

# PARASCIENTIFICA

www.ppri.net | Issue 2 | May 2023

## 2023 Halifax Paranormal Symposium

**ATLANTIC CANADA'S BIGGEST  
PARANORMAL SYMPOSIUM**



PSYCHIC RESEARCH AND  
THE ORIGINS OF AMERICAN  
PSYCHOLOGY

**+** **PLUS**

**HISTORY OF GHOSTS**  
DARRYL WALSH EXAMINES GHOSTS  
FROM PRE-ANCIENT TIMES UP TO THE  
POST MODERN ERA

*Andreas Sommer discusses the work of Hugo Münsterberg, William James and Eusapia Palladino and how mainstream psychology attempted to expel psychical research from the discipline.*

# Contents

04

**ELLIOTT VAN DUSEN**  
2023 HALIFAX PARANORMAL SYMPOSIUM

08

**DARRYLL WALSH**  
HISTORY OF GHOSTS

14

**ANDREAS SOMMER**  
PSYCHIC ORIGINS OF AMERICAN  
PSYCHOLOGY

27

**BRIAN BAKER**  
WINNIPEG PSYCHIATRIST WANTS TO  
DESTIGMATIZE PARANORMAL EXPERIENCES

## PARASCIENTIFICA

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CANADIAN  
ASSOCIATION OF PARAPSYCHOLOGICAL  
RESEARCH & INVESTIGATION

### PUBLISHER

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF  
PARAPSYCHOLOGICAL  
RESEARCH & INVESTIGATION  
17 Ankerville Street  
Sydney, Nova Scotia  
B1P-1X8

### EDITOR

Darryll Walsh

### PROOF READERS

Sarah Van Dusen  
Elliott Van Dusen

### SUBMISSIONS

Features, articles, letters, experiences,  
notices, reports and reviews should be sent  
by email to Darryll Walsh @  
dwalsh@ppri.net. Material can also be  
posted to the Editor at 17 Ankerville Street,  
Sydney, Nova Scotia, B1P-1X8, Canada.  
Please post mark envelopes Parascientifica.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Parascientifica is currently sent free to the  
public by email subscription available at  
ppri.net/newsletter.

### NOTE

The Editor reserves the right to edit or  
otherwise alter any material intended for  
publication. In the event of any dispute, the  
Editor's word is final.

### DISCLAIMER

The views and opinions expressed are those of  
the authors and do not represent those of the  
Editor or the Canadian Association of  
Parapsychological Research & Investigation.

### ISSN

2564-4971

Copyright © 2023

Canadian Association of Parapsychological  
Research & Investigation

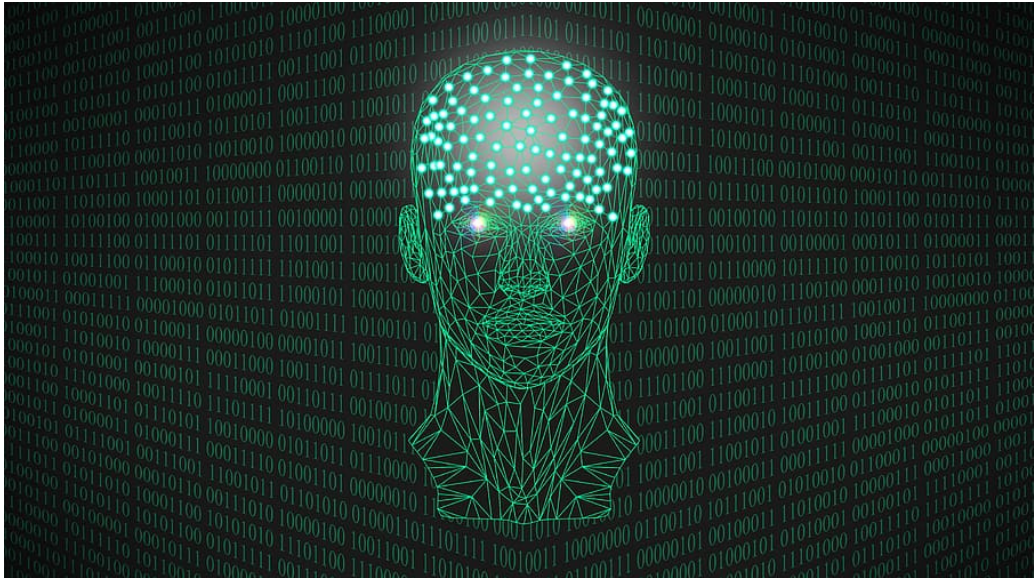
WWW.PPRI.NET/PARASCIENTIFICA

---

---

# Editorial

*Goodbye Winter, Hello Spring!*



Welcome to the second issue of *Parascientifica* as we shrug off the dark days of winter where ghosts, ghouls, bogeymen, and "...the powers of darkness are exalted." Instead, we look forward to longer, warmer days ahead and dream of beaches, cruises and vacations. Some still do think of ghosts since every old fort, restaurant and business seems to advertise their paranormal side dishes more than their actual food. But, in the higher latitudes with our short summers we are never too far away from the powers of darkness, and by September, glorious autumn foretells the supernatural is only a month away. And this year, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, there will be a special treat for those who cannot get enough of Halloween and those powers that Sherlock Holmes warned about.

The new Halifax Tower Hotel & Conference Centre will be the site of the 2023 Halifax Paranormal Symposium on October 7, 2023. Nova Scotia is the most haunted place in Canada, and ranks very high, if not highest on the list of supernatural places in North America per capita. Therefore, it is only logical there be a symposium here. We have an exciting line-up of guests that pretty much covers all areas of the paranormal and Elliott Van Dusen has written extensively about this event and the speakers in his article in this issue. Thank you for reading this issue and we always appreciate your feedback on topics we should cover, people we should get articles from, or just how to improve *Parascientifica*. I remind readers that *Parascientifica* has a Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/parascientifica/>, with far ranging topics, and as Editor of that as well, I try to balance out both sides of the endless debate. Sometimes with a sharper edge than you will find here. I can be ruthless with BS from either side, but in this journal we strive for a more academic and thoughtful tone, and encourage feedback and submissions from our reader. So until the next time, "do as the old parchment puts it. Beware the moor at night when the forces of evil are exalted", Sherlock Holmes (Jeremy Brett), in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, 1988.

*Darryll B. D. Walsh*

DARRYLL B. D. WALSH  
Editor-in-Chief

**"this year, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, there will be a special treat for those who cannot get enough of Halloween..."**



Since childhood, Darryll Walsh has dedicated his life pursuing the paranormal. He is the President of Ghost Project Canada and Chief Research Officer for the Canadian Association of Parapsychological Research & Investigation. A holder of a doctorate in parapsychology, he has taught various courses in parapsychology at the Nova Scotia Community College. Darryll authored four supernatural books: "Ghosts of Nova Scotia", "Ghost Waters: Canada's Haunted Sea and Shores", "Legends and Monsters of Atlantic Canada", and "That Which Survives: The Case of the Near-Death Experience". Proclaimed "Canada's Ghost Hunter" by the Ottawa Citizen, he hosted the television series *Shadow Hunter* from 2005-2006 and appeared as a consultant for "Supernatural Investigator" and "Sight Seers".



MAIN FEATURE

# 2023 Halifax Paranormal Symposium

*Elliott Van Dusen, Ph.D.*

Director, Paranormal Phenomena Research & Investigation



---

"IT HAS BEEN SIX LONG YEARS SINCE NOVA SCOTIA HAS SEEN A PARANORMAL CONFERENCE. THE ANNUAL SHAG HARBOUR UFO EXPO DOES OFFER A TASTE OF THE PARANORMAL WITH SPECIFIC UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA AND EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL LIFE. IN OCTOBER 2021, DR. DARRYLL WALSH AND DR. ELLIOTT VAN DUSEN HELD A SMALL BUT INTIMATE EVENT ENTITLED "AN EVENING WITH CANADA'S GHOST HUNTERS" AT THE HAUNTED WESTIN NOVA SCOTIAN HOTEL. HOWEVER, THE LAST PARANORMAL CONFERENCE HELD IN THE PROVINCE WAS THE 2017 EAST COAST PARACONFERENCE. THAT IS UNTIL PARANORMAL PHENOMENA RESEARCH & INVESTIGATION AND GHOST PROJECT CANADA DECIDED TO ORGANIZED THE 2023 HALIFAX PARANORMAL SYMPOSIUM.

THE NEW HALIFAX TOWER HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE LOCATED AT 15 LAKELANDS BOULEVARD IN BAYERS LAKE WILL PLAY HOST TO THE 2023 HALIFAX PARANORMAL SYMPOSIUM. THE EVENT TAKES PLACE ON OCTOBER 7, 2023 AND WILL RUN FROM 9:00 AM UNTIL 6:00 PM ATLANTIC STANDARD TIME. TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW AT [PPRI.NET/TICKETS](http://PPRI.NET/TICKETS). WITH ONLY 200 TICKETS AVAILABLE, YOU'LL WANT TO SECURE YOUR SEAT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. VENDORS AT THE EVENT WILL BRING A VARIETY OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES TO ATTENDEES TO ASSIST IN MAKING THEIR EXPERIENCE AT THE SYMPOSIUM A POSITIVE AND MEMORABLE ONE. OUR VENDORS WILL BE EXPLORED IN FURTHER DETAIL DURING OUR NEXT ISSUE OF PARASCIENTIFICA.

THIS INAUGURAL EVENT HOPES TO BECOME A REOCCURRING ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM IN AN AREA OF CANADA KNOWN FOR ITS FASCINATION WITH THE PARANORMAL AND RICH FOLKLORE. THE PURPOSE OF THE SYMPOSIUM IS TO PROVIDE THE PUBLIC WITH AN EDUCATIONAL AND ENTERTAINING EXPERIENCE PERTAINING TO THE PARANORMAL. THE PARANORMAL CAN BE DEFINED AS EVENTS THAT ARE BEYOND THE CURRENT SCOPE OF NORMAL SCIENTIFIC UNDERSTANDING. PUBLIC INTEREST AND ATTENDANCE FOR THIS EVENT IS ANTICIPATED TO BE VERY HIGH, ESPECIALLY BEING HELD SO CLOSE TO HALLOWEEN.

THIS YEAR, THE THEME FOR THE SYMPOSIUM EXPLORES REAL PARANORMAL CASE FILES, STUDIES, AND PERSONAL EXPERIENCES. THE CONFIRMED GUEST SPEAKERS INCLUDE NOVA SCOTIA'S VERY OWN UFO INVESTIGATOR CHRIS STYLES, PARANORMAL INVESTIGATOR KIM MOSER FROM EASTLINK'S TELEVISION SERIES HAUNTED, PARAPSYCHOLOGIST DR. DARRYLL WALSH FROM AMI'S TELEVISION SERIES SIGHT SEERS, PSYCHIATRIST DR. RICHARD GALLAGHER, MD AUTHOR OF DEMONIC FOES, AND CRYPTOZOOLOGIST LOREN COLEMAN AUTHOR OF THE FIELD GUIDE TO BIGFOOT AND OTHER MYSTERY PRIMATES.

### **CHRIS STYLES**

"CHRIS STYLES WILL BE CLEARING UP THE MYSTERIOUS STORY THAT HAS HAUNTED THE 1967 SHAG HARBOUR UFO INCIDENT FOR MANY DECADES. IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT AFTER SEARCH EFFORTS FOR THE DOWNED OBJECT IN SHAG HARBOUR FAILED, THE UFO MOVED TO THE COAST OF SHELBURNE. AS LEGEND HAS IT, A SECOND OBJECT ENTERED THE OCEAN TO HELP REPAIR THE CRASHED OBJECT FROM SHAG HARBOUR. EVENTUALLY THE TWO OBJECTS DEPARTED THE OCEAN AND THE STORY GOES COLD. THAT IS, UNTIL NOW. STYLES WAS ABLE TO SOLVE THE SECOND PART OF SHAG HARBOUR INCIDENT RECENTLY. IN HIS LECTURE AT THE HALIFAX PARANORMAL SYMPOSIUM ENTITLED "CLEAR SWEEP 5: THE SHELBURNE UNIDENTIFIED SUBMERGED OBJECT INCIDENT", STYLES WILL BE DISCUSSING HIS DISCOVERY OF A NATO OPERATION HELD OFF OF THE COAST OF SHELBURNE IN 1960. IT WAS DURING THIS OPERATION THAT NAVY DIVERS TOLD STYLES THAT TWO UNIDENTIFIED SUBMERGED OBJECTS WERE BEING MONITORED BY THE CANADIAN AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS. THIS INCIDENT OCCURRED SEVEN YEARS PRIOR TO THE SHAG HARBOUR UFO INCIDENT. HOWEVER, THAT IS NOT ALL. STYLES WAS TOLD BY PERSONNEL THAT THERE WAS VIDEO FOOTAGE OF THIS EVENT RECORDED BY NAVY DIVERS AND THAT THEY WITNESSED, WHAT THEY DESCRIBED AS BEING, EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL BIOLOGICAL ENTITIES.

---

## **KIM MOSER**

KIM MOSER IS A PARANORMAL INVESTIGATOR, TELEVISION HOST AND PRODUCTION MANAGER OF EASLINK'S TELEVISION SERIES HAUNTED. MOSER ALSO HOSTS HER OWN PODCAST CALLED BOOS AND BOURBON WHERE SHE AND HER CO-HOST DISCUSS PARANORMAL INCIDENTS WHILE SIPPING ON A GLASS OF BOURBON. MOSER HAS BEEN TO SOME OF THE MOST HAUNTED LOCATIONS IN AMERICA SUCH AS: WAVERLY HILLS SANITORIUM, CONJURING HOUSE, LIZZY BORDEN HOUSE, LAFITTE'S BLACKSMITH SHOP, THE WITCH HOUSE IN SALEM, AND THE ST. AUGUSTINE LIGHTHOUSE TO NAME ONLY A FEW. HER PRESENTATION WHICH IS TO BE ANNOUNCED IN THE NEAR FUTURE, WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH HER EXPERIENCE WITH GHOSTS AND HAUNTINGS.

## **DR. DARRYLL WALSH**

DR. DARRYLL WALSH, PHD IS EXCITED TO PRESENT HIS PERSONAL RESEARCH IN HIS PRESENTATION ENTITLED "ARE GHOSTS EXTINCT?". IN HIS RESEARCH, DR. WALSH WILL DISCUSS HOW THE CLASSIC GHOST SIGHTINGS HAVE SEEMINGLY BEEN REPLACED WITH MODERN DAY APPARITIONS APPEARING ON THE LATEST TRENDING YOUTUBE OR TIKTOK VIDEO. HE WILL ALSO DISCUSS MODERN DAY "GHOST HUNTING" EQUIPMENT AND THE TYPE OF "DATA" BEING COLLECTED BY TODAY'S CITIZEN SCIENTIST. THIS PRESENTATION WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE RELEVANT AND CAPTIVATING TO THE AUDIENCE.

## **DR. RICHARD GALLAGHER, M.D.**

DR. RICHARD GALLAGHER, M.D., IS A BOARD-CERTIFIED PSYCHIATRIST AND HIGHLY EXPERIENCED CLINICIAN. HE IS A PROFESSOR OF PSYCHIATRY AT NY MEDICAL COLLEGE AND A PSYCHOANALYST ON THE FACULTY OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. DR. GALLAGHER IS THE LONGEST-STANDING MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EXORCISTS SINCE THE EARLY 1990'S, SERVING FOR A TIME AS A SCIENTIFIC ADVISER ON ITS GOVERNING

BOARD.

HE HAS DEVOTED MANY YEARS TO DISTINGUISHING THE RARE CASES OF OVERT DEMONIC ATTACKS FROM THE MUCH MORE COMMON CONDITIONS OF MEDICAL AND PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS. DR. GALLAGHER HAS UNDOUBTEDLY SEEN MORE CASES OF POSSESSION - MANY QUITE HARROWING - THAN ANY OTHER PHYSICIAN IN THE WORLD. PERHAPS HIS PRESENTATION WILL FOCUS ON THE POSSESSED SATANIST MENTIONED IN HIS BOOK "DEMONIC FOES: MY TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AS A PSYCHIATRIST INVESTIGATING POSSESSIONS, DIABOLIC ATTACKS, AND THE PARANORMAL". IT HAS BEEN DUBBED A "ONCE-IN-A-CENTURY" CASE AND IS IN EARLY PRODUCTION AS A MAJOR HOLLYWOOD MOVIE PRODUCED BY BLUMHOUSE.

## **LOREN COLEMAN**

LAST, BUT CERTAINLY NOT LEAST, IS LOREN COLEMAN. COLEMAN IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S LEADING CRYPTOZOOLOGISTS. COLEMAN HAS BEEN INVESTIGATING MYSTERIOUS CREATURES IN BOTH THE FIELD, AND IN THE LIBRARY, SINCE 1960 WHEN THE ABOMINABLE SNOWMEN CAUGHT HIS INTEREST. SINCE THEN, COLEMAN HAS INVESTIGATED AND RESEARCHED MYSTERIOUS PANTHER SIGHTINGS AND REPORTS OF APES IN THE AMERICAN MIDWEST. HE HAS TRAVELED TO 45 STATES, THROUGHOUT CANADA, MEXICO, SCOTLAND, AND THE VIRGIN ISLANDS INTERVIEWING WITNESSES OF LAKE MONSTERS, SASQUATCH, GIANT SNAKES, MYSTERY FELINES, PHANTOM KANGAROOS, THUNDERBIRDS, AND OTHER CRYPTID REPORTS AND FOLKLORE. COLEMAN HAS WRITTEN SEVERAL BOOKS, ARTICLES, AND HAS APPEARED ON MANY TELEVISION PROGRAMS, SUCH AS FOX/USA NETWORK'S "IN SEARCH OF," NBC-TV'S "UNSOLVED MYSTERIES," A & E'S "ANCIENT MYSTERIES," HISTORY CHANNEL'S "IN SEARCH OF HISTORY," AND "HISTORY'S MYSTERIES," DISCOVERY CHANNEL'S "IN THE UNKNOWN," AND MANY MORE. HE CONTRIBUTES CRYPTOZOOLOGY COLUMNS, "ON THE TRAIL," TO THE LONDON-BASED MAGAZINE FORTEAN TIMES.

AND "MYSTERIOUS WORLD" TO FATE, AS WELL AS ARTICLES TO THE ANOMALIST AND FORTEAN STUDIES. HIS PRESENTATION ENTITLED: NOVA SCOTIA INVESTIGATIONS: WENDIGOS TO KANGAROOS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR PRESENTATIONS.

TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW FOR \$125.00 PER PERSON. YOU CAN VISIT THE SYMPOSIUM WEBSITE AT [WWW.PPRI.NET/HALIFAX-PARANORMAL-SYMPOSIUM](http://WWW.PPRI.NET/HALIFAX-PARANORMAL-SYMPOSIUM) AND PURCHASE TICKETS AT [PPRI.NET/TICKETS](http://PPRI.NET/TICKETS).

## 2023 Halifax Paranormal Symposium Guest Speakers

**Kim Moser**

**Loren Coleman**

**Richard Gallagher**

**Darryll Walsh**

**Chris Styles**

**PPRI**  
PARANORMAL PHENOMENA  
RESEARCH & INVESTIGATION

**Ghost Project Canada**  
Collection, Analysis and Education



# 'HISTORY OF GHOSTS'

*Darryll Walsh, Ph.D.  
Editor-in-Chief, Parascientifica*





---

GHOSTS HAVE BEEN A TOPIC OF FASCINATION AND FEAR FOR CENTURIES. IN FACT, THEY MAY GO BACK ALL THE WAY TO THE NEANDERTHALS. THEY ARE OFTEN DEPICTED IN POPULAR CULTURE AS SPOOKY, ETHEREAL BEINGS THAT HAUNT PLACES AND PEOPLE. GHOST STORIES HAVE BEEN TOLD AROUND CAMPFIRES AND IN LITERATURE FOR GENERATIONS, AND MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE IN THE EXISTENCE OF THESE SUPERNATURAL ENTITIES. SOME STUDIES IN THE US OR UK HAVE COME CLOSE TO OVER 50% OF THE POPULATION HAVING A BELIEF IN GHOSTS. ONE THIRD BELIEVE THEY HAVE HAD AN EXPERIENCE THAT CAN ONLY BE EXPLAINED AS A GHOST. THE EXISTENCE OF GHOSTS IS LARGELY DEPENDENT ON INDIVIDUAL BELIEFS AND PERSONAL EXPERIENCES. FROM A SCIENTIFIC STANDPOINT, THERE IS NO CONCRETE EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE EXISTENCE OF GHOSTS OR AN AFTERLIFE. THE SCIENTIFIC WORK BEING CONDUCTED ON NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES SUGGESTS THAT SOME FORM OF AFTERLIFE MAY EXIST AFTER DEATH.

THE CONCEPT OF GHOSTS HAS BEEN AROUND FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS AND IS PRESENT IN MANY CULTURES AROUND THE WORLD. THE IDEA OF SPIRITS OR SOULS OF THE DECEASED RETURNING TO HAUNT THE LIVING HAS BEEN A PART OF HUMAN MYTHOLOGY AND FOLKLORE SINCE ANCIENT TIMES.

### **PRE-ANCIENT GHOSTS**

WE DON'T HAVE DIRECT EVIDENCE OF NEANDERTHAL BELIEFS IN THE AFTERLIFE, AS THEY DIDN'T LEAVE BEHIND ANY WRITTEN RECORDS. HOWEVER, THERE ARE A FEW CLUES THAT SUGGEST THEY MAY HAVE HAD SOME SORT OF BELIEF IN AN AFTERLIFE.

ONE PIECE OF EVIDENCE IS THE FACT THAT NEANDERTHALS BURIED THEIR DEAD, SOMETIMES WITH GRAVE GOODS SUCH AS TOOLS OR ANIMAL BONES. THIS SUGGESTS THAT THEY HAD SOME SORT OF RITUALISTIC PRACTICE AROUND DEATH, WHICH COULD INDICATE A BELIEF IN AN AFTERLIFE OR AT LEAST SOME SORT OF SPIRITUAL DIMENSION TO THE END OF LIFE.

ANOTHER CLUE COMES FROM THE FACT THAT

MANES WERE BELIEVED TO BE BENEVOLENT AND COULD OFFER PROTECTION AND GUIDANCE TO THEIR LIVING DESCENDANTS. THE ROMANS WOULD HONOUR THEIR ANCESTORS THROUGH VARIOUS RITUALS AND OFFERINGS, INCLUDING POURING LIBATIONS AND MAKING SACRIFICES IN THEIR HONOUR.

OVERALL, THE ANCIENT ROMANS HAD A COMPLEX BELIEF SYSTEM SURROUNDING THE AFTERLIFE AND THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD. WHILE THEY BELIEVED IN GHOSTS AND SPIRITS, THEY ALSO HAD A STRONG BELIEF IN THE IMPORTANCE OF HONOURING THEIR ANCESTORS AND APPEASING THE SPIRITS TO ENSURE THEIR OWN SAFETY AND WELL-BEING.

### **GREEK GHOSTS**

THE ANCIENT GREEKS DID BELIEVE IN GHOSTS OR SPIRITS THAT CONTINUED TO EXIST AFTER DEATH. THEY BELIEVED THAT THESE SPIRITS WERE ABLE TO TRAVEL BETWEEN THE REALM OF THE LIVING AND THE AFTERLIFE, AND COULD INTERACT WITH THE LIVING IN VARIOUS WAYS. ONE COMMON BELIEF WAS THAT THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD WOULD RETURN TO THE WORLD OF THE LIVING TO HAUNT AND TORMENT THOSE WHO HAD WRONGED THEM IN LIFE. THIS WAS OFTEN DEPICTED IN GREEK MYTHOLOGY, SUCH AS THE STORY OF THE VENGEFUL SPIRIT OF CLYTEMNESTRA, WHO RETURNS TO HAUNT HER HUSBAND AGAMEMNON AFTER HE HAD HER KILLED.

THE GREEKS ALSO BELIEVED THAT THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD COULD PROVIDE GUIDANCE AND INSIGHT TO THE LIVING, AND THEY WOULD SOMETIMES CONSULT WITH THESE SPIRITS THROUGH VARIOUS FORMS OF DIVINATION, SUCH AS CONSULTING ORACLES OR INTERPRETING DREAMS.

OVERALL, THE BELIEF IN GHOSTS OR SPIRITS WAS AN IMPORTANT PART OF GREEK MYTHOLOGY AND CULTURE, AND WAS REFLECTED IN THEIR ART, LITERATURE, AND RELIGIOUS PRACTICES.

SIMILARLY, IN ANCIENT GREEK AND ROMAN MYTHOLOGY, GHOSTS WERE BELIEVED TO BE THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD WHO HAD NOT YET

---

PASSED ON TO THE AFTERLIFE. THEY WERE OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH SPECIFIC LOCATIONS OR EVENTS, SUCH AS BATTLEFIELDS OR MURDERS SITES, AND WERE THOUGHT TO BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE LIVING THROUGH DREAMS AND VISIONS.

## **MEDIEVAL GHOSTS**

IN MEDIEVAL TIMES, GHOSTS WERE BELIEVED TO BE SPIRITS OF THE DECEASED WHO HAD NOT YET FOUND REST IN THE AFTERLIFE. THE MEDIEVAL VIEW OF GHOSTS WAS HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY CHRISTIAN BELIEFS, WHICH HELD THAT THE SOUL CONTINUED TO EXIST AFTER DEATH AND THAT IT COULD RETURN TO THE PHYSICAL WORLD. CHRISTIANS THOUGHT THE SOULS OF THE DEAD WERE TRAPPED IN PURGATORY AND CAN ONLY BE RELEASED THROUGH PRAYER OR OTHER RELIGIOUS ACTS.

GHOSTS WERE OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH SPECIFIC PLACES, SUCH AS BATTLEFIELDS OR CHURCHES, AND WERE THOUGHT TO HAUNT THESE LOCATIONS. SOME GHOSTS WERE BELIEVED TO BE THE SOULS OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD DIED VIOLENT OR SUDDEN DEATHS, WHILE OTHERS WERE THOUGHT TO BE THE SPIRITS OF PEOPLE WHO HAD COMMITTED SINS IN LIFE AND WERE BEING PUNISHED IN DEATH.

THE APPEARANCE OF GHOSTS WAS ALSO THOUGHT TO VARY. SOME WERE DESCRIBED AS ETHEREAL AND TRANSPARENT, WHILE OTHERS WERE SAID TO BE SOLID AND ABLE TO INTERACT WITH THE PHYSICAL WORLD. GHOSTS WERE ALSO BELIEVED TO HAVE THE ABILITY TO CAUSE PHYSICAL HARM OR EVEN POSSESS THE LIVING.

IN MEDIEVAL TIMES, THERE WAS A WIDESPREAD BELIEF IN THE POWER OF EXORCISM TO RID A HAUNTED LOCATION OF GHOSTS. THIS INVOLVED CALLING UPON A PRIEST OR OTHER RELIGIOUS FIGURE TO PERFORM A RITUAL TO EXPEL THE GHOST FROM THE PHYSICAL WORLD AND HELP IT FIND REST IN THE AFTERLIFE.

## **RENAISSANCE GHOSTS**

GHOSTS WERE A COMMON BELIEF DURING THE RENAISSANCE PERIOD, AS PEOPLE HELD STRONG

BELIEFS IN THE AFTERLIFE AND THE POSSIBILITY OF SPIRITS LINGERING ON EARTH. HOWEVER, THE WAY THAT GHOSTS WERE VIEWED AND UNDERSTOOD DURING THE RENAISSANCE WAS DIFFERENT THAN IN OTHER HISTORICAL PERIODS.

DURING THE RENAISSANCE, THE CONCEPT OF GHOSTS BECAME MORE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH HORROR AND THE SUPERNATURAL. GHOST STORIES AND TALES OF HAUNTED HOUSES BECAME POPULAR, AND MANY WORKS OF LITERATURE AND ART FEATURED GHOSTS AS CENTRAL FIGURES. GHOSTS WERE OFTEN VIEWED AS A SIGN OF IMPENDING DOOM OR AS A WARNING OF SOME SORT. THEY WERE OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH DEATH, TRAGEDY, AND THE SUPERNATURAL. PEOPLE BELIEVED THAT GHOSTS COULD APPEAR TO INDIVIDUALS AS A WAY TO COMMUNICATE IMPORTANT MESSAGES OR TO SEEK VENGEANCE.

MANY RENAISSANCE ARTISTS AND WRITERS ALSO INCORPORATED GHOSTS INTO THEIR WORK. SHAKESPEARE, FOR EXAMPLE, WROTE MANY PLAYS THAT FEATURED GHOSTS, INCLUDING "HAMLET" AND "MACBETH." THESE GHOSTS WERE OFTEN DEPICTED AS BEING VENGEFUL AND HAUNTED THE LIVING CHARACTERS IN THE PLAYS.

GHOSTS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN RENAISSANCE CULTURE, BOTH IN PEOPLE'S BELIEFS AND IN THE ARTS. THEY WERE SEEN AS POWERFUL AND MYSTERIOUS, AND THEIR PRESENCE ADDED AN ELEMENT OF DRAMA AND INTRIGUE TO MANY STORIES AND WORKS OF ART

## **THE ENLIGHTENMENT**

DURING THE ENLIGHTENMENT, WHICH TOOK PLACE IN THE 17TH AND 18TH CENTURIES, THERE WAS A WIDESPREAD SKEPTICISM TOWARDS SUPERNATURAL BELIEFS AND SUPERSTITIONS, INCLUDING THE EXISTENCE OF GHOSTS. MANY ENLIGHTENMENT THINKERS BELIEVED THAT REASON AND SCIENCE COULD EXPLAIN NATURAL PHENOMENA AND THAT THE BELIEF IN GHOSTS AND OTHER SUPERNATURAL ENTITIES WAS IRRATIONAL AND SUPERSTITIOUS.



---

FOR EXAMPLE, THE PHILOSOPHER DAVID HUME, WHO LIVED DURING THE ENLIGHTENMENT, WROTE THAT BELIEF IN GHOSTS WAS BASED ON "POPULAR TALES AND SUPERSTITIONS" AND ARGUED THAT THERE WAS NO EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THEIR EXISTENCE. SIMILARLY, THE FRENCH PHILOSOPHER VOLTAIRE WAS SKEPTICAL OF SUPERNATURAL BELIEFS AND ARGUED THAT THEY WERE A RESULT OF HUMAN IGNORANCE AND CREDULITY.

DESPITE THIS SKEPTICISM, HOWEVER, BELIEF IN GHOSTS PERSISTED AMONG SOME PEOPLE DURING THE ENLIGHTENMENT, PARTICULARLY IN THE RURAL AREAS AND AMONG THE LESS EDUCATED. GHOST STORIES AND TALES OF SUPERNATURAL OCCURRENCES WERE STILL POPULAR, AND MANY PEOPLE CONTINUED TO BELIEVE IN THE EXISTENCE OF GHOSTS AND OTHER SUPERNATURAL ENTITIES.

OVERALL, WHILE THE ENLIGHTENMENT BROUGHT ABOUT A SHIFT TOWARDS REASON AND SKEPTICISM, IT DID NOT ENTIRELY ERADICATE BELIEF IN GHOSTS AND THE SUPERNATURAL. THUS THE EMERGENCE AND DOMINATION OF SPIRITUALISM. SPIRITUALISM IS A BELIEF SYSTEM THAT EMERGED IN THE MID-19TH CENTURY IN THE UNITED STATES AND QUICKLY SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. IT IS BASED ON THE IDEA THAT SPIRITS OF THE DEAD CAN COMMUNICATE WITH THE LIVING THROUGH MEDIUMS.

THE ROOTS OF SPIRITUALISM CAN BE TRACED BACK TO THE CANADIAN FOX SISTERS, WHO CLAIMED TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE SPIRIT OF A MURDERED PEDDLER IN THEIR HOME IN HYDEVILLE, NEW YORK, IN 1848. THEIR CLAIMS OF COMMUNICATING WITH THE SPIRIT WORLD GAINED WIDESPREAD ATTENTION, AND THEY BECAME THE FIRST CELEBRITY MEDIUMS OF THE SPIRITUALIST MOVEMENT.

AS SPIRITUALISM GAINED POPULARITY, IT BEGAN TO ATTRACT A DIVERSE GROUP OF FOLLOWERS, INCLUDING INTELLECTUALS, ARTISTS, AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVISTS. THE MOVEMENT ALSO GAINED A REPUTATION FOR ADVOCATING FOR SOCIAL REFORM, PARTICULARLY FOR THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY AND WOMEN'S

SUFFRAGE. IN THE LATE 19TH CENTURY, SPIRITUALISM CONTINUED TO GROW AND SPREAD THROUGHOUT EUROPE, PARTICULARLY IN ENGLAND, WHERE IT BECAME A MAJOR CULTURAL PHENOMENON. MANY FAMOUS FIGURES, INCLUDING ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE AND WILLIAM JAMES, WERE DRAWN TO SPIRITUALISM AND BECAME ADVOCATES FOR ITS TEACHINGS.

DESPITE ITS POPULARITY, SPIRITUALISM FACED CRITICISM AND SKEPTICISM FROM MANY IN THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY. IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY, THE MOVEMENT BEGAN TO DECLINE, ALTHOUGH IT STILL HAS A SMALL FOLLOWING TODAY.

## **MODERN GHOSTS**

IN MODERN TIMES, THE CONCEPT OF GHOSTS HAS EVOLVED TO INCLUDE NEW TYPES OF HAUNTINGS THAT ARE SPECIFIC TO THE CONTEMPORARY ERA. FOR EXAMPLE, SOME PEOPLE BELIEVE IN THE EXISTENCE OF "TECH GHOSTS," WHICH ARE SPIRITS THAT ARE ATTACHED TO ELECTRONIC DEVICES OR THE INTERNET. OTHERS BELIEVE IN "URBAN GHOSTS," WHICH ARE SPIRITS THAT HAUNT MODERN CITIES AND BUILDINGS.

IN ADDITION TO THESE NEW TYPES OF GHOSTS, MODERN TECHNOLOGY HAS ALSO MADE IT EASIER FOR PEOPLE TO SHARE THEIR GHOST STORIES AND EXPERIENCES ONLINE THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA AND OTHER DIGITAL PLATFORMS. THIS HAS LED TO A GROWING INTEREST IN THE PARANORMAL AND AN INCREASE IN GHOST-HUNTING ACTIVITIES.

GHOST HUNTING, OR THE PRACTICE OF INVESTIGATING AND ATTEMPTING TO DOCUMENT PARANORMAL ACTIVITY, HAS BEEN AROUND FOR CENTURIES. THE FIRST RECORDED INSTANCE OF GHOST HUNTING DATES BACK TO ANCIENT ROME, WHERE PLINY THE YOUNGER INVESTIGATED A HAUNTED HOUSE IN ATHENS AND DOCUMENTED HIS FINDINGS. IN THE MIDDLE AGES, GHOST HUNTING WAS OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, WHICH BELIEVED IN THE EXISTENCE OF SPIRITS AND DEMONS. PRIESTS AND MONKS

---

WERE OFTEN CALLED UPON TO EXORCISE HAUNTED LOCATIONS, AND MANY RELIGIOUS TEXTS DOCUMENTED THEIR ENCOUNTERS WITH GHOSTS AND OTHER SUPERNATURAL BEINGS.

DURING THE 19TH CENTURY, THE RISE OF SPIRITUALISM LED TO AN INCREASE IN INTEREST IN GHOSTS AND PARANORMAL PHENOMENA. MANY PEOPLE CLAIMED TO BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE DEAD, AND SÉANCES AND OTHER FORMS OF SPIRIT COMMUNICATION BECAME POPULAR.

IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY, THE SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH WAS FOUNDED IN THE UK, WHICH AIMED TO INVESTIGATE AND DOCUMENT PARANORMAL PHENOMENA USING SCIENTIFIC METHODS. MANY MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY CONDUCTED THEIR OWN GHOST HUNTS, AND THEIR RESEARCH HELPED TO ESTABLISH THE FIELD OF PARAPSYCHOLOGY.

IN THE 1950S AND 1960S, INTEREST IN GHOST HUNTING WANED, BUT IT EXPERIENCED A RESURGENCE IN THE 1970S AND 1980S WITH THE RISE OF POPULAR HORROR MOVIES AND TV SHOWS. THE PUBLICATION OF BOOKS SUCH AS "THE AMITYVILLE HORROR" AND THE TV SERIES "IN SEARCH OF..." HELPED TO POPULARIZE GHOST HUNTING AND BRING IT INTO THE MAINSTREAM.

TODAY, GHOST HUNTING REMAINS A POPULAR PASTIME, OSTENSIBLY SCIENTIFIC, BUT ACTUALLY TECHNOLOGICAL AND THE 'OLD FASHIONED' VISUAL GHOSTS HAVE BEEN ABANDONED FOR VERY DUBIOUS READINGS FROM A VARIETY OF EQUIPMENT SUCH AS EMF METERS, THERMAL CAMERAS, AND AUDIO RECORDERS. GHOST HUNTERS HAVE BEEN NEGATIVELY AFFECTED BY THE INTERNET AND SO-CALLED 'REALITY' TV SHOWS WHICH SHOW GHOST HUNTING EXCITING AND CONCLUSIVE WHEREAS, AS DEMONSTRATED, IT IS JUST PSEUDOSCIENCE OR A FORM OF ENTERTAINMENT. FUN, EXCITING, BUT A TOTAL WASTE OF TIME. OTHERS TRAVEL THE WORLD TO SEE AND BE SEEN AT, VARIOUS 'HAUNTED' SITES, CALLED LEGEND TRIPPING. LEGEND TRIPPING IS A TERM USED TO DESCRIBE A TYPE OF ADVENTURE OR EXPLORATION WHERE PEOPLE VISIT SITES THAT ARE BELIEVED TO BE

ASSOCIATED WITH URBAN LEGENDS, FOLKLORE, OR OTHER MYSTERIOUS STORIES. THIS COULD INCLUDE ABANDONED BUILDINGS, HAUNTED HOUSES, OR OTHER LOCATIONS THAT ARE SAID TO BE HAUNTED OR HAVE OTHERWORLDLY QUALITIES AS STATED ON THE INTERNET OR REALITY TV SHOWS.

IT IS OFTEN DONE AS A GROUP ACTIVITY AND CAN INVOLVE RITUALS OR ACTIVITIES THAT ARE MEANT TO EVOKE A SENSE OF MYSTERY OR EXCITEMENT. SOME LEGEND TRIPPING ACTIVITIES INVOLVE GHOST HUNTING, SÉANCES, OR OTHER FORMS OF PARANORMAL INVESTIGATION. IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT MANY OF THE STORIES ASSOCIATED WITH THESE SITES ARE NOT BASED IN FACT AND THAT EXPLORING ABANDONED BUILDINGS OR OTHER DANGEROUS LOCATIONS CAN BE RISKY AND EVEN ILLEGAL.

## **POSTMODERN GHOSTS?**

POSTMODERNISM IS A CULTURAL MOVEMENT THAT EMERGED IN THE LATE 20TH CENTURY AND IS CHARACTERIZED BY A REJECTION OF THE GRAND NARRATIVES AND IDEOLOGIES OF MODERNISM, AS WELL AS A SKEPTICISM TOWARDS THE IDEA OF ABSOLUTE TRUTH. WHILE THE CONCEPT OF GHOSTS HAS BEEN A PART OF HUMAN CULTURE FOR CENTURIES, THE WAY IN WHICH GHOSTS ARE PORTRAYED IN POSTMODERN LITERATURE AND ART REFLECTS THE MOVEMENT'S REJECTION OF TRADITIONAL NARRATIVES AND THEIR EMPHASIS ON FRAGMENTATION, AMBIGUITY, AND MULTIPLE MEANINGS.

IN POSTMODERN LITERATURE, GHOSTS OFTEN APPEAR AS METAPHORS FOR THE PAST, MEMORY, AND TRAUMA. THEY MAY BE PRESENTED IN FRAGMENTED NARRATIVES OR THROUGH UNRELIABLE NARRATORS, HIGHLIGHTING THE IDEA THAT THE PAST IS SUBJECTIVE AND CAN BE INTERPRETED IN DIFFERENT WAYS.

IN POSTMODERN ART, GHOSTS ARE OFTEN USED AS SYMBOLS OF THE EPHEMERAL AND TRANSITORY NATURE OF LIFE, AS WELL AS THE IDEA THAT HISTORY IS CONSTANTLY BEING REWRITTEN AND REINTERPRETED. FOR EXAMPLE,



---

IN THE WORKS OF ARTIST CHRISTIAN BOLTANSKI, WHO OFTEN USES PHOTOGRAPHS AND FOUND OBJECTS IN HIS INSTALLATIONS, GHOSTS MAY APPEAR AS SHADOWS OR BLURRED IMAGES, SUGGESTING THE ELUSIVE NATURE OF MEMORY AND THE PASSAGE OF TIME.

POSTMODERN GHOSTS REFLECT THE MOVEMENT'S REJECTION OF TRADITIONAL NARRATIVES AND THEIR EMPHASIS ON FRAGMENTATION, AMBIGUITY, AND MULTIPLE MEANINGS. THEY OFTEN SERVE AS METAPHORS FOR THE PAST, MEMORY, AND TRAUMA, AS WELL AS SYMBOLS OF THE EPHEMERAL AND TRANSITORY NATURE OF LIFE.

"GHOST HUNTERS HAVE BEEN NEGATIVELY AFFECTED BY THE INTERNET AND SO-CALLED 'REALITY' TV SHOWS WHICH SHOW GHOST HUNTING EXCITING AND CONCLUSIVE WHEREAS, AS DEMONSTRATED, IT IS JUST PSEUDOSCIENCE OR A FORM OF ENTERTAINMENT."

# 'Psychic Research and the Origins of American Psychology'



*Andreas Sommer, MA.*



**THIS IS AN OPEN-ACCESS ARTICLE DISTRIBUTED UNDER THE TERMS OF THE CREATIVE COMMONS ATTRIBUTION LICENSE, WHICH PERMITS UNRESTRICTED USE, DISTRIBUTION, AND REPRODUCTION IN ANY MEDIUM, PROVIDED THE ORIGINAL WORK IS PROPERLY CITED.**

## **ABSTRACT**

LARGELY UNACKNOWLEDGED BY HISTORIANS OF THE HUMAN SCIENCES, LATE-19TH-CENTURY PSYCHICAL RESEARCHERS WERE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE MAKING OF FLEDGLING ACADEMIC PSYCHOLOGY. MOREOVER, WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS HISTORIANS HAVE FAILED TO DISCUSS THE WIDER IMPLICATIONS OF THE FACT THAT THE FOUNDER OF ACADEMIC PSYCHOLOGY IN AMERICA, WILLIAM JAMES, CONSIDERED HIMSELF A PSYCHICAL RESEARCHER AND SOUGHT TO INTEGRATE THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF MEDIUMSHIP, TELEPATHY AND OTHER CONTROVERSIAL TOPICS INTO THE NASCENT DISCIPLINE. ANALYSING THE CELEBRATED EXPOSURE OF THE MEDIUM EUSAPIA PALLADINO BY GERMAN-BORN HARVARD PSYCHOLOGIST HUGO MÜNSTERBERG AS A REPRESENTATIVE EXAMPLE, THIS ARTICLE DISCUSSES STRATEGIES EMPLOYED BY PSYCHOLOGISTS IN THE UNITED STATES TO EXPEL PSYCHICAL RESEARCH FROM THE AGENDA OF SCIENTIFIC PSYCHOLOGY. IT IS ARGUED THAT THE TRADITIONAL HISTORIOGRAPHY OF PSYCHICAL RESEARCH, DOMINATED BY ACCOUNTS DEEPLY AVERSE TO ITS VERY SUBJECT MATTER, HAS BEEN PART OF AN ONGOING FORM OF 'BOUNDARY-WORK' TO BOLSTER THE SCIENTIFIC STATUS OF PSYCHOLOGY.

KEYWORDS: BOUNDARY-WORK, DISCIPLINE FORMATION, FRAUD, HISTORIOGRAPHY, POPULARIZATION OF SCIENCE

## **INTRODUCTION: PSYCHICAL RESEARCH AND THE 'NEW PSYCHOLOGY'**

AT THE END OF THE 19TH CENTURY, PSYCHICAL RESEARCHERS SUCH AS FREDERIC AND ARTHUR MYERS, EDMUND GURNEY, JULIAN OCHOROWICZ, CHARLES RICHET, MAX DESSOIR, ALBERT VON SCHRENCK-NOTZING, RICHARD HODGSON AND HENRY AND ELEANOR SIDGWICK WERE ACTIVELY

INVOLVED IN THE MAKING OF THE FLEDGLING SCIENCE OF PSYCHOLOGY. PSYCHICAL RESEARCHERS INITIATED AND ORGANIZED THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES OF PHYSIOLOGICAL/EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY (ALVARADO, FORTHCOMING; NICOLAS AND SÖDERLUND, 2005; PLAS, 2000), AND THEY DEvised METHODOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS SUCH AS RANDOMIZED STUDY DESIGNS (HACKING, 1988). THEY CONTRIBUTED IMPORTANT EMPIRICAL FINDINGS BY CONDUCTING THE FIRST EXPERIMENTS INVESTIGATING THE PSYCHOLOGY OF EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY (HODGSON AND DAVEY, 1887), EMPIRICAL AND CONCEPTUAL STUDIES ILLUMINATING MECHANISMS OF DISSOCIATION AND HYPNOTISM (ALVARADO, 2002; ELLENBERGER, 1970; GAULD, 1992; SHAMDASANI, 1993) AND EXPERIMENTS AND LARGE-SCALE SURVEYS UNDERMINING THE NOTION OF DISSOCIATION AND HALLUCINATIONS AS INTRINSICALLY PATHOLOGICAL PHENOMENA (SOMMER, 2011; WILLIAMS, 1985). WHILE ROOTED IN ATTEMPTS TO TEST CONTROVERSIAL CLAIMS OF TELEPATHY, CLAIRVOYANCE AND SURVIVAL OF DEATH, THESE CONTRIBUTIONS ENRICHED EARLY PSYCHOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE QUITE INDEPENDENTLY OF THE STILL HOTLY DEBATED EVIDENCE FOR 'SUPERNORMAL' PHENOMENA.

NOTHING EPITOMIZES THE AMBIVALENT RELATIONSHIP OF ACADEMIC PSYCHOLOGY TO PSYCHICAL RESEARCH CLEARER THAN TWO FIGURES GENERALLY CONSIDERED AS THE VERY FOUNDERS OF MODERN PSYCHOLOGY, WILLIAM JAMES AND WILHELM WUNDT. WHEREAS WUNDT HAD PUBLICLY AND PROGRAMMATICALLY REJECTED PSYCHICAL RESEARCH AS INTRINSICALLY UNSCIENTIFIC IN THE SAME YEAR HE ESTABLISHED GERMAN EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY IN LEIPZIG (WUNDT, 1879), JAMES SOUGHT TO INTEGRATE IT INTO NASCENT AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGY. JAMES MADE ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO PSYCHICAL RESEARCH AND REGULARLY COLLABORATED AND CORRESPONDED WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH PSYCHICAL RESEARCHERS (SKRUPSKELIS AND BERKELEY, 1992-2004; JAMES, 1986). IN 1884, HE BECAME A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH (ASPR) AND, IN 1894 AND 1895, A PRESIDENT OF

---

THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH (SPR), AND HE REVIEWED AND DEFENDED THE WORK OF THE SPR IN PSYCHOLOGY AND SCIENCE PERIODICALS LIKE MIND, THE PSYCHOLOGICAL REVIEW, NATURE AND SCIENCE.

IN THE UNITED STATES, SEVERAL OF WUNDT'S STUDENTS, SUCH AS HUGO MÜNSTERBERG, STANLEY G. HALL, EDWARD TITCHENER AND JAMES MCKEEN CATTELL (ALONG WITH OTHER LEADING US PSYCHOLOGISTS NOT TRAINED BY WUNDT), RUTHLESSLY COMBATED THE FATHER OF AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGY IN HIS ATTEMPTS TO INTEGRATE PSYCHICAL RESEARCH INTO NASCENT PSYCHOLOGY (BJORK, 1983; BORDOGNA, 2008; COON, 1992; TAYLOR, 1996). DIVIDED BY EPISTEMOLOGICAL, METHODOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL DISAGREEMENTS AS WELL AS BY PERSONAL ANIMOSITIES (SEE, FOR EXAMPLE, SOKAL, 1992; TAYLOR, 1994), LEADING US PSYCHOLOGISTS FOUND THEMSELVES IN RARE UNISON AGREEING THAT PSYCHICAL RESEARCH WAS NOT TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE 'NEW PSYCHOLOGY'. HENCE, THE AGGRESSIVE REJECTION OF PSYCHICAL RESEARCH AS THE 'UNSCIENTIFIC OTHER' OF ACADEMIC PSYCHOLOGY, WHICH JAMES' OPPONENTS PERCEIVED AS A THREAT TO RATIONALITY AND THE SCIENTIFIC AND SOCIAL ORDER, WAS A VITAL UNIFYING PRINCIPLE AIDING EARLY PSYCHOLOGISTS TO ACHIEVE SOMETHING LIKE A SCIENTIFIC IDENTITY (LEARY, 1987).

JOSEPH JASTROW, ONE OF THE MOST ACTIVE POPULARIZERS OF THE 'NEW PSYCHOLOGY' IN AMERICA, IDENTIFIED VITAL BOUNDARY ISSUES OF PSYCHOLOGY WHEN REMINISCING ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF PSYCHICAL RESEARCH, 'WHICH IN THE CLOSING DECADES OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY WAS SO PROMINENT THAT IN MANY CIRCLES A PSYCHOLOGIST MEANT A "SPOOK HUNTER"' (JASTROW, AUTOBIOGRAPHY, IN CARL MURCHISON [ED.] A HISTORY OF PSYCHOLOGY IN AUTOBIOGRAPHY, VOL. 1 [WORCESTER, MA: CLARK UNIVERSITY PRESS, 1930], PP. 135-62, CITED IN MOORE, 1977: 166-7).

ONE CAN THUS EASILY IMAGINE HOW JAMES MUST HAVE EMBARRASSED MANY COLLEAGUES BY STATING, FOR EXAMPLE, IN HIS SCIENCE REVIEW OF AN EARLY SPR STUDY OF TELEPATHIC HALLUCINATIONS THAT THE SCHOLARSHIP

DISPLAYED THEREIN COMPRISED A COMBINATION OF OUTSTANDING INTELLECTUAL VIRTUES 'NOT FOUND IN EVERY BIT OF SO-CALLED SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH THAT IS PUBLISHED IN OUR DAY' (JAMES, 1887: 18). 'ENLIGHTENED' PSYCHOLOGISTS WERE ALSO HARDLY AMUSED BY THE FOUNDER OF AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGY EXCLAIMING IN THE PSYCHOLOGICAL REVIEW THAT 'THE CONCRETE EVIDENCE FOR MOST OF THE "PSYCHIC" PHENOMENA UNDER DISCUSSION IS GOOD ENOUGH TO HANG A MAN TWENTY TIMES OVER' (JAMES, 1896: 650).

AMONG THOSE WHO FELT DRIVEN TO PROTEST AGAINST JAMES' LACK OF EPISTEMOLOGICAL SQUEAMISHNESS WAS JAMES MCKEEN CATTELL. AS THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE, CATTELL CONCLUDED A SERIES OF HEATED DISCUSSIONS WITH JAMES ABOUT A RECENT SPR REPORT ON THE MEDIUM LEONORA PIPER IN THE PAGES OF HIS JOURNAL BY STATING THAT HE HAD ATTACKED JAMES

*... ONLY BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT THE SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH IS DOING MUCH TO INJURE PSYCHOLOGY. THE AUTHORITY OF PROFESSOR JAMES IS SUCH THAT HE INVOLVES OTHER STUDENTS OF PSYCHOLOGY IN HIS OPINIONS UNLESS THEY PROTEST. WE ALL ACKNOWLEDGE HIS LEADERSHIP, BUT WE CANNOT FOLLOW HIM INTO THE QUAGMIRES. (CATTELL, 1898: 642).*

IT IS ON THE BACKDROP OF THESE BOUNDARY DISPUTES THAT CERTAIN HISTORICAL EPISODES WHICH HAVE BEEN CELEBRATED AS VICTORIES OF AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC PSYCHOLOGY OVER PSYCHICAL RESEARCH DESERVE A REASSESSMENT. AMONG THE MOST WIDELY PROMULGATED SUCCESS STORIES OF PSYCHOLOGY EXPELLING ITS UNLOVED SIBLING FROM ACADEMIA WERE THE PUBLIC 'EXPOSURES' BY TWO LEADING US PSYCHOLOGISTS, HUGO MÜNSTERBERG AND G. STANLEY HALL, OF TWO SUBJECTS MOST EXTENSIVELY INVESTIGATED BY PSYCHICAL RESEARCHERS OF THE TIME: THE ITALIAN 'PHYSICAL MEDIUM' EUSAPIA PALLADINO IN 1909 AND THE AMERICAN 'MENTAL MEDIUM' LEONORA PIPER IN 1910. WHILE THE HALL-PIPER EPISODE WILL BE RESERVED FOR A SEPARATE STUDY, THIS ARTICLE ANALYSES MÜNSTERBERG'S CELEBRATED EXPOSURE OF EUSAPIA PALLADINO.



## HUGO MÜNSTERBERG, WILLIAM JAMES AND EUSAPIA PALLADINO

### PALLADINO AND JAMES

WHEREAS TRADITIONAL STANDARD ACCOUNTS OF PSYCHICAL RESEARCH HAVE PORTRAYED PROPONENTS OF THE CONTROVERSIAL DISCIPLINE AS GULLIBLE VICTIMS OF A DESPERATE WILL TO BELIEVE OR AS OTHERWISE INTELLECTUALLY OR MORALLY IMPAIRED (E.G. ALCOCK, 1981; HALL, 1962), LESS IDEOLOGICALLY COMMITTED HISTORICAL RESEARCH HAS REVEALED A WIDE RANGE OF EPISTEMIC AND METAPHYSICAL POSITIONS WITHIN THE CONTROVERSIAL DISCIPLINE (GAULD, 1968; MAUSKOPF AND MCVAUGH, 1980; NOAKES, 2005; OPPENHEIM, 1985; WILLIAMS, 1984; WOLFFRAM, 2009). RATHER THAN FAVOURING SUPERFICIAL MONO-CAUSAL ATTRIBUTIONS, BY, FOR EXAMPLE, EXPLAINING INTEREST IN PSYCHICAL RESEARCH IN TERMS OF A 'FLIGHT FROM REASON' AND IRRATIONAL OBSESSION WITH THE 'OCCULT', THESE STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT SCHOLARS HAD NOT ONLY DIFFERING MOTIVATIONS LEADING TO THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN PSYCHICAL RESEARCH, BUT – NOT UNLIKE EARLY ACADEMIC PSYCHOLOGISTS – THEY WERE ALSO DIVIDED BY COMPETING RESEARCH PROGRAMMES AND EPISTEMIC PRESUPPOSITIONS.

CRUDE AXES AROUND WHICH TO ALLOCATE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PSYCHICAL RESEARCH COMMUNITY WERE, FOR EXAMPLE, THE QUESTION OF POST-MORTEM SURVIVAL VERSUS TELEPATHY AND CLAIRVOYANCE AMONG THE LIVING, AND THE STUDY OF PHYSICAL VERSUS MENTAL PHENOMENA. FOCAL POINTS OF RESEARCH DIFFERED NATIONALLY AS WELL. FOR INSTANCE, WHILE THE BRITISH SPR – ESPECIALLY UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF HENRY SIDGWICK – FAVOURED THE STUDY OF MENTAL RATHER THAN PHYSICAL PHENOMENA, FRENCH AND ITALIAN RESEARCHERS LIKE CHARLES RICHET AND CESARE LOMBROSO INVESTIGATED BOTH AREAS. AS HEATHER WOLFFRAM (2009) HAS SHOWN, EARLY-20TH-CENTURY GERMAN PSYCHICAL RESEARCH WAS HEAVILY DOMINATED BY STUDIES IN PHYSICAL MEDIUMSHIP THROUGH THE INFLUENCE OF THE WEALTHY PHYSICIAN AND FORMER PIONEER OF HYPNOTISM AND SEXOLOGY, **PARASCIENTIFICA | 17**

ALBERT VON SCHRENCK-NOTZING. WHILE THE AUTOMATIC SPEAKING AND WRITING OF THE AMERICAN TRANCE MEDIUM LEONORA PIPER – DISCOVERED AND INTRODUCED TO THE PSYCHICAL RESEARCH COMMUNITY BY WILLIAM JAMES IN THE LATE 1880S – BECAME THE MOST THOROUGHLY STUDIED MENTAL MEDIUMISTIC PHENOMENA OF ALL TIME, THE NEAPOLITAN EUSAPIA PALLADINO (1854–1918, FIGURE 1) WAS THE UNDISPUTED QUEEN OF PHYSICAL MEDIUMSHIP, PUZZLING SOME OF THE LEADING SCIENTISTS AND PHILOSOPHERS OF HER TIME.

ACCORDING TO HER MAIN INVESTIGATORS, SUCH AS THE POLISH PHILOSOPHER-PSYCHOLOGIST JULIAN OCHOROWICZ, THE FRENCH PHYSIOLOGIST CHARLES RICHET, THE BRITISH PHYSICIST OLIVER LODGE AND THE ITALIAN PSYCHIATRIST ENRICO MORSELLI, PALLADINO'S PERFORMANCES WERE A STRANGE MIXTURE OF BLATANT FRAUD AND GENUINE 'SUPERNORMAL' PHENOMENA. WHILE EUSAPIA<sup>6</sup> WOULD CHEAT SHAMELESSLY WHENEVER SHE GOT THE OPPORTUNITY, SHE WAS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE PRODUCED, SOMETIMES IN BRIGHT LIGHT AND UNDER GOOD CONDITIONS OF OBSERVATION AND EXPERIMENTAL CONTROL, LEVITATIONS AND REMOTE MANIPULATIONS OF OBJECTS, MATERIALIZATIONS OF HUMAN FORMS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF BIZARRE PSEUDOPODIA. MANY SCEPTICAL SCIENTISTS WHO CAME TO INVESTIGATE HER LEFT AS BELIEVERS. FOR EXAMPLE, CESARE LOMBROSO, ONE OF THE ARCH-ENEMIES OF PSYCHICAL RESEARCH AND SPIRITUALISM IN ITALY, ATTENDED SITTINGS WITH PALLADINO IN THE 1890S TO EXPOSE HER TRICKS, BUT LEFT COMPLETELY CONVERTED (LOMBROSO, 1909). WHILE LOMBROSO NOT ONLY CAME TO BELIEVE IN THE REALITY OF EUSAPIA'S PHENOMENA BUT ALSO EMBRACED THE SPIRIT HYPOTHESIS TO EXPLAIN SOME OF THEM, MOST OTHER INVESTIGATORS OF PALLADINO AND OTHER MEDIUMS, SUCH AS CHARLES RICHET, ENRICO MORSELLI, THÉODORE FLOURNOY AND ALBERT VON SCHRENCK-NOTZING, REJECTED THE SPIRIT HYPOTHESIS AND FAVOURED A PSYCHODYNAMIC EXPLANATION IN TERMS OF 'TELEPLASTY' OR 'IDEOPLASTY', DESCRIBING THE GROTESQUE PHENOMENA AS 'EXTERNALIZED DREAMS' OF PHYSICAL MEDIUMS. [WWW.PPRI.NET/PARASCIENTIFICA](http://WWW.PPRI.NET/PARASCIENTIFICA)

NOT EXACTLY CONFORMING TO THE VICTORIAN STEREOTYPE OF THE ETHERIC SPIRITUAL MEDIUM, PALLADINO, AN UNEDUCATED PEASANT WOMAN, WAS NOTORIOUS FOR HER ERRATIC AND VULGAR BEHAVIOUR INSIDE AND OUTSIDE HER SEANCES AND TRANCE STATES. FOR EXAMPLE, APART FROM DISPLAYING A DIVA-LIKE BEHAVIOUR, SHE WOULD, APPARENTLY MERELY TO ENTERTAIN HERSELF, TELL OBVIOUS LIES AND OPENLY FLIRT WITH SOME OF HER DISTINGUISHED MALE INVESTIGATORS, SOMETIMES JUMPING ON THE HORRIFIED SAVANTS' LAPS. IN A COMPREHENSIVE TREATISE ON THE PSYCHOLOGY AND PHYSICAL PHENOMENA OF PALLADINO, ENRICO MORSELLI (1908) THUS TESTIFIED BOTH TO HER SUPERNORMAL ABILITIES AND TO HER HYSTERIA, A VERDICT SHARED BY OTHER RESEARCHERS WHO HAD OPENLY REPORTED INSTANCES OF FRAUD IN EUSAPIA AND OTHER PHYSICAL MEDIUMS WHILE CLAIMING A ROBUST RESIDUE OF GENUINE PHENOMENA. RATHER THAN REDUCING THE PHENOMENA OF PHYSICAL MEDIUMSHIP TO FRAUD, THESE INVESTIGATORS TRIED TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN DELIBERATE MALICIOUS FRAUD, QUASI-PATHOLOGICAL TRICKERY OUTSIDE THE TRANCE STATE, UNCONSCIOUS FRAUD IN THE TRANCE STATE (WHERE 'DISSOCIATED STREAMS' OF A MEDIUM'S UNCONSCIOUS WERE BELIEVED TO ACT OUT AUTO-HYPNOTIC SUGGESTIONS TO PRODUCE PHENOMENA NO MATTER HOW) AND THE ALLEGED SUPERNORMAL PHENOMENA NOT THUS EXPLICABLE. THESE RESEARCHERS VIEWED MEDIUMISTIC FRAUD OF A CERTAIN ORDER NOT ONLY AS RELATIVELY EASY TO CONTROL IN AN EXPERIMENTAL SETTING, BUT ALSO AS A FIELD OF PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY IN ITS OWN RIGHT.

THOUGH HE NEVER CONDUCTED FORMAL EXPERIMENTS WITH EUSAPIA, JAMES HAD BEEN FOLLOWING THE REPORTS BY HIS COLLEAGUES IN EUROPE.<sup>8</sup> COMMENTING ON CONSTANT ALTERNATIONS OF NEWS REGARDING PALLADINO'S EXPOSURES ON THE ONE HAND AND CONFIRMATIONS OF THE REALITY OF HER PHENOMENA ON THE OTHER, ON 30 APRIL 1903 JAMES WROTE TO HIS FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE THÉODORE FLOURNOY: 'FOREVER BAFFLING IS ALL THIS SUBJECT, AND I CONFESS THAT I BEGIN TO LOSE MY INTEREST' (SKRUPSKELIS AND BERKELEY, 1992-2004: X, 239).<sup>9</sup> FOUR YEARS

LATER, AFTER STUDYING CONFIRMATORY REPORTS BY FRENCH RESEARCHERS, JAMES WROTE TO ELEANOR SIDGWICK THAT NOW TO HIM 'THE PROOF SEEMS OVERWHELMING, AND IT HAS BEEN AN ENORMOUS RELIEF TO MY MIND TO QUIT THE BALANCING ATTITUDE WHICH I HAVE VOLUNTARILY MAINTAINED FOR 15 YEARS, AND COME TO A STABLE BELIEF IN THE MATTER' (1 AUGUST 1907, SKRUPSKELIS AND BERKELEY, 1992-2004: XI, 405-6).

AMONG THE STUDIES IN SUPPORT OF THE REALITY OF SOME OF EUSAPIA'S PHENOMENA HAS BEEN THE REPORT BY THE BRITONS EVERARD FEILDING, WILLIAM BAGGALLY AND HERWARD CARRINGTON (1909). INITIALLY SCEPTICAL, THE EXPERIMENTERS, EXPERT CONJURORS AND ENJOYING A REPUTATION AS DEBUNKERS OF FRAUDULENT MEDIUMS, CAME TO NAPLES TO EXPOSE PALLADINO, BUT AFTER A SERIES OF 11 EXPERIMENTAL SITTINGS CONCLUDED THAT AMONG THE USUAL OBVIOUS TRICKERY THERE WAS A RANGE OF APPARENTLY GENUINE PHENOMENA DEFYING EXPLANATION. AFTER NAPLES, CARRINGTON, A FREELANCE RESEARCHER AND SCIENCE JOURNALIST WITH LITTLE IF ANY REGULAR INCOME, ARRANGED FOR PALLADINO TO TRAVEL TO THE USA AND BE INVESTIGATED BY COMMITTEES OF SCIENTISTS TO BOLSTER THE SCIENTIFIC STATUS OF PSYCHICAL RESEARCH AND, ALTHOUGH HE REPEATEDLY DENIED THIS, PROBABLY ALSO TO SECURE SOME FINANCIAL GAIN FOR HIMSELF.<sup>10</sup> HE INVITED THE LEADING PAPERS TO REPORT THE RESULTS, AND THE AMERICAN PALLADINO EXPERIMENTS WERE AMONG THE MAJOR STORIES IN THE NEW YORK TIMES IN LATE 1909 TO EARLY 1910.

HOWEVER, THE PROJECT TURNED OUT TO BE A FIASCO FOR PALLADINO, CARRINGTON AND PSYCHICAL RESEARCH AT LARGE. AS USUAL, PALLADINO BEHAVED ERRATICALLY AND CHEATED BLATANTLY. SHE ALSO UPSET HER SPONSORS, E.G. BY SUDDENLY CANCELLING A FEVERISHLY ANTICIPATED SEANCE IN THE TIMES TOWER IN NEW YORK. DESPITE OCCASIONAL POSITIVE COVERAGE IN THE PRESS, THE HEAVIEST BLOW PALLADINO RECEIVED IN AMERICA WAS A REPORT BY THE GERMAN-BORN

---

HARVARD PSYCHOLOGIST HUGO MÜNSTERBERG, CLAIMING TO HAVE EXPOSED THE GREAT MEDIUM ONCE AND FOR ALL.<sup>11</sup> THE REPORT, ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN THE METROPOLITAN MAGAZINE (MÜNSTERBERG, 1910, REPRINTED WITH MINOR CHANGES IN MÜNSTERBERG'S AMERICAN PROBLEMS, 1912), WAS SUMMARIZED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES AND MANY OTHER PAPERS ACROSS AND BEYOND THE COUNTRY AND PROMULGATED IN BOTH THE POPULAR AND SCIENTIFIC PRESS AS THE FINAL WORD ON PHYSICAL MEDIUMSHIP IN GENERAL AND EUSAPIA IN PARTICULAR.

### **HUGO MÜNSTERBERG AND PSYCHICAL RESEARCH**

MÜNSTERBERG WAS ONE OF SEVERAL STUDENTS OF WILHELM WUNDT WHO WERE TO BECOME PILLARS OF AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGY.<sup>12</sup> IN 1893, RESPONDING TO COMPETITION FROM OTHER UNIVERSITIES, WILLIAM JAMES PERSUADED THE GIFTED EXPERIMENTALIST TO COME TO AMERICA AND RUN THE LABORATORY OF EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY AT HARVARD. IN GERMANY, LIKE WUNDT, WILHELM PREYER AND OTHER EARLY GERMAN PSYCHOLOGISTS, MÜNSTERBERG HAD RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF POPULARIZING THE NASCENT SCIENCE BY PUBLICLY DEMARCATING THE 'NEW PSYCHOLOGY' FROM PSYCHICAL RESEARCH. STILL IN FREIBURG, MÜNSTERBERG HAD GIVEN A POPULAR LECTURE, 'GEDANKENÜBERTRAGUNG' [THOUGHT-TRANSFERENCE], WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN THE BERICHTE DER NATURFORSCHENDEN GESELLSCHAFT ZU FREIBURG AND SUBSEQUENTLY AS A PAMPHLET. HE ATTACKED THE WORK OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETIES IN MUNICH AND BERLIN IN PSYCHICAL RESEARCH, WHICH, HE WARNED, FATALLY REINFORCED THE POPULAR VIEW OF THE IDENTITY OF PSYCHOLOGY AND SPIRITUALISM AND OTHER SUPERSTITIONS POSING SERIOUS THREATS TO MODERN SCIENCE AND CIVILIZATION.<sup>13</sup> WITHOUT NAMING THEM, HE ALSO SCOLDED CERTAIN EMINENT SCIENTISTS WHO HAD STATED THAT PSYCHIC PHENOMENA WERE NOT YET CONFIRMED SUFFICIENTLY, WHEREAS, HE COMPLAINED, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN THEIR SCIENTIFIC DUTY TO STATE 'IN PLAIN LANGUAGE: THEY ARE IMPOSSIBLE!' (MÜNSTERBERG, 1889: 3; MY TRANSLATION).

AS IN LATER WRITINGS ON PSYCHICAL RESEARCH, MÜNSTERBERG TRIED TO STRESS THE ESSENTIAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SCIENTIFIC PSYCHOLOGY AND PSYCHICAL RESEARCH ON THE ONE HAND, AND BETWEEN PSYCHICAL RESEARCH, WHICH HE CONSTANTLY CONFLATED WITH VULGAR SPIRITUALISTIC BELIEF SYSTEMS, AND TRUE RELIGION ON THE OTHER.

TEN YEARS AFTER HIS FREIBURG TALK, MÜNSTERBERG, NOW IN CHARGE OF EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY AT HARVARD, PUBLISHED THE ESSAY 'PSYCHOLOGY AND MYSTICISM' IN THE POPULAR ATLANTIC MONTHLY. ESSENTIALLY REPEATING THE BASIC THEMES OF 'GEDANKENÜBERTRAGUNG', THE GIST OF THE ARTICLE WAS THAT SCIENCE HAD EXPLAINED ALL REPORTED SUPERNORMAL PHENOMENA IN TERMS OF HYPNOTISM, HYSTERIA, MUSCLE READING, HYPERAESTHESIA, DISSOCIATION, HALLUCINATIONS AND ILLUSIONS 'AND OTHER MENTAL STATES WHICH PSYCHOLOGY UNDERSTANDS JUST AS WELL AS IT DOES THE NORMAL ASSOCIATIONS AND FEELINGS' (MÜNSTERBERG, 1899: 75), NEGLECTING TO MENTION THAT IT WAS PSYCHICAL RESEARCHERS RATHER THAN EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGISTS WHO HAD MADE MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THESE AREAS. MÜNSTERBERG ADMITTED THAT HE HAD 'NEVER TAKEN PART IN A TELEPATHIC EXPERIMENT OR IN A SPIRITUALISTIC SÉANCE', JUSTIFYING HIS RELUCTANCE TO GAIN FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE BY REFERRING TO 'EXPERIENCES OF SOME FRIENDS', WHO 'HAD SPENT MUCH ENERGY AND TIME AND MONEY ON SUCH MYSTERIES, AND HAD COME TO THE CONVICTION THAT ALL WAS HUMBUG' (IBID.: 77). MÜNSTERBERG CLAIMED THAT THE ONLY TIME HE WAVERED WAS WHEN HE HAD

*... RECEIVED A TELEGRAM FROM TWO TELEPATHISTS [SIC] IN EUROPE, ASKING ME TO COME IMMEDIATELY TO A SMALL TOWN WHERE THEY HAD DISCOVERED A MEDIUM OF EXTRAORDINARY POWERS. IT REQUIRED FIFTEEN HOURS' TRAVELING, AND I HESITATED; BUT THE REPORT WAS SO INSPIRING THAT I FINALLY PACKED MY TRUNKS. JUST THEN CAME A SECOND MESSAGE WITH THE LACONIC WORDS, 'ALL FRAUD'. SINCE THAT TIME I DO NOT TAKE THE TROUBLE TO PACK. I WAIT QUIETLY FOR THE SECOND MESSAGE. (IBID.: 77)*



JAMES WAS HARDLY IMPRESSED BY THE EX CATHEDRA PRONOUNCEMENTS OF HIS COLLEAGUE, WHICH, IN A LETTER TO HARRY N. GARDINER ON 19 JANUARY 1899, HE DESCRIBED AS STRATEGICALLY 'CLEVER' BUT 'ESSENTIALLY CHILDISH' (SKRUPSKELIS AND BERKELEY, 1992–2004: VIII, 484). VIEWING MÜNSTERBERG'S ARTICLE AS YET ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF RHETORICAL TRICKERY HE HAD DECRIED PREVIOUSLY IN COLLEAGUES LIKE HALL, TITCHENER, CATTELL AND JASTROW, JAMES WROTE: 'THE INSOLENT OF THESE FELLOWS, SURE OF THE APPLAUSE OF SCIENTISM, WHATEVER THEY MAY SAY, IS AMUSING' (IBID.). MOREOVER, REGARDING MÜNSTERBERG'S SELF-PROFESSED EAGERNESS TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGED SUPERNORMAL PHENOMENA, JAMES REVEALED TO EDWARD TITCHENER ON 21 MAY 1899:

MY COLLEAGUES FOR THE MOST PART, WHEN INVITED, HAVE SIMPLY REFUSED TO SEE MRS. PIPER [WHOM JAMES HAD HOSTED TO CONDUCT A SERIES OF EXPERIMENTS]. [JOSIAH] ROYCE, E.G., WHO HAD ONLY TO STEP FROM THE NEXT DOOR BUT ONE INTO MY HOUSE. MUNSTERBERG SAID IT WAS NO USE; IF HE GOT SUCH RESULTS, HE WOULD KNOW HIMSELF TO HAVE BEEN HYPNOTIZED. I SAID 'BRING YOUR WIFE, SIT IN THE CORNER & OBSERVE, AND SEE IF YOUR ACCOUNTS AGREE'. HE REPLIED 'I SHOULD NEVER ALLOW MY WIFE TO VISIT SUCH A PERFORMANCE'. I CALL THAT REAL SPORTSMANLIKE KEENNESS FOR NEW FACTS! (SKRUPSKELIS AND BERKELEY, 1992–2004: VIII, 532)

FOR WHATEVER REASONS, MÜNSTERBERG APPARENTLY CHANGED HIS MIND AT THE END OF THE SAME YEAR AND ASKED FOR SITTINGS WITH MRS PIPER. IN A LETTER TO JAMES' FELLOW PRAGMATIST, THE GERMAN-BORN OXFORD PHILOSOPHER FERDINAND CANNING SCHILLER, JAMES WROTE ON 11 OCTOBER 1899: 'HE CERTAINLY OUGHT NOT TO BE ALLOWED TO SEE MRS. PIPER. HE WILL BE HYPNOTIZED, IF HE GETS ANYTHING – IF NOT, HE WILL HAVE EXPLODED THE PHENOMENON. IT IS TOO LATE!' (SKRUPSKELIS AND BERKELEY, 1992–2004: IX, 59).

IN ENGLAND, SCHILLER HAD PUBLISHED A SATIRICAL ANALYSIS OF MÜNSTERBERG'S

ARTICLE IN THE SPR PROCEEDINGS (SCHILLER, 1899), AS WELL AS A RATHER VITRIOLIC REVIEW (RIDICULING THE BAD ENGLISH) OF HIS COMPATRIOT'S PSYCHOLOGY AND LIFE IN THE JOURNAL MIND. MÜNSTERBERG COMPLAINED TO JAMES ABOUT SCHILLER AND ASKED FOR SUPPORT. IN HIS REPLY ON 17 NOVEMBER 1899, JAMES AGREED THAT SCHILLER'S RIDICULE OF MÜNSTERBERG'S ENGLISH WAS BELOW THE BELT AND REASSURED HIM THAT HE HAD SCOLDED SCHILLER ACCORDINGLY.<sup>16</sup> REGARDING SCHILLER'S REVIEW OF MÜNSTERBERG'S MYSTICISM ESSAY, HOWEVER, JAMES WROTE TO MÜNSTERBERG THAT HE HAD

*... NO JUST CAUSE OF COMPLAINT. YOUR MYSTICISM ARTICLE, SO TO SPEAK WITH PERFECT CANDOUR, SEEMS TO ME A MONUMENTALLY FOOLISH PERFORMANCE. THE TIME IS PASSED FOR METAPHYSICAL DOGMATISM ABOUT NATURAL PHENOMENA AND I THINK IT WAS A GREAT COMPLIMENT THAT HE SHOULD HAVE DISCUSSED YOUR PAPER AT ALL. IF DISCUSSED, HOW COULD IT BE DISCUSSED BUT IN A COMIC VEIN? PARDON THESE SENTIMENTS, MY DEAR COLLEAGUE; YOU CAN EASILY UNDERSTAND THEM; BREVITY FORCES ME TO BE BLUNT. (SKRUPSKELIS AND BERKELEY, 1992–2004: IX, 86).*

A DECADE LATER, ON 15 NOVEMBER 1909, THE NEW YORK TIMES HEADLINED THAT MÜNSTERBERG HAD ACCEPTED HEReward CARRINGTON'S INVITATION TO SERVE ON A SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING THE PHENOMENA OF EUSAPIA PALLADINO. MÜNSTERBERG WAS QUOTED THUS: 'I WILL WILLINGLY SERVE WITH A COMMITTEE OF SCIENTISTS TO DETERMINE THE LIMITATIONS OF THE MEDIUM PALADINO'. THIS WAS BECAUSE HE WAS 'INTENSELY INTERESTED ... IN PSYCHOLOGIC PHENOMENA OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS, AND IF THIS WOMAN IS ALL SHE IS ACCOUNTED, I THINK I AS WELL AS MY FELLOW-SCIENTISTS WILL KNOW OUR TIME WELL SPENT IN WATCHING HER POWERS'.

CARRINGTON HAD ALSO INVITED JAMES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEDIA SPECTACLE. IN HIS REPLY ON 15 JUNE 1909, JAMES DECLINED THE INVITATION:

*MY SMALL REMAINING ENERGY HAS TO GO ELSEWHERE. YOU'LL THINK ME A MOLLYCODDLE (OR WHATEVER THE TRANSLATION OF THAT ROOSEVELTIAN TERM INTO THIS SPHERE OF LIFE*

MAY BE) BUT I HAVE A CONSTITUTIONAL ANTIPATHY TO THE NEWSPAPER MANNER OF EXPLAINING ALL SUCH THINGS, AND BELIEVE THAT THEY HAD BETTER MAKE THEIR WAY GRADUALLY INTO MORE SCIENTIFIC CIRCLES FIRST, AND FROM THENCE LATER DOWN. EUSAPIA HAS HAD THE GOOD LUCK SO FAR TO FOLLOW THAT LINE OF SUCCESS. AFTER READING COURTIER'S REPORT, IT SEEMED TO ME THAT IT WAS QUITE UNNECESSARY FOR DUFFERS LIKE MYSELF TO SEE E. P. AT ALL. THEY HAD DONE MORE THAN I COULD EVER POSSIBLY DO TO VERIFY.

JAMES THEN ISSUED A WARNING REGARDING CARRINGTON'S INVITATION TO MÜNSTERBERG, HALL, JASTROW AND OTHER PSYCHOLOGISTS HOSTILE TO PSYCHICAL RESEARCH TO INVESTIGATE PALLADINO. HE STATED THAT IF THEY 'WOULD INVESTIGATE SERIOUSLY, IT WOULD BE A FINE THING FOR YOU TO GET HER HERE FOR THEM. BUT I HAVE VERY LITTLE FAITH IN THE CANDOR OF SUCH MEN', DOUBTING ANY USEFUL RESULTS FORTHCOMING FROM SUCH A COOPERATION. BASED ON HIS PREVIOUS EXPERIENCES, JAMES CONCLUDED HIS LETTER BY STATING THAT HE DID NOT 'WISH TO TAKE ANY TROUBLE TO CONVINC SUCH MEN AS MÜNSTERBERG AND JASTROW', AND, UNCHARACTERISTICALLY HARSH, HE ADVISED CARRINGTON: 'LET THEM PERISH IN THEIR IGNORANCE AND CONCEIT.'

#### MÜNSTERBERG'S 'EXPOSURE'

AWARE OF HIS IMMENSE POPULARITY AND VISIBILITY IN THE AMERICAN PRESS, MÜNSTERBERG MUST HAVE KNOWN THAT HIS VERDICT ON ANY CONTROVERSIAL MATTER RELATED TO THE STUDY OF THE HUMAN MIND WOULD BE SNAPPED UP BY THE MEDIA AND ACCEPTED AS THE OFFICIAL VERDICT OF SCIENTIFIC PSYCHOLOGY.<sup>21</sup> HENCE, LIKE MÜNSTERBERG'S PREVIOUS WRITINGS ON PSYCHICAL RESEARCH, HIS PALLADINO ARTICLE, WRITTEN AFTER ATTENDING TWO SITTINGS ON 13 AND 18 DECEMBER 1909, REVEALED HIS DETERMINATION TO CLEANSE ACADEMIC PSYCHOLOGY FROM ANY OCCULT CONNOTATIONS AT ALL COSTS AND TO PROMOTE PSYCHOLOGY AS AN APPLIED AND THUS USEFUL SCIENCE AT THE SAME TIME. COMMENTING ON HIS PREVIOUS REFUSALS TO

ACTIVELY INVESTIGATE PSYCHIC CLAIMANTS, MÜNSTERBERG WROTE THAT, DAILY 'URGENT REQUESTS' NOTWITHSTANDING, HE HAD 'REMAINED LOYAL TO MY PROGRAM AND REFUSED CONSISTENTLY ALL CONTACT WITH THE MYSTICAL PHENOMENA' (MÜNSTERBERG, 1912: 119). EXPLAINING HIS SUDDEN CHANGE OF MIND, WROTE: IT IS THE DUTY OF A PSYCHOLOGIST TO EXAMINE THE TOTALITY OF MENTAL OCCURRENCES, AND HE HAS NO RIGHT TO CLOSE HIS EYES ON THAT WHICH SEEMS TO TRANSCEND OUR PRESENT POWERS OF EXPLANATION. I HEARD THIS SO OFTEN AND SO IMPRESSIVELY THAT I FINALLY YIELDED. I SIMPLY SAID: 'MADAME PALLADINO IS YOUR BEST CASE. SHE IS THE ONE WOMAN WHO HAS CONVINCED SOME WORLD-FAMOUS MEN. I NEVER WAS AFRAID OF GHOSTS; LET THEM COME!' (IBID.: 120).

MÜNSTERBERG CLAIMED THAT HIS SCIENTIFIC TRAINING, WHICH, HE STRESSED, ENTIRELY RESTED ON TRUST, WOULD RENDER HIM INCAPABLE OF DISCOVERING PALLADINO'S CUNNING TRICKS, AN EXPLANATION HE OFFERED FOR THE CONVERSION OF OTHER SCIENTISTS WHO HAD DECLARED PALLADINO'S PHENOMENA REAL. AGAIN BLURRING THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN EMPIRICAL RESEARCH AND IDEOLOGICAL SPIRITUALISM, AND NEGLECTING TO ACKNOWLEDGE EXPERIMENTAL CONDITIONS IN PREVIOUS SERIES OF EXPERIMENTS REPORTED BY NON-SPIRITUALISTS SUCH AS MORSELLI, RICHTER, FLOURNOY AND THE CURIES, MÜNSTERBERG CHARACTERIZED THE PALLADINO SITTINGS UNIFORMLY:

*ALWAYS THE SAME SILLY, FREAKISH, SENSELESS PRANKS REPEATED ON THOUSANDS OF NIGHTS BEFORE SMALL GROUPS OF MORE OR LESS SUPERSTITIOUS PEOPLE UNDER CONDITIONS OF HER OWN ARRANGEMENT, CONDITIONS ENTIRELY DIFFERENT FROM ORDINARY LIFE, WITH POOR ILLUMINATION AND WITH COMPLETE FREEDOM TO DO JUST WHAT SHE PLEASES. (IBID.: 135-6)*

LATER THE READER FINDS AN ADMISSION REGARDING INVESTIGATORS' ATTEMPTS TO AUTOMATIZE CONTROL AND THUS OBTAIN RESULTS INDEPENDENT OF THE PITFALLS OF

HUMAN OBSERVATION, CONTRADICTING MÜNSTERBERG'S PREVIOUS STATEMENT. BUT MÜNSTERBERG HAD 'NO SYMPATHY WITH THE EFFORTS TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF THE INVESTIGATION BY INTRODUCING SUBTLE PHYSICAL INSTRUMENTS. THAT GIVES TO THE MANIFESTATIONS AN UNDESERVED DIGNITY AND WITHDRAWS THE ATTENTION FROM THE CENTER OF THE FIELD' (IBID.: 140). AFTER SPECULATING ABOUT HOW PALLADINO MIGHT FAKE HER PHENOMENA, MÜNSTERBERG WROTE:

*OF COURSE, THERE WILL BE SOME WHO IN REPLY WILL FALL BACK ON THEIR OLD OUTCRY THAT ALL THIS IS DOGMATISM AND THAT INSTEAD OF MERE THEORIES OF EXPLANATIONS THEY WANT ACTUAL PROOF. I AM AFRAID I MUST BE STILL CLEARER THERE. I MUST REPORT WHAT HAPPENED AT THE LAST MEETING WHICH I ATTENDED. (IBID.: 141)*

MÜNSTERBERG THEN RELATED HOW HE AND OTHER SITTERS CONTROLLED PALLADINO'S HANDS AND FEET,

*... AND YET THE TABLE THREE FEET BEHIND HER BEGAN TO SCRATCH THE FLOOR AND WE EXPECTED IT TO BE LIFTED. BUT INSTEAD, THERE SUDDENLY CAME A WILD, YELLING SCREAM. IT WAS SUCH A SCREAM AS I HAVE NEVER HEARD BEFORE IN MY LIFE, NOT EVEN IN SARAH BERNHARDT'S MOST THRILLING SCENES. (IBID.: 142)*

MÜNSTERBERG THEN BREAKS THE 'SUSPENSE':

*WHAT HAPPENED? NEITHER THE MEDIUM NOR MR. CARRINGTON HAD THE SLIGHTEST IDEA THAT A MAN WAS LYING FLAT ON THE FLOOR AND HAD SUCCEEDED IN SLIPPING NOISELESSLY LIKE A SNAIL BELOW THE CURTAIN INTO THE CABINET. I HAD TOLD HIM THAT I EXPECTED WIRES STRETCHED OUT FROM HER BODY AND HE LOOKED OUT FOR THEM. WHAT A SURPRISE WHEN HE SAW THAT SHE HAD SIMPLY FREED HER FOOT FROM HER SHOE AND WITH AN ATHLETIC BACKWARD MOVEMENT OF THE LEG WAS REACHING OUT AND FISHING WITH HER TOES FOR THE GUITAR AND THE TABLE IN THE CABINET! (IBID.: 143)*

MÜNSTERBERG'S CONCLUSION, TO BE READILY PROMULGATED IN ACADEMIC AND POPULAR CHANNELS OF INFORMATION ALIKE, WAS THEREFORE: 'HER GREATEST WONDERS ARE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING BUT FRAUD AND HUMBUG; THIS IS NO LONGER A THEORY BUT A PROVEN FACT' (IBID.: 144).

AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, HE PROPOSED THAT EUSAPIA MIGHT NOT BE HELD FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR HER CHEATING. FOR MÜNSTERBERG EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS 'IMPROBABLE THAT MADAME PALLADINO, IN HER NORMAL STATE IS FULLY CONSCIOUS OF THIS FRAUD. I RATHER SUPPOSE IT TO BE A CASE OF COMPLEX HYSTERIA IN WHICH A SPLITTING OF THE PERSONALITY HAS SET IN' (IBID.: 144). HENCE, WHAT PREVIOUS RESEARCHERS OF PHYSICAL MEDIUMSHIP HAD LONG COME TO VIEW AS A PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEM THAT DESERVED TO BE STUDIED IN ITS OWN RIGHT, MÜNSTERBERG FALSELY CLAIMED AS HIS ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTION TO PSYCHOLOGY: THE DISCOVERY OF 'UNCONSCIOUS' MEDIUMISTIC TRICKERY. RATHER THAN VIEWING 'UNCONSCIOUS FRAUD' AS A CONFOUNDING BUT CONTROLLABLE VARIABLE, HOWEVER, MÜNSTERBERG PROPOSED IT AS A SUFFICIENT EXPLANATION FOR THE WHOLE COMPLEX OF PHENOMENA STUDIED BY INVESTIGATORS OF PHYSICAL MEDIUMSHIP.

ON 22 JANUARY 1910, WILLIAM JAMES SENT A COPY OF MÜNSTERBERG'S ARTICLE TO OLIVER LODGE IN ENGLAND, COMMENTING ON

*... THE DEPTH TO WHICH THE 'SCIENTIFIC' MIND CAN DESCEND, IN THE PERSON OF MY IMPUDENT COLLEAGUE MÜNSTERBERG. IT IS A BUFFOON ARTICLE, AS IF WRITTEN BY A BAGMAN. THE WORST OF IT IS THAT I CAN IMAGINE NO PROCESS BY WHICH HE COULD POSSIBLY BE MADE ASHAMED OF IT. SO ESSENTIALLY DOGMATIC IS HIS MIND THAT HE WILL REMAIN CONVINCED TO THE END THAT HE HAS 'EXPOSED' EUSAPIA AND BE PROUD OF THE LITERARY PERFORMANCE. ABSOLUTELY THE ONLY 'OBSERVATION' WAS THE CATCHING OF THE FOOT BY THE MAN ON THE FLOOR. M——G INSINUATES THAT THIS WAS DONE IN CONSEQUENCE OF HIS ADVICE, BUT IN POINT OF FACT HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT IT TILL HE WAS TOLD AFTER THE SITTING. (SKRUPSKELIS AND BERKELEY, 1992-2004: XII, 418).*



---

ON 26 JANUARY 1910, JAMES WROTE TO THÉODORE FLOURNOY:

*THERE IS NO LIMIT TO HIS GENIUS FOR SELF-ADVERTISEMENT AND SUPERFICIALITY. MENDACITY TOO! HE WOULD HAVE THE READERS THINK THAT MORSELLI, BOTTAZZI, OCHOROWICZ, RICHEL ET AL ARE 'SPIRITUALISTS', AND BY LUGGING IN PRAGMATISM (!) HE TRIES TO INSINUATE THAT I AM ALSO ONE. (IBID.: 423).*

IN ANOTHER LETTER TO FLOURNOY ON 9 APRIL 1910, JAMES REINSTATED THE PREVIOUS ALLEGATIONS REGARDING MÜNSTERBERG'S CLAIMS TO RESPONSIBILITY FOR PALLADINO'S EXPOSURE:

*THE GENTLEMAN WHO SEIZED HER FOOT WAS A STRANGER TO M—G, AND NONE OF THE COMPANY KNEW WHAT HAD HAPPENED TILL AFTER THE SITTING WAS OVER, WHEN HE INFORMED M—G AND ONE OR TWO OTHERS. M—G TELLS EVERYBODY (OR GIVES THEM TO BELIEVE) THAT THIS MAN WAS HIS EMPLOYÉ, ACTING BY HIS DIRECTION! IN POINT OF FACT HE WAS ONE OF THE GUESTS WHOSE PAYMENT MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR CARRINGTON TO INVITE M—G GRATIS. (IBID.: 466).*

PRIOR TO THE PUBLICATION OF MÜNSTERBERG'S METROPOLITAN MAGAZINE ARTICLE, RUMOURS OF THE IMPENDING PUBLICATION HAD REACHED HERWARD CARRINGTON, WHO WROTE TO MÜNSTERBERG ON 6 JANUARY 1910, ASKING HIM TO WITHHOLD PUBLICATION BEFORE A FULLER RECORD OF THE SERIES WAS PUBLISHED:

*... YOUR REMARKS AT THE TIME, AS SHOWN IN THE STENOGRAPHIC NOTES, AND YOUR SUBSEQUENT UTTERANCES TO MRS. CARRINGTON, MYSELF AND OTHER SITTERS AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SÉANCE, INDICATED CLEARLY ENOUGH THAT YOU BELIEVED AND, IN FACT, STATED AT THE TIME THAT THE CASE WAS OF GREAT INTEREST, SCIENTIFICALLY, AND THAT THE PHENOMENA WERE, IN A LARGE PART, AT LEAST, NOT DUE TO FRAUD ON THE PART OF THE MEDIUM. IF YOUR OPINIONS HAVE SINCE CHANGED, THIS MUST BE DUE TO SOME CAUSE OR CAUSES WHICH I THINK YOU SHOULD STATE.*

YEARS LATER, CARRINGTON CONCLUDED HIS FINAL PUBLISHED ANALYSIS OF THE MÜNSTERBERG-PALLADINO AFFAIR THUS: 'INASMUCH AS I WROTE A LETTER TO PROFESSOR MÜNSTERBERG, AT THE TIME, ACCUSING HIM OF WILLFUL FALSEHOOD, I CAN SEE NO REASON TO REFRAIN FROM REPEATING THAT ASSERTION HERE. HIS OWN DICTATED STATEMENT TO THE STENOGRAPHER REFUTES HIS CLAIM' (CARRINGTON, 1957: 246).

IN FACT, IF WE WERE TO BELIEVE THE PUBLISHED MINUTES OF THE SITTINGS, THERE WERE MORE PROBLEMS WITH MÜNSTERBERG'S 'EXPOSURE' THAN THOSE IDENTIFIED BY JAMES. FOR EXAMPLE, CONTRARY TO WHAT MÜNSTERBERG'S ARTICLE IMPLIED, NOBODY EXCEPT EUSAPIA HERSELF HAD CLAIMED THAT HER FOOT WAS GRABBED, AND ALL SITTERS AT THE TIME DENIED SUCH ACTION (CARRINGTON, 1954: 113, 117). FURTHERMORE, WHILE MÜNSTERBERG IMPLIED THAT EUSAPIA'S SCREAM MARKED THE CESSATION OF THE SITTING ON 18 DECEMBER, THE EXPERIMENT NOT ONLY CONTINUED UNINTERRUPTED FOR ANOTHER 17 MINUTES (IBID.: 114), HE ALSO NEGLECTED TO MENTION THAT THE CRY FOLLOWING THE ALLEGED FOOT-GRABBING INCIDENT AT 11.44 ('E. SCREAMS SHARPLY. REASON NOT KNOWN', IBID.: 113) WAS NOT THE FIRST ONE. ACCORDING TO THE MINUTES, AT 11.01 EUSAPIA HAD CRIED 'AS IF IN PAIN' AND WEPT 'AS IF PHYSICALLY HURT' (IBID.: 111).<sup>27</sup> THE MINUTES ALSO STATE THAT AT THE TIME OF THE ALLEGED EXPOSURE, MÜNSTERBERG, WHO CONTROLLED PALLADINO'S HANDS, AND PROFESSOR BUMPUS (A FRIEND OF MÜNSTERBERG), CONTROLLING BOTH OF HER FEET, EXPLICITLY STATED: 'CONTROL IS ALL RIGHT' (IBID.: 113).

PHYSICAL MEDIUMSHIP IN GENERAL, AND THE PALLADINO CASE IN PARTICULAR, POSED A COMPLEX ENOUGH PROBLEM TO TRAINED SCIENTISTS AND CLINICIANS OPEN TO THE POSSIBILITY OF THE GENUINENESS OF EUSAPIA'S FEATS. OBVIOUSLY, MEDIUMS AND THEIR INVESTIGATORS WERE PARTICULARLY EASY PREY FOR DETERMINED DEBUNKERS SUCH AS MÜNSTERBERG, JASTROW AND OTHERS, WHO COULD BE SURE THAT THE POPULAR AND ACADEMIC PRESS ALIKE WOULD ACCEPT THEIR

VERDICTS AS SCIENTIFICALLY AUTHORITATIVE. HENCE, JAMES, WHO COMMENTED ON PALLADINO'S BEHAVIOUR IN AMERICA TO FLOURNOY THAT 'EUSAPIA'S TYPE OF PERFORMANCE IS DETESTABLE – IF IT BE NOT FRAUD SIMULATING REALITY, IT IS REALITY SIMULATING FRAUD!' (9 APRIL 1910, SKRUPSKELIS AND BERKELEY, 1992–2004: XII, 466) WAS NOT THE ONLY PSYCHICAL RESEARCHER WHO HAD DOUBTS REGARDING THE VALUE OF CARRINGTON'S PROJECT. THE PHILOSOPHER AND PSYCHICAL RESEARCHER JAMES HYSLOP EXEMPLIFIED DISAGREEMENTS IN THE PSYCHICAL RESEARCH COMMUNITY OVER THE SCIENTIFIC MERIT OF PHYSICAL MEDIUMSHIP IN GENERAL AND PALLADINO IN PARTICULAR WHEN HE WROTE:

*THE PALLADINO CASE, AS IT HAS BEEN MANAGED, IS NOT CALCULATED TO INFLUENCE INTELLIGENT PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO TIME TO SPEND YEARS AND FORTUNES ON IT. IT ONLY EXCITES DISPUTE AND MANY OF THE FACTS ASSERTED OF IT ARE SO CLOSELY RELATED TO FRAUD THAT EVEN THE APOLOGY OF HYSTERIA HAS LITTLE EFFECT. (HYSLOP, 1910: 182–3)*

AFTER JAMES' DEATH, MÜNSTERBERG CONTINUED HIS CRUSADE TO EXPEL PSYCHIC PHENOMENA FROM THE EPISTEMOLOGICAL AND PROFESSIONAL TERRITORIES OF PSYCHOLOGY. HIS LAST DEBUNKING EXERCISE IN THE NAME OF SCIENTIFIC PSYCHOLOGY WAS ANOTHER METROPOLITAN MAGAZINE ARTICLE IN 1913, AN ENLARGED VERSION OF WHICH HE INCORPORATED IN PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIAL SANITY (MÜNSTERBERG, 1914), WHICH OUTLINES HIS INVESTIGATIONS OF BEULAH MILLER, A 10-YEAR-OLD GIRL IN WARREN, RHODE ISLAND. NEWSPAPER REPORTS HAD CLAIMED THAT THE GIRL WAS ABLE TO READ MINDS AND PERCEIVE REMOTE OR HIDDEN OBJECTS. AFTER REJOICING THAT 'ORGANIZATIONS FOR ANTILOGICAL, PSYCHICAL RESEARCH EKE OUT A PITIABLE EXISTENCE NOWADAYS', MÜNSTERBERG RELATED THAT HE HAD UNDERTAKEN HIS INVESTIGATION OF BEULAH MILLER FROM THE SAME 'FEELING OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY' IN WHICH HE HAD 'APPROACHED THE HYSTERICAL TRICKSTER, MADAME PALLADINO, WHO HAD SO MUCH INFLAMED THE MYSTICAL IMAGINATION OF THE COUNTRY' (IBID.: 143). MÜNSTERBERG

PROPOSED THAT BLEULAH'S FEATS WERE TO BE EXPLAINED BY A PATHOLOGICAL HYPERSENSITIVITY, WHICH ENABLED HER TO UNCONSCIOUSLY PERCEIVE AND DECODE SUBTLE SENSORY CLUES BY MEMBERS OF HER FAMILY AND OTHER PERSONS IN POSSESSION OF THE INFORMATION BEULAH WAS TO PRESENT. THOUGH NOT A FRAUD, MÜNSTERBERG EXPLAINED, THE GIRL'S 'MENTAL MAKEUP IN THIS RESPECT CONSTANTLY REMINDS THE PSYCHOLOGIST OF THE TRAITS OF A HYSTERIC WOMAN' (IBID.: 172).

### **CONCLUSION: HISTORIOGRAPHY AS BOUNDARY-WORK**

POINTING, FOR A CHANGE, THE SPOTLIGHT THAT ORTHODOX CRITICS HAVE PUT ON SCIENTIFIC DEVIANTS BACK ON THE CRITICS THEMSELVES, A LARGE CAN OF WORMS THREATENS TO EXPLODE IN THE HISTORIAN'S FACE. FOR NOT ONLY DOES THE MÜNSTERBERG–PALLADINO EPISODE FAIL TO STAND OUT AS PARTICULARLY 'JUICY'; PROBLEMATIC STRATEGIES EMPLOYED BY MÜNSTERBERG SEEMED MOREOVER THE NORM RATHER THAN THE EXCEPTION IN OTHER EXAMPLES OF 'BOUNDARY-WORK' (GIERYN, 1983) NOT RESTRICTED TO AMERICAN HISTORY (SEE, FOR EXAMPLE, SOMMER, IN PRINT; WOLFFRAM, 2009; PRINCE, 1930; TAYLOR, 1996).<sup>29</sup> HISTORICAL DEBUNKING EXERCISES OF PSYCHICAL RESEARCH HAVE REGULARLY INVOLVED INTELLECTUAL 'VIRTUES' THAT WOULD QUICKLY COST THE CRITIC HIS OR HER JOB IF EMPLOYED IN THE TREATMENT OF RESPECTABLE FIELDS OF STUDY. MOREOVER, FAR FROM MARKING A DISCRETE OR CLOSED HISTORICAL CHAPTER IN SOCIOLOGICAL STUDIES OF THE REJECTION OF MODERN PARAPSYCHOLOGY (THE QUANTITATIVE STUDY OF ALLEGED EXTRA-SENSORY PERCEPTION AND PSYCHOKINESIS) BY PSYCHOLOGISTS AND MAINSTREAM SCIENTISTS HAVE SHOWN THAT THESE STRATEGIES CONTINUE TO BE EMPLOYED (SEE, FOR EXAMPLE, COLLINS AND PINCH, 1979; HESS, 1993; MCCLLENON, 1984, AND PINCH AND COLLINS, 1984).

APART FROM THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SUCH EPISODES FOR ACADEMIC AND SCIENTIFIC CORE VALUES WE USUALLY TAKE FOR GRANTED (SUCH AS INTELLECTUAL INTEGRITY AND ACADEMIC

FREEDOM), FOSTERING THE TABOO OF THE 'OCCULT' HAS DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES FOR HISTORICAL SCHOLARSHIP. JUST TO REMAIN WITH WILLIAM JAMES STUDIES: WHEREAS THE FIRST SELECT COMPILATION OF JAMES' PSYCHICAL RESEARCH WRITINGS WAS PUBLISHED IN FRENCH ABOUT TWO AND A HALF DECADES AFTER HIS DEATH (JAMES, 1924), IT TOOK ALMOST ANOTHER FOUR DECADES FOR AN ENGLISH COMPILATION TO APPEAR (MURPHY AND BALLOU, 1961), AND ANOTHER TWO AND A HALF FOR THE MOST RECENT AND COMPREHENSIVE COLLECTION (JAMES, 1986). THESE 'APOCRYPHAL' WORKS ARE OBVIOUSLY NECESSARY ADDITIONS TO THE CORPUS OF JAMES STUDIES, BUT THEIR SEPARATE ISSUING DOCUMENTS THE ARTIFICIAL DIVIDE THAT SCHOLARS HAVE CREATED BETWEEN THE MAN'S UNORTHODOX AND 'RESPECTABLE' WORKS AND ACHIEVEMENTS, WHICH HAS ENORMOUSLY COMPLICATED A COHERENT UNDERSTANDING OF JAMES. THIS HAS BEEN DOCUMENTED, FOR EXAMPLE, BY MARCUS FORD (1998), WHO PUBLISHED AN ANALYSIS OF THE JAMES LITERATURE UP TO THE LATE 1990S WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLICATIONS OF JAMES' INTEREST AND INVOLVEMENT IN PSYCHICAL RESEARCH. HE FOUND THAT MOST JAMES SCHOLARS HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT EVEN TO ADDRESS JAMES' ACTIVE AND LASTING INVOLVEMENT IN PSYCHICAL RESEARCH AND HIS CONVICTION OF THE REALITY OF CERTAIN PSYCHIC PHENOMENA, LET ALONE DISCUSS THE IMPORTANCE OF HIS UNORTHODOX INTERESTS FOR AN UNDERSTANDING OF HIS PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL WRITINGS. SHORTLY BEFORE FORD ADDRESSED THIS PROBLEM, EUGENE TAYLOR (1983, 1996) HAD STARTED TO DEMONSTRATE THE IMMENSE SIGNIFICANCE OF JAMES' INVOLVEMENT IN PSYCHICAL RESEARCH FOR HIS WORK IN PSYCHOLOGY AND PSYCHOPATHOLOGY, PARTICULARLY IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE PRINCIPLES OF PSYCHOLOGY (1890) AND THE VARIETIES OF RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE (1902).

IN FACT, PRIOR TO AUTHORS LIKE ELLENBERGER AND TAYLOR, PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS OF PSYCHOLOGY – THE MAJORITY OF WHO WERE AND STILL ARE TRAINED PSYCHOLOGISTS – WERE SIMPLY NOT INTERESTED IN THESE ISSUES. EDWARD TITCHENER, ANOTHER CONTEMPORARY OF JAMES VEHEMENTLY OPPOSING THE LATTER'S ADVOCACY OF PSYCHICAL RESEARCH,

HAD CONCLUDED HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE SCIENTIFIC STATUS OF PSYCHICAL RESEARCH WITH A STATEMENT THAT COULD QUALIFY AS A TACIT YET POWERFUL EPISTEMOLOGICAL PRESCRIPTION UNDERLYING THE ACADEMIC CURRICULUM OF MODERN PSYCHOLOGY – AND ITS HISTORIOGRAPHY – UP TO THE PRESENT DAY: 'NO SCIENTIFICALLY-MINDED PSYCHOLOGIST BELIEVES IN TELEPATHY' (TITCHENER, 1898: 897). TITCHENER'S PUPIL EDWIN BORING, THE EMINENT HISTORIAN OF PSYCHOLOGY, CONTINUED THIS TRADITION AND EVEN WENT SO FAR AS RETROACTIVELY TO CENSOR JAMES IN A PREFACE TO A DEBUNKING STUDY BY THE PSYCHOLOGIST CHARLES E. M. HANSEL, WHOSE 'HISTORICAL' PART, INCIDENTALLY, RELIES ON MÜNSTERBERG'S PALLADINO ACCOUNT (HANSEL, 1966: 42, 213–14). SELECTIVELY QUOTING FROM JAMES' LAST PUBLIC STATEMENT ON PSYCHICAL RESEARCH (JAMES, 1909A), WHERE JAMES ADMITTED HIS INABILITY TO ACCOUNT FOR PSYCHIC PHENOMENA WITH A SPECIFIC THEORY, BORING SWEEPINGLY DISQUALIFIED ANY BELIEF IN PSYCHIC PHENOMENA BY REFERENCE TO THE UBIQUITOUS 'NEED TO BELIEVE' THEORY. SURPRISINGLY, HE THEN ALSO PRAISED AS EXEMPLARY 'JAMES'S OWN SUSPENDED JUDGEMENT ON PSYCHIC RESEARCH' (BORING, 1966: XVII), NEGLECTING TO MENTION JAMES' EMPHATIC STATEMENTS TO THE CONTRARY IN THE SAME ARTICLE AND ELSEWHERE AS FAR AS THE VERY FACTS IN QUESTION ARE CONCERNED.

WHILE PRE-1990S JAMES SCHOLARSHIP IS PERHAPS THE MOST CONSPICUOUS EXAMPLE OF WHAT MIGHT BE CALLED PASSIVE OR BOUNDARY-WORK PACE THE HISTORIOGRAPHY OF PSYCHOLOGY, THE VISIBLE INTEREST AND INVOLVEMENT OF OTHER RENOWNED PSYCHOLOGISTS IN THE STUDY OF PSYCHIC PHENOMENA FOLLOWING JAMES (WILLIAM MCDUGALL, ALFRED VON WINTERSTEIN, J. C. FLÜGEL, CYRIL BURT, CONSTANCE LONG, GARDNER MURPHY, HANS EYSENCK AND OTHERS) AND PSYCHOTHERAPISTS DISCUSSING THE OCCURRENCE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF PSYCHIC PHENOMENA IN THE THERAPEUTIC SETTING (E.G. S. FREUD, S. FERENCZY, N. FODOR, J. EHRENWALD, J. EISENBUD, E. SERVADIO) HAS ALSO LARGELY FAILED TO BE APPROPRIATELY REFLECTED BY HISTORIANS.<sup>33</sup> THESE EXAMPLES CLEARLY SHOW THAT INTEREST IN ALLEGED

---

PSYCHIC PHENOMENA HAS NEVER BEEN LIMITED TO AN ECCENTRIC OR LET ALONE INTELLECTUALLY INFERIOR MINORITY IN THE PSYCHOLOGICAL COMMUNITY. THIS ALSO SUGGEST THAT THE UNLOVED SIBLING OF MODERN PSYCHOLOGY HAS BEEN DISSOCIATED FROM ITS HISTORY MAINLY BY EDITORIAL FIAT.

THE VERY VEHEMENCE AND AFFECTIVITY OF ATTACKS, AND THE THINLY VEILED ACADEMIC CONTEMPT TOWARDS 'THE OTHER' OF MODERN PSYCHOLOGY, SUGGEST THAT WHAT WAS (AND APPARENTLY STILL IS) AT STAKE IS MORE THAN MERELY INTELLECTUAL DISAGREEMENTS OR PROBLEMS OF PROFESSIONALIZATION. THE TRADITIONAL HISTORIOGRAPHY OF PSYCHICAL RESEARCH, DOMINATED BY THE 'WINNERS' OF THE RACE FOR 'THE SCIENCE OF THE SOUL', REVEALS FASCINATING EPISTEMOLOGICAL INCOMMENSURABILITIES AND A COMPLEX SET OF INTERPLAYS BETWEEN SCIENTIFIC AND METAPHYSICAL PRESUPPOSITIONS IN THE MAKING AND KEEPING ALIVE OF THE SCIENTIFIC STATUS OF PSYCHOLOGY. THUS, REVISED HISTORIES OF PSYCHICAL RESEARCH AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO PSYCHOLOGY WITH A CRITICAL THRUST NOT LIMITED TO THAT WHICH HAS BEEN VIEWED WITH SUSPICION ANYWAY, OFFER BOTH A CHALLENGE AND A PROMISE TO HISTORIANS, THE DISCUSSION OF WHICH THE PRESENT ARTICLE HOPES TO STIMULATE.





# 'Winnipeg Psychiatrist Wants to Destigmatize Paranormal Experiences'



*Brian Baker*

---

DR. MANUEL MATAS, WHO ATTENDED MCGILL AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA FOR HIS PROFESSION, HAD HIS FIRST BRUSH WITH THE SUPERNATURAL WHEN HE 19, THROUGH A PRECOGNITIVE DREAM, AND HE HAD AN OUT-OF-BODY EXPERIENCE WHILE HE WAS A 23-YEAR-OLD STUDENT AT MCGILL.

HIS EXPERIENCE AS A SECOND-YEAR PSYCHIATRY STUDENT AT MCGILL FOUND HIM FLOATING ON THE CEILING ONE NIGHT, LOOKING DOWN AT HIS BODY BACK ON THE BED. THE DAY BEFORE HE HAD GONE BY TRAIN WITH A GROUP OF RESIDENTS TO A CONFERENCE IN HALIFAX.

THEY DIDN'T GET MUCH SLEEP, AND ALTHOUGH THE TRIP WASN'T MENTALLY EXHAUSTING, IT WAS PHYSICALLY DRAINING.

"AT THE TIME, I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THAT WAS POSSIBLE. I HAD NEVER HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THAT, AND I DIDN'T TELL ANYBODY ABOUT THAT," THE 75-YEAR-OLD ADMITTED, IN AN OCTOBER PHONE CONVERSATION. "I JUST KIND OF SHRUGGED IT OFF AND WENT ON WITH MY DAY."

HE'S USED THESE MOMENTS, AS WELL AS A LIFE-THREATENING ILLNESS, AS IMPETUS IN DIFFERENTIATING BETWEEN THE PSYCHOTIC AND THE PARANORMAL IN HIS 2017 BOOK, THE BORDERS OF NORMAL: A CLINICAL PSYCHIATRIST DE-STIGMATIZES PARANORMAL PHENOMENA.

AND THE IMPETUS FOR HIS BOOK WAS HIS OWN BRUSH WITH MORTALITY. HE WAS DIAGNOSED WITH LEUKEMIA AND RECEIVED A STEM CELL TRANSPLANT 15 YEARS AFTER HIS DIAGNOSIS.

"FIRST OF ALL, I HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE. I WANTED TO TALK ABOUT THESE EXPERIENCES, WHICH I'VE BEEN ACCUMULATING OVER THE COURSE OF A LIFETIME, AND OCCASIONALLY I WOULD SPEAK WITH SOMEONE AT A PARTY, AND WE'D EXCHANGE EXPERIENCES WE'VE HAD, AND LIKE ME THEY WOULDN'T TALK ABOUT THEM," HE RECALLED, ADDING THAT HE STARTED RESEARCHING OUT-OF-BODY, NEAR-

DEATH OR PRECOGNITIVE EXPERIENCES.

SOME OF HIS SOURCES FOR PARAPSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY WERE THE RHINE RESEARCH CENTER, THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA'S DIVISION OF PERCEPTUAL STUDIES AND AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIST AND HYPNOTHERAPIST BRIAN WEISS.

HE CONTINUED TO HAVE EXPERIENCES LIKE THE OUT-OF-BODY (OBE) ONE, AS WELL AS PRECOGNITIVE DREAMS, AND STARTED SHARING THEM ONCE HE DISCOVERED OTHERS HAD THEM TOO.

"THEY DON'T TALK ABOUT THEM BECAUSE THEY'RE WORRIED THAT THEY'RE GOING CRAZY OR THEY FEEL EMBARRASSED OR PEOPLE WILL RIDICULE THEM, REJECT THEM," HE SAID. "IN WESTERN SOCIETY IT'S NOT REALLY ACCEPTED BECAUSE THERE IS NO RATIONAL EXPLANATION FOR THEM," HE SAID. "PEOPLE DON'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF THEM OR PROCESS THEM."

BUT THE PARANORMAL, IN MATAS' VIEW, IS JUST ITS LITERAL TRANSLATION: THE PREFIX PARA MEANS BESIDE AND OF COURSE, NORMAL. "YOU HAVE PARAMEDICS WORKING BESIDE DOCTORS. WE HAVE PARALEGALS WORKING BESIDE LAWYERS. WE HAVE PARALYMPICS AND SO ON," HE SAID. "PARANORMAL MEANS BESIDE NORMAL, NOT ABNORMAL."

HOW MATAS WANTS TO DESTIGMATIZE IS BY EXPLAINING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PSYCHIC AND PSYCHOTIC. HE USED THE EXAMPLE OF A POST-DEATH VISION TO ILLUSTRATE HIS POINT.

"IF SOMEONE IS HALLUCINATING BECAUSE OF A PSYCHOTIC ILLNESS, THEY COULD BE HALLUCINATING EVERY DAY, EVER MINUTE OF EVERY DAY. IT'S CONSTANT," HE SAID. "SO, ONE DISTINCTION IS THE FREQUENCY.

ANOTHER DISTINCTION IS THE SEVERITY OR NATURE OF THE VISUAL HALLUCINATION. WHEN IT COMES TO THE PSYCHOTIC, THE HALLUCINATIONS ARE VERY FRIGHTENING OR

---

THREATENING.

NEUROSCIENTIST DR. HENRIK EHRSSON, AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON, PERFORMED A STUDY, "FIRST OUT-OF-BODY EXPERIENCE INDUCED IN LABORATORY SETTING" IN 2007, WHICH UNCOVERED THAT 10 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION HAVE EXPERIENCED OBES AT LEAST ONCE IN THEIR LIFE.

STILL, THERE'S A STIGMA IN WESTERN SCIENCE WHEN IT COMES TO THE SUBJECT OF THE PARANORMAL. ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO THE SPIRITUAL SIDE OF THE INVESTIGATION. ONE FINAL AVENUE THAT INTERESTS MATAS IS POST-DEATH CONTACT WITH LOVED ONES, LIKE THAT OF TEMPLE UNIVERSITY FOUNDER RUSSELL CONWELL, WHO SAW HIS DECEASED WIFE SARAH IN THE EARLY 1900S.

"I THINK THAT BECAUSE WESTERN CULTURE VALUES SCIENCE ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE," MATAS SAID. "WHICH, OF COURSE, I VALUE SCIENCE TOO, BUT I LOOK AT IT ON FOUR DIFFERENT LEVELS: PHYSICAL, MENTAL, EMOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL."

"THEY DON'T TALK ABOUT [EXPERIENCES] BECAUSE THEY'RE WORRIED THAT THEY'RE GOING CRAZY OR THEY FEEL EMBARRASSED OR PEOPLE WILL RIDICULE THEM, REJECT THEM."



CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF  
PARAPSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH & INVESTIGATION

THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PARAPSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH & INVESTIGATION IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION CONSISTING OF SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DISCIPLINE OF PARAPSYCHOLOGY SERVING BOTH ATLANTIC CANADA AND THE NEW ENGLAND AREA OF THE UNITED STATES. CAPRI IS DEDICATED TO SERVING THE PUBLIC BY CONDUCTING ETHICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PARAPSYCHOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS, CONTRIBUTING RESEARCH TO THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY, AND DISSEMINATING FACT BASED EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION.

# in this issue



DR. ELLIOTT VAN DUSEN IS THE DIRECTOR OF THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PARAPSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH & INVESTIGATION AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF GHOST PROJECT CANADA. AFTER SERVING CANADA FOR 15 YEARS IN THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE, HE RETIRED AS A CORPORAL. HE HAS APPEARED IN MULTIPLE PARANORMAL TELEVISION SHOWS AND CURRENTLY HAS THREE PUBLISHED BOOKS.



DR. DARRYLL WALSH IS THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF *PARASCIENTIFICA*, *PRESIDENT OF GHOST PROJECT CANADA*, AND CHIEF RESEARCH OFFICER FOR THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PARAPSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH & INVESTIGATION. PROCLAIMED "CANADA'S GHOST HUNTER" BY THE OTTAWA CITIZEN, HE HAS TAUGHT PARAPSYCHOLOGY AT THE NOVA SCOTIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE, HOSTED HIS OWN PARANORMAL TELEVISION SHOW, AND HAS PUBLISHED FOUR PARANORMAL BOOKS.



ANDREAS SOMMER IS A GERMAN-BORN HISTORIAN OF SCIENCE AND MAGIC WHO RUNS THE FORBIDDEN HISTORIES WEBSITE. A RESEARCHER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE, HE IS WORKING ON HIS FIRST BOOK, WHICH RECONSTRUCTS THE HISTORY OF PSYCHICAL RESEARCH AND MODERN PSYCHOLOGY IN EUROPE AND THE US.



BRIAN BAKER IS A VETERAN JOURNALIST AND INTREPID COLUMNIST WHO REPORTS ON THE SUPERNATURAL IN CANADA. BAKER IS THE FOUNDER AND PUBLISHER OF THE SUPERSTITIOUS TIMES, A PUBLICATION WHICH EXPLORES CANADA'S PRETERNATURAL CULTURE. BAKER IS ALSO A REGULAR CONTRIBUTOR TO HAUNTED MAGAZINE.

TO SUBSCRIBE VISIT [PPRI.NET/NEWSLETTER](http://PPRI.NET/NEWSLETTER), OR CONTACT [PARASCIENTIFICA@PPRI.NET](mailto:PARASCIENTIFICA@PPRI.NET)