

come across the writings of such critics of neo-Darwinism as E. S. Russel, H. Graham Cannon, Alister Hardy, and Michael Denton, to mention a few names only. This conclusion led me to the saddening conjecture that a too great desire to appear original had betrayed an unattractive selfishness.

Even so, I welcome *Beyond Natural Selection* as a useful work of reference to everyone interested in evolution and especially to persons who wish to know just about everything that is wrong with neo-Darwinism when it is proclaimed to provide a complete explanation of the processes of evolution. We cannot be told too often, to use one of Wesson's own phrases that "the construction of organs is a very different problem from the production of proteins, and much more difficult to master" (p. 221).

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First Review of Forbidden Science, by Jacques Vallée. Berkeley, Calif.: North Atlantic Books, 1992. 466 pp. \$24.95.

Before reviewing this book, I would like to explain its personal significance for me. In 1971, I had a vacancy in my research group at Stanford University for a scientist with a background in astrophysics, statistics, and computers. The position had been advertised for only a very short time when, to my surprise and pleasure, a tall, handsome, soft-spoken Frenchman with impeccable manners walked into my office and offered his services. His name was Jacques Vallée.

The name meant nothing to me, beyond the association occasioned by his visit. However, he had been working with me for only a short time when I learned that he had written three books on UFOs. At that time, I had no interest in the subject. Since Jacques was then a colleague of mine, I felt an obligation to learn something of his interests and work. The book did not persuade me that the Earth is being visited by either little green men or big pink ladies, but it did persuade me that there is more to the subject than meets the casual scientific eye.

I therefore set myself the further assignment of studying the Condon Report that had, as every scientist knew, completely settled any remaining doubts concerning the reality of the UFO phenomenon. The first few pages of the Condon Report certainly gave that impression: Condon stated that the phe-

nomenon posed no threat to national security, and that further study could not be expected to contribute anything worthwhile to scientific knowledge. However, I did not end my study of the Report at that point, but went on to read it from cover to cover. I then found that Condon's conclusions were not supported by evidence compiled by his own staff. Indeed, if one takes the staff work at face value, UFO reports represent a real problem that was then—and remains now—far from understood.

In this way, my encounter with Jacques Vallée led to my interest in the UFO problem. This in turn led to my taking an interest in parapsychology and other anomalies and, in due course, to my joining forces with twelve other scientists to found the Society for Scientific Exploration.

In view of these associations, the book has special significance for me. But now I must step back as a reviewer, and ask what significance it may have for other readers, specifically other members of SSE.

What kind of picture of the author emerges from the pages of this book? I find that the qualities that come through most clearly are Vallée's love of people, his intense curiosity, and his willingness to march to his own drum.

One learns in this book that a defining moment in Vallée's life was the discovery that scientists at the Paris Observatory were destroying scientific data because the inferences from those data were disquieting and might prove embarrassing. Vallée was outraged, as any scientist true to his profession should have been. Eventually, Vallée decided that the United States is more hospitable to divergent opinions than his beloved country of birth and he eventually settled in California, possibly the most tolerant among the fifty states of the Union.

The characters who have entrances and exits in this drama are portrayed realistically but, in general, sympathetically and often affectionately. So this person or that person is not perfect: who is? As one would expect, the most important of Vallée's many colleagues was Professor J. Allen Hynek who for many years served as scientific consultant to the Air Force Project known as *Blue Book*. Subsequently, Hynek took the lead role in arguing for the significance of UFO reports and in calling upon his fellow scientists to share in the study of this enigma. Vallée describes clearly and sympathetically the soul-searching that led Hynek to make this difficult transition.

Through these memoirs, we may share with Hynek and Vallée their initial high hopes for the declared intention of the Air Force (in 1966) to fund a scientific investigation of the phenomenon, their early concerns for the Colorado study, led by Professor Edward U. Condon, and their subsequent disillusionment and dismay at what they considered to be an inept program and unjustified conclusions.

What has been the impact on Vallée? It would appear that his studies have led him to be even more open-minded to strange data and strange ideas than he was when he first faced up to the UFO problem at the Paris Observatory. What his experience has not done is turn him into a groupie or a junkie. Vallée is as much an enigma among his fellow ufologists now as he was among his fellow

astronomers in 1961. In *Passport to Magonia*, Vallke attempted to set the UFO phenomena in the perspective of history and mythology. As far as I can tell, Vallke still prefers to look at the subject in that way and chooses to distance himself from the present-day preoccupation with more dramatic concerns such as MJ12, abductions, crashes and recoveries. Time will tell who among present-day ufologists has the sharpest insight.

Although this book is primarily a biography, it also contains abundant factual content. Most significant, perhaps, is Vallée's disclosure of a document that came to his attention in 1967, and that he then drew to Hynek's attention. It is unfortunate that Vallke regards this document as still subject to a classified status. As a result, we do not read the document but only a brief paraphrase of its contents. According to Vallke, the document provides clear evidence that the Air Force had carried out a more extensive investigation (Project Stork) into the UFO problem than its publicly acknowledged Project Blue Book in which Hynek was involved. In the planning process that led to the CIA-sponsored Robertson Panel, perhaps the most important step was the Air Force decision of what evidence their staff would present to the Panel. The memo cited by Vallke indicates that this decision was made by Stork personnel, not by Blue Book personnel.

The report of a conversation involving Hynek that occurred in June 1966 shows that the Stork revelation would not have taken Hynek completely by surprise. When Don Hanlon remarked "Maybe Blue Book was a sham from the beginning," Hynek replied "I have often thought of that."

It is likely that, within a few decades, science students will wonder either (a) "How could those few scientists ever have thought that there was anything significant behind those obviously bogus UFO reports?" or (b) "How could the vast majority of scientists not have realized that there was something significant behind those obviously real UFO reports?" Whichever question they will be asking, Vallke's book will be a valuable resource in providing first-hand insight into the early development of the UFO controversy.

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Second Review of Forbidden Science

Jacques Vallée has written several critically acclaimed books about the UFO phenomenon, selling over a million copies in several languages. He is widely known as the real-life model for the French scientist played by Francois Truffaut in *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. The legacy of his seminal role in the most significant chapters of the modern UFO saga will make for fascinating encyclopedia entries in years to come.