



# Excerpts from *UFO'er – Myter og viden* (UFOs – Myths and facts)

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## Foreword

*Kim Møller Hansen, Chairman of Scandinavian UFO Information, SUFOI*

This book has been produced to commemorate the fact that on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Scandinavian UFO Information (SUFOI) marked 60 years as Denmark's UFO organisation.

*UFOs – Myths and facts* is not a traditional anniversary book. Such books usually deal with the history of an organisation, and with descriptions of people, initiatives and so on. As the histories of both SUFOI and other Danish UFO organisations are related superbly by Per Andersen and Willy Wegner respectively in their own books, in *UFOs – Myths and facts* we have chosen to focus on the UFO myth itself by explaining the historical development of the subject and providing an update on what we actually know today. It is our hope that with this book we can pass on the experience and knowledge gained over the past 60 years by many enthusiastic amateurs and researchers from near and far.

This book's contribution on the history of the organisation, titled "Ildsjælen bag SUFOI i 1957" (The passion behind SUFOI in 1957), was written by journalist Per Borggaard, who has both been active in SUFOI and followed the development of the phenomenon from the early years. Per Borggaard's article deals with SUFOI's founder, H.C. Petersen, and offers a splendid portrayal of a bygone era that was very different from today.

*UFOs – Myths and facts* is a collection of articles. The individual articles can therefore be read independently of each other and in the order that suits you.

If you want a historical overview, the following three articles can be read in conjunction: "Da ufoerne blev rumskibe" (When UFOs became spacecrafts), "Ufoerne skal undersøges" (UFOs must be investigated) and "Kulturel indflydelse på ufomyten" (Cultural influence on the UFO myth).

A comprehensive overview of SUFOI's analyses of Danish UFO cases can be obtained by reading these five articles together: "Det har vi lært af 60 års rapportarbejde" (What we have learnt from 60 years of investigations), "De svigefulde sanser" (The deceptive senses), "Ufoer som moderne myte" (UFOs as a modern myth), "I ufomytens maskinrum – hvordan en myte skabes og genskabes" (In the engine room of the UFO myth – how a myth is created and recreated) and "Hukommelsens betydning" (The significance of memory). Some of these are updated articles from the book "50 år med ufoer – Erfaringer fra 50 års rapportarbejde" (50 years with UFOs. Lessons from fifty years of investigations) (SUFOI 2007), while the others are new. Should you wish to explore the contents of these five articles more thoroughly, *50 years with UFOs* contains ample references.

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All the articles in this book are edited and arranged especially for *UFOs – Myths and facts*, and several are newly written, including “Hvad viser 60 års danske fotosager” (What do 60 years of Danish photo case show?), “I ufomytens maskinrum – hvordan en myte skabes og genskabes” (In the engine room of the UFO myth – how a myth is created and recreated) and “Hukommelsens betydning” (The significance of memory).

Any sources used are detailed in the relevant articles. Where parts of the material have appeared earlier in UFO-Mail, UFO-Nyt (UFO News) or any other of SUFOI's many publications, this is either stated in the article or as the conclusion to that article.

The book's bibliography, Books, is not a list of sources but a subjective, but well intentioned, suggestion of books that we recommend borrowing from the library. Any list of internet links would be very long and quickly become out of date. We have therefore omitted such a list and recommend the use of ufo.dk as a starting point, as on this site we maintain links to a wide range of high-quality websites from around the world.

The authors' opinions and conclusions in *UFOs – Myths and facts* are representative of SUFOI's official approach to the UFO myth and research into UFO encounters. We have tried to ensure that the book contains something new for everyone, even those who have been following the history of the UFOs for several years. We also hope the book will be an inspiring and serious introduction for many newcomers to the topic.



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## The UFO myth is an interpretive framework

People have always encountered mysterious aerial phenomena. In the latter half of the 1940s and the beginning of the 1950s, the Cold War and cultural climate gave these phenomena a concrete form as flying saucers, and later UFOs interpreted as alien visitors – and this hasn't changed significantly since.

*By Kim Møller Hansen*

In the late 1940s and early 50s, the US Air Force gave a good deal of attention to UFO sightings and witnesses. The subject became respectable and taken seriously as the Air Force concerned itself with collecting accounts of UFO encounters and carrying out analyses of the phenomenon. Over the years Project Blue Book became a self-made public relations nightmare for the Air Force. There is no doubt that the Air Force's investigations and the authorities' attempts to explain the sightings have served to encourage everyone with a taste for conspiracies.

It is hardly a coincidence that important elements of the UFO myth can be traced back to the southwest of the USA, especially New Mexico and Nevada. It was here that the Air Force and CIA came to function as midwives at the birth of the UFO myth, as they tested Skyhook balloons and the Cold War's top-secret aircrafts, including the U-2, A-12 Oxcart, stealth planes and countless advanced weapon systems. The secret trials and test flights contributed significantly to the development of the UFO myth.

Official investigations and analyses of the UFO myth and the report material by UFO organisations around the world clearly show that there exist innumerable natural and man made phenomena and objects that, either alone or in connection with psychological, sociological, perceptual and cultural factors, can trigger UFO encounters, including some that seem very strange. Everything apart from space creatures themselves has been found to give rise to UFO sightings. Or in other words: There is absolutely no reason to resort to alien spacecraft, alien beings and so on to explain our experiences. If a reasonable, plausible explanation exists, then why reach for the least probable one, namely visits from other worlds?

UFOs interpreted as spacecraft are a question of faith. Many people apparently have a need to believe that we are being visited, perhaps because the visitors give them hope that the human race is part of something greater – a member of a universal family.

The TV series The X-Files has made statements such as “The truth is out there”, “Trust no one” and “I want to believe” into doctrine for many UFO enthusiasts, who also want to know what UFO secrets the power elite are hiding. But the enthusiasts are seldom interested in hearing the answers; in fact they would rather keep the questions open.

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But isn't the sheer number of UFO sightings a compelling reason to believe that there is something to all the talk? In fact it is a fallacy to suggest that the more UFO sightings, the stronger the evidence is that Earth is being visited. Such an overwhelming number of UFO encounters doesn't in any way prove the existence of aliens visiting Earth, but merely demonstrates that it's relatively common to experience aerial phenomena that we can't immediately explain.

One can even argue that the large number of UFO sightings is the best evidence that we are not being visited. If we assume that every UFO sighting corresponds to an alien visit, then Earth would be receiving thousands of visits every year and, judging from witness testimony, visits in various vessels controlled by pilots varying in appearance from insect-like creatures, through small, wicked and sex obsessed entities with oversized heads and staring eyes, to mild, human-sized, blond aliens who telepathically communicate motivational messages to assist the human race. Furthermore these advanced aliens, who control technology that makes light-year-long journeys possible, choose to communicate with the human race through primitive pictogram messages in cornfields, perform endless genetic tests on our domestic animals and carry out repeated cloning experiments on abducted humans almost like an assembly line.

In a world where people can map the building blocks of life from DNA fragments, it seems daft that we-can-transport-you-through-walls aliens are still amusing themselves by sticking probes up abductees' noses and playing doctor with their victims' private parts. If all the UFO reports are to be taken uncritically at face value, then what a crazy, crazy world we live in! Besides, if so many spacecraft are chugging around in our atmosphere, it's very strange that there is not one piece of evidence of their existence.

Analysis of thousands of UFO sightings reveals that when an explanation is found for an apparently inexplicable event, the solution is not always due solely to the investigator's skill, thoroughness and knowledge of aerial phenomena, false perception and so on, but also a not-insignificant portion of luck and a degree of coincidence. Such luck or coincidence is not always present and, despite good and thorough investigation, we can be left with a case that remains unsolved. Many people find it difficult to accept this, but it is a fact. One simply has to accept that there are events that despite all efforts cannot be adequately explained here and now – without it meaning that there must be something mysterious or supernatural involved.

The history of the UFO myth shows – for example when old archives are made public and new data sees the light of day, or when new sightings are reported to UFO organisations – that what seems mysterious and inexplicable today may be explained tomorrow and may increase our knowledge about ourselves and our surroundings.

The history of the myth also shows that each decade's actors try to interpret this encounter with the unknown in ways that are culturally acceptable. The answers are not, as claimed in the TV series *The X-Files*, to be found out there, but within ourselves and in our immediate surroundings. If one day we should

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get the answer to the question, "Is there intelligent life in outer space?" it will come not from a UFO organisation or UFO enthusiasts, but probably from astronomy and space research.

## **We experience the world as we believe or wish it to be**

Many UFO enthusiasts have found that the more UFO sightings they have investigated, and the more they have been involved with the UFO myth, the more they have moved away from a belief in visitors from beyond. It is not a mystery (that is, the search for an answer to the question, "Are we being visited from outer space?") that needs to be solved, but an exploration of the many different phenomena and events that can give rise to UFO encounters. We experience the world as we believe or wish it to be, and this is clearly reflected in the report material.

Since its establishment on December 17th 1957, the Danish UFO organisation Scandinavian UFO Information (SUFOI) has collected and analysed more than 15,000 UFO sightings, and over the years hundreds of members have invested thousands of hours of their free time in learning more about the UFO myth. SUFOI therefore feels an obligation to provide the public with objective facts about the UFO myth as an alternative to the internet's information chaos. This public information work is being carried out today via the website [ufo.dk](http://ufo.dk).

At [ufo.dk](http://ufo.dk) anyone can report their UFO sighting and later read whether others have observed something similar at the same time or place, and whether there may already be an explanation for the sighting. The majority of UFO sightings can quickly be explained from the descriptions alone.

Even though SUFOI's work has led to the conclusion that Earth is not being visited from outer space, the organisation continues to explore the UFO phenomenon. Partly we are interested in understanding what ordinary people experience, and why we interpret aerial phenomena (aircraft, parachute flares, sky lanterns, meteors, burning space junk, the Moon, stars, and so on) as visits from outer space. Partly we want to continue to analyse and interpret the development of the UFO myth.

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## Review from the Danish Library Centre

*UFO'er – Myter og viden* (UFOs – Myths and facts), by Per Borggaard, Henning Dethlefsen, Kim Møller Hansen, Toke Haunstrup and Ole Henningsen, Scandinavian UFO Information 2017, ISBN 9788787628198, 204 pages, 120 illustrations in black & white and colour.

### Summary

Compelling and visually appealing book that takes a look behind the many myths and stories about UFOs. For readers who are interested in UFOs and are looking for more information about the phenomenon.

### Description

Scandinavian UFO Information (SUFOI) is behind the book, the first publication in Danish to bring together the many years of research into UFOs. The book gives an insight into the historical development of the subject, from the birth of the UFO myth in 1947 up to the present day. The book also contains information about SUFOI's work and research. There are illustrations and photographs in colour and black & white throughout, and the book also includes suggestions of other Danish and English books on the UFO phenomenon.

### Assessment

The book is testament to the authors' commitment and passion for many of the myths and stories around UFOs, while remaining both objective and well researched. The book is well written and the layout beautifully presented. The many attractive photographs and illustrations complete the work.

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