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By Robert E. Bartholomew and George S. Howard

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Our Review

Opinion of the webmaster, subject to debate

Credibility	Research Value	Cultural Interest	Visual Information	Style	Silliness	Wow Factor	Bargain
3	4	4	3	3	4	2	3
Moderate	High	High	Moderate	Functional	High	Routine	Moderate

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Visual Information = Moderate: Includes only a few period drawings of phantom airships.

We were skeptical of this skeptical UFO history: There are plenty on the market already, and the world doesn't need another. (See Peeble's [Watch the Skies](#) for the best and least expensive.) However, this book does address a few earlier cases that other skeptics books have only skimmed over: namely, the many "phantom airship" sightings of the early 1900s and the Swedish "Ghost Rockets" of 1946. Fully half the book concerns these pre-1947 episodes, and this is obviously the authors' main interest. The other half is a generic and relatively useless treatment of all UFO history since then: Unsurprisingly, UFO sightings are seen as a collective delusion, while abduction and contactee claims are the product of fantasy-prone personalities. The book concludes with a catalog of over 200 reports of alien-human contact from 1906 to 1983 -- obviously chosen for their absurdity. If you happen to have a special interest in the pre-1947 cases, you may find the book worthwhile for its bibliographic references and skeptical "take", but you can stop reading halfway through. -- *Glenn Campbell*

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Information from the Publisher

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Publisher's Synopsis

Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, thousands of people the world over have claimed to see strange things in the sky. Often there were just a few sightings; then their numbers would escalate dramatically.

UFOs and Alien Contact is the most detailed and comprehensive examination yet of 100 years of UFO reports, sighting waves, and abduction claims spanning two centuries. Utilizing rare press reports and incorporating copious notes, the authors document the initial stories, explaining how some of the tales spread across whole countries in a matter of a few short days.

This timely volume explores the psychology of how one person's story can become the belief of thousands. The authors examine collective behavior, failable human perception, deviance, religion, popular culture, history, the powerful role of the media, and relationships to the paranormal. From alien contact with humans to wellorganized New Age religious cults such as Heaven's Gate, UFOs and Alien Contact is gripping, humorous, and at times horrifying.

Robert E. Bartholomew (Queensland, Australia) is a lecturer in sociology at James Cook University of North Queensland, and a former news reporter for CNN and other news agencies. The author of ten books, **George S. Howard** (Notre Dame, IN) is a psychology professor at the University of Notre Dame, has held fellowships at Southern Illinois University and Vanderbilt University, and is an editorial board member of numerous psychology journals.

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