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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: Max Burns Hoax Exposed

From: **Jenny Randles** <nufon@currantbun.com>
Date: Tue, 22 Jun 1999 20:20:55 +0100
Fwd Date: Wed, 23 Jun 1999 12:33:07 -0400
Subject: Re: Max Burns Hoax Exposed

>Date: Mon, 21 Jun 1999 16:09:38 -0400
>From: Andy Roberts <Brigantia@compuserve.com>
>Subject: Re: Max Burns Hoax Exposed
>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <updates@globalserve.net>

>Y'all,

>Well, you've got to laugh and admire at the gall of whoever was
>behind this hoax (which takes several readings before the full
>ramifications sink in). No doubt there will now be a flurry of
>'outraged' decent ufologists who are appalled at such a hoax
>being perpetrated on the 'UFO community'.

>They will be wrong.

>There is a long tradition of hoaxing within ufology and
>associated subjects, and careful hoax experiments can only be
>helpful. For example The Warminster hoax, MJ-12, the various
>crop circle hoaxes etc have all been tremendously useful in
>showing us just how witnesses experience, how investigators go
>about their business, how the media (both general and
>ufological) report a case and how the rumour mill spreads and
>mutates.

>This is very useful stuff to know indeed because when done under
>controlled conditions, where all the information is known and
>carefully documented, these hoaxes tell us a lot about as-yet
>'unidentified' cases.

Hi,

Just as an illustration on this sort of thing - in late 1986 I was contacted by a man claiming to be from the military and to have reams of covert documents of what (in retrospect) were the then unknown MJ 12 fiasco. What did I do? Ignore the request we meet? Course not. But I did several things. I made sure (with some effort) I did nothing alone and always had a back up witness checking me through. When we met the shady witness in a pub we used a ploy decided between us up front to get his car licence plate, used contacts to trace him and did a lot of background checking into his story after the meeting and prior to the next scheduled meet - including tracing his place of work and speaking to his colleagues.

This apparently scared our contact off and he never showed up as arranged with the docs - although he did write with a fun letter as to how he was arrested and had the papers confiscated. So we lost out on getting the MJ 12 papers although we had a great story (which is tokd in detail in 'From out of the Blue' for those interested). Six months later Tim Good revealed MJ 12 to

the world and the rest is history, mystery and a dollop of tripe.

Am I mad I missed out on a fortune and a best selling book?

Nope. Checking out this story from day one was the only sensible thing to do. It ran the risk of putting off anyone who was looking for a patsy who would believe anything without question. But thats UFology for you.

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