

This book is exactly what it says it is: a diary of the Roswell dig. It provides an interesting look behind the scenes, hints at other, bigger things, but in the end is Al Capone's vault. It is a lot of hype about nothing new. However, for those interested in UFOs, for those interested in Roswell, and for those interested in seeing more science applied to the investigation of UFOs, this is a book to have in their library. It demonstrates that science can be applied to UFO research, and like research in all areas, sometimes nothing of consequence comes from it. In this case the mere fact that science was used is the important fact.

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Alien Invasion or Human Fantasy? The 1966–67 UFO Wave by Richard H. Hall. Mount Rainier, MD: Fund for UFO Research, 2004. 152 pp. \$29.00 (paper).

If ufology, the investigation and study of UFO reports, is ever to emerge from its marginal status on the fringes of scientific respectability, it is volumes such as this that will make it possible.

The UFO sighting wave of 1966–67 was a watershed for ufology. It brought serious and thoughtful demands from the mainstream media and, in turn, the U.S. Congress for an independent scientific investigation. It gave us "swamp gas" as an almost universally understood joke and characterization of the U.S. Air Force's approach to the problem. Sadly, it ended in frustration for those of us who had high hopes, when the Air Force-funded University of Colorado UFO Project proved to be not so independent and not so scientific.

However, the wave also left us with a rich, deep vein of data. Veteran ufologist Hall has done an outstanding job of compiling 787 sighting reports from what he rightly calls "the *Mother of All UFO Waves*" and putting them into historical context with his highly readable and concisely informative introduction. This is a volume densely packed with information. Sighting distributions are displayed on Census maps throughout and on a color national map in the appendix, relating sightings to population densities. Many sighting summaries are illustrated with genuinely illuminating rather than sensational drawings based upon witness descriptions. Salient features of the sightings—shapes, colors, times of day, reported physical effects, occupants and interactions with them, radar contacts, unusual maneuvers, luminosity, and more—are collected, related, and compared in an extensive set of color bar graphs.

This is *the* sourcebook with which anyone conducting research into the 1966–67 wave should begin. Those who consider Hall's careful presentation and interpretation of the data with open minds will be hard pressed not to discount

entirely human fantasy as an explanation for what was going on then, not to mention during the two preceding decades and the years that followed.

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LITERATURE REVIEW

Early Studies on Psychometry

In 1921, Walter Morton Prince (1921), research officer of the American Society for Psychical Research, went to Mexico to look into the claim by physician Gustav Pagenstecher that one of Pagenstecher's clients excelled in psychometry. In a test for psychometry¹ the subject is handed an object and asked for impressions about events or persons who have been in contact with it. J.B. Rhine (1953) called psychometry clairvoyant "free association" in connection with an object (p. 102).

Pagenstecher's client, Sra. de Zierold, suffered from insomnia, and Pagenstecher used hypnosis to treat her. It was in this state that her ability emerged. In one of the experiments (Prince, 1921) she was handed a sealed letter that elicited the impression that the writer was tall, 35-40 years old, had a scar over his right eyebrow, and was about to be shipwrecked. This was all true and the facts were unknown to the three researchers who were present: Prince, Pagenstecher, and L.S. Viramontes, secretary of a medical society in Mexico that had set up a commission to investigate Pagenstecher's claims (pp. 216-240). In other words they could not have supplied sensory cues.

I began my studies in parapsychology at Oxford under Professor H.H. Price (Price, 1940) because his concept of place memory brought psychometry and other forms of ESP under the same roof. The first account I saw of actual cases came from *Det Ockulta Problemet* by John Bjorkhem (1951; Roll, 1952). Bjorkhem was a psychiatrist in Sweden who said he had hypnotized and tested 3,000 subjects for psi, including psychometry. I tried (Roll, 1975) to repeat his findings with my fellow students but they showed no talent for psychometry or for any other type of ESP (pp. 248-249, 251-271). Bjorkhem (1943) reported a curious psychometry-type episode during an experiment in hypnosis. After he had induced a negative hallucination such that the subject became blind to a member of the group, the hallucination spread to the man's hat so that the hat too became invisible. Bjorkhem said he repeated the finding with subjects who were ignorant of the effect and where there were no obvious links between the objects and their owners (pp. 281ff). The distinction between a person and the person's possession seems to have disappeared for these subjects.