

skywatch

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SKYWATCH

MAPIT SKYWATCH

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*****READERS LETTERS*****

Dear Mr. Rees,

Thank you for your letter of the 24th of July, plus the info re MAPIT. Being both a professional librarian, and an armchair ufologist, I have begun to concentrate my minor abilities along the lines of catering for the information needs of ufologists, regardless of their professional knowledge about information systems. Thus, I found your MAPIT handout most interesting.

You have already noted my ACUFOS Bibliography Service and an article I had in that journal re the information needs of ufologists. You may be aware also that ACUFOS has published a monograph recently by myself on "Information Storage and Retrieval for Ufologists" - a short (50+ page) simple introduction for those with large private collections of material along the lines of a "how to" control those collections. If you don't have a copy, let me know and I can send you a spare copy I have.

Future projects I will be doing include a "Who's Who in Australian (probably even Australasian) Ufology" (in 1981/1982) and a master bibliography (about 2000 entries) on UFO and related topics (in 1982/83). The latter will concentrate on monographs and articles in the general and popular periodicals, and will be the first volume in what I hope will be a series published every three years. Both of the above projects will be available as ACUFOS documents early in 1982 and 1983 respectfully.

Both the ACUFOS Bibliography Service and the master bibliography concentrate on the general mass periodicals and monographs as such references can be chased up by interested parties through traditional library services. However, I've had positive results in encouraging national and state UFO groups to send copies of their publications to our National Library of Australia and/or their state libraries in order to make their more specialist/research knowledg/efforts available to the public, as well as academics, etc.

Ufological (and related) information of importance exists in the popular public media; speciality (and often private) journals of very limited availability; and highly special items of which only 1 to 1/2 dozen copies may exist (such as unpublished papers, electronic media recordings, etc.). The bibliographies help assist in the general coverage (which no one person could ever hope to cover without some such assistance). Although ufologists should be familiar with the contents of speciality journals, these usually aren't indexed, nor are they usually available other than through UFO organisations. Thus, I have compiled an index to one Australian UFO journal (The A.C.O.S. Bulletin) which is available through ACUFOS, and to which copies of specific articles can be obtained, and as noted above, encouraged such organisations to send (gratis) their journals to public libraries.

The problem remains with how to deal with the very limited "one-off" special documents, etc. which are unpublished, unavailable to the public or other ufologists alike, yet which are important information resources. This is a question I'll be addressing in a paper to be given at UFOCON 7 here in Australia (Tasmania) in 1982, and I'll be proposing the formal formation of some sort of information network between ufologists, along the lines that exist between libraries. The accent will be on these special documents and materials. When (and if) individual ufologists and/or organisations have agreed to co-operate, and given listings of their special holdings to a central source, a master listing can be published, available to all interested parties. Such materials can either be then obtained by contacting the individual holder (either through purchase of a copy and/or exchange of copies) or through some central resource centre (to which individuals contribute copies and get credit for other materials in return and/or purchase outright). Which brings me to comment on MAPIT.

In principle, a central resource centre is a good idea, regardless whether the holdings are from general sources, speciality organisations, and/or unique materials; a sort of National Library of Ufology (and related). I see problems, however, in particular for Australia.

Australia has a small population and a large geographical area, such that "in person" access is difficult. Postage (for loans) will be large; charges for copies and postage will be high. With respect to photocopies, Australia has a new very tough Copyright Act, which applies to audio/video materials too. Further, such a centre would have to

to be located at a private individual's house (the cost of a separate building, rent, taxes, etc. being out of the question) which places a large burden in terms of storage maintenance, record keeping, personal time, etc. upon one person. I doubt such a centre would be viable enough in Australia such that somebody could be employed to run it.

Thus, for Australia at least, I see an information service that advises interested parties to make use of traditional information resource centre networks (libraries) for highly general/public materials; increases awareness for individual-speciality organisation interactions; and ufologist-ufologist interactions for those more unique materials. Thus, in Australia, I have filled a role of providing information about information, rather than having an Australian UFO Resource Centre providing information (which may yet come), for interested parties. Although I have tried, and will continue to try, to make information gathering easier for any person and/or organisations, by far and away the burden of effort remains on those persons and organisations to act upon what help I can provide.

Now England, with a much larger population (hence base of support) and smaller geographical area, might be able to have a viable resource centre (given that the practical problems of copyright, storage, costs, time, location, etc. are solved). I will be pleased to see such a project viable, and perhaps serve as a model for an Australian one in the future. Further, any support, advice, etc. you think I can give, please don't hesitate to ask. I would like, of course, to be kept informed as to your progress.

As to the future, with the increasing introduction of the "new technology", problems related to information storage and availability with respect to population density, costs, etc. will fall away, such that we will see not only national resource centres, but an international one, accessible through home telephone/computer networks! We can only hope and plan.

Best wishes for your MAPIT project. Hope to hear from you again in the near future.

Sincerely yours, John Prytz, Canberra City, Australia.....

Dear David,

Many thanks for the back issues of 'Skywatch'. I found them very enjoyable, full of titbits of information and interesting letters and articles. Personally, I find that pages of sighting reports are extremely dull and boring; fortunately your magazine is free of them. I long for a real breakthrough in ufology, something new and exciting, some real physical evidence that proves Ufos beyond any doubt; but must say I don't hold out much hope of that in the near (or even distant) future. In one issue you seem to be taken in by the Betty Hill abduction (reviewing 'The Interrupted Journey'). I should point out that the whole story has been thoroughly demolished several times;= the original hypnotist Dr. Simon has stated clearly that the whole thing was nothing more than a fantasy; the much publicised star map which was referred to briefly by Carl Sagan in his Cosmos TV series, is not worth the paper it is written on. Why ufologists continue to place such faith on this case I cannot imagine, but it is laid to rest fully by Robert Sheaffer in 'The Ufo Verdict'. Of course it would be lovely if we really had a cast iron CE3 case with physical traces, but alas this just has not happened. I look forward to reading your magazine and would like to subscribe to the next six issues.

Best wishes to your magazine. Chris Allan, Alsager, Stoke-on-Trent.....

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+++++ MAPIT NEWSDESK +++++

Welcome to another issue of Skywatch - on with the news:

The Festival of Mind, Body and Spirit will be held in London at Olympia from the 19th to 27 June 1982. Details from 159 George Street, London, W1H 5LB.....

Sad notice from Nigel Pennick during October to the effect that the Institute of Geonantic Research's magazine 'Ancient Mysteries' has ceased publication. However, the IGR will continue with its excellent Occasional Papers and Walrus - official organ of the non-material world.....

I spotted an interesting advert in the Manchester Evening News dated 30th September. I quote, "Ufo Car as used in TV series - one of only two in the world for sale. Huge gull wing doors LHD, 1600 cc - needs some attention - MOT 12 months and taxed 6 months. - £2,600 ono. Blackpool 824057." Commander Straker must need the money! I'll stick to my Ford Mustang Mach 1.....

Interesting-looking TV project to look out for from the States is the Hopeful Transfer from the written word of Phillip Jose Farmer's science fantasy series of four novels 'Riverworld'. The storyline takes place along the banks of a 20 million mile river; all the humans who ever lived on earth have been resurrected, not by divine intervention but by unknown extraterrestrial beings, for their own mysterious purpose. The humans in their effort to unravel the mysteries of the seemingly endless river, wish to journey to the headwaters and confront the ethicals, the being who built this world and raised mankind from the dead. Production will start on this series during 1982.....

Books to look out for are: Michelle Remembers by Michelle Smith and Dr. Lawrence Pazder, Sphere Books - published 25th February 1982 - £1.75. This book is the story of a five-year-old child given to a group of satanists for their most horrifyingly evil ritual - to be delivered into the hands of the antichrist. Other Worlds by Paul Davies, published by Abacus - £1.95 on the 25th March, 1982. Recently published are: The Mask of Time by Joan Forman, Corgi Books - £1.50 - an attempt to explain phenomena such as Deja-vu, Time Slips, Life after Death and Reincarnation. Lost Worlds by Alastair Service, Colling - £9.95. Easter Island, Pompeii and Stonehenge amongst others.....

The Northern Festival of Answers, Insights and Revelations takes place at the Leeds Exhibition Centre, Queens Hall from April 8th to the 13th 1982. If you require details write to The Future Studies Centre, 15 Kelso Road, Leeds, LS2 9PR or telephone Leeds 459865.....

Two more recently published books worth a look at are: The Case for Life after Death by Raymond Bayless and Elizabeth McAdams, published in the States by Nelson-Hall. Also the Directory of Discarded Ideas by John Grant, described as a collection of dotty cosmologies. The thoughts of Clancarty, Gladstone and Shaw amongst many others makes it light reading.....

The Supernaturalist is the name of 'another' new magazine - this one published by Andy Collins. The first issue out early November was a bumper issue of over 60 pages and a price of £1.50 per issue. The subject matter will I feel be very much an acquired taste but nevertheless of much interest to many. To obtain issue Number 1 write to: 19 St. David's Way, Wickford, Essex, SS11 8EX.....

Surfs to be required reading for Forteanis is Leslie Fiedler's new book entitled 'Freaks' (Penguin Books - £4.95). Sufferers of Congenital Hypertrichosis Lanuginesa or long hair all over the body are the theme of the book. Unfortunates like Jo-Jo the dog-faced boy, Lionel the lion-faced man and Julia Pastrana, billed as the ugliest woman in the world can be found in its pages.....

Devon UFO News is the name of a new magazine ;being produced by the Plymouth UFO Investigation Centre. For details write to: Eric Morris, 17 Wilkinson Road, St. Budeaux, Plymouth, Devon. PL5 1DF.....

Interested in Spiritualism? If so then look out for a new book with the unusual title of 'A Kalox Marvellous Yawn' by Zaid Iba, due out in February 1982 by New Horizon - £5.50.....

The Editor of the LeyHunter, Paul Devereux has a new book out this year called 'Earth Lights' (Turnstone - October 1982) Also busy at the typewriter has been Janet and Colin Bord, new title from them this spring by Granada entitled 'Earth Rites'.

I would like to wish all readers a belated happy new year. 1981 was a busy year for Mapit, seeing the establishing in May of the resource centre. Progress has been steady and I would like to thank all individuals who have supported it with material and donations. I would like to make a plea to any kind-hearted readers that the centre still (and will always) require old and new material. If you have any old books magazines, newsletters, clippings, etc. you no longer require and would like to put them to good use - then we would like to hear from you.....

If a cross appears on the following line your membership subscription with Mapit and Skywatch has run out with this issue..... ~~Rates on back page. Payment only by ~~cash~~ unaddressed postal order.~~.....

David Rees.

DATABANKS FOR UFO RESEARCH

Peter A Hill

BUFORA COUNCIL MEMBER; PICUR CHAIRMAN

INTRODUCTION

The concept of comprehensive databanks, adequately indexed for research, is long overdue in ufology. Those responsible for initiating such facilities at Nottingham and Stockport are to be congratulated both for identifying a need and for putting in the practical effort.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONCEPT

To develop the databank concept, a number of developments are needed:

- (a) those already set up need the active support of all British ufologists; here is a practical outlet for the improved co-operation among us in the 1980s;
- (b) more such centres are required - initially, one each in London, Scotland and Wales, providing a network of five, spread throughout the country;
- (c) An invaluable move would be to associate each centre with a University, informally at first. Later, Universities might find a need to use such facilities or even incorporate them into University Libraries. Nottingham is well placed; Stockport could seek links with Manchester University. London is a natural site, while a Welsh centre could be at Aberystwyth and a centre for Scotland at either Edinburgh or Glasgow. Although a long-term move, this could be invaluable in later years;
- (d) full advantage needs to be taken of electronic technology. Data and indices should be stored on computing facilities. Common hardware and software would enable each centre to send and receive data from all. Such developments are starting to make a strong case for the coming together of all British UFO Societies into one Federation, whilst retaining much local autonomy. Those not wanting to work together will cut themselves off from central information and services;
- (e) finally, in addition to data and information, equipment could be stored in such centres which is too expensive for each local group. FUFOR have made much useful study of such things as measuring apparatus. A resource centre could hold such items as infra-red photographic equipment, radiation monitors etc and also be a centre for telex, word processing, Prestel, microprocessor and 24-hour telephone reception.

FUNDING THE CONCEPT

The main problem is financial. Again, co-operation would save much expensive duplication and waste of time. But this alone would not produce the funds required. There are various funds available, for which one can apply. Researching these would be a useful project in itself. Recruitment of more members can also bring in funds. There is little doubt that there is a pool of potential members who are not aware of the UFO research bodies. This is supported by the fact that people often join at a public lecture, saying that they were previously unaware of such a body.

A little spent on advertising could be a good investment. In addition, publicity can be obtained free by correspondence in newspapers, posters on cars, in shop windows and the like. A useful source of free publicity is notice-boards in Colleges and Universities. These are well read by intelligent young people, a proportion of whom are potentially the future ufologists.

SUMMARY

Resource centres are established at Nottingham and Stockport, to provide UFO research workers with databanks for their studies. Development of this concept into a national system would be an invaluable aid to British ufology and is a test of the new spirit of co-operation. Support by all is urged strongly, in the interests of our field of investigation.

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@@@@@@ ADVERTISEMENTS @@@@@@

FORESIGHT: A bi-monthly magazine dealing with spiritual evolution of humanity and promoting a philosophy to encourage a greater spiritual awareness of the true spirit of the new age. Single issues: 41p; 6 issue sub: £2.34p. Write to: John Barklam, 29 Beaufort Ave., Hodge Hill, Birmingham, C34 6AD.....

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THE LEY HUNTER: Edited by Paul Devereux, details from: PO Box 13, Welshpool, Powys, Wales.....

FORTEAN TIMES: required reading, edited by Bob Rickard, 4 issues £4.00 from: BM - Fortean Times, London WCLN 3XX.....

MAGIC SAUCER: A pool of news and views reflecting the magic and mystery of strange things in the sky. A magazine for young Ufo enthusiasts. Single issues: 41p or £2.43 for a six issue sub. Write to: 8 Ely Close, Habberly Estate, Kidderminster, Worcs.....

PROBE REPORT: Quarterly publication of Probe, single issues 5 65p; four issue sub £2.00. Write to: 16 Marigold Walk, Ashton, Bristol, B33 2PD.....

UFO INSIGHT: Excellent magazine from the Federation of Ufo Research. Single issues 40p, six issue sub £2.20p Write to: 30 Charlesworth Street, Crewe, Cheshire.....

REVELATION: is a journal published three or four times a year mainly for the occult student and spiritual seeker. It is a journal which bridges the gap between the ancient wisdom and the new age teachings. Single issues: 55p. Back issue: 50p. Subscription for four issues: £2.10. Prices include postage. From: Revelation, 8 Victoria Court, Victoria Road, New Brighton, Wirral, Merseyside.L49 9LD

COMMON GROUND: Studies at the fringe of human experience, single issues £1.00; four issue sub: £4.00 kfrom Kevin McClure, 14 Northfold Road, Knighton, Leicester..

LANTERN: The magazine of East Anglian mysteries published by the Borderline Science Investigation Group. 25p a copy, subscription £1.30 for four issues from Ivan Bunn, Editor, 3 Dunwich Way, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, Suffolk.....

NORTHERN EARTH MYSTERIES: published by a very active group and always informative with original articles on research. 45p a copy from: Philip Heselton, 15 Convent Court, Park Grove, Hull, HY5 2UJ.....

UFO NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE:f Want to keep up with the real 'close encounters'? One excellent way of doing this is with the Ufo newsclipping service, bringing you Ufo reports from the United States and around the world. Since 1969, our service has obtained newsclippings from an international press cutting bureau, then reproduced them by photo-offset printing to our subscribers. Many fascinating Ufo reports (photographs, landings and occupant cases, etc) are only published in daily smaller and weekly newspapers. Our service provides these for you, along with

vide service items from associated press, United Press, International Reuters and other agencies. Each monthly issue of the Ufo newsclipping service is a 20 page report containing the latest accounts from the Us, England, Canada and Australia, South America and other countries. English translations of foreign language reports are also provided. Let us keep you informed on world wide Ufo activity. For subscription information and sample pages from our service issues write today to: UFO Newsclipping Service, Lucius Farish, Route I, Box 220, Plumerville, Arkansas 72127 USA.....

UFO CASSETTES: A large collection of recordings are available priced at £3.00 for two. Below is a small sample:

- Tape 43 - Are other Worlds Watching Us?
- Tape 47 - Out of this World BBC1 programme on Ufo and ITVs Alternative 3 TV programme.
- Tape 54 - Discussion on Ufos, Cradle Hill, Warminster (various persons).

For a complete list of titles available write to: Reginal Bradbury, The Kingdom Voice, Riverside Cottage, Bridgend, Harpford, Devon, EX10 0NG.....

PROVISIONAL INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON UFO RESEARCH: International Ufo directory 1981, addresses of 213 individuals. 65p including postage. P.A.Hill, Easter Bankton Murteston, Livingston, West Lothian, Scotland, EH54 9BD.....

WALRUS: Official organ of the non-material world. Sample copy (latest) 45p (one dollar bill US) Forteana, Oddities, Anarcho-Antiquarian Miscellany. Institute of Geomantic Research, 142 Pheasant Rise, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB3 8SD.....

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THE END BITS

Quotes: When one door closes, another shuts - Old African Proverb.

Don't judge a man by his qualities, but by the use he makes of them - Ron Colvin.

Holiday tip for motorists: The easiest way to fold a map is.....later!

Quotes continued: Gossip is the art of saying nothing in a way that leaves practically nothing unsaid - Anon.

Marriage is a condition where no wife gets what she expected and no husband expected what he's getting. - Nigel Smallpiece.

Most of the trouble in the world is caused by people wanting to be important - T.S.Eliot.

Logic is an organised way of going wrong with confidence - Charles Kettering

Notice in a public library - Only low coversation is allowed here.

The not-the-Nobel Prize for scientific research goes to Ankara University in Turkey, where they found that disco music makes mice....Homosexual !!
Credit: Daily Mirror 23/12/81.

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