

Archives for the unexplained – Archives for UFO research (AFU) Annual report 2017

New job scheme

The problems of a financial and logistical nature that we reported in detail in our Annual Report for 2016 remained the same during 2017. Last year's report gave a good summary of these daily problems – so please refer to the 2016 report.

The good change this year came in the “human resources” field. In May 2017 the Swedish government decided that so called “Extra Jobs” could be allowed in the cultural and non-profit sectors - not only at government and community work-places.

From July 2017 we signed an agreement for four such “extra job” positions at AFU. Since the autumn, several previous co-workers have returned to work for us under the new scheme. The new scheme gives us 100 % return on salary costs, when hiring someone who has been long-term out of the regular job market.

Unlike the previous scheme the new does not, however, give us any compensation for the costs of work facilities, computers and the regular running costs for materials we need. This we must pay from money we collect from donors, funds and from the proceeds on AFU Shop sales. The “extra job” scheme is a government-political decision that could just be abolished under a new government. There are uncertainties about what will happen after the 2018 autumn election.

Paper archives projects

During the year two important new international archival projects were started and planned at AFU.

The Gordon Creighton-Flying Saucer Review correspondence files were given hundreds of hours of attention by board member Anders Liljegren. The project has (actually) run every summer season since 2014 but was boosted during 2017 to try to get the files into a final & researchable order, hopefully by the end of 2018, or in 2019.

What remains to integrate are essentially the parts digitized in 2013-14 for the FSR board (delivered on a hard disc to them) and the file of photos-pictures (digitized previously for Gordon Creighton by Clas Svahn).

Creighton's enormous correspondence, background materials and manuscripts should all be sorted and catalogued in a database to help researchers. The material also includes manuscripts for articles that seemingly went unpublished by the FSR, despite Creighton's statements (in letters to some correspondents) that “we publish everything”.



Gordon Creighton lived and worked on several continents as a British diplomat. He claimed to be able to understand twenty different languages (including Chinese and Russian) and kept a network of probably close to a thousand regular correspondents, world-wide.



Working with the Gordon Creighton files, arranging the materials in file folders by correspondents and by subjects. There are now thousands of folders awaiting a final sort, to be filed in acid-free boxes, and finally to be catalogued.

The Borderland Sciences Research Association-Foundation (BSRA-BSRF) files, which arrived from California in August 2016, occupy a good part of our shelves in our reception room since then, “clogging our system” and temporarily stopping the reception of some new collections from (in particular) Britain.

Board member Håkan Blomqvist, with a long & deep interest and background in the esoteric aspects & connections of ufology has taken on the project to arrange the BSRA-BSRF files in a way very similar to the projected Creighton-FSR archive. His findings, so far, attest to the uniqueness of the AFU collection.

It is our hope to – at least in important parts – finalize both of these extremely interesting archives for visiting researchers during 2018 and 2019. *These two projects are priorities to us, putting some other (also worth-while) projects in second place.*

Economy

In 2015 and 2016, Larry Frascella from Pennsylvania, USA, kindly donated a total of 60.000 USD for the archives work and paid for the shipping of the BSRA-BSRF collection across the Atlantic. The positive effects of Larry’s generous support, *for a big part temporarily invested in share funds*, was particularly noticed during the summer of 2017. You could literally say Frascella’s donations saved us from disaster.

From the spring, subsidies for job-projects from the *Swedish Public Employment Service* no longer generate money that can be used for other things than just to pay for wages.

We have paid parts of our rents (not financed by our regular sponsors) and some regular costs (like electricity and archival materials) from funds saved up. A total of 60.000 SEK (USD 7.000) were lifted out of our funds to sustain regular costs during the second half of the year. The year ended with an annual loss of 112.000 SEK (USD 13.000) in our accounting books. *No one has ever claimed that keeping up an archive could be a commercial business.*

At the end of 2017 AFU has funds of about 427.000 SEK (USD 53.000) in Nordea equity and bond funds. (Please note that our official, balanced accounts reveal a slightly smaller sum since we are only allowed to consider what was originally invested, not the current market value).

Sponsorships

At a basic level, AFU depends on a pool of about 40–45 regular private sponsors, to pay for rents and the electricity for our basement facilities. Our two ground-floor facilities are *unfinanced*, adding with other expenditures to a continued monthly loss.

Accounted sponsorships gave us a total of 295.241 SEK (USD 37.000) divided between
a) sponsorships from the board and members of the advisory board 74.541 SEK (USD 9.300);
b) sponsorship from UFO-Sweden 38.850 (USD 4.800) and
c) other donors 182.250 SEK (USD 22.900).



The AFU board. From left to right: Anders Liljegren, Håkan Blomqvist, Clas Svahn, Tobias Lindgren, Carl-Anton Mattsson and Johan Gustavsson.

Included in these sponsorships were several *outstanding donations* like 100.000 SEK (USD 12.500) from an anonymous Swedish donor. Our chairman Clas Svahn donated remuneration from his work with the Swedish Radio blog project (6.000 SEK = USD 750) and his self-financed collection tour to the UK (reported below, 8.788 SEK = USD 1.100).

A downloadable summary list of all donations 1993–2017 can be found at: http://www.afu.se/afu2/?page_id=318. Please consider becoming a regular sponsor of the AFU foundation to help keep it alive! We need you more than ever!

Clas Svahn organizes a continuous collection of money among people he meets in ufology, through his professional work, and at public meetings. Through this collection, some 90 donors gave a total of 62.888 SEK (USD 7.800). *These are not yet accounted for in the AFU accounting this year – nor in the downloadable list – since the project hasn’t found a natural point of stop, yet.* This money was used, in parts, to buy items and parts from the Joe Fex archive after ufologist Wendelle Stevens

(1923–2010). *These donations will be accounted for in 2018 when the project has closed.*

From June 2017 Anders Liljegen pays all costs for broadband connections used at the AFU offices since this is another of the “non-financed” costs in our new budget. He also pays for a lot of regular office stationery costs and the costs for keeping our accounting on the Fortnox web site where it can be shared with our new auditors.

New auditing

2016 was the first year with a more professional auditing of the AFU foundation, creating a new cost item in our books. Auditing cost us 36.000 SEK (USD 4.200), almost as much as we spent on acquiring and shipping new collections.

The better auditing will secure the quality of our work and ensure economical transparency for all future donors.

From 2016, professional auditing is also a government requirement for most Swedish foundations and for an official registration under Swedish laws. The foundation has been registered (May 2018), also with some added annual costs (for registration and control procedures).

Investments

2017 saw few investments, adopting to the changed economy. The only investment for the coming few years were 700 acid-free archival boxes and 5.000 acid-free file folders (8.721 SEK, about USD 1.000). Materials of this kind is essential for keeping the paper collections in a good and workable order. That kind of basic order is also a pre-requisite for digitizing.

For 2018, we are planning to invest in a second NAS server unit, like the one we already have (which has a capacity of up to 40 terabytes for keeping digital files).

Our present NAS is not even “half-full”, but we have identified a critical physical security problem with keeping all our files *at one place, and in one building*, although it is with internal raid back-up for the data. We need a backup NAS at a completely different geographical place to mirror our main unit. This project has a priority the next year.

Acquired & donated collections

In all, about 25 persons and organizations donated collections or parts of collections to the AFU archives and libraries. AFU spent 39.851 SEK (roughly USD 4.600) on acquiring new collections and transporting them to Sweden.

This does not include the cost of acquiring parts of the Wendelle Stevens collection which has been advanced privately by our chairman and through special collections that will be accounted for in 2018 (see above).

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 “Other book collection” section, below.

This year’s annual collection tour to the British Isles (and northern Europe) took place in October. Our board members Clas Svahn and Carl-Anton Mattsson left Sweden on October 2nd, returning in Sweden ten days later.

As usual, Clas and Carl-Anton toured the British towns and landscapes, this year in a new Toyota after the engine break-down last year of Clas’s old Toyota (which had to left in the UK). Since there are no longer any *passenger* ferries between Scandinavia and the UK the tour must go via Hoek van Holland and Harwich.

As is now the tradition they used Bob Rickard’s London house as a focal point where collected materials were repacked in uniform boxes for the cross-North Sea shipment.

Clas & Carl-Anton met with a number of British ufologists and paranormalists: Eileen Lloyd, Lionel Beer, Peter Rogerson, Alan Foster, Busty Taylor, Nigel Watson, Valentine & Damien Ward, John Rimmer and Isaac Koi.

On the road back from the UK they also met with Wim van Utrecht in Antwerp. Finally, 127 boxes were loaded outside Bob Rickard’s house to go by Schenker on a cargo ferry across the North Sea.

Sending archive collections across the North Sea is usually trouble-free *except for the tricky part of arranging the very pick-up in the city of London.* This year the Schenker group failed vastly by sending no lorry until reminded of the pre-arranged deal by phone calls to their support - late in the evening and outside office hours. The continued problems with the London pick-ups

makes us consider finding some smaller entrepreneur with more quality thinking for that part of the shipment.



Carl-Anton Mattsson and Bob Rickard with two ready-packed pallets of 127 boxes outside Bob's house in London.

As this is being written in 2018, two of the people Clas and Carl-Anton met in the UK are already gone from this world.

Eileen Lloyd (born Buckle) died on November 13, 2017. During the early 1970s, she was an assistant editor for the *Flying Saucer Review*, and worked with her husband Dan with the magazine. She wrote "The Scoriton mystery" in 1967. Big parts of Eileens UFO-related files are now in safety in the London basement of Bob Rickard, ready to go to Norrköping, thanks to the work of Clas Svahn and Lionel Beer.



Peter Rogerson in his full-stacked storage of books before most of what you see was shipped over to AFU.

Also, dead is Peter Rogerson, whose big and broad-minded library will be housed as an integrated part of the 30.000+ volume AFU library. Peter died on March 6, 2018. Rogerson was the book reviewer with *Magonia Magazine*. He must have been one of the most well-read and knowledgeable intellectuals in the small circle of people who might title themselves as "ufologists".

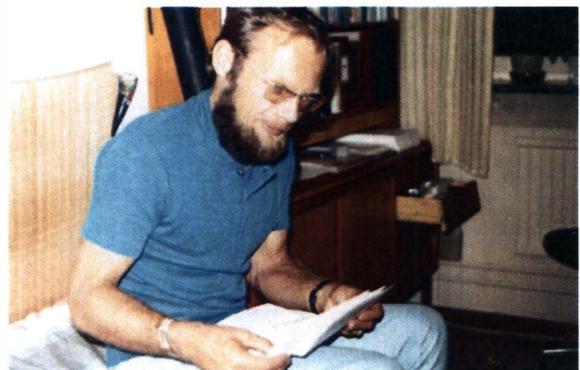
Clas Svahn wrote an English obituary on his blog: <http://csblogg.ufo.se/csblogg3/?p=49300>

These two samples show how we always balance on a thin line. Every day, we risk losing collections that might be important to our future understanding of UFO's and other paranormal phenomena. The intellectual level of many current internet sites is often light-weight compared to the life-long work and collected files from investigators and "thinkers" in the paranormal field. There can be nothing more worthwhile and respectful to these people than to try and save their work for future generations. Sometimes we might be regarded as "pushy" but in our experience this is a needed approach.

A third example of a large collections saved this year came from Norway. Knut Aasheim, a ufologist veteran, well known in Scandinavia, died on May 4, 2017. Clas Svahn and Knut had corresponded for years. In his letters Clas made it clear that AFU was interested to take on his collection at some distant time in the future.

Knut was survived by two daughters, but it took them more than four months to locate this correspondence while cleaning out their father's home. They were extremely happy to finally find AFU which has now become a new home for their father's dearest papers.

On September 24, Clas Svahn and Ole Brønne (member of our International Advisory Board) met with daughters Kristin and Helen, and their families, in Knut's former home north of Oslo. They packed more than 100 bags of books, magazines and other materials, possibly 450 kilos aimed for AFU. Knut's clipping collection, started in the 1950s, might prove especially valuable as well as some of his correspondence with US contactees.



Knut Aasheim as a young ufologist, here photographed by AFU board member Håkan Blomqvist when Knut visited Stockholm in the 1970s.

In December 2016, Clas Svahn visited a UFO conference in Brazil where he met A.J. Gevaerd, publisher of the major Brazilian UFO magazine. As a result, Gevaerd and his colleagues donated a more complete set of the magazines they have published throughout decades.



Many kilos of Brazilian magazines kindly donated by the publishers to complete the AFU collection. AFU paid for the shipping from Brazil to Sweden.

As reported above, AFU continued to buy into parts of surviving collections from US ufologist Wendelle Stevens (1923–2010), in the possession of US citizen Joe Fex. We are getting some very rare documents, files and recordings from the Stevens files related to old contactees like Georg Adamski and Billy Meier.

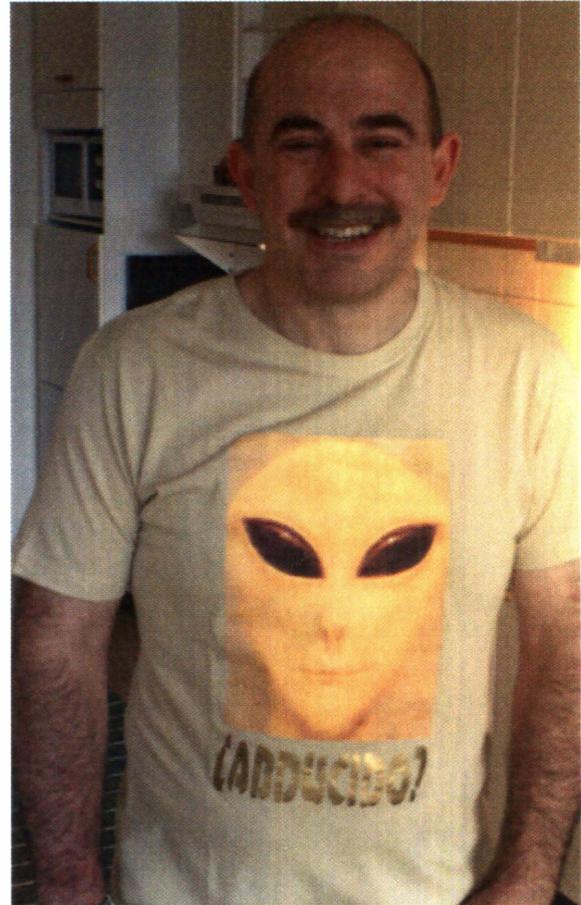
Spanish ufologist and historical researcher Luis Gonzalez Manso donated 23 boxes (320 kilos) of correspondence, magazines, videos, monographs and various other things. Also, in this case, AFU paid for the trans-Europe shipment from the south-Spanish town of Malaga. The shipment even included two boxes full of toys for our future museum!

Stichting Het Johan Borgman Fonds (HJBF) in the Netherlands made another major donation of materials. The HJBF fund works professionally with taking care of collections in the parapsychology and esoteric fields in Holland. Clas Svahn and Niklas Svahn were able to fetch about 20 heavy boxes of magazines and books which are yet to be catalogued (during 2018).

Other book donations

Some other (main) collections this year came from Berit & Borne Lundgren, Bertil Falk (a large collection of SF magazines), Carl-Anton Mattsson (books he finds while working for a second-hand book shop), Cerild Forslund, Clas Svahn (many

newly published books), Denis Plunkett and Ernst Linder.



Luis Gonzalez Manso, one of this year's major donors, visited us in 2013 to help us sort out and catalogue the (then) just received large collections from the disbanded Spanish national organization Centro de Estudios Interplanetarios (CEI).

Also from Lars-Olof & Kerstin Lodén (deceased Swedish astronomers), Lennart Lund, Ingvar Damm, Loes Modderman (Netherlands), Marc Hallet (Belgium, continuing his donations from previous years), the heirs of Nils Bark, Steve Gamble (UK), Anders Palm, Kristina Hallind, Jane Tuersley and Vladimir Rubtsov (the Ukraine). In the avalanche of all things we have probably forgotten one or two. Sorry for that.

Many publishers of books and booklets make it a good habit to regularly send AFU one or two copies of their newly published works! Please continue. Thanks to all of you!

Digitizing projects

AFU continued to digitize parts of our magazine collection, a work we do in co-operation with London lawyer Isaac Koi who co-ordinates inter-continental digitization efforts with ufologists and researchers all over the world. He also makes

contacts with former editors of journals and newsletters to attempt to have their permissions to put the digitized magazine up for public download, for instance on the AFU web site.

During 2017 Isaac Koi worked with AFU employees Leif and Irene on this project and some of the results can be reviewed at the web address: <http://files.afu.se/Downloads/>

During 2017 we digitized many small-run newsletters and magazines, but also made complete digitizations of our holdings of Flying Saucer Review, Lumieres dans la Nuit and we started out on the (US) Fate Magazine. Sometimes we try do a better work than what has been done previously (like for instance always aiming for OCR-searchable files).

Copyright restrictions prohibit us from sharing this material openly but as an archive we are now able to – very quickly – provide researchers with digital copies of *single issues or single articles needed*.

We are looking for some long-term sponsor(s) to economically help us keep a broad selection of downloadable files available on line. Round-the-clock availability and data storage at professional web hotels – with service and backups – cost money! We are also looking to preserve endangered web sites and to publish a Wikipedia of English translations of Scandinavian UFO cases, including the ghost rocket cases. All plans that need some help with funding.

As an alternative, we may have to grade materials by public interest to maybe *avoid* using storage space for the very rarest newsletters and documents that very few people would have an interest in. We could offer such materials by transferring files through the internet upon request, if there is an effective way of informing “what-we-have” and “what-we-don’t-have”. One such way is through our annual books and magazine catalogues, which are both now completed with columns for digital holdings.

The AFU centre maintains a large (internal) file system on a NAS server that now approaches 20 tera byte of data.

This includes *audio files* (19.000 files/4,6 Tb), *e-books & booklets* (2.500 files/12 Gb), *clipping collections* (760.000 files/587 Gb), *document collections* (300 files/1,2 Gb), *magazines & serial publications* (21.000 files/360 Gb), *manuscripts* (35 files/1,6 Gb), *photo library* (12.000 files/232 Gb),

UFO reports (21.000 files/136 Gb), *UFO research groups, organizations & individuals* (80.000 files/1,24 Tb), *video materials* (3.500 files/9.3 Tb), *saved web sites & web materials* (2.000 files/373 Mb).

There is also a growing more well-organized and more searchable *Photo Album* section on the NAS that includes 9.800 files and 950 Gb of data.

Since this mass of data includes a large percentage of copyrighted materials and sensible witness data & interviews we will *never* be able to provide researchers with an open access to everything but would kindly ask anyone interested to approach us for more details and a request for making a search for files that might include what you are looking for. The existence of materials in many different languages also provides another significant obstacle for sharing some of the data.

AFU employee Kent continued his work on digitizing and editing our large repository of audio-voice recordings. He is editing what has previously (2011–2016) been produced as “raw files” during our “unemployment projects”.

Parallel to this he is completing our Excel database of available recordings, where we will be able to search recordings more effectively by, for instance, names of those interviewed.

Lars Lidström of Uppsala is doing voluntary work with our 3.000+ video tapes, transferring worthwhile and special non-commercial recordings to digital format for upload on our NAS server.

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

Visitors

Some 100 persons signed our guestbook, including visitors from the US, Ireland, France, Germany, Denmark, Norway and (of course) all over Sweden. A growing number of international guests contribute to many visiting hotel nights for the local tourist industry.

AFU policy is to accept visits by anyone, but we cannot handle groups of more than ten/fifteen people at one time. In 2017 we started with a visitor’s fee of 50 SEK per person when we do group tours of one hour or more through our facilities. The fee is aimed at “the generally curious” visitors (or tourists), *not* at students and

serious researchers with defined research areas or some background in paranormal research.

Some quotes from written testimonies in our guest book: “Wonderful archive, wonderful people, you are doing a fantastic job”; “Very inspiring visit”; “Places like this makes you curious of the world we live in”; “The tour should be counted as a ‘must’ when visiting Norrköping”; “Thanks for a fantastic evening and the interesting and informative tour”, and so on.

Two international visitors were Frank and Karin Tautermann from Hamburg in Germany. We quote from their guest book entry in German: *“Herzlichen Dank für den Rundgang, es war sehr intressant, ich wollte das Archiv seit viele Jahren sehen, es ist grossartig! Ich werde viel darüber berichten, alles Gute und viel Erfolg mit dem weiteren Aufbau!”*. (January 4, 2018)

Another German visitor, Mattis Lühmann from Bremen, wrote: “Thank you for showing me around in the AFU and the three days of being free to spend time in the archive. There are so many interesting books, magazines and files which I could spend months with! I will definitely come back”. (August 9, 2017)

Facilities

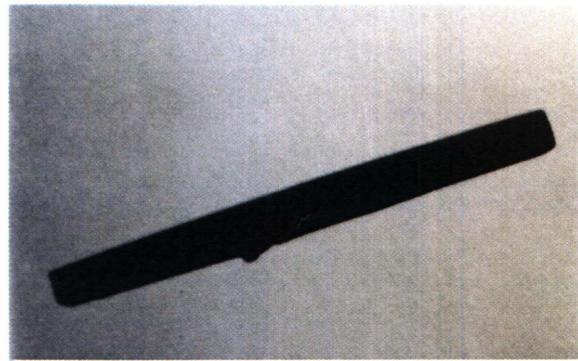
In February we approached a landlord owning a big former industrial area on the other side of Norrköping. Anders Liljegren was shown around in evacuated office & archives areas that would have fitted nicely with AFU’s basic requirements and where, possibly, the foundation could have found a new home base – even with expansion areas – under one single roof.

Trouble was we could not possibly pay the rent they were asking for and the facility was rather off-centre from public communications. Another problem developed later in the year when this estate was sold to a new developer who published plans to tear down parts of the area to build maybe 2.000 new flats.

If we ever are to move somewhere else, one of our first requirements would be to sign a *long-term contract* to stay in the new place for 15–20 years ahead! *Moving such a big collection is not what you do very often!*

Picture library

From October 1 our co-worker Irene returned to us. In previous periods she worked on clippings and magazines but now specializes in our photo & illustrations library. We started (more or less) anew on this project and co-worker Leif found a good system for handling pictures already available on our NAS server and that only needed to be implemented. The system allows for semi-professional handling of pictures – assigning searchable data like names, places and photo credits to each picture.



Joseph Ferriere took this photo in Cumberland, Rhode Island on July 3, 1967.

Irene’s first assignment was to convert and include, in the new picture library, the previous digitizing work done by Robert and Mattias (both no longer with AFU).

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 of their meetings took place at AFU headquarters in Norrköping, on April 29 and November 11. UFO-Sweden is a membership organization which had a nice increase of membership and subscribers during 2017, resulting from prime-time exposure twice on Swedish national television for the Ghost rocket documentary.

UFO-Sweden man up a national UFO report centre which has its daily base at AFU and investigates some 200 UFO-related sightings each year. AFU also handles & distribute – for UFO-Sweden – most orders for old books and UFO-Aktuellt magazines.

Employees & apprentices

The eight-year period of government-paid work forces – “phase three” – ended with the last participant leaving us in June. As is noted at the start of this report this program was replaced (by

the Swedish government) with a new program of "Extra Jobs". We could thus keep on to several trained people and also re-recruit others who have been with us before.

Five persons were employed and salaried by the foundation:

Leif continued his work co-ordinating and facilitating all of our digitization projects, while being the *primus motor* for the daily practical work on the scanning of old newsletters and journals. The court case from his previous work period ("new start job"), won by AFU, was brought to a higher court where AFU lost. We never bothered to take it further, despite the feeling that the case could have been won (back) at the third level. Sometimes we have to be careful with how we use our time and energy – and the local authorities had literally admitted wrong-doing by arranging for a new job form for Leif.

Irene left us in late January but returned on October 1 on a new "Extra Job" posting. This is 100 % sponsored by the Swedish Public Employment Service.

Katarina (AFU shop) worked on a "new start" job subsidy, prolonged throughout most of the year. Her term unfortunately ended in December, by a political decision to not allow for more than two years in that kind of sponsored program. She was replaced by our previous co-worker **Susanne**, starting from January 2018.

Kerstin (working with our library cataloguing and many other things) also had her subsidized work position prolonged with one year, to be renewed in June 2018.

Kenth (audio files digitizing and the UFO-Sweden report centre) continued on public funded job terms throughout the year. From January 2018 Kent continues on an "Extra Job" posting.

Johan (formerly employed by AFU) continued for periods between job assignments as a volunteer at the archives, working mainly with the UFO-Sweden report centre.

We had several apprentices, particularly from the community project Aktema, aimed to employ people with psycho-neurological troubles.

Fredrik A is now our old-timer from that project, working for years on our database of ghost rocket case translations (www.ghostrocket.se). Among a

number of young men **Fredrik V** and **Mattias** were the most persistent in this group, working on building a database of English translations of good and/or prominent Swedish-Scandinavian UFO cases.

The AFU weekly staff also consisted of **Sven Olov**, **Anders**, **Anci**, **Ingrid** and **Håkan** as volunteers

The AFU Shop

The AFU Shop, started in early 2014, had its fourth full year with increased revenue of 118.119 SEK, or roughly 14.000 USD. This was a raise by about 75 % which shows the potential but also means we need to have one person working full time on the shop.

One weekend in November we ran a successful "White weekend" winter sale campaign to sell off from our growing stock of second-hand books. During this weekend prices were reduced by 44 % (on books only) to celebrate AFU:s 44th year of existence.

The shop now has more than 200 customers spread all over the globe, even from far off places like Japan, Oman and New Zealand.

During the year, Katarina & Anders handled 176 orders for books, magazines and other things. Preparations took place to move parts of our stock of books into the digitizing facility and to build new shelves there.

Norrköping, Sweden, June 5, 2018



Clas Svahn



Anders Liljegren



Håkan Blomqvist



Carl-Anton Mattsson

Auditor's signature



Nils Linderfalk