

Astrology Tops Occult Book List

"As for Snoopy -- well, anyone can see he's an Aquarian dog, the way he wears that crazy scarf and the World War I aviator's cap, while he chases an imaginary Red Baron from the roof of his dog house," writes Linda Goodman in the foreword of her book "Sun Signs."

This book by Goodman is the steadiest best seller in the occult category at a Livonia book store, the Little Professor, according to its proprietor, Frank Gurskis. "Books on astrology sell well consistently," he explains. "It's the most popular subject within the occult group."

"Occult books" are defined as those dealing with psychological relationships whose reality is accepted by a sizable group of adults but is denied or ignored in the conventional belief systems of the prevailing culture -- books about celebrated psychics, mysticism, life after death, astrology, black magic, flying saucers, parapsychology, dream interpretation, dowsing, numerology, ghosts, and the like.

These subjects are rarely discussed in formal schooling, yet interest in them runs high. Ten to 15 per cent of the books at this one store fall into the occult category. Best sellers within this grouping at the book store are:

"Sun Signs," by Linda Goodman. The author takes each astrological sign and gives rather thorough descriptions of each man, woman, child, boss and employee born under it. By giving the reader this knowledge, Miss Goodman hopes to make people more sympathetic to the nature of others. She explains "how to recognize people's hidden dreams, secret hopes and true characters -- how to understand their deepest needs -- how to like them better and make them like you -- how to really know the people you know." The reader is equipped to identify birth signs of people, and even animals like Snoopy, that touch their lives.

"THE THIRD EYE," by T. Lobsang Rampa. This is the autobiography of an Englishman whose soul was replaced by a Tibetan Lama. When seven years old, the author enters the Chakpori Lamastery, the Temple of Tibetan Medicine, where "great masters" teach him mystic arts such as clairvoyance, levitation and astral

projection. Later in life, he suffers a mild concussion and loses all memory of his life as an Englishman, retaining instead the full memory of a Tibetan from babyhood onwards.

"Charlots of the Gods," by Erich Von Daniken. Was God an astronaut? In this book, Daniken contends that unknown gods visited primeval earth in fiery chariots or spaceships from a star capable of supporting life long before the Earth was cool. He explores the inconsistencies of the findings by archeologists in ruins of thousands of years ago which cannot be explained by reference to conventional theories of archeology, history and religion.

Among the ruins, Daniken writes, are electric batteries; strange being in perfect space suits with platinum fasteners; and numbers with 15 digits -- "something not registered by any computer." Daniken struggles with theories on how primeval people acquired the ability to create them.

"The Late Great Planet Earth," by Hal Lindsey. "This is a book about prophecy," the author confides. "Bible prophecy." And every time the reader passes a biblical passage, one finds a communist conspiracy. At least, that is the way this biblical scholar handles the scriptures.

Lindsey pulls excerpts from the Old Testament and turns them into variations of reactionary rhetoric:

"We have seen that Russia and her confederates will arm and equip a vast confederacy. This powerful group of allies will lead an attack on restored Israel."

"A WORLD BEYOND," by Ruth Montgomery. The author, in "automatic writing," gives an eyewitness account of the hereafter by a dead man, Arthur Ford. It is a communication between the living and the dead, that just came through her typewriter.

"A Gift of Prophecy," the Phenomenal Jeanne Dixon," by Ruth Montgomery. Jeanne Dixon, sometimes referred to as a Republican prophet, is most famous for her

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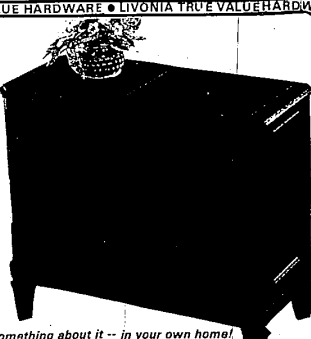
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