

Archives for UFO Research - Archives for the Unexplained (AFU)

Annual report 2016

A sustainable future for AFU

Creating a sustainable future has, more and more, become the focus for the AFU foundation's board. The big question remains – how are we to do it?

This difficult task is mixed with the frustrating and time-consuming daily routines of trying to find new and creative space-saving solutions for storing an ever-growing collection within the boundaries of slightly more 500 square meters. Rearranging collections, and performing transports between our thirteen different facilities, has become an almost daily routine.

In recent years, we've also seen a growing problem of hiring new spaces in the close-by area. And, to top the list of problems, we cannot possibly fit increased costs into our already under-financed budget.

We are facing three basic problems, which intermingle with each other:

1st problem: Financing



Magonia book reviewer Peter Rogerson with some of the thousands of books he has donated to the AFU libraries and which are now catalogued here.

Everyone who has visited us, and had a tour through our facilities, is overwhelmed by the quality, quantity and perseverance with which we are working since 40+ years. All this measured against a meagre access to resources.

From this fact AFU should – by now – have hundreds of regular financial supporters, worldwide. Visitors here learn that preservation of ufo- and phenomena-related memories is not an obvious task for the tax-driven public sector. We must rely heavily on private initiatives.

Despite our efforts, we only have about some forty regular monetary sponsors. Apart from Larry Frascella, in the United States, they are mostly Swedish citizens connected to UFO research, and to UFO-Sweden.

One may wonder why there is nearly no support from the international scene, except for a great willingness to donate collections for preservation. For a foundation like AFU to survive and flourish we need much more hands-on support by direct monetary donations, wills and bequests for the future. What will happen to so many important collections in future years is everyone's responsibility.

There is no natural law that any group should tour the landscapes of Sweden, the UK, Europe, and even the United States, hunting down "odd phenomena collections" that are in danger of being dispelled, being sent to waste-disposal dumps, or burnt in ovens.

Often, such collections are the results of life-long personal commitments and deep levels of interest in phenomena.

Some such collections may be judged as "outlandish" or "cultish", while some are of obviously higher cultural value. The collections from Hilary Evans, Luis Schönherr, Bob Rickard, Marc Hallet, Gordon Creighton, Peter Rogerson and the BSRA group in California (see below) are all such international examples. Not to mention many from the Scandinavian arena.

AFU has saved them all under our roofs. Often still in boxes and not yet ordered, but preserved in relatively safe and dry environments.

A few of these collection amount to 30-50 boxes of uncharted and unsorted materials from people who never took the time for good archiving.

Despite shortage of resources AFU has been able – so far – to sort out incoming collections of *printed books, magazines, newsletters and magnetic tape collections (audios, videos)*. To sort and catalogue this “bulk” of most collections has been our priority.

The even more interesting and time-consuming personal correspondence and photographic files often remain unprocessed. *This cannot go on forever.*



Files in storage. These boxes, tucked away in one of our many stores, include more than 120 file folders of news clippings donated by the Swedish Space Corporation (SSC) when the files were to be thrown away as garbage. AFU has no space for the display of this material.

If we cannot find the resources needed, we must eventually put a rather firm lid on accepting new collections, or at least become more restrictive with taking on large collections, or the parts of collections which we know are just “the umpteenth” repetition of what we already have.

Like for instance collections of (the Birdsall) *UFO Magazine* or long runs of *Flying Saucer Review* from the “golden” 1970s, despite that these are attractive for new-comers in the field. We cannot possibly hope to sell myriads of journal issues and books through our AFU Shop within our lifetime.

Storage is costly. We have started to throw away “doubles-by-the-multitude”, especially if they are in inferior or damaged quality. This job started in 2016 to help clear off spaces for new collections.

2nd problem: Logistics

The problem of our meagre finances spill over to the physical environment in which we must work daily, creating more problems than any other “normal” archive or institution would ever have had to fight with.

Basement facilities are cheap, as compared to ground-level areas. That’s why we are in basements for the most part. On a positive side being in many different basements might be a good spread of potential risks but when measured against “effectiveness” the dispersed facilities are a small disaster. And basements do have a very high risk for flooding by external sources.

Managing the archives requires large sets of many different keys and a durable sack carriage to carry sometimes heavy loads. We depend upon good weather suited for transports, not rain, or heaps of Swedish snow.

Storing in 13 different places, behind 13 different doors, is at the maximum of what a human brain can handle logistically (without, maybe, a dedicated computer system to serve memory). Carrying boxes up and down narrow basement stairs is not for the weak, and we are all turning older.



The daily logistics and key-management behind the division of the AFU collection between 13 different doors is sometimes mind-boggling.

The regular, daily (even hourly) problem is of arriving at one of our facilities, having forgotten the needed key(s), or some needed tool for what your intentions might be, or some of the material that was planned for reallocation. If the planned

redistribution tour is complicated, with several stopping stations, you might find everything on your list was not accomplished by the end of that work session. Work at AFU is often like navigating through a maze.

All these problems would be lessened or cease to exist if we were under one single roof. We can spot many alternatives locally for such premises but the cost is mind-boggling to us, often twice or three-times the present cost for facilities.

3rd problem: Human resources

For the past six years, we've had a nearly unrestricted access to work-force through a unique and much-scorned (in the Swedish political debate) government program to keep out-of-work people "going" while in-between-jobs. Besides providing free workforce for us (for instance at our six scanners), working with unemployment programs has provided very good finances for our foundation. We could develop and sustain with government subsidies.

The direct government support since 2009, through the "phase three" unemployment program, amounts to no less than 3.5 million SEK (equivalent to USD 435.000). This is topped by another 2,8 million SEK (USD 350.000) from other unemployment programs which were possible to use only when we had the first 3,5 million coming in.

Most of these incoming resources went into salaries for employees, our rents and to costs for acquiring collections including shipping to Sweden.

Job markets are now changing. Sweden suddenly appears to have one of the highest employment rates in Europe. Some statistics say we are heading for a top position in that league.

This may not be so in the local area of Norrköping, where there are still quite many non-academic, unskilled members of the population. Local unemployment rate is still at roughly 12 % among the youth.

Keeping unskilled people going with jobs that may motivate them every day is not an easy task. We have seen that. Attendance from some of these people has not been impressive and you must have a good sense of balancing available tasks with self-proclaimed abilities, interests and (particularly) the personal energy (or often lack of same).

Putting qualified files, like the collections from Evans or Creighton, into such unknowing hands will end in disaster. AFU would need at least one full-time "academic" archivist to make good "researchable" files from what is now stored on shelves in random order often within the boxes they once arrived in, or slightly repacked.

Economy

In 2016, Larry Frascella from Pennsylvania, USA, kindly donated another 30.000 USD for the archives (237.015 SEK). He also paid 2000 USD (16.080 SEK) for shipping of the BSR collection (see below) from Eureka across the Atlantic.

With an incoming balance of 202.000 SEK already invested in equities and bonds, at the start of this year, we continued to save for the future, and to fill our barns for worse times, which by any token will come during 2017.

During 2016, another 210.000 SEK were invested in five different Nordea equity and bond funds. The strategy is to not immediately spend incoming money but get a good return on the money. We try to be on the safe side with a good spread of risks, and never to invest in risky affairs.

Clas Svahn organizes a continuous collection of money among people he meets in ufology, through his professional work and at public meetings. This generated 11.000 SEK which were all invested in funds. Clas also donated 9.240 SEK, being two years of royalties for his book "Mötet i gläntan". Board member Carl-Anton Mattsson donated another extra 45.000 SEK, also invested in funds.

Plans change. Instead of directly investing in (for instance) *a new book scanner* (we currently have no one to operate it in the long run), *a new cataloguing system* (requires a dedicated person to get it up and running and would cost huge money every year), or in *renting a costly new facility* we must play the safe(r) game of putting away "survival money". We currently do not have the economic strength for long-time commitments which are risky.

Sponsorships

Basically, AFU depends on a pool of about 40 regular private sponsors, to pay for the rents and electricity for our basement facilities. In 2016 we had the following direct donations (of more than 500 SEK) from the following persons and organizations (sums in SEK):

Anonymous donor, 590; Jennie Backman, 600; Bernd Bartosch, 500; Håkan Blomqvist, 2.400; Tage Bång, 1.050; Tor-Leif Eklund, 600; Anders Gerdman, 1.000; Tora Greve, 500; Pål Johansson, 600; Mikael Karlsson, 1.200; Anders Liljegren, 8.233; Annika Logren, 1.200; Rolf Löfgren, 600; Bruno Mancusi, 600; Carl-Anton Mattsson, 1.100; Thomas Michanek, 1.000; Berit Nordin Rydberg, 1.100; Göran Norlén, 5.730; Andreas Ohlsson, 2.200; Kenneth Revland, 3.000; Lena Christina Rosenberg, 670; Mats Sandström, 500; Christer Suneblad, 1.000; Clas Svahn 10.750; Ace Svensson, 730; Sven Olov Svensson, 7.200; and UFO-Sweden, 2.000.

Some 50 other people also contributed between 25 and 499 SEK. Clas Svahn donated 2.000 SEK from the fee for a lecture in Karlskrona. As in the years before, Valentine Ward donated the annual royalty from one of her father's (Hilary Evans') books, 1.016 SEK.

The sum total of sponsorships were 87.423 SEK from the board members and 297.168 SEK from people and parties outside the board.

New funding?

To survive at the present level of activity – or even with a reduction of activity – the foundation needs to find new funding from official or private sources. During 2016, we have started a program to try to find this. *We will attempt to include a more detailed report on these activities in upcoming annual reports.*

Investments during the year

2016 was probably the last year on the horizon when we had regular incoming money (through the unemployment programs) to pay for equipment like:

- ▶ Additional IKEA shelves for our libraries and the digitizing department (24.133 SEK)
- ▶ A new scanner for the AFU Shop (6.800 SEK)
- ▶ Two new desktop computers and screens for the headquarters (10.054 SEK)
- ▶ One new computer for administration and accounting (5.964 SEK)
- ▶ Recovery of a crashed hard disc drive holding the AFU economy and administration (9.790 SEK)
- ▶ A height-adjustable work table for our scanning department (4.244 SEK)
- ▶ 700 acid-free archival boxes and 5000 acid-free file folders (21.061 SEK)

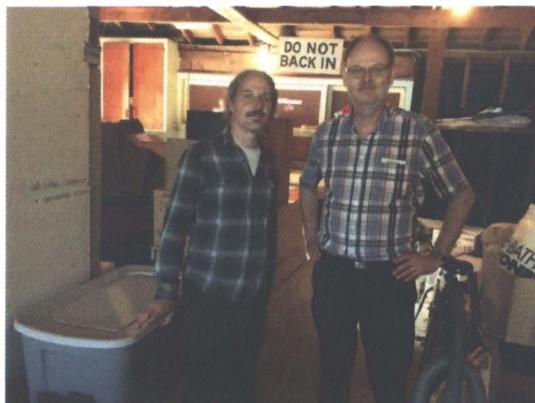
For the future (2017 and beyond) we expect the need to buy, or lease, a new paper copier. Money should be reserved for this. Unlike our present copier, a new one should have a network connection. Despite the digital age the ability to produce simple copies on paper is very essential at any archive.

Another unique collection

During the summer, we received three full pallets holding 75 boxes shipped from Eureka in California.

The files of the Borderland Sciences Research Associates/Foundation (BSRA/BSRF) were packed in Eureka on June 1 by Clas Svahn and his two sons Niklas and Markus. They were combining this work with a vacation tour of the US west coast.

The BSR collection is unique to ufology, the paranormal and "wild" studies of new energies and the occult. Meade Layne started off in 1945 with publishing "The Round Robin" which eventually became the "Journal of Borderland Research", later succeeded by "Borderlands".



Clas Svahn with BSRA/BSRF archivist James Borges on June 1 when Clas and his two sons were in Eureka, California to help pack and send off some 75 boxes of paranormal files from a garage building. The collection represents the BSR work ever since 1945 when Meade Layne started publication of the Round Robin.

Trans-Atlantic shipment via Houston and Antwerp by Maersk Line was kindly paid for by our US sponsor Larry Frascella, and logistically organized by his sister Annine.

Acquired & donated collections

In all, about 25 persons and organizations donated collections or parts of collections to the AFU archives and libraries. All-in-all AFU spent 86.483 SEK (roughly USD 10.000) on acquiring new collections and transporting them to Sweden. Since the start in 1973 we estimate the number of

donors to be more than 300 individuals and organizations. For book collections donated, see the "Book libraries" section, below.

Two AFU collection tours went to the British Isles this year. The first, between May 7 and 10, took Clas Svahn and son Niklas on a "round-up" tour by air to London, to pack the files that had been collected in Bob Rickard's London home in September and left there without being sent over to Sweden.



May 2016: Clas and Niklas Svahn packing a new load of UK paranormal archives, in the street outside Bob Rickard's London house. Some 195 boxes carefully boxed-up on 4 pallets awaiting shipment across the North Sea. It was to become a dramatic day with all kinds of troubles, but the load finally got away.

The loading of the goods up on pallets in the rain outside Rickard's home is a classic example of when most things go wrong. The dramatic story is told on Clas Svahn's Swedish blog for May 9: <http://csblogg.ufo.se/csblogg3/?cat=69&paged=2>

The pallets arrived in Sweden on May 18 which was reported in detail on AFU's own blog: <http://www.afu.se/afu2/?p=7953>

Contents of the boxes was (mainly) thousands of books from Peter Rogerson and other collections from John Hanson, John Rimmer, Judith Jafaar, Omar Fowler, Contact International, Steve Gamble, Lionel Beer, Denis Plunkett, and others.

The second collection tour to Britain started by car and ferry on September 16 but unfortunately ended on September 22, when the engine of Clas Svahn's Toyota broke down completely. The car had to be left in Britain for scrapping and Clas and Carl-Anton took the airplane back to Sweden. Before this, they had the time to visit Omar Fowler, Peter Rogerson, Margaret Fry, Janet and Colin Bord, John Rimmer and Nigel Watson.

Collections received from that tour are now still in Bob Rickard's basement awaiting shipping to

Sweden when we have also cleared out the FSR (Gordon Creighton) and BSR-collections that now occupy much of our reception and sorting room. This project may take several years to complete.



Two original artworks by Eugen Semitjov occupy our walls at AFU headquarters. The painting on the left attempts to represent Clyde Tombaugh's ufo sighting on August 20, 1949. Semitjov met and interviewed Tombaugh for one of his books.

We continued to buy and receive parts of the collections of deceased Swedish author-journalist and drawing artist **Eugen Semitjov** (1923-1987) from his son, **Jesper**. Jesper Semitjov had brought his father's collection to Thailand and we have paid for return shipping to Sweden of some parts, including interview tapes and clippings of articles published under Eugen's by-line during his years as a high-profiled science journalist.

AFU also started to buy into parts of collections from deceased US ufologist Wendelle Stevens (1923-2010) in the possession of US citizen **Joe Fex**. We are getting some rare things from the Stevens files related to old contactees yarns like Georg Adamski and Billy Meier.



UFO-Sweden secretary Mats Nilsson holding the shield of the disbanded Gävleborgs UFO-förening, now in the AFU files

UFO-Sweden's local member groups have gradually disappeared. Just a few remain. AFU has received so many files from former member societies. This year the main donation in this area came from **Roland Östlund**, former chairman of **Gävleborgs UFO-förening**. Roland and his friends in the group has paid traditional visits to AFU for many years and he came to us on June 11, suggesting we could now fetch the bulk of the society's files. On October 24, Clas Svahn, Gunnar Karlsson and Mats Nilsson from the UFO-Sweden board picked up the files from Gävle and took them to AFU.



September 22: Clas Svahn's red Toyota broke down with fatal engine troubles on a UK motorway and had to be left for scrapping in Britain. Clas Svahn and Carl-Anton Mattsson had to book an air fare home to Sweden and the collected archives were left in Bob Rickard's London house for a pickup next year. Part of the tour around southern England had to be postponed.



Veteran UFO researchers Colin and Janet Bord in Wales, on September 20, when visited by Clas and Carl-Anton for a pick-up of archives. The material is now in Bob Rickard's basement waiting to be shipped over to Sweden. After the car failure, and with the receipt area in Norrköping filled up by the BSR files from California, it was decided to postpone shipment of what had been gathered during September.

Digitizing projects

During 2016 we digitized an estimated 50.000 new clippings from the Fortean Times editorial files. The total number of digitized clippings in the this collection is now more than 300.000.

We also digitized some 500 magazine issues in a project organized by London ufologist **Isaac Koi**. Isaac – a member of our International Advisory Board – attempts to get releases of copyrights from previous magazine editors so that their old magazines can be scanned and uploaded for public download. During 2016 Isaac Koi worked with AFU employees **Leif Åstrand** and **Irene Remberger** on this project and the result can be viewed at <http://www.afu.info/Downloads/Magazines/>

During the year, we had an inflow of about 300 magnetic audio tapes which have mostly been digitized through our unemployment program. In total more than 5.000 tapes have been digitized through the years. Much of this cannot be put up for public internet download due to copyright and personal integrity.

Researchers can always direct requests to the AFU board for guidance & assistance with source materials.

Visitors

Some 50 persons signed our guestbook, including visitors from the USA, the UK, Denmark and Finland. AFU policy is to accept visits by anyone, but we cannot handle groups of more than ten/twelve people at one time. In some cases people who have previously refrained from going public with their old sightings come to us to meet sympathetic people who listen to their sometime incomprehensible experiences.

Some examples of the visits are listed here:

On January 5, we took Marianne Söderholm, her daughter **Madeleine** and Madeleine's husband **Joe Dupeza** on a tour of the archives. The Dupeza couple live in Fort Lauderdale, Florida and took the occasion to visit AFU while back in Sweden for a few weeks.

On January 26, Julia Falk signed our guestbook. She was on her second visit here (first on August 21, 2015) as a student with the Södertörn University of Stockholm. She collected information for an essay which was concluded later in 2016 under the title *"Alien visitors and science: The construction of science within UFO-Sweden 1970-*

1996". This is from the English abstract of the 70-page master's thesis, written in Swedish:

"This thesis examines how science is constructed in relation to the UFO-movement. More specifically, it examines how the Swedish UFO organisation UFO-Sverige (UFO-Sweden) has changed when it, during the years of 1970-1996, adopted scientific ambitions. At its origin, UFO-Sverige was based on values associated with the New Age movement, eventually they started to embrace more scientific methods. It is the meeting between ufology and science within UFO-Sverige that is examined in this thesis." (Link to complete text: <http://sh.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1061510/FULLTEXT01.pdf>)

On the next day, January 27, we were visited by a media group from Malmö: **Johan Joelsson** (journalist) and **Jonathan Jacobsson** (photographer). The round-tour and interview eventually resulted in a lengthy article in one of the very last issues of the Ping Magazine, issue 4/2016, published by DIK, the Swedish association for academics working in the information & culture sector (librarians, etc). Publication of this mag has unfortunately ended but this link to the issue with the AFU article might work for some time in the future: <http://dp.hpublication.com/publication/8ed4cdda/>

February 23, saw us visited by a Danish TV team who interviewed AFU chairman Clas Svahn for a documentary to be broadcast on Danish channel DR2.



Three Danish television journalists visiting AFU and the Danish SUFOI report archives deposited here, on February 23. From left to right photographer Balthazar Hertel, researcher Cathrine Herting och reporter Michael Jeppesen. They were filming scenes for a documentary to be broadcast on channel DR2.

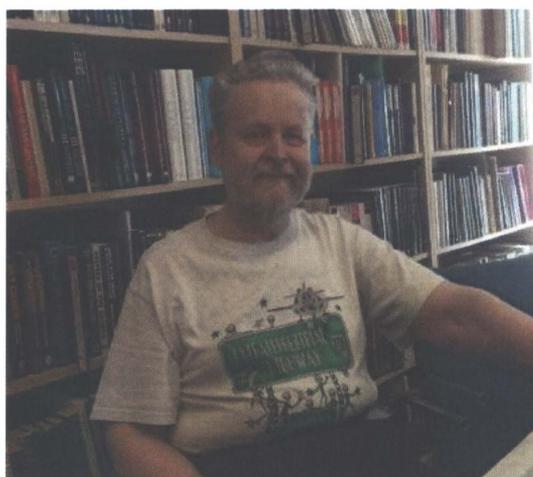
VHS digitization project. On March 19 and July 30 the archives were visited by **Lars Liedström** from Uppsala who has started a "digital recovery" program in co-operation with AFU. On each visit,

Lars borrows some fifty video (VHS) tapes from our store of more than 3.000 VHS tapes and (at home) transform the tapes into digital files which are then returned and stored on our NAS server. A very nice preservation work which also involves choosing the best copy among available different recordings and finding missing entries in TV series not to be found in the AFU archive.

On April 18 we were visited by **Pernilla Lexhagen**, **Karin Sahlborg** and **Rickard Andersson** from the local Museum of Work here in Norrköping: <http://www.arbetetsmuseum.se/about-the-museum/> A very nice exchange of ideas on funding and how, maybe, we could transform parts of the AFU archives into a museum in the future.

On May 9, we were visited by **Lara Andersson**, a young lady from the United States who wrote in our guest book: "I never dreamed I could see so many fascinating subjects gathered in one space! I'll make sure to pass the archives forward..." She did and wrote this blog post on Atlas Obscura about her visit to the unusual archive: <http://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/theres-a-huge-ufo-archive-hiding-in-these-swedish-apartment-cellars>

Friday May 13 saw what we believe was the first visit by an active researcher from *Finland*. Ufologist **Lasse Ahonen** was visiting friends in Sweden and took the chance to see the archives. He brought a number of Finnish UFO books as a donation from UFO-Finland and we discussed co-operation with digitizing our respective files of Finnish news clippings.



Lasse Ahonen, veteran ufologist from Finland



Toke Haunstrup is a senior environmental researcher with the Aalborg University and sometimes also a guest at the Linköping University in Sweden. He is also well known for his long-time association with the Scandinavian UFO Information (SUFOI) group in Copenhagen where he is a board member.

Danish ufologist Toke Haunstrup visited on June 8, the first visit by an active *Danish* ufologist (with experience from active report investigation). Toke manages the report alarm phone of the Danish Scandinavian UFO Information (SUFOI). In 2007 he published a thesis called "50 years of UFOs – knowledge from a half-century of report investigations": <http://www.sufoi.dk/e-boger/boger/50%20aar%20med%20ufoer.pdf> During the visit we discussed co-operation sharing digital files.

On July 5 we had the first of a series of visits by Kim Nilsson and members of the Swedish popular music group *Den Svenska Björnstammen*. Kim & the group is recording a series of films about the groups work, including one about seemingly ghostly manifestations and the local folklore around the Lunds farm which the group rent as living quarters. We have had several recording and discussion sessions at the archives with members of the group and the Archives for the Unexplained team. The project was recently financed by a local film fund.

On June 10 representatives of the Swedish Parapsychological Society (SPF) visited us to discuss a possible integration of their library and archives (in Stockholm) with the corresponding paranormal files of AFU. **Erik Nissen** and chairman **Göran Brusewitz** made a tour of the archives and we discussed trying to find a common facility. Background to this was a crisis of funding their present Stockholm basement facility. We found a place in Norrköping that could have been used but

that facility was deemed too costly. Eventually SPF has decided to let their own research fund pay for the present facility in Stockholm.

Emelie Rosenqvist, producer at the Swedish Radio in Stockholm, came to us on August 26 to start up a project by the drama section of the radio to produce a number of UFO Pods, dramatizations of known ufo-related cases. The project was realized in the winter and eight pods were produced, using well known Swedish actors. One reflection in hindsight on this project was that more emphasize could have been put on the more real Swedish stories and not the obviously faked foreign rumours.



Clas Svahn in his home with actor Moa Gammel (who contributed her voice to ufo witnesses) and producer Emelie Rosenqvist.

A bus with of 13 archives people from the Jönköping Archives of People's movements (JFA) arrived in the morning of September 20. Headed by **Lars Östvall**, they were on a two-day tour through archives in this region. After AFU their tour continued to the National Archives department in Vadstena.

Two Danish radio journalist students came to us for recordings on October 3. **Katrine Volsing** and **Jacob Rützou** are students at the Danish School of Journalism in Aarhus and came by car to interview us and have a tour of the archives.

Another film & tv-producer, Mathias Rosberg from Malmö, came to us on the next day, October 4.

Karl-Arne Blom, UFO-Sweden member from Tiveden, visited the archives on October 13. A couple of years ago he was unemployed for some time and then helped AFU digitize a couple of British news clipping collections.

Saturday October 22 the archives were visited by four members of the “Snippy” study ufo group of Stockholm. Yes, the Snippy name comes from the well-known Snippy horse mutilation case in 1967. **Karolina Hedström, Jenny Thåström, Karl Grandin** and **Sara Lundén** took a great interest in our work and bought books from the AFU Shop.



Scott Lloyd in front of the shelves on US ufology in our main library.

November 3-4 we had a two-day visit by **Scott Lloyd from Wales**. Scott is a folkloric and fortean researcher who just published “The Arthurian place names of Wales” and several other books on the Arthurian theme. *“Thank you for showing around your fantastic archive. It is without doubt the single most impressive resource for any historian of such matters. You have amassed, and most importantly, you have organised the material in a way that makes research a pleasure. I have managed to achieve more in two days here than several months of chasing down sources elsewhere. May the AFU continue to grow and prosper”.*

On November 10 we had a group of members of the local **STF-Bråvalla chapter** of the Swedish Tourist Association (STF), led by IT archivist **Lisa Hammar**, who works as the IT archivist with the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI) headquarters here in Norrköping.

Info requests and book loans

About 80 book titles were borrowed out of the reference library, mostly by local people. Loans sent by post is now close to the zero-mark due to the high costs for shipping with Swedish post. The library started out as a postal lending library in the

1970s when postal charges were low and when there was a discount system for culture purposes.

The foundation has one or two information requests each week from around the world. Archives are never sent on loan but could be copied or scanned. We also handle a fair number of requests for help with finding more exact references for information found. Often this concerns cases or rumours sloppily quoted on the internet or by indiscriminating “researchers”. *If everyone was careful with sources this would save us a lot of work.*

For more detailed and far-reaching information requests we can only inform the querying party that AFU does not have the resources for deep searches beyond the use of available indexes and collections which are in good order. You have to come here for a personal search.

Some examples of info requests during 2016:

- ▶ Several request from Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos (Project Fotocat) concerning Swedish and international photo cases.
- ▶ Copies/scans of several articles from parapsychological magazines sent to a Swedish researcher in that field.
- ▶ Many requests for materials on the George Adamski contact case (recurrent every year!)
- ▶ Making a large series of digital copies of books from the Australian QDV cult group available for a German researcher.
- ▶ Requests for copies/scans from Danish and Spanish report archives once deposited here by SUFOI (Denmark) and CEI (Spain).
- ▶ Helping a British donor-researcher with books needed for a writing project.
- ▶ Helping a Dutch researcher with download scans of a rare publication on UFO cases in Malaysia.
- ▶ Helping a US researcher with scans of one rare issue of a publication – in return we got paper copies of a large number of other issues of the same newsletter.
- ▶ Helping a US researcher with scans from a rare publication in our library.
- ▶ Helping a Swiss research group with scans of a rare “Billy” Meier booklet.
- ▶ Sending copies of eleven pages from a private correspondence file on a well-known Swedish psychic medium.
- ▶ Trying to find information in an Italian magazine, query from a researcher in Argentina. (Just to prove that some source information was – *again* – not correct).

Facilities

We rented a new storage facility from April 1. Here we will keep boxed-up surplus collections that cannot currently be displayed on shelves due to the general lack of space.

A possible new facility for our libraries was studied in July by Katarina and Anders at the local NTM media house. Learning about our meagre economy, interest from that landlord disappeared very quickly and we never got into serious talks.

In September, Anders studied a possible new facility some 500 meters from our cluster of facilities. This was in connection with talks with the Swedish parapsychologists (SPF) about a possible co-operation. Being too costly and geographically offside from our other facilities we decided not to go on with that project.

AFU has a crying need for more concentrated and larger areas for our 2,5 kilometers of shelves.

Cataloguing system

We had to postpone our previous plans for the acquisition of a computer system to be able to more, effectively catalogue, and publish our holdings on the web. For a discussion on this, see our Annual report for 2015.

In the summer, we had an indicative offer from one company supplying a well-known cataloguing software which would result in an annual cost of almost 10.000 Euros, something the foundation cannot carry. *What we need is too costly for us.* We will have to satisfy ourselves with the currently many different Microsoft Access databases.

New AFU magazine catalogue

A new magazine catalogue was produced and posted on our web on October 31. The new catalogue included the main part of the BSR magazines that arrived here in June. Another quick job done. Our files of magazines, journals and newsletters now amount to 73.845 single issues.

At the end of the year Anders started an ambitious and continuous "renovation" project in our magazine store and archive. With many people working on the collection in recent years, a lot of issues have been displaced and could not be found at the expected shelf according to the database. This revision of our collections will continue

country-by-country to make shelf contents compatible with the Access database.

Book libraries

At the end of 2016 we had about 29.500 catalogued books, distributed at three different facilities. Finding space on shelves for new incoming collections was and is a challenge.

We now have 197 shelf sections on our floors, mostly of the IKEA "Billy" type. Total library capacity is 885 meters. To save on space, this year we took out the third archival copy of each title in the "P" library (parapsychology and occultism). We temporarily file these copies in boxes kept in a new rented storage close to one of our libraries. This is the 13th facility.

Of 3.716 new titles the clear majority of books came from the library of Peter Rogerson.

These are the book tallies by donor: Peter Rogerson (2.304), Bob Rickard & CFI (450), Clas Svahn (195), Dag Kyndel (140), Ernst Linder (118), Mariana Hagberg (53), John Rimmer (49), Marc Hallet (47), Per Andersen (43), Carl-Anton Mattsson (22), the heirs of astronomers Lars-Olof and Kerstin Lodén (21), Ole Brønne (21), Anders Palm (17), Håkan Blomqvist (15), Steve Gamble (14), Rose Ericsson (13), Steve Moore (12) and Bill Jones (10).

Further on, seven new titles each were donated by Denis Plunkett (UK) and Andrea Wendin Hahne and six titles each by Gerard Aartsen (Netherlands), Lasse Ahonen (Finland) and Ceril Forslund. Other book donations (1-5 books, often also magazines and magnetic media) came from Sven Andersson, Roger Brunstad, Håkan Ekstrand, Didier Gomez (France), Kaj Hahne, John Hanson (UK), Stefan Johansson, Matthias Larsson, Lennart Lundh, Mikael Sjöberg, Glenn Steckling (USA), Gunn Wennerholm, Tatjana and Ulf Westman, and many others. Some other books received in 2016 were not catalogued until 2017.

Picture library

We were not able to find any permanent work force to engage in the much-needed work on digitizing our picture and illustrations library. Sadly, this meant that the picture library project was at a stand-still this year. We are thinking of designing a more elaborate project to seek money from some Swedish fund.

UFO-Sweden at AFU

Sweden being a long-stretched country the national UFO group has a rotating pattern of board meetings around the country. This year two meetings took place at AFU headquarters, on April 2 and November 13.

Employees & apprentices

The eight-year *époque* of government-paid work forces at AFU will be over in 2017. On May 25, Anders and Katarina took part in the very last “provider” exhibition at the local unemployment office.

Five persons were employed with full salaries during the year.

Leif (our digitizing wizard) returned to us on March 1 after eight months of absence. With grief, we had to let him go on June 30, 2015 after the unemployment office refused him, and us, continued subsidies for his “new start” job place.

The reason for this was that the AF had instituted a new rule – without informing any of its contractual partners – that “someone connected to the board of his employee” could not have this kind of “new start” subsidies. The AFU board protested and started a court case with the local Administrative Court, which AFU won in April. The court remitted our case back to the AF office “for new decision”.

Meanwhile, the local AF office had capitulated under the pressure of Leif’s complaints. On February 4, Leif and Anders met with a representative of the unemployment service. Leif was offered another type of subsidized job, and Leif returned to us on March 1. Despite this, the national AF office took the court case AFU had won to a higher court level and a decision from them is expected in the spring of 2017.

Irene (also digitizing department) was employed throughout the year and we managed to have her subsidies prolonged with one year from February 1. Her term with us will end on January 31, 2017.

Katarina (AFU shop) has been with us on a “new start” job subsidy and we prolonged that contract throughout the year.

Kerstin (working with our libraries) also had her subsidized work place prolonged with one year, lasting until June 2017.

Johan had his one-year project period with us ending on June 30. We managed to extend this with three months. AFU’s part of the salaries was paid for by UFO-Sweden since Johan mainly worked for the UFO-Sweden report centre and other UFO-Sweden board projects. Now out of work, after September 30, Johan has continued as a daily volunteer at the archives.

In November, a new budget for 2017 made it evident that we could not continue to pay salaries after April 30 next year without a huge monthly loss to the foundation. Due to this we warned our three employees that they might be without work by that time.

After this, several of our old sponsors have done a lot to improve our economic situation. We have recruited new private sponsors, including a donation of 100.000 SEK to secure operations for a short period time. Continuity is essential to us so this gives us a respite.



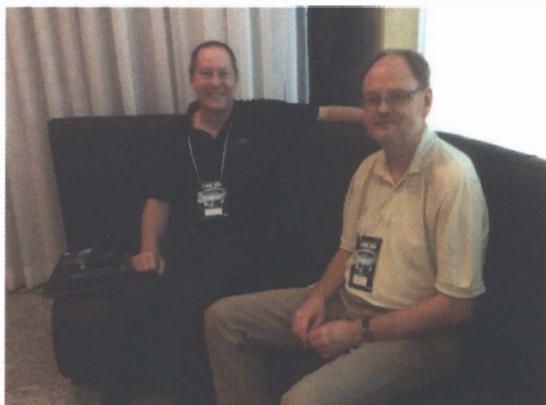
From a page of the article in Ping Magazine: “Johan Gustavsson is hired as investigator at AFU and checks out every report as thoroughly as possible”.

Media & public appearances

There were about 15 articles in the Swedish press where the archives were mentioned, mostly in

interviews with UFO-Sweden's Clas Svahn, who is also the chairman of AFU.

There were several international presentations of the archives work, like in the British *Fortean Times* (issue 330), "Saving Private Forteana", and in the *American Libraries* magazine (issue 3 for 2016).



AFU chairman met MUFON chairman Jan Harzan at a UFO conference in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on December 1. Clas was there to give the Brazilian audience an overview of AFU, Swedish ufo research and the Ghost Rocket phenomenon.

Ghost Rockets project

We have continuously worked to try to improve the www.ghostrockets.se web site with new translations of Swedish military documents from the archives. Fredrik Aldhagen (from AFU's Aktema team) and Thomas Michanek (from UFO-Sweden) helped greatly on this.

Paid for by the Ghost Rocket documentary film team, and their associates, the site has been tailor-made by a group of programmers connected to a Danish professional IT group.

For copyright reasons the program code cannot be migrated to another server. We are considering the possibility of having the translations – *with so many hours of work put into them* – copied into a simpler Wiki-like database. In this fashion, the important translation work may not disappear although the possibility to present GR sightings on a map may go away.

The GR web site project had a too high and too optimistic ambition as compared to the available resources in the form of money and informed work forces to spend time on creating a reliable historical web site. The project also had serious reliability problems during the development phase such as uploaded translations suddenly and "inexplicably" disappearing.

Co-operation

Aktema is a Norrköping community project to support young people with disabilities and to integrate them at professional work places. Aktema has an annual lunch for providers of such places (AFU is one of them). Katarina and Anders took part of the April 28 lunch at the Louis de Geer concert hall with award ceremonies.

On May 24, a warm and beautiful summer's day, Anders, Katarina and Kerstin took part in a meeting organized by ÖLFA, the east-Swedish association of about forty local archives. We went to the Museiservice (Museum Service) store in Gusum to see all products they offer (costly, though) for good archival safekeeping, and we also visited the beautiful coastal place Gryt and its community history center. A lovely day in our archipelago.



An attentive audience of archives people listening to information on how to best handle archives collections by storing it in acid-free boxes & materials and (in the center) a "rescue station" with all sorts of things needed in case of emergency at an archive (e.g. flooding).

Staff's social get-togethers

The annual mini golf tournament took place on August 16 and some twenty co-workers took part in the Christmas lunch celebration at one of the local hotels on December 16.

The AFU Shop

The AFU Shop, which started in early 2014, enjoyed its third full year with a slightly increased revenue (70.528 SEK, or roughly 9.000 USD).

With more PR and publicity, and sale campaigns, the potential for the shop is maybe in the range of 100.000 SEK per year. The increasing exchange rate for the US dollar against Swedish SEK played in our

hands but maybe also affected the number of sales.



Katarina Hampusson manages the AFU Shop. Pictured here in the beautiful summer surroundings of the Gryt community historical center, which we visited on May 24.

The shop now has some 130 customers spread all around the world. During the year, Katarina handled about 175 orders for books, magazines and other things, 114 of which from the AFU Shop, and the remaining 61 were handled for UFO-Sweden's on line sale of books, magazines and the Ghost Rockets DVD. The number of variants on sale (book editions, individual magazine issues) was 7.299 at the end of the year. The shop has an acute need for more space

Our visions for the future

Our visions for 2022 are:

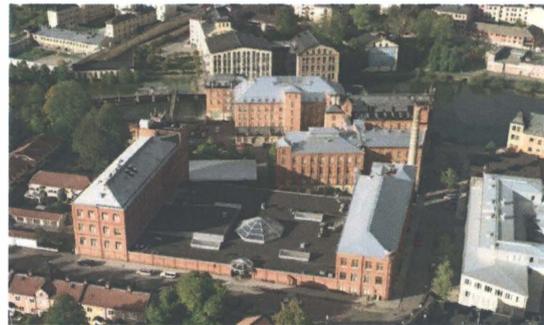
1. to have found several permanent ways of financing AFU through:

- a)** a combination of several private millionaire/billionaire benefactors to provide needed basic working capital;
- b)** an increased number of steady European and International sponsors to, each one, set aside between 10 and 100 Euros (or equivalent) per month for the archives basics;
- c)** having learned the techniques of applying for grants and project support from private and government funds;
- d)** having started and gotten experiences from crowd-funding projects directed at very specific preservation projects;
- e)** developing the AFU shop, also with sales of pictures, pictures rights and promotional goods in

an archive open for visitors including a museum area for the unexplained.

2. to have centralized all our collections in one building where they

- a)** can be handled efficiently, largely within the confines of that building;
- b)** can be stored in archive-friendly environments that meet standard requirements for different kinds of materials (temperature, humidity, etc);
- c)** meet the needs from our personnel for silent, single rooms for concentrated work, and areas for social interaction;
- d)** meet the needs for areas for effective acceptance and sorting of arriving new collections;
- e)** meet reasonable needs from visiting international researchers and internships.



Centre of Norrköping with 50+ century-old industrial buildings that once housed a lively Swedish textile industry. This is where we would like to be, close to the river and with our full collections in one building. At present there are about a dozen facilities available for renting in these houses – for the one who can pay!

3. to have established a permanent, skilled staff of at least 4-5 persons who can

- a)** maintain and develop a good historical knowledge of the paranormal and unexplained phenomena,
- b)** each of them specialize in, and cover, basic functions at the archives (e.g. books & magazines libraries, picture library, the building of personal archives & cataloguing, web site & digitization, sales & economy),
- c)** organize work-training and subsidized jobs for several people with physical and/or psychic disabilities.

Norrköping, Sweden, August 22, 2017


Clas Svahn


Anders Liljegen


Håkan Blomqvist


Carl-Anton Mattsson