

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMISSION
ON AERIAL PHENOMENA
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BOOK REVIEW

"THE WORLD OF FLYING SAUCERS" by Donald H. Menzel and Lyle G. Boyd. Published by Doubleday & Company, Inc.--Garden City, New York. Price--\$4.50. Reviewed by Robert J. Gribble, Director, National Investigations Commission on Aerial Phenomena.

Upon being introduced to "The World Of Flying Saucers," I was greatly impressed by the statement on the dust cover by Major Carl R. Hart, Project Blue Book Information Officer, United States Air Force, that "As bona fide scientific researchers, Dr. Menzel and Mrs. Boyd," the authors, "have been accorded full access to the Project Blue Book files." After reading this, plus the Preface of the book, I was left with a very definite impression that the book contained a scientific analysis of reports of Unidentified Flying Objects never before made public. This impression was soon shattered when, to my great amazement--to say the least--I found that the book contained nothing more than a rehash of cases well known to any experienced investigator of UFO and, that in the majority of the cases, the information was taken from a large variety of books and magazines--not from Air Force files as had been insinuated.

Presented as "A Scientific Examination Of A Major Myth Of The Space Age," I found the book very cleverly written, the authors following such a rubber-stamp pattern of egotistic writing, that it left me with the feeling that I was the subject of an attempted brainwashing. At this point I was reminded of an old saying that "If you tell a big enough story long enough, most everyone will believe it." No doubt the book will be very convincing to any layman or scientist who is not experienced in the field of investigating reports of UFO. The layman and scientist who has spent considerable time and effort investigating and studying such reports will have no trouble detecting the false and misleading statements of the authors plus the fact that most of the conclusions reached by the authors are based entirely on assumption and second guessing.

The book is literally "peppered" with a variety of negative statements about individuals and groups who have been involved in UFO investigation. This assortment of insulting juvenile-like remarks by the authors has left me with the definite impression that a large portion of the book was designed to sow the seeds of ridicule on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects and anyone who would dare associate themselves with it. It is difficult for me to believe that such an attempt would be found in any "honest" scientific examination of any subject.

It also appears that the authors have bent over backwards to make martyrs of the official UFO investigations agency--the United States Air Force. Throughout the book the authors continuously picture the Air Force as being a poor defenseless organization which is continuously being pushed around and distrusted by everyone who rejects the Air Force UFO explanation. Just how this bit of fictitious matter fits into an honest scientific examination of UFO's is unknown to this reviewer. It would, however, prove quite touching to anyone outside the field of UFO investigation.

For every gullible citizen who thinks that every reported UFO is a spaceship from another planet, there is a gullible orthodox scientist who believes that every reported UFO is a natural phenomenon. I know of two such citizens and, I have just read the conclusions of two such scientists in "The World Of Flying Saucers."