

**STILL IN DEFAULT**

By Bruce S. Maccabee, Ph.D.

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**ABSTRACT**

For nearly 40 years, the scientific establishment has ignored the UFO problem, relegating it to the domain of folklore and mental impalements (M.I.M. "fools and nuts"). Scientists have participated in a "self-censor-er" by refusing to look at the credible and well-documented data. Furthermore, some of those few scientists who have studied UFO data have published explanations which are unconvincing or just plain wrong and have "gotten away with it" because most of the rest of the community has not cared enough to analyze these explanations. The general rejection of the scientific validity of UFO sightings has made it difficult to publish analyses of such sightings. Examples are presented of the scientific-self-censor-er involving erroneous explanations, refusal to look at the data, and rejection of papers for publication. How long will this situation last? Forty years is long enough!

"No scientific investigation of the UFO problem has been carried out during the entire twenty-two year period between the first extensive wave of sightings of unidentified flying objects in the summer of 1947 and the convening of this symposium."

The above statement was made by the late Dr. James H. McDonald at the UFO symposium held by the Acropolis Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in 1969. (Reference 1) Even now, 17 years later, it is still true. Why?

The first wave of UFO sightings in the U.S.A. occurred in June and July, 1947. As a result of the large number of sightings, many by Army Air Force personnel, the Army Air Force began an investigation of the sightings. In 1948, when the Air Force became a separate branch of the Armed Services, the investigation was formalized as Project Sign (1948-1949). In the following years, as the sightings continued, the Air Force changed the name of the UFO project to Grudge (1949-1952) and then Blue Book.

The Air Force tried to convince the general public that it was coping with the UFO problem by repeatedly claiming that: