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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: Dr. J. Allen Hynek (1910-1986)

From: "Bill Stockstill" <slicklru2@email.msn.com>
Date: Sun, 16 May 1999 12:11:00 -0400
Fwd Date: Mon, 17 May 1999 15:39:50 -0400
Subject: Re: Dr. J. Allen Hynek (1910-1986)

>Date: Sat, 15 May 1999 19:38:43 -0700
>From: Dr. Virgilio Sanchez-Ocejo <ufomiami@bellsouth.net>
>To: UFO UpDate <updates@globalserve.net>
>Subject: Dr. J. Allen Hynek (1910-1986)

>One of the finest ufologist in the USA was Dr. Hynek, and we
>lament that the new generation, involved in the most ambiguous
>aspects of the UFO phenomenon, such as abductions, sometimes
>don't even reconize his name.

<snip>

I totally agree that Dr. Allen Hynek should not be forgotten. He did make a huge impact on giving credibility to Ufology, with CUFOS being his legacy. But what I can't stop wondering about is why did he not try and present these totally unexplainable cases to his fellow scientists while he was a consultant to the Air Force. Where would we be now if prior to the Colorado Investigation (Condon Report) he had presented all the data from the unexplained cases to the scientific community in the appropriate setting.

Reading Forbidden Science, written by perhaps his closest friend and colleague Jacques Vallee, Hynek's reasoning is that he did not want to upset the Air Force by disclosing the quality unknown cases to the scientific community. His fear was that he would be denied further access to the data.

>From the Wednesday, June 8, 1966 entry in Forbidden Science, Dr. James McDonald, professor of atmospheric physics at the University of Arizona was authorized to spend two days at Wright field (Blue Book Headquarters), requesting to see all cases attributed to "globular lightning". "He was amazed and horrified at what he saw: case after case that obviously had nothing to do with electrical discharges in the air". Next he asked to see the general files, "getting increasingly upset as he kept on reading". He realized the official explanations where "bull****".

After reading the official files, later that day he confronted Hynek asking, "How could you remain silent so long?". Vallee jumped in on the side of Hynek, "If Allen had taken a strong position last year the Air Force would have dropped him as consultant and we wouldn't be here talking about the phenomenon". McDonald reply was, "I'm not talking about last year. Its in 1953 Allen should have spoken out!"

This is burned in my mind. The data obviously was there and the official explanations were bogus. Yet, Hynek did not start talking about this until after Blue Book was dissolved. Most then probably thought him a disgruntled scientist, his

multi-decade consultant job eliminated as the result of the Condon Report's recommendations.

After accessing the Air Force data, McDonald spent much of the next 3 years studying UFOs. He spoke to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 134th Meeting General Symposium in 1969 trying to convince them that the data on UFOs was being inadequately investigated and needed to be seriously studied. Yet, his words fell on deaf ears. He killed himself in the early 70s. Some attribute his suicide to the negative effect his interest in UFOs had on his career .

Perhaps while we are remembering scientists, we should remember Dr. John McDonald. If he were the Air Force's consultant on UFOs, imagine where we would be now.

Bill Stockstill
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