

Author launches index of UFOs

By Jim Rittler

A mountain of material has been written about UFOs, ranging from serious science to incredible non-sense.

The most complete bibliography yet of works on unidentified flying objects has just been published, and author George Eberhart isn't fussy about what he lists.

The two-volume set, *UFOs and the Extraterrestrial Contact Movement* (Scribner Press Inc., \$97.50) lists 15,613 works, ranging from Carl Sagan's books and Scientific American articles to publications about hollow Earth theorists and Nazi UFO fleets.

The bibliography is being sold to libraries and UFO proponents.

"As a sociological phenomenon, UFOs permeate our culture," Eberhart said. "I wanted to list every single thing that has been written about UFOs. No one had done that before."

The job took two years. By day, Eberhart edited a library journal for the American Library Association in Chicago. On weekends, weekdays and vacations, he burrowed in libraries in Chicago, New York and Washington, filling thousands of index cards with such titles as *My Trip to the Ten Lost Tribes Inside the Earth*, by Madison Ave; *UFO Flight: Vast to Planet Selo*, by Hal Wilcox; *Suiter's Science Saver*, by Dorcas Van Tassel; and *The Gospel According to Science Fiction: God War on Ancient Astronaut, War's Hell* by John Robertson Allen. Eberhart owns 2,000 UFO books, and is librarian of the J. Allen



Flying saucers and messages from outer space abound in UFO literature from the past. Librarian George Eberhart has compiled over 15,600 entries in his new bibliography on UFOs and extraterrestrials.

Hynek Center for UFO Studies in Geneva, which has 8,000 books.

His 1,250-page bibliography lists works from 36 countries, including books, magazine articles, newsletters, record albums, dissertations, manuscripts, monographs, TV shows, movies, comic books and govern-

ment documents.

Perhaps the most bizarre items are newsletters by cultlike groups claiming extraterrestrial contact.

"These journals often contain interminable messages from the space brothers, devastatingly lurid treatises on cosmic hierarchies,

simplistic tips on living a moral life, rambling theological tirades

and occasional political outpourings that tend to be both populist and reactionary," Eberhart said.

Entries in Volume I are devoted to the evidence, real, imaginary and fraudulent, for UFOs. Topics in-

clude nocturnal-light UFOs (ball lightning, earthquake lights, swamp gas, etc.), flying saucers, radar blips attributed to UFOs, sea and space UFOs and UFOs in history, psychology and religion.

The religion category includes accounts arguing that biblical miracles such as Joshua making the sun stand still are related to UFOs, extraterrestrial tracks stating that UFOs are the works of the devil and serious essays on how UFOs affect contemporary religious thought.

The wealthiest material is in Volume II, which deals with the extraterrestrial contact movement. For example, one chapter lists works supporting and debunking best-selling author George Adamski, who swore he met a long-haired man from Venus named Orthon in a California desert in 1932.

Other chapters list works on apparitions of the Virgin Mary, the "men in black" who supposedly intimidate UFO witnesses, extraterrestrial intelligence, UFO fiction, ancient astronaut and the hollow Earth theory. This theory holds that there's a sun in the center of the Earth that provides daylight for subterranean aliens, or perhaps Nazi religious who pilot UFOs.

Many UFO works are out of print. And despite UFOs' impact on popular culture, most library collections are sparse.

Eberhart writes "Special collections in science fiction and radical American politics were at one time considered too frivolous for preservation, but now their relevance is well-established. The same shift in perception will gradually take place with UFO materials."