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UFO UpDates Mailing List

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

From: **Dr. Virgilio Sanchez-Ocejo** <ufomiami@bellsouth.net>
Date: Fri, 21 May 1999 19:52:59 -0700
Fwd Date: Fri, 21 May 1999 23:50:44 -0400
Subject: Re: Dr. J. Allen Hynek (1910-1986)

Unexpected replies!

When Dr. Sanchez-Ocejo and I published a short note about Dr. Hynek, our intention was just to remember the person, as we felt that the ufologists of the new generations don't really have a clear idea of who he was and what he accomplished in his lifetime.

We never expected the response that followed, a mixed bag of praising and derogatory postings, written by people that knew him well (Jenny Randles), by others that apparently did not (Bill Stockstill), and still by others that should have know better (Dennis Stacy).

Two basic rules have been violated here: i) do not speak ill of the dead, because they can't defend themselves; ii) do not express unsupported opinions, that is, without providing an appropriate reference. This note addresses the first point, and hopefully those who wrote will be able merely gossiping and not scientific discourse.

In his 17 May 1999 posting Bill Stockstill refers to Dr. Hynek as a "company man" (whatever he means by that) who incurred in the wrath of Dr. McDonald because of his "timid stance". This alone assure me that Mr. Stockstill never met Dr. Hynek. Unlike the present day researchers, which immediately insult and attack all those that do not agree with them, Dr. Hynek was an educated and polite gentleman, who at times preferred to say nothing rather than to offend others by exposing their ignorance of the facts or their lack of scientific discernment. But "timid" he was not.

As for the "example" of the Hudson Valley case. Dr. Hynek had started to write a manuscript based on the first-hand information laboriously collected by Phil Imbrogno, but soon realized that not only the effort would be too much for him, but that the results would be better if this was handled by an experienced writer like Bob Pratt. I still have in my files a few pages of this initial piece of work, as well as some comments about this case that Dr. Hynek typed by mistake in one of my diskettes, and that I never released because of the pressure applied by Mimi Hynek.

And I want to ask Mr. Stockstill from where he got the idea that "Hynek would not entertain allowing Phil Imbrogno or Pratt to release some of the more bizarre information they were collecting during their long investigation". Since Mr. Stockstill is so well informed, why doesn't he share with us

those bizarre details? Of course, providing accurate sources.

Finally, Dr. Hynek was a careful field investigator, a fact known only to his closest associates. He is perceived as an "armchair investigator" only by those investigators (as so was Dr. Sanchez-Ocejo), and I have never met an investigator having a grasp of the UFO phenomenon like his. He honored me with his friendship, and taught me a great deal about the UFO phenomenon and its implications, for all of which I am very grateful.

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May 21, 1999

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