

"These failures must tell us something." (p. 186) "Their absence must tell us something." (p. 187)

Sagan can be incisive, clear-headed, fair-minded; I wish those qualities could be applied to the whole book rather than to only a third of its chapters.

Henry H. Bauer
Professor of Chemistry & Science Studies
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Blacksburg, VA 24061-0247

Additional Comments on Carl Sagan by Zan Stevenson

Carl Sagan died — too young — on December 20, 1996. We must acknowledge that he was not averse to the scientific study of anomalies nor to the purposes of the Society for Scientific Exploration. In 1988 he addressed the Society's Seventh Annual Meeting (at Cornell University) on the topic of "Critical Thinking."

In the book reviewed here we find on page 302 an exemption from his strictures for three lines of investigation. He wrote: "...there are three claims in the ESP field which, in my opinion, deserve serious study: (1) that by thought alone humans can (barely) affect random number generators in computers; (2) that people under mild sensory deprivation can receive thoughts or images 'projected' at them; and (3) that young children sometimes report the details of a previous life, which upon checking, turn out to be accurate and which they could not have known about in any other way than reincarnation. I pick these claims not because I think they are likely to be valid (I don't), but as examples of contentions that might be true."

Reports of two of the three lines of investigation that Sagan believed "deserve serious study" have figured prominently in the pages of this Journal. He would have approved of that.

Ian Stevenson
Division Personality Studies
Health Science Center, Box 152
Charlottesville, VA 22908

In the Footsteps of the Russian Snowman, by Dmitri Bayanov. Cryptologos Publishers, 12, Bloc 3, Osenny Boulevard, Moscow, 121 614 Russia, 1996, 240 pp., ISBN 5-900229-18-1.

This is the world's first English-language book on the searches, conducted throughout the lands of the former Soviet Union, for the elusive relict hominoids known popularly as "snowmen." Although a number of books by foreign authors have been written, at least in part, about snowmen in Russia, this is the first one written entirely by Russian researchers on the subject.

The simple fact that this book could even be published in Russia speaks vol-