

TRC RESEARCH CENTER

ARCHIVE REVIEW REPORT

The Ruidoso Document

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Status: Preliminary Review

Archive Period: Approximately 1960–1990

Classification: Unverified / Requires Further Analysis

I've been working in one of the newer storage areas that, as far as I can determine, nobody at TRC had examined before.

Calling it “new” is a little misleading. The storage area is new to us. The material isn't.

Most of what I've looked at so far appears to date from roughly 1960 through 1990. Unlike many of the TOX materials we've been working with, these records don't immediately look like something assembled by an individual collector. The organization is different. So is the language.

A lot of it looks institutional.

There are conference papers, correspondence, meeting summaries, research notes, photocopied articles, academic papers and what appear to be materials circulated among universities or professional organizations.

I have not identified a single source for the collection.

That's important.

At this point, I can't tell whether these records came from one university, several universities, a professional organization or someone who simply collected material from all of them.

Then I found the Ruidoso document.

THE OCTOBER 1963 MEETING

The document is a summary of what it describes as a conference held in **Ruidoso, New Mexico, in October 1963.**

The stated location is the **Inn of the Mountain Gods.**

Six participants appear to have attended.

That's where things get strange.

The document has been heavily redacted.

Not damaged. Not faded. Not missing sections.

Redacted.

Entire names have been blacked out. Other names have only portions obscured. Several passages in the body of the document have also been covered.

I don't yet know who made the redactions or when.

Three names, however, are at least partially readable.

They appear to be:

Oppenheimer

Pauling

Conant

Obviously, those names immediately got my attention.

There were very prominent men in American science and higher education at the time with those surnames: J. Robert Oppenheimer, Linus Pauling and James Bryant Conant.

I want to be very clear about this.

I have found nothing establishing that the names in this document refer to those three men.

A surname is not identification.

Until we find correspondence, signatures, travel records, institutional records, another copy of the document or some other independent evidence, that's as far as I'm willing to go.

But there is something else in the document that may be considerably more important than the names.

THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

Most of the summary is fairly dry. Then there is this paragraph:

“The objective of the gathering was to evaluate the likelihood of tracing heritage of certain ‘A’ people back to the original visitation many thousands of years ago.”

I've checked the wording several times.

It says **"A" people.**

The letter appears inside quotation marks in the document.

I don't know what "A" means.

It could refer to a population, an archaeological classification, an internal research designation, a geographic group or something else entirely.

There is nothing on the page that defines it.

The phrase that bothers me more is:

"the original visitation."

Not migration.

Not settlement.

Not population movement.

Visitation.

Again, that doesn't tell us what the writer meant. We should not assign our own meaning to the word simply because it sounds unusual.

But someone chose that word.

And apparently the people attending this meeting understood what it meant, because the summary doesn't explain it.

"PLAYING WITH FIRE"

Another readable passage appears later.

It says:

"Conant insisted this was playing with fire, and nothing should go forward."

That's all we have.

We don't know what "this" refers to.

Was he objecting to the research?

Testing?

Publication?

Contacting particular people?

Collecting genetic or genealogical information?

Or something contained in one of the redacted sections?

I don't know.

We also don't know whether "Conant" was James Bryant Conant.

But whoever Conant was, he apparently believed something being discussed at this meeting should stop.

That makes the redactions considerably more interesting.

WHAT WE ACTUALLY KNOW

Right now, very little.

We have a document that appears to describe a six-person meeting in Ruidoso in October 1963.

We have three partially readable surnames.

We have extensive redactions.

We have a reference to certain "A" people.

We have a reference to an "original visitation many thousands of years ago."

And we have someone named Conant apparently saying:

This was playing with fire. Nothing should go forward.

Everything beyond that is interpretation.

I've started searching the surrounding material for references to Ruidoso, the meeting, the six participants, "A people," "original visitation," and anything that might explain where this collection came from.

I'm also looking for something very simple.

Another copy.

Redactions sometimes hide information.

But archives have a habit of keeping duplicates.

And occasionally someone forgets to redact the second one.

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STATUS: ACTIVE REVIEW

The existence of surnames matching historical individuals does not establish their participation. No connection to J. Robert Oppenheimer, Linus Pauling or James Bryant Conant should be treated as established without independent corroboration.