

Why I don't believe the 'NASA UFO' stories from Vito Saccheri

Reference: Article from "Houston Sky" No.5, June/July 1995
<http://www.sacred-texts.com/ufo/moon.htm>

Saccheri, an oil engineering expert, recounts a 1979 experience with a 'Lester Howes' in Houston. After they met, "he told me he was both an amateur astronomer and a ufologist and that he wanted my help in obtaining access to secret photos held somewhere inside NASA."

Saccheri continued, with my comments following:

"Les showed me a small paperback book entitled "Somebody Else Is on the Moon," written by a former NASA scientist, George H. Leonard. Leonard had been working in the photo intelligence division of NASA."

JO: Not accurate. Leonard never worked for NASA, especially the 'photo intel' division'. Heck, even Leonard never CLAIMED he worked for NASA.

"After arguing futilely with NASA authorities about releasing the photos, Leonard published them himself in his book."

JO: Not accurate. Leonard GOT the photographs from published sources. He did NOT ever possess "unpublished" photos.

"Reinforcements were called in, and we soon found ourselves having the same conversation with the big boys from administration. None had seen the book, but significantly, one had taken the time to confirm that Leonard was in fact a former NASA scientist-at the Jet Propulsion Lab, from what I could gather."

JO: Not accurate. Leonard never worked ANYWHERE for NASA – and nowhere in his book does he claim he DID.

"We were directed to a Building 30, which had not been on the tour and which didn't even exist. Building 30 A turned out to be empty so we walked into Building 30 B and found ourselves in the middle of a high-security area where an existing mission was being monitored."

JO: Not accurate Building 30 existed, and was on the public tours (it is better known as 'Mission Control'), and was easy to visit, because in 1979 there WERE no NASA manned space missions to monitor.

"Finally, some serious discussions transpired. The photo library, we were told, had been relocated off site to the 'Lunar Landing Observatory' directly adjacent to the east NASA property on NASA Road 1. "

JO: Not accurate. The lunar photographs were (and always had been) in the “Lunar Science Institute”, the former Jim (“Silver Dollar”) West hunting lodge, east of JSC on NASA Road 1. The name (and the ‘relocation’) are erroneous.

“Two days later, we drove east on NASA 1 past the main entrance of the facility, found a chain-link fence that marked the eastern limit of the property line, expecting to see a building or sign. Nothing but a heavily wooded area! Driving back and forth along the road trying to decide whether they had done it to us again, we noticed a narrow dirt road running back into the woods directly along NASA's fence line. Hung on the chain between two small posts was a sign that read simply: "No Trespassing." Instinct told us this had to be the place. We lowered the chain and drove about three-quarters of a mile down the dirt road, which U-turned back toward the highway. Directly behind the trees and camouflaged by the woods was our building.”

JO: Not accurate The building is 50 yards from the road, with an open lawn in front of it. The driveway is paved. I used to visit there often. There was no chain across any dirt road – not until years later when the institute moved to a new, much larger building about two miles to the north.

“When we told the receptionist we wanted the library, she pointed toward the broom closet, which as it turned out, opened onto a winding stairway leading down into a dimly lit under-ground tunnel. I'm certain it took us back toward the NASA property line.”

JO: Not accurate The LSI had no basement, it was all crawl space (as I personally showed Rebecca Schatte, a writer for ‘Houston Sky’, who later showed up to try to verify Saccheri’s story). The photo archives were in the library just off the large entry hall – on the ground level.

“But after a quick glance, he gave us the bad news: the numbers were meaningless in Houston. He explained that for security reasons, NASA had split the country into five regions, each with a duplicate set of records and a different code number system. Leonard's numbers weren't applicable in this facility. I asked where the master list was kept, and Roger replied at Langley, Virginia. Les and I looked at each other...”

JO: Not accurate. The NASA Apollo photographs have exactly one code number, but when reissued as part of press releases, they received a public affairs office reference number too (these were the numbers Leonard used, which shows that the pictures were NOT ‘unpublished’). The press office has a conversion sheet for the numbers it uses. There are different sections of the country assigned to different NASA sites for educational support activities, and the NASA Langley Research Center (in Hampton Roads, Virginia, near Norfolk) handles a bloc of eastern states.