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APRO File Microfilm Found!

From: jan@cyberzone.net (Jan Aldrich)
Date: Mon, 11 Jan 1999 13:26:20 -0800
Fwd Date: Tue, 12 Jan 1999 09:17:27 -0500
Subject: APRO File Microfilm Found!

AERIAL PHENOMENA RESEARCH ORGANIZATION FILE MICROFILM LOCATED

PROJECT 1947, the research study of the beginning of the UFO era, announced the recovery of a large portion of the microfilmed files of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO), the first worldwide civilian UFO group to be organized. The APRO files have been inaccessible to researchers for over a decade since the demise of the organization following the deaths of founders Coral Lorenzen in 1988 and Jim Lorenzen in 1986.

Founded in 1952 and already mentioned menacingly by the CIA Robertson Panel in January 1953, APRO collected UFO data from all over the world during its nearly four decades of existence. APRO had an extensive UFO investigative network with representatives in more than 50 countries, especially in South America. In the 1970's with the aid of a small grant APRO began microfilming its UFO sighting files. As many as three separate microfilm reels are thought to exist. The first microfilm roll contains reports from ancient times to December 1956. The second microfilm confirmed to exist contains reports from December 1956 to 1962. The third microfilm, thought to exist by a number of

people but yet to be confirmed, evidently covered 1962 to 1966.

The microfilm was located through the courtesy of Brad Sparks, long time UFO researcher and former APRO assistant director of research. Sparks also had leads to the 2nd microfilm reel which are now being pursued by Project 1947. After a long hiatus, Sparks recently returned to UFO research and has written on significant UFO topics including the well-documented RB-47 case of 1957, the Roswell case and "MJ-12," astronaut sightings, radar-visuals and other cases involving significant scientific content.

The APRO material has very little overlap or duplication with the UFO files of the old National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) and the Civilian Saucer Intelligence (CSI-New York), now incorporated with the files of the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) in Chicago.

Jan Aldrich, coordinator of Project 1947, remarked, "The reports, letters, investigations, and newspaper clippings contained in the APRO microfilm have few duplications of the reports in the files of NICAP, CSI, CUFOS, Barry Greenwood, Dr. Leon Davidson, or Loren Gross. Davidson had a worldwide clipping service which provided him with large numbers of clippings from South America. Greenwood and I have also done extensive research in South American newspapers in the Library of Congress, Harvard, Yale, and many other libraries. Yet the APRO South American newspaper clippings are essentially unique compared with what has already been collected."

The microfilm contains more than 1,000 pages of reports from ordinary citizens, pilots, the military and others. Many of these reports were not published in the APRO Bulletin or the Lorenzens' books. Southwest Microfilms of El Paso, Texas, produced the APRO file microfilm and exercised great care to assure legibility of the material. A search for copies of the other microfilm reels continues. Several former APRO officials have been contacted in connection with the search.

"I was especially happy to see a number of pre-1947 reports which I had submitted to APRO years ago, but were lost from my files in an accident," said Aldrich. "This recovered APRO microfilm now joins a library of more than 400 microfilm rolls which contain official and private material on UFO's. We are now zeroing in on the APRO microfilm files for 1957 to 1962. A long time UFO researcher has promised it to us if his efforts to locate it bear fruit."

This is the second large portion of the APRO files recovered and available for research. Previously Canadian John Musgrave shared his Canadian Collection with Project 1947. Before APRO's demise Musgrave had copied all Canadian material in the APRO files for his own research project. Copies of Musgrave's collection which includes the APRO material are at CUFOS and at Project 1947.

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