



# ANCIENT SKIES

*"Come Search With Us!"*

## Official Logbook of the Ancient Astronaut Society

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### PHANTASIE: DER VORBOTE VON DER WISSENSCHAFT

Von WALTER ERNSTING (CLARK DARLTON)\*

Wer die Aufgaben und Ziele der Ancient Astronaut Society und die weltweit bekannten Namen ihrer prominentesten Mitglieder kennt, der muss sich ohne Zweifel die Frage stellen, was ein SF-Autor in dieser ernstzunehmenden Vereinigung zu suchen hat.

Schliesslich setzen sich die Mitgliedschaft der Ancient Astronaut Society in erster Linie aus Sachbuchautoren und Wissenschaftlern zusammen, und natürlich aus Leuten, die Interesse für unser Thema haben. Dieses Thema befasst sich in der Hauptsache mit unserer Vergangenheit, und ein SF-Autor befasst sich, so sollte man meinen, mit der Zukunft.

Nun wissen wir aber alle, dass gerade jene Vergangenheit der Menschheit, die jenseits der uns Überlieferten Geschichte liegt, und die damit in das Dunkel der Vergessenheit geraten ist, sehr eng mit dem verbunden ist, was wir heute als Zukunft bezeichnen.

Ohne technisches und medizinisches Wissen, das selbst für uns heute noch Theorie und vielleicht sogar Utopie bedeutet, gäbe es uns Menschen in der uns bekannten Form nicht - oder noch nicht. Wenn wir von dieser Tatsache überzeugt sind, und viele von uns sind es, ist der enge Zusammenhang zwischen Vergangenheit und Zukunft eindeutig und ohne jeden Zweifel klar bewiesen.

Und damit natürlich die Zugehörigkeit eines SF-Autors in den Reihen der Ancient Astronaut Society.

Doch mit dieser Erklärung allein werden Sie nicht zufrieden sein. Ich will versuchen, weitere Beweise für das freundschaftliche Verhältnis zu liefern, das Sachbuchautoren und Forscher mit einem SF-Autor wie mich verbindet - und diese Beweise sollten begründet werden.

An dieser Stelle möchte ich nicht so vermessen sein, an Jules Verne zu erinnern, der das U-Boot und die Reise zum Mond schilderte, ehe beides verwirklicht wurde. Aber ich möchte doch an einen SF-Autor erinnern, der den meisten unserer Mitglieder unbekannt sein dürfte. An einen Autor nämlich, der vor mehr als vierzig Jahren genau das Thema in romanhafter Form verarbeitete, das uns heute alle beschäftigt: Was stimmt nicht mit unserer Vergangenheit?

Ich spreche von dem deutschen Schriftsteller P.A. Müller, der vor einigen Jahren in Murnau/Obb. verstarb. Unter seinem Pseudonym Freder van Holk schrieb er viele utopische Romane, von denen ich (Continued on back page)

\*Mr. Ernsting, of Salzburg, Austria, is one of the leading science-fiction authors in Europe, with hundreds of novels to his credit. He is a co-creator of the PERRY RHODAN Series, which is available in paperback in the United States. Mr. Ernsting also writes under the pseudonym Clark Darlton.

### FANTASY: THE PRECURSOR OF SCIENCE

By CLARK DARLTON (WALTER ERNSTING)\*

Those who know the aims and objectives of the Ancient Astronaut Society, which includes among its members many prominent persons, must ask why a science-fiction author would be a member of the Society. Many of the Society's members are authors and scientists, who naturally have an interest predominantly in man's past, which is the principal theme of the Society. But as a science-fiction writer, I must be concerned primarily with the future.

By now we all know that the traditions which have been handed down about mankind's obscure past are turning out to have a direct bearing on what we know today is obtainable now and in the future.

If the science-fiction writers had not advanced their utopian and futuristic theories of technical and medical science, mankind would not have developed to its present state - at least, not yet. Once we are convinced of this fact, as many of us are, then we can state unequivocally and prove beyond a doubt, that there is a close connection between the past and the future.

However, you will not be satisfied with this explanation; therefore, I will attempt to give you further proof of the friendly relationship between technical writers and investigators and the science-fiction writer, and how they are connected and this proof shall be substantial.

At this point, I presume that you have all heard of Jules Verne, who described the submarine and trips to the moon, long before they became a reality. I remember another science-fiction author, who I am sure is unknown to most of you, who more than forty years ago employed the exact theme in novel form that we are concerned with today: What is wrong with man's past?

I am speaking about the German author, P.A. Müller, who died several years ago in Murnau, Austria. In those days he wrote many utopian novels under the pseudonym Freder van Holk. I particularly want to mention DIE BLAUE KUGEL (The Blue Sphere), in which he tells of scientists who discover in the Andes Mountains above Lake Titicaca at an altitude of over 13,000 feet, anti-gravity devices and a still intact spherical spaceship, which belonged to alien astronauts who landed on Earth many thousands of years before. In this story, the stranded astronauts, fleeing from danger in outer space, landed on Earth and became the ancestors of the Incas and the Mayas. Freder van Holk wrote this book in the 1930's.

Under another pseudonym - Lok Myler - P.A. Müller wrote a fantastic-adventure series of 150 volumes in the years 1934 to 1937. The subtitle was "The Heritage of Atlantis" and the hero of the (Continued on next page)

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series was named "Sun Koh," who was the last direct descendant of the forgotten Mayan kings, whose ancestors - according to the novel - came from the Sun, thus from outer space.

I do not know if you ever heard of Freder van Holk or of Sun Koh before, but I frankly admit that when I was 15 years old, the novels of this author made a very strong impression on me and had an influence in my decision to become an author. Therefore, when I returned home after five years of imprisonment in Siberia during World War II, I began to write. I had three subjects which I believed would interest my readers - UFOs, the phenomenon of time dilatation, and our earthly past. These three themes were the subject matter of fifty novels which I wrote from 1954 to about 1960.

While the three fields appear to be dissimilar, in my opinion they are closely related in a narrow sense. But of course, as a science-fiction writer I can make that assertion much easier than can the scientist. Maybe you should not take the science-fiction writer seriously, but you can. I am not offended either way, but the scientist is.

I wrote ten novels on the subject of the Earth having been visited from outer space thousands of years ago and the results of those visits. After twenty long years of secret and agonizing meditation on the subject, I finally came up with the charming idea of publishing my thoughts without sounding ridiculous at the time - as novels. I would never have dared to make a science out of the subject, as some very courageous men after me have done.

The first of such men whom I got to know was Jacques Bergier. We met in Trieste, Italy in 1963. His book, *LE MATIN DES MAGICIENS* (The Morning of the Magicians) was about the beginning of the third millenium and was published in Germany the year before. He wrote this very popular book with Louis Pauwels, as co-author. And what fascinated me most of all - he knew my novels! Two related souls had come together.

Freder van Holk and I were no longer standing alone and many other authors in our field would stand alone no more. Still more authors of technical books suddenly began to take the plunge and experiment with trying to unlock the secrets of the past, until February 1968 when Erich von Däniken's *ERINNERUNGEN AN DIE ZUKUNFT* (Memories of the Future, now Chariots of the Gods?) appeared on the scene and a veritable snowball effect was released.

Friends of Erich von Däniken, such as we, were somewhat astonished how all of a sudden such an impact could be made on the world. But I suppose it is well founded due to the fact that von Däniken was not afraid to write exactly what he thought and felt - and what he believed! While other writers were expressing similar ideas in cautious overtones, he pounded the table. He did not beat around the bush, but wrote explosively and presented his ideas to an astonished public. And suddenly, our human race had to swallow the blasphemous idea that man was not alone in the universe. So we should consider the year 1968 as the beginning of a new age. An age for truth.

Today, after more than forty years, I am convinced that our Ancient Astronaut Society is about a half century too late in my life for me to be a worthy member. But, as we all know - it is never too late!

And now I want to say in all modesty, that in my opinion while fantasy may appear to be unbridled, it is the rocket fuel of science. Without the thought of the future and beyond Earth, it is probable that there would be little or no development of man's technology, and we would still be trying to figure out the wheel.

Dry and long school learning does not bring us further creative knowledge. To follow in another's tracks is easy, but to blaze a new trail requires not only fantasy, but courage. This is only accom-

plished by a few recognized scientists, and for this I have the greatest respect for Josef F. Blumrich, a NASA scientist, who had the courage to stake his reputation on his writings.

Also, I want to mention Peter Krassa, who had the courage to state in his books, especially *GOTT KAM VON DEN STERNEN* ("God Came from the Stars"), that the Bible itself is not merely a fabulous story, but hands down the truth.

To the average man on the street, we in the Ancient Astronaut Society are all day dreamers, and one Austrian newspaper even called us a "sect of pseudo-scientists." But have we not learned from many of our colleagues, that fantasy is properly a reflection of the past?

As an example, Arthur C. Clarke, from England, is in my view one of the best science-fiction writers in the world, if not the best over all. Is perhaps the reason for this undisputed fact that his scientific works on astronomy are scholarly and instructive? But if you ask me, the answer is easy: His technical books read like exciting novels. The man has fantasy!

And now to close the circle. The exact sciences need fantasy and our cooperation in the area of attempting to solve the riddles and mysteries with which we are faced.

The scientists among us attempt to convince the public that they are right by demonstrable arguments. That is why I can say that "I have it easy. I indulge in fantasy!"

But as I said before, all that fantasy needs for nourishment is faith, which naturally means faith that truth is possible. I hope to live to see the day when the word POSSIBLE is finally stretched to become CAN.

#### AN EXTRATERRESTRIAL COMMUNICATION?

by Lawrence Blazey, Cleveland, Ohio

I attended the Ancient Astronaut Society's First World Conference in Chicago in April, 1974 and taped many of the lectures so I could play them at my Cleveland UFO Society meetings. On Saturday, May 25, 1974 we had our monthly meeting at which time I played one of the tapes. As I usually do, I make a test running the tape beforehand to have it ready to turn on. On this occasion after turning on the tape I was a little surprised in hearing much background talking but not distinct enough to get more than a word or two here and there. Thinking that I may be picking up the opposite track somehow I dismissed it from mind since the lecture was plainly audible. The audience also remarked about the background talking. After the lecture was over a group of us stood outside of the building and all of a sudden one member directed our attention to the sky above which was overcast. At the ten o'clock position a huge orange cross was seen. There were two equal width bands of the same length crossing at right angles. Where they crossed appeared a pinkish color more brilliant than the rest of the cross. The edges were blurred while the cross extended at least 20' of arc. It remained motionless for over forty minutes. The appearance was that of a powerful light projecting the cross on the back side of the clouds. After I returned home I replayed the tape again to see if the talking was still there but nothing was heard and the tape was very clear with absolutely no background sound!

My conclusion, shared by others, was that extraterrestrials were monitoring my lecture at the meeting and gave us a sign in the sky to demonstrate their existence.

#### PERU-BOLIVIA EXPEDITION

Last call for members who wish to join our first field expedition - to South America. Anyone interested should call Joan Roettger at Ravinia Travel Service, Highland Park, IL (312) 433-4333.

HARDCOVER BOOKS:

IN SEARCH OF ANCIENT GODS - Erich von Daniken  
 BEYOND STONEHENGE - Gerald S. Hawkins  
 EXPLORING THE UNKNOWN - Sharon S. McKern  
 MYSTERIOUS PLACES - Daniel Cohen  
 SECRETS OF THE GREAT PYRAMID - Peter Tompkins  
 THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE - Charles Berlitz  
 MAN AND THE STARS - Duncan Lunan  
 MYSTERIES OF TIME AND SPACE - Brad Steiger  
 EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTERVENTION - Jacques Bergier  
 DID SPACEMEN COLONIZE THE EARTH? - Robin Collyns  
 LEMURA LOST - Wishar S. Cerve  
 LOST DISCOVERIES - Colin Ronan

OPENING ADDRESS OF SECOND WORLD CONFERENCE

Gene M. Phillips, Founder of the Ancient Astronaut Society, delivered the opening address at the Second World Conference on Ancient Astronauts in Zurich, Switzerland on May 29, 1975. These are his remarks:

Ladies and Gentlemen - Welcome to the Second World Conference on Ancient Astronauts.

We are here to explore the concepts that Earth has been visited in the past by intelligent beings from outer space and that mankind developed a highly cultured, technological civilization thousands of years ago. These concepts we call the "ancient astronaut theory."

We are here to study - to learn - to exchange ideas - and, perhaps most importantly, to get acquainted, so that we can work together and direct our energies towards the common goal of developing the ancient astronaut theory as a serious, scientific discipline.

But our task will not be easy. The scientific community, speaking through individual scientists, has made its opposition quite clear. Many journalists, especially in the United States, have been vitriolic in their attack upon the ancient astronaut theory in general, and upon individual proponents of the theory in particular. And, the public is apathetic about any new concept which tends to threaten its lethargy, or which requires any independent thinking.

The scientific community has severely criticized writers in our field for asking "ridiculous" questions and advancing "absurd" theories about man's past. But we say to the scientists - answer our questions - analyze our theories - prove that we are wrong - if you can!

History is replete with discoveries, inventions, developments and advancements which were made or suggested by novices, laymen, non-scientists, with open minds and a sense of connection, who were not bound by the rigid thinking of the particular scientific discipline. Ladies and Gentlemen, science is too important to mankind's development to be entrusted to scientists alone!

Since time immemorial, man has looked irresistibly to the heavens with an insatiable yearning. Is there some instinct in man which pulls him back to the place of his origin - to outer space? Are we like the birds that instinctively migrate? Are we like the fish that return to their birthplace to spawn their own offspring? Who are we? Where are we going? We must look to the past for answers. If we can understand our past, we may be able to anticipate our future.

We must encourage governments and educational institutions to channel more resources towards exploration - both into the past and into the future - outer space. We must find what lies hidden beneath the seas, in the jungles, in the mountains, under the sand and under the ice. Let us explore our moon and let us have interplanetary travel in (Continued on last page)

PAPERBACK BOOKS:

CHARIOTS OF THE GODS? - Erich von Daniken  
 GODS FROM OUTER SPACE - Erich von Daniken  
 THE GOLD OF THE GODS - Erich von Daniken  
 WE ARE NOT THE FIRST - Andrew Tomas  
 THE HOME OF THE GODS - Andrew Tomas  
 MYSTERIES FROM FORGOTTEN WORLDS - Charles Berlitz  
 LIMBO OF THE LOST - John Wallace Spencer  
 GODS AND DEVILS FROM OUTER SPACE - Eric Norman  
 OUR HAUNTED PLANET - John A. Keel  
 INVISIBLE HORIZONS - Vincent Gaddis  
 INVISIBLE RESIDENTS - Ivan T. Sanderson  
 THE COMING OF THE GODS - Jean Sardy  
 THOSE GODS WHO MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH - Jean Sardy  
 STRANGER THAN SCIENCE - Frank Edwards  
 STRANGE WORLD - Frank Edwards  
 THE LATE GREAT PLANET EARTH - Hal Lindsey  
 THE RA EXPEDITIONS - Thor Heyerdahl  
 GODS AND SPACEMEN (EAST) - W. Raymond Drake  
 GODS AND SPACEMEN (WEST) - W. Raymond Drake  
 ANCIENTS SECRETS OF MYSTERIOUS AMERICA - W. Raymond Drake  
 PONAPE - Silbey S. Morrill  
 EARTH IN UPHEAVAL - Immanuel Velikovsky  
 WORLDS IN COLLISION - Immanuel Velikovsky  
 THE SPACESHIPS OF EZEKIEL - Josef F. Blumrich  
 FORGOTTEN WORLDS - Robert Charroux  
 THE GODS UNKNOWN - Robert Charroux  
 ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND YEARS (etc.) - Robert Charroux  
 TEMPLE OF THE STARS - Brinsley LePoer Trench  
 THE SKY PEOPLE - Brinsley LePoer Trench  
 THE MORNING OF THE MAGICIANS - Pauwels and Bergier  
 IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBILITIES - Pauwels and Bergier  
 THE ETERNAL MAN - Pauwels and Bergier  
 THE CRYSTAL SKULL - Richard Garvin  
 IN SEARCH OF THE MAYA - Robert L. Brunhouse  
 ATLANTIS RISING - Brad Steiger  
 NOT OF THIS WORLD - Peter Kolosimo  
 NOAH'S ARK: I TOUCHED IT - F. Navarra  
 BERMUDA TRIANGLE - A. T. Jeffrey  
 MYSTERIES OF ANCIENT S.A. - Harold T. Wilkins  
 RAGNOROK - Ignatius Donnelly  
 IN SEARCH OF ANCIENT MYS. - Alan Landsburg  
 LEGACY OF THE GODS - Robert Charroux  
 COLONY: EARTH - Richard E. Mooney  
 THE DEVIL'S TRIANGLE - Richard Winer  
 UFOLOGY - James McCampbell  
 EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL VISIT. - Jacques Bergier  
 THE BOOK OF THE DAMNED - Charles Fort  
 LO! - Charles Fort  
 WILD TALENTS - Charles Fort  
 NEW LANDS - Charles Fort  
 WHISPERS FROM SPACE - John W. MacVey  
 FENG-SHUI - E.J. Eitel  
 IS ANYONE OUT THERE? - Jack Steneley  
 SUPERNATURE - Lyall Watson  
 MAN INTO SUPERMAN - R.C.W. Ettinger  
 LOST ATLANTIS - James Bramwell  
 MANKIND - CHILD OF THE STARS - Flindt and Binder  
 MASTERS OF THE WORLD - Robert Charroux  
 GODS AND SPACEMEN (PAST) - W. Raymond Drake  
 ALIENS FROM SPACE - Major Donald E. Keyhoe  
 THE GREAT PYRAMID: A MIRACLE IN STONE - Joseph A. Seiss, D.D.  
 THE VIEW OVER ATLANTIS - John Mitchell  
 PSYCHIC DISCOVERIES BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN - Ostrander and Schroeder  
 THE DRAGON AND THE DISC - F.W. Holiday  
 WE ARE NOT ALONE - Walter Sullivan  
 GODS FROM THE FAR EAST - Henriette Mertz  
 LEGEND OF SONS OF GOD - T.C. Lethbridge  
 TIMELESS EARTH - Peter Kolosimo  
 THE MYSTERIOUS PAST - Robert Charroux  
 NO EARTHLY EXPLANATION - John Wallace Spencer  
 MYSTERY OF THE ANCIENTS - E. & C. Umland

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nur DIE BLAUE KUGEL erwähnen möchte. Wissenschaftler entdecken in den Anden Antischwerkraftfallen und ein noch intaktes Kugelraumschiff fremder Astronauten, die vor vielen Jahrtausenden hier gelandet sein müssen, oberhalb des Titicacasesee in viertausend Meter Höhe.

Im Roman sind diese gestrandeten Raumfahrer, die vor einer Gefahr aus dem Weltall auf die Erde flohen, die Vorfahren der Inkas und Mayas. Freder van Holk schrieb das Buch in den Dreissiger Jahren.

Unter einem zweiten Pseudonym - Lok Myler - verfasste P.A. Müller eine phantastisch-abenteuerliche Serie mit 150 Bänden in den Jahren 1934 bis 1937. Der Untertitel lautete: Der Erbe von Atlantis, und der Held der Serie hiess: Sun Koh. Er war der letzte direkte Abkömmling der verschollenen Maya-Konige, deren Vorfahren - laut Roman - aus der Sonne gekommen waren - also aus dem Welt- raum.

Ich weiss nicht, ob jemand von Ihnen je von Freder van Holk oder von Sun Koh gehört hat, aber ich gebe freimütig zu, dass mich die Romane dieses Autors mit 15 Jahren stark beeindruckt und damit meinen Weg als Schriftsteller entscheidend beeinflusst haben. Als ich nach dem 2. Weltkrieg und einer 5-jährigen Gefangenschaft in Sibirien in meine Heimat zurückkehrte und zu schreiben begann, gab es für mich nur 3 Themen, die Stoff für 50 Romane geboten hätten und die ich meinen Lesern nahebringen wollte: UFOs, das Phänomen der Zeitdilatation - und unsere irdische Vergangenheit.

Diese drei so verschieden scheinende Gebiete stehen meiner Meinung nach in einem engen und ur-sächlichen Zusammenhang - was ich als SF-Autor natürlich leichter behaupten kann als jeder Wissen-schaftler. Mich soll man nicht ernst nehmen, man kann er jedoch. Ich bin weder wegen der einen noch der andere beleidigt. Wissenschaftler sind es.

Das war in den Jahren 1954 bis 1960 etwa.

Ich schrieb an die zehn Romane allein über das Thema: hatte die Erde vor Jahrtausenden Besuch aus dem Weltraum - und was folgte aus diesem Besuch? Endlich, nach zwanzig langen Jahren des heimlichen Grübelns, erhielt ich die Gelungenheit, meine damals sicherlich lächerlich ammutenden Ideen frei heraus zu schreiben - als Romane. Nie hätte ich es gewagt, daraus eine Wissenschaft zu machen, wie es nach mir mutigere Männer getan haben.

Den ersten von ihnen lernte ich 1963 in Triest/ Italien kennen: Jacques Bergier, dessen Buch LE MATIN DES MAGICIENS (Aufbruch ins dritte Jahrtausend) ein Jahr zuvor in Deutschland erschienen war. Er schrieb dieses uns allen bekannte Buch zusammen mit Luois Pauwels. Und was mich am meisten faszinierte: er kannte meine Romane! Zwei verwandte Seelen hatten sich getroffen.

Freder van Holk und ich waren nicht mehr allein, und mit mir viele andere nicht, die sich Gedanken über die fehlenden Abschnitte unserer Geschichtsbücher machten. Immer mehr Autoren von Sachbüchern tauchten plötzlich auf und versuchten auf ihre Art, die Geheimnisse unserer Vergangenheit zu lösen, bis im Februar 1968 Erich von Dänikens ERINNERUNGEN AN DIE ZUKUNFT erschien und den berühmten Schneeballeffekt auslöste.

Der einmalige Welterfolg unseres Freundes Erich von Daniken wohl in erster Linie in der Tatsache begründet, dass er sich nicht scheute, genau das zu schreiben, was er dachte und fühlte. Und was er glaubte! Er redete nicht drum herum, sondern er schlug mit der Faust auf den Tisch. Was andere verschleiern und vorsichtig auf den Markt brachten, knallte er der staunenden Menschheit rigoros vor die Füsse - und auf einmal schluckte sie es. Die blasphemische Idee, der Mensch könne vielleicht doch nicht das Mass aller Dinge sein, wurde Allgemeingut.

So betrachtet wurde auch das Jahr 1968 zu einer Zeitenwende.

Einer Zeitwende zur Wahrheit.

Denn heute wie vor mehr als vierzig Jahren bin

ich überzeugt, dass diese unsere Ancient Astronaut Society um ein halbes Jahrhundert zu spät in Leben gerufen wurde. Aber wie wir alle ja wissen: es ist niemals zu spät!

Und was meine Anwesenheit noch betrifft, so möchte ich in aller Bescheidenheit bemerken, dass die Phantasie, und möge sie noch so zügellos erscheinen, der Raketentreibsatz der Wissenschaft ist. Ohne den Gedanken an Zukunft und weitere Entwicklung von Mensch und Technik gäbe es wahrscheinlich keine Erfindungen, und wir bastelten noch heute am ersten Rad herum.

Vertrocknete und längst überholte Schulweisheiten bringen uns nicht weiter und schaffen keine neuen Erkenntnisse. Im alten Gleis zu fahren ist bequem, aber die vorgeschriebene Weiche im Gleis zu überspringen, das erfordert nicht nur Mut, sondern auch Phantasie.

Das jedoch vermögen die wenigsten anerkannten Wissenschaftler, uns schon aus diesem Grund gehört meine ganze Hochachtung Josef Blumrich, der es wagte, seinen Ruf der möglichen Wahrheit wegen auf's Spiel zu setzen.

Und Peter Krassa muss ich erwähnen, der in seinen Büchern den Versuch unternahm (besonders in GOTT KAM VON DEN STERNEN), die Bibel selbst als überlieferte Wahrheit, und nicht als blosses Märchen zu interpretieren.

In den Augen der Normalverbraucher sind wir alle Phantasten, eine österreichische Zeitung bezeichnete die Ancient Astronaut Society sogar als "Sekte der Wissenschaftler". Aber hat uns nicht die jüngste Vergangenheit gelehrt, und jetzt meine ich eine Vielzahl Kollegen, dass die Phantasie der eigentliche Ursprung des Nachdenkens ist? Nehmen Sie Arthur C. Clarke aus England, der in meinen Augen sicherlich einer der besten SF-Autor der Welt ist, wenn nicht der beste überhaupt. Ist das vielleicht der Grund für die unbestrittene Tatsache, dass seine wissenschaftlichen Werke über Astronomie die lehrreichsten und am meisten gelesenen sind? Wenn Sie mich fragen, warum das so ist, so kann ich nur antworten: seine Sachbücher sind so spannend geschrieben wie Romane. Der Mann hat eben Phantasie!

Und so schliesst sich der Kreis. Zur exakten Forschung gehört Phantasie, und erst recht gehört sie in den Bereich, den wir alle gemeinsam von seinen Rätseln und Geheimnissen zu befreien versuchen. Die Wissenschaftler unter uns tun es mit beweisbaren Thesen und öffentlich vertretbaren Argumenten.

Wie gesagt: ich habe es leichter. Ich phantasiere!

Aber wie ich bereits andeutete: Auch die Phantasie benötigt den Glauben als Nährboden, den Glauben an die mögliche Wahrheit nämlich.

Und ich hoffe, dass ich den Tag noch erleben darf, an dem das Wort MÖGLICH endlich gestrichen werden kann.

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our lifetimes! The Ancient Astronaut Society will do its utmost to encourage the accomplishment of these goals.

Now, I am pleased to announce that the Ancient Astronaut Society has established its Exceptional Service Award to be presented each year to a person selected for his outstanding contribution to the advancement of the Society and its objectives. Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my great pleasure to present the first Ancient Astronaut Society Exceptional Service Award to Erich von Daniken.

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