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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Older cases are important

From: Mark Cashman <mcashman@ix.netcom.com>

Date: Sun, 27 Apr 1997 18:23:19 -0700

Fwd Date: Sun, 27 Apr 1997 21:56:45 -0400

Subject: Older cases are important

> From: UFO UpDates - Toronto <updates@globalserve.net>, on 4/27/97 3:36 PM:
> Date: Sun, 27 Apr 1997 09:35:07 -0400
> To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <updates@globalserve.net>
> From: Jerry Cohen <rjcohen@li.net>
> Subject: Re: UFO UpDate: Re: AUFORA: Steven Greer urges government hearings

> It is extremely important that people DO NOT "forget" some of those
> "old" cases and analyses. The plethora of data from some of the
> better cases over the years is accumulating to form a "big picture"
> which is making a case for the need for greater involvement by
> mainstream scientists with regards to data collection and analysis.

I couldn't agree more. Older cases are important for a number of reasons:

- 1) The nature or categories of UFO sightings may have changed over time. Without an appropriate context, the modern phenomenon cannot be properly understood. For instance, Vallee has asserted that the Type II cases have largely vanished since the 1954 wave. If this were the case, it would be impossible to study such cases without reference to older records.
- 2) Aviation technology has advanced significantly since 1947. Thus, it is likelier for a modern aircraft or drone to be mistaken for a UFO, simply because it will have more flexible flight characteristics or enhanced performance. Older cases are not so contaminated.
- 3) Techniques for hoaxing UFO photographs have also advanced. Older hoaxes are much more amenable to detection; thus, older photographic evidence can be of significant value.
- 4) No important statistical reservoir should be discounted. The Blue Book reports represent an important sample for study of both UFOs and IFOs. For instance, if one were to be interested in the demographics of UFO vs. IFO witnesses, Blue Book might very well be one of the largest publicly available samples. The structure of waves and flaps can also be derived from the basis of these large samples.
- 5) Hidden away in older cases may be information of significant value whose importance is not recognized until correlation with later cases is performed. For instance, my analysis of six sightings of similar objects between 1949 and 1967 uses several reports, drawings, and photos from Blue Book, which are able to be correlated with cases from other sources. In addition, at least one Blue Book photo, heretofore unstudied, shows interesting structure in the object luminosity.
- 6) Establishing patterns of activity between older and modern cases are essential to generating a conviction among friendly skeptics that the UFO phenomenon is not a creation of irrational mystics, and that it does demonstrate analytically verifiable and temporally stable patterns, like

other phenomena amenable to scientific study.

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