

INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS ANALYSIS
MT SAN ANTONIO, CA

DATE: May 28, 2026
TO: The Herald, Church of Alienism
FROM: Howard Stonecipher, Director
SUBJECT: Recovered Field Notebook of Rand Ounce

PROSPECTIVE HERALD SUBMISSION
Recovered Field Notebook of Rand Ounce

Submitted for consideration by The Herald.

Approximately ten years ago, Rand Ounce, a member of an Institute expeditionary field party, disappeared in the northern Cascade Mountains. Search activity at the time produced no reliable trace, and the working assumption gradually shifted from recoverable missing person to unresolved field loss.

A recent expedition working the same general region located a small weathered notebook inside a collapsed log shelter approximately eight kilometers from Ounce's last documented position. The notebook appears to be his. Most of it is exactly what one would expect from a field geologist: lithologic descriptions, strike and dip measurements, sketch maps, stream crossings, weather notes, and complaints about equipment.

The less ordinary entries begin without warning. Ounce records destroying several illicit or abandoned cabins because he considered their placement 'wrong for the drainage.' He describes chopping down individual trees selected for reasons that are never made clear. He eats river fish repeatedly despite having carried food. On at least two occasions he reports deliberately frightening large bears away from his camp, including one animal he identifies as a grizzly. The entries are written as routine field management rather than exceptional behavior.

The notebook then changes again. Ounce begins using language strikingly similar to Alienist doctrine despite no known contact with the Church and no evidence that he possessed Church literature. One passage reads: 'The mountain is not waiting. It is remembering.' Another states: 'There is another geography beneath this one. We walk upon the summary because we cannot survive the complete edition.'

Later he writes: 'The Veil is not overhead. It follows the ridgelines.' The terminology is especially difficult to dismiss because it appears in otherwise mundane geological notes and is not introduced as revelation, theology, or metaphor. He simply begins using it as though the idea had become operationally obvious.

The final pages are more concerning. Ounce states that he is 'still employed' and has been 'reassigned farther inward.' His last complete instruction reads: 'Do not continue looking downhill. I have not gone there.' No body, equipment cache, clothing, or other evidence of death was recovered near the shelter.

The Institute does not know whether Rand Ounce survived. The notebook could record psychological deterioration, exposure, deliberate disappearance, later alteration, or some circumstance we have not identified. The possibility of abduction cannot be excluded, although the word is less useful than it sounds when we do not know by whom, by what, or even in which direction a person has been taken.

The recent expedition returned with only ten fatalities during the month, which is an improvement over several comparable northern deployments. No additional search for Ounce is presently authorized.

The notebook will be preserved intact. The important question is not whether Rand discovered Alienism in the mountains. It is whether he encountered the same conditions that caused other people, in other places, to invent the same language without first being told what to call them.

Respectfully,
Howard Stonecipher
Director
Institute for Environmental Systems Analysis