

view of their command of the literature and of their knowledge about the claims and the claimants; and the author of this book is one of those few. I know (not from this book) that Clark and I estimate differently the plausibility of some anomalous claims; yet his arguments and viewpoint are nevertheless of interest and value to me. Curious seekers for the truth about anomalous claims will be well served by this volume.

A significant part of the analysis is not in the individual entries but in the Introduction. This ought to be required reading for anomalists for its insights into the pitfalls of human knowing. Thus "The three hardest words for human beings to utter are I don't know"; and the Introduction has such sub-heads as "Dismissing the Unexplained", "Seeing is Believing", "The Value of Skepticism", "Cautious Belief", "Accepting Ambiguity". Perhaps the mainstay of the discussion rests on the "Old Hag" work of David Hufford which itself should be known to all anomalists. This book offers an intellectual feast for anomalists, at an unusually affordable price. It is meaty in content and in analysis, and has food for thought and reliable references to further reading. Moreover it's well suited to be read in bits—an entry at a time, or a few at a time, punctuated by periods of thought and wonderment. The last paragraph of its Introduction is most germane:

"Here at the fringes of reason and experience, we can only marvel at how little we understand about some kinds of human experiences. Whether their causes, when at last understood, turn out to be profound or trivial, these experiences are undeniably strange. Just as undeniably, they remind us what a mystery this world is, and what mysteries we ourselves are."

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UFOs in the 1980s: The UFO Encyclopedia, Vol. I. by Jerome Clark. Detroit: Apogee Books, 1990. 234 pp. **Vol. II: The Emergence of a Phenomenon: UFOs from the Beginning through 1959.** Detroit: Omnigraphics, 1992. 433 pp. Each volume \$95, hardback (available from Apogee Books, Penobscot Building, Detroit, Michigan 48226).

His goal, author Jerome Clark declares in his introduction, was to produce "a comprehensive encyclopedic survey of the phenomena of unidentified flying objects, the nature of research on UFOs, the persons who study them, and the related social, scientific, and religious manifestations of interest in anomalous aerial phenomena." To a great degree, he succeeds. This is a book pri-

marily for the serious UFO researcher. No glossy pictures, no regurgitated tabloid titillation, no free-wheeling speculation—just refreshing, no-nonsense, detailed reporting on a puzzling phenomenon.

Following a short summary of the UFO phenomena before the 1980s, Clark's book serves up 84 entries, quite a few less than the more popularly oriented UFO *Encyclopedia* published by John Spencer for the British UFO Research Association. But what he lacks in range, Clark makes up for in depth. He includes seven excellent, lengthy entries (4-18 pages each) on major topics being discussed in ufology today: the abduction phenomenon; contactee claims; alleged crashes of UFOs; claims that the U.S. government is communicating with, and has an ongoing relationship with, extra-terrestrial biological entities; the tectonic-strain hypothesis which offers a natural phenomenon as an explanation for UFOs; the fantasy-prone-personality hypothesis, which posits imagination as the origin of UFO abduction claims; and the psychosocial hypothesis, which argues that UFO phenomena are the product of culture or altered mental states. The reader will find just about every other important UFO topic covered as well—the Roswell saucer crash, the Gulf-Breeze sightings, cattle mutilations, Bob Lazar, the MJ-12-document controversy and various allegations of government cover-ups. CSICOP and leading UFO debunker Philip Klass are also given their due in balanced, fair entries.

It's both interesting and important to know the professional credentials of UFO researchers, and Clark includes 26 informative and useful biographical entries of prominent individuals in ufology (starting with MUFON international director Walter Andrus, Jr. and ending with UFO author and writer Jennie Zeidman). He also devotes 22 entries to profiling UFO-research groups and extra-terrestrial-contact organizations, including convenient addresses and telephone numbers. Finally, the whole volume is extensively cross-referenced and indexed; and a list of source materials follows each entry for those wishing to read further. Clark himself has followed the UFO phenomenon since his teenage years, and has written extensively on the subject. I first came across his writing in *Omni* magazine, a short but well-reasoned essay on "Censoring the Paranormal" in February 1987. He is closely associated with the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, and has edited their *International UFO Reporter* since 1985. His book is very well-balanced and shows little bias either for or against UFOs. While he obviously is impressed with some (not all) of the evidence for their existence, he goes to some length to include contrary opinions, explanations and hypotheses.

"Within ufology's ranks it is not hard to find the cracked and the credulous as well as the sane and the sensible," he notes. But, he adds, "The debate must be, as it often is not, about the best evidence, not the worst; and be argued by the smartest students, not the silliest" (p. xiv). Concludes Clark, "Out of what has now become three decades of reflection on the UFO phenomenon, I have not entirely lost the enthusiasm of my earlier years, but have arrived at a mature confidence that whatever the solution(s) to the UFO phenomenon are, I have been participating in a field on the frontiers of science" (p. ix).

In 1992 Clark published *The Emergence of a Phenomenon: UFOs from the Beginning through 1959* as Volume II in this series. Its 113 entries cover every aspect of pre-1960s ufology and it includes photos and an extended bibliography of citations that lists rare, ephemeral and obscure materials. Particularly noteworthy are long entries on the airship sightings in America in the late 1800s; the "foo fighters" seen by many pilots during World War II; the "ghost rockets" seen in Europe shortly after the war; and the work of Dr. Edward Condon and the University of Colorado committee which was asked by the U.S. Air Force in 1966 to examine the available evidence on UFO sightings.

Volume II of Clark's planned three-volume series has received good press reviews. Dr. Marcello Truzzi, Director of the Center for Scientific Anomalies Research and an academic known for his balanced approach to paranormal phenomena called it "even better than his excellent first volume." Truzzi notes that "Even those familiar with UFO history will find much that is new or that could previously be found only in obscure sources; and those new to the field could not do better than start their explorations with this volume." Dr. David Jacobs, author of *The UFO Controversy in America* calls it "absolutely indispensable for all UFO researchers, amateur and professional alike."

Volume III, tentatively titled *High Strangeness: UFOs from 1960 through 1979*, covers the last missing historical period and is scheduled to be released in Fall 1994. It will be reviewed in a later issue. If you're seriously interested in the UFO phenomenon, buy the series.

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Ambrose Bierce is Missing and Other Historical Mysteries, by Joe Nickell. Lexington, Kentucky: University Press of Kentucky, 1992. 155 pp. \$22.00, (hardback), ISBN 0-8131-1766-6.

Anyone interested in studying anomalies will find this book useful reading. Former detective Joe Nickell's slender volume describes nine of his own investigations, each one selected to illustrate a specific approach or methodology.

Where to begin tackling the sometimes daunting problems presented by unknown or unexplained phenomena can often leave investigators bewildered. Through both discussion and example, Nickell describes how to start an investigation in various different fields, what questions to ask and how to build hypotheses. He outlines entertainingly a number of traps into which the unsuspecting can fall. A wealth of information is cunningly disguised in the nine interesting mysteries addressed.