

UFOs in the East

JUDGING by publications that reach us, people behind the Iron Curtain are a rather dour lot; so it is perhaps not surprising that 'UFOs from Behind the Iron Curtain', by Ion Hobana and Julien Weverbergh (Corgi Books, 291pp, \$2) is a rather dry read.

The collecting and documentation of sighting data as a legitimate occupation started much later behind the Curtain than it did in Western countries in this century. For a while, in places under Soviet domination, it was considered not quite proper to see or write about unidentified flying objects; which meant bans.

In substance, the "UFO experience" in the Communist sphere is much the same as that revealed elsewhere; and even a dedicated amateur Ufologist is likely to weary of the monotonous case histories of

sightings, although there is one story of a burned creature found alive on the shores of Gdynia port and allegedly taken to hospital which may cause a frisson.

frisson.

However, there is one discernible difference between the people in the East and the people of the West who report UFOs. A much larger proportion of the witnesses behind the Curtain appear to be engineers, doctors, scholars and even journalists; also, perhaps because they are fairly well educated, more of them seem to have illustrated their sightings with well-calculated sketches, and to have used binoculars and telescopes.

And there are more reports from loving couples wandering in woods or fields at night. (Fewer cars).

Perhaps more people under the Soviets raise their eyes to the skies. —

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