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Law Enforcement's True Case Stories of the Unexplained and Paranormal



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Product Description

UFO Crash at Roswell

Genesis of a Modern Myth

By [Benson Saler](#) and [Charles Moore](#)

Price: **\$24.95**

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198 Pages, Hardcover

Size: 6 x 9 inches

Smithsonian Institution Press, 1997

ISBN: 1-56098-751-0

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Opinion of the webmaster, subject to debate

Credibility

Research Value

Cultural Interest

Visual Information

Style

Silliness

Wow Factor

Bargain

5

Very High

5

Very High

4

High

2

Low

3

Functional

1

Very Low

NR

Not Rated

3

Moderate

[Explanation of Ratings](#)

Credibility: This category is a rating of the author's intellectual discipline and the strength of his argument (which are very high), not the veracity of his claims (which could be false in spite of the strong argument).

Research Value: Thoroughly documented according to academic standards

Cultural Interest: Describes the social environment in which the Roswell claims were born and developed.

Bargain: A bit overpriced for the number of pages.

This book reviews the Roswell Incident from two specialized perspectives: cultural anthropology and balloon technology. The Roswell "myth" is seen to have at its core the crash of a top secret balloon, Project Mogul, and one of the coauthors is uniquely qualified to discuss this program. Professor Charles Moore is one of the last surviving members of the New York University team that launched the balloons. He describes the flights in great detail, and shows that the debris that crashed in the Brazel field was probably flight #4. Another co-author, Benson Saler, is an anthropology professor at Brandeis University, and discusses how this one event evolved into an ever-changing series of stories. The claims about a UFO crash were born in a social environment where everyone was expecting flying saucers. The book does not argue about what happened at Roswell: The craft was a balloon, period. The focus instead is on how the story evolved in the subsequent years. -- *Glenn*

Reservations

This is a well documented academic work, priced accordingly. Given its relatively few pages, it may seem too expensive for casual readers, but it is packed with data for historical and cultural researchers.

Comparison to Other Books

Comparing to other Roswell skeptics books: While the books of [Klass](#) and [Korff](#) are mainly concerned with refuting the specific claims of the case, this book focuses more on the social technical environment of the day. Choose this book if you have already dismissed the alien scenario and are interested in the sociology of those claims or in the technical aspects of Project Mogul. Choose [Klass's book](#) if you haven't made up your mind about the case and want the skeptical take on Roswell witnesses and researchers.

Information from the Publisher

Always supportive

From the Book Jacket...

An alleged flying saucer crash in 1947 in the desert near Roswell, New Mexico, and purported conspiracy to conceal the wreckage form the central case in a fifty-year history of UFO sightings in the United States. Since the so-called Roswell Incident first gained widespread attention in the 1980s, various versions of the original story have surfaced, the government has conducted an exhaustive investigations of the incident, and more than one-quarter of American adults have become convinces that aliens have visited earth.

Transcending the believer-versus-skeptic debate, anthropologists Benson Saler and Charles A. Ziegler contend that the Roswell story is best understood as modern myth. Similar to traditional myths in transmission, structure and motif, the story also taps into modern beliefs in the power of technology and the duplicity of a monolithic government. The authors show how the Roswell story, like a religious myth, asserts in an "unfalsifiable" narrative the existence of superior beings. Saler and Ziegler also describe the ways in which television and tabloid newspapers keep the store alive as folklore even while presenting it as exposé.

The book also includes the account of scientist Charles B. Moore, who participated in an experiment to launch balloon-borne radar reflectors in the summer of 1947. That the occasional crash in the New Mexico desert forms the probable historical core of the myth.

The first book to analyse the Roswell incident as a cultural phenomenon, [UFO Crash at Roswell](#) shows how this story of a flying saucer crash provides not only a window on American values and beliefs but also a detailed account of the evolution of a myth.

About the Authors

Benson Saler is an anthropology professor at Brandeis University and the author of [Conceptualizing Religion](#). Charles A. Zeigler is an adjunct professor of anthropology at Brandeis University. Charles B. Moore is professor emeritus of atmospheric physics at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology.

"[UFO Crash at Roswell](#) is not simply a recounting of the events of [1947]. Rather, it is a detailed, serious examination of what we, as humans, believe about our relationship to the universe and to each other. It searches for answers about why so many believe in the crash of a flying saucer at Roswell, how these beliefs came to be, and their meaning. Highly recommended." -- Curtis Peebles, author of [Watch the Skies](#).

"This book offers a convincing history of the 'crash' near Roswell, New Mexico, and of the multiple stories about it together with a rich cultural and psychological analysis of these stories. [UFO Crash at Roswell](#) persuasively explains the wreckage that is key to Roswell; the later tales of alien intrusion; and the varying assumptions, hopes, and fears that likely motivate these tales." -- Stewart Guthrie, Fordham University

"This collective case study reveals important and deeply significant elements of modern popular culture in America. The authors are to be commended for providing a cogent, neatly woven narrative that explores the making of a modern myth." -- David DeVorkin, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution

Indexing Information

Other Relevant Ufomind Pages

Cross References

- [The Roswell Incident](#): Describes the six separate Roswell scenarios offered
- [Farmington/Aztec UFOs](#): Discussion of Aztec crash claims, p.13-14.
- [Sociology of UFO Claims](#): Discussion of the characteristic features of myths and
- [Charles Berlitz](#): Berlitz background, p.60. (Grandson of language school founder;
- [Stanton Friedman](#): Friedman background, p.61. (BS & MS degrees from Univ.
- [Bill Moore](#): Moore background, p.61. (Graduated from Thiel College in 1965.
- [Project Mogul](#): Detailed description of Project Mogul by its Project Engineer, Charles
- [MJ-12](#): Version of Roswell crash as described by MJ-12 document
- [Charles Moore](#): Author
- [Karl Pflock](#): Pflock's 1994 Roswell scenario described, p.27-28.
- [Kevin Randle](#): Randle & Schmitt's 1994 Roswell scenario described, p.25-26.
- [Frank Scully](#): Mentions Time Magazine review of Scully book (9/25/1950, p.75-76),
- [Benson Saler](#): Author

Related Books

- [The Real Roswell Crashed-Saucer Coverup](#) by Klass, Philip
- [The Roswell UFO Crash: What They Don't Want You to Know](#) by Korff, Kal
- [UFO Crash at Roswell](#) by Randle, Kevin & Schmitt, Don

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