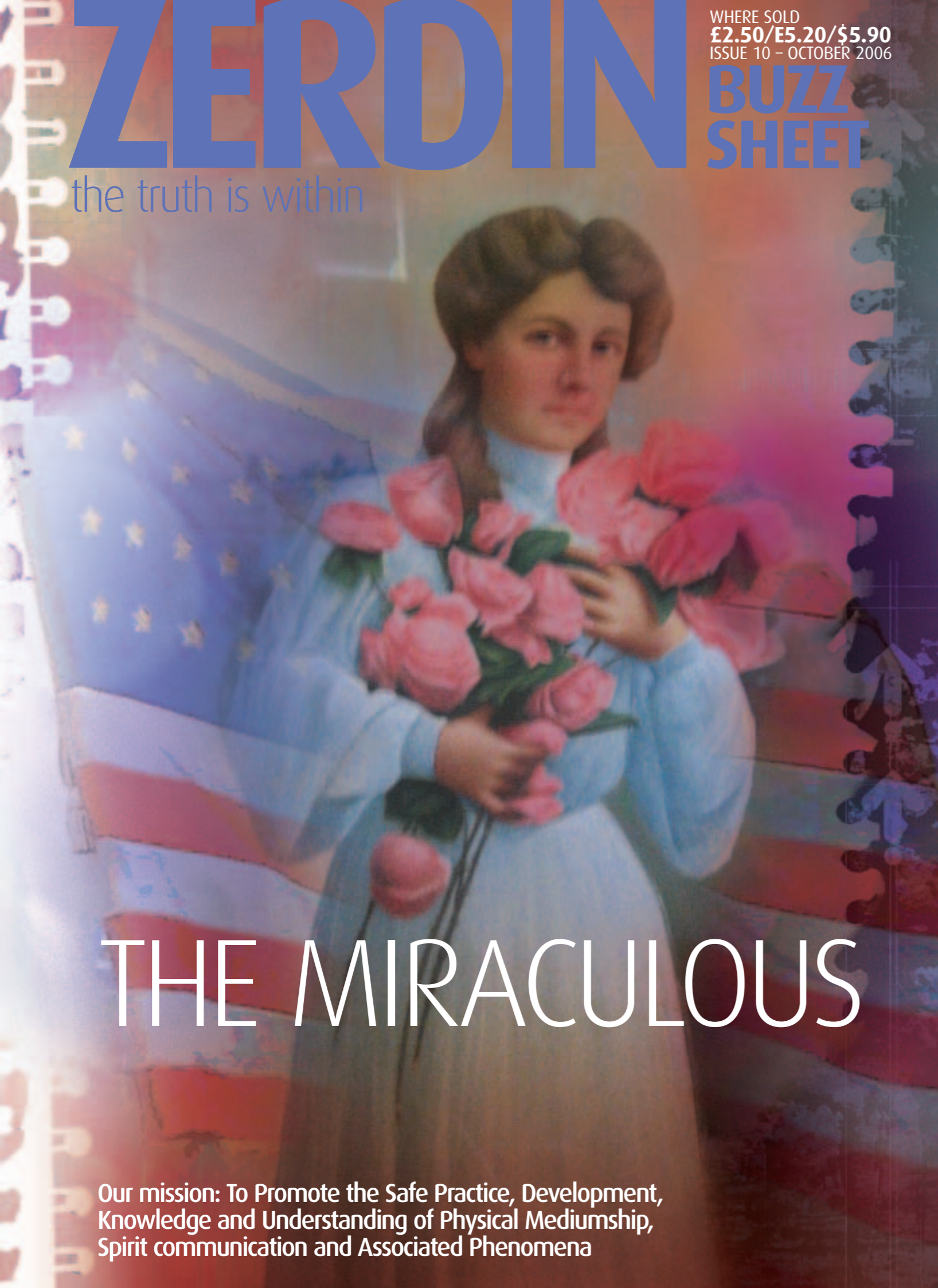


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BUZZ SHEET

the truth is within



THE MIRACULOUS

Our mission: To Promote the Safe Practice, Development, Knowledge and Understanding of Physical Mediumship, Spirit communication and Associated Phenomena



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Bangs sisters' painting; Lady on path with roses
This very large painting on paper measures 38" by 55" and was produced in sunlight

Kind permission of
The Golden Gate Spiritualist Church,
San Francisco California USA

STAY IN TOUCH...

KEEP SENDING IN YOUR ARTICLES

The following are some examples of what we need FROM YOU :-

- Tell us about your medium, tell us about your circle, and tell us about yourself.
- Let us know about other experiences you may have had with other mediums (circles, séances reports or articles).
- How did your circle start, what do you hope for the future of the circle?
- Your own Spiritual Experiences.
- Comments on the Buzzsheet (treat us gently)
- Comments on the Fellowship so far and possible ideas for the future.
- New ideas for the Zerdin Buzzsheet.
- Seminars or lectures you may have attended.
- Tell us about our Pioneers, those that have gone before.
- Anything you feel strongly about.
- Spirit philosophy.
- EVP, Apports and strange events. Spirit photography Orbs etc (Photographs please of Phenomena).
- Educational articles on spirit, and the spirit world.

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Or by email to zerdinfellowship@rpearman.fsnet.co.uk

APOLOGIES to Stewart Alexander and his circle and guides.

Page 21 of the August issue should have read Freda and not Brenda. I am sure the author will be forgiven by Freda.

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GREGORY HAYE THROUGH DEEP TRANCE MEDIUM MICHAEL AVERY

SUNDAY 25th JUNE 2006
By Dennis Pearman

Introducing Michael and Sylvie Avery, and of course from spirit Mr Gregory Haye who decided to visit us from the world of spirit on a hot sunny morning in Bristol England 25th June 2006. We arrived at 10.00 am both Rosalind and myself feeling a little tired following a late night on the town, and with heavy heads I remember thinking to myself should we really be meeting for a deep trance demonstration this early in the morning? Can this really be fair to the medium, or indeed to spirit, wondering can any trance medium at whatever level of development be ready to take themselves out of the proceeding this early and with sunlight streaming into the room? Our host Bernie of the Free Spirit Awareness Centre came along with Michael and Sylvie, and welcomed us with open arms, and with several cups of coffees later, we found ourselves in delightful company. The conversation flowed beautifully, I thought why worry about the trance demonstration, the spirit connection had been made, the energy was already rising and we had so much to talk about so much to exchange with each other, this was splendid.

As promised Michael and Sylvie began to prepare themselves for Michael's deep trance demonstration as the time edged towards our start time with spirit of 11,00 am the recording equipment was set up and Michael was ready as he set himself steady and calmly for the arrival of spirit. We were amazed at the speed that Michael was able to take himself out of the proceeding but not surprised as we must remember Michael with the absolute help of Michael's wife Sylvie have been developing Michael's deep trance over many years, sitting every day for Michael's development. The Zerdin fellowship, take their hats off to them both for such dedication and service to spirit. No early morning start, or sunlight streaming into the room, indeed nothing could interfere with Michael's presentation of his gift of pure spirit communication. With everyone relaxed and secured in the moment Gregory came through to speak to us. (See more on Michael, Sylvie and Gregory page 22 to page 28 this issue)



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INTRODUCING MR N RILEY HEAGERTY

It is with great pleasure that the Zerdin fellowship would like to introduce you to our friend in New York – Mr Riley Heagerty. Of course many of you may know Riley very well already, but those of you who are new to Riley Heagerty's work, you are about to share a unique experience into the world of physical mediumship, its history and its pioneers.

As you will see Riley is passionate about physical mediumship and the importance this knowledge has for mankind. Riley has dedicated much of his life to bringing to peoples' attention to this great truth, the history on mans true spiritual self and the realisation of this for the world at large.

In this issue of the Buzzsheet, Riley's extensive knowledge and research is brought to bear on the matter of the mediumship of the Bangs Sisters – and their truly remarkable gift of spirit precipitated paintings. We hope Riley will consider writing further articles for the Fellowship and we recommend you take time to read Rileys' book 'The French Revelation' which, in my opinion, is a masterpiece concerning one of the greatest American independent voice mediums, Emily S. French (reviewed and recommended in issue three and four of recommended reading..)

I feel, in some deep way, that I am responsible, in a large part for bringing the research of the amazing & incredible Bangs Sisters to the modern day attention of my European friends-those of course who have proven that they have the capacity to understand that every aspect of Physical Mediumship and Spiritualism, past and present, represent the same power of its vital force for bringing the truth to the human race.

RENOWNED AMERICAN MEDIUMS

By N Riley Heagerty

The past though, carries with it chapters of wonders that, to the uneducated spiritual mind, seem too incredible to be true. All spiritual matters are never wrapped in "coincidence," there is no such thing, so in due course, most people, if it is their Karma, eventually have their awakening and realize the power of Spiritualism and its timeless phenomena. It is here where Physical Mediumship and its past pioneers who paved the way by their selfless efforts, often filled with hardship, can be the deliverer, door opener, or eye opener for many people, based on their reaction to the absolute marvels that have taken place. Many people who I have met after giving a lecture on some of the great mediums are astounded and bewildered that they were unaware of such a wondrous chapter of human life and from there, their quest begins to enlighten themselves. It is never too late.

In the case of the Bangs Sisters, May and Lizzie, there is no doubting that their spirit precipitated portraits were one of the wonders of the world, and still are. (Although the Bangs are not here on the physical plane, their portraits are) They were mediums as children and, thankfully, their parents encouraged them to develop and were not antagonistic and destructive to their progress as many were back then, thus they were able to carry on as mediums straight throughout their adulthood. The magicians and many scientists of that day all tried their best to detect fraud and they stomped around like roosters in the hen house, but failed miserably to break the sheer force of the Bangs power and genuineness. The sisters could either sit together for spirit portraits, or sit by themselves and they were also two of the finest mediums in Spiritualism for independent slate writing. I have in my library a rare book, 250 pages long and the entire thing was written through the independent slate writing mediumship of Lizzie Bangs. It is called "Marguerite Hunter." I would also like to point out that May Bangs was a fiery tempered rattlesnake who defended their mediumship and Spiritualism when needed.

There are, perhaps, hundreds and hundreds of Bangs spirit precipitated portraits throughout the world that have never been displayed to the public. It is a daunting and bewildering thought to realize this. I know of one portrait for instance that shows a gorgeous scene of the spirit world and a spirit relative of the individual who sat for the portrait is in a canoe, rowing across a glimmerglass brilliant lake. In light of this fact, in Kansas City, Missouri, in the year 1909, the Bangs had on display more than a hundred portraits and it was said that there were many glorious scenes of the spirit world....where could these priceless gems be? Many, I am sure, are collecting dust in dark attics and storage closets, the owners of which being simply unaware that in their house a "miracle" of spirit power is hidden. One important factor regarding the Bangs, aside from their private sittings held at their

houses in Chicago, Camp Chesterfield and Lily Dale was their public demonstrations, many of which were held at the camps mentioned above. It was there, in those situations that they conquered the enemies and sceptics of Spiritualism completely. The canvasses were chosen by a committee picked by the audience and the sitters for the demonstration were picked randomly by the number on their ticket stubs. As with many of the great American physical mediums who I have researched over the past 20 years such as Emily French, Elizabeth Blake, The Eddy's and of course, the Bangs and many others, there was never an instance that has been proved to me where they were deliberately caught in fraud or proved to be frauds by absolutely verifiable facts and evidence. Many, many tried...and they failed. Their ignominious defeat being at the hands of the unstoppable force of Spirit Power.

Spiritualism owes a vast debt of thanks both to the Quakers and Shakers who, from at least the year 1800, in America had already been experiencing spirit rapping's, visions and trances; and in 1830 a major spiritual contact was recorded, that told of an approaching 'spiritual crisis' when a world-wide outpouring of spiritual gifts would occur, together with an extraordinary discovery of material wealth. The date set forth was 1848 – the date of both the rapping's at The Fox Sisters house in Hydesville, New York, and the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill in California.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CAMP CHESTERFIELD, INDIANA USA

by N. Riley Heagerty

After the Civil War, meetings or better yet, Grove meetings as they were called were being held regularly by the spiritualists, the first of which was in Malden Massachusetts, in 1860. By the early 1880's at least seventeen of these camps had sprung up all over the nation.

In Anderson, Indiana, in 1883 Dr J.W. Westerfield and his wife, Mary, were encouraging free and progressive thinking, and spiritualism. Over the next four years they slowly assembled an organisation of people interested in their ideas and by 1887 had drawn up what was to be the Constitution and By-Laws making this formed society an incorporated body, legally qualified to transact all business pertaining to the organisation and religion of spiritualism, and on October 22, 1888, with Dr Westerfield, as the elected President, the society was incorporated as the Indiana Association of Spiritualist.

In 1892, 34 acres of land in Union Township, Indiana, was purchased and is still to this day the same name as it was, the Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp.

LITTLE TOWN OF SPIRITUALIST

The Chesterfield Camp, similar to Lily Dale, is virtually a little town of Spiritualists. The only thing lacking as compared to Lily Dale is a Post Office. The grounds consist of an enormous common or park with beautiful swaying trees, leafy glens, statuary fountains, beautiful flowers and stone benches. Surrounding this area are six street, three of which are its main through fare is Western Drive, Eastern Drive, and Grandview Drive. Along these tree lined streets are many cottages and houses, about fifty five I would say.

Outside many of these dwellings similar to Lily Dale are quaint little painted signs which advertise what gifts the medium who lives there demonstrates (supposedly). We saw two that said Direct voice, and one that said Trumpet, the latter of which we secured a sitting for precipitation onto silk, but not the trumpet, (more of that some other time).

The grounds have an administration building, book store and gift shop, two hotels, the Hett Art Gallery, an impressive old wooden chapel and an enormous cathedral which seats about 500 people. I was impressed to see a small memorial plaque on the wall of the entrance to the cathedral dedicated to Etta Wriedt, one of spiritualism's most powerful and famous direct voice mediums from America (my home town of Oswego, New York), who passed away in the thirties when living in Detroit Michigan.

I mentioned this to the unattractive, unfriendly woman who was at the door, and of course, she knew absolutely nothing about Mrs Wriedt. This is a good time for me to bring up a point, and that is that I am always absolutely amazed at how many people I have met along the way who, even though they are directly 'Involved' in spiritualism or physical mediumship, and take great pride in bestowing upon all they are Spiritualist, know absolutely nothing about the subject, not even the basic elementary facts, surrounding the Fox Sisters.

How these types of people find their way into actually being employed by spiritualist organisations with positions that allow for many opportunities, to educate people on the subject, and yet they simply are incapable of it, I will never understand.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CAMP CHESTERFIELD, INDIANA USA continued

HEDRICK COTTAGE

Situated at the end of Grandview Drive, we located what was originally Hedrick cottage, the residence of none other than May and Elizabeth Bangs. The owner of this house, a kindly but nervous little creature, thinking that we came to inspect the house in consideration of purchasing it, but we played it safe, and got to The Bangs issue quickly. She gave us a tour and showed us the original picture of it when the mediums were in residence. In ways that Caroline (my wife) and myself still cannot fully grasp, this man made building around the original 'Bangs house' the outer structure of another house, covering the original like a shell.

BORING

It is a boring white sided square 'box'. The original 'Bangs' cottage front door faced the beautiful common area; it had an ivy covered enclosed porch which surrounded three quarters of this house, and had gables near the roof. All that was left of the porch was the foundation stone and the present day owner uses the back door of the house, facing Grandview Drive, as the front door now.

We made an inspection of the house as best we could and aside from the attic stairs, a few boarded walls and cobwebby little sequestered areas about the upper areas, there is little to report. With the Bangs sisters at the forefront of thought in ones mind the house we saw would have to be completely restored to its original condition to do them any real justice; perhaps some day it will be accomplished.

THE BANGS PORTRAITS AT THE HETT

What a truly staggering experience to enter an art gallery full of Bangs spirit precipitated portraits. My wife Caroline who, apart from being an Acupuncturist, has a degree in art, and was immediately drawn to the portrait of Dr Sharp, the spirit guide of none other than the American direct voice medium Etta Wriedt, which hung on the wall directly to the left side as we entered the gallery.

Through the written word, it is impossible to adequately describe this astounding masterpiece with its hypnotic, penetrating gaze, silky long grey beard and fleshy skin tone. He is wearing a dark blue suit, black vest, and a shirt so white and pure that it looks as if it was yesterday. There is a young girl, un-named, that also stands out, with her beautiful forehead, white ribbon in her auburn hair and sad brown eyes, moist lips and lace dress with high collar.

Although every aspect of a Bangs portraits unique, there is something about the eyes and the flesh tones that is truly wondrous. All of us have seen in books, libraries, television or even galleries some of the examples of the great artistic masters. In my humble opinion, all told there is nothing that compares to the Bangs portraits, except perhaps Raphael, and rightly so, because it was this very artist – along with Da Vinci, that May Bangs herself told me a few years back at a voice séance with Colin fry, who were, the very artists that rendered the spirit precipitations at the Bangs Sisters séances.

Finally, I had a chance to see up close the portrait of Dr Daughtery with his wife and two twin daughters. This portrait, as some of you should remember, was precipitated

In the presence of Dr Daughtery. He came to see May Bangs for a sitting in the hope of receiving a portrait of his wife who had recently passed away. Slowly, an exact likeness of her came into view before his eyes.

He mentally thought to himself how nice it would have be if his twin daughters could also manifest – they were deceased. Slowly,

both daughters Mary and Christina came into view with their golden tresses and matching white dresses with lace embroidery about the shoulders – the little girl on the right with the dress falling clumsily off her right shoulder (an astounding element unto itself, no one should ever deny).

Dr Daughtery put the finished portrait alongside the table and was speaking with May Bangs before taking his leave. The spirit artists in the meantime thought they would give him a special gift and precipitated him onto the canvas. A family portrait, he in earth life and they in the spirit dimension. Can you imagine this experience?

There is another picture that stands out, it shows a landscape of the Spirit World; three spirits are shown in a canoe, paddling across this glimmering lake surrounded by majestic rolling hills; off in the distance is their castle at the farther shore. Of course, it is too impossible to adequately describe.

In Kansas City, in the year 1909, the Bangs sisters put on an exhibition of no less than two hundred precipitated portraits, many of which, it was said, were landscape likeness of The Spirit World. It was noted that some of the visitors to the exhibition travelled two thousand miles to see the display it was so tremendous. It is equally tremendous to think that these portraits are actually somewhere in the United States, or elsewhere... but, somewhere on the earth plane.

There are also three full length precipitated portraits at the gallery. When I say full Length I literally mean five to six feet in length. It is astonishing to behold. I wonder, at the odd moment, what the Bangs Sisters actually charged for their sittings? What would one pay for a six by four full length portrait of their loved ones in spirit, precipitated by the Bangs sisters? The three full length portraits are Queen Victoria a splendid likeness. Rose Carson and Emily Carson, the first and second wife of a gentleman named Dr Carson of Kansas city.

To give complete honour, and credit to The Bangs I will, at the end of this article, list the names of all of the remaining portraits I do not mention in this article. Last year I was amazed to read the sworn Affidavit of the group of sitters that witnessed the full and complete precipitated portrait of Alex Park McKee, the late Treasurer and member of Camp Chesterfield; it was completed by the spirit artist in eight minutes, in broad daylight. It was tremendous for us to now find ourselves standing a foot in front of this very portrait at the gallery.

If one were to take cigarette ashes and grind them with one's fingers, the finished product would be similar to the fine dust used by the spirits with these remarkable portraits of The Bangs Sisters. It has never been known by any human being, scientist, artist or otherwise what this mysterious and wondrous material is. It is so fragile, so delicate and so beautiful that there is no description, save for the fine dust of a butterfly's wings and this seems as close as we can get.

To see these portraits is to enter a secret world; a world of wonders that indicates and displays to us the true beauty and endless potential of the Spirit World, made manifest through genuine mediumship. The standards we face in modern times are much higher, but it can be accomplished again; spirit precipitated portraits. Before us lies the answer; the séance room and dedicated sitters that put the home circle and what it stands for above and beyond all else. The road is often difficult to transverse due to the many highs and lows made manifest by human frailty and inconsistency, but eventually it comes together if you stay with it.

Sources and Notes

Additional Bangs portraits at the Hett Gallery besides those previously mentioned in this article: Dulcie (a young girl), Edgar Bean. Edgar Bean with his Aunt Anna, Catherine Lipp, Bernal

Tobias (very young boy), Lillian Keeler, don Keeler (brother of Lillian who drowned at Camp chesterfield while visiting and precipitated onto canvas later at the Bangs house to inform his parents that he still lives). Ethel Helderle, Martha and John Wesley Gray, George Shinness, Allen Woodmansee (a young woman), James G Shepherd, Audrey Alford, Jimmy Jessup, Earl Jessup (his brother), an un-named beautiful young girl, Daisy a spirit guide) and Symine Berkett.

Sources

The Bangs sisters and their precipitated spirit Portraits complied by Irene Swann 1969 curator of the Hett Memorial art Gallery Chesterfield.

Chesterfields Lives spiritualist Camp, 1886-1986 – Our First Hundred Years/ Pub. June 1986 Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp.

I am aware of the severely unfortunate incident which has taken place at the Portsmouth Temple of Spiritualism in Portsmouth England, concerning the Bangs Sisters portrait of Cleopatra. Apparently a single individual thought he could lift this extremely heavy masterpiece himself and actually dropped it. The glass tore the bottom half apart when it crashed. Wisely, they had an art restorer repair what he could, but all he could do was carefully fold the bottom up around the back of the top half; so. In essence, there is now half a portrait, from the waist up.

One thing is certain, and that is that the restorer had never seen anything like this mysterious material which he saw on that canvas, I think the spirit artists used many materials from nature in their work with these portraits: flowers, butterflies, leaves grass, pigments from human clothes... many things.

PRECIPITATED FROM “DAWN OF THE AWAKENED MIND”

by John S. King

Hypatia, whose form, voice and personality have been observed by many hundreds of people in America, as well as by a well known author in England, gave me her views regarding the spirit picture of Mr. Stead (William T.), by utilizing the Human-Psychic Telephone, and those views are recorded here. (The psychic telephone was invented by the Bangs-RH)

“Beloved one, I'll try to tell how it was done. Rembrandt in spirit paints a picture here, and it is held aloft in psychic ray, and on the canvas is repeated, so the colours come to stay. Hermes-the levitation ruler of the earthly powers to do, repeats exactly on the canvas, what Rembrandt tells him to. It is done by a repeating from light to heavy tone. The short waves become long waves. Hermes like a town clock keeps time exact in key with Rembrandt like a Swiss watch held, so it shows to him. Hermes like a set picture of fireworks, does so attune himself, that he can be repeater of the thing that he in Rembrandt's picture sees. It is like clay-moulder, copying a picture shown to him. Rembrandt and the composer, and levitation key ruled by this being Hermes, at once responds to him. 'Tis process very beautiful, and much admired by me, and I encourage you to say, 'twas free from fraud in every way. Let critics talk. I look on with pride, and aid you through to prove to men that it was true.”

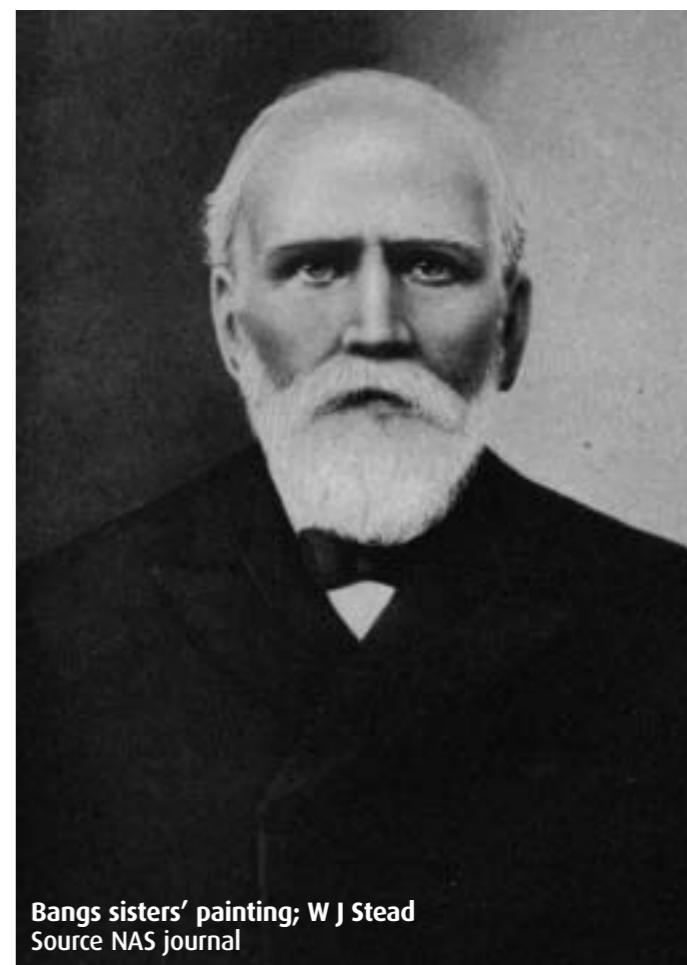
TO PRECIPITATE (IN MY HUMBLE OPINION)

The chemists and artists in the spirit world would use all of the surrounding elements, i.e., flowers, colour, sound, clothing texture, light of every shade and vital chemicals and pigments from the sitters and the mediums to “weave” themselves an available array of colours.

The artist would be looking at the spirit subject and with his mind – a method absolutely inscrutable to our understanding – “send” the images on to the canvas as a preliminary sketch, the material of which would be precipitated from the back to the front of the canvas.

When finished, the spirit subject could influence the portrait if it wanted to, (many spirits being emotionally attached to the portrait) for example some portraits hanging in the sitters home would have eyes closed during certain times of the day, or it could influence the artist to add or subtract certain items on the portrait. Audrey Alford, the spirit from the Bangs demonstration at Camp Chesterfield dematerialized her teardrop necklace after the Alford's, or family members donated the portrait to the camp. The fine dust, or whatever it is, that is the material of the Bangs portraits, is immune to age and time, and looks as fresh now as it did a hundred years ago. I myself am not concerned with what the material is that the spirit artists used; that secret belongs to the Great Spirit.

N.Riley Heagerty

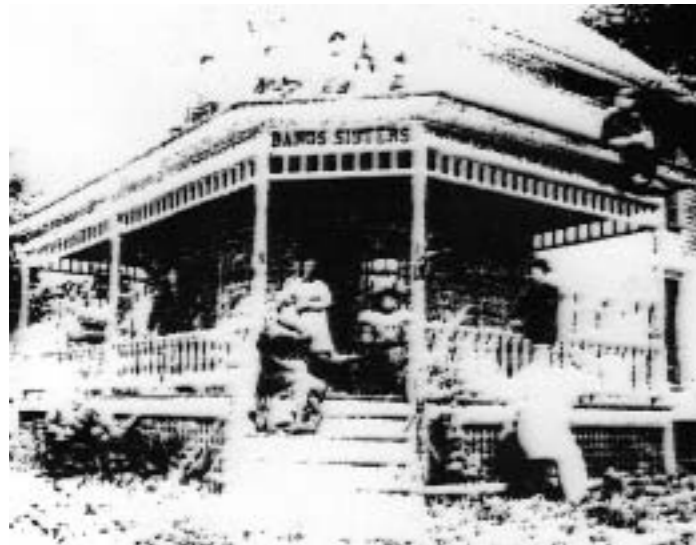


Bangs sisters' painting; W J Stead
Source NAS journal

It is August, the year is 1911. A large audience has filled to capacity the auditorium at the world famous Chesterfield Spiritualist Camp in the State of Indiana, America. They have come to witness a demonstration of psychic power, one of the most unique and marvellous in the entire world.

BANGS AND THE MIRACULOUS THE PHYSICAL MEDIUMSHIP OF THE BANGS SISTERS AND AN EXAMINATION OF THEIR PRECIPITATED SPIRIT PORTRAITS

By N. Riley Heagerty



Bangs sisters home at Library Street, Lily Dale Assembly USA

A select committee has arranged beforehand that upon entering the building, all have been given a numbered ticket, the stub of which is torn off and put into a large vat to be thoroughly mixed up; later on, one stub will be randomly drawn from the collection. Now, after a close examination by the committee to see that there are no markings or paint of any kind, or signs of chemical treatment, a large plain canvas is placed on an easel in the centre of the stage. The spirit mediums who will demonstrate the phenomena now enter the auditorium, they are sisters and appear to be about 35 to 40 years of age. Both take their seats on the rostrum, one situated on each side of the easel and clearly four to five feet from it; they will never touch the canvas throughout the entire demonstration.

A member of the committee now reaches in and selects from the vat one ticket stub and reads the number aloud to the audience; it belongs to a Mrs Alice Alford. Mrs Alford and her husband are now invited to come up and take a seat on the stage; they will be sitting for a portrait but in this particular instance the painting will not be of the Alford's; the artist and the subject of this session are from another dimension; the world of Spirits.

When all is ready, the mediums slowly bow their heads and close their eyes as if in prayer and deep concentration; the silence in the auditorium for five straight minutes is so absolute that the air itself seems to stand still. Suddenly, many in the audience lead forward in their chairs, sitting rigidly, their eyes tense and fixed on the canvas, from which a thin, vapour-like cloud, or shadow it seems, sweeps across it, pulsates, and then flickers out. After a few more tense moments, shades of definite colour begin to appear, as if

successive layers of fine dust have been thrown, or precipitated on to the canvas to form a cloudy background and this also seems to pulsate and flicker and then quickly disappear. On and on it goes for several minutes; the other-worldly artist it seems, is making preliminary sketches, and trying out different colour schemes.

Suddenly, all at once, the background slowly and steadily now precipitates into view; clearer and clearer it comes, only this time with it there is an astounding addition; three pairs of eyes have suddenly appeared on different parts of the canvas; two pairs of which are open and the last, situated directly in the centre of the canvas, are closed. The two open pairs immediately disappear and the closed eyes remain only to also instantaneously disappear; the audience gasps in astonishment.

With each successive phase of the unfolding phenomena, the background becomes clearer and clearer and now, a faint outline of a face and bust slowly precipitates itself into view, disappearing and reappearing several times before remaining in focus on the canvas. It is the unmistakable likeness of a young girl, perhaps 14 to 15 years old: many in the audience are now standing, some pointing in wonderment. Gradually, the appearance becomes more clearer and more distinguishable; she is transcendently beautiful and her hair, clearly auburn brown, falls luxuriously to her bare shoulders, revealed by the white dress she is wearing having been pulled down. Around her neck she is wearing a black onyx teardrop necklace, and pink roses surround the top of her dress as embroidery. Her eyes are closed.

With the portrait now having been completely precipitated on to the canvas, to the utter and absolute astonishment of all, the eyes suddenly open, and the audience thunders in applause. To the front of the stage now steps the Alford's, clearly shaken by the experience, and Mr Alford announces to the gathering that the portrait is an exact likeness of their deceased daughter, Audrey. The Alford's, as it turns out, are a prominent family of Marion, Indiana, are not Spiritualists in belief, and this was their first visit to Camp Chesterfield. Mrs Alford wore around her neck, hid from sight, a locket containing a photograph of her daughter almost duplicate in likeness of the spirit picture obtained, but different in poise and position. The mediums had not seen the locket picture or any photo of the child, nor had they ever made the acquaintance of the Alford's. The finished portrait was precipitated on to the canvas in twenty-two minutes. The spirit mediums of this extraordinary event, The Bangs Sisters.

Within the vast and marvellous records of American physical mediumship, one of the most outstanding chapters belongs indeed, to the turn of the century mediums, the Misses Elizabeth S and May E Bangs, of Chicago, Illinois. Their gifts included above board, independent writing in broad daylight (mostly slates), and independent drawing and painting; all forms of fully developed



Caroline and Riley Heagerty at Camp Chesterfield



Replication of Bangs Chair and easel set-up by N.R. Heagerty



clairvoyance, materialisations, and direct voices, but their most wondrous and spectacular phenomena was that of precipitated spirit portraits in full colour.

In researching these mediums, three things initially and not surprisingly, stand out. First, like the majority of the most powerful and famous physical mediums from this country, many of whom were the highest ranking in Spiritualism, they too lived and developed their many gifts within the Great Lakes region of the North-eastern United States (see The Spirit Zone Newsletter, Aug 1994), a mystery zone of electrical energy in this section of the country said by the spirits themselves to be perfect for the manifestation of physical phenomena due to the great bodies of water and the dry, crisp atmosphere; the Bangs sisters' hometown of Chicago, Illinois is situated right on Lake Michigan, secondly that they were in fact, siblings, giving us yet another outstanding example of a genetically connected powerhouse of mediumistic force.

*Other examples of this type of 'industrial strength' mediumship which comes to mind is of course the Fox sisters, the brothers Davenport, the Misses Moore, the Eddy brothers and family, the Berry sisters, the Jonathan Koons family, the Misses Dunsmore and the list goes on, and thirdly, in the case of May and Lizzie Bangs, there is not one single definitive and complete book as far as I know, in existence about these sister mediums and I find this to be absolutely unbelievable considering the nature of their phenomena and the vast amount of years put in for the cause of Spiritualism and physical mediumship by these wonder workers.

Research material that I found had to be collected piece by piece and page by page over a long period of time. This in itself is very good research practice as it involves extreme patience like everything connected with physical mediumship does. I have had to work very very hard for every bit of research material I have ever uncovered, some has involved years; make no mistake though, it is always a labour of love and I attribute all I know of this wonderful subject to perseverance and persistence; a continuing unfolding process, the education which automatically comes when one is patient while following the trails of truth.

With most of our most famous physical mediums there is nothing recorded of their early, childhood lives; the very beginnings of their visions, sights and sounds, an area I find to be one of the most blessed and wonderful, in many cases, has simply been lost to the ages. With the Bangs Sisters I was fortunate to find one source containing information on their early days. 'Transcendence In Oil (The Bangs Sisters)', The National Spiritualist, July 1, 1940.

Who were these miracle-working women? Born of a typical American family named Bangs, they were reared in average American surroundings. These sisters, Lizzie and May, were scarcely past toddling age when they began astonishing the neighbourhood with phenomena of a very unusual sort. Pieces of coal falling seemingly from the ceiling to the floor of their home – coal that

bore no similarity whatsoever to any ever seen in the surrounding country – was one of the first visible instances of the girls' strange power. By their fourth or fifth years spirit rappings, voices from the world beyond, and the moving of heavy pieces of furniture by invisible forces were within their grasp.

Strange, indeed, for girls scarcely past babyhood, and certainly beyond comprehension of childish minds. They must have suffered more than their share of qualms at their difference from girls of the same age.

Physical manifestations, such as materialisations of hands, automatic writing, independent slate writing, full-form etherialisation, clairvoyance and clairaudience were by now almost daily occurrences. Within the next few years an even more remarkable ability was demonstrated by the sisters. Something no medium had ever achieved before – spirit communication by typewriter. Later, when word of the spirit paintings got out, Lizzie and May Bangs were now famous indeed.

This new power baffled the keenest intellects. The portraits reproduced were work of high order as well as excellent likenesses. The conditions under which the paintings were made precluded all possibility of deception. When one considers that an artist would require at least five hours to produce even a poor portrait, the fact that the Bangs portraits only required from twenty minutes to three hours becomes more astounding. (Less and less time was required as the mediumship developed – NRH)

The story of the paintings and the history of the Bangs girls were headlined in papers and magazines throughout the country. Fakirs and magicians tried to imitate the performance. They came, were unmasked, and passed in steady procession. Sceptics reversed their opinions and wrote favourable notices. Meanwhile the sisters carried on quietly and serenely, unmoved by the storm raging around them. Such headlines as: 'The Facts of Immortality Verified' left them unmoved. They had a job to do and they did it.

Caring nothing for the pomps and vanities of this world, they wasted no precious time on shams. They lived comfortably but simply. Their lives were dedicated to helping others: the needy, the sick in body and soul. With only a strand of hair, or perhaps a message locked tight between slates – mute pleas of supplication from aching hearts – to help them, the sisters were able to bring what had seemed forever gone into the light of day. Countless were the thousands who received comfort and happiness in this way. Many famous men and women who travelled to their doors to criticise, left singing hymns of praise.

The Bangs Sisters, according to themselves, and from what I have gathered were mediums from the time they were born: the phenomena revealed itself throughout their entire childhood and, thanks to the sympathetic and understanding nature



THE PHYSICAL MEDIUMSHIP OF THE BANGS SISTERS AND AN EXAMINATION OF THEIR PRECIPITATED SPIRIT PORTRAITS continued

(obviously) of their parents, friends and the Spiritualists, they were not 'burned at the stake' and their glorious gifts were able to be fully developed and thousands were helped because of it.

There would be no exaggeration in saying that Elizabeth and May Bangs were two of the finest mediums in the world for independent writing, done above-board and in full light. Slates were used and served, more or less, as a tiny 'cabinet' for the spirit operators. Rarely was both of the sisters needed for this phenomena unless extra power was required. Sitters would usually bring their own slates and blank sheets of paper; these would be put into an envelope or simply folded and put between the slates and in ways inscrutable to mortal man – as is all spiritual phenomena until he enters the world of Spirit himself – words would be precipitated on to the blank pages of paper, usually in ink, a small bottle of which would usually be placed on the table near the slates.

Without a moment more of hesitation, let us now move to the files my friends and examine some of the outstanding moments of the Bangs and their independent writing. Included also is a brief 'spirit telegraph' experience in the first excerpt.

From 'Neither Dead Nor Sleeping' by May Wright Sewall, 1921, comes the following testimony which I have taken up after the authors arrival in Chicago:

'The second day after my arrival I separated myself from my friend, and presenting the letter of introduction furnished by Mr G arranged for a professional interview with its recipient at four thirty pm the next day. When the hour arrived rain was falling heavily and the wind was violent. Miss Bangs (May) said that the conditions were unfavourable. To my inquiry how the storm could affect the conditions, her reply was that she did not know how, but that as a fact 'the electrical conditions of the atmosphere do modify the vibrations, and they say everything depends on vibrations'.

In assertions of fact, Miss Bangs was as positive as other psychics I had questioned, apparently more vague in explanation, and even more ignorant of the causes of phenomena. She said she had always from her childhood 'been accompanied by phenomena,' but that of its causes she knew nothing; had never thought about cause; it did not interest her. I gained no new knowledge of principles, but I added two new facts to my accumulation of material for reflection. For the first time I received independent writing on paper, and also carried on a long coherent, satisfactory conversation by means of a private telegraphic code. As this was my first experience of them I shall describe both processes.

Miss Bangs and myself sat on opposite sides of a small table which with our two chairs, a carpet, a few framed photographs on the wall, and a few trifles on the mantel above a small fireplace, constituted the sole furniture of a small back parlour. I think its dimensions were not more than eight by ten. On top of the table were two slates and a bottle of ink.

As the process mentioned last was the first employed I describe it first. I propounded questions to my husband exactly as if he had been present in the flesh, and his replies were made as if by telegraph; the tick, tick coming to the ear exactly as if clicked on the machine at the telegraphic office, was read by Miss Bangs as an arriving telegram would be read by a telegraph operator. The answers and comments, like my questions, pertained to subjects, persons, places and events which in the nature of things, must have been utterly unknown to the operator; but there was not an instant's hesitation nor was there an irrelevant word; and, as events proved, where the conduct of persons in relation to matters not yet matured was involved there was not one mistaken opinion uttered.

My husband told me that he had never before used this method of communication: I next wrote a letter containing numerous

questions, folded it with several sheets of blank paper and sealed it in an envelope addressed to my husband; Having washed off two slates, I placed the sealed letter between them, tied them fast with my own handkerchief, and held them firmly in my hands. Miss Bangs then dropped some ordinary black ink on a small bit of ordinary blotting paper, and placed it on the upper surface of the top slate, I holding the slates firmly all the time, and I alone touching them. In a few minutes Miss Bangs said that my letter was answered. I thereupon untied the slates and on opening the envelope I found that the paper which I had put in blank was covered with clear script in black ink in a writing resembling but not duplicating that of my husband. There were six pages, which when read proved to be an orderly, coherent, categorical reply to my letter. The answers were numbered to correspond with numbered questions. I was too astonished to have any wish but to withdraw to reread this novel communication'.

From Glimpses of the Next State, one of the great classics of Spiritualism and physical mediumship, by Admiral W Osborne Moore, comes the following letter he received from a gentleman of considerable influence and position in Canada. It was dated October 19, 1908, and its contents influenced Admiral Moore to go to America and investigate the Bangs Sisters. I quote the letter in its entirety:

'Our next experience was at Chicago, with the Bangs Sisters, of whom we had heard both good and evil reports. We were, in consequence, specially alert. I will leave you to judge of what we obtained there. We were told by friends who had visited them to write our questions before going to the house, and place them, with a number of blank sheets of stamped or initialled paper, inside an envelope gummed and sealed. This we did, using paper from a Toledo hotel that was decorated with a gilt monogram. We reached Chicago early on the following morning. At nine o'clock we had found the Bangs' residence, and secured an immediate seance, before the arrival of their numerous clients. We sat with Miss May Bangs. To this day she is ignorant of our names or where we came from; nor had she any inkling of our visit or its purpose.

We accompanied her, each in turn, into a comfortable little boudoir on the sunny side of the house, looking out on a bit of lawn; the only window remained open. In the centre of the room was a table, four feet square, covered with a woollen cloth. The medium sat opposite to me, about a foot or more from the table; the only object on the table was an open inkstand. I said I had brought with me some questions in a sealed envelope, and hoped to obtain replies through her mediumship. She said, "We will try". She then fetched a pair of hinged slates, the frames of which were covered with dark cloth, gave them to me, and resumed her seat, saying: 'Place your letter between the slates, close them, and secure them with these stout rubber bands; lay the slates on the table, in front of you, and place both hands flat on top of them'.

The medium's instructions having been carried out, we engaged in general conversation. Three times she interrupted the talk to ask: "Is the name or place correctly spelt?" (foreign names mentioned in my questions), showing that some knowledge of what I had written was reaching her. If I assented, or made a slight correction, she would write on a pad resting on her knee; then resumed our conversation where it had dropped.

About half-an-hour was thus spent, when three distinct raps were heard and felt by me, proceeding, apparently, from the centre of the table. Miss Bangs then said: "The seance is over; you have obtained what you are to get; you may open your envelope now or later". I opened the hinged slates, found the envelope as I had placed it, untouched and still sealed, thanked the lady, and left the room, when my brother passed in for his turn.

While waiting for my brother, in the adjoining room, I slit open the end of my envelope with my penknife, and found, besides my questions, nine and a half pages of the blank paper covered with writing in ink, as if with a steel pen, duly numbered, and written at the instance of the spirit friend to whom I had addressed four out of five questions, and signed in full. The replies were categorical, giving or confirming information of great value to me personally; referring to facts and happenings of forty years ago, which the spirit and I alone were aware of; and adding the names of individuals whom I had not named in my questions, but whom we both knew in the past, and who had participated in the events referred to by me.

The reply to the fifth and last question was in the form of greetings from spirit friends who were known to me when they were in earth life, and now come to me as so-called 'guides'.

When one writes rapidly a blotter is necessary at the turnover to a new page; this, apparently, was not required by the spirit writer, for the ink is the same depth of black at the foot as at the top of the pages. The handwriting of the last message (and each signature at the bottom of it) differs from that which contained replies to my first four questions.

It is not claimed that this writing is done by spirit friends themselves, but, at their dictation, by the medium's control, who has become expert in this form of manifestation. Can telepathy account for these replies? Can it explain the transfer of the ink from the bottle on the table to the folded blank pages within the sealed envelope between the slates under my hands? It would take a very fast writer at least an hour and a quarter to write what the spirit performed in half-an-hour, and this is leaving out of consideration the deliberation required for penning the involved replies to my questions. I regret that they are of such a personal nature that I cannot even send you the extracts.

My brother's replies covered about thirteen pages; among them were three signed notes from three different spirit friends who had come to him in my house here, or at Detroit, and at the Jonsons' in Toledo'. (Direct-Voice with Mrs Etta Wriedt in Detroit, and Materialisation séances with Mr and Mrs Ben Jonson, Orchard St, Toledo, Ohio).

Report by Admiral W. Osborne Moore:

'10 to 12 (noon). 19 January 1909. Atmospheric conditions good. I took to the Bangs Sisters a letter containing two sheets (four pages) of questions. In the envelope I put in four blank sheets of hotel paper marked with a private mark. The envelope which contained these six sheets was gummed and sealed with my signet-ring. I had written twenty-three questions to my guide. I was received by May Bangs in the same small room, and, as before, the room was flooded with light. I put the letter between her two slates, which are covered with wool at the edges to exclude the faintest ray of light.

She took hold of the double slate ends with one hand while I put four rubber bands round the slates, as I had done two days previously. The slates were then put on the table, the same little vessel of ink was placed on top, and over all, was placed Bristol-board. From this moment May Bangs had nothing to do with the slates; they were in my own possession under my hands. The psychic and I sat opposite to one another, she leaning back in her chair, writing on a pad of paper.

After we had been sitting, talking for a quarter of an hour, May Bangs began telling me what my questions were, and answering some of them. Presently she said: "Tear off the corner of one your visiting cards, so that you can identify it again; put it on the slates, and we will see what happens to it". About fifteen minutes later she said: "Why do you write to your relative in such a formal style? Write a postscript on a piece of paper, naming your wife in the same familiar way as you would if writing to this spirit in life". This I did without her seeing what I had written, and put the piece of paper, doubled up, also on the slates. She then went on as before, repeating my questions within the sealed envelope.

At 11.10 the psychic said: "Your card has gone into the letter". When an hour and three-quarters had elapsed from the time we began the sitting, three knocks on the table announced that the writing was finished.

I now opened the slates. Inside I found my packet intact, with seal untouched. On the outside of the envelope was written: 'The little slip [my postscript] has been arranged to your hat in the other room'. This was signed by an initial (-) the Christian name of my guide. I slit open the envelope at the top, and found inside it (a) my questions, contained in four pages; (b) eight pages of reply from the spirit, in ink, as if written with a steel pen; (c) my visiting card. I then went into the drawing room, where I had left my hat, found that it had been moved, and that inside the lining was my postscript. Before I left, May Bangs read out to me the questions in my letter, which she had written on her pad as she saw them in the astral light. They were all correct in sense, though not in actual phrasing; and the curious thing was that she read them out in precisely the proper consecutive order – (1), (2) up to (23). With some reluctance, she later eventually surrendered the pages of the pad to me; it is one of the most curious documents in my possession. (One that I would trade my car for to have in my personal archives. – NRH).

The Bangs Sisters

PROGRAM

We desire to call the attention of our numerous friends and patrons, and all interested in Spirit Art, to our special arrangements for Chesterfield Camp for the coming season of 1909.

We shall be in attendance as early as July 22, and remain throughout the season.

We will give daily attention to Independent Paper Writing communications and Spirit Portraiture.

We shall have an exhibition in our parlours a variety of beautiful art productions of elaborate design, exquisite texture and delicate tints, and prepared to give several sizes of paintings at reasonable prices.

Our Independent Writing is given above board and in the broad daylight, under conditions that cannot fail to convince the most skeptical. In our Art Work, Portraits of loved ones gradually develop into life-like colours before the eyes of the sitter in a well lighted window.

Through the agency of Departed Intelligences, we have recently invented a Table Telephone, so sensitive to sound that Spirit Voices and Whispers can be distinctly heard and recognised while sitting in the light. This phase we will introduce this season at Camp Chesterfield in connection with Independent Writing Sittings.

Those desiring Portraits of departed friends should arrange time for sittings in advance, thereby avoiding disappointment and waiting.

Do not wait until the last of the season when all are rushed but COME EARLY.

Your patronage is respectfully solicited.

BANGS SISTERS

Hedrick Cottage
Chesterfield

Home address, 645 W. Adams St.
CHICAGO

THE PHYSICAL MEDIUMSHIP OF THE BANGS SISTERS AND AN EXAMINATION OF THEIR PRECIPITATED SPIRIT PORTRAITS continued

Testing The Ink. Sir William Crookes and Lithium Citrate

To test whether the ink brought to the sittings by W Osborne Moore with the Bangs Sisters was the same ink that was precipitated on to the blank pages by the spirits, Sir William Crookes (1832-1919), one of the greatest physicists of that century, suggested to Moore that he add the chemical lithium citrate to his ink beforehand, go through with two or three sittings with May Bangs for independent writing, and then send to him the pages containing the spirit writing; Crookes could then, under spectrum analysis, prove whether or not this was the ink used by the spirit writers. Under these exact conditions of control; the sitter bringing blank pages of paper sealed into an envelope, the envelope tightly secured by him between two slates, the ink pot, filled with his own ink, placed on top of the slates, and the medium, for the duration of the sitting, not even touching the slates or the table, there is no human being on the face of this earth who could accomplish the feat of having replies, let alone ones of a personal nature, precipitated through the envelope and on to the blank pages without the aid of the Spirit World.

By later spectrum analysis, lithium citrate was discovered in the ink used by the spirits. This conclusively proved that in some extraordinary and mysterious way, Moore's own ink was used to write the messages in the sealed envelope between his own slates. Moore had also laid his visiting card on top of the slates and tore off one corner for identification; he also had written a postscript to his questions on a separate piece of paper and placed it alongside the visiting card. The former found its way into the envelope, while the latter, in accordance with a message on the outside of the envelope, was discovered in the other room in Admiral Moore's hat.

I will leave it up to the readers to decide what they believe. This is testimony based on the observations of Admiral W Osborne Moore, who was a distinguished Naval Officer for Great Britain, in command of warships specially fitted out for scientific research, and Sir William Crookes, one of the most famous physicists of that age. (We will be hearing more from Osborne Moore in this article – NRH).

The gift of precipitated spirit portraits by the Bangs Sisters did not begin until the autumn of 1894. During the early periods of their development, it was necessary to curtain the canvas, or place it in a dark chamber, and several sittings were required to complete the picture. As the gift developed, Elizabeth and May were able to demonstrate the phenomena in full light.

Initially, the portraits were produced as follows: two identical paper mounted canvases in wooden frames were placed together, face to face, and then leaned up against a window with the lower half resting upon a table. Each sister would sit on one side of the table and pinch the canvases together with one hand. The window curtains would be drawn up close to the frames on either side and an opaque blind drawn over the canvases. This procedure was arranged so that the only light coming into the room itself was through the canvases, which were translucent. The sitter(s), in most cases, would sit right at the end of the table, directly facing the canvases, and by doing so, watch the entire process unfold right before their very eyes. After a quarter of an hour the outline of shadows would begin to appear and disappear, the artist usually making his preliminary sketches, and then, at a rapid pace the portrait would come into full view. When the frames were separated, the spirit portrait would be found on the surface of one of the canvases, usually the one closest to the sitter. In the earlier days, though the paint was greasy to the touch, it left no stain whatsoever on the other paper which covered closely the other canvas. Later on, the portraits were precipitated as if by an airbrush, and only one canvas was needed; some took as little as five minutes to

complete, and some were precipitated in full sunlight right on the front porch of the Bangs Sisters' house.

Art experts have examined the portraits and they cannot explain the media used by the spirit artists; the pictures are not charcoal, oils, crayon, pastels, ink, water colours, or any other known substance. The material has been compared to the fine dust on a butterfly's wings. Admiral Moore, in Glimpses of The Next State said about the material, 'The stuff of which the picture is composed is damp, and rubs off at the slightest touch, like soot, it comes off on the finger, a smutty, oily substance'.

Miss May Bangs, wrote in a letter to Mr James Coates, 17 September, 1910:

'The room is shaded sufficiently to cause all the light from the window to pass through the canvas, thus enabling the sitter to witness the development and detect the least change in the shadows. No two sittings are exactly alike. Usually in the development of a portrait the outer edges of the canvas becomes shadowed, showing different delicately coloured lines, until the full outline of the head and shoulders is seen. When the likeness is sufficiently distinct to be recognised, the hair, drapery and other decorations appear. In many cases, after the entire portrait is finished, the eyes gradually open, giving a life-like appearance to the whole face'.

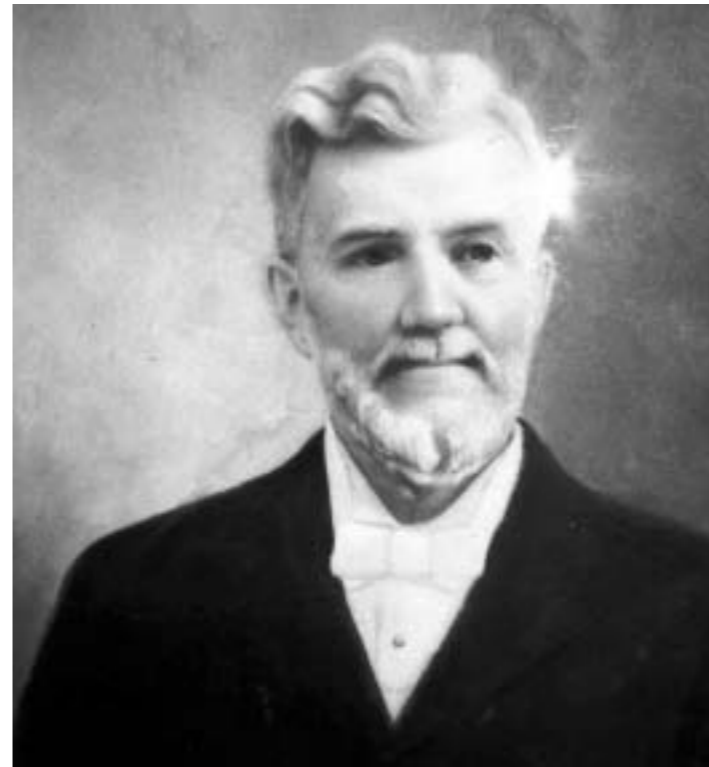
People who sat with the Bangs for portraits were requested to bring a photograph of the departed if one existed, but were never requested to produce it. The spirit portraits were not copies of the concealed photograph. When completed, the subject would have a different facial expression, clothes, or even the age of the person would be slightly altered; the colour tones of the face always rich, deep and lifelike. Many of the portraits changed when taken home. The hair on some would be altered or changed to look as it had when the subject was on the earth. Blouses and dresses for instance, would change to seem more familiar, and in several wondrous cases, the eyes would open and then close.

Mr John W Payne, Director of The Citizens Bank in New Castle, Indiana, speaking in September, 1905, of the portrait he obtained of his father who had died 14 years previously:

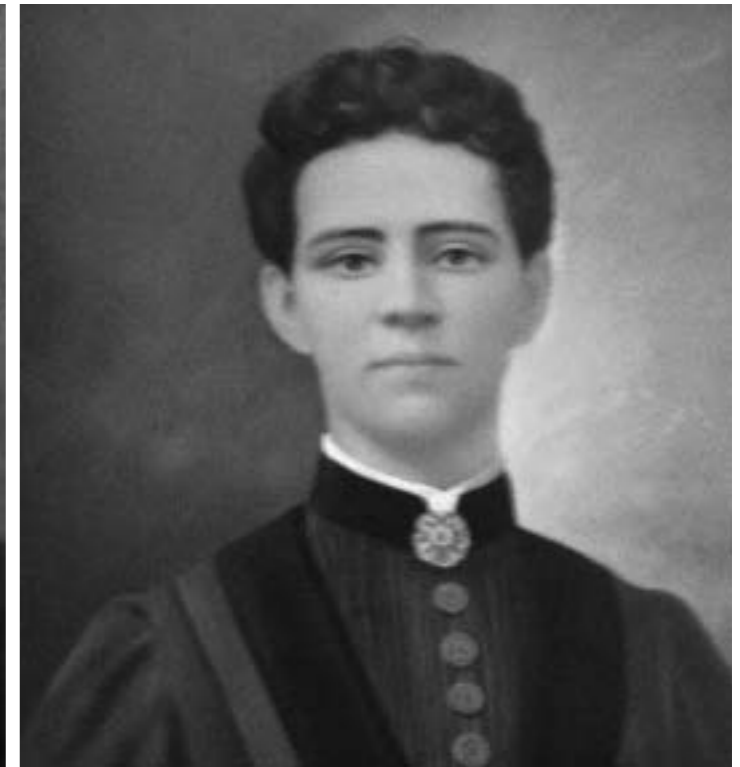
'It was made in the daytime in an ordinary room that was not darkened. The frame containing the canvas set on a stand before the window. Mrs Charles Payne and Mrs John Weesner, who do not believe in Spiritualism were with me, and we sat within five feet of the picture. The two Bangs Sisters, the mediums through whom the likeness was produced, sat on either side of the table and supported the frame, each with one hand. No brushes, paint, crayon, or other substance of any kind was used as far as we could tell, and it was light enough to have seen a pin on the table. The sisters had never seen or heard of my father, nor a photograph or likeness of him. All they asked was that I fix his features in my mind. The picture was not made in spots or a little at a time. At first it was a faint shadow, then a wave appeared to sweep across the canvas, and the likeness became plainer. It was a good deal like a sunrise got brighter until it was perfectly plain and every feature visible. Until the picture was completed, the eyes were closed and then they opened all at once, like a person awakening. It did not take more than half an hour and is the best picture of my father we ever had'.

Mrs Gertrude Breslan Hunt, Economic and Social Lecturer from Norwood Park, Illinois, said in 1909:

'I did not remove my eyes from the canvas, and would stake everything I possess that no hand touched the canvas after I placed it in the bright light of the window, until the picture was finished. The background appeared first then in a few moments



Bangs sisters paintings of Alex McKee. Alex McKee and was precipitated in 1909 in eight minutes in front of several witnesses who signed in front of a Notary An official public affidavit testifying to the astounding phenomena they witnessed
Source NAS journal



Bangs sisters painting of Lizzie. This is the only Bangs Sisters precipitation painting that has the provenance of a handwritten note from the husband who "sat" for the painting:

The note reads: "I received this picture through the mediumship of the Bangs Sisters in Chicago in February 1911. The work was done in less than ten minutes without brush or paint. "Lizzie" was my wife and passed to spirit Dec. 17th 1895." Geo. E. Corpe. El Mone Calif. 12-10-1929. Kind Permission of Golden Gate Spiritualist Church San Francisco , California USA.

the whole face appeared, with the colours of life. I criticised the pose, and asked for a full face view. The whole face faded out and was rapidly sketched again; I remarked that the hair was too light, and there, where I sat, I saw the shadows creep into the waves of hair and it darkened. I asked that more colour be put into the cheeks and the canvas blushed to the tint it now bears; the sleeves of the robe were corrected also, and in a few hours the picture was completed, and a competent artist has stated that he could not finish such a picture in less than three days, working eight hours each'.

Dr Daughtery who attended the Science Church of Spiritualism in Richmond, Indiana in the early 1920s, sat for a portrait of his deceased wife, Lizzie, and she then precipitated on to the canvas. He then asked the spirit operators why the twins, Mary and Christina, their little daughters in spirit, could not come, and they then appeared on to the canvas in front of their mother. Dr Daughtery himself, then appeared on to the canvas standing behind them all. A family group portrait; he, in earth-life, his wife and daughters in Spirit.

A few of the testimonies given regarding the Bangs Sisters:

Edward G Pierce, a Chicago Business Man, said of the Bangs Sisters' mediumship: 'In less than half-an-hour I recognised the picture of my nephew, in life-like colours. There was no picture of the child present. The only picture ever taken of him was about three years before he passed away, and this was in possession of his folks, ten miles from the psychic's home. His mother readily recognised the spirit-picture as a true likeness of her boy as he appeared just before he passed out. It proves to us that our boy still lives and is with us the same as when in earthly form'.

Lyman C Howe, the noted American writer and lecturer said of his experience: 'There were two photographs of Maude enclosed in a sealed envelope and placed against the lower backside of the canvas. These had not been opened or in any way exposed to view until the sitting was closed. The sisters had never seen her, and so far as I know and believe, they had never seen her photo. The picture is unlike either photo, and is more perfect and life-like than any photograph she ever had. I mentally asked her to have a yellow rose in her hair, and to write her name "Maude" on the lower margin, and when the picture came out, the rose appeared in the hair, and "Maude" is written on the lower margin, as I mentally requested. I did not tell anyone of the request until the picture was finished. It is the most beautiful and satisfactory phenomenon I ever witnessed'.

A letter to the Bangs Sisters from Syracuse, New York, dated 21 May, 1910, said concerning the arrival of their spirit portrait by mail: 'Our Dear Friends: For such we must call you. The painting arrived safely, and to say that we are both well pleased with it does not half express our sentiment.

Our little darling (their child, who had passed away two years previous to the portrait – NRH), looks just as though he was ready to step down and out of the frame, he is so natural. We fully realise no earthly artist could possibly produce such wonderful work. One cannot see where the picture is started or finished, so perfect is the blending of colours.

We notice the appearance of a certain little ring on the third finger of his left hand, the partial request of his mamma's. This marvellous work has been a great revelation to us; one year ago we would hardly have thought this manifestation possible, and we feel very grateful to you for your efforts in securing for us such a wonderfully satisfactory likeness.

THE PHYSICAL MEDIUMSHIP OF THE BANGS SISTERS AND AN EXAMINATION OF THEIR PRECIPITATED SPIRIT PORTRAITS continued

May you have grand success in all the coming years of your life, that we trust the Over-Ruling Intelligence may prolong to a ripe old age, that others may have similar blessings that we are in possession of through your instrumentality.

Very Sincerely Your Friends, Mr and Mrs Milford Badgero (The spirit portrait done for the Badgeros' was precipitated as a result of their mental request only; there was no photograph).

A letter from Dr Carpenter, Olin, Iowa, dated Saturday, June 20, 1896, to The Light of Truth.BR: 'On April 25, 1896, I wrote a letter to the Bangs Sisters, of No 3 South Elizabeth Street, Chicago, Ill, to have them ask their guide, Capt W Stevens, to ascertain through my wife in spirit life if she could and would give me her picture. On the morning of May 9th I received an answer saying if I would go there the week of May 10th, she would do so. Accordingly, on the 12th I went to the above named mediums in Chicago, Ill. The 13th I spent in having canvas prepared and had a box made 24/30 inches in which I put the prepared canvas. Not, however, before I carefully examined and marked same so I could fully identify it. I then nailed it securely shut. The box was then placed under a table leaning against the wall in which position it remained, the medium sitting at one end of the table and myself at the other. After sitting from 10 minutes past 10 o'clock am until 10 minutes past one pm the medium held the slate under the table and received this message, "we have exhausted your patience, open the box".

We accordingly opened the box and to my great surprise and joy beheld a complete life sized picture of my wife and child in the spirit world. The picture is so natural and life-like that many of my neighbours and friends fully recognise it although they have been in spirit life for 33 years'.

Seance Report by Admiral W Osborne Moore.

'On Monday, March 1, 1909, I went to the Bangs Sisters' house, and found that they had sent to the town for two panel canvases, and there was considerable delay. At last they arrived, covered with paper that was wet, and I exposed them in the sun for about twenty-five minutes to dry. We sat for the full length-picture of Iola at 11.40. At 11.46 the figure appeared on the further side of the canvas next to me. It was roughly finished by 11.51, and placed on a chair at the side of the room, still developing. At 12.10 we were told to cover it and leave it, and return a 3pm. The mediums were not disengaged till 3.30, when we sat opposite the picture again for twenty minutes. Some changes had occurred in the interval, improving the picture much. When I left at 12.10 I had expressed the opinion that the figure – then with bare arms – was too girlish, and I had also wished for a locket and chain to be put on the neck. I left a locket, similar to the one worn by Iola in earth life, close to the picture. On my return the arms were covered with sleeves, and the chain and locket were around the neck; the dress also had been finished with embroidery, etc., and other improvements had taken place.

At 7.30pm I returned to the house, and found the picture had undergone further improvements, especially in the sky and background. I mentally desired that the locket should be made larger, and that the monogram should be impressed upon it. No-body was present when I inspected the locket on this occasion; the mediums were not at home; I removed the locket at the foot of the picture, and took it away with me. My next visit was at 10.20 the following morning, March 2, 1909. I then found that the monogram had been imprinted on the locket, not exactly a copy of the raised letters as on the real locket in my possession, but the three correct letters were there; one line was omitted, and the locket itself, as I had requested, was enlarged. Shadows had been added, improving the picture.

'Conjurers, Fraud and The Bangs Sisters', by Admiral W Osborne Moore:

'The efforts of bona-fide conjurers should never be despised by investigators into Spiritualism. If they can pick up a fraudulent medium, so much the better for us. Provided they relate truthfully what they have seen and how they account for it, they cannot possibly do any injury to genuine psychics. Unhappily, they cannot all confine their mystifications to the stage, but carry their legitimate deceptions into private life, where they are not legitimate; and they often weaken their influence by committing themselves at the first start to theories of fraud before they have witnessed the phenomena which are the basis of discussion.

In recent times no psychics have been so long and so constantly under fire of criticism as the Bangs Sisters. I record the fact, but entirely without surprise. The manifestations which appear through their mediumship are of such a startling nature as to render it in the highest degree improbable that anyone, however experienced he may be as an investigator, can credit the accounts of what takes place, unless he has actually seen the various phenomena that occur. Many have been the efforts to show that what happens in their presence is the effect of pure conjuring on their own part. All have failed'.

After Admiral Moore had met with Dr Isaac K Funk, the noted author and chief proprietor of Funk and Wagnalls Publishing, in March, 1909, and had told him about the phenomena taking place in the presence of the Bangs Sisters, Dr Funk paid the expenses of Mr Hereward Carrington, the clever psychical investigator and conjurer, to go to Chicago, investigate the Bangs, and report to him the phenomena. Dr Funk, who himself had investigated the Bangs, had an extremely high opinion of their genuine mediumship. Carrington, who was unaware of the fact that Admiral Moore had sat extensively with the Bangs in January and March, 1909, published a scathing, negative report about the Bangs in the Annals of Psychic Science, an English journal of which he was the American agent.

The Admiral goes on to say: 'After waiting one year and a quarter after his investigation, Mr Carrington published a long article in the journal (mentioned above), accusing the Bangs Sisters of fraud. I do not know if this article was verbatim the same as his report to Dr Funk, but the latter did not see it till April, 1911, and disapproved of its publication. As it was published in an English journal, the Bangs Sisters knew nothing of this scurrilous production; I was the first to inform them of it, in January, 1911'.

The plan of the room layout given by Carrington in his article was so wrong and blatantly false it was as if he was describing another house altogether. When Admiral Moore returned to Chicago in January of 1911, his sole mission was to put to rest the accusations of the conjurers and prove, once again the genuineness of the Bangs Sisters. The following are excerpts of the conversation between the Admiral and the Bangs:

Admiral Moore: 'Certain medium-hunters in this country, and a first rate conjurer in England (who is quite sincere in believing you to be conjurers like himself), have spread reports about you very much to your detriment – one of the Americans I mention (Carrington), has written an article in an English magazine, saying that in June, 1909, you cheated him, quoting extensively from another person'.

This is the exact quote Carrington referred to Journal of the SPR, Vol. X: 'The writer', he said 'claims to have seen the tricks by means of a small hand mirror which he held beneath the table. He found that, under cover of the writing pad placed against the edges of the slate resting on the table the slates were wedged open by means of a small rubber wedge, the letter, when abstracted, was dropped on to a sort of 'gridiron' arrangement which lay on the carpet. It was promptly drawn backwards under a slip of the door into the next room where Miss Lizzie Bangs,

the other sister, steamed the envelope open, answered all the questions, sealed the envelope back shut, and then conveyed it back into the room. In the meantime in the ink in the cup had time to evaporate so that it appeared to have been used'.

Admiral Moore then said to the Bangs: 'I do not suppose that either of these persons had the courage to send you a copy of their charges. You know me, and are quite aware that I have entered this room having full confidence in the genuineness of what I saw with you in 1909'.

Admiral Moore then added that he wanted to test them completely again for a portrait and a letter, but he would 'upset' their usual conditions and direct the proceedings himself.

To this, Lizzie Bangs replied: "Mr Moore, we trust you, and will submit to your wishes; but we warn you that the very knowledge of what the man has said in the English magazine will upset conditions to such an extent that I doubt if you will be successful. The man you mention was never in this house. We know his description, and should sense hostility if anybody came in that way". No arrangements were made for him or anyone else by Dr Funk in 1909, as he describes; nor have we ever sat three times for one person, for a picture, in one day. Do what you like, and tell us what to do'.

Admiral Moore stated in his record: 'Imagine the conditions: Table shifted to a part of the room to which it was a stranger; the psychic who functions alone in the phenomena of writing within sealed envelopes at the usual sittings for this purpose (May), placed with her face towards the southern light streaming into the room; both women seething with indignation at cowardly attacks published in England; the suspected door wide open; the door into the hall wide open; and Lizzie, the person who, it is alleged, hides behind the suspected door and writes replies, in the room'.

Lizzie Bangs said: (condensed) 'You have no idea how this sudden and complete upset of our usual conditions affects us. We have no objection to a gradual altering of our accustomed habits but to come suddenly upon us and change all our conditions in one day is more than any sensitive can stand – the strain is too great. If you had not told me of these slanders, I assure you we would never have consented to your demands. We will never do it again for anyone'.

Admiral Moore tested the Bangs for a gruelling five days, January 28th to February 1st, 1911, and the ordeal, according to Moore 'left both sisters much exhausted'. May Bangs could hardly walk, and Lizzie, though calm, had evidently reached the limits of endurance.

After his series of tests, which were a complete and total success for a precipitated portrait and independent writing – the researching aspect of which even left me totally exhausted – the Bangs Sisters triumphed, and Admiral Moore proved his case again. He conclusively stated: 'Either the author of that article has never been inside the Bangs' house, or he is incapable of making ordinary observations with accuracy. The attack on these psychics, without sending them a copy, and in an English magazine which he knew they would not see, is an act that requires no comment from me'.

Carrington had also claimed that David P Abbott had succeeded in duplicating the Bangs Sisters portraits by trickery exactly. The Admiral replied that he made a number of tests, and that he read carefully the expose by Dr Krebs, which was furnished to him by Dr Hodgson, that he knew the method employed by Abbott, Mariott and Dr Wilmar, that it surpassed in skill almost every conjuring trick he had ever witnessed, but that their conditions were as different from those at the séances of the Bangs Sisters as 'a locomotive is different from a teapot'. It was the conjuring performance of these clowns as a matter of fact which convinced him even more of the genuineness of the Bangs Sisters.

Examining the Portraits of the Bangs Sisters: Lily Dale, New York, May and September, 1996.

Luckily for me, I live right in the middle of this 'Spirit Zone' I have referred to in my research, for it affords me many opportunities to unearth many facts concerning the awesome physical mediums from this geographical area who have blessed our movement. Where raw physical power is concerned, especially in these dual power-sibling situations, the Davenport Brothers will always be, to me, unequalled in this regard – no fastenings or pinionings ever devised in the entire history of their mediumistic lives in which the spirits could not relieve them from, usually in seconds; the more perilous and demanding the situation even life threatening at times, the more their power would increase, their guides more aggressive.

But the Bangs Sisters, Lizzie and May, and their stupendous precipitated spirit portraits; objective physical phenomena which can be seen, felt, and absorbed by all of the senses in this modern day still; the story of their lives and their extraordinary manifestations including words written in ink, precipitated right through the slates and sealed envelopes and on to folded blank pages: this, to me, is almost as glorious as it gets.

To see and closely examine the actual spirit portraits of the Bangs Sisters, for me, was a form of enlightenment. Although almost a century old, the portraits are as fresh looking as the dew glistening in the sun on the rose petals in my yard this morning. The wooden frames that hold the portraits have aged but the paintings have not. Some of the pictures, especially that of William Mervin and the young girl, Pat Murphy, look as though they are about to speak; another, that of a young woman, seemed to change her very expression and the direction she was looking when I was there. The portraits seem more like windows, the spirit looking through from the outside.

The beautiful portrait of Pat Murphy, with her long golden curls, represents the earlier period of the spirit portraits; brush strokes, or whatever they are, can be seen on the canvas. There is no glass on this portrait and I was given permission to touch it with my finger. It looks as though someone simply stood in front of the canvas and painted the figure with paint and brushes an invisible artist and his subject.

The rest of the paintings I examined were all of the later periods, representing the actual precipitation phenomena by the Bangs. These magnificent pieces of spirit art were precipitated in full light right in front of the sitters' eyes and, in most cases, under test conditions. They are so different, wondrous and unlike anything I have ever seen that it is hard to actually put it into words. The colouring and fleshy tones of the faces, where one texture ends and one begins, not a brush stroke is to be seen; the entire portrait looks as though, like a cloud of smoke, or dust, simply drifted into the room and situated itself, or landed itself, bit by bit, on to the canvas. Although the figures appear life-like, and almost moving, there is, without question, a transcendent countenance on their faces which gives the impression that the observer is indeed in the presence of something not of this world.

The blues, reds, whites, golds and flesh tones, are nothing like the hues with which we are familiar. The fine dust of the butterfly's wings is a perfect description of the other worldly material on the canvas. Is it not one of the most wonderful things that we could ever have the opportunity to see and understand, that spirits, in their mysterious and glorious ways use the pigment and scent of flowers, sounds and musical notes, vibrations on every level, minerals of every kind, textures, hues – on and on it goes with their non-stop relationship with Nature, even perhaps, the dusty wings of the silent harbinger of peace itself' the butterfly' how utterly wonderful.

Although I am trying to describe the indescribable, what I can say of them is absolutely unlike any of the others; no two are alike. The facial colours are different, even with the two Indians' faces, one being more of a copper colour and one being olive

THE PHYSICAL MEDIUMSHIP OF THE BANGS SISTERS AND AN EXAMINATION OF THEIR PRECIPITATED SPIRIT PORTRAITS continued

coloured and lighter. Hair, clothes, background, everything is different on each portrait. The portrait of Leolyn Pettingill is a bust and face portrait only, she is shrouded in a mist with a white rose in her hair, the light golden colour of which is impossible to describe. The Indian, Smart Weed, is an almost full length portrait, more than five feet high; she appears to be standing in a grove in front of marble steps; a heavenly mist slightly shrouds the background of trees and wild roses which are everywhere. The figure is so life-like that she looks as though she is about to actually step out of the frame. Her gorgeous jet black hair is pulled forward in two ponytails, braided in the middle of each and almost waist length. She has a gold band around her head and bracelets on each wrist of the same; there are numerous strands of pearls around her neck and in her left hand she holds a bunch of light pink roses.

The unnamed portrait is the young woman who seemed to change her expression and the direction in which she was looking. Her eyes, that of an indescribable realm of stunning blue only add to the penetrating gaze of hers which seems to look right through you. Her bright golden hair is pulled up into

a bun on top and there appears to be one gold earring on her right ear; the dress of pure white she wears is bowed at the shoulders and a thin necklace of gold graces her bare neck. In ways that can hardly be described, I felt that his young woman was watching me; following me with her gaze the entire time I was there. The feeling I had was one of irritation on her part for she was the only one without a name and as this was, on my part, a mission of love and honour for the spirits, I have

named her Emily, in honour of Emily French, the Direct Voice medium. The younger Indian, Blossom wears a yellow canvas-like gown of some kind with the collar pulled high up to the neck; the skin is more of a fleshy colour, and pink strands of beads or pearls fall about her; her eyes, set deep within her face are piercing brown. William Mervin, mentioned earlier, wears a dark black suit and vest; a pin of some kind is situated on the top section of his tie; he sports a handlebar style moustache. This portrait, to me is the most life-like I have ever seen. The young girl, Pat Murphy, wears a nightgown and adds to the absolutely heavenly countenance of this angel; her brownish-golden hair, in waves and ringlets

flowing down; once again, the eyes, the ever present eyes of these magnificent works of art looking through you from the other life in which they dwell.

The portrait of Leolyn Pettingill was precipitated, under test conditions in the lounge of the hotel (the hotel was named after her, Leolyn), and the rest were precipitated in the home of the Bangs Sisters on Library Street in Lily Dale. I had the opportunity to examine their house and as you can well imagine, to say it was a thrill is putting it lightly my friends.

Conclusion

Over the past two months I have had the opportunity to share numerous correspondences with Dennis & Rosalind Pearman. I felt a very welcoming sense about these two that made me want to once again share the research material that I have collected over almost twenty years now. As some of you may or may not have known, I was the American contact for the Noah's Ark Society for its last three years and one of its principal researchers since 1994. I am delighted that there is now another means by which individuals can be made aware of the entire picture involving Physical Mediumship. There would be no present day understanding of Spiritualism, mediumship and what it all entails were it not for the great pioneers, mediums and otherwise, who paved the way before us. This Bangs Sisters article is a beginning. There will be more in the future. I was going to re-write the Bangs article completely since it was written starting in 1997 but decided to leave it as is. After actually seeing the Bangs portraits up close and in person, I think my excitement got the best of me and now, in retrospect – editorially speaking, I would have deleted a few of the adjectives here and there, but I think you the readers will understand especially those of you who previously had no knowledge of who the Bangs Sisters were or what they did. Currently, I am on the trail of another portrait which is in the state of Indiana. I don't think I will ever rest until I have one hanging on my sitting room wall. Four or five years ago, I had come over from America to speak about the Bangs for the Noah's Ark in one of its seminars and I had offered to pay the shipping costs and insurance, etc, if the Portsmouth Spiritualist Church would let take their two Bangs portraits of Cleopatra and Lola to show the audience. Well, it did not work out, but believe me, I understand completely; they are simply too rare to take chances.

Well, many thanks again to The Zerdin fellowship Trustees and Fellows. I think if we truly understand the deeper meanings behind what Spiritualism is all about. It is an entire, multidimensional adventure. What we think of as the "past" still actually exists in time and space, as does all of history as we know it. Supposedly, if you could somehow, catch up to the speed of light out in space, actually get ahead of it, you could see our "past." Oh well, some food for thought. Either way, when we cross the Everlasting Line, we will, depending on our progress be able to see all of history.

Blessings,
Riley



Bangs sisters painting of William J. Mervin Source NAS Journal



Photograph of the Psychic Painting and architectural design of the Temple of Light on canvas 4x6 feet, done in oil, in the presence of the Bangs Sisters.

Visit to the UK in 2007

There is a possibility that next year I may come to England to speak about the Bangs and some of the other great mediums. I hope to see you all. I extend to everyone my blessings and best wishes in your endeavours'. The more balanced and truthful you are to yourself and others in this life, the more gracious the journey in the next life.

The French Revelation Book

Rescued from obscurity, compiled & edited by N.Riley Heagerty. The complete séance records and documented story of one of the greatest American independent voice mediums, Emily S.French, involving the five rare, out of print books and previously unpublished material by Edward C.Randall, who investigated her, edited into one complete edition. 400 pp., illustrated. Available by e-mailing nrileyh@hotmail.com or contact Ron Gilkes at Jenny's Sanctuary, England.

SEARCHLIGHT
A SERVICE FOR ZERDIN FELLOWS TO STAY IN TOUCH...

Advertise free for sitters seeking mediums, and mediums seeking sitters!!!!
See enclosed 'Searchlight' leaflet to complete, and advertise in the next issue!

Here are a few that have already written in with their requests:

Mediums looking for dedicated sitters:

- Richard medium from Hull... looking for dedicated sitters
- Gina Trance medium from Bromley, Kent... looking for dedicated sitters
- Frank medium from Kilmarnock... looking for dedicated sitters
- Rachel medium from Cirencester... looking for dedicated sitters
- Janice medium from Leighton Buzzard, Beds... looking for dedicated sitters
- Keith medium from Essex... looking for dedicated sitters
- Moiria medium from Lanarkshire... looking for dedicated sitters
- Paul medium from Canterbury Kent... looking for dedicated sitters.
- Cathryn medium from Dorchester Dorset... looking for dedicated sitters.
- Gillian medium from Coventry... looking for dedicated sitters.
- John & Maryse medium from Ollainville, France... looking for dedicated sitters
- Gordon medium from North Wales... looking for dedicated sitters
- Pauline medium from West London... looking for dedicated sitters

Sitters Looking for Circle:

- Howie sitter from New York USA... looking for physical circle
- Keith sitter from Essex... looking for physical circle
- Mike sitter from South London... looking to join a physical circle
- Joyce sitter from NW London... looking to join physical circle
- Ian sitter North London... looking to join a physical circle
- Geoff sitter from Norfolk... looking to join a circle to help develop mediumship, physical or otherwise
- Sylvia sitter from Seaham... looking to join a physical circle.
- Michael sitter from Lincoln... looking to join a trance or physical circle
- David sitter from Batley... looking to join a physical circle.
- Catherine sitter from Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire... looking to join a physical circle.
- Penny & Richard from Nailsea... looking to join a physical circle.
- Margaret sitter from Cannock... looking to join a physical circle.
- George sitter from Chaldon, Surrey... looking to join a physical circle.
- Heather sitter from Coventry... looking to join a physical circle.
- Joy sitter from Tonbridge, Kent... looking to join a physical circle
- Jane sitter from Guildford, Surrey... looking to join a physical circle
- Steven sitter from Torquay, Devon... looking to join a physical circle
- Lynne sitter from Suffolk... looking to join a physical circle

IF YOU CAN HELP IN ANYWAY, OR HAVE A REQUEST YOURSELF PLEASE SEND DETAILS:

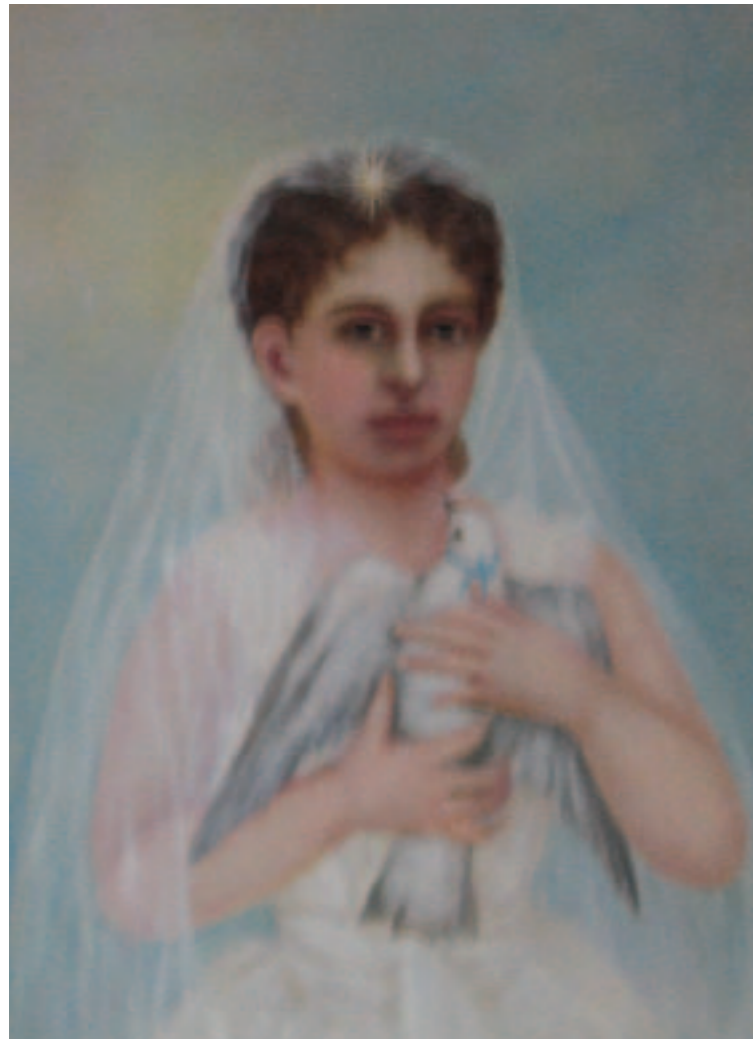
EMAIL: Zerdinfellowship@rpearman.fsnet.co.uk

OR SEND IN YOUR REQUEST TO: Rosalind Pearman, Zerdin Coordinator, The Gatehouse, Priors Leaze Lane, Hambrook, West Sussex PO18 8RQ England



BANGS SISTERS PRECIPITATED PAINTING GALLERY

PAT MURPHY
Source NAS journal



Above: ANGEL WITH DOVE
Date and subject unknown

Kind permission of The Golden Gate Spiritualist Church San Francisco California USA



BANGS SISTERS PAINTING OF A GROUP WITH DR DAUGHTERY, HIS WIFE LIZZIE AND HIS SPIRIT TWIN DAUGHTERS MARY AND CHRISTINA

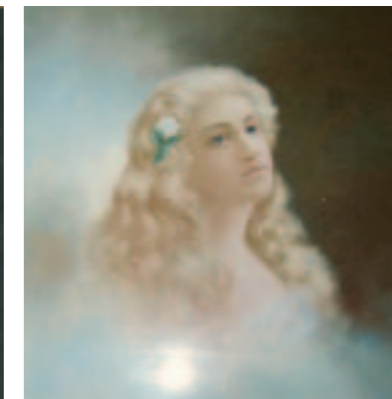
A family group picture of Dr Daughtery who went to see the Bangs sisters and wanted to get a portrait of his deceased wife. Spirit artist gave him not only an exact likeness of his wife but also his twin daughters, one of whom has her dress falling of her shoulder. When the Doctor was getting ready to leave, spirits precipitated his likeness also onto the canvas. Thus having the entire family portrait, combining the physical life and the spiritual life. Source NAS journal



BANGS SISTERS PAINTING OF DR JOHN SHARPE
(Spirit guide of famous American direct voice medium Etta Wriedt) Source NAS journal



Above: CLEOPATRA
(Once Queen of Egypt)
Produced by precipitation in 35 minutes on January 22nd 1909 at Chicago USA, through the mediumship of May and Lizzie Bangs who sat under test conditions in the presence of Admiral Osborne Moore who faced the canvas between them during the process at the close range of 2'6 feet.
(Presented to the Portsmouth Temple by Mrs Usborne Moore)
This portrait can be viewed by appointment at Portsmouth Temple of Spiritualism 73a Victoria Road South, Southsea, Hampshire, England



Above: BANGS SISTERS PAINTING OF LEOLYN PETTINGILL Source NAS journal



Above: IOLA
(spirit guide of admiral W. Usboune-More)
Produced by precipitation in 25 minutes on January 22nd 1909 at Chicago USA, through the mediumship of May and Lizzie Bangs, who sat under test conditions and in the presence of Admiral Osborne Moore. When the portrait was nearly finished the whole picture was changed round, so that the profile looked to the left instead of the right.
(Presented to The Portsmouth Temple by Mrs Usborne Moore)
This portrait can be viewed by appointment at Portsmouth Temple of Spiritualism 73a Victoria Road South, Southsea, Hampshire. England.

Left: BANGS SISTERS PAINTING OF A YOUNG GIRL CALLED ETHEL source NAS journal



ARTHUR FINDLAY TALKS TO THE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

15th MAY 2006, SITTERS PRESENT: GERALD, CHRISTOPHER, JANE, PAULINE, JULIE AND THE MEDIUM.

A Spirit voice began to speak – only a whisper at first. As the voice became clearer the following words could be heard on the recording;

“...trying to bring my thoughts with me... definitely not the kind of thing one would expect when one comes through to speak. I understand how difficult it is for you to hear my voice... your vibration is something of a novelty... one has the opportunity to hear the Medium speak on a subject that would be of great interest to those who assemble in crowds to listen to them.

When I see those who are interested as Spiritualists in the community, assembling to hear the voice of Spirit, one rarely comes across a mind which is enlightened enough to understand the words that may be brought forward... what one hears more than anything else is simply desire – for people to receive some small guidance in the direction of their pathway and for some small trinket from an Aunt or an Uncle who have chosen to come forward – this is simply not enough... in my day discourses from the Spirit realms had to pay attention in order for those with the voice of higher intention to step forward...

What a pity, my friends. What a pity that you do not have the kind of audience interested in the wisdom brought forward by the Spirit realms. In my day I tried to further this knowledge and the understanding of what would happen to those who moved forwards into this higher plane of life. I tried, through books, to enlighten and educate, so that those who were to pass over would take with them the knowledge of the world into which they were going to.

Now then, my name is Findlay. It is not my habit to come and speak to people, but it is my habit to choose a group who I believe have dedicated themselves to a great purpose and to attempt to come and encourage light where I can and to uplift. It is possible that there are those within both worlds who are confused as to an agenda for the Spiritualist Movement, but to me the agenda is as clear in your day as it was in mine; to shed the curse of ignorance which has been laid down by the established religions, who try to blinker the eyes and put doubt in the mind, to prevent the intellect from trying to forge its own thoughts. But you know, the great gift of Spiritualism is to give

people the opportunity to think for themselves and to search out with their own practice the reality of Spiritualism and to come into contact with those who are able to demonstrate the benefits and the gifts of the Spirit realms.

Spirit has much to offer humanity. Its days are not numbered. They have truly yet to be born the way they were meant to, to fulfil the promise of the early years. You may view this period in mans history as the ‘Dark Ages’ before Spiritualism, but I am sure in time, this dark age will pass and a new enlightenment will come forwards, where the curse of ignorance will be shed. Where the established religions will find themselves mocked by the people on the Earth, who will find within themselves the beauty of the gift of Spiritualism, the knowledge of Spiritualism and the openness of understanding which Spiritualism can bring to people, whereas the established religions do not attempt to give free discussion or free exploration.

I know that it must seem to you that a voice of a man long passed from your world may have little knowledge or understanding of the times in which you live and in many ways it is true to say such things. I cannot live your lives or know the world as you know it today, but I can, from my perspective, see a little further ahead and I would say to you, do not give up on Spiritualism. Take it with both hands and move it forwards, for it will not always be kept in the shackles it is currently held. Its shackles are made by people on the Earth Plane, who attempt to prevent the true expression of the Spiritual Realms.

No man has ever held back the course of a Spiritual venture and I assure you, no man will hold back the course of Spiritualism.

I think you are a very dedicated group of people and the work in which you endeavour to succeed in has been noted within our world. Those of us who attempt to bring forward the development of mediums and mediumship will not forget you, nor will we stand idly by, for we are all involved in bringing forward true mediumship upon your plane of life.”

There have been many articles published in the Zerdin Buzz sheet that have been written about established developed physical mediums from both the past and the present. These articles are fascinating and uplifting and are a constant source of motivation to the members of physical circles up and down the country.

CIRCLE TO CIRCLE

By David Colgate

It was with these circles in mind that I thought it would be a good idea to share some of our group’s physical experiences and give some reassurance and support to them that they are progressing and the development of a physical circle may often follow some similar patterns. Before I continue I would like to say that every circles spirit team will work with you in the most effective and safe manner in line with what is of most use to the spirit world. We do not choose our development direction and should not choose whether or not to sit in the dark or the light or with or without incense burning. Spirit will work with you to the best of their abilities, but it is down to you to facilitate the route of least resistance.

Our little circle, which we named as the Phoenix group, started with three members and has steadily grown now to six that sit once a week. We are a fortunate group because we have been blessed with an ongoing commentary from our spirit friends through the trance state and have been guided and motivated by our kind team.

The group was aware from the start of a change in the temperature of the room when we started sitting, with a distinct chill in the air that fluctuated between foot and knee height. This physical energy sometimes stayed inside the cabinet or rolled out gradually into the circle or came as a light wind or draught.

It was at this time that the group felt what could only be described as our spirit team finding the circle members energy tolerances and minimum and maximum environmental conditions. This resulted in the sitters freezing and shivering one week and sweating the next. The guides would draw out as much energy from the sitters as they could from their stomach areas making them feel quite sick and giddy.

The group allowed this to happen and informed spirit when they were taking too much energy and creating physical discomfort. As soon as our friends were informed they ceased drawing the energy off that individual and moved onto the next sitter. These experiments only lasted a few weeks with the energies and recently one of our guides made the effort to recharge one sitter directly and by holding the mediums hand she felt the energy fill her body up like a liquid. The guide announced that he was done at the exact moment the energy liquid reached her feet.

The next development that was noticed was the change in the atmosphere around the circle when a bubble or canopy was created that allows our friends to condition the environment. The group first noticed the goldfish bowl effect when they realised that their voices no longer carried when they talked or sang. This was shortly confirmed by a few weeks of the circles member’s ears popping in the same way you would experience when you travel on a plane.

Now that this bubble was stabilized and the environment captured it seemed easier for our friends to raise the vibration of the air and charge the circle.

It was around this time that we started seeing lights, lasers and our regular light house effect that one of our guides likes to show, to let you know he is around.

The lights that our spirit friends showed to us were not always seen by all of the circle sitters at the same time. One or two of them could see the lights straight away and locate them in the same place and vocally track their movements around the room together. Others in the group may see the lights as a misty cloud or as fairy lights or sparkles. The group were all seeing something in the same area and tracking its movements, but not always at exactly same time.

Our spirit friends have informed us that, until they can raise the circles vibrations and slow down the frequency of the phenomena that they are working on to our visual optical range, it will continue to be a case of those in the circle that can physically see these higher frequencies of light will see their efforts first. As they continue to slow down the phenomena, the rest of the group will then see the experiment and fruits of their labour.

As a group I am happy to say that now our friends have lowered the frequency of their efforts, and raised the circles, we often have physically visual lights that the entire group can see at the same time. Naturally the more aware and clairvoyant sitters can see the lights coming as the energy comes into our visual range, but the energy is certainly improving.

Another strange sensation that the group were physically feeling was the drawing of ectoplasm, or etherisation, that came from their skin pores or was sometimes slipping down from the top of their heads. The substance could be described as somewhere between a gas and a solid and it will run down their faces like sweat or build up like cobwebs or clouds. This physical substance is dense and real enough to stimulate the nerve endings of the skin and move hairs on the face and arms, but when touched it has no substance to it.

Normally this physical energy is drawn from the sitters and the medium in a larger quantity whenever we sit, but has progressed to being brought into the cabinet for refinement or used around the circle members to create touches or the feeling of a material being draped on or over the sitters that has a physical weight to it.

As a group we still feel all of the above mentioned sensations, but it is clear that they are being refined and stabilized and the energy is getting denser and more controlled.

I, as the medium, have begun to lose time when I am sat for and I can physically feel the ectoplasm coming out of my ear, nostril, mouth or running down my trouser leg.

I am paralysed and numb and will sometimes feel very hot or very cold depending on which guide is working with me or what experiment they are working on that week.

I can hear the group talking when I am in a trance state, but I do feel disassociated from the group and it sounds like I am listening to a recording of the conversations and that I am not with them in the room. My guides may tell me what to do with my mind while I am in this state or distract me away with a clairvoyant image that will slip me into a period of “losing time”. I am aware that I have been away from the circle by the fact that my brain has been switched on again – like when you wake in the morning or come around from a doze. I am aware that I have been away and I have no recollection for how long or where I have been. When I listen to the séance recording from the Dictaphone I can pinpoint when I left normally by the conversations that I missed hearing from the sitters or the songs sang. My breathing will indicate this shift also, because I will be hovering around suspended breath when it starts and slowly rise out of it when I have returned. My mental awareness, or me, resides in an area about the size of a tennis ball above my right eye when I am in a trance state. I can feel my awareness there, but nowhere else.

The kind team that work with our circle continue to move forward with their experiments and tolerate our often-rowdy circle and jokes, not to mention our singing, and to that we are always sincere in thanks. We are a circle of friends because we all have just one intention.

To develop the circle and its members, both in spirit and on Earth, to a level where proof of life everlasting is visual and can be touched, heard and seen in a séance.

Be that in the dark or in the light. By direct voice or materialization. As long as it happens with love and is the most suitable benefit to spirit then we sit and allow our friends to give comfort and guidance. The aim of any physical circle must be to develop with your team to a standard that is safe, repeatable and sustainable and can be demonstrated to the general public to prove the existence of the spirit world.

I hope that our experiences and this article will put some fresh fire and motivation into your heart and like all of the articles in the Buzzsheet help you make time in your busy lives to sit for Spirit.

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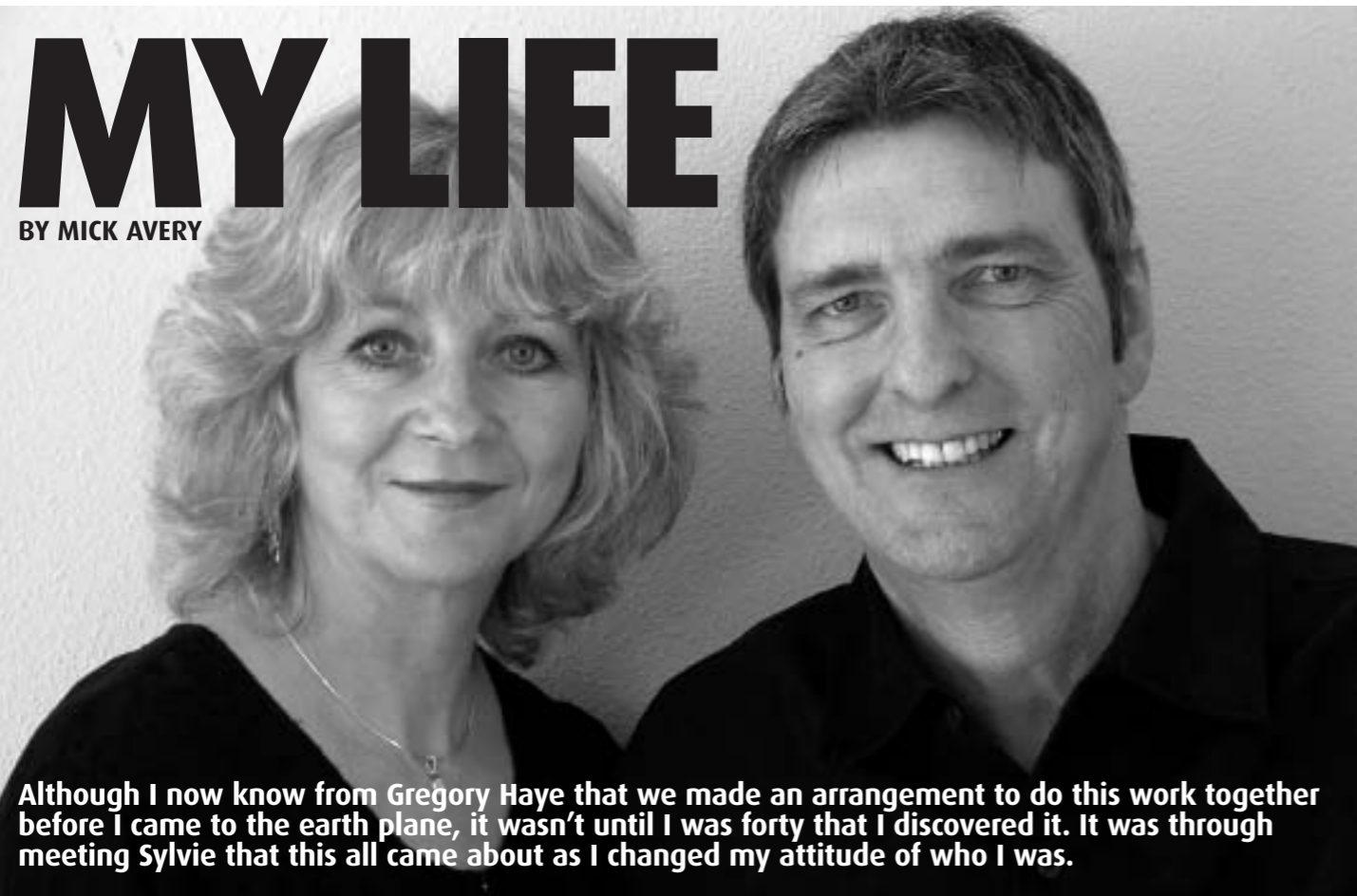
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MY LIFE

BY MICK AVERY



Although I now know from Gregory Hays that we made an arrangement to do this work together before I came to the earth plane, it wasn't until I was forty that I discovered it. It was through meeting Sylvie that this all came about as I changed my attitude of who I was.

I used to see spirit people all the time when I was a child, but it didn't really mean that much as I didn't understand who they were. I remained very sensitive though and I had quite an unhappy childhood. It became quite traumatic at times and as a result I gradually lost the ability to be receptive to the spirit world.

As I grew up I often wondered what it could possibly be like to have a calling or some other motivation to drive me along, as I thought I had observed in others. I had always felt there had to be more to life, but didn't know quite where to start looking. What was it all about? Why were we here anyway?

I had infatuations with many forms of religion, but it was always difficult for me to cross the barrier, both in how subservience was needed by me and also in my whole way of thinking, of how that would stifle my openness and affect me so personally. After all, I could not see changes for the better in those whom I observed within these indoctrinations so I could not submit.

All of these seeking excursions always ended with my objection to subservience, at being unable to accept a deity, a guru, or a figurehead of any description. It could also have been more especially the pious hacks, the followers, and so-called well-meaning habits and ritual that tended to go along with them. I didn't fit in, and on fuller investigation, I didn't want to.

In my late teens to early twenty's I used to practice a form of purposeful astral travel. I got very good at it. I suppose it was a form of escapism being something that I could do on my own. I was a musician for most of my life, but also managed to get quite a few trades under my belt along the way. I had a love of different kinds of stone and enjoyed creating dry stone walls and water features and in particular, building beautiful Koi ponds and landscaping.

When I met Sylvie in 1991, she was already involved in the spirit way of life. We were writing and recording some songs with a friend at the time (Sylvie used to sing) and afterwards, I used to drop her off at the spiritualist church for her meetings and then pick her up again later. She had had a spirit visitor come to her in

the night and had told her she was to develop her mediumship. This event was later confirmed by other messages from mediums and by the things that had started to happen to her.

I still had no inclination to get involved and that was okay by Sylvie, she totally appreciated that. It was only when she used to come home positively glowing from her spiritual development class that it triggered something inside of me. Of course, I know now that this glow was through her enhancement and self-contact of her own spirit within, and that the spark ignited within me, was my awakening to my spirit.

We would lie in bed at night before sleeping and she would read little snatches from Silver Birch books to me. I used to imagine what it must be like to be in the presence of someone or an entity in that way. Eventually a strange mix of curiosity yet inner calm got the better of me and I went to a couple of meetings with Sylvie.

At the spiritualist church I enjoyed the interaction with the new friends I had made and the events that took place. I also witnessed some incredible demonstrations of physical phenomena by top class mediums, proving to me in no uncertain terms that there was a continuity of life. Here was tangible proof and not suggestion or belief! In retrospect, I'm not really sure what I thought I was doing on this new path, but just that it felt right.

I never felt drawn to reading any books on spirit related material. In fact neither did Sylvie particularly, Silver Birch was about it. I just could not pick up a book on spiritual philosophy, and I have since learned that this was all part of the bigger plan. The reason was because it might have been detrimental to the process of my trance development. It may well have influenced my mind subliminally so that when words were spoken through me by spirit, it could have been construed that they were being taken from my subconscious memory and just regurgitated. In fact - I would probably have thought that myself.

Another reason was so that it would minimize the outside interference. If I had no knowledge of how the mechanics of trance worked or anyone else's way of development or suggested

ways to do it, then I wouldn't be so inquisitive or nosey when it came down to stilling myself and emptying my mind. Spirit wanted me to become a clear channel; a blank slate to work with in the quickest possible time.

Of course, at that time I didn't know any of this or even think it had anything to do with me. This is all with the benefit of hindsight. I didn't have any ideas about myself in the way of doing anything for spirit at all. I was just in awe of what I was discovering, that had eluded me until then. I only wanted to find out what it was all about and the implications of it. I wanted to know who I was. It seemed the more I found out the more questions there seemed to be.

I enrolled in a spiritual awareness group and almost immediately things started happening. I witnessed other people progressing too and applauded every effort that was made by anyone, whoever they were. Our circle leader was very wise, and I still consider myself indebted to her for sightedness and focus, and the dignity she showed to us all; neither Sylvie nor I will ever forget her. Sylvie was in a closed development circle which was on a different night and she could hardly wait for me to come home from my awareness group nights to find out how I had got on that evening.

We attended a lot of workshops given by visiting mediums and enjoyed being with like-minded people. I still had no ideas 'above my station,' but was constantly being reminded to make sure I kept my feet on the ground. I didn't know what they meant and I just kept myself to myself, remaining open-minded; blissfully unaware of my future and always up for any new experience that might come along.

I remember having a particularly real and significant experience during one of my awareness classes whilst I was in a deep meditation. It was as clear as day and very real. I had a spirit hand lead me to the top of a mountain where a voice said to me: "Come with me." They wanted me to step off from the top of this huge mountain with them. Fear got the better of me and I just couldn't, but it left a big impression within me for some reason. My tutor told me not to worry and that I would learn to trust, but I just wanted to forget it, as I felt I'd somehow failed my spirit friends.

I put that behind me and a few weeks later during my meditative wanderings at the circle, the exact same thing happened again. I wasn't expecting it at all, but this time, I stepped off the mountain. The next moment I found myself floating away across some magical place and seeing all kinds of things I can't begin to try to describe here. Somehow, I was in a time of great wonder and illumination. It had a very profound affect on me and it left me quite emotional. It may not sound much of an experience, but it was the emotion and the feelings that went with it. It was love, peace, serenity, and harmony. I felt safe and protected. I knew I had been among friends, yet I could not see them.

As time went on strange things began happening at the workshops I was attending. I found that spirit people were pushing me up (literally) when it came to become involved within the different forms and disciplines of mediumship we studied.

After about eighteen months I was still in the awareness group, when other people were being moved up to the next level of development circle. I didn't mind really and I just thought I couldn't have been ready. Our circle leader, on the other hand, was becoming more frustrated at the lack of forward motion in recognition of my development by the church leaders.

I remember I had told her not to worry and that I was perfectly happy where I was. But spirit obviously had other ideas, as we were all to find out!

We attended a workshop one week where the visiting medium had put us into pairs, working with the aura energy to determine what was wrong with our opposite partner. With my spirit friends I had happily managed to give a diagnosis of what was clinically

wrong with my allotted partner and what she was suffering from. When it was her turn to do the same to me some strange things happened and she shouted for someone to come over. Her hands and arms were shaking uncontrollably as she held them towards me. Poor dear, I thought she must have been having some kind of a fit. Eyes and heads turned and there was a kind of silence hanging in the room. The tutor medium came over and stood between us, but her shaking continued quite violently and she couldn't move another part of her. He muttered something I couldn't hear and I went and sat down. The woman stopped shaking and her arms went back down, but said she had never had anything like that happen to her before. I remember feeling a bit weird and exposed and as confused as anyone.

Later on that day, along with eight mediums, we felt privileged to be invited to a bit of a get together with the tutoring medium, which was going to be held that evening at the house where he was staying the night. We were really excited as the medium was very well respected and had been in the business for many years. We may learn even more from him we thought. How right we were!

We had a session of table tilting which I had not witnessed before, and almost immediately a spirit communicator came through. After much cross questioning of the validity of the spirit's name, it was accepted that it was the late Gordon Higginson. I had no idea who he was, but I could see that he had caused quite a lot of excitement between the other mediums who were there that night. Later, of course, I was told that he was a past Honorary President of the SNU and an outstanding medium.

Anyway, the table got very, very excited and would not leave the visiting medium alone, pushing itself into him and virtually jumping on his lap and staying there. He happened to be sat in front of a cabinet, and it wasn't long before he realized that Gordon was trying to get him to go into the cabinet, probably for trance. He actually knew Gordon very well and was a close friend of his when he was in the physical so he talked to him out loud on a very personal level, telling him that he didn't want to go into the cabinet as he had had a busy weekend with demonstrations and workshops.

Gordon wasn't hearing any of it. And because the medium knew Gordon so well, he said that it must be something important for him to be this persistent. So he agreed, but that it had to only be for a short while.

I had been totally fascinated by all of this and was sat at the back of the room waiting to see what was going to happen next. The medium sat the cabinet and went into trance and it wasn't long before Gordon came through. He wished us all a good evening and said a few personal comments to those who had met him when he was alive. Then he explained that the reason they had all been assembled was because the spirit world wanted them to develop me! And pointed straight to where I was sitting at the far end of the room! He then spoke about my life so far and also described the visualization experience where I had stepped off the top of the mountain. He went on to talk about my days of being a musician, plus other things that occurred during my meditations with the spirit people who were working with me.

Everything was accurate, and I was feeling just a bit squirmy by this stage. He then told all of those present that they were to be assigned in forming a trance-physical circle for my development. Everyone said they would do what spirit had asked of them and he finished by saying that this was just the beginning. I was totally shocked, but we were very excited and committed.

A year of development later, after many, many, different spirit individuals had come to speak through me to talk to the people at the circle, the circle broke up and we moved on. Before that Sylvie and I had already started sitting at home in a one to one situation for our combined development of gifts and from day one, Gregory had asked Sylvie (whom he and the group call 'Little Bird') to record and transcribe everything for subsequent publication. He told her we had a lot of work to do and that the spirit team



wanted the material to be available worldwide.

You could have knocked us both over with feathers. Afterwards, when Sylvie told me what Gregory had said, we experienced a mixture of disbelief, euphoria, dread, and doubt. Disbelief in that the spirit world would want to use us ‘nobody’s’ in the first place. Are they sure they’ve got the right people? Euphoria, because they did, so this means they must trust us. Dread, because we had no idea whatsoever on how to go about writing or publishing a book. Doubt, because we had no confidence in ourselves, and it felt a huge responsibility. What if we let them down?

Anyway, during the following eighteen months, we continued to sit for my trance development daily with the two of us and twice a day if we sat with others in the evenings. We also continued Sylvie’s development of her physical mediumship alongside at all times. We lived in an 1850 stone built cottage in Bristol, England, at the time, which had no central heating and we would get up really early for our sessions, wrapping ourselves in blankets and be finished before the day began.

We had purchased a Dictaphone and afterwards Sylvie would transcribe by hand which took forever and ended up being painful on her hands. We realised that this was way too much material for hand transcription but couldn’t type and didn’t have a computer. We both took courses in computer skills and even though we are still two fingered typists, we can get quite a speed up. Eventually, of course, the Dictaphone had to go as we gradually upgraded our equipment.

During this time we started a home circle with two dear friends Ann and John from the previous group, which was held on an evening. They remained dedicated and loyal to this circle for the best part of five years until we moved from Bristol, and we owe them so much towards our combined development. Our love and appreciation remains with them always. They are cherished in their selflessness and commitment they have shown.

We then started inviting guests to our home circle for a trance night once a week. Friends would bring people who were interested in finding out about the spirit world and it was an evening of questions and answers with Gregory, although at the time Silver Fox and Tall Trees were regular speakers too. There were often as many as twelve people squeezed into our tiny dining room at the cottage. We would ask that the questions were kept a secret from me or Sylvie and to try to make them as diverse and complicated as possible to encourage debate. It was through this form of interaction and grilling that has brought about the robust and wide basis for the spirit group to grow. Gregory has never wavered at any of the most difficult and complex questions and always tries to cover all areas of discussion so that the answer is understood.

At first the sessions would last for an hour but quickly developed to 2 hours or more, and it was uncanny how the questions seemed to dry up just at the right time. It wasn’t long before we were ready to go public with Gregory’s approachable, sensitive, and sometimes cheeky personality captivating people for hours.

These days we spend most of our time in the U.S.A. as the spirit team wanted to be able to reach as many people as possible, but we still demonstrate in the U.K. as well of course. We sold our cottage to fund ourselves and have travelled across the north west of America and also a part of Canada, doing deep trance demonstrations and workshops. We are always available by email on enq@spirit-teaching.com

We are working on two new books when time allows. Our current publications are *The Spirit Within*, *Spirit Walks with Gregory*, and *Journeys of the Inner Songbird*. Also a video called *Across the Divide*.

We have two internet radio shows that can be heard three times a week. Unfortunately, they are not on at a very sociable time for people in the UK as it means they are on at 4am or 5am. Two of them are interactive. They are called “Spirits Work” and “Spirit Teaching.” Each hour show is Sylvie in discussion with Gregory on

an individual subject. On the Spirit Teaching show listeners can email questions into the studio on the topic of conversation and Gregory answers them live on air. On one of the Spirits Work shows the listeners can phone in and speak to Gregory directly and ask him their question relating to the topic. The shows are very popular and getting more so each week. There are archives too so it is possible to hear them at another time. As I write this we have done one hundred shows on different subjects and the list continues. All of these will be available on CD eventually, and some already are.

Sylvie and I work on cold cases, working with those in spirit whose physical bodies have never been found. It means that we have to discover where their physical remains are so they can be repatriated with their loved ones. This means that their loved one can finally find closure and move on in their life. It is also a good learning curve for those in spirit as it helps them to awaken their consciousness to the new and endless possibilities that they have now as spirit.

We also help people who have spirit attachments. This is an area which is so vital for people to become knowledgeable of, and involved with, all over the world. Even though we are in America we work very closely with Bernie Scott in Bristol. She is a wonderful medium and healer and has a lovely centre called the Freespirit Awareness Centre in Patchway. Her website is: www.freespirit7.co.uk

MICK’S TRANCE

By MICK AVERY

Sylvie is the provider of the energy for the mechanism to take place and we are self sufficient in this area. Over the last 12 years, the process of going into the deep trance state has become quicker and quicker. Not because I consciously wanted this to happen but because it just did. Situations dictated that Gregory had to be able to come through very quickly. If we are on the radio (which we do a lot of) then Gregory has to come through very quickly. In the last year he has cut this down from 30 seconds to 5 seconds even with continuous talking in his headset. However, if it is a public demonstration it is likely that Gregory will take his time to come through and use a different method completely, and at these times we do ask for quiet. However, it all feels the same to me.

When I go into trance I can only describe it as like being placed in a form of suspension, or a large bubble that is silent and still. I have no recollection or awareness of me, a totally absent mind. What I have to do when I start at a session is really just to let go and trust the spirit people to look after me and keep me safe, which of course, they will. I see this trust as the key.

It wasn’t always plain sailing. At the beginning when I was first sitting for trance, which began in red light, I could sense everything around me and knew what was happening too. What I also felt at times was a tightening constriction around my throat. Occasionally, it felt like I was about to vomit, or my breathing became difficult when spirit people drew close to work with me. My attention would have to alter and it would pass.

There were over 60 people who spoke through me before Gregory. I understand that people sometimes saw the different faces of those who spoke also, including women, men and children. Gradually, through the constant development, I became less aware of the proceedings until there was just nothing. I feel it was all to do with the absence of fear and letting go as well as the perfection of the mechanism brought by spirit.

What happens now is while Sylvie is saying the invocation I usually manage to hear about the first 5 to 10 words of it and then feel the sensation of moving backward out of my body. At times I remember where I have been but not that often. I have been on a beach playing with pebbles, under a bush feeling the size of an insect, on the bottom of the ocean watching the fish,

or just sitting on a chair in an empty room that’s got one light hanging down and plaster coming off the ceiling. I never to the exact same place twice though.

GREGORY HAYE is the spokesperson for the White Cloud Group. Apparently he and I made a pact to do this work before I came to the earth plane, except that I only got around to it when I was forty. He had an earth life in the early eighteen hundreds and was run over by a coach and horses and decapitated when he was only eighteen and a half. He had very little education while on earth, but continued in earnest in the spirit world, especially after agreeing to take on this role as spokesperson for the group. He has trained continuously and remains as the one enlisted to skilfully speak on behalf of the thousands who attend each meeting under the guidance of White Cloud who is a Shining One.

The White Cloud Group are a scientific and factual based group who are made up of scientists, physicists, philosophers, scholars and medics of all description, as well as ordinary people who have a valuable input to make. They are an educational team and have come to give us access to information that we need to know in order that we may move towards a more harmonious and peaceful way of life. To understand the nature of our existence, and hopefully, save our world from the negative spiral we seem to be caught in. The environment is high on their list of priorities for concern. For more info: www.spirit-teaching.com

GREGORY HAYE (FROM SPIRIT) SPEAKS ON THE NATURE AND DEVELOPMENT OF TRANCE

The deep trance method and mechanism of our dear friend here was constructed in some urgency at the time of development. It was then actually decided during the development that we would depart from the normal situation and that we would bring about a mechanism that was part physical and part experimentally joined within the ether world. This mechanism would be there to service the instrument so that we would not have to be reliant upon the energy of anyone else other than our dear friend little bird to instigate it.

What happened was that it was a mechanism that was brought about with the energy of the sitters at that time. Principally in that little bird has the actual key to the mechanism. She holds the key to it. We decided to form a structure like a kind of staging post that we can easily use, enabling access to those who wish to speak or maybe bring something to the instrument. They would be very close to the instrument and then it is merely a short hop from there to take control of the instrument for some reason. Perhaps through speaking or to use him in some other way, maybe utilizing some of the energy that he had harnessed.

We created a vacuum from the spirit world into the physical dimension, a vortex of energy which spun in a clockwise direction. We used sheer forces and directional energy forces to rotate it, and some of the sitters in the developmental circle could observe small particles that floated in the vortex, where it caught the red light that was used in the development at the time.

It then became obvious that we would bring in a kind of energy form attachment, between the vortex and our instrument so that when it came about we had gained absolute control of him. This would release the line of energy to enable the vortex to take place. And, of course, only with little bird in presence. This meant that we were able to then utilize this form of column, so we were able to draw much closer and be able to bring the whole event with a different form of communication.

It really means we are able to use this vortex as a kind of instrument for bringing other spirit through who also have something to say to you on your side of life. As I say, not

necessarily spoken through him, but because they would be at a very close proximity to where I was in the orbital field. Usually, I am able to take a position virtually within the physical body itself after we have removed our dear friend’s consciousness.

The vortex cylinder itself is approximately one foot in diameter. Sometimes it extends (and it really does vary) six or seven feet in height, and other times, it could be fifteen, twenty, or even thirty feet in height. It would depend upon the energy of the sitters. The more there is the higher it is. If there are only the two of them, little bird and the instrument, the energy vortex would usually only be around six or seven feet in height. The cylinder is never more than three feet away from the instrument at any one time and it will usually be to the right hand side of him and slightly in front.

Now, if I may paint the picture from the spirit world’s perspective. When we bring about any form of communication from the spirit world, it is taking place from a kind of a platform. Arranged around it are many different layers of gallery where spirit people may gather and other layers are only added when people fill them. It means that the minds of those present may concentrate upon the vortex from their side of life, spirit side. Then if they wish to extend their thoughts, perhaps they have something to say or have input to make, then they will direct it upon the vortex and not upon the silhouette of the instrument as he is displayed from our point of view.

We continue to use the vacuum because without the gases and natural air of the physical world, it basically means we have a purer environment within which thoughts may be sent, and also, others may join in the group. It means that if someone has a particular thing to say, then they will use the vortex to come very close to the instrument and project their voice or thoughts toward him, perhaps when I am also in control of it. For example, if someone from our side of life wants to make contact, as an individual, they would use the cylinder and actually go within the vortex itself. I may still be using the instrument, utilizing the instrument with my energy, but they can speak of their own volition. I just hand the reins over to them, as it were.

Personally, although I may use the vortex for the first entry point or attraction, I hardly ever use it myself anymore. What it is mostly used for now is to capture thoughts from the group. All of these thoughts are then available and close at hand and I don’t have to tally with them myself because they are already kept in a temporary storage. They are then simply relayed by the vortex itself because it has an energy of its own, as well as the energy key that little bird has for it. The energy key that she holds is to do with her heart. It is because she has such honourable and good intention that she has the key.

During the times when little bird and the instrument sat for development, we were building up the vortex stronger and stronger because of the bond that was between them both and the spirit world. This is what has enabled the vortex to become the thing it is now, so we can hold thoughts from others within it. (We have an entirely different mechanism constructed for little bird’s physical capabilities.) Nowadays, we hardly have to do anything because it is self perpetuating. It merely sits there and occupies that space. Sometimes you may be able to put a hand within it and feel it is cool and at other times you may not feel anything at all. If you are close enough you may feel it rotating or feel the periphery of it, and other times, it can be seen as a kind of a heat haze.

When I initially arrive, the instrument leaves his body through his back, between the third and the fifth vertebrae of the spinal chord which is in the thorax area. We then take him to wherever we decide to take him. He and I cross on the stairs, as it were, but very rarely do we see each other. This mechanism is peculiar to this instrument and everyone must understand the individualization of mechanisms.



SYLVIE AVERY PHYSICAL MEDIUMSHIP

BY MICK AVERY

Sylvie is a Physical medium and has produced materialization in no light, red light and daylight; direct voice and independent voice and it continues to build. She has gone through many changes and stages of development over the years. Sometimes Spirit want her sitting and other times lying down. They have also used her in many differing levels of consciousness depending on what they are doing at the time. If it is using ectoplasm then she will be unconscious and totally out of the picture. Her consciousness and spirit go on a journey and she vacates herself.

If they are using energy differently in red light or daylight, then she could be in a deeply altered state and comatose, or even, at times, with her eyes forced wide open but not in her control, although they haven't done this for a long time. Over the year's spirit have done some very unusual things to her; things that I would never be able to tolerate because I'm far too squeamish.

Unfortunately our lifestyle at present dictates that it's not possible for Sylvie to consciously sit for her physical development but hopefully it won't be long before we can. However, here are a few insights into what we have achieved that you may find interesting.

In daylight conditions I have occasionally witnessed materialized people, who I have sometimes been able to have conversations with. One time in particular, was when Sylvie was lying down. A man wearing light grey overalls appeared beside her and began speaking. He walked over to me introducing himself as he walked. He said his name was Mr. Day and that he had lived in Taunton. I had never seen him before. He invited me to prod his stomach which I did and it had resistance to it. Whilst I was doing this he said, "See, I'm real, I have solid form!" He continued speaking and I could see saliva as he spoke. I could even see the pores in his skin. I asked him about why he was here and he said he had been asked to take part in an experiment, and, "Here I am!" Then suddenly he said that his time was up as the energy was becoming weak, and turned and walked through the opposite wall and disappeared.

In other sittings and in many different conditions, we have had various body parts materialise; arms, hands, legs, and heads, but not necessarily all at the same time. In one 3-D event in red light, Sylvie was lying down and a head was above her at about 18 inches; the head was turning and smiling from a smoky substance coming from Sylvie's mouth and ears and upper torso. We have had other 3-D faces that hover in the air, with twinkling eyes that follow you and sometimes smile, but rarely with other body parts or complete. Sometimes these are like holographic images and at other times, they are animated but incomplete, slowly turning as though on a potter's wheel.

We have had whistling in the air, voices travelling around the room, and partially formed figures walking around. Sometimes they create footfall sounds and at other times not. They have held my hands and played with me, blowing in my ears and stroking my hair. On one occasion Sylvie herself appeared, while she was supposed to be lying down. I noticed she had different clothes on and found out afterwards from Gregory that they had cloned her. We don't really use a trumpet; it isn't something that the spirit team is going to be using.

We have had direct voice, but spirit have had some trouble with this area as they are very careful not to injure Sylvie and her ears are very sensitive. Her eyes are used a lot, but there too, they have to be careful. They have managed it where the voices came directly out of her abdomen but I don't think this will be a permanent occurrence. At the time there was quite a conversation going on that involved men, women, and children, but nobody spoke directly to me.

As another issue, if I am alone during a sitting with Sylvie (as we have done most of our development this way) I always use a physical object between myself and the visual experience, to make sure it is not just my mind. Experience has shown that if I am able to move the object between myself and the being or whatever it is, and it is still there creating what is taking place, then it is physical. If it disappears with the object I hold up between us, then its psychic, and in my mind.

MIND-THOUGHT TRANSFER

Trance Address by Spirit Guide Gregory Haye with Deep Trance Medium Mick Avery

We wish to speak with clarity concerning what happens when a physical being passes to our side of life, and, most importantly, how it is that communication may be continued with a loved one after they have crossed over. It is important to understand what exactly mind-thought transfer is. To begin with, we have to show you how the product of mind is gained which may, of course, be obvious to some but not to others.

As you walk along your daily life sensory perception is what inevitably will make up the bulk of what your mind is: the many issues you become involved with, the scenery and pictures, the conversations, and the material that comes into your mind as thought or visions, the memory of your complete journey. While you are a physical being, this is brought about through the action of the physical brain. The neurons, the electronic capabilities of storing and retrieving information from the organ of the brain is a way in which mind retention and consciousness may continue in the physical world because you are a physical being.

There will come a point, naturally, for some who may suffer from some form of disease that perhaps a mental capability malfunctions or ceases to operate at all. This in itself may shut down certain quadrants of the organ of the brain disallowing any further thought forms to come. It may be the disease is far reaching, and it may well happen that, for the individual, they lose their memory retention completely. Of course, it will not happen overnight. It may be in fits and starts. It may happen in a random fashion depending upon how the disease takes its hold on the physical tissue.

For many of these who are suffering from such diseases, it may well be that they have long blanks of memory loss. It may be that they memorize things beyond what medical science has an answer for. For example, it could be that someone in a coma or someone who has lapses of mind control from a form of disease, in lucid times of memory, can relay pictures, sceneries, and conversations that took place around them. It could even be that by-standers were remembered by this individual who was suffering from such a condition.

It may also be that the mind-memory is allowed to join with their spirit in an ether world journey, and that this form of walk transfers understanding of a different journey. Perhaps of what is to come. These may be conversations with those in the spirit world long before they are ready to pass. It is quite possible that these conversations, for some, will be remembered and others will be lost to the presence of memory at that time. It doesn't mean to say, of course, that they are lost forever. At the point of crossing over, when the physical body is left behind, all of these journeys will at some stage, be remembered, accounted for, and understood.

When a person passes to our side of life, what they will take is the whole and entire collection of mind-thought form; everything from the journey they have made, no matter how long or how short that journey has become. The presence of mind upon spirit is relayed as a memory and fixed to the spirit at the point of passing when the etheric bead is no longer connected to the physical state. The etheric bead being is that which tethers the spirit to the physical being during physical life. It enables an individual to bring their consciousness along with their spirit

and have a journey of sorts within the spirit realms.

Some may have difficulty with the way in which they are able to retain or further understand the signals that come from their memory because, of course, they no longer have a physical brain in which to function. You must remember that the physical brain is discarded and that the way in which electrons and chemical reactions played a part previously in mind-retention memory no longer has a place within the spirit world.

Genetics may also be recovered through this memory. For many on our side of life, once they have passed, it is the genetic memory of cellular structure that will figure most heavily at the point of passing. They will retain their physical state through this memory. And that is, in fact, what they are actually retrieving, merely the memory of it, that allows their spirit to be clothed in the physical vehicle that they were.

It may well be that the spirit no longer wishes to be of the age they were when they passed, and they may be able to be shown how to use mind-thought memory and the genetic imprinting to alter how they look. For instance, they may wish to represent themselves in their middle years if they passed as someone of an older generation. Perhaps even the cases of vanity may have taken precedence over such a decision. It doesn't really matter. It is their free will to do whatever they wish.

For some, they may feel so young at heart that they wish to adopt the attitude and likeness they had when they were children in physical life. And for very many, they may well use this familiarity for a while to recollect aspects of their physical journey. Perhaps it was situations that occurred throughout their life and they wish to view and enhance it within themselves. Not through mournful recollection but to reconnoitre their event. To see how they fared. Perhaps there may be some decisions that were made at that time which would have to be addressed in their life now as a spirit being.

All must try to remember that, for some, coming to the spirit world is just like walking into another room, and they are able to continue with their mind-thought form and memory in a similar way as they did in physical life. It may well be that for others they have difficulty here. It is not in recollecting how memory works but possibly to do with the way in which they passed or their attitude they had when they crossed over to our side of life. Perhaps they had difficulty in thinking passed the point of their physical situation and so did not know of or could not identify with a method or a way of continuation other than with physical life. So many things will have a precedent over how the individual will be able to approach the energy field they live in. What then of those who may decide they think they are of one vibration and disappointment creeps in when they find they were not the guiding light they thought they were? It is not for the spirit world to say "I told you so" for no one makes a judgment upon you. You have to judge yourselves. You have to come to the good light of understanding your every move, and it must be done in truthfulness. Harbour no ill will for, if you do, it will only hold you back.

Similar, I suppose you could say, to some situations in physical life. If you are locked in negativity or somehow driven into a corner of life by the slings and arrows thrown at you, you may have difficulty in responding to how to overcome this situation. It may well be that, for some, they are able to continue their journey without missing a step, though most will have to have a mentor to show them how to operate the apparatus of mind and thought because in the spirit world thought forms are even sharper in their reflection than in the physical world.

In the physical world some will find it very difficult to think in terms of colour or to have faith in the message in thought form they are sending to someone else. Perhaps it is a love gift or some other such thing. However, in the spirit world, it becomes acutely aware, spreading to all who identify with it, that mind-thought form is indeed alive and that the precious state exists between how you are able to order it; how you are able to use



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that thought form for your benefit and for others benefit.

You may wonder how you could possibly tell which way is up if you are not on a physical world? Truth is, dear friends, the spirit world is something of a complex structure, and people on your side of life must try to remove the obstacles of physical thought in order to understand.

You may have heard stories of places where people are able to live in houses, perhaps continuing their occupation or hobbies, doing some of the things they did in physical life: eat, sleep, drink alcohol, or smoke cigarettes. How is all of this possible – that the manufacturing process could take place in such an orientation, a place of non-physical reality?

At the point of your passing or moments later, you could come upon some aspect of mind that is your latent thought. Perhaps you have a vista or a place you identify with as home, and you may have heard stories of how people connect with that once in the spirit world, and, behold, there it is, bricks and mortar, exactly as you identified with it during physical life. It could be a memory or it could be a wish, a thought form turned into reality. How is that achievable in such a place of non-physical density?

It is achievable by memory transfer of what you have within your secular memory of your individuality that is recognized by the Shining One who controls your group. I will have to talk about Shining Ones in a little while. This individual will create the possibility for you to form your thoughts into practical reality. Naturally, you will have to be shown how to use this to best effect, otherwise, you may begin creating all kinds of random situations that you cannot control and, in fact, may impinge upon others reactions, their self will and their life. There has to be a certain amount of order about what you think and how you are able to transmit those thoughts into actuality in your existence.

This is obviously something precious to behold. You are able to walk upon grass or walk within a forest. Sometimes this may take place in the spirit world, and at other times, it may take place within the physical time zone that is your earth. You may revisit that place again and again if it is your desire to do so. It doesn't mean to say you are banished from all travel once you come to our side of life. Indeed not. There may be many places you observe once you have passed from your physical journey. You may return to states of awareness of other things in other realities depending, of course, on your ability and how you have been able to make compensation for the events in your life. All of these things will have a bearing upon the case in point. If you have done negative things to others in your physical life, it may be that you will not have this ability because you will have to earn it through the good deeds you will then have to proceed to do and carry out.

By way of reference, the Shining Ones are those beings who are all light and purity existing within the spirit world to bring substance and form to the soul group from whence you have come. A soul group is a place of familiarity and harmony that exists in the spirit world and it is your harbour. Your harmonic identity is based upon it; upon its reflection. The way in which love is felt within this harmony is of an identified difference that exists between you whilst in the physical realm also. In other words, dear friends, you would know those you are harmonically empathic to. Your sympathies will run far deeper with someone who is harmonically balanced and who is of your soul group type. Within the human civilisation are many, many different forms; there are different aspirations within other soul groups. Some will have a certain vibrancy which cannot be contained by others, and they will have difficulty with it. This is the way in which the ether world is constructed.

Animals on your side of life will each come from different groups depending upon their species; depending perhaps upon their thought forms and how they are able to continue their life within the soul group. They too have the ability to maintain and grow from the understanding they have gained in physical instance. Some of these will continue in their own form adopted in physical life but perhaps their nature may change dramatically from

something that was aggressive to something that is passive.

We are aware that for those of you in physical life there is always an opposite reaction to any action. Within the spirit world, it is played out in a different way. If a thought form is perhaps dangerous to someone else, it is sent back to the sender so they will have to think again. This also is a situation operated by those who are more understanding, more giving, and more loving than those who bring these thought forms. In their haste they make them.

For those of you who have perhaps had love and good fortune on your side of life, the thought forms you send continue to help others by your giving processes. They will allow you to move through new horizons and new scenery. You may begin to command an ability to truly understand the way in which the mechanism of the spirit world works; that it works in a way that enables you to leap from one idea to another, from one world into another. It is only the limit of the thought form that you give birth to that really limits your ability to journey throughout the universe.

Of course, this journey will be limited if you are of a negative disability as that energy in itself will not allow you to travel anywhere at all. It is only by the energy of love, by giving, by wishing to genuinely move forward that will allow you further understanding and, therefore, movement in an increasing way so you will benefit others as well as yourself.

Naturally, you will have to make recompense for all of those things you have brought about in the face of others. This is not something that we would wish to rub your nose in or make a point of, but all beings will have to make the recompense journey once they are on our side of life. Recompense has to be made for all of those ills conceived and carried out in physical life against any other species, particularly, where malice, lack of understanding and pure ignorance for the sake of it, was the reason for the ill will.

Once on our side of life, dear friends, the thought forms of love that you have for those you have left behind in physical life may remain the same. They may even grow, particularly if there is great grieving at their loss of your journey among them. It may well be that you will have to contend with certain energies coming from the physical side of life toward you in mournful ways through so many being sad at your passing. So many different reasons for this exist. The physical presence, the voice, the energy, the companionship; the love that exists between those on either side of the veil never lessens. It remains not at a constant either, but may grow and change just in the same way as it will grow and change in physical life. It doesn't mean to say by this that you need to keep a mournful post upon the relative or loved one who has passed and that you must forsake all others for that memory.

Naturally enough, it will become possible, if all wish it, that you would meet again in the spirit world, the kingdom of life forever. And the true state of it, dear friends, remains that you are able to continue your journey. You may recover certain elements of your thought once lost in physical life, perhaps by being healed or perhaps through recognizing and learning new ways to show your ability to manipulate your consciousness for good in the face of all things.

We do not ever wish you to worry unnecessarily. And we are here to be informative; to crush those ill wills and the ignorance of the day and to bring new light to the minds of many, as far as we can, for those who wish to keep their eyes and minds open to the new horizon to come.

Spoken by spirit guide Gregory Haye Through deep trance medium Mick Avery. Copyright 2005©Spirit Teaching.

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LOUIS PASTEUR – 'Many illness's are a product of the persons thoughts' 'man must learn to think right' The famous scientist makes his return to talk of the role of the spirit and the mind in maintaining a healthy body.

SPIRITUAL PHILOSOPHY PART 2

MAHATMA GHANDI – Ghandi talks of the need for having time for the things of the spirit. He teaches of the need for people to recognise the sorrow that is caused by the selfishness of mankind.

BROTHER BONIFACE – This is one of many communications by Brother Boniface through the mediumship of Leslie Flint. In this he guides on developing the power of the spirit within.

PIONEERING WOMEN

ELIZABETH FRY – Quaker prison reformer Elizabeth Fry gives instruction on the conditions people find themselves in on passing to the Spirit World and the reason for this. Explaining the way change happens within the Spirit World and people make progress.

LILLIAN BAYLIS – Manager of the Old Vic, theatrical producer and founder of a ballet company Lillian speaks of the demise of the Old Vic and the development of the National theatre. She goes on to talk of her passing and the difficulty in using language to explain the conditions of the Spiritual realms.

ELIZABETH GARRETT ANDERSON – Describes her interest in healing as the first woman Doctor licensed to practice, her interest in recovering health continues. She describes the importance of spiritual and mental adjustments for health.

POETS AND PLAYWRITE'S ELIZABETH & ROBERT BROWNING

– Talking of their earthly life, their spiritual conditions and how they endeavour to help people on the earth now.

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW – Talks of the way he was inspired to write his plays and used his skills of observation to base his characters on. He explains how progress in spirit is based on breaking down the barriers of separation. In practice ideas of national pride or class distinctions must be let go of in order to progress.

OSCAR WILDE – With all the wit and charm of his nineteenth century life, Oscar returns with an entertaining discussion and speaks of the peace that is found within the unity of the Spirit World.

POT POURRI

ELLIS THE HANGMAN – Speaking about his work and the effects it had on the individuals put to death. The effect of earthbound spirits who inflict their will upon weaker minds upon the earth causing them to commit crimes they would not normally have committed.

LIONEL BARRYMORE – Famous for his work as an actor and film director he describes life in spirit and the work of theatre in spirit in creating plays that uplift and create understanding.

NELLIE WRIGHT – Nellie is a Salvationist and sets about to try and 'save' Betty Greene and George Woods. She describes her life and earthly death in the war years of Britain's second world war.

Dr Michel Granger PhD from Chalon-sur-Saône near Lyon recently attended the "Stewart Alexander and Friends" weekend seminar at Cober Hill in Yorkshire. Michel has been studying Spiritualistic phenomena for a great many years and has been a member of the Society for Psychical Research since 1981.

FRENCH RESEARCHER ATTENDS SEANCE

COBER HILL, SCARBOROUGH, YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND, 18th MARCH 2006

By Dr Michel Granger, Freelance writer in Psychic Science

His passion for investigating scientific anomalies in science arose whilst preparing for a doctorate in physical chemistry in Montreal University between 1967 and 1972. Since then he has written extensively on the paranormal with over a 1000 articles published in local, national and international publications. With 12 books published he is currently working on his thirteenth, LA SAGA DE L'ECTOPLASME (The Saga of Ectoplasm).

Although Michel has investigated Spiritualistic phenomena for many years and was a member of the Noah's Ark Society for ten years, he had never seen ectoplasm. So here is his account of his first encounter with ectoplasm which will enable him to complete his latest book.

As Michel's English is limited Lew Sutton has edited the following with Michel's approval.

What an unforgettable weekend we experienced at Cober Hill amongst Stewart and his Friends, all so kind and nice! And this was in spite of the long and exhausting travel by aircraft from Lyon (France) to Manchester and then by the snail-pace Trans Pennine rail link to Scarborough plus the big problem of the language...

We were anxious about our attendance at the experimental physical séance on the Saturday evening with Stewart as medium. As my wife and I are not spiritualists we hoped that the Spirit World would not take umbrage at our presence. Kindly, Stewart had advised me "we cannot guarantee success..."

However, success was complete! Especially concerning the presence of ectoplasm on the right shoulder of Stewart, not clearly visible in its form but undoubtedly materialized and motionless. Yes I can now complete my book which has kept me very busy for more than five years, especially since my retirement one year ago. It is entitled "The saga of the ectoplasm". It is an historical and phenomenological study of ectoplasm and physical mediumship based upon an empirical 25-year study of the subject through the whole literature including by Crookes, Gambier-Bolton, Richet, Geley, Barbanell... amongst the most famous. I can now add my personal testimony to about a thousand others. The publication is programmed for the second half of 2006 by Les Editions de l'Oeil-du-Sphinx, Paris.

When the direct voice of the guide Walter Stinson, brother of the famous American medium, Margery Crandon, called me in the darkness, inviting, as privileged guest, to move towards the chair in front of the little table which was between me and Stewart, I was entranced and immobilised. As required, I laid my hand on the table and suddenly, opposite, I saw a hand approaching, at first fluid in its contours, then well formed which then positioned itself on the table.

At first four fingers were visible, then five. The voice of the spirit guide of the immobilised medium gave me permission to touch this hand. In doing so, I had the sensation of a normal human hand that was firm and solid... One materialized hand of a man who has been dead for nearly a hundred years!

I have shaken the hand of a man who died in 1911! One incredible experience for which I will need many months to assimilate because my scientific training (I am doctor in physical chemistry and obtained my PhD from Montreal's University in 1972) but perhaps thanks to my ever open mind.

Thank you Walter, thank you Stewart, thank you June and thank you the whole "Stewart Alexander and Friends" team.

Carlos Mirabelli was one of the most famous spectacular physical medium of modern times, but also perhaps one of the most underestimated.

THE GIFTED BOY FROM BRAZIL

By Ross-James Pearman

Born in Botucatu, Brazil in 1889, but of Italian parentage, his first experiences of his gift for physical phenomena occurred while working in a shoe shop after leaving school. While working in the shop, shoe boxes would lift up from their places on the shelves and fly around the room.

With locals believing that Carlos was mentally unstable, he was initially admitted to an asylum. However, it was this incarceration that led to investigations into his ability, with those at the asylum finally concluding that he had an ability to move objects without physical contact and that there was excessive nervous energy that created that activity.

As a result he was not declared insane and was released.

With his talents now defined and noted, Carlos decided to use his skills to earn a living through entertainment and news of his gift soon spread far and wide, especially in Britain, although the Society of Paranormal Research dismissed the authenticity of his gift as being "too good to be true", even though there were over 500 testimonies stating that the phenomena was genuine.

Many professors in Europe had also taken an interest in reports from Brazil on Carlos' gifts, but were reluctant to go and witness the events for themselves. They also believed that the researchers in Brazil didn't have the necessary experience and qualifications to give an informed opinion of Carlos reported gift and doubted the reports.

However, testimonies on Carlos' talents continued to grow and more and more people were witnessing acts of phenomena involving the movement of

objects at a distance from the medium.

Other phenomena included levitation, sometimes to the height of two metres and lasting several minutes, and on one occasion Carlos dematerialised in daylight and reappeared 90km away – an event witnessed by several people.

Personal communication was also prevalent with Carlos, including confirmed communication with loved ones, and automatic writing, often communicated in the native tongue of those receiving the communication. Carlos was quoted as being able to write pages of words for loved ones at remarkable speeds.

He also painted portraits of those who had passed to Spirit which were identified and confirmed by those on the earth plane.

As well as these gifts Carlos performed healing, with many well known academics testifying to his ability.

It was this practice of healing, regarded as illegal because Carlos was not medically qualified, which led to him being investigated by the Cesar Lombroso Academy of Physical Studies in 1919.

The report of the studies, released in 1926, amazingly revealed that the medium spoke 26 languages, including seven dialects, and wrote in 28 languages, among them three forgotten languages.

In addition, the report's findings into his physical mediumistic abilities documented that there had been 392 sittings with the medium for different types of physical phenomena in daylight conditions or with artificial light. In 63 of these physical phenomena was produced with the Medium tied and bound to the chair in the séance room.

Phenomena included: levitation, rapping and the full materialisation of one of the investigator's deceased daughter, which resulted in photographs being taken.

In another test séance, sitters were greeted by the materialisation of a professor who had recently died. He was identified by investigators and his image was also taken by a camera.

Another materialisation was that of Dr de Menezes. At this séance a bell on the table in the room rose and began to ring. As a result, Carlos awoke from his trance state and described a man he could see.

Suddenly a man, as described, materialized, and two sitters recognized him as de Menezes. When the doctor present attempted to examine the materialization, he fainted when the

form decided to float away and then dissolve from the feet upwards, the bust and arms floating in the air.

During the tests it was noted that Carlos' physical state changed drastically throughout the séance: including temperature, respiration and pulse rate.

Other test sittings saw Carlos dematerialise from the séance room to another room with the seals on his bonds untouched. On one such occasion, sitters went to find Carlos in another room and found him on lying on an easy chair singing to himself.

Despite the report's findings, professors across Europe still questioned the authenticity of the phenomena, despite the overwhelming evidence taken during rigorous test conditions.

Eventually in 1933, Carlos was visited from researchers from Europe. However, by this time Carlos was on the verge of burnout and many of his powers had diminished.

As a result of their visits Carlos received negative conclusions from the researchers who believed that the phenomena documented had to be fraudulent as there was "no other explanation".

Despite the criticism from Europe Carlos continued to produce amazing phenomena in Brazil. In one séance with Carlos handcuffed and bound, sitters saw flowers float into the séance room through a locked window followed by a statue. Carlos also spoke to one sitter in Arabic as part of a communication from the lady sitter's mother in the spirit world.

When one sitter was asked to read something, but admitted that he had left his glasses outside the room, he was then reunited with his spectacles as they floated up to him after being re-materialised into the room.

Although a worker for Spirit, Carlos was regarded as a big spender with a big heart and would think nothing of buying loads of clothes, only to give them away. He was also particularly fond of animals and opera.

His gift landed him in several difficult situations in a Catholic dominated country. This resulted in Carlos appearing in court fifteen times to answer charges over his work. However, he let the phenomena itself prove his talent.

After his long service to Spirit Carlos died at the age of 62, a loyal servant to Spirit who was sadly never given the full global recognition he deserved.



South American medium Carlos Mirabelli (left in trance) with Dr Carlo de Castro (right) and the materialised spirit of the deceased poet Giuseppe Parini.



ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE FULFILS A PROMISE

THE LITTLE SANCTUARY, OXFORD, ENGLAND

16th OCTOBER 2004

by Denzil Fairbairn

I have sometimes been accused of preparing over exaggerated reports relating to séances that I have attended, whether they have taken place in the Little Sanctuary, the small centre run by my wife Kay and some friends in Chalgrove, Oxfordshire or whether they have been held at other venues. I find it very difficult to curb my enthusiasm, for I consider every incident, movement and communication within the séance room to be a miracle in its own right. Having actually sat, for over 35 years, in development circles firstly as a sitter giving my dedication, time and energy to help prepare the mediums and more recently as the potential link for Spirit I think I have just about earned the right to comment on the events of a séance demonstration as I see them, hear them or feel them, as they occur.

In most of the reports I have submitted for publication in the past I have, in all probability, not represented fully the events that have occurred as it is not always possible to recall every small detail. However, when attending a séance such as the one demonstrated by David Thompson on Saturday 16th October 2004, I know for sure that I will be unable to fully convey and do justice to the wondrous phenomena experienced during almost one and a half hours of concourse with our visitors from the world beyond... but I will do my best!

Firstly it would be fair to describe the way in which David is secured to the chair as one which would in all event hold fast even the world's strongest man. The chair used in most of the demonstrations held at the Little Sanctuary was fully restored and upholstered about 4 years ago by Sue Goodson, proprietor of Grange Upholsteries, Earls Barton, Northants. She is able to vouch for the integrity and solid construction of the chair having seen it stripped back to its framework. As are those sitters who are asked to examine the chair and bindings prior to commencement of the séances. The bindings used are a combination of straps and ties of the sort that have to be cut to release the medium at the end of the séance. These are attached to the wooden framework so tightly that they cannot be slipped off the arms or legs of the chair. (see photo of chair) Following a methodical search of the medium in full view of all the sitters the medium's bound arms and legs are then similarly attached to the ties thus completely securing him into a position impossible to escape from under normal means. Further, to provide evidence that any manifesting spoken communication is by means of independent voice only, the medium again voluntarily wears a scarf type gag which is located between his lips, pulled tightly and tied in a knot at the back of his head with the knot in the scarf being secured by a further plastic tie. The medium also wears a cardigan which is buttoned down the front and again plastic ties are inserted through both sides to secure it in the same way that

physical mediums of the past would have the front of their jacket sewn up with thread or twine. With all the binds checked the medium then had a pair of curtains, which are suspended on a rail from the ceiling, drawn around him to form a séance cabinet. This allows the energies which help with the manifestations to be kept close to the medium for manipulation by the spirit controls. With the medium securely trussed the one white light bulb in the séance room was removed from its ceiling fitting and once every one was settled the small lamp containing a red bulb was extinguished and the plug removed from the electrical socket. An opening invocation was given and music was put on; it would seem not loudly enough for within a brief moment a voice was clearly heard coming from inside the cabinet asking for the volume to be increased...bear in mind the medium was wearing a gag. The volume was turned up and we all continued singing along to "Jerusalem" followed by "I vow to thee my country". This rendition was quickly followed by our first communicator, William Charles Cadwell who departed the earth plane in 1897. He told us that he is mentor and friend to David and has been with him since he was born. William commented that the energy was exceptional due, he was sure, to the nature of the people gathered who all were members of either developing physical circles or had a deep interest in the subject. He added that we should prepare ourselves for an evening to remember... he wasn't joking.

William spent the next ten minutes or so answering an array of questions put to him by those gathered. Footsteps were then heard walking from the cabinet to the opposite end of the room where William's voice was once more heard conversing with various individuals. Mr Robin Foy, founder of the Noah's Ark Society, asked a question relating to the work carried out at the now famous Scole Cellar and was told by William that somebody else would come to speak with him a little later concerning that matter. Another sitter asked William whether it would be possible for his father to be allowed to come through as it was his father's birthday... William replied that apart from him having given away possibly the best piece of evidence that he could have hoped to have received from his father, he said he would see what could be done. Upon his return to the cabinet William reiterated that there were a few surprises held in store for us, he then wished us all a pleasant evening and took his leave.

Child Guide, Timothy Booth, with a more high pitched voice and a cheeky nature then introduced himself. He asked for the music to be put on once more and to the accompaniment of the more modern "Spirit in the Sky" we were treated to a most amazing display of trumpet levitation. On this occasion two trumpets, both with luminous bands on the large ends, took off around the room at great speed at times describing

large circular motions so quickly that the light trail formed a continuous double circle in mid-air. They darted about from one side of the room to the other, sometimes both on one side of the room then one on each side of the room, briefly stopping just in front of the sitters faces. At times the trumpets would be used to very gently tap a sitter on the shoulder or on top of the head. All an impossible feat to achieve, I am sure you would agree, under human control, in the pitch dark, at such great speed, with such accuracy. One of the more experienced sitters Lew Sutton commented that the trumpet phenomena was excellent with high speed manoeuvres that included rapid changes of direction. It would be impossible for anyone to simulate the movements by holding one trumpet in each hand due to the range, speed and rapid changes in direction. Human arms are not capable of producing the forces required to reproduce the accelerations witnessed due to the mass of the hands and arms with relationship to the muscular power available. "The trumpets whizzed past me so close that several times I felt the breeze generated by the fast movement. At one stage one trumpet rummaged playfully through my wife's hair whilst the other one gently tapped the upper part of her chest, just underneath her chin."

Timothy was next heard to emerge from the cabinet, he walked over to the only gentleman in the room wearing a necktie and proceeded to remove it with a swift tug (discovered after the séance that the gentleman's shirt had a button down collar) without him feeling the pressure of the tie on his neck or hearing the sound of the tie being pulled around the collar. In an instant Tim had returned to the cabinet and asked the writer who he should put the tie on. I suggested another gentleman's name who was seated towards the far end of the room and who had not sat with David before, although he had experienced sittings with Colin Fry and Stewart Alexander previously. Within a moment this other gentleman was describing to the rest of the gathering what he was experiencing as the tie was, without hesitation, put over his head and onto his neck. This one simple act and the conditions under which it was carried out shouts out to me that the tie must have been partially dematerialised to enable it to happen...yet another miracle amongst many!

Timothy then announced that they were going to attempt to get somebody through...they had found the sitter's father whose birthday it was. We were all instructed to hold hands to help boost the energies and as we listened in the dark, shuffled footsteps could be heard progressing from the cabinet to the far end of the room. The recipient, who I believe to be in his late seventies, is also a little hard of hearing so some of what was said by his father had to be repeated to him but the communication given was very evidential and in particular it was very noticeable how the Spirit communicator's voice had a very similar timbre to the sitter's; something which isn't always apparent with independent voice communication.

The communicator said farewell and all was quiet for a second or two, then Timothy's voice was heard once more but it came from the same end of the room where the father had spoken to his son. Timothy explained that as the previous visitor wasn't used to doing this sort of thing he felt he might get disorientated and not be able to find his way back to the cabinet, so he had instantly materialised in the departing spirit's place and with that he was heard to almost skip his way back to the cabinet area. Lew Sutton again commented that the voice phenomena was excellent. "On two occasions I heard the voices of communicators as they moved from the vicinity of the medium to the far end of the room. From my position adjacent to the middle of the room I could clearly track their movements."

Timothy then announced that they were going to try something new which they felt would be successful because of the good energy and conditions. With that Timothy began to explain that they were going to bring the medium out of trance so that he and perhaps William could speak directly with David. He then commented that it would be difficult for David to respond due to the gag. He volunteered one of the sitters to reach inside the cabinet to confirm that the binds were still holding the medium in place and then asked for the gag to be 'yanked' out of David's mouth. With this done he asked for a particular piece of music to be played (the piece always played at the end of the séance which helps to bring the medium out of trance) and gradually David came back to consciousness, he was heard to ask if it was over. It was explained to him what was being attempted and then he realised and explained that he could feel a weight around his throat and on his shoulder. With that a quieter than usual Timothy could be heard speaking to David. It was very touching and a privilege to be a party to this communication. David asked if it would also be possible to speak with William? William's voice soon began talking and he asked David if he would like to see the trumpet being levitated. As both trumpets had been put away after the levitation experiment William had to ask for one to be retrieved from its bag and placed just in front of the cabinet. This was quickly done and the writer then had the task of drawing back the two curtains which were obstructing the medium's view. Music was placed on to help with the energy and the trumpet slowly lifted into the air for David and all in the room to see. William then transferred his voice from the area close to the medium and spoke to him through the trumpet. The ectoplasmic rod lifting the trumpet was emanating from the medium's stomach area and he explained that he could feel the tension from the area of his solar plexus. He complained that it was making him feel sick and asked for the trumpet to be lowered once more. With a brief farewell from William the voices ceased and David was returned to the trance condition. The writer, who was seated right next to the cabinet, was asked to once again close the curtains but had great difficulty in locating the edge of the furthest curtain in the dark even though it was only a matter of a few feet away from his position. At one point whilst searching for the second curtain it was completely bypassed and the writers fumbblings found only the head of the person sitting on the opposite side of the room... a most strange experience but one which brought home the sheer impossibility of a normal person carrying out the tasks so easily demonstrated by our spirit friends.

Timothy returned momentarily, he left and was then followed by a regular visitor who sang along to one of his more famous recordings "Wonderful World" before introducing himself and then going around to virtually all the sitters to touch them with his solid hands. He was quickly followed by one of David's main spirit team, Honest Jack, who spoke to Sue Goodson and then took her hand and allowed her to feel his leg, his arm and the top of his head, all of which she confirmed felt real even down to the fluffy hair on his head (the medium has very little... if any!). This was to give proof that he had indeed materialised. There are one or two quite negative people who have voiced their opinion that because these materialised forms cannot be seen then they cannot be claimed to exist and they challenge our integrity to prove otherwise. To those people I would say that many times they have proved that they are fully materialised, that they do materialise in the dark and I would challenge these denouncers to prove to me and the many others currently experiencing this wonderful phenomena that they don't.

Timothy returned once again and enquired what we thought of it so far, I'm sure you would agree it was pretty fantastic and as I said initially I have found it difficult to find the words to provide justice to this experience.

Tim then asked the writer what he would like him to do next...what an opportunity! As my 82 year old mother was present and probably for the last time as David is emigrating to Australia at the end of this year, I asked whether it would be possible for her to be levitated in her chair? Without further ado Timothy came out of the cabinet, scuttled over to where mother was sitting and asked her if it would be all right for him to do this...instantly she agreed it would be o.k. I asked nervously that he should be careful with her as not long ago she had undergone a hip replacement operation...

I needn't have worried as he couldn't have been more gentle with her. Within 10 seconds mother and chair had been manoeuvred away from the row of seats situated against the wall and she was telling the rest of the gathering how her feet were no longer in touch with the floor and that she was being rocked from side to side. This lasted for about a minute but I know it will remain forever in the memory of my mother. Upon returning to the confines of the cabinet Timothy called out "Mr Fairbairn", I responded with a "yes Timothy" and he proceeded to blow a raspberry at me as if to say "told you so".

Following a brief moment of quiet we heard the more refined adult tones of a male communicator who spoke initially to Robin and Sandra Foy and then introduced himself to the rest of those gathered..."my name is Arthur Conan Doyle". He said he was aware of a question which Robin Foy had for him concerning a matter relating to the Scole circle and this was discussed. He then reminded them both of a promise he had made during his frequent visits to Scole. "I told you towards the end of the Scole experiments that I would speak with you again in due course, did I not?" Robin and Sandra confirmed this fact. "Well, here I am talking to you once again... a promise fulfilled I am sure you would agree?"

Sir Arthur then went on to describe a device he had designed which he felt would be of benefit to the Foys in any future experimentation they hoped to carry out at Scole. He not only gave a description of the device but went on to draw a rough sketch to further show them what his idea entailed. He then said that they should think of a name for the device and after a few moments of quiet contemplation, Sir Arthur suggested that as an accolade to David's excellent work that it would be appropriate to call it the 'Thompson Box'... needless to say everyone agreed.

He referred his next statement to the whole group; he stated that one of his homes was located in Hindhead, Hampshire. He asked whether anyone present was aware of this fact and all agreed that they were not. He added that the medium also was certainly not aware of this fact. He then turned to me and asked that I should investigate this information fully...

I requested that he gave me a little more information. He said that the information provided should be sufficient but added that it was now a hotel and restaurant. I said I would find out what I could. The day following the séance I searched out the location of this residence. I found a house in Hindhead which Sir Arthur had built in 1894 called 'Undershaw'. He returned here with his family having moved to Egypt a year or so earlier. It is now a hotel and restaurant but today is located in Surrey, just inside the Surrey/Hampshire border. I am yet to check back to see whether in 1894 all or part of Hindhead was located in Hampshire, as indicated by Sir Arthur, my guess is that very likely it was!

Arthur Conan Doyle took his leave and young Timothy returned to bring the séance to an end. However, he wasn't yet finished. He said "Mr Fairbairn, reach into the cabinet and feel 'is arm."

This I did, I could feel the binds on David's wrist and as I moved my hand gently up his arm I could feel his cardigan sleeve with my finger tips. At a point just above David's elbow I suddenly reached the limit of the woollen texture of the cardigan and went slightly onto the smoother, softer texture of his cotton T-shirt. Timothy told me to stop there and go back onto the cardigan. I followed his instructions and was then asked to trace the cardigan down towards his lap. I was amazed to discover that the back of the cardigan was now located in front of David's torso along with the still tied and buttoned front, whilst his arms were still located inside the sleeves, in a position that I was familiar with. Timothy had replicated the partial dematerialisation of another physical medium's jacket which had been photographed by infrared photography and recorded in Harry Edward's book 'The Mediumship of Jack Webber' plate 7

This particular experiment became a bit of a trade mark in Webber's séances and was carried out on many occasions. A further example is shown in the accompanying photo which has never before been published. (see J.W. photo)

Timothy made a request for music once more and within seconds we all heard a bump at the opposite end of the room from the cabinet, indicating that the medium, still strapped in his chair, had been deposited there through one final act of spirit intercession. The coming out music was requested for a final time by Timothy, followed by a quick "bye, bye" and he was gone.

David was gradually brought back to consciousness the red light was put on, followed by the white light, once it had been relocated into its fixture in the ceiling. This exposed two further sources of intrigue for we could see the cardigan as I have done my best to describe it above and amazingly the gag was now back in David's mouth. David was released from his bonds and quickly recovered before exiting the séance room leaving behind many jaws still being dragged up off the floor by the many mind boggling feats that we had all been privileged to witness.

It will be a sad day when David departs these shores for sunnier climes on the opposite side of the world but we wish him well and look forward to the day when he returns for us to experience the next phase of his wonderful mediumship.

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