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from The UFO Guide

originally by Nick Humphries, February 1994
last updated by [THINK ABOUT IT](#), January 2000

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Hynek Classification System - A system used to categorize the various types of UFO sightings invented by Dr J. Allen Hynek. The categories are as follows:

- Nocturnal Light' - Any anomalous light(s) seen in the night sky whose description rules out the possibilities of aircraft lights, stars, meteors and the like.
- Daylight Disk UFOs seen in the distant daytime sky. The UFOs classed in this category can be other shapes as well like cigars, eggs, and ovals.
- Radar Visuals - Where UFOs are tracked on radar and can be seen at the place illustrated at the same time.
- Close Encounters ...
 - of the First Kind (CEI) - a UFO in close proximity (within approx 500 feet) of the witness
 - of the Second Kind (CEII) - a UFO that leaves markings on the ground; causes burns or paralysis to humans; frightens animals; interferes with car engines or TV and radio reception
 - of the Third Kind (CEIII) - a CEI or CEII which have visible occupants

There are also 2 more unofficial classes of Close Encounter...

- of the Fourth Kind (CEIV) - [Abduction](#) cases
- of the Fifth Kind (CEV) - Communication occurs between a person and an *alien*

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Vallee, Jacques - French astrophysicist and UFOlogist who believes that UFOs come from both a physical and *psychic* origin and that some characters in folklore -- like elves -- could have originated from *aliens*. He reshaped the UFO rating system by expanding upon the Hynek Classification System ...

Vallee Classification System - A system used to categorize the various types of UFO and paranormal experiences invented by Dr Jacques Vallee and is now used more often instead of the HYNEK CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM since it gives the reader a more detailed summary of a case. The categories are as follows...

- AN rating - Classifies any anomalous behavior.
 - AN1 - Anomalies which have no lasting physical effects (i.e., amorphous lights, unexplained explosions)
 - AN2 - Anomalies which do have lasting physical effects (i.e., poltergeists, materialized objects, areas of flattened grass, corn circles)
 - AN3 - Anomalies with associated entities (i.e., ghosts, yetis, spirits, elves and other mythical/legendary entities)
 - AN4 - Witness interaction with the AN3 entities (i.e., near-death experiences, religious miracles and visions, OBEs (out-of-body experiences))
 - AN5 = Anomalous reports of injuries and deaths (i.e., SHC (spontaneous human combustion), unexplained wounds as well as permanent healing that results from a paranormal experience)

- MA rating - Describes behavior of a UFO. It is analogous to the 'Nocturnal Light', 'Daylight Disk', and 'Radar Visual' Hynek classifications.
 - MA1 - a UFO has been observed which travels in a discontinuous trajectory (i.e., vertical drops, maneuvers or loops)
 - MA2 - MA1 plus any physical effects caused by the UFO
 - MA3 - MA1 plus any entities observed on board (i.e., the airship cases of the late 19th Century)
 - MA4 - Maneuvers accompanied by a sense of reality transformation for the observer
 - MA5 - A maneuver that results in a permanent injury or death of the witness

- FB rating - Fly-By rating
 - FB1 - a simple sighting of a UFO traveling in a straight line across the sky
 - FB2 - FB1 accompanied by physical evidence
 - FB3 - A fly-by where *entities* are observed on board (rare)
 - FB4 - A fly-by where the witness experienced a transformation of reality into the object or its occupants
 - FB5- A fly-by which the witness would suffer permanent injuries or even death (e.g., the Cash/Landrum case)

- CE rating - Close Encounter rating. Similar to the Hynek 'Close Encounter' ratings.
 - CE1 UFO comes within 500 feet of the witness, but no after effects are suffered by the witness or the surrounding area.
 - CE2 - a CE1 that leaves landing traces or injuries to the witness
 - CE3 - *Entities* have been observed on the UFO.

- CE4 - The witness has been abducted.
- CE5 - CE4 which results in permanent psychological injuries or death.
- SVP rating - The all-important credibility rating. "Marks" out of four are given for the 3 categories of source reliability (1st digit), site visit (2nd digit), and possible explanations (3rd digit). A rating of 222 or higher indicates the case was reported by a reliable source, the site has been visited, and a natural explanation would require a major alteration of at least one parameter.
 - Source Reliability rating
 - 0 - Unknown or unreliable source.
 - 1 - Report attributed to a known source of unknown or uncalibrated reliability.
 - 2 - Reliable source, second-hand.
 - 3 - Reliable source, first-hand.
 - 4 - First-hand personal interview with the witness by a source of proven reliability.
 - Site Visit rating
 - 0 - No site visit or answer unknown.
 - 1 - Site visit by a casual person not familiar with the phenomena.
 - 2 - Site visited by persons familiar with the phenomena.
 - 3 - Site visit by a reliable investigator with some experience.
 - 4 - Site visit by a skilled analyst.
 - Possible Explanations rating
 - 0 - Data consistent with one or more natural causes.
 - 1 - Natural explanation requires only slight modification of the data.
 - 2 - Natural explanation requires major alteration of one parameter.
 - 3 - Natural explanation requires major alteration of several parameters.
 - 4 - No natural explanation possible, given the evidence.

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