



Book Review: Ryan S. Wood, *Majic Eyes Only* (Wood Enterprises, 2005)

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Ryan Wood has written a book that goes to the core of the UFO phenomenon and the emerging discipline of exopolitics - the alleged crashes and covert retrievals of UFOs that are extraterrestrial in origin. *Majic Eyes Only* deals with 74 cases of alleged UFO crashes and retrievals that have been secretly managed by government agencies and military services in the U.S., and other major countries.



Ryan Wood provides, for the first time, a detailed listing of the most well known crash retrieval cases and the evidence supporting these. He lists these in chronological order starting with the alleged 1897 Aurora crash in Texas, and ending a hundred years later with an alleged UFO crash on the Isle of Lewis, Scotland in 1997. He discusses the pioneering research of Leonard Stringfield, the first major UFO researcher to compile evidence of UFO crash/retrievals. *Majic Eyes Only* will help researchers working on one or more of these cases to make cross-comparisons, identify new evidence, and to develop an analytical framework for assessing the available evidence.

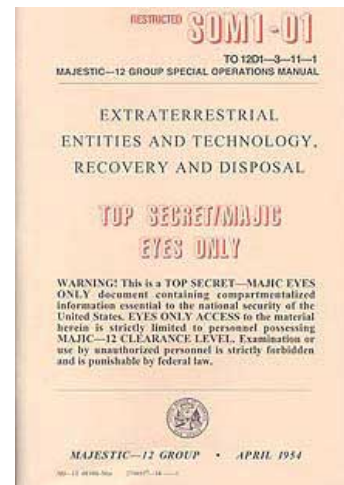
Wood's primary contribution is in compiling the best available evidence for 74 alleged UFO crash/retrievals in an easily accessible format for researchers and novices alike. His most

important scholarly contribution is to provide an analytical framework for rating the various categories of evidence cited in support for each of the UFO crash-retrieval cases. He explains his framework for effectively rating cases in terms of their authenticity by examining seven distinct categories of evidence: “witnesses”; “sources”; “zingers”; “content”; “chronology”; “no anachronisms”; and “forensics” (p. 14). He assigns each of these categories a ‘weighting factor’ that multiplies the evidence found for each category. This evidence is assessed on a five point scale in terms of most credible 5, and the least credible 0. All this amounts to a theoretical maximum of 125 points for the evidence concerning a particular UFO crash/retrieval in terms of the seven categories. This is very helpful for developing differing levels of authenticity for the available evidence for any particular UFO crash/retrieval case.

Wood gives the ‘witnesses’ category a ‘weighting multiplier’ of 3.0 which means that if there are a number of direct eyewitness accounts seeing a UFO crash/retrieval, then this could be assigned the maximum five points for the category. If on the other hand there are only second hand testimonies, i.e., others relating what direct witnesses had seen, this could be given a ranking of say 2 points. When the points for that category is multiplied by the ‘weighting multiplier’ of 3.0 that would yield 15 points for a number of direct witnesses and only 6 points for second hand witnesses. A similar process occurs with each of the categories so one in the end can tally the total points from the different categories of evidence out a theoretical maximum of 125. According to Wood, cases that have a high level of authenticity occur when “all the investigative channels and ideas have been pursued, and with each test the case or document has shown to be authentic or nearly problem free (p. 15). In contrast, cases with low levels of authenticity arise when “all investigative avenues have been pursued and show little or no sign of internal consistency” (p. 16).

Wood analyses documentary evidence for the creation of an Interplanetary Phenomenon Unit established to deal with UFO crashes and retrievals. He conclusively establishes that the IPU was an organization that existed, though its precise mission is still contested. Similarly, Wood discusses projects Moon Dust and Blue Fly, and their relationship to official Air Force investigations of UFO crashes and retrievals. The IPU therefore emerges as the predecessor of the Majestic-12 control group created by President Truman in 1947.

Most significant of all the documents discussed in the book is the Special Operations Manual (SOM 1-01) that was leaked to the UFO community in 1994. It outlines procedures for personnel participating in various aspects of UFO crash/retrievals. The SOM 1-01, allegedly published in 1954, outlines such technical procedures as “recovery operations”, “receiving and handling”, “UFO identification” and even a guide on “Extraterrestrial Biological Entities” (Appendix). The author’s father, Dr Robert Wood, a former aerospace engineer with McDonald Douglas, analyzed the authenticity of the SOM-01 by investigating the various type fonts, syntax and printing procedures used in preparation of the document. He concludes that the SOM 1-01 is “a rock solid production of circa 1954” (p. 267). This leads to the conclusion that SOM 1-01 is in fact an authentic document outlining the procedures used by official personnel covertly involved in UFO crash/retrievals.



Ryan Wood does not pretend that all the evidence he has put into his book is conclusive, some of it requires further investigation and some may ultimately be shown to have little substance. He concludes that while “some of the preceding cases fail the test of completeness and strain credibility, the number of fertile cases, which will undoubtedly grow as researcher continues, is larger than many realize.”(p. 244). It is in laying the analytical framework for assessing these “fertile cases” and in listing the best available evidence for each of these cases that Wood most succeeds in his book. My suggestion is that in a future edition, Wood applies his analytical framework to each of the 74 cases so a quantitative score can be reached that provides readers an easy guide for identifying the most persuasive, to the least persuasive cases. This will assist both in future refinements of his analytical framework and debates over the available evidence on UFO crash/retrievals.

Wood has provided an invaluable guide for how one can approach the complex arena of UFO crash/retrievals in an analytically rigorous manner. He provides a fascinating compilation of raw data that invites exopolitical analysis of the government and military procedures invoked for

UFO crash/retrievals. *Majic Eyes Only* will appeal both to the expert UFO researcher, and the novice stepping with some trepidation into case studies of UFO crash/retrievals. This is one of the most important books to emerge in UFOlogy and will serve as essential reading for many years to come.

By Michael E. Salla, PhD
Chief Editor, *Exopolitics Journal*

