," he says.

Eberhart is an editor for an American Library Association magazine in Chicago, but he also volunteers his time to serve as librarian for the J. Allen Hynck Center for UFO Studies in suburban Glenview. Hynck was formerly head of the astronomy department at Northwestern University. He died in April.

Eberhart's two-volume, 1,300-page work, "UFOs and the Extraterrestrial Contact Movement: A Bibliography," lists titles of books, articles, records, tapes and unpublished works on unidentified flying objects, or UFOs. The bibliography is published by Scarecrow Press, Metuchen, N.J., and was released in December. Eberhart says he wrote it for librarians and for collectors of UFO materials.

His interest in the field and his own collection of publications does not mean he is eccentric, Eberhart says.

"I collect it not because I believe it's all true, but because it's very important, not only to [give possible] evidence of extraterrestrial life, but also because of the impact the UFO phenomenon has had on the human race," he says.

He agrees that some of the material he listed is far-fetched, such as a book called "UFOs: Nazi

Secret Weapon" that says Adolf Hitler and other Nazis escaped from Germany in 1945 and have survived in a colony at the South Pole, their base for an air force of flying saucers.

"I didn't want to ignore anything, no matter how ridiculous it might seem," Eberhart explains.

The list's entries include more than 5,500 books in English, 2,300 books in other languages and magazines such as the Flying Saucer Review and the International UFO Reporter.

One listing is for a 1967 record album called "Music From Another Planet," on which Howard Menger played songs he says were taught to him by a man from Saturn.

The bibliography has 158 chapters on different types of listings. One chapter is on UFO abductions, in which people claim they were kidnaped by aliens and later released.

Another is on animal mutilations, where extraterrestrials are blamed for killing cattle or other animals whose organs are supposedly surgically removed. There are two chapters on UFO reports before 1945, some reaching back 2,500 years.

Eberhart, 36, says he has been interested in UFOs since he was a teen-ager. In the 1960s and 1970s, he says, people reported many sightings, but there was a decline from about 1981 until a year ago, when things began picking up again.

But new technology is making it tougher to determine which reports of UFOs are important, now that there are aircraft like experimental Stealth planes in the air.

"In 1987, it may have more of a basis in it being a government project than it would have been in 1957," he says.