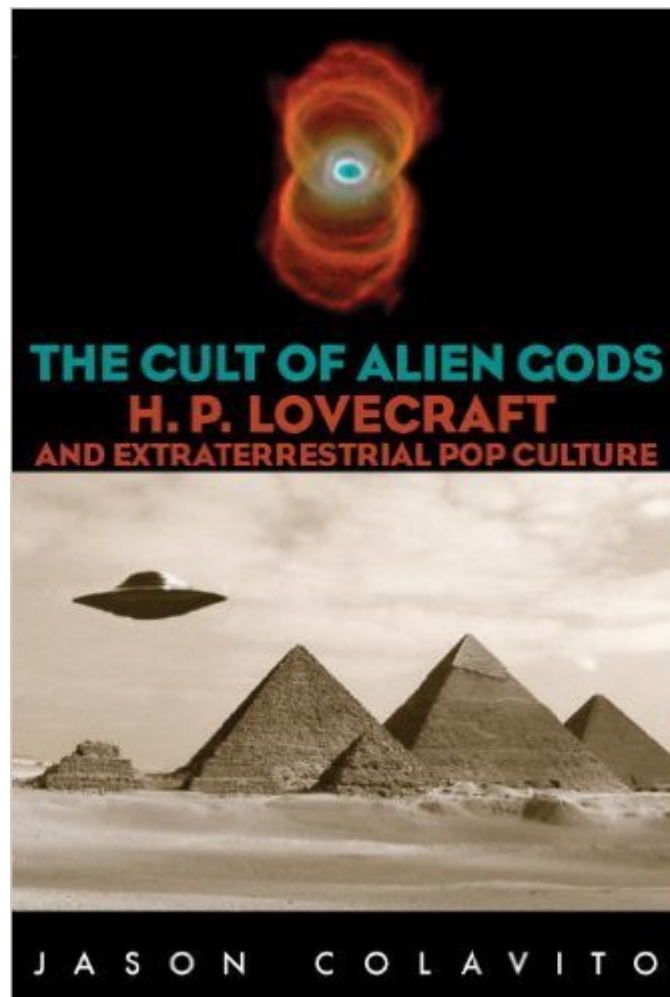


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The Cult Of Alien Gods: H.P. Lovecraft And Extraterrestrial Pop Culture



Synopsis

Many Americans believe that so-called ancient astronauts (visitors from outer space) were responsible for historical wonders like the pyramids. This entertaining and informative book traces the origins of such beliefs to the work of horror writer H. P. Lovecraft (1890–1937). The author takes the reader through fifty years of pop culture and pseudoscience highlighting such influential figures and developments as Erich von D niken (Chariots of the Gods), Graham Hancock (Fingerprints of the Gods), Zecharia Sitchin (Twelfth Planet), and the Raelian Revolution. The astounding and improbable connections among these various characters are revealed, along with the disturbing consequences of Lovecraft's "little joke" for modern science and public knowledge.

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Customer Reviews

The Cult of Alien Gods is really two books in one. First of all it's an introduction to master writer H.P. Lovecraft and especially the mythos about the sinister extraterrestrial known as Cthulhu, but it's also a study of the rise of the ancient astronaut movement along with the ideas about lost civilizations, where authors such as Erich von D niken, Graham Hancock, and Zecharia Sitchin became the

most famous representatives. According to Colavito, it's Lovecraft - the somewhat still mysterious gentleman from Providence - and his stories about extraterrestrials visiting Earth aeons ago that the entire genre later known as ancient astronauts is based upon. Proponents of this genre claimed that sometime way back in ancient history, Earth was visited by extraterrestrials who were mistaken for gods and among other things helped build the amazing Egyptian pyramids. For people who don't know anything about Lovecraft Colavito - himself a fan of Lovecraft - offers a nice introduction to the mysterious man and his ground-breaking penmanship, details where he picked up his influences, how his literary masterpieces were received by his peers, and much, much more. Now this introduction is perfectly fine, and Colavito definitely deserves some praise for his tribute to Lovecraft. But, the main thesis behind the book is not quite as convincing. Colavito insists that Lovecraft and his fiction is indeed what von D  niken and the rest based their respective works upon, and even though he on several occasions shows how something that Lovecraft had written decades earlier were later taken as genuine facts, he still never manages to actually prove that without Lovecraft there would have been no ancient astronauts.

In the next couple of weeks, I will be giving a talk concerning how we go about trying to find extraterrestrials. A big part of that will be looking into the claims made on the History Channel about aliens in the past which have been rather under par for good history lately (and less lately). There are numerous good books and websites on the subject that undercuts the claims of ancient astronauts, from the Skeptic's dictionary to an older book by Ronald Story, *The Space - Gods Revealed*. But one of the most enjoyable ones has been Jason Colavito's *The Cult of Alien Gods*. It wonderfully goes through the literary sources of Erich von Daniken and his successors, but its major thesis is about how the ideas originate in the fictional works of American author H.P. Lovecraft. Colavito basically proves that Lovecraft is the source behind the works (mainly French) that would try to prove there were aliens in the distant past, and those were the sources utilized by von Daniken later on. The book isn't a debunking book, though it does take the time occasionally to eviscerate the claims of von Daniken, Graham Hancock, and others. Another joy is that it also gives the historical background to Lovecraft's work (from the poetry of Poe to the Theosophical Society) as well as the cultural matrix that made the ancient astronaut ideas take off, especially in America. You will learn not just about a pseudo-historical idea, but also about real history and literature. It does great work all around to make its thesis work and teach you many other things.

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