

Science and the Paranormal

UFO's

OLLI Lecture 3



UFO History

- June 24th 1947 pilot Kenneth Arnold reported seeing nine objects flying in formation near Mt. Rainer that he described as being disc or saucer like.
 - Thus started modern UFOlogy
- But the Bible tells us that
 - Ezekiel saw the wheel; Way up in the middle of the air.
- In San Francisco, Oakland and Sacramento in fall of 1896 people reported hundreds of sightings of a Great Airship that continued thru May '87
 - And there are many more through the 1900s
- The sightings are international and seem to come in waves (see next chart)

American Sightings '64 / '65

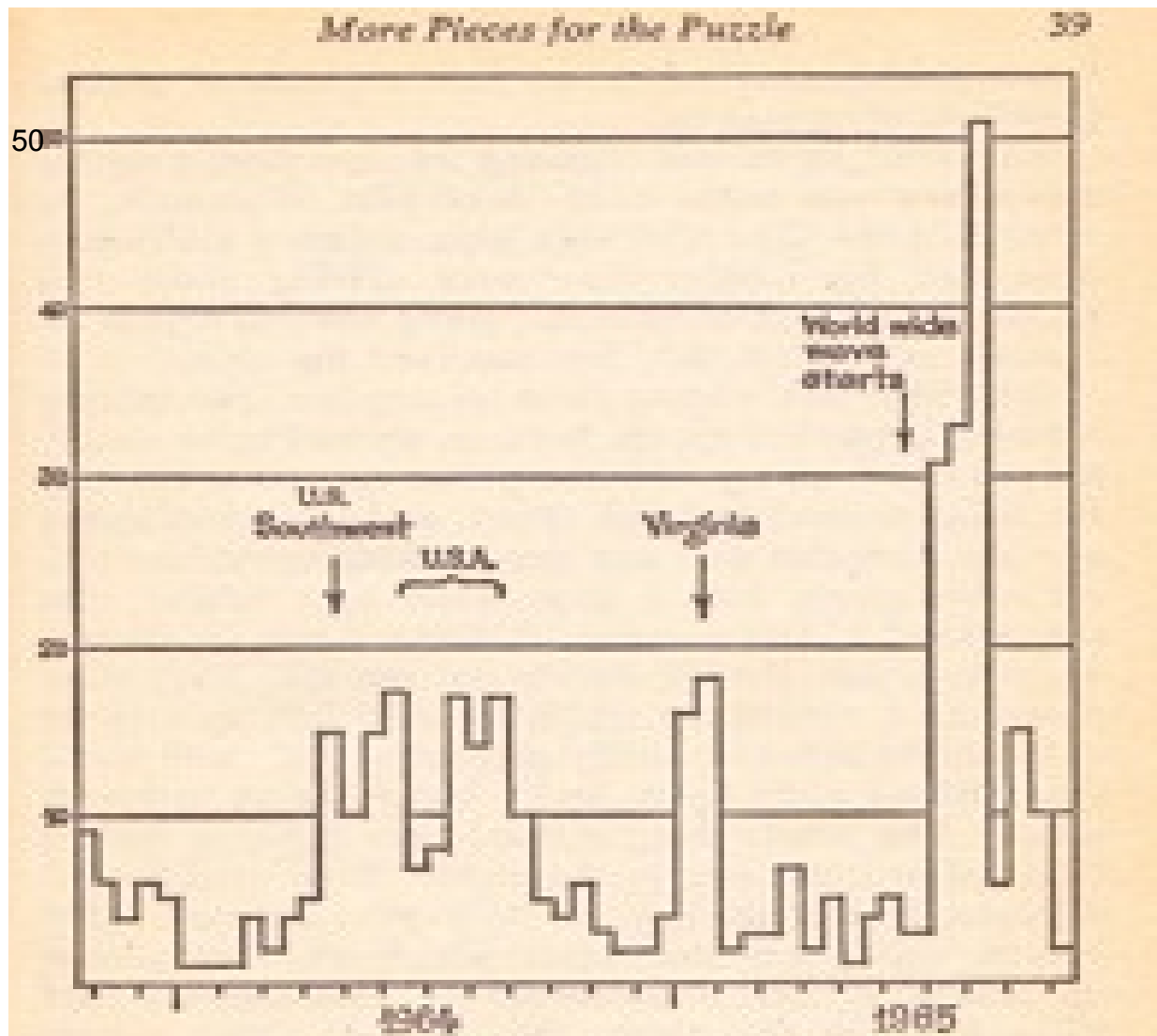


FIG. 7.—Number of "unknowns" in 1964-65.

To researchers already familiar with the European observations of 1954 and 1957, the American sightings of 1964 and 1965 were fascinating.

Daily Reports in 1954 Wave

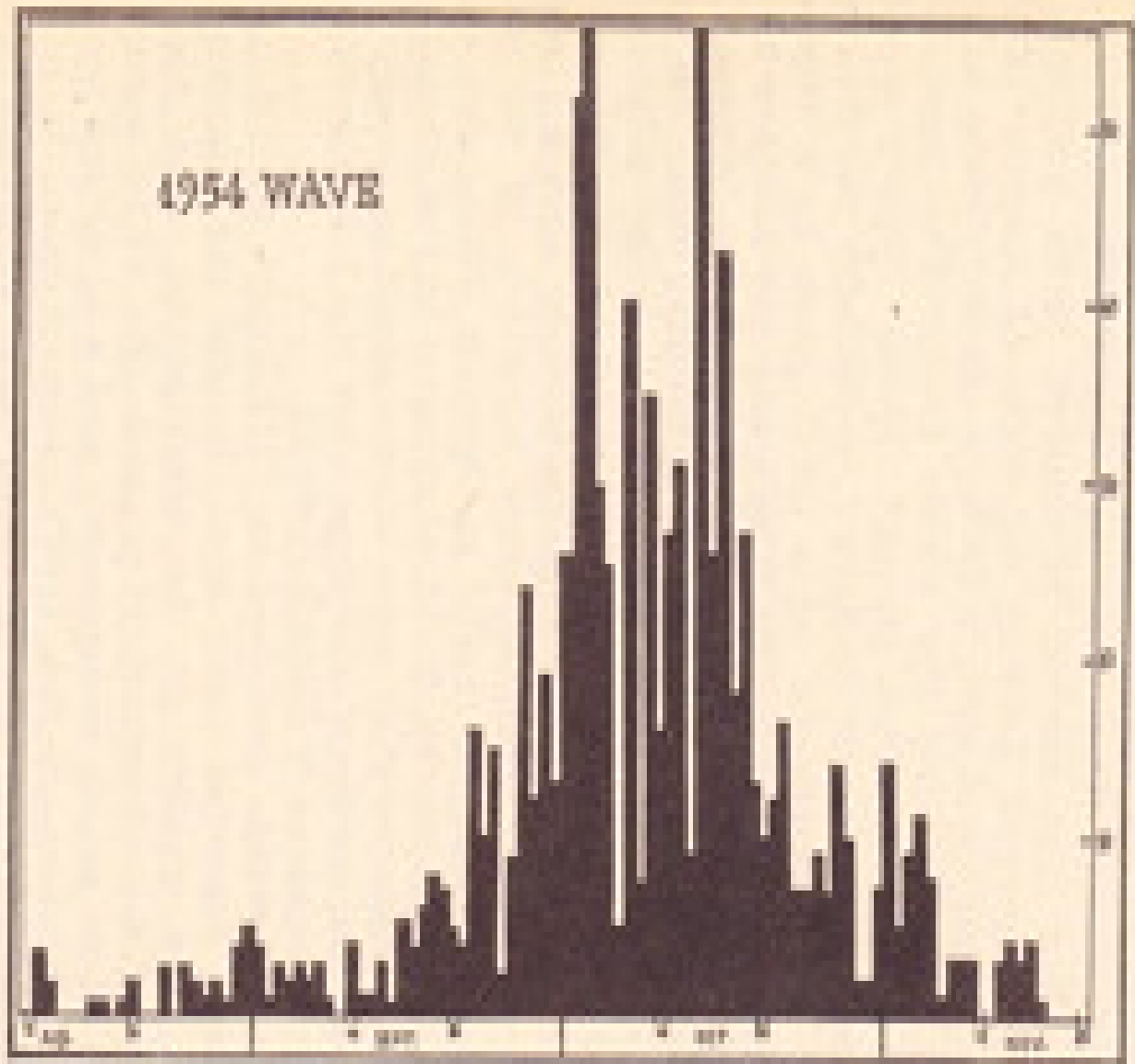


FIG. 21.—Daily number of unidentified aerial phenomena reported during the 1954 wave.

J. Allen Hynek
Evaluation of the first 237
UFO reports received by
the Air Force 1948-49

- Astronomical 32%
- Other Explanations 35%
 - Balloons aircraft rockets
- UFO 33%

Official Studies

- Project Blue Book
 - USAF study 1947 1969
- The Condon Report 1968
 - USAF commissioned a public study
 - It concluded that there was no evidence of danger to our defense systems
 - That there was nothing for science to be interested in
 - The USAF and the rest of the government used this to dismiss any further consideration of UFOs
- The report was widely criticized by the scientific community

The Data

- Nocturnal Lights
- Daylight Sightings
- Radar - Visual
- Close Encounters of The First Kind
- Of the Second Kind
- Of the Third Kind

Nocturnal Lights

Lights in the Night Sky

- The most commonly reported
- The most commonly attributable to natural causes
- UFO identifications were because of impossible
 - Size, shape and color and color changes
 - Physical movements, stationary and rapid direction changes

Daylight Sightings

- Soundless
- Dark, Bright , Single,
- Multiple (often maneuvering together)
- Disk shape
- Cigar shape (vertical, horizontal)
- Sudden accelerations to high speeds
- Sudden directional changes

Radar-Visual

- Tower operators have seen UFOs on radar and visually
- Pilots have seen UFO's on radar and visually
 - There are two reports that the aircraft electronics failed when the plane pointed at the UFO (in one case he was trying to fire a missile)

Close Encounters of the First Kind

- Objects seen at 500 ft or less that have no interaction with the observer or environment
 - Observation only, by one or several people
 - There are many such reports

Of the Second Kind

- The observation is accompanied by a physical effect of some kind
 - Car engines stop
 - Radios turn off
 - Landing marks left
 - Plants and trees scorched or blighted

Of the Third Kind

- Those in which the presence of animated creatures is reported
- Jacques Vallee cataloged 1247 Close Encounter cases
 - 750 actual landings
 - 300 of these (40%) humanoids were seen in or about the craft
 - (1/3 of these were multiple witness cases)

The Big Issue

- Are there or are there not non-manned made physical objects routinely appearing in our sky and occasionally on our surface sometimes accompanied by humanoids?
- If not, we seem to have a lot of psychologically disturbed people among us
- If so we must significantly revise both our scientific and theological understanding of our universe

Data sources

- <http://youtu.be/f54IzLqLTCg>
- <http://www.ufoevidence.org/>
- 'UFO Briefing Document,
The Best Available Evidence'
by Don Berliner with Marie
Galbraith and Antonio
Huneews 1995