

(roughly, scientific) approach was *emetic*. When skeptics can't stand certain data, he said, "they puke; and it comes out as papers on the philosophy of science" (p. 22).

Overlooking such rowdiness and despite various shortcomings *Extrasensory Ecology* is a significant book that interestingly documents an important development: the birth of purposive, explicit, anomalistic anthropology. For better or worse, the newcomer is here, and will bear watching. ●

*The UFO Enigma: The Definitive Explanation of the UFO Phenomenon.*  
By Donald H. Menzel and Ernest H. Taves. Doubleday, Garden City,  
New York, 1977. 297 pp., \$8.95.

*Reviewed by* Robert Sheaffer

In a field so dominated by the irrational as is that of UFOs, it is always refreshing to see the publication of a book which approaches the subject in a level-headed and suitably skeptical manner. The voices of the UFO-believers are heard, day in, day out, in the newspapers, in magazines, on radio and TV (especially on NBC!), but the voice of knowledgeable skeptics almost never reaches the public. *The UFO Enigma* will do as much as any book can to correct that imbalance.

It is sad that Dr. Menzel did not live to see publication of the book, for he would have enjoyed watching its shock waves reverberate throughout the UFO-believers' camp. This book should silence, once and for all, one of the noisiest pro-UFO claims that we ceaselessly hear: that even the ever-so-skeptical Condon Report, funded by the U.S. Air Force, was unable to explain away 40 percent of the cases they studied. Menzel and Taves examine each of these "unexplained" sightings one by one—which no UFO skeptic had previously done—and show them to be anything but impressive. It seems that Dr. Condon's investigators utilized a somewhat peculiar classification scheme: if a report was internally inconsistent, they called it "unexplained," since no object known to science has the remarkable property of self-inconsistency! Also dubbed "unexplained" are all UFO tales long on strangeness but short on evidence, because such reports, taken at face value, have no "explanation." The authors have done the world a great service by putting an end to this nonsense.

Both of the authors have professional skills which are of great value to researchers of UFOs. Dr. Menzel, one of the world's foremost astronomers, commits his formidable expertise to discussions of astronomical and meteorological phenomena, and radar. Dr. Taves, a leading psychoanalyst and one-time parapsychologist (indeed, the Taves-Murphy experiment of the 1930s ranks as a minor "classic" of parapsychology), turns his expertise to an analysis of the psychology and parapsychology of UFO reports. (Ask Uri Geller about the latter.) Under the chapter heading "The Liar, the Believer, and the New Nonsense," we find

nothing less than "a simplified taxonomy of lying," including Korsakoff's syndrome, the Ganser syndrome, defensive lies, and compulsive lies: it's enough to make a UFO believer's hair curl. This chapter and others leave the reader with no illusions concerning the reliability of human eyewitness testimony.

Chapter 13, "UFO's and the Media," sums up and substantiates the authors' charges that "the media in general, and television in particular" have been "enormously irresponsible" in their coverage of UFOs. The next chapter demonstrates why it is true that "the convincing UFO photograph has yet to be taken." Chapters 3 through 6 place the UFO phenomenon in its proper historical perspective: our age is not the only one to envision fanciful sights in the heavens.

According to the title page, this book is certified to be "The Definitive Explanation of the UFO Phenomenon." That is one of the very few statements in the book that this reviewer does not find entirely convincing. For one thing, the authors do not appear to be fully conversant with the main body of present-day UFO literature. For example, discussing the supposed "fairy photographs" which bamboozled the celebrated Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in 1920, they ask, "Fairies! Who would believe in fairies today?" They seem unaware that UFO writers Jerome Clark and John Keel are both on record as accepting "fairy photographs" as presumably authentic, and that Jacques Vallee has written extensively on the importance of fairy sightings to the UFO phenomenon. Similarly, the authors repeatedly make reference to the "extraterrestrial hypothesis" as if it were the only option for those who reject the Baloney Hypothesis for UFOs. They again seem unaware that the "extraterrestrial hypothesis" is decidedly passé in many UFO believers' circles. Some of the more imaginative UFO hypotheses which are presently in vogue: "interpenetrating universes" (Hynek); a "control system" for mankind's destiny (Vallee); "psychokinetically generated by-products . . . quasi-physical" (Clark); the machinations of deceptive "ultraterrestrials" (Keel). The contemporary pro-UFO movement is a lot sillier than this book would suggest.

Because of the emphasis given to meteorological optics, some readers might conclude that, in general, "unexplained" UFO cases are ones which have not yet been investigated by someone familiar with mock suns and mirages. This emphasis is misleading because, while meteorological phenomena *do* give rise to a few UFO sightings, they are among the *least* frequent stimuli to such reports. But the authors make up for this by presenting excellent in-depth discussions of many of the factors that do often generate widely publicized UFO reports, especially hoaxes, meteors, and anomalous radar propagation.

The chapter on the celebrated "UFO abduction" of Betty and Barney Hill is good as far as it goes. The authors chose to concentrate on the famous Fish interpretation of the "alien star map" that Betty Hill reportedly saw aboard a UFO. They build up quite a score against it, but there are still a good many absurdities and arbitrary practices that they permit Fish and Hill to smuggle in unchallenged. The "random number" star map, in which the authors attempt to show that the alleged resemblance between the Hill sketch and the Fish stars could easily be due to chance, is correct in intention but its execution is not; Fish's star selection procedure is not duplicated correctly. (The Dickinson article in *Astronomy*, cited

as the source for Fish's map information, readily lends itself to this misinterpretation.) Fish did not arbitrarily select fifteen stars for the map, leaving thirty-one "favorable" but invisible stars embedded within, as the Dickinson piece implies. Instead, she included all the stars falling within a *subset* of the space containing the full forty-six; it is possible to enclose the fifteen Fish pattern stars inside a rectangular parallelepiped, leaving the rest of the forty-six stars outside. The UFO believers will no doubt delight in pointing out how much more restrictive the Fish approach is than the one used by Menzel and Taves. But no matter, for the map can be easily demolished by asking a few questions such as these: How did Fish sneak in the two stars that are *not* among the "favorable" forty-six? Why are the positions of the UFO-nauts' "home base" stars so badly out of proportion and alignment? And why does she have them backwards?

The reader of this review must not permit my nit-picking to obscure the many virtues of the book. Because, "definitive" or not, *The UFO Enigma* is one of the most sensible books yet written on the subject of UFOs, casting a bright light in many areas where light is sorely needed. No one who is genuinely interested in the *facts* about UFOs can afford to be without it. ●

*The Second Ring of Power.* By Carlos Castaneda. Simon & Schuster, New York, 1977. 316 pp., \$9.95.

*Reviewed by* Richard de Mille

This book, the *Library Journal* said, "raises the question whether Castaneda's journey should continue to be viewed as nonfiction" (Nov. 1, 1977, p. 2267). About time, I should think. Nonetheless, despite a year's warning from me, the Library of Congress goes right on classifying don Juan books as Yaqui history.

Elsewhere I have written at length about Castaneda, educator, allegorist, and recluse. Here I am still pursuing the hoaxer—or more accurately the former hoaxer—for Castaneda is now telling tales with such abandon that reasonable men (male or female) will not believe he is trying to deceive anyone. The time for deceit is past.

All the same, some are either still deceived or practicing deceit. One of Castaneda's UCLA professors recently repeated what he told me in 1975: that no deception occurred when faculty advised the University Press to publish *The Teachings of Don Juan* as though it were a factual report or when a doctoral committee accepted a dissertation in anthropology indistinguishable (except for a more scholarly title) from *Journey to Ixtlan*, already in the bookstores and widely hailed as fiction.

At any rate, we have before us now a fifth occult adventure from the irrepressible anthrofantasist. Resisting the temptation to tell you how much fun *The Second Ring of Power* is, I'll just tease out some signs of fictioneering—as if