

A PROPOSAL
for
THE VALIDATION OF PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

Photographic evidence for the reality of UFOs has been unreliable due to the ease with which photographs can be and often are, faked or otherwise misrepresented plus the fact that attempts to validate UFO photos have been limited to the photo itself without relating the photo to the accompanying reports of witnesses to the incident. All researchers are aware of many photos purported to be of UFOs which in fact are not and we are unsure of the remainder because it cannot be clearly established that a hoax has not been perpetrated. Any object resembling a UFO can be tossed into the air and photographed. The result is a photo of a real physical object. The question is -- what is the object in the photo? No certain answer has been possible to date.

To be certain that we indeed have a legitimate photo of an actual UFO, two things need to be clearly established, (1) the phenomenon concerned is in fact unidentified (a UFO) and (2) the photo contains a photographic image of that particular phenomenon and not something else. This proposal will deal with both points.

The current problem is that although there are many good photos of what are purported to be UFOs, we cannot be certain that they really are. The possibility always exists that they are hoaxes.

Once a hoax has been perpetrated, we may never be aware of it. Our task as researchers, then, is to prevent the perpetration of hoaxes in the first place by insisting upon a rigorous procedure which, if adhered to, will remove any doubt as to the authenticity of the photo.

Let us initially accept two basic premises as our starting point.

1. Actual UFO photos do exist, hence more can be expected to be taken in future. (It is inconceivable that photos of actual UFOs have not been taken having consideration for the hundreds of thousands of UFO sightings, the vast number of cameras available to the witnesses and the many years