Ansd 2/3/53

Sterling Sherwin
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P.O. BOX 339 MILL VALLEY CALIF.
Jan. 30, 1953

Dear Frank Scully:

You will be interested to know that Harvard University Press will publish on Feb. 27th FLYING SAUCERS by Donald H. Menzel, professor of Astrophysics.

I happened to review your book for a string of papers up here and caught you a few times on the Hawthorne show. All good stuff. I have never met you, but we likely have a mutual friend in Abel Green with whom I used to pal around in the '20s.

Good luck in your work and more power to you!

Cordially yours,

Sterling Sherwin

Sterling Sherwin

FRANK SCULLY
BEVERLY MANOR
WESTLEY HEIGHTS
HOLLYWOOD CALIF

April 18 1953

Dear Menzel:

I'm stuck. I don't know whether to go ahead and beat your brains back into your specialty or to pull up for a moment to give you a chance to square yourself and possibly settle for a TKO.

Considering that you showed no such gallantry before slugging me in your particular version of The Charge of the Light Brigade, this may be an indication that having seen MGM's version of Ivanhoe (in Technicolor yet) some of it has rubbed off on me.

First how can you dare say what I left out of Behind the Flying Saucers without (a) asking me point blank or (b) having access to my notes, orginal manuscript or correspondence? I am at the moment trying to get Broman into a neutral corner and make him confess why drove him into cooking up this canard.

All information I have on the subject indicates that the only condition laid down previous to the lecture of March 8 1950 were laid down by Newton and they weren't conditions really, simply an explanation as to why he wanted no publicity on the talk. He knew I was working on Behind The Flying Saucers and didn't want to give any wide release to the material before Holt was ready to release it in book form. That doesn't add up to a mystery except possibly among sub freshmen in the field of public relations.

Broman writes that the first sentence of the five conditions were advanced to Newton, whereas you pile all you wrote on their backs. Newton says the conditions are a lot of hog wash and it is a fact that Broman never wrote to me or my publishers drawing attention to what he now claims was an error of omission.

I'm afraid we will have to go back to first base on a lot of this so that no one will be hit unintentionally. What I would like to know from you is this: Did you personally write every word of Flying Saucers? Or did you farm out part of the project among students, instructors, family and friends?, and then do them the honor of lending your by-line to the opus? I

FRANK SCULLY
BEDSIDE MANOR
WHITLEY HEIGHTS
HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.

ask because there is so much that is slipshod, distorted and even bad rewriting that I don't want to charge you with what was really the work of others. For instance , where do I say that saucers "crashed" in New Mexico? I can't find that I ever wrote that they crashed at all. Yet you attribute this to me six or eight times. This is pretty sloppy reporting, leaving out entirely the issues of research and scholarship, so you can well understand why I am reluctant to attribute it to you. However, if you say you wrote it all I'll have to use a different yardstick when fanning your derriere.

And don't you know by now that whatever newspapers print that is libelous cannot be restated by you without dragging you into any subsequent libel action? Such stuff is not privileged and as one author to another my advice is that you disavow any malicious intention in repeating the libels of Cahn, Fleder, et al. I have a copy of the complaint ultimately filed and it isn't what the DA and the newspapers first published at all. In fact it is so weak by now that the Federal Grand Jury heaved the whole thing out after questioning Fleder for two days and the thing may well go the same way on the local level before it comes to trial. In any case it is better to lay off while things like this are before the courts.

If you had had the forethought, not to stress the courtesy, to have checked with Newton and with me before embracing Brosman's wild pitches as strikeouts you'd be in a much better position than you are now.

I am practising what I am preaching and am therefore giving you a chance to knockme out of the ring after we've touched gloves as an apology for rabbit-punching a worthy opponent.

Faithfully,

FRANK SCULLY

3 Copies

HARVARD COLLEGE OBSERVATORY
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

May 5, 1953

Mr. Frank Scully
2071 Grace Avenue
Hollywood,
California

Dear Mr. Scully:

In reply to your letter of 18 April I can make the following brief comments. First, I want to assure you that the text of "Flying Saucers" is my own work. My wife helped me on some of the research and my daughter assisted me in the drafting on Chapters XI and XIII. Many people provided information, including Vice Chancellor A. C. Nelson and F. Broman of the University of Denver. Naturally, the editor of the Harvard University Press, Mr. J. D. Elder, made many valuable suggestions. However, the book is entirely my own.

I assure you that there was no malice in any of my statements. I have tried merely to present the facts. Since I was not there, I have relied chiefly on interviews with people who were there and various published newspaper accounts for basic information.

I cannot find a single place in my text where I have said that you said that flying saucers had "crashed."

Very truly yours,

Donald H. Menzel
Acting Director

DHM/m