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APRO Microfilm Questions

From: **Jan Aldrich** <jan@cyberzone.net>
 Date: Tue, 12 Jan 1999 10:10:08 -0800
 Fwd Date: Tue, 12 Jan 1999 11:19:38 -0500
 Subject: APRO Microfilm Questions

Several questions have come in concerning the APRO microfilm.

1. Were all these reports on the microfilm published in the APRO Bulletin?

No, these files on the microfilm contain many items that were never used in the Bulletin. Also, some items that were published in the Bulletin do not appear in the files. Specifically, I was looking for the stalled "tractors" or "bull dozers" case from Forili or Ferrara, Italy. It was published in the Bulletin--the account differs from most others--however, it was not on the microfilm.

2. Was Fontes' material among the files?

There was Brazilian material, but none was from Fontes. Fontes started to work with the Lorenzens long after the time period covered by the files.

Loren Gross did receive some early Fontes material for another source. Fontes produced a little bulletin with English translations of some of reports.

3. Do the files contain the APRO Bulletins?

No, but Ed Stewart obtained what might be considered a complete set of APRO Bulletins. There is some concerns about missing bulletins from 1954-56 period. It seems no matter how many people we contact; their original source seems to be Isabel Davis. If Isabel were missing some, we would not know as there was no numbering system for early issues of the APRO Bulletin.

4. Was there correspondence from Hynek or other personalities on the microfilm?

No, the microfilm contains sighting report files only.

5. What is the extent of the South American material?

Most South American material comes from Venezuela. The Venezuela material consists of mostly of newspaper clippings, many translated into English. There are some retrospective investigative reports from Peru. Most of the South American material is in the form of newspaper clippings. (The Venezuelan material Project 1947 found is from different sources than APRO's.)

Some comments about the microfilms in general, there are few reports for the 1920s anywhere, the material in the APRO files about doubles what was in the CUFOS/NICAP/CSI files. There are

"new" reports for 1947. Reports start getting more detailed after APRO begins operations in 1952. There are some report forms from other UFO organizations in Norway, Canada, and from some of the representative overseas.

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MICROFILMING PROJECT

Almost 2,500 UFO reports in APRO files have been microfilmed since the Organization received funds for the microfilming project. During the course of the microfilming it has been possible to ascertain, for the first time the amount of reports contained in the files. Microfilming to date (reports contained in the files. The following is a breakdown of the microfilming to date (reports are filed in chronological order)

1600 BC-AD 1600	179
1600-1700	12
1700-1800	8
1800-1900	19
1900-1910	12
1910-1920	12
1920-1930	14
1930-1940	18
1940-1946	49
1947	81
1948	24
1949	47
1950	74
1951	51
1952	349
1953	132
1954	525
1955	226
1956	315
1957	376

The reports from 2,000 years ago are from Roman and Greek accounts of unusual aerial phenomena, many of which probably could have had mundane explanation, such as meteorological or astronomical phenomena, but they are all included for the record. The last 19th century "airship" sightings over the United States are not included in the above figures. This is not because APRO does not accept the "airship" as legitimate aerial phenomena but because APRO's files on the subject are not very extensive. It is known that others have very complete files on the "airship" reports so APRO decided not to include them in its catalog at this time.

A marked increased in reports is apparent from 1952 onwards. That was the year APRO was founded and report files were maintained. Reports prior have filtered through to APRO over the years in lesser numbers. It should be noted that the totals in the above list include UFO Report Forms, letters from citizens describing their observations, reports received from other organizations (including many abroad) and newspaper clipping. Most do not represent, by means, *investigated* cases as APRO was in its infancy in the early-mid 50s and the Field Investigations Network did not exist.

Statistics for years 1958 through 1971 will be given microfilming progresses over the next several months.

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