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## **APOLOGIES**TO MR N RILEY HEAGERTY

In the last June issue of The Buzzsheet there was an unfortunate mistake made by the author of the article 'The Transatlantic Séance Experiment' on page 16 in the first introductory paragraph.

It should read that Mr N Riley Heagerty was the author of 'The French Revelation' book, and not as per the article 'The French Connection'.

## **APOLOGIES**FROM DENZIL FAIRBAIRN

Dear Editor

You published an article of mine in the June 2006 issue of the Buzz Sheet. On page 24 reference was made to the Nun who was purported to have played a part in the haunting of Borley Rectory and was claimed to have been met by Montague Keen shortly after his passing to spirit. This detail was relayed by M.K. on his return to the earthplane to speak with his old friend G.L.P. during a David Thompson seance.

During the conversation with his friend M.K. named the Nun as Marianne, however, in my ignorance I incorrectly noted the name Foyster alongside the name of Marianne, albeit followed by a question mark and enclosed within brackets to indicate my possible reservations concerning the link with the Nun. It would seem however that this caused some consternation with readers of the Buzz Sheet having more knowledge on this subject than I could possibly hope to have.

The whole Borley Rectory scenario is shrouded in possible (some would say genuine) hauntings...possible fraud...and indeed more than a little intrigue! And of that which is written, goodness knows how much of it can truly be confirmed as fact. One thing that can be confirmed is that the Nun blamed for some of the hauntings at Borley Rectory was not Marianne Foyster. Mrs Foyster was indeed the wife of the Rev. Lionel Algernon Foyster and they both lived at Borley Rectory for a period approaching 5 years. She was eventually tracked down and interviewed at her home in Fargo, USA sometime during 1957/8 by an investigator called Robert Swanson proving beyond a shadow of a doubt that she could not have been the hauntee of Borley.

My apologies to all who may have been confused or mislead by my error and my thanks to Stewart Alexander for pointing it out to me and for providing me with the necessary information to put it right.

Sincerely Denzil Fairbairn

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We wish to acknowledge and show our respect to the mediums listed in our article 'Let us Not Forget' (see this issue) and many other physical mediums not mentioned, who throughout history, have suffered in their earthly living, while presenting their gift of physical mediumship to the public, scientists, so called sceptics and would be researchers.

## RESPECT AND REMEMBER

Their wish was to show the world at large, including the unconvincible, proof of survival of spirit after physical death through physical mediumship. In fulfilling their responsibility to Spirit and mankind, you will read how they have been used and abused by so called sympathetic researchers. The summary of these nine short biographies of renowned physical mediums does not bode well for the future of testing physical mediums.

The Fellowship's position on the possibility of testing physical mediums is quite straightforward and direct; we will do what Spirit instructs us to do, not with blind acceptance, but in consultation with Spirit and with their quidance.

For those wishing for more immediate spirit manifestation and phenomena in artificial light – white, red or any other type of light including laser or infra red , or preferably as spirit appears to be directing several of our mediums with some success only in spirit manifested light – let it be

known we understand peoples desire to prove life after death in the séance room the Fellowship want exactly what you want, but it will be spirit led and we are prepared to wait. Whether it be in 2006 or some time in the future, we must allow our mediums to develop in safe conditions and be patient.

I am sure none of us would want to repeat some of the mistakes made in the past, and from all the evidence that has been witnessed by the many scientists and would be researchers, where has it got us?

Perhaps the time is not right for this to happen maybe the world is not ready at present, but be assured when the time is right for Spirit and given the right mediums, The Zerdin Fellowship will be there, right behind them by helping to create the right safe conditions for such a momentous event. It is our mission to manifest the miraculous in a mundane world.



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It is the first time that I've seen my wife in a mustache. Trimmed and pencil-thin, with faint sideburns accentuating the look, it appears at first as though she was channelling an Errol Flynn movie.

## TRANSFIGURATION WITH MENTAL AND PHYSICAL MEDIUM LYNNE DELANEY, MASSACHUSETTS USA 2006 TURNING UP THE WATTAGE ON TRANSFIGURATION

By Josh Delaney

I have to squint to tune in to this image that flickers like a distant television signal. A holographic man takes form, a faint transparency overlaying Lynne's face and borrowing so heavily from her features that she seems to be in contact with a long-lost brother.

Oscar Schmidt turns out to be Lynne's great-great-grandfather. He is also her Guide through a series of transfiguration sessions that have quickly moved from something like rabbit-ear reception to satellite TV clarity. Over the course of six months, what began as an experiment to see if Lynne was capable of transfiguration evolved from brief glimpses in near darkness into sittings in lamp light with individual images lingering sometimes for an hour or more.

Lynne is a mental and physical medium and the organizer of a spiritual development circle located in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, USA.

Her transfiguration is done with little or no ectoplasm. Her Guides say that they "manipulate Lynne's energy in the auric field." The first several transfiguration circle meetings are done with red light illuminating Lynne's face and upper body.

Lynne explains the transfiguration process from her point of view: "Before I sat for transfiguration the first time, I knew that I just had to trust my Guides. As a response to my fears of trust, one of my Guides dinged on my water glass three times in front of me when I was upstairs on the computer. I also knew that this was an indicator to get my self ready before my sitting. And so I did. As I sat there in the winged back chair propped up with pillows, I could feel the energy starting to move around my head and upper chest like a wafting thick breeze. There was great pressure pushing on and around my head. Then, I felt prickles on my face, while my eyes felt like they had sand in them. For a moment, I thought I was going to hyperventilate because my heart was beating so fast, as the energy was so strong. I thought 'this is amazing, I am a little nervous, but I trust you my Guides to take care of me.' Just then my Guides brought me to a pond where I sat for a while watching lotus flowers float on the surface. But, my curiosity got the best of me and I pulled back to my sensations. My Guides were able to work around my curious mind, but when the energy became too intense, they would pull me away again to a serene place. From time to time, I could see shadows and lights moving in front of my closed eyes, and then I felt someone touching my right temple, almost tickling me, indicating that the time was up. As I came back to the room, I was pleased to hear that everyone saw other people's faces over my face for the past two hours. All I could think about when it was over was 'when can I do this again?'"

At the second transfiguration, Oscar's face holds steady for over an hour. The faces of other Guides also appear – a woman with red hair, a gentleman with curly black hair and a beard, an Asian woman with braids. The new faces flick past like a slide



show, gradually becoming more pronounced, less translucent. Several of them completely obscure Lynne's face with their

There are also sparkles – little globes of white and blue light around Lynne's head – and an occasional banging on the wall behind her.

The third sitting introduces additional characters to the cast and more interaction from the Guides. We in the audience gape and marvel at the faces materializing before us, comparing notes to verify that we were all seeing the same faces at the same time.

Figuring out the identity of these people had been done after the fact when talking with our Guides. This time, I begin channelling messages from the entities that Lynne is transfiguring.

After Oscar's usual introductory appearance, a Mediterranean looking man with a fez shifts his eyes in my direction several times. Then, I hear the voice of my own Guides asking me to deliver his message. His name is Omar and he identifies himself as a Guide of one of our circle members. After I make the connection with him and begin channelling his message he gives me a satisfied nod and then turns his smiling face to the man in circle with whom he works.

In the next few meetings, Lynne is able to transfigure more colour. Red and brown hair stand out more vividly (Lynne's hair is blonde), her shirt changes from white to blue to brown, occasionally the spirit faces blink at us with blue eyes. Some faces appear with feathered head dresses or war paint, others show button-up vests with lacy collars or a tri-cone hat. It has only been a few months, but now the transfigured eyes clearly gaze around to find those in the audience to whom they wish to deliver a message and many are mouthing words that we cannot yet distinguish.

The Guides are gesturing with Lynne's arms, too, pantomiming to help us in the audience figure out what they want to say.

The energy is becoming more powerful. At times there is a discernable shimmer of it around Lynne, extending several meters past her body in all directions. This energy appears in different colours – red, blue, green – and when it is present, sometimes Lynne's own image shifts dramatically. Several times when we were watching her, she seemed to suddenly waver back and forth. Or, her image would jump to a place several feet diagonally upwards to her left, then down to a position to the right, and then back to the sitting position where she started – all of this in a mere second of time, a kin to a few out of place slides on a movie reel making the film bounce around for an instant.

The transfigured faces have grown stronger, too, so there is less need for squinting, only the occasional softening of the focus of our eyes.

Our latest discoveries are basically "accidental" or "unscheduled" transfigurations. One day per week, Lynne and I sit without the group so that she can practice verbally channelling her Guides. The past two times we have sat like

this, Lynne has unintentionally begun transfiguring. To put it another way, the Guides have decided to get a little extra practice in. Both times, Lynne had no idea that she had been transfiguring until I told her after the session.

As the sole audience member, I am amazed to see how powerful the images are even though we do not have the group present to contribute its energy. Images start to appear after a mere three minutes whereas it has taken up to twenty minutes in circle. I barely have to squint at all to see them. The energy gets so strong that I have to blink to make the images go away. Otherwise, they pull my eyes into a sort of trance.

More astonishing to me is the fact that the room is lit by a 40 watt bulb and several candles and yet the images are as clear, with colour, as any Lynne has transfigured before. It dispels our belief that this phenomenon can only be seen in red light.

This, of course, makes us wonder if the Guides might channel any images in brighter light, perhaps even broad daylight some day in the future.

You never know when you may need a good pencil-thin mustache disguise...

A few months have passed since the last public demonstration of transfiguration at Newton Abbot Church, so Spirit suggested the time could be right for another event. So Sheila and Phil Scott arranged for an experimental séance in May.

## **TRANSFIGURATION**

## AT NEWTON ABBOT RE-VISITED MAY 2006

By Beverley Hamilton

What a great evening! We were all treated to some wonderful transfiguration – there is no mistaking the facial changes with these two mediums, they do not move their faces at all, it is all ectoplasmic moulding. Many of the sitters recognised their loved ones with Spirit confirming they were correct with a nod or a blown kiss.

Spirit then spoke through Sheila asking for some music to be played to lift the energies, as many spirit children were waiting to join us. We were asked to close our eyes and say if we felt anything. Many of the sitters could take those same names as their children who had passed to Spirit, some of us felt Spirit children around our legs and some felt children climb onto their laps. (Not many sitters were left dry eyed)

If all the above was not enough Spirit said when the lights were extinguished, they were going to try to show us ectoplasmic energy, so lights down and sure enough glow in the dark mediums!

It is obvious Spirit are busy at Newton Abbot and wouldn't you love to sit in their home circle?

So with much love to Spirit and all at Newton Abbot, thank you for working so well together to demonstrate proof of survival in such a loving way.

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## PHYSICAL PHENOMENA OCCURS IN GLASGOW AND KILMARNOCK

By Tom Anderson

#### **EVERY SUNDAY EVENING AT 7.30PM THE PHYSICAL CIRCLE BEGINS**

The physical circle of sitters consists of five dedicated people who are closely bonded. This has developed through sitting in total darkness and in complete love and harmony. The four longest sitters are two couples, Tom and Linda, and Andy and Sylvia who have known each other for about 18 months, but feel it's much longer as they all seemed to just hit it off from the very first minute they met.

Tom and Linda realised that two people who were attending their development group would be ideal for the circle and when asked, Andy and Sylvia joined eagerly. It was as though Spirit had prearranged this, it felt so natural from the word go. Andy and Sylvia were now part of the group. They were both amazed and felt as privileged and humbled to be part of the energy as Tom and Linda did.

They have had some really wonderful experiences from Spirit, but have also had a few changes and disappointments from other sitters along the way. However, for the fifth position they found someone who should have been there all along.

Tom and Linda have known Jean for a long time and have also been friends for this time, however, Jean was already sitting in a physical circle and had been for the past three years. The conversation came about one day when Tom and Linda were talking about the phenomena they were receiving in front of Jean and she said that in all the time she had sat in her physical circle she hadn't had any real phenomena happening, so Jean was invited to visit their physical circle to see if she could feel the difference. Lo and behold she did and said that she had never felt energy with so much love like that before in any other circle she had sat in. She was invited again as a visitor, but with the view of asking her to be a permanent sitter if everyone agreed and so she became the fifth member of the group.

The group have developed and built such a good rapport with each other that the harmony in the circle is obvious. From the beginning they have always experienced a wonderful feeling and have filled the room with love and harmony with those in Spirit multiplying this.

Once the circle had settled and the conditions were right, they occasionally invited people into the circle as visitors. Their comments have been fantastic and they have been in awe of what has occurred whilst they were visiting the circle.

They were not only bowled over by the fabulous feeling in the room, but also witnessed phenomena. They invited a lady called Peggy Spence whom they are extremely fond of and admire – Peggy is 86 years young and has worked with Spirit for over 40 years – who said that she will never forget the wonderful phenomena that she witnessed in the Glasgow physical circle on Sunday 7th May 2006 and that she was privileged and felt very humbled to be a part of this circle. "The feeling of love was awesome and the speed that the trumpet flew round the room was amazing it was like a firework display. I have sat in many a circle, but never in my wildest dreams thought that I would witness anything like this. Thank you all for this experience, I shall always remember this day, God bless."

#### THE CIRCLE HAS BECOME STRONGER AND STRONGER.

In the beginning the circle consisted of different sitters, however, Tom and Linda felt that there was a view of scepticism from one of the sitters. He seemed to analyse and criticise everything Spirit brought to them and the next week the circle seemed to be weaker with very little occurring. Although we need to look closely at phenomena and reasons for it, they were worried that some

comments made were totally disrespectful to those in Spirit who had worked so hard. Tom and Linda knew that the attitude of each sitter was imperative and if this was not appropriate then phenomena had little or no chance of happening. So they both decided to start afresh and to them this was a great learning experience. Another member of that circle left with Linda and Tom, but she quit shortly afterwards partly due to peer pressure from her Spiritualist church and partly due to her own personal attitude.

Since then the group have faithfully attended the circle and built on that energy every week, showing dedication and always working from the heart. The feeling in the room grew more and more intense with love and harmony.

The important thing is that the group does not sit just for one person; they all sit for each other and allow spirit to decide who is working each week and in what way.

#### AND IT WORKS...

Guess what? You got it! They receive wonderful phenomena.

It began with shadows moving slowly between the sitters, and then small particles of light on the ceiling, with particles of energy around the room. They saw a green mist and heard clicking sounds and also heard sounds like the ticking of a clock when there was no clock in the room. Tom and Linda are used for trance although Sylvia has dipped her toe in it at times. Guidance and instruction was received through Tom and it was through this trance that Gordon Higginson presented himself, giving fantastic evidence. He is a lovely man and works very closely within the circle. The trance was recorded with Spirits permission and sent to different people who knew Gordon; all involved stated that in their opinion it seemed to be Gordon's voice and the guidelines and instruction of those in Spirit were followed closely.

They then witnessed the table (which sits in the middle of the circle) rocking back and forwards, and there were objects moving in all different areas of the room as well as different sounds.

The group have now gone on to witness the table and trumpet levitating and as they attached luminous tape around the items, including the corners of the tables, they could easily see articles moving in the dark.

Recently they all witnessed what can only be described as a laser display with these objects moving at great speeds around the room. The group was ecstatic about what was going to happen next. Each week they are just as excited about the feeling of love and harmony they experience as they are with the phenomena they receive.

They are delighted to work with spirit so closely and are aware that their circle seems to have much in common with early experiences of the sitters of the Scole experiment group. They are in touch with Sandra and Robin Foy of the Scole experiment and are very grateful for the encouragement and advice received from them. Tom and Linda are going from strength to strength and always in conditions of love and harmony, working from the heart.

Their organization is called Freedom of Spirit, and they can be contacted at [www.freedomofspirit.org.uk] they have the aim of opening the doors of spirituality to anyone who wants to learn, relax, develop and grow, using those four words as their logo.

Freedom of Spirit offers development groups in Glasgow, Kilmarnock and Ayr, teaching mediumship (all aspects) meditation and healing and providing all day workshops on many subject such as auras and chakras, angels, mediumship and linking with spirit, meditation and healing.

Also offered by freedom of spirit is a very unique and special course called an introduction to physical phenomena which teaches people the dos and don'ts of how to sit in a physical circle, how to set up a room for a physical circle, how to create good conditions, also the guidelines and discussion about ectoplasm, apports, levitation etc. This is to ensure that everyone who attends their course and may join a physical circle has had, at least, a basic knowledge of how to sit, what to expect and what is expected of them. They also give people the experience of cabinet work and trance for those who are interested in it. Tom and Linda feel that this type of course is needed, and the feedback from students is wonderful.

"We must say that Dennis and Rosalind from the Zerdin Fellowship have been a great support to us and we really do value and appreciate this, it's also fantastic being able to voice your opinion on physical phenomena".

People who sit in physical circles and sit with love and harmony, are more likely to be successful in making phenomena a real possibility.

Tom and Linda continue working with Spirit and know that they are accountable only to themselves and Spirit. All in all it is a wonderful experience and one they hope goes on and on allowing them to share it with others.

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Hello again. As you'll realise, we as a Circle are quite excited by the development within it of late.

## UPDATE ON THE CIRCLE OF THE SPHERES ENGLAND SEPTEMBER 2005

By Maggie Carrington.

I will introduce our members to you to by first names only. There is Cliff our Circle Leader, who is a terrific power pack, or the battery for myself, as he likes to remind me! He is my husband. Then there is Ro, a vitally important link in the work we undertake, and there is Jackie, who wrote an Article for you in issue 2, she is our second in command! Then there is Manda, who Spirit insist, must sit always as close up to the Cabinet as possible, they quickly damp her down! Then there is Linda, our note keeper, and our photographer extraordinaire! Then there is Cynthia, the eldest, and more than likely wisest of us all, especially in her knowledge of Spiritualism, then finally there is myself, stuck out of the way in the Cabinet, or fridge as I prefer to call it. Seven in all, I have always felt the number to be very special too.

At the moment, we are all on our Summer Hols! We reconvene towards the end of this month, so that everyone can take his or her varied holidays. As for myself, it has been busman's holiday, as increasingly, I work further afield, but I am very happy about that anyway.

There have been one or two changes within the workings of the Circle of late, for instance, Cliff no longer is taken out, he is fully aware of everything that is happening throughout the course of the evening. He seems to be very happy about this.

From time to time different members are quietened and stilled for the duration.

It seems to vary, however I as always, am mostly wideawake, but often "stilled" too. I try to be completely passive and I know when Spirit speaks, mostly through me, I am rarely "asleep", but nonetheless, it all seems to "gel" somehow. All I know is it works!!

Mordacai takes a more active part in the work with instructions, and we are told it is Nostramus who we hear walking around the Circle. We do not experience so many 'bangs' of late or 'psuedopods' reverberating around the room! People are being touched and stroked a lot more too. There is a lot of activity still with the trumpets, and various instruments being played, sometimes together, sometimes separately. Lights are seen whizzing around all over the place now. Quite bright ones too I am informed. These lights are often in intense colours.

On the 12th of May of this year, we received an Apport of a quite large piece of material. It looks to be woven, and is of matted felt. It appeared after a discussion in the room on clothing of many years ago, how it would be made etc. I think Spirit were trying to show us in kind!

On the 9th June, Cliff had cut his little finger whilst slicing in the kitchen. This would not stop bleeding, and was very sore. He covered it, thought no more of it, until after the Séance, when the cut had completely disappeared, along with the plaster!

On 30th June, we received another Apport. This time of a very old collar stud, the sort my Grandad used to wear, it appeared on the Board in the centre of the Circle, and was discovered when we raised the lights. Spirit has a habit, if Jackie doesn't sit, of tilting her chair up against the wall, after skating it along the floor for a while! This happens quite often. Also on this date we were treated to the sound of our three Circle Indians, Wolfman, Mountain Bear, and Red Cloud, (not that one!) dancing in different parts of the room. Red Cloud over to the left of the Cabinet in the room, Wolfman in the Cabinet, (my chair was being 'rocked' to the rhythm too,) and Mountain Bear somewhere over towards the wall opposite the Cabinet. Three distinctly different rhythms, in different areas of the Séance Room.

We have an 'etch a sketch' sort of writing tool there too, and on the 7th July, the day London was bombed, although the energies were not so good that evening, Spirit drew what looks like an 'M' on the sketching board. We were also asked to make a plaque to be used by Spirit.

On 14th July, the Indians danced once more for us, as did Mordacai. He danced whilst we were singing the old 'London' songs. We all heard the sound of heavy breathing coming from one of the trumpets. Spirit this day decided that it was better to move the whole board, with everything on it, rather than individual things. They duly did so. My friend Jack was present at this session. They moved it over to him! Ro's foot was traced around with the trumpet also. Ro and Jackie were touched on their knees.

The final one, before the summer break, was on July 21st Ro was not present because her dog Rusty had returned to Spirit, I had placed a book for her to read on top of her cushions on her chair. We all heard the pages being rifled through very thoroughly, and when the lights went up, the book had been placed face down, under her cushions Once again, our Indian friends treated us to a dance, individually in different areas of the room. One was emanating from the trumpet. As we sang 'drunken sailor' stamping was heard in time to the music. Several people were touched. We were also advised on our return, to have a chiffon scarf ready to drape over one of the lights, and we would be informed from time to time to switch on the light in due course. Exciting eh?

I have now, my friends, bought you up to date, apart from one final thing that has excited me very much. Linda, throughout our Séances, at the end of each one has shot off some pictures, all over the room, in complete darkness, without a flash. We have obtained several pictures of 'Light' in the Séance room, shining out from the Cabinet, which is, of course, in total darkness, and there is light in other parts of the room too. It is red light. In one of the pictures, there is a picture of quite a large lady, and when you look closely, none of us recognised her. Now that is fantastic! I will sign off now, but I will keep you up to date of future events.

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A further selection of books compiled by Lew Sutton. Issue 3

#### **NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCES**

It is well worthwhile spiritualists acquainting making themselves with the serious work that has been performed in studying NDEs by leading researchers. Some of the accounts give excellent evidence in support of an afterlife as understood by spiritualists. Here are just two very readable books by leading academics.

**Lessons from the Light.** Prof. Kenneth Ring & Evelyn Elsaesser Valarino.1998 Perseus Books. An excellent book on NDEs containing some uplifting and touching accounts that will resonate with spiritualists. The transformational aspect of the experience is emphasised.

Truth in the Light. Dr Peter Fenwick and Elizabeth Fenwick. 1995 BCA London. Dr Fenwick is a Fellow of The Royal College of Psychiatrists and has investigated 300 Fascinating accounts of NDEs. This is a sympathetic review of the cases by a leading international medic with a deep understanding of spiritual aspects of the human psyche.

#### **SEANCE ROOM PHENOMENA**

French Revelation, The. N. Riley Heagerty. 1995 Morris Publishing USA. A comprehensive study of Emily S. French and her outstanding independent direct voice mediumship. Riley Heagerty has done a grand job in rescuing from obscurity much hitherto unknown information about this important physical medium.

#### Reality of Psychic Phenomena Raps, Levitations etc, The. W.J. Crawford. 1916,

John M. Watkins London. This book precedes Crawford's 'Psychic Structures at the Goligher Circle' (Buzz Sheet Issue 8) by 5 years. It is available as a free download at www.snu.org.uk but will be expensive to print out the 117 pages – unless you can access a laser printer. Dr Crawford carried out meticulous experiments to further our knowledge of ectoplasm and its manipulation by the Spirit World.

#### SPIRITUALISM AND CHRISTIANITY

Holy Blood and the Holy Grail, The. Baigent, Leigh and Lincoln. 2nd edition 1996, Arrow books (in paperback). Although not directly related to Spiritualism this book adds extra facts to challenge those who use the Bible to condemn Spiritualism. Much of the book relates to Christian gnostic traditions, from which Christian Spiritualism has its roots. Many facts are presented that seriously challenge the New Testament's depiction of Jesus' life, death and teachings. Get the 2nd edition if you can as the 1st edition brought forth supporting evidence from various academic readers.

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## STANISLAVA P AMAZING POLISH PHYSICAL MEDIUM At the age of 18 she saw the spirit of a friend, Sophie M., who died at the exact time. Soon after, spontaneous telekinetic phenomena developed. Having joined a spiritualistic circle, Sophie

M. materialised and became the medium's permanent attendant, occasionally sharing control with "Adalbert" and a young Polish boy.



In 1911 P. Lebiedzinski, a Polish engineer, began a series of experimental séances which lasted intermittently until 1916. His report, published in the Revue Metapsychique (1921, No. 4) was favourable. The experiments of Baron Schrenck Notzing began in 1913. After just a few months the mediumship lapsed and did not return until 1915. During the second series of experiments in Munich between June and August 1918, they often used a black tricot garment for the whole body, which had only one access point at the back. A veil securely sewn to the neck of this garment covered the whole head, this was closed off with ribbons at the neck. Along the slit on the back of this garment, there was a large number of black rings through which a string was threaded through to be knotted and a lead seal to be attached. Please also take into account that that the hands were contained in white or black sacks of veiling sewn onto the bottom of the sleeves, so it would be impossible to smuggle anything onto the body. After all these experiments of séance observations Baron Schrenck Notzing became satisfied that Mme. Stanislava P produces ectoplasmic flow. He produced many striking photographs of the experiments. Stanislava P as a result of Baron Schrenck Notzing's findings, has been acknowledged as a powerful medium.

#### An experiment with Polish physical medium Stanislava P 23rd June 1913. Attended by Herr von Kaiser, Herr Sch., Princess R., and Prof. Schrenck-Notzing.

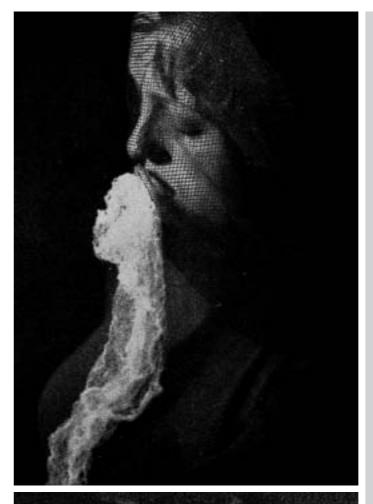
To avoid concealment of objects a specially-made costume was worn and put on in the presence of a Mrs Schott and was examined by Dr. E. and Prof. Schrenck-Notzing. Only her naked body was under the costume. She was not allowed to wear shoes. An examination of the hair, done up in a braid, and of the ears, mouth, etc, was also carried out.

In the photograph (see front page) Stanislava is wearing a whole tricot, with wide full bags for her hands, and a veil covering over her head. The fastening of the head veil and the tricot were lead-sealed.

Before and after each experiment an examination of the medium and cabinet was always undertaken. This again further eliminated the possibility of fraud. In the experiment shown in the photograph below the veils and lead seals were left intact after the experiment and during the process of materialisation.

OBSERVATION of photograph a piece of the black veil seems to be drawn back into the mouth by Stanislava, so that the process of the penetration of the veil is not clearly shown. For this reason the experiment was repeated successfully again on 1st July 1913 under the same conditions, with the head veil drawn more tightly, and the suggestion was made not to draw it into the mouth. However the experiment, in any case, is evidential, since the medium had no materials at her disposal with which she could have brought about such a result, outside her dress.

Source survivaleafterdeath.org





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## IN MEMORY OF THESE MEDIUMS: WHO GAVE EVERYTHING TO PROVE LIFE AFTER PHYSICAL DEATH



Name: Helen Duncan

1897 DoB: 1956 DoD:

Summary: During his research of Helen Duncan's physical mediumship in 1931, Harry Price required her to undertake rectal and vaginal examination both before and after each séance. Even when independent medical examinations established that no material was hidden by the Medium, Price continued his accusation of fraud. X-rays disproved his theory of a second stomach and regurgitation.

Barbanell (1959) relates an interesting account; while at a Duncan séance he suggested every sitter swallow a methylene blue tablet, all materialisations appeared their usual white! Armour (2000) notes that at a Portsmouth séance in 1941 the news of the sinking of HMS Barnham was made public, this point is significant as it led to her persecution starting. It was at another Portsmouth séance in 1944 that police seized the Medium during the trance state. Portsmouth Magistrates originally brought charges under s.4 Vagrancy Act 1824, the Director of Public Prosecution sent Helen for trial at the Old Bailey, charged under the Witchcraft Act 1735.

Barbanell (1945) notes that the move from the 1824 Act to the Witchcraft Act took Helen from being accused as a roque and vagabond to a criminal. Helen was sentenced to nine months imprisonment. Armour echoes the words of Churchill and the national feeling that the 1944 prosecution was, "tomfoolery", and either because of religious concerns or national security she was being monitored closely. Due to increasing financial pressures and the spiritual significance of her work Helen Duncan took up public demonstrations once more. While giving a public séance at a friend's house in Nottingham, police again brought the gathering to a sharp halt. Local police had managed to gain tickets for the séance under the guise as a newly married couple with their friends. For the final time Helen Duncan was grabbed out of the trance state and the lights brought up. A doctor was called that night to examine her, again it was established that she had not concealed anything, the doctor expressed concern as her condition was such that she could die at anytime. Brealey (1985) describes Helen Duncan as a martyr for Spiritualism. 36 days after police disturbed her séance in Nottingham Helen dies. Helen Duncan died at home in 1956.



Name: Alexander Frederick (AKA. Alec) Harris

DoB: 1974 DoD:

Summary: Harris (1980) records physical mediumship of her husband, Alec Harris. Louie Harris relates an account when the local press wanted to expose Alec's mediumship as fraud. Prior to this incident Louie had been warned by one of the circle guides that she must ensure the sincerity of all the sitters invited to join their physical circle. Louie was advised that the spirit team could only protect Alec "three parts of the Way"; the remaining third was Louie's responsibility.

Against Louie's better judgement the next séance was not cancelled as a friend of the Harris' had arranged for friends of hers to visit. One of these friends was a secretary of a local spiritualist church who at the last moment was unable to make it and asked if friends of his could take his place, this was agreed. The two new sitters were in fact journalists planted into the séance.

Harris (1980) notes that at the beginning of the séance something was not right, the usual spirit guides appeared hesitant, this confirmed Louie's instinct. As Rohan went to greet the guests (journalists) one sprang forward to grab the guide, the other opened the curtains to expose a battery of cameras that were waiting to take photos. Alec required medical attention for many months after; also Rohan had suffered as a result of protecting his medium and needed time to recuperate. The photographers did not capture any photos of the event. Louie noticed that following the exposure Alec's health had been badly affected; Alec's confidence in sitters was also badly shaken and he could not relax fully. Alec dies in 1974 following a decline in his health as a result of a stroke and the exposure.



Name: Stanislava P. DoB: 1890

DoD:

Summary: Worked with Baron von Schrenk Notzing (SN) between Sept. 1912 and Feb. 1913. SN notes that Polish medium, Stanislava P. only consented to undertake the rigid procedures of SN investigations in order to oblige her benefactor and in order to earn her keep. He also notes that she would not allow male investigators to undertake a physical investigation, but would allow females to do so. A certificate of virginity was issued by a female physician.

Name: Mrs Cecil Cook DoB: DoD:

Summary: Mrs Cook relates one account during a public séance when her spirit guides, who usually had no problem communicating, had difficulty holding a conversation. Snowdrop, one of the guides addressed a sitter accusing him of concealing something in his pocket. The sitter had a bottle of whiskey hidden and Snowdrop would not allow the séance to continue until the gentleman left.

Another account is given when Snowdrop challenged a gentleman at another séance, as he had a torch on his person, he also had two accomplices with him, all arriving independently and sitting apart. Snowdrop was able to identify the three gentleman and ask them to leave before the séance could continue safely. Mrs Cook also tells of two occasions when she was arrested for practising as a medium, in both cases she was acquitted



Name: **Eva C.** 1890 DoB:

DoD:

Summary: Schrenk Notzing considered it his duty to "interfere without compunction in suspecting fraud". A young medium that was the cared for by friends of her family, M. and Mme Bisson, Eva began sitting with SN in May 1909 ending in July 1913. Eva would be required to sit for experimental sittings about twice weekly although there were periods when sittings did not take place. As phenomena developed she would sit in the cabinet naked in order to allow investigators to observe fully the development of phenomena. Internal examinations would also take place during phenomena and at the end of a séance. Examinations would be undertaken by SN and others while still in an entranced state.

Following an experimental sitting Eva would be escorted to bed while in an entranced condition, phenomena still occurring sporadically through the night. Mme. Bisson would sit to observe this taking place. SN accepted the phenomena as genuine, but did not rely upon Spiritualistic means to explain it. Sittings would only be cancelled if Eva was too unwell as a result of her menstrual cycle. If well enough she would continue to sit during these weeks, with quite natural discomfort. SN organised the séance room with a bank of lights and cameras, a series of photos would be taken, causing great pain and haemorrhaging to the young medium, this was a regular occurrence. During January 1912 SN records that sittings for the 2nd 3rd & 4th were regarded as negative; he notes that "...my disappointment was not lost on Eva." This is the life experience of a teenage woman, who appears socially and financially dependent (possibly even vulnerable) upon her benefactor Mme. Bisson, who would continue the sitting even when SN was not available.



Name: Mina

(AKA. Margery)

1888 DoB: 1941 DoD:

Summary: An American physical medium who in order to protect her identity was known publicly by the pseudonym "Margery", the pseudonym was given by Malcolm Bird. Like many physical mediums, she had received a mixed press, with significant repercussions to her physical and mental health. Bird records a series of 133 sittings with her between 1923-1924. Tabori (1968) acknowledges that she was a complete psychic, able to demonstrate a wide rang of characteristics.

The American Scientific in 1924 formed a committee to investigate the Margery mediumship; for a number of reasons regarding the lack of control of lighting, contact with ectoplasmic limbs etc they did not favour the mediumship. By Dec 1924 Houdini publicly accused her of fraud. Eric Dingwall studied her mediumship between January/February 1925 again because of conditions laid down by Dr Crandon he, "could not affirm belief" in the phenomena. Dingwall published a mixed report six months later in 1926, in the same year, on behalf of the SPR Dingwall had begun to experiment with Walter trying to capture thumb prints in dental wax, this was later demonstrated before the SPR in 1929. In 1931 E.E. Dudley, Research Officer with the ASPR wanted to confirm that the thumb moulds so far obtained could not be those of previous sitters that had sat with the Crandon's. It was discovered that the moulds could be traced by to the Crandon's dentist. Independent experts verified the findings and the report published in 1932.

During the early part of 1932 the successful experiments first began to link two different types of wooden rings together, a pair was exhibited by the ASPR in 1934, X-Ray showed no flaw in either ring. By the late 1930's Mina Crandon's reputation as a medium was permanently tarnished. All of the adverse publicity must be put into context, at the end of 1923 Dr and Mrs Crandon visited Europe, sitting with the SPR and researchers such as Geley and Richet, excellent results were recorded. The voice cut-out machine proved that direct voice did occur through her mediumship. As Dr Crandon himself writes, "certain desired tests of a purely laboratory quality are difficult if not impossible to obtain... we do not know the precise conditions under which the genetic impulse giving rise to the visible manifestation shows itself". In 1994 Walter Crandon explained that Dr Crandon was desperate to gain credibility for the Margery mediumship and did in fact resort to fraud, the negative attitude of the investigators must also bear responsibility.

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#### IN MEMORY OF THESE MEDIUMS continued...



Name: **John Boaden** (AKA. Jack) Webber

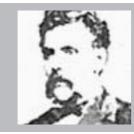
1907 DoB: 1940 DoD:

Summary: Harry Edwards records the mediumship of Welsh physical medium, Jack Webber a year prior to his sudden passing. Jack would sit around 200 times a year for both public demonstrations and his home circle. Colin Fry tells a story about Jack's post mortem, the coroner could not understand why lack's skeleton showed signs of ageing beyond his chronological age, taking Edward's estimate into consideration, maybe the physical demand upon the medium's physical frame could not be sustained?

It is noted that occasionally accidents do happen. Harry Edwards mentions one such incident when in the home circle, a sitter's arm had interfered with a trumpet while still connected to the medium via a psychic rod, causing him to bleed.

While organising electric cables in order to take infra-red photographs, an electrical lead became loose, this came into contact with a trumpet, causing injury to the medium. Another incident in 1940 when the positive wire of an electrical pendant wire came into contact with the energy of the mediumship, which led to a sudden flash of white light from the levitated trumpet.

At this point the Guide asked for light. Mr Wright did as instructed and received a "terrific blow" in the solar plexus. The gent was unconscious and not breathing for the next ten minutes, when he recovered from this shock it was noticed that he sustained a psychic burn. Apparently this is the first recorded incident where the power has been earthed back to another circle member other than the Medium.



Name: **Dr Henry Slade** 

DoB: **1835** DoD: **1905** 

Summary: Fodor (1966) reports that American medium Henry Slade was the best known slate writing medium, over whose mediumship supporters and critics were bitterly divided. Slade was warmly welcomed in the UK in 1876 giving many London sittings, demonstrating slate writing, partial materialisation and kinetic phenomena. Lord Raleigh and Alfred Russell Wallace considered his mediumship genuine; Podmore was convinced of Spiritualism because of Slade's mediumship, although this point is ignored in his later works. In September 1876 Prof. Lankester was determined to expose Slade as a fraud. During a séance Lankester snatched a pair of slates from Slade before the message was supposed to be written, it was found that a message was indeed contained on the slate; Lankester brought legal proceedings against the Medium.

Slade was charged under the Vagrancy Act 1824 and sentenced to 3 months hard labour. He appealed and the sentence was quashed on a technicality, Slade left the UK just before Lankester could bring a private action.

While travelling through Europe Slade offered to sit privately for Lankester in order to prove his mediumship, Lankester never replied. While in St. Petersburg Schiaparlli notes that Aksakoff detected fraud. During 1877 Slade sat with Zollner et al with great success in daylight, demonstrating under strict test conditions, slate writing, knots being tied on a piece of endless string and matter through matter. Following this success he sat with Flammarion but with little success. While visiting Philadelphia in 1885 Slade sat with the Seybert Commission, where he was caught in glaring

C.C. Massey points out in the Times in 1876 that the best tests with Slade were those above the table. Henry Slade died in poverty in a Michigan Sanatorium in 1905. Even Podmore (1910) acknowledges that fraud can be an inappropriate term to explain occurrences we cannot explain. As Carrington records, mediums such as Palladino would only resort to fraud when exhausted by endless experiments, yet incidents of fraud do not discount genuine phenomena displayed through mediumship.

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THE BEGINNING.

It all started last year (2002) when a psychic by the name of

Phenomena Investigations. She told me a little bit about herself

apports, and the appearance of spirit manifest in front of sitters.

"Would I like to come along and see this for myself" she asked!!

mediumship séance at her home in which independent voice,

Monique Elton who lives in North London visited one of the

many London lectures that I organise on behalf of Strange

and mentioned the fact that she holds a weekly physical

Well to say that I've been looking for this all my life is an

things, I have not been overly impressed as to where the

from time to time when I am in an environment in which

looking at them in the wrong way. ! Maybe it was only

understatement. I have been researching ghosts, poltergeists

20 years now and although I have seen some quite startling

especially from a researcher, but I do question my own mind

What if my perception of these events was wrong and I was

psychological things that I have experienced in the past rather

than spiritual! As a researcher I certainly question everything.

was just too much of an opportunity not to take. I had to go.

I had to find out for myself whether independent voice and

physical mediumship really happens or it's just all wishy-washy

even make a name for themselves. I say all this to get through

to you the reader of this article that it is very important that we

all question things. Never accept anything on face value alone.

Anyway the day finally arrived (February 18th 2003) and I duly

headed off on a cold miserable February night to North London.

Monique met me at the door of her lovely house and ushered

me in. My anticipation was rising and I knew that many of my

colleagues would love to have been with me this night. But as

it was, it was agreed that only one 'new' person would be

tea, Monique took me upstairs firstly to inspect an array of

apports (objects that come from somewhere else and

had 'teleported' into the séance room when they were

accepted into this group of 5 people. After a welcome cup of

materialise into a séance room). She opened up a small glass

cabinet in which she took out various objects from coins to an

old scout button, to a Military officer's coloured braid, which I

inspected with awe. She explained that each of these objects

conducting their physical mediumship. Apparently spirit had told

her that none of these small objects had been stolen, indeed, it

was explained to her that they had been 'lost' and that spirit

had claimed them and brought them forward into her house!

Facts are what's required not supposition and probabilities!

MY TRIP INTO THE TWILIGHT ZONE!

claptrap of people trying to impress one another and perhaps

So to have someone more or less give me everything on a plate

UFOs and various other forms of 'strange phenomena' for over

validity of such things lie!! That may sound a strange statement

strange things occur. Did they really happen? Did I really see it?

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#### suburbs of Chingford North London will live with me for the rest of my life. Monique had labelled and dated these objects with a small sticker placed on the back of each object stating when they had

appeared. Fascinating stuff.

many patios up and down the land)

AN EVENING WITH THE 'OTHER SIDE'!
MY ATTENDANCE AT AN INDEPENDENT
VOICE PHYSICAL MEDIUMSHIP SÉANCE.

By Malcolm Robinson

Well I'll tell you one thing, what I saw that night, was either the most fantastic conjuring tricks that I've ever seen, on a par with anything that David Copperfield or David Blane can do, or, it was simply the most incredible, wonderful, nae 'supreme' feats of physical mediumship and independent voice that has ever been!!! Big statements!! You bet. Whatever went on that night in a quiet house in the

> From there she took me into a back bedroom where we would be holding the physical mediumship. Now this was a small room, roughly 12 feet long by 8 feet wide. There were five plastic chairs all aligned in a row facing what's known as a cabinet. Now for those not familiar with what a cabinet is. Basically it can either be a tall three sided wooden cabinet with a curtain closing off the fourth side in which a psychic medium will sit behind (usually tied in his or her seat) where after a short while spirit would take over the voice box of the medium and talk to those assembled or things would push out through the curtain. In Monique's room she had draped across the corner of one side of the room, a shinny black curtain supported on a quide rail fixed onto the ceiling. Placed directly in this corner

was another small plastic chair (of the kind you get placed in

Monique then asked me to inspect the room to ensure that

there were no hidden devices of any kind which could make noises, bangs, raps etc. This was something that I had intended to do anyway. So I began my inspection. I knocked on walls to see if perhaps there were and hidden holes that may have contained something behind the wallpaper, there were none. I then inspected the carpet in the small area where the medium would be sitting for any cuts in the carpet that may have contained devices etc, there were none. I checked the whole room looking for hidden microphones or any other device that could give rise to false noises or anything that could account for what could be construed as 'paranormal effects', again, there were none. I was satisfied as best I could be that there was nothing in that room that could give rise to false and misleading effects. With my inspection over, Monqiue took me back down stairs where we discussed the events of previous physical mediumship séance. A few minutes later the doorbell rang and in walked the medium for the night a Mr Bob Nelson (pseudonym) and his wife. I didn't know what to expect as I had heard quite a bit about him (but only on that night from Monique not before). He was I would say, in his 50's thin to medium build and just looked like any other person of that age. Bob and his wife were also accompanied with one of their friends a woman in her late 50's. We sat talking for a bit about spiritualism after which Monique asked Bob if he would like to go up to the bedroom and get ready. He duly nodded in agreement and Monique and I walked with him up the polished wooden staircase into the back bedroom. Now although this was a February night, the room temperature was actually quite warm, certainly very comfortable. We sat Bob down in his chair whereupon Monique brought out two quite broad Velcro straps for me to inspect and asked me to place these straps tightly but not overly tightly, onto his wrists (she helped as well). We did

this and I felt that this was a much better idea than tying the

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6655

medium's wrists with rope as you would probably not hear the sound of rope being untied, but with Velcro that was a different matter. The noise this made (as I tried it before I placed it on his wrists), was indeed very noisy and there was no mistaking that if you tried to remove this, even in the dark, boy would you hear it. The medium then removed his shoes where his white socks shone like a beacon, (more on that in a moment!) I checked his upper body for any devices (telescopic rods etc) but couldn't detect any. I then padded up his trousers legs like a police officer checking someone for drugs but again couldn't detect anything. He sat back in his chair and we asked if he was comfortable, he replied that he was, and with that Monique pulled the shiney black curtain over in front of him in which his two feet could be seen sticking out from underneath the curtain (more noticeable because of his white socks)

There was a large heavy bowl of water next to the cabinet of which I asked Monique what purpose did that serve. She mentioned that spirit seems to take energy from it and it helps the proceedings!! Well I wasn't sure about that, as I hadn't heard of that one before. Also next to the cabinet (about a foot or so away from it) was a small chest of drawers of which on top of it was placed a piece of hardboard. Marked on this hardboard were fluorescent strips in the shape of a cross. There were also two small configuration of bells on two of the walls in the room. These bells reminded me of a snowdrop flower, tiny small bells dropping down from each other, Monigue explained that spirit regularly rang these bells when a session was in full swing. We again asked the medium if he was all right to which he replied he was, and with that we switched the light off in the room and walked out the door. We rejoined those assembled downstairs and after 10 minutes we decided that it was time to return to the upstairs bedroom and begin the session. Monique explained that the medium needed this 'quiet time' before we entered the room to tune into spirit and get ready for what was to follow. Monique also asked us at this point, to ensure that no metal objects were brought into the seance room, keys, watches, coins, mobile phones etc. And we all deposited our loose coins and took off our watches and placed them outside the room.

#### THE TENSION MOUNTS.

By now I was quite excited if not a little apprehensive. What if something really major happened that tested my enquiring mind to the limit!! What if I couldn't cope!! What if nothing happened as usually did in these circumstances when a researcher is invited into the séance room! All these thoughts and more were going through my mind as I walked up the staircase to the top landing. We all took off our shoes and entered the room. The room was dimly lit by a small red light on top of a wardrobe but it was sufficient enough to see the outline of everything and the people in the room. Indeed as your eyes got accustomed to it, it really wasn't that overly dark at all. Monique said that she would audiotape the session for me (she usually recorded these sessions anyway). We all sat down in our places. I was sat next to Monique's husband, he was sat next to the medium's wife, and she was sat next to the other lady I mentioned earlier. Monique then said a prayer to spirit thanking them for all their spirit manifestations at previous séance and hoped it would be the same tonight. No sooner had we sat down than Monique pressed play on another audiocassette, which began to play songs from yesteryear. Old traditional English and Irish songs flooded the room, which I already knew, also helped create the ambience and conditions for spirit to come forward. I could feel my heart beating as I looked around the room waiting for something to happen at any moment. Everyone by now was singing along with the songs on the tape (as they probably knew them off by heart having done this week in and week out). I thought I saw small flashes of light in the air a few feet in front of me but I am definitely putting these down to my eyes adjusting to the conditions rather than spirit!!

The five of us were only about three and a half feet away from the cabinet and again the medium's white-socked feet could clearly be seen sticking out from underneath the curtain. It was at this point that I realised that whilst I had been downstairs after leaving the medium alone, he could have had the opportunity to untie himself and prepare his shenanigans!! (If that was indeed what he was going to do!). I wish I had have inspected the medium when I came back into the room. But I'll come back to this point shortly for it is quite important. I would say that it was about eight minutes into the proceedings that the first of the many things that night began to happen. One could clearly hear loud audible rapping's coming from the centre of the room. Monique quickly scrolled down the volume on the audiocassette. These knockings/rapping's were, as far as I could ascertain, coming from what appeared to be the middle of the room. It was like a stereo effect. Zip zip from left to right as if you were swinging the balance button on a stereo system. Then there were heavier rapping's coming from somewhere else, it seemed to me to be coming from outside our room. I then heard rapping's coming from the wall. Now whilst this was going on and whilst the music was playing earlier, which I must add wasn't overly loud, I was straining my ears ever so much in the direction of the cabinet, listening for any deceiving sounds of the Velcro straps being pulled away, at no time did I hear that unmistakable sound at all. The rapping sounds then faded and Monique again put the music back on. Suddenly there were coughing sounds coming from behind the curtain and after a few more seconds came one of the first 'spirit'! voices of the night. It belonged to a little girl called Marie. Marie a ten-yearold Polish girl had died under traumatic conditions in the infamous and horrendous German Concentration Camp called Auchwitz. Now it's so easy for anyone to mimic a voice I'm not that naïve to think that this isn't possible, sceptics would certainly say that this was the case here. And that's maybe so, but what we have to bear in mind is the fact that spirit are taking over the medium's voice box to communicate and as such you will not get the clear and concise reproduction of any alleged spirit communicator, so in that regard I had to accept that what I was hearing could well be this little girl.

She sounded young and chirpy and was quite jovial and I was surprised when she asked me directly if I was scared. I replied I was not and thanked her for being there. Marie poked fun at Monique (in a nice way). After a few more minutes of Marie talking to those assembled, the voice suddenly stopped and there was silence again in the room. Hmm Interesting I thought but nothing that could not be done by anyone !! Monique again started the audiocassette and more music flooded the room. So there I am, sitting and guizzing what I have heard when a new voice began to sound out from behind the curtain. This was Jonathan a London cockney. Jonathan sounded very articulate and intelligent and this voice was clearly coming from the direction of where the medium was sitting, but to my surprise, the voice shifted !! For where the voice had been coming from near enough the centre of the curtain before, the voice could plainly be heard coming from firstly the bottom left hand side of the curtain, then it moved to the bottom right hand side of the curtain, back to the middle, then it appeared to be coming from the ceiling!! Now again audibly this was quite impressive but my inquisitive mind kicked in once more and I began to think along the lines of someone throwing their voice. Now I haven't actually heard anyone doing this but I know that it can be done. Was this the case here!! There is absolutely no denying that Jonathan's voice was everywhere from every part of that curtain. Had he got up out of his chair and bent down speaking from near the floor to rising up to speak near the ceiling. Certainly not, because his white socked feet were clearly in view all the time and the soles of his feet were planted firmly on the floor. They didn't rise at all! I was impressed but again not overly due to the possibility that the medium could have been 'throwing' his voice hard to tell as we couldn't see him only his feet. Jonathan, as I later learned,

used to work at Covent Garden selling vegetables and first spoke at Monique's séance's 7 years ago. He was around 70 years of age when he passed into spirit and apparently Monique had 'rescued' him as he was between worlds and he regularly came back to the séance room, as he was such a good talker. Monique says with pride that he is the spokes person of the spirit team.

#### A SURPRISE REQUEST!

At this point Jonathan spoke to me again and said that I hadn't inspected 'his' medium's wrist ties (he was speaking on behalf of his medium) He said that I may be sceptical and that I should come forward and inspect 'his' medium and ensure that all was in place! This comment drew gasps from the other sitters and Monique quietly said to me this had never happened before that it was extremely unusual for anyone to approach a medium whilst he was in this state (even I knew this). He asked me to approach 'his' medium and with that I rose from my chair and slowly walked towards him. I gingerly pulled back the shiney black curtain and peered towards him. What met my eyes was a serene scene. The medium had his head bowed slightly onto his chest but it was his face that really caught my eye. All over his face was a warm soft fuzzy/hazy glow like the effect you get from one of those new fangled warm soft light bulbs that have been advertised on television recently. He looked peaceful and content. I then inspected his wrist straps, yes sure enough they were in place and I gave one a little tug and as I did so you could clearly hear the unmistakable sound of the Velcro coming unstuck. So I then pushed the strap tightly back. I touched both wrists, they were warm and I could hear his soft breathing. To all intents and purposes he seemed as if asleep. I stepped back a bit and closed the curtain and returned to my seat. Now readers, this is where my conception of reality took a turn.

I had just returned to my seat when all of a sudden the curtain billowed out with the shape of a person, (I kid you not!!) The curtain came up so far that you could see the medium's legs and looking at his feet, yes they were still firmly planted on the floor. One could clearly see the outline of a head, shoulders, and body coming towards (being pushed through the curtain) the sitters in the room. This really stunned me. Seconds later the curtain dropped and the curtain was completely straight again. Wow, how did he do this I thought to myself? I had just a second or so earlier checked his wrists and he was clearly tied by the wrists to the chair and then suddenly this shape appeared!! I was now beginning to think that maybe something spiritual really was happening for I had previously been thinking of all the possible tricks of the trade which might give rise to false and misleading effects.

More voices came forward; there was a voice of Father James an Irish Monk who lived, as Monique later informed me, 200 years ago in a monastery in Cyprus. He joined Monique's circle just over two years ago. Father James sounded very intelligent and well spoken. Suddenly 'two' human like shapes stood at both sides of the curtain (behind it) and they too began to push through the curtain all the while the medium's feet remained firmly flat on the floor. We then all heard the sound of 'thumping' on the carpet at the medium's feet. Monique clapped her hands and said that 'Blackie' a spiritual dog was now with us. (A regular attendee at her weekly séance) Indeed it did sound like a dog wagging its tail firmly on the carpet. At this point one could clearly see the shape of a small animal scurrying around at the bottom of the curtain. I thought I saw a small black nose sticking out from underneath the curtain (but I'm not really sure)! Blackie moved all along the bottom of the curtain moving from the left to the right hitting it's tail as if excited on the carpet. Wow, things were now really hotting up.

#### THE LOST KEY!

Then everything stopped and I thought perhaps that was it. But no, a very large human shape began to take form pushing through the curtain to my left, Monique asked who this was but no reply came forward. She asked several times "Who are you" but no reply came forward. To be honest, I didn't really like this shape, to me it was kind of menacing and different I just can't explain it. Marie made another appearance as did Jonathan and I actually spoke to them on certain issues for a few minutes. Indeed, Jonathan enquired of me as to did I know an elderly woman who was in spirit that played the piano, I thought that this could be my gran. He then said that I had lost a key recently, not any old key a special one, a different one, and this was not a house key. Boy was that correct! I lost a key to a small cashbox a few months ago, which I've hunted for and not found (how could he have known this!) Jonathan then asked me to come forward to 'his' medium once more and inspect that all was correct. Once was incredible enough to be asked, but twice!! I again rose from my chair crossed the room, pulled back the curtain and that same vision that I had saw previously was there. The medium had his head bowed down slightly onto his chest, that warm soft glow was surrounding his face, and yes those wide Velcro wrist straps were clearly in place and secure. Satisfied, I closed the curtain and went back to my seat.

A few minutes later and the unmistakably sound of the bells on the wall rang out; admittedly only once and clearly no one was near them. As I mentioned before there was sufficient light in the room to see one another (red light) and one could clearly have seen anyone getting up off their seat to do anything. At this point Jonathan once more came through and asked if we would like an example of spirit power. Needless to say all agreed whereupon Jonathan asked that we switch off the red light to give more power for spirit to work. Monique quickly extinguished the red light and the room was catapulted into inky blackness. Now this really was dark, you just couldn't see your hand in front of your face. I knew I would have to be on my guard at this point and listen intently for any sound that I couldn't account for more so the sound of those Velcro wrist straps perhaps being taken off, (ever the sceptic!) The only light source that could be seen was those luminescent strips sticking on top of that piece of hardboard, which was resting on top of the small chest of drawers. Monique again played some music and all of us began to sing to those old sing a long songs (oh one of which was Tom Jones!) Once more I was thrown into confusion and bewilderment, why!! Well because coming towards us was what I initially thought was only this small piece of hardboard with the luminescent strips on it. It was getting closer and closer it was moving 'not' in an undulating manner as if someone was carrying it, no, it was moving in a straight line. It then stopped still. Now this is where something really unbelievable happened (at least to me) I've heard many times of drops in temperature in haunted houses or séance rooms, indeed I've experienced it a few times in my life in my Investigations. What happened next will live with me to the day I die.

#### A FREEZING ROOM!

Suddenly there was an extreme, (and please believe me when I say extreme) drop in temperature. The best way I can liken it is for you the reader to imagine that you are sunning yourself on a beach in the Caribbean and then suddenly being dropped in your swimwear into the cold North Atlantic during a steely winter storm, it was that bloody cold. I have never ever experienced anything so bloody cold in my life. It was wafting all over us in strong breezes and the bottoms of your legs were as if encased in ice. I then experienced something on my face like walking into lots of cobwebs. Can any of you older readers remember the Fairground Ghost Train where you went inside in

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your car and during parts of that journey inside the Ghost Train pieces of string that were hanging down from the roof of the Ghost Train fell about your face!! Well that's exactly what it felt like to me. Pieces of thing gauze like material all moving over my face.

Marie and Jonathan then communicated again and a lot of this was jocular. It was at this point that we had yet another spirit voice, that of Sadiq, a Persian Prince who lived over 2000 years ago. Monique informed me that he was a Christian and a very wise man and does not speak that much at their circles but when he does it usually is on serious matters. After about five minutes Sadig said that he was losing the power and could we turn the lights on again. And with that, Monique switched on the small red bulb situated on top of the wardrobe. Now the sight that greeted our eyes was something else!! About a foot away from me was this small chest of drawers and I had thought that it was just the hardboard that was moving in our direction, not so, it was the full chest of drawers itself!! Jeez, this chest of drawers had moved about 3 and half feet away from the wall apparently without anybody (well human anyway) moving it. I hadn't heard anyone from our party getting up, crossing my line of vision, and moving it. I hadn't heard the breaking of the Velcro straps on the medium for him to get up and move it. Then Monique's husband cried out, "Hey look what's at my feet"! I looked down at Monique's husband's feet and was surprised to see that large bowl of water that I referred to earlier had moved itself from the wall next to the chest of drawers, and was now firmly resting on Monique's husband's foot! We all looked at each other in astonishment and laughed aloud whereupon Monique once more played some music on the tape recorder.

I sat back in my chair contemplating the sight and sounds that

#### O.K. CAN YOU DO THAT AGAIN?!!

had befell me. Bewilderment is not the word that does a situation like this justice. The chest of drawers moving, the bowl of water moving were one thing, but what really got to me was that intense and localised freezing as if you had walked naked into a large industrial freezer. A few moments later, Jonathan's voice came back and he was amused that we were amused. He spoke to me and asked me what I thought, I said that I was very impressed and asked him to do it again. I asked that he return the chest of drawers back to the wall and for him to bring forth those icy blasts once more. Could he do it I asked! He said that he would try and asked Ma Cherie (his name for Monique) to extinguish the red light once more. We once more played some music to continue to assist the conditions. Now this chest of drawers was within my reach and because the red light was now extinguished the room really was engulfed in complete blackness, so I leaned forward and hooked one of my fingers of my right hand onto the chest of drawers and kept it there. I said to myself if this thing moves I'm sure going to try and stop it. A few seconds later and there it was again, like a blast of cold cold wind from the North Atlantic a terrific cold breeze wafted across us all. To be honest with you, I should have inspected my breath to see if it was frosting up in the air but it was so dark in the room that I would not have seen it. Suddenly I felt a jerk on my finger and the chest of drawers started to slip away from me. This time however it moved in a wobbly fashion as opposed to earlier where it had moved clean and straight. I tried to hook my finger back onto it but to no avail as it was by now clearly moving backwards to the position where it once came. More icy blasts of wind and more cobwebby feelings caressed my astonished face. After a few seconds the slow movement of the chest of drawers seen only by the fluorescent strips stopped and I wondered had it really found it's original place in the room. Jonathan spoke again and said that conditions were

now getting weaker due (no doubt) to my insistence that he repeat the incredible drops in temperature and movement of the chest of drawers. Monique switched our red light back on and low and behold, there was the chest of drawers almost exactly situated where it originally had been. The bowl of water however was still near Monique's husband's feet. Who knows, if I had have asked that to move back to it's original position it too might have done so.

Monique decided to bring a halt to the proceedings and just before we closed this session, another amazing thing happened. In very quick succession all the 'voices' that spoke that night spoke to the medium asking him that he should now wake up. "Wake up" said Marie, "wake up" said Jonathan, "wake up" said Father James. "Wake up" said Sadiq. We could then hear the sound of the medium coughing slightly. At this point, Monique said a short prayer. Just slightly over two and a half-hours had passed since I first sat down with baited breath. I certainly wasn't disappointed. After the prayer, the medium's wife crossed the room, pulled back the curtain and by this time the medium was coming back into this world. He looked puzzled if not somewhat bewildered. I again left my seat and walked over to him his Velcro restraints were still in place, I padded his jersey again looking for telescopic devices that may have been able to push out the curtain, there were none. I padded his trouser legs again looking for secreted devices, nothing. I asked him how he felt, groggily he said he was fine but a little tired. (I guess I would be as well if I had been sitting in that same position for over 2 hours!!!)

We un-strapped him from the chair and I had a quick look behind his chair and around his chair looking for 'anything' that may have given rise to those incredible effects, again nothing. I must admit my view on the workings of the universe dramatically changed that night. I had experienced intense drops in temperature, something moving all over my face, spirit voices, rapping's, bells ringing, movement of objects everything that I've ever looked for as possible evidence that there is a spirit world. But at the end of the day, what has all this achieved for me. ! I'm an individual researcher who is trying to obtain proof or at least evidence of "something" which I hope Joe Public will look at. I've always said that mankind is at the bottom of a spiritual paranormal ladder and that we know so very little about the make up of not only our universe but also the unseen universe around us. I should also point out that Monique informed me that there are 'other' spirit people who pop into her séance room from time to time, some are just wandering she says, whilst others are lost and are in need of 'rescuing'. Some quite famous names have also popped in from spirit to say hello from time to time, the famous Spiritualist and medium Jo Benjamin has said hello as has one of Britain's most finest mediums, Scotland's Helen Duncan. To end this article, I would now like to address some points, which I feel need to be said. I could be incorrect on my thoughts and feelings on these issues and I guess it's up to others to pull me up about them, however here they are for what they are worth.

#### MALCOLM'S THOUGHTS ON THE WORKINGS OF SPIRITUAL EVIDENCE.

1. Why do physical mediums have to be behind closed curtains!! O.K. I accept that due to the nature of the phenomenon, spirit has to build up a certain amount of energy to ensure phenomena will happen. Surely however we can get round this and keep the room dark but focus an infra red camera towards the medium letting us clearly see if the mouth of the medium moves whilst these spirit voices are talking. Yes I am also aware that many people claim to have heard spirit speaking through medium's looking directly at them and the mouth is not moving but the sound is

coming from the larynx of the medium. Of course, if there were no curtain then you wouldn't get the other phenomenon of the curtain billowing out which when you see this is quite a sight I can assure you. So let's try and capture on video tape, film of the face of the medium whilst the spirit voices are in control.

- 2. I mentioned some of my thoughts on this séance at a meeting of my society Strange Phenomena Investigations where our guest speaker for the day one Montague Keen (from the Society of Physical Research) mentioned that yes more infra red cameras should be placed in the séance room but criss crossing every angle so every point of the room is covered, a point I readily agree with. Let's 'do this'.
- 3. Why can't certain types of physical mediumship not happen in ordinary white light!! We had to turn off the red light in order for more energy (So I was told) to build up so that spirit could move the chest of drawers and cause the intense cold to waft over our faces. Why couldn't they do this in the subdued red light condition? or in soft white light 30 watt bulb! Let's try it!

In closing what I saw and experienced that night will live with me forever. Either this was some of the best and honest physical mediumship for a very long time, or everyone in the room known to each other and who sit together in these circles weekly, were in collusion to fool and impress me so that I would go out and tell the world. Admittedly I'm not one to sit on my laurels, if I witness something which I believe to be genuine, then I'll shout this out from the rooftops. What I'd like to see now, is for more infra red cameras to be brought into these weekly séance, but not only that, I want to see respected members of the 'better' press visit North London, see this for themselves and write honestly about it. But for me it doesn't even stop there. I also want members of the prestigious Magic Circle to come and visit who know how to make some of these events happen by professional conjuring and say to them, "O.K. chaps, I'm convinced of what is going on here, you are the guys who can do this for a living, what do YOU think is going on"!

Readers, we all know this is a funny old world and some of you might think that this night that has impressed me so much and to write this article for you, was nothing short of nonsense and make believe. It's easy for me to say, how I wish you had have been there. That's true of course, but by God this type of evidence should not be confined to the select few. We have to bring séance like this out into the open. Get better men than me to look deeper into the workings of physical mediumship. At the end of the day the Christian Church state that we must have faith, faith in Religion, faith in Jesus Christ, faith in our Lord, what I say as a researcher is this, Yes of course we should have faith but this faith should also be backed up by facts. If I told you I spotted a polka dot Elephant in the Sahara you would look at me, grin and say "well Malcolm good story mate, any facts to back this up"! (I think you know what I'm getting at) Researchers the world over are not Investigating strange phenomena for a laugh, we are after cold hard facts, be it to prove or disprove. I was impressed by a number of things that night (more so that coldness, how I wish you the reader could have experienced that jeez) Physical mediumship and Independent voice was once very big in the U.K. 50 odd years ago, it's quite rare now, and I say that we have to bring this more out into the open. Get the cameras in, get the press in, get the conjurers in. But will those spirit entities entertain what could turn out to be nothing short of a circus, probably not. But there must be some common ground. Apparently the only phenomenon that didn't happen the night I was there was the spirit actually shaking your hands which Monique said they do from time to time.

So there we have it, I experienced something that I've been looking for all my life and I'm now telling many people about it. You the reader may have your own thoughts and opinions on this matter. Do we delve deeper or leave best alone? One things for sure there clearly are more things in Heaven and Earth Horatio, than ever dreamt of in 'anyone's philosophy. I now view the world through different eyes.

With kind permission of Malcolm Robinson, Founder SPI Scotland-England.

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some three to four few months ago my son Jo had to attend an appointment at the local hospital and we were shown into a long narrow corridor with only a few others there. People were called in to their appointments leaving just me Jo and an elderly gentleman sitting across a narrow table from me.

## VOICES IN THE CORRIDOR

By Paul Kitchenham

Jo nudged my shoulder and smiled at the chap I looked and for all intense and purposes he seemed to be talking to himself. I imagined the worse, being in a hospital and shook my head at Jo and smiled.

Imagine my surprise when I heard a voice coming from thin air asking him questions! I closed my eyes and there was a conversation going on between him (the man) and this voice coming from way above his head – we were the only three people in a corridor some fifty yards in length!

The conversation went along the lines of everyday chat, what was he going to do after he was finished here, what was he having for dinner etc. I was Gob smacked! This went on for ten long minutes. I could hear the voice as clear as a bell! Then the man was called in to his appointment some few minutes later and a voice shouted in my ear from somewhere way above me "terrible weather you are having down there". Yippee! I jumped up and said "well done friend". My son was not amused and refused to believe me.

At that point he was called in and I spoke with a nurse and told her what had happened. I asked for the mans name and was not given it under a certain Human Rights act. I then had no more contact with what I believed to be Spirit.

Unfortunately he left via the back door. Was he (the man) producing direct voice?

I do not know, but I thank spirit for all the experiences that they give me. If he was direct voice it was the clearest conversation that I have ever heard between this world and the next.

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## STEWART ALEXANDER'S SÉANCE YOUR PROOF AS REQUESTED SIR (PART TWO)

#### By David Colegate

On the 25th of August 2005, three friends and I, were kindly invited to sit with Stewart Alexander for a physical séance in the north of England. The sitting had been arranged about three months earlier and I must admit feeling like a child waiting for Christmas. I was hoping to get some unequivocal proof that spirit existed to take away the nagging doubts in the back of my mind that have loomed over me for the last fifteen years or so.

By the time the sitting was getting close I was beginning to get some results in our circle and was keen to hear some clarification that we were heading in the right direction and the feelings that I was getting were normal. I know this sounds a little odd that a medium needs to hear clarification from another medium regarding his or her work. We all understand that Spirit is the best source of guidance and advice in these matters because they are causing the phenomena. But even if you are at the stage of clear trance or indirect voice you, or maybe I, still cannot entirely believe the advice and need some personal support from somebody that's been there and from a third party separate from my usual acquaintances.

So this was my aim. To obtain proof beyond doubt that Spirit exists.

We arrived at the address and were invited in by Ray and June who made us all most welcome and relaxed. In total there were 10 sitters for the séance that evening. Stewart arrived and we all had a chat and let our energies blend together for a while before our appointment time with Spirit was upon us. Stewart then headed up to the séance room and I remember it feeling like he was off to bed and I felt like saying goodnight. We soon followed and took our allotted seats in the specially designed séance room with certain props and aids ready at hand. Stewart was attached to his chair in the cabinet and cable tied into position. I would like to add at this point that the plastic cable ties that were used were industrial. They were at least 10mm across and could only be cut using snips or a knife. Luminous markers were also stuck onto the curtains of the séance cabinet and also on Stewart's knees. These markers allowed us to monitor Stewart's s position throughout the dark

As soon as Stewart was settled and the lights dimmed Ray opened the circle with a short prayer. As soon as the prayer had finished two loud raps were heard directly behind me on a black out board over a window. The raps were loud enough to make me jump – not a scared jump, more like a "oh, so this is how its going to go". Next Stewarts Indian guide spoke through his voice box and commented on the excellent conditions that had been created here this evening and welcoming us all to the séance.

Christopher then made his appearance. Christopher is a spirit child that comes through to relax the group and have a laugh and a joke to ease any anxieties. He did this with the most infectious laugh I have ever heard. He joked and laughed and welcomed us all individually to the séance. Then arrived Walter Stinson. Walter welcomed us all to the

circle and also stated that the conditions were great for a wonderful night. Walter spoke to me and said that tonight was planned to be very special for me and that they wanted to prove the existence of Spirit to me. (Spooky I thought, because that was exactly what I asked for).

One of the circle members was then invited to sit next to Walter/Stewart as he wanted to display an experiment of matter through matter. The sitter was then asked to lay both of her hands onto Walters's right hand and feel that the cable tie was secure around his wrist and the chair. She inspected them and agreed that they were in place. Walter then raised Stewart's hand, with the sitter's hands still laying upon it, up into the air. The cable tie was still intact around the arm of the chair. Stewart's wrist had passed through the cable tie. The sitter was then asked to check the security of the cable tie that was still attached to the chair. Walter then lowered his wrist and passed matter back through matter and reconnected his wrist back to the chair through the cable tie. Walter performed this fascinating demonstration again and raised his wrist again, but this time with cable tie hanging in tact around his wrist in the air. The cable tie was offered and accepted by the séance sitter and she returned to her seat. But that was not the most amazing part of this demonstration because Walter then managed to collect a new cable tie from a table about a metre away, knocking a spare one off the table in the opposite direction in the process, and then reattach it to Stewart's wrist with the clicking of the tie clearly identifiable.

Trumpet time. Two trumpets were asked for and placed next to the cabinet. They started bobbing up and down with their luminous tape clearly showing every movement. They both then rose to the ceiling and began to dance around the room. One of trumpets was soon discarded behind the cabinet while the first continued to dance. The trumpet then came and tapped my knee and a number of other sitters gently and with great control.

The trumpet that was discarded was carefully returned to its starting position while the second continued to dance to some Irish music that was now being played, until it also returned to the start position near the cabinet.

A sitter then felt a touch on his leg and it was said that the ectoplasm rods must still be out. I then also felt being touched by what felt like a bamboo cane on the inside of my leg. It was solid and touched with enough pressure so that I could identify that it was solid and had strength and conscious control behind it. Walter then returned and spoke through Stewart asking for the trumpets to be removed and that he would see us later. We sang for a while at this point.

While we sang breathing could be heard in the séance room. A doctor came through trying to talk by direct voice. The voice became clearer asking "if we could hear him" to which we replied and he came through clearer. He said that he did not plan to talk for long because he was keen to try and manifest himself later and walk amongst us. He told us that the voice box had been created and explained why other speakers use Stewart's voice box.

The doctor then departed and Brenda came through and spoke through Stewart.

She gave some messages to the group and reunited family members through Stewart's voice box – a wonderful experience. Sitters were then able to talk and be touched by family members and friends from the spirit realms.

Walter returned and spoke to the group for a while and then invited me to sit opposite him and the cabinet. A table with a red light underneath was placed between Walter and myself. He then asked me if I would like to shake hands with a dead person. I said, "Mmmm.let me think about that one...I would love to" I replied.

By now the rest of the séance members had been invited to surround the table and stand behind me as I sat. I was told that I must not move my hand and that the ectoplasm was directly linked to Stewart's nervous system. Walter told me to place my right hand down onto the table, with the light underneath, with my palm flat.

We all then saw a billowing mass start to move over the table towards my hand. It had the impression of a cloud like substance and then it seemed to change to a liquid state as it ebbed and flowed near my hand. It then retracted and I saw then, what looked like, a napkin edge come into view then out from under it a fully functioning

(right) hand emerged with dimples and texture.

It slowly slid itself up and onto my hand then receded again. It emerged again, a left hand this time, and slid up my hand again and gently picked it up between his thumb and forefinger. The strength was just enough to imply his intention to slowly react and allow my hand to be lifted. I could clearly feel his fingerprints running over the back of my hand, it was warm and slightly moist to the touch.

Walter then replaced my hand on the table and retracted his again. I remember thinking in the back of my mind how this could be possible and my logical thinking started to question the experience. Was it a manikin's hand; was its Stewart's hand that had lost its bondage?

As soon as these thoughts arrived I struggled to cancel them out and remain in wonder, exhilarated at what was happening to me. Then Spirit replied in the most extraordinary way as only they, Walter, could do. The hand then re-emerged, but with an ectoplasm error on it. The hand had a small extra finger digit that was not fully formed between his little finger and the next. It looked like the area on a mould or air fix model kit where the plastic had been injected into a mould and left a small spout protruding out of a perfect cast. Not only did Spirit recognise my questions and difficulty in accepting this amazing phenomena, but they also altered the design to prove that it could be nothing but an ectoplasm form. The hand retracted again and then returned to tap two fingers on the table as a farewell demonstration of the dexterity and boundless limitation of Spirit and ectoplasm.

Walter then asked me to return to my seat and the curtains closed by themselves around the cabinet. The edges of the cabinet curtains had luminous tags on them to enable the sitters to be aware of them shutting by themselves. Once

the curtains closed a ball of light, about the size of a grapefruit emerged and drifted up towards the ceiling. It floated for a while and then returned back inside the cabinet. We were then informed that the doctor who spoke via direct voice earlier wanted to come out of the cabinet and that we must remain still. There was then a billowing of the curtains and they opened slightly. We all then heard heavy footsteps emerge from the cabinet and move around the room in a slow almost cumbersome manner. The doctor touched the heads and shoulders of sitters as he stood in front of them and they remarked on feeling both hands touching them at the same time. The doctor then told us that somebody else had also come out of the cabinet, but we could not identify this other kind visitor.

The doctor said that it was very tiring because the ectoplasm was so heavy and a strain to walk around coated in the substance. His voice was coming out of the air through direct voice. He walked past me and did not touch me. I must admit that the sensation of being touched by the doctor might have been wasted on me, as I was still reeling from visibly and physically shaking hands with Walter. I was in a state of happy delirium. The doctor bid us goodnight and disappeared back into the cabinet with billows of the cabinet curtains. We all then heard Stewart in his own conscious voice say "somebody's got his hand on my head" Stewart then went down again and Brenda, Christopher and Walter returned to wish us all goodnight. Walter then made some personal comments to me about the future and seeing each other again, which made me feel very proud. Stewarts Indian guide closed the circle and bid us goodnight.

Then we all heard four more bangs on the wall behind me and young Christopher's footsteps running around the walls of the séance room.

Well, I thought, who could possibly question the reality of Spirit now after seeing and being part of such great experience. I cannot be the only medium who will admit to questioning the voices or thoughts in their head that come from Spirit at some time in their lives. Group mass delusion cannot account for the sweat and smell that hung around us during and after the event. For the first time in my life I can happily say that I felt like a child in a sweetshop and did not know how to pay, or what to pay with, for the sweets that I had been given.

It was now clear that my thoughts and limitations of the spirit world were now proved to be comparable in size to the eye of a jelly baby.

I cannot thank Walter, Christopher and their spirit friends, and Stewart Alexander of course, for a truly life changing event. How could I ever have doubted the spirits around and above me over these last 30 years and for the next 30 to come?

Rest assured this new level of unquestionable trust and mental security has increased my awareness overnight and has shown me that there are no limits to how far we can go together.

What must be achieved will be achieved to bring understanding, comfort and reassurance to those in need and those keen to help others.

I hope that this report will give hope to those that need the concrete proof that Spirit exists and the unconditional love and unrelenting support that Spirit give to us all every step of our way.

To infinity and beyond!!!

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We offer our readers another chapter from the book (SOURCE) The Mediumship of Arnold Clare by Harry Edwards. I think this chapter on voice phenomena is very informative, and should be known to people whom are investigating and interested in physical phenomena. Not only does this chapter tells us of the problems that the spirit world have in explaining physical mediumship to us, but, it enlightens us in the mechanics of voice phenomena.

## THE MECHANICS OF VOICE PRODUCTION

Perhaps the most puzzling of all phenomena from the investigators' point of view is that termed the "direct voice". This is the phenomena of voices produced through mediumship by other means than that of human vocal organs.

Associated with "direct voice" is that termed "independent voice". The difference between the two is that the former is manifested through a cone or trumpet, while the latter manifested independently of any humanly constructed mechanism.

The voice purport to be from spirit people, and there is overwhelming evidence to support this view. The words and language must be of spirit origin, because of the very nature characterisation and information of the communications.

Two examples are sufficient to give force to this contention. The first through the mediumship of Valiantine and secondly through Jack Webber, an unlettered collier, through when conversations were carried on between sitters and spirit communications in French, Portuguese, Swedish and Latin, without any hesitation in the speech or trace of any accent foreign to those tongues.

So many volumes of authenticated records of direct voice communications have been established is now generally accepted. What has not sp far been established is the method and means by which these voices speak. The object of this chapter is to provide a thesis for the mechanics of this phenomenon.

The following are examples of attested evidence of direct voice phenomena; and are eloquent in their proof that the mind direction for such evidence must have been from a discarnate entity.

Professor J. Hysop investigated the voice phenomena of Mrs. Eliz. Blake and his report covers over 200 pages of U.S.A. S.P.R. proceedings. In it he says:

"The loudness of the sound in some cases excludes the supposition that the voices are conveyed from the vocal chords to the trumpet. I have heard them 20 feet away and Mrs. Blake's lips did not move."

Mr. H. Dennis Bradley, in his book (1928) entitled The Reality of Physical Phenomena:

"Dr. Whynant is a great linguist speaking thirty languages and a very considerable number of dialects. He was for many years lecturer on Chinese at Oxford University. He is not a Spiritualist. At a series of sittings held in New York at the wealthy lawyer of the highest credentials, under the mediumship of George Valiantine, a voice was heard speaking in Archaic Chinese, etc. In my opinion these conversations in Archaic Chinese represent perhaps one of the greatest tests ever made in psychical research and spirit-voice communication.

"Full significance must be given to the various languages spoken and the intonation and accents of the 'voices'. I have heard 'voices' speaking in German, French, Italian, Russian, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese and idiomatic Welsh; and I have heard during the same convention the language suddenly change into French, and the replies from the spirit 'voices' have come through with unhesitating fluency.

"During Dr. Whynany's sitting in New York with Valliantine, Portuguese, Basque, Arabic, Sanskrit and Hindustani were spoken." In 1927. Valiantine came to this country for a series of experiments with Lord Charles Hope and Mr. Dennis Bradley, which are fully

with Lord Charles Hope and Mr. Dennis Bradley, which are fully described in the latter's books Towards the Stars and The Wisdom of the goods. There are two incidents reported that are pertinent to the

aspects of voice phenomena with which we are more interested here. The first is that Valiantine was quite normal while the voices were speaking, and that he would engage upon conversations himself with some sitters. The second was the recording of these voices on gramophone records. The recording was carried out by the Columbia Company, a telephone wire being taken from Lord Charles Hope's study, where the séance was held to the recording studio.

Record No 412-4. Confucius speaking in ancient Chinese. Record No 412-5. Chung Wei speaking and singing in ancient

Chinese.
Record No 412-5 Maharajah of Manobe spoke in ancient Indian language and Sanskrit.

In the Mediumship of Jack Webber I have reported the speaking by spirit communicators in Swedish, Portuguese, Latin, French and Spanish-and it must be remembered that this medium was an unlettered collier. Rueben, as being of full loud-speaker strength and penetrating to houses in the next street through the closed doors of the séance room. Rueben's singing was at times maintained for over an hour continuously. The words were clearly and perfectly enunciated-the aperture at the small end of the trumpet used at the time being less than half an inch and generally closed up.\*

These extracts do not take into account the great mass of intimate personal evidence which could only be obtained from a spirit communicator. Notable examples of such communication can be found in Dennis Bradley's Towards the Stars and Gwendoline Hack's Modern Psychic Mysteries, to cite but two out of a large number of records

Throughout the history of voice mediumship there have been many references to "voice-boxes". The term (invariably used by the spirit operators associated with each voice medium) has been cloaked in further ambiguity, when questions of a pertinent nature have been asked to "Tell us how the voices are produced", the reply has been usually given like this: "We build a voice-box, that we can speak through", or, "We construct a cabinet with a voice-box there in, just like one of your telephone boxes", or "We fit an ectoplasmic mould over the spirit's face", etc.

The lack of substance data in such replies is obvious, yet we should be deeply sensible of great difficulties the Guides have had to face, when asked to explain this or that. In the chapter on the "Development of Mediumship" reference is made to the difficulty the Guides must experience in giving reasoned explanations, through the limited mental equipment of their mediums. Providing in advance theses which we are incapable of comprehending must present a further difficulty.

Further, not every medium and every Guide has been willing to sit and time and again to give us instruction as Mr. Clare and Peter have done. Peter's explanations on voice phenomena alone occupied at least six evenings in order to produce a reasoned statement.

In fairness to the Guides of physical mediums in the past. It should be re-emphasised that we did not the possess the knowledge of acoustics, radio science, and the science of applying and relating electrical energy to sound as we do now. We can only appreciate that which we can understand. Our knowledge of law-governed forces and effects limits our comprehension. To explain any thesis beyond these limits is to embark on a dissertation that would be meaningless-even assuming our vocabulary permitted the attempt. To illustrate this point-to have used a generation ago such present

every-day terms as a "moving-coil loud speaker" or radio oscillations" would have meant precisely nothing and would have been discounted as meaningless.

It should therefore be stressed that no Guide of past days should be reproached for failure to impart information or to gently satisfy his hearers of those times by obscure references. It is obvious that until we are in a position to understand, or approach that understanding intelligently, an entirely new conception, it would be a waste of time for any Guide to discourse upon it. Also we must still recognise our present limitations, and be satisfied, for the moment, if we are only dimly able to perceive a little light.

But the means of infra-red photography and other cruder methods of photography (as Margery), pictures have been secured of an ectoplasmic mass, closely associated to and connected with the medium by ectoplasmic connections. The Guides of those mediums have informed us that these formations were "voice-boxes" or "talking apparatus".

When those Guides have been questioned about these photographs (and this applies also to Guides of other voice mediums where photographs have not bee secured) they have told us that these voice-boxes contain a "replica of the medium's vocal organs" through the agency of which the spirit people speak.

I refer again to U.S.A S.P.R. Proceedings, Vol. II. 1926-27. The Margery Mediumship, in which Walter's speaking mechanism is described as follows:

"There is a mass which may be either grey or white, about 4 x 2 x 2 inches, resembling the size and shape of a potato. Its contour is irregular. At times, as we look as it, it seems to simulate a small face much like the dried heads of the head hunters of South seas, heads from which the bones have been removed. To the top of this structure form the right ear there is a white cord one-sixth to a quarter of an inch diameter smooth. From the little mouth, as it were, of the potato-like face there comes a structure much like the human umbilical cord, one-tenth to one-half of an inch in diameter, twisted, and eight to twelve inches long. This enters the right nostril of the Psychic. The white ear cord and the twisted cord to the nose are long enough to allow the central mass to rest on the Psychic's right

\*At a séance held at the studios of the Decca Record Co., Ltd., a recording of the spirit voice of Rueben was secured, singing, "Lead kindly Light!" and "There's a Land".

shoulder, or her chest or her face or her left shoulder. We have many photographs of this structure and the photographs confirm what our eyes see... We have handled the mass and find it like the other teleplasmic masses cold and yet vibrant with life. The fact that this structure is attached to the nose explains probably why any and every sitter is not allowed to put a hand over the Psychic's mouth whenever he chooses, as a test if the independence of the voices...

"At the end of the phenomena the mass from the ear takes two to four minutes to disappear. On exposure to red light of the masses of every origin there is immediately seen a kind of shrinking as if the light was inimical to it, or similar to that of meat suddenly exposed to a very hot fire or cautery-iron.

Peter' thesis cuts right across the view that the ectoplasmic mass contains any kind of vocal chords; and here again the suggestion is made that in the light of Peter's explanations those statements were merely the refuge of Guides from the more intricate and truer facts of the case.

In my book on Jack Webber's mediumship I adopted the safe course of avoiding theorising, except on one occasion, when I made some observations on the method of voice production; and I did this because there appeared evidential circumstances to support my contentions.

I supported the view that the voice-box must have contained a sound-producing mechanism, because I have heard on a number of occasions three voices simultaneously in being.

- 1. The Guide speaking through the medium's vocal organs:
- 2. A voice in "miniature" close to the medium; and
- The miniature voice being simultaneously reproduced in volume, through a trumpet levitated in the air some six to eight feet away from the medium.

In view of the explanations of Peter I am forced to the conclusion that the ectoplasmic structure does not contain sound-producing mechanism, as we have been previously led to believe.

Some of the improbabilities of the original contention are worthy of consideration, if only to illustrate the human error of building up a thesis without foundation in reason or fact. In my own defence I have stated these improbabilities before, and now do so again so that the position may be better appreciated.

For a voice-box, like those we have photographed, to contain a voice-producing apparatus, it would be necessary to have mot only a "replica of a human throat" but also a replica of the mouth shape, palate, tongue, lips, teeth, and air bellows (lungs), to produce the perfect syllabic sound. Further, all of these – chords, throat, palate, tongue, lips, air pressure-would have to be controlled by some muscular action, mind controlled.

A further point in this connection. At times "direct voice possesses characteristics of the medium's speech – not always, but frequently – and this has been explained by the reasoning that, if the voicebox is a replica of the medium's vocal chords, it is reasonable that the voice produced would bear some resemblance. This reasoning naturally enforced support for the previous contention, but here again Peter's thesis provides a stronger reason why such similarity may at times, exist.

No tone was ever created except by means of an instrument, which means that no sound has ever been borne of space or free ether. Further, the instrument used must correspond to the nature of the tone to be produced, i.e. the instrument must be constructed of suitable materials such as wood, wires, metal, diaphragms, to receive and transmit physical voice sound waves via a telephone, loud speaker, or other voice instrument. Therefore an etheric instrument is required for the receiving and transmitting of etheric tones.

What is more difficult to comprehend is the manner whereby the etheric sound waves are changed into physical sound waves. It is again worthy of recall that through radio science man has accomplished a similar transformation. The mind that considers it impossible for etheric sound waves to be transmitted by an etheric mechanism and then transformed into physical sound through a delicate human receiving set – as the medium is – is the same type of mind which deemed it impossible thirty years ago to send a voice through the ether and to hear it in millions of homes almost simultaneously.

Another good parallel is provided by the telephone, where the speaker is talking from a distance; the sound waves so created travel in a new formation along the wires to be re-translated back into physical sounds.

It has been conclusively proved beyond all possible doubt, particularly through the Margery experiments, that the voice sounds of the spirit communicator are quite independent of the medium. It was so proved by either filling the medium's mouth with water or by having an inflated balloon placed in the medium's mouth which would whistle if air was allowed to pass out of it. Under such tests the control, Walter, would speak ad whistle tunes some distance from the medium. With jack Webber it was proved by hearing two, and sometimes three, conversations taking place at the same time. With Valiantine, Mrs. Perryman and others, voices maintaining conversation would come from parts of the room far away from the medium, and would continue whilst the medium, in both normal and trance states, was also speaking.

The report of the sitting on November 17, 1940, when one of Mr. Clare's controls spoke clearly through the trumpet with the mouth effectively blocked, provides further supporting evidence. The assumption has been that, as it has been proved that the actual physical sound is heard externally to the medium, the origin of the sound waves has also been external. This has appeared as a natural and reasonable assumption – yet according to Peter it is not so.

Peter says that the production of speech has its origin within the medium's etheric body and not in external mechanism. Here are Peter's words:

**Peter:** "As a general rule there is no external mechanism for the creation of physical sound. Sounds are produced through the

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#### THE MECHANICS OF VOICE PRODUCTION continued

physical and etheric bodies of the medium. This, in itself, is a work of considerable enterprise. There is co-operative effort between the physical sound-producing organs and the etheric counterpart, which uses the principles of electrical forces." (Stress should be laid on the word "principles" to avoid the conclusion that it is the force of electricity alone that is the responsible agent.) "The muscles of the throat can be felt in action when a spirit voice is heard, but not the slightest sound is evidenced from the medium. The sound waves are etherically created via the medium's vocal organs and the respiratory system.

"These etheric sound waves are transmitted through an ectoplasmic and insulated tubular connection."

While this statement does not explain how two or more voices can be heard at the same time (these may well come under a varied or different process applicable to "independent" voice), it does provide a reasonable basis upon which an experiment of direct voice can be built. The Margery experiments referred to fall into line as being practical under this thesis: they also explain the essential presence of all those factors that must contribute to the creation of syllabic and dialectical words.

Following upon a number of questions relating to the above statement. Peter amplified his remarks in the statement which follows. In this second statement is given an explanation of the term "etheric sound waves". This is breaking new ground, entering into a new field of learning. One must allow here for Peter's apparent difficulty in giving a detailed explanation which must, of necessity, command the employment of new words and meanings. I am not attempting to apologise for Peter, but to provide what is surely a reasonable explanation for Peter's difficulties.

#### HIS SECOND STATEMENT WAS:

**Peter:** "The voice emanates from the etheric and physical bodies of the medium. That cannot be disputed. I emphasise that... That external fitments (the 'voice box'), etc., are arrangements whereby the etheric sound vibration as opposed to physical sound vibration, passes through a system of conductors, sometimes to an external etheric amplifier which you have previously termed as 'voice-box'; while that term is apt, it tends to confusion. It does not contain chords, or anything like that. It owes it s peculiarity as an amplifier, to its shape. Within the amplifier, which is the 'voice-box', there are etheric whorls for the amplification or refining of etheric acoustics. This about which we are talking is no different to sound, only it is not within your ability to comprehend it just now; words do not exist in your vocabulary which would describe it, and yet be within your capacity of understanding. It is an amplifier – as is a trumpet to physical sound – but here, you see, we are dealing with inaudible sounds, that is etheric sound. The voice-box, to use other words, is an amplifier of etheric sounds. You see, I have to use words which you apply to your physical vocal terms in order to explain non-physical substances and action.

"After the etheric sound waves have passed through the amplifier and refiner, it is necessary to convert them into sound – audible sound. They pass down an etheric tube – they have gained power or amplification, etherically, and have come to the trumpet.

"When the etheric sound waves enter the trumpet they leave the conductor tube, which has hitherto been sent into the free ether as is general within the circle. The change is effected by a series of explosions; actually they are little flashes of light which you cannot see. Their transformation into audibility depends upon the vibrations, which are small explosions striking the air in the atmosphere around the diaphragm. The quality of speech or music is solely dependent on the diaphragm through which, in the case of the trumpet, the atmosphere and the ether give a cushion effect, just where the etheric wave merges and enters the trumpet. This is series of explosions such as you get on the diaphragm of a loud speaker."

#### HERE WE HAVE THE SUPPORTING REASON REFERRED TO ABOVE.

As the voice is created from the medium's physical and etheric voicespeaking organisms, it is natural that at times the characteristics of his voice should be transmitted through this process of spirit-voice production.

On a further occasion Peter stressed afresh, as in the next statement that the voice-box is not a sound-producing agent and defines its function.

**Peter:** "When you read your notes you will see that I have referred to the fact that there is no sound creation in the voice-box, and no physical sound from the vocal chords or the throat. The sound-box has no characteristics of vocal chords, but its purpose is that of amplification. It is an artificial means of stimulation where voice may be weak. Its use is not always necessary. In the case of a strong voice you would get distortion, unless it was refined within this apparatus. It does not become necessary where the voice is just right. Voice-sounds come through the vocal chords-but not in the physical sense."

**Question:** "Are respiratory sounds proceed through the vocal chords of the medium?"

**Peter:** "No, they are not. This is ofttimes produced to convey something of importance. You can stimulate anything by the method of which I have spoken, but I have most cases it is purely the result of those explosions u have mentioned. Also note that these explosions generate heat, and heat you will feel in the air that comes from the trumpet. Though it is not always present, heat, such as breath, will be evident sometimes."

**Question:** "You said, 'the voice-box owes its peculiarity to its shape'?"

**Peter:** "Particularly true. Its substance being adaptable to shape, it can be modified. It depends on the conditions prevailing at the particular time, its shape being adapted thereto. It can be modified to produce the right volume of sound for the right occasion. There is no fixed shape for it. You can have it like a trumpet, or like a seashell, the whole idea being that they are, more or less, vibrations to the conditions without. The shape determines the whorls set up to give the right volume or pressure to the resultant voice."

Question: "You speak of a diaphragm being necessary to convert the etheric sound waves into audibility. What is this diaphragm?"

**Peter:** "It is an extremely thin, web-like substance that is connected very delicately from the end of the table – the etheric tube – to the mouth of the trumpet. It is of great strength and its tension is enormous; so much so that it can make loud popping sounds, but it has a skin-like form of physical existence very much like the ordinary ectoplasm."

**Question:** "Is it reasonably possible to get a diaphragm left in a trumpet?"

Peter: "No. It is hardly possible unless you left the whole thing."

**Question:** "Is it possible to stimulate a sound not associated with the voice, the creak of a door, etc.?"

**Peter:** "it is not impossible to make a deep sigh or anything like that, and, of course, the creak of a door is not an impossibility either; it could be even the song of a bird if the operator were skilled enough."

**Question:** "Peter was asked "Whether the construction of physical sound waves bore any resemblance to etheric sound waves."

**Peter:** "Yes, it is very similar. There is one thing you do not appreciate, and that is that the physical sound that travels along the conductor is actually not within the conductor itself but within the surrounding ether. You see, it travels along the ether owing to the etheric conditions within the conductor being not quite the same as they are without: actually because you are energising that area by the passage of an electric current. Now the same conditions appertain within our etheric tube – bound ether – which enable us to create within that insulation conditions similar to your copper

conductors. The insulation that we have created may vary in diameter as it is purely for the purpose of creating conditions of potentiality within the ether. When the free ether outside the insulation is too dense it would be absorbed too much: the sound travels along this conductor. If we were using a range of frequencies similar to those used by your radio, which is a form of brute force, we should have to bring it down into denser etheric conditions nearer the earth; the principles that we utilise go far beyond your known laws of frequencies. When we use the term 'insulating' in this case, we refer to the isolation of the conditions within the etheric tubular construction from that without the tube. An explanation of that is that the etheric condition within the tube is of our making and it differs from the free ether outside in so far as it responds to our directive thought, or anyone's directive thought who is manifesting. It is nothing more or less than an etheric conductor, the same as you have your copper wire surrounded by rubber to isolate it from conducting surfaces which might be brought into its

**Question:** Peter was asked "if a communicating spirit personality other than a Guide usually possessed the knowledge of how to use the mechanism created?"

Peter: "Much depends upon the conditions that are created for him, and his ability to use it. It is very similar to your use of a telephone; vou might be quite well understood at the distant end, vet someone else who is not able to use a telephone - and there are many might be, if not inaudible, at least not clear. That is the same principle. They are the only limits. Perhaps you would like it this way. Once upon a time they found means of carrying great weights for greater distances by using circular pieces cut from tree trunks which were placed underneath the object to be moved, but look what a far cry it is from those days to now. It is not possible that the same applies to your psychic queries? But here, you see we are employing purely natural forces, of which there is a close parallel between your known laws of radio activity and those we are employing purely natural forces, of which there is a close parallel between your known laws of radio activity and those we are trying to propound here. You utilise your known laws, through their manifestation, from the material at hand. That is the only difference."

**Question:** "Do you and the other spirit operators associated with you have to create actual 'machinery' of a definite kind for voice phenomena?"

**Peter:** "Yes, of course, that is true, but you must not have visions of wheels. The principle is the same except that etherically we do not have to employ cumbersome things, because, you understand, we are working with a common substance – ether. And that is all there is to it. Free ether and employed ether – that is the secret of it is very similar to your damming a stream so as to make it flow another way ad turn a mill-wheel."

**Question:** "Can you tell us more of how the spirit personality is able to enter into communication?"

Peter: "Yes. of course - you have conditions created for manifestations of voice. You have the medium in state of preparation for that voice. The medium has a quality – a tonal quality – which has been built up partly by himself and partly by the assistance of the Guides. These must be harmony between the Guides and the medium, and this is reflected within the etheric extension. This etheric extension has a peculiar quality of its own which in itself is not only a protection but is also the gateway. Any communicant attempting to approach through it must have a tonal quality almost identical to it. There you have harmony again. When one comes to communicate and he has not the necessary tonal qualifications then we help him to raise or lower it, as necessary. In the last extreme, if neither is successful we can transmit, or allow to be transmitted, all its characters of voice quality. In addition we are able to pass through all the things that are characteristic of the communicant, which to you, is one and the same thing"

**Question:** "You communicant is speaking to a friend. The friend asks a question and you get the reply. Can you tell us the means by which the communicant is able to receive the thought expressed by the sitter?"

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**Peter:** "Only by thought. The expression of it helps him too do so because most people on earth cannot express thought by just thinking but only by asking aloud. Actually, it is not the voice that conveys the question but the thought accompanying it."

**Question:** "Is there any method of controlling who should so speak? Is there a compère?"

**Peter:** "No. I have partly answered that question. Those who wish to speak must have the qualifications necessary to make his thought (the communicant's thought) register upon the etheric extension of the medium. Where possible we help him or her to communicate, but always with an eye to what I have told you in the last answer but one. That is the governing factor."

**Question:** "Is a spirit communicant able to give speech by direct contact with the medium?"

**Peter:** "The communicant contacts part of the medium's auric extension – any part of the etheric field – and by so doing is able to use the conditions created, to communicate."

**Question:** "How is it that a childish or feminine voice is heard when using a masculine vocal etheric instrument?"

**Peter:** "The necessary physical sounds are first produced etherically via the human chords. The qualities of the etheric sound are not limited in tone, as they are by physical chords."

**Question:** "Is there any other method of controlling who should so speak?"

**Peter:** "That is our responsibility. We are not responsible for the phenomena, but we are responsible for the medium and indirectly, for everyone else. We cannot do more than provide the means – because that is our responsibility. Anything else must come as the result of patience and unfortunately, conditions over which we have no control. There is this fact and this alone – so long as we are vested by you with the authority to control, all will be well. We hold the lever that cuts off the power, but when we are usurped from our position we cannot control."

**Question:** "For independent voice – do you have to create a similar mechanism?"

**Peter:** "Yes. it is not 'vocal'. While the terms we are compelled to use are very elementary, the principle of amplifying is sound. The voices are created via a form of etheric trumpet within the sphere of which the conditions are controllable. The voices are produced in that way."

**Question:** "We have heard the independent voice in white light. Therefore white light does prevent mechanism being constructed?"

**Peter:** "You will find that the light has allowed for dark places. It is of course, when conditions are good. I remember we have had the voice with a light in our circle under similar circumstances."

**Question:** "Authentic evidence has been recorded that spirit voices have been heard in various parts of a room, with and without trumpet, through the mediumship of Valiantine. The medium at this time has been normal and engaged upon conversation with a sitter – consequently his physical larynx has been in use when the spirit voices have also been audible. Does the same voice productive mechanism operate in this case as that you have described as produced via the medium's physical and etheric larynx?"

**Peter:** "No, that is not so. In cases like that it is a form which is not of physical mediumship at all. It is a form of mediumship wherein the conditions so combine themselves that the entities, in association with the medium, can produce directly their own voice from the refried ether, neither directly using the medium himself nor any part of his economy. But that is very rare."

**Question:** Voice production! Would it be possible to take away the side of one of these "voice-boxes" or amplifiers – that is, to take away the ectoplasm?"

**Peter:** "Yes, but you would not learn anything, because its shape would be constantly altering. It would have no construction that you could understand. It would not be related to truth or permanency." Source Harry Edwards book 'The mediumship of Arnold Clare.

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This series examines methods of achieving high quality audio and video recordings. All aspects are covered from using the straightforward cost effective Minidisc® system to more versatile arrangements. Editing, copying and cleaning up old noisy recordings will also be covered.

## **RECORDING SÉANCES AND OTHER EVENTS**

By Lew Sutton I.Eng MIIE

#### **PART 2: MICROPHONES**









BM-38 Boundary Mic.

ECM MS907 Stereo Mic.

EM-900 Mic. on antivibration mount

#### INTRODUCTION

Good quality microphones are absolutely essential for producing the clarity of recordings that we have come to expect these days being surrounded in digital technology. But, in particular, cheap microphones will not pick-up the quieter sounds in the séance room clearly. So I make no apology for devoting Part 2 completely to microphones and their ancillary equipment.

In Part 1we looked at the simplest and possibly the cheapest method of achieving high quality recordings by using a stereo microphone and Minidisc recorder. However, for many this approach may not be satisfactory for their particular situation.

Some may have a large or long room that cannot be adequately covered by placing a microphone in one position. There may also be the need for more flexibility to cope with events other than séances – events such as workshops, seminars, or even the ubiquitous AGM!

#### **MICROPHONES**

In Part 1we looked at Sony's excellent ECM-MS907 stereo microphone used with a Minidisc recorder. This microphone has a proven track recorder with at least three in use by Spiritualists for recording séances and other events. Now we shall take a look at situations where other types of microphone may be more appropriate and offer greater flexibility.

#### **General Purpose Microphones**

Typical of good quality general purpose type microphones is the YOGA EM-900 (see photo). This is a reasonably priced microphone that can be used for seminars, church rostrums, home circles and séances. I used one for several years in a home circle and still use one on the rostrum at seminars. However for picking up quiet sounds in the séance room I use the Sony microphone mentioned above.

The EM-900 is particularly useful in so much as it can be powered by a battery housed within the casing or powered via the microphone cable by a higher voltage enabling it to handle loud sounds better (such as an over enthusiastic speaker on the rostrum!). Most decent microphones for the applications we are talking about require a low DC voltage to be fed to them by the cable that feeds the signal to the rest of the equipment.

Several others similar to the EM-900 have since come on to the market with prices in the region of £40 or less. Some come with a lead terminating with a \_ inch phone type jack so you may have to purchase an extra lead to achieve best immunity against hum and noise pick-up – see Section 'Connectors and Cables'.

#### **Very Sensitive Microphones**

By 'sensitive' I mean the ability of a microphone to pick up very quiet sounds such as the whispers that often occur in the earlier stages of the development of Direct Voice or when communicators are having difficulties in mastering the techniques of working through an ectoplasmic voice box.

All microphones produce a certain amount of background noise (hiss) which tends to masks very quiet sounds. Although Sony's ECM-MS907 is very good in this respect better sensitivity can be achieved by paying more for a microphone.

Excellent value at the moment is the NT1A made by RØDE. This is an exceptionally 'quiet' microphone that can be obtained for £150 or less. This is a mono microphone so two are needed for stereo recordings. However, separate microphones give better versatility for covering events such as workshops and seminars and are capable of better stereo imaging than a single stereo microphone.

#### Microphones for Larger Rooms

For larger rooms more than two microphones may be required, or else maybe just two 'Boundary' type microphones. These are better at picking up sounds some distance from the microphone. They need to be mounted against a flat surface which then becomes part of the sound collecting system. This surface can be vertical or horizontal. The larger the flat surface the better the low frequency (bass) output from the microphone. These are mono microphones so two will be needed for stereo.

You may have seen this type of microphone tapped to the floor at a certain sanctuary. This positioning is far from ideal (but may be the most practical solution for them) as it gives poorer stereo imaging, and I suspect, poorer pick-up from sounds at the far ends of the room.

For positioning Boundary microphones try starting with mounting the microphones opposite one another on the longest walls. Several positions may have to be tried to get best results as room acoustics vary so much.

You may wish to add an extra mono microphone next to the medium to detect quiet speech that the main boundary microphones fail to pick up adequately. This will mean using a sound mixer which we shall come to in Part 3. If this approach is taken this gives you the option of using ordinary microphones rather than Boundary ones if you don't want to invest in specialised microphones with their limited applications. See also section 'Using Mono Microphones'.

A suitable Boundary model is the YOGA BM-38 – see photo which also shows the XLR connector and cable. These microphones are quite solid and are about 110mm across.

There are some cheaper Boundary microphones on the market without a balanced output (see section 'Connectors and Cables'). These are totally unsuitable in a larger room as they are prone to picking-up mains hum. One model has to be kept well over a metre away from any 230V wiring to avoid hum.

#### **Digital Microphones**

Microphones with a digital output using the computer USB2 bus are now becoming popular. These connect direct to a computer or via a digital mixer unit. One advantage of this approach is that interference such as mains hum is eliminated. Thus the recording system can be located some distance away without risk of the audio signal being contaminated.

As I have no experience in this field I cannot comment on the performance of such microphones, but have noticed that the Samson CO1U microphone at £69 has received good write-ups. Various types of Mixers including ones using the USB2 bus will be covered in Part 3.

#### **Radio Microphones**

It is not a good idea to introduce a radio transmitter into a séance room but they do have other applications such as seminars, clairvoyant demonstrations and workshops.

The better models have what is known as 'diversity' receivers in order to give more reliable reception – less risk of fade if the user goes behind an obstruction such as a pillar. These models are easily recognisable as they have two aerials sticking up from the receiver. The better models also have a 'compander' circuit built into the transmitter – see next paragraph.

#### Handheld

Avoid cheaper models without a built in "compander" unless the users are accustomed to using this type of microphone. This is because without a compander, users have to maintain a set distance from the mouth to avoid not being heard at all or deafening everyone if held too close to the mouth. Decent models with a compander are going to cost typically £300 plus when purchased with a special dedicated radio receiver.

#### Lapel type

These are better than the hand held as the microphone remains at a set distance from the user's mouth. However both handheld and lapel types are unlikely to have sufficient dynamic range to cope adequately with the wide range of sound levels that can occur in the séance room – from whispers to loud singing.

#### MICROPHONE PLACEMENT

#### Using a Stereo Microphone

Often it is very much a case of experimentation as to where the best position is. However sometimes options are limited due space availability or due to the type of phenomena occurring, such as materialised forms moving around the room. Start by putting the microphone about head height or above and near to the medium.

Look also for a position to get best stereo affect in order to track voices moving around the room if you are expecting direct voice etc. Invariably microphone placement is a matter of compromise.

Twice at public séances I have had to resort to placing a stereo microphone on the floor between my feet due to lack of space. Although I have achieved good results there is the always the risk of picking up lots of noise from creaking floors and shuffling feet etc.

A microphone stand with an adjustable boon is practically essential to allow flexibility in positioning. They can be purchased for £15 or so, unless you need a heavy duty model. Also anti-vibration mounts (that hold the mic) are useful to reduce unwanted sounds being transmitted from whatever the stand is sitting on – such as demonstrators/speakers tapping the rostrum rail or shuffling feet in the case of a floor mounted microphone (see photo of EM-900 mic).

#### **Using Mono Microphones**

If using two or more mono microphones give consideration to positioning microphones to get best stereo effect for tracking voices moving around the room if you are expecting direct voice. It may not be possible to place the microphones in such a position and also be close enough to the medium to detect quieter sounds.

You may wish to considering using a using an additional mono unidirectional microphone next to the medium. Try adding this mono signal to both left and right channels via a microphone mixer unit – unless you have a multi-track recorder and wish to blend the tracks together later.

Be aware that recording with multiply microphones can produce what is known as comb filtering affects. This is caused by time delays in sound waves reaching microphones when the sound source (ie a voice) is not equal distance from two or more microphones. The effect is more noticeable on music but is worth mentioning if your recordings sound a bit odd! What happens is that some frequencies are emphasised and others are attenuated.

This problem can be adverted if two mono unidirectional microphones are mounted adjacent to one another and at 90 degrees to one another in the horizontal plane in order to achieve stereo imaging.

Special brackets are available to mount on microphone stands for this purpose (about £5). The two microphones are typically spaced about 20cm apart by the bracket. This arrangement should in fact give you better stereo imaging than stereo microphones, which tend to be a bit of a compromise – unless you pay enough.

#### **CONNECTORS AND CABLES**

In general, cheaper microphones do not have what is known as a balanced output and will be fitted with a  $^{1/4}$  inch diameter old fashioned type phone jack. The balanced type is easily recognisable as they have 3 pin connectors and a two core cable with outer screening. The connectors are known as XLR type and have an outside diameter of about 18mm (0.7 inches). The photo of the BM-38 boundary microphone shows a XLR connector alongside.

Sometimes a miniature version is fitted to microphones and is supplied with a cable that terminates at the other end with a standard size connector.

#### Minimising Hum and Noise Pick-up

The balanced type of microphone output arrangement is far less prone to picking up hum or extraneous electrical noises which can be a major problem on longer microphone cable runs. The cheaper unbalanced type of output is just not worth bothering with when the microphone is more than a few metres away from the recorder. Sony's excellent ECM-MS907 stereo microphone doesn't have a balanced output but is not intended to be used with a long lead. It is fitted with a 3.5mm stereo plug as used on headphones for Hi-Fi equipment and Walkmans.

In order to maximise immunity to hum and electrical noise the cable from a balanced microphone needs to be connected to a microphone amplifier or a sound mixer with XLR inputs – more on that in Part 3.

As mentioned in section 'General Purpose Microphones' some microphones, although they have a balanced output, they are provided with a cable terminated with a standard 1/4 inch phone jack (intended to plug into PA systems or Karaoke machines). Using this arrangement is better than using an unbalanced microphone but will not give best protection against noise pick-up. Better to replace the lead and plug into an amplifier or mixer with XLR inputs.

#### **PHANTOM SUPPLIES**

No, the heading is not a mistake! Practically all the better microphones for the type of application we are talking about are condenser (electret) microphones and require a supply voltage of 15 to 48V DC to be fed down the cable to power them (Sony's ECM-MS907 is an exception). This is known as a phantom supply and is normally provided by a sound mixing unit (will be covered in Part 3) or a separate power supply plugged into the cable. Some however have a small plastic box set in the lead housing a battery to power them.

#### **WHAT NEXT IN PART3?**

We shall be looking at microphone mixers and the rest of the recording chain. In the mean time don't go rushing out and buy a DJ type of mixer used at discos – they are not up to the job. Nor are the passive types without any amplification.

#### RESOURCE INFORMATION

www.turnkey.co.uk have a good range of microphones at reasonable prices but see Part 1 in last issue of Buzzsheet for a more suppliers.

### **DUDERS AND COOK RETURN FOR THE NIGHT**

## DAVID THOMPSON SÉANCE

#### AT THE SPIRIT LODGE HAYWARDS HEATH SUSSEX ENGLAND JANUARY 2003

#### By Ross James Pearman

Sitters were greeted to a double act from the dearly departed comic due of Peter Cook and Dudley Moore during this evening's physical mediumship demonstration at the spirit lodge.

Before going into trance, the medium was checked to ensure that his binds were secure in holding him to the chair within the cabinet. Sitters were also searched before entering the séance room.

Following a short prayer and some music sitters were greeted with an address by William Charles Cadwell who reinforced the point that everyone was here in the séance room to help join the two worlds together.

William greeted three sitters who had not sat before and gave some background into his life on the earth plane and said he was the "master of ceremonies", as well as David's friend and mentor.

He then asked for questions from the sitters on a "spiritual nature". One gentleman asked Williams whether when spiritual communicators spoke were they using their own ectoplasmic voicebox for independent voice, or that of the medium's voicebox.

"At this present time I am talking to you through a voice box which is quite disorganised, for example I am missing the correct pronouncement of some words. The voicebox is constructed by ectoplasm being exuded from the medium's mouth. The more than I control the voice box the more there is a replication of my voice. It starts off by using the medium's patterning to create a voicebox prototype and then it is manipulated according to the spirit individual using it."

William then fully materialised into the séance room, he puthenticated this by stamping his foot, which all could have

authenticated this by stamping his feet, which all could hear. "As I materialism a part of the ectoplasm is still connected to the medium, which is drawn from the solar plexus area. To create a voicebox the ectoplasm is drawn from the mouth. It is easier to

Another sitter asked if there was a dark side in the spirit world.

control ectoplasm from the solar plexus than the mouth."

"As you well know there is good and bad on all vibrations on the Earth and in spirit. How do you determine evil and measure it? It is something difficult to measure. Anything you might term inappropriate has the ability to progress spiritually. Something which is called evil, which I prefer to call negative energy, has the potential to develop positively. Explaining ectoplasm William said that the composition was different from each medium.

"When the medium goes into trance it stimulates part of the brain which creates chemicals. This also causes a chain reaction to the blood and respiratory system, such as the lungs and the stomach.

"It is the effect from the chemical reaction in the pancras, which is where the ectoplasm is exuded in the form of what could be described as bodily waste, bile and sputum. It is hard to define as it changes from the medium's brain which determines the amount and the composition."

"David has his own free will, when he goes into trance he stimulates the brain, when you sleep do you know how you went to sleep, the same is for trance. "The etheric body detached from spirit body, this is then accompanied by the medium's spirit team to a place of animation so we can use David's physical body for trance or ectoplasm.

"You may ask how David's body is protected so that no other influences can enter his body. If you saw his guardian white soaring bird you would not want to go near the medium unless you were allowed.

Another sitter asked William if angels existed.

"It depends how you define angels. If you wish to call us angels, if it feels right to you, that is fine. To many we are either regarded as guides, friends, guardians and angels. Everyone has someone who is willing to guide and nurture you during your time on the earth plane.

"Is there an angelic kingdom?" asked another sitter.

"There are enlightened individuals in the spirit world, which is beyond our comprehension. Some of these have never been to the spirit world and there are those who have. When you evolve to that vibration there is no need for an attachment to a physical body."

William then departed and asked sitters to hold hands. Some lively music was then placed on and the illuminated trumpet – placed in the séance room before the proceedings had started – was sent zimming around the darkened séance room.

The music was then stopped and sitters were greeted to the usual wit and charm of the medium's lively and youthful spirit communicator Timothy Booth.

Tim withdrew into the cabinet and said they wanted to do something for one of the circle members.

One of the Haymist Circle members and David's wife Bianca was greeted to the gentle words of her young son in spirit Seth? Who said he was well and that he loved his mum very much and for a present she had bought him.

Tim returned and asked sitters if they knew of man called Tom. A lady said she knew a Tom and welcomed him through.

Tom greeted the lady and he wanted to speak to her about her circle, telling her that she was the medium.

The lady replied that the medium hadn't been chosen yet. "Well, I'm telling you now aren't I," replied Tom, who advised the lady to sit in the cabinet as soon as they next meet. "I wouldn't have wasted my time to tell you if it wasn't right, would I?" Tom replied. Tom then withdrew and Tim replied asking for the music to be played. This was soon stopped by Tim and child's xylophone, placed in the séance room earlier, was played softly in the middle of the spirit room.

After a brief silence sitters were greeted by a spirit voice who identified himself as famous comedian and musician Dudley Moore. This is his second appearance to the séance room following his passing to spirit.

Identifying the xylophone in the middle of the séance room, Dudley said he would "have a go" at playing a tune.

The instrument was bashed for a while before Moore replied, "I don't think I can play this".

He then asked sitters if they minded if he went around touching sitters in the séance room. Sitters were then greeted with a "firm" handshake and pat from Duders as he walked around the séance room.

Dudley said he still played the piano when he could. He said he couldn't come through as often as he liked as he found the ectoplasm hard to master.

Dudley added that his comic companion was still keeping them laughing in the spirit world. "We had our ups and down me and Cookie," he added.

Asked how he felt when he passed over he said it was "strange".

"I wasn't well for a good few days when I passed. I knew something wasn't right. I had my suspicions there was another life. It was mixture of feelings when I passed, I couldn't put my finger on it. Although you know you have passed over it is still a shock for you."

He talked about Bo Derek's testimony following his death. "She's beautiful isn't she? I had a crush on her I can tell you."

Dudley then departed and was followed by the familiar voice of Dudley's companion Peter Cook.

"I see the little fellow got ahead of me, filling you with claptrap about me. I wasn't sure whether I wanted to come through, but I didn't want to be upstaged by the little squirt [Dudley Moore] would I?" said Cook.

Cook made a short appearance and said he wanted to make way for the doctor Theobald Slavinski to come through. "Good evening to you all," he added.

'Honest' Jack then came through and greeted sitters and said he would take some personal questions before making way for the doctor.

Asked who he kept going away to ask, Jack replied: "either his nibs or someone else who can help me."

He also told a couple of sitters that recent rappings they had heard in their houses were spirit's way of saying "come on get a move on" in developing their mediumistic talent. "The same happened for him in the chair," he added.

Jack then departed and the music was restarted. Jack returned again and asked for the red light to be illuminated and the medium's binds checked and then severed to allow the doctor to use David in a trance state to give healing to those gathered.

The binds were first checked and found to still be intact. The doctor introduced himself and explained that on the earth plane he was a cardiovascular surgeon until he passed over in 1873, although he keeps himself updated with new medical methods in the earth plane.

He then asked sitters in turn to come up and sit in front of him for psychic surgery.

One lady who had a bad back demonstrated that she could not bend very far, which she demonstrated to the doctor. During healing she said she felt something pushing on her back when the doctor placed his hands on her back. Asked to stand and bend she was able to bend over without discomfort.

Another sitter had his "aura charged" by the doctor so he would be able to go away and administer healing to his sister who was unwell.

The doctor then drew proceedings to a close and David was brought back safely from his trance state before a closing prayer was said.

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Tom and Anne Harrison are true workers for the world of Spirit. Donating their time and energy for the pursuit of truth and the telling of an amazing experience that is perhaps the most well documented physical circle of its time.

## TOM & ANNE HARRISON

In honour of their dedication to our cause the Zerdin Fellowship is pleased to make them Honourary Fellows.

Tom Harrison entered this life in 1918. Born into a Spiritualist family his pathway has been to experience the most amazing spiritual happenings that anyone could hope to witness in one lifetime. Many have witnessed the remarkable phenomena of physical mediumship, sitting in home circles week after week they have met with those who have gone before, but few have recorded these events or spoken publicly of them.

Tom's story, sitting in home circle with family and friends, could like so many other remarkable happenings have been lost to the world. As the tide washes away footprints in the sand so time covers over the work of mediums and the experience of sitters. Not so with the remarkable mediumship of Minnie Harrison. Whether planned within the divine mind or a chance happening we may never know, but we can be thankful that Minne Harrison had a son called Tom and that Tom, possessed with intellect and compassion, recognised the need to record these events and tell the story to all who would listen.

For many years Tom has worked closely with his wife Anne travelling around the United Kingdom giving his talk on his mother's mediumship. Anne has played her part in making sure the story is told, helping Tom organise his talks and his writings for publication.

At the end of Tom's talk he would happily show off the old army field note book in which he recorded the events in his own hand (the only paper available at the time) along with his mother's trumpet, apports and other paraphernalia of those amazing years. To those who have been present at Tom's talks the reality of his experience is brought into sharp focus by his telling. Now that Tom is retired and living in Spain it is a rare event for him to give his talk but you can read all about his experiences in his book Life after Death – Living Proof or watch the D.V.D of his talk which includes interviews with visitors to the circle as well as circle members.

## HELLO HELEN DUNCAN

## A DEMONSTRATION OF PHYSICAL MEDIUMSHIP BY DAVID THOMPSON AT THE SPIRIT LODGE, HAYWARDS HEATH ENGLAND, 5th OCTOBER 2003 By Ross - James Pearman

Sitters were treated to some in-depth answers to what is God, physical development, and a brief visit from famous Scottish physical medium Helen Duncan during this demonstration of physical mediumship at the Spirit Lodge at Haywards Heath, West Sussex.

The medium David Thompson was checked over by several new sitters when entering the séance room. After being tied to the chair in the cabinet his binds were also checked.

The lights in the room were then extinguished and after a brief prayer the proceedings commenced.

Sitters were welcomed to the meeting by David's Spirit mentor William Charles Cadwell. After a brief address he opened the floor to questions.

One sitter asked "how do you define God?"

"Each person has a different concept depending on religious belief. My personal belief is this. God is not a divine all knowing individual it is believed to be. God is an infinite vibration with penetrates all living organisms, it is a group that dwells in each living being. It is up to the being to develop that aspect of self which is spiritual development. When you pass to world of Spirit I believe as you progress through the spheres of Spirit, the aspect of God becomes more pure and shines more brightly, so there is no identity as you once were and you become pure light and blend with a vibration, which, I believe, is the all knowing existence of God."

Asked by another sitter how you become evolved to be at one with this vibration, William replied: "This comes through spiritual development of ones self. The primary objective of spirituality is being true to ones self no matter what is necessary to do. People believe that concept of spirituality is being nice to other individuals. It is to understand true person inside the physical body, an awareness to make an individual at one with themselves, mankind and the animal kingdom. This is my perception.

"I believe the Buddhist people are very much on right road of understanding regarding enlightenment. If you could mix Buddhism with Spiritualism you would be moving in the right direction."

Asked about what someone like the Pope, as the head of the Catholic Church, would experience when he passed over to the Spirit world, William answered: "The Catholic Church believes in continuity of life in a different way. But, despite what religion you are, everybody will come upon the realisation of life after death.

"It is then up to the individual to find their place in the new sphere of living. Some might think when they get there they are by the side of god. However, they will then realise the truth that they, along with other individuals, are all trying to understand what lies within. Whether you are the Pope or the Queen we are all equal, it has nothing to do with one person's status on the earth plane.

"Are animals equal in the spirit world?" asked another sitter.

"Yes of course. In fact I believe animals are more spiritually advanced than human kind. This is purely because they don't realise or worry about what they will have next in their life on a material level and are therefore free from materiality.

Domestic animals living with human beings understand the concept of love and this can only help them develop further on their road to enlightenment."

One lady asked whether angels exist in the spirit world. "Angels are so if you wish them to be, I could be classed as angel. If you wish them to be ordinary people then that is what they are."

Another sitter asked: "What are your views on soul groups and how do they work?"

William replied: "My interpretation only is that all human kind is part of one human soul group. Of course there is some divisions in the group of all human kind. Those who believe in one school of thought, but who would find it hard to believe in what others do. This divides the group into a smaller group. Within this are other individuals attracted to one another, depending on the magnetism of the auric emulation. This is the thing that draws them together. Think of it is one large school of many classes with pupils making friends within the school."

William then said his farewells and the music was restored while sitters were greeted to the luminous trumpet, placed in the séance room before the meeting started, being swirled around the room and ceiling in time with the music. Some sitters were tapped on the head and the stomach by the trumpet.

The music was then turned off and Timothy, the Spirit controller of the ectoplasm in the séance room, greeted sitters and talked about the ways in which he was controlling the ectoplasmic rods attached to the trumpet.

Timothy then explained that a gentleman called George would like to speak to some family members in the audience.

The family members confirmed the name and after a brief moment George came through and talked to them. He confirmed several personal details and family member names, as well as engaging in a light-hearted debate on his gardening skills and tomato sandwiches while on the earth plane.

He also confirmed that his daughter had been looking at his photograph very recently and told her she was the "best daughter he could have wished for" and that he would "always be there looking after her".

George sent his love to other family members and then departed from the séance room.

Timothy returned and was able to reunite a lady sitter with her father in the spirit world, for the first time.

Music was then requested for a few minutes before Timothy returned and commenced playing harmoniously on a harmonica placed in the séance room before the start of proceedings. "I learned that tune the other night," he said. Timothy then dematerialised from the séance room and was replaced by the voice of George Spriggs, the famous materialisation medium, who said it had been some time

He opened the floor to questions to sitters who wanted to

since he last came through in the séance room.

discuss about their own mediumistic development.

To one lady he said that their circle was sitting in the right conditions if they had regular and consistent sitters, the medium was bound in the chair and the lights were off in the séance room. However, with permission he said he would visit the sitter's circle to make sure everything was going correctly.

Another sitter raised doubts about some sitters currently sitting in their circle.

"Where circles, especially on a physical nature, are concerned there is no room for sentiment. If there are vibrations within the circle that are counter-productive, the individuals must be asked to leave. They may be nice people but it doesn't make them correct, does it not?"

Asked about the development of Spirit light in the Haymist circle, George said it was important not to concentrate on one thing for the development of the circle. However, he said there was work going on to introduce Spirit light within the séance room and working with ectoplasm which can be seen in red light conditions.

Addressing one young sitter on his mediumistic development, George stressed that "age was no issue" and that if the sitter wished to develop his mediumship it had to be a "life's work".

He added: "This does not mean you don't have to live your life as a healthy young man. There is no reason why they can't go hand-in-hand, but on the same pathway. Be committed and you will reap the benefits and the rewards."

George then departed and made way for the voice of Albert Stevens who explained that he was the guide of the Scottish physical medium Helen Duncan. He told sitters that he would make way for Helen to come through and talk.

Helen came through faintly and said she would come through in a future physical séance and speak to Mary Armour to thank her for all her work. In her brief address she stressed the importance of looking after the medium during séances.

Helen then explained she had to go and retired back into the cabinet and the music was then returned.

Timothy returned and said they would try something different by trying to transfigure over the medium under red light conditions. He stressed this was an experiment.

One sitter said they saw some change around the mouth area and a change in the face which was travelling "very fast".

'Honest Jack' then rounded off the evening by answering some personal questions from those gathered by speaking to them in direct voice – Jack's preferred method of communication.

## 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:

Richard medium from Hull... looking for dedicated sitters. Janice medium from Leighton Buzzard Beds... looking for dedicated sitters

Joyce sitter from NW London... looking to join dedicated physical circle

Keith medium from Essex... looking for experienced sitters 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

Moira 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.

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. Pauline sitter from West London... looking to join a physical circle.

Catherine from Chipping Norton Oxfordshire... looking to join a physical circle.

Penny & Richard from Nailsea... looking to join a physical circle. Margaret from Cannock... looking to join a physical circle. George from Chaldon Surrey... looking to join a physical circle.

Heather from Coventry... looking to join a physical circle. Gillian from Coventry... looking to join a physical circle. Anne from Troon, Ayrshire... looking to join a physical circle. Joy from Tonbridge, Kent... looking to join a physical circle Jane from Guildford, Surrey... looking to join a physical circle Steven from Torquay, Devon... looking to join a physical circle John & Maryse from Ollainville, France... looking to join a physical circle

Gordon from North Wales... looking to join a physical circle Lynne from Suffolk... looking to join a physical circle Jeff sitter from NW London... looking to join a physical circle Jean sitter from Seaton Devon... looking to join a physical circle Val from Sunderland or Newcastle... 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

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## STEWART'S FORUM

## **'QUESTIONS & ANSWERS'**



Question: In physical mediumship it is usual that the medium is in a state of deep trance. Can you tell me why this appears to be a necessary condition to produce phenomena. Although not all physical mediums need to be entranced – I believe that in your circle you have been brought back to consciousness to witness the trumpets flying. So, it cannot be as some have put forward that the production of ectoplasm causes pain and therefore the medium is rendered unconscious. Freddy:

**Answer:** Your question is a most interesting one and what follows must only be regarded as my personal views and opinions. I do not advance them as unquestionable fact but as tentative speculation which I merely invite you to consider.

Firstly then – you are of course quite correct in stating that whilst the mediumistic trance state and physical séance room phenomena are synonymous, there have been exceptions in the past. For example – in the 1920's and 30's, Mrs Etta Wriedt, the highly celebrated trumpet medium (from Detroit, Michigan – USA) was reported to have remained fully conscious (occasionally knitting) at her séances. The Scottish trumpet medium John Sloan was invariably in trance during his sittings but towards the latter part of his long mediumistic career he too remained alert and conscious throughout.

In more recent times, Leslie Flint the voice medium conversed, along with the sitters, with the Spirit people, although; in the early years of his development he would invariably be entranced.

However, these were exceptions and it is indeed usual for a physical medium to enter the state of trance although, it is my belief, that following long development it may not always be the case.

Of course, although we are only able to speculate, it does seem probable that with many mediums the Spirit people are best able to generate phenomena whilst he/she is in the trance state. However, we must always remember that there are sound reasons and purpose behind everything that the Spirit World does. We may not understand the reason and the purpose but we should never doubt that this is an absolute fact.

In respect of your contention that to impose trance cannot be (as some maintain) to spare the medium pain, whilst I understand and appreciate your view, I do feel that to dismiss this as a distinct possibility may be a little hasty.

At my own séances – as is now well known – Walter often materialises one of his hands and displays it upon an under lit glass table top. Occasionally he

will hold one of the hands of a sitter who has been invited by him to sit close to the table and observe. If, during this experiment, I am conscious (as I sometimes am) I immediately experience a painful sensation in the area of my solar plexus when the hands make contact. Similarly, I feel discomfort when the two trumpets have been placed (by Spirit) one inside the other and are locked together in free flight. Interestingly, that sensation is absent when the two fly independently of each other. Therefore, from personal experience 'I Know' that there is a painful seat of reaction during the presentation of certain physical phenomena. Logic therefore seems to suggest that pain may have resulted from all early manifestations (hence the necessity of trance) but that following a long process of development, it has largely been eliminated.

In consequence, the necessity to impose trance throughout has gradually been removed.

If this assumption is correct, then it may well be a common factor in respect of physical mediumship in general.

In summation then; it seems to me that there are at least two possible reasons why most mediums enter the deep trance state during physical séances.

- a) Because the Spirit World may find it simpler to extract and then utilise the ectoplasmic energy.
- b) In order to avoid the medium experiencing physical pain. I wish you well.

Question: When you are in a deep state of trance and are speaking in trance (not the direct voice) to conserve energy, are you aware of anything being said?

Silver Birch teaches (and the quote is taken from the teachings of Silver Birch series – 'The Spirit Speaks' page 77) when talking about the difficulties of communication. 'We use fallible instruments. Sometimes the conditions of communication are not good, mistakes are made, and the entirety of what we desire to say does not succeed in being transmitted. Sometimes there are other difficulties, the health of the instrument, the thoughts that are in the subconscious mind, dominant thoughts, perhaps intervening with the process of transmission'.

Although this was primarily directed at mental mediumship it also applies to all forms of mediumship. Could you comment on this please?

Belinda: Aldenham.

Answer: During the early years of my development I was

always aware during the trance state of everything that was transmitted through me.

However, I was in a condition of disassociation and could not have stopped or interfered with the flow of words if I had tried. In short, I was rather like an observer on the verge of sleep, and I played no active part in the proceedings. Then, following a few years of development I began to realise after the séances, that I had no recollection of various parts of the reported communications. These gaps in my memory continued and extended over a period of several years until finally, I was rendered totally unconscious (deep trance) and thereafter knew nothing of what had occurred unless the circle members told me. (This situation interestingly coincided with the onset of physical phenomena)

However, I have always maintained that in any trance communication the subconscious mind may interfere with, and colour the transmission. Alan Crossley, (Spiritualist authority, medium, author and friend) used to say that there is always a part of the medium mixed up with trance communications.

This has been confirmed many times by the Spirit people themselves at our own séances. We understand that they cannot render a mediums brain totally inoperative because they are unable to disconnect it entirely from the mind. Thus there is always a degree of interference to the transmission no matter how minor. Freda herself occasionally remarks that there are times when she is very aware that 'what she puts in at one end is not necessarily what comes out of the other' and those are her own words. This can and does occasionally lead to a little confusion in respect of a communication and one can readily understand and appreciate her frustration. Of course the Spirit people constantly strive to attain and then maintain an acceptable level of control which has a direct bearing upon clear and accurate communication.

However, should they become aware that this has been lost then they will withdraw and the transmission will cease. Generally this will occur towards the end of a long séance.

I wish you well.

Question: We would like to know your opinion on the numbers needed in a physical circle? Obviously the smaller the number the greater ease of complete harmony. But is this offset by not being able to generate the necessary power for phenomena? Before phenomena it is hard to get sitters to put in the necessary dedication. Once phenomena begins, the whole world wants to know. We have heard that the Perrimans (husband and wife partnership) found that they were reduced to the two of them and nearly gave up. Then the phenomena happened with just the two of them. Can we have your comments please? Belinda & Freddy: Aldenham.

**Answer:** I have long taken the view – better two people in total harmony than a greater number in disharmony. As you know, a circle will waste its time and that of the Spirit World, if just one sitter is incompatible with fellow sitters. In spite of the fact that the group energy may well increase in direct proportion to the number of sitters, I very much doubt that the Spirit people could effectively make use of it should the circle be unbalanced.

Harmony is an absolute necessity and without it a circle could sit for ever and achieve and develop little of consequence. I well remember how, many years ago, I gave a talk at my local Spiritualist Church about circle work and I spoke about the importance of harmony. Afterwards, in the tea room, the elderly lady president took me to one side and told me that she had agreed with everything that I had said. Congratulating me she went on to say that Spiritualists in general failed to realise just how vitally important these matters were to circle work and that my talk had been of benefit to everyone. At that point I have to say that I was feeling quite pleased with myself but sadly it was not to last. She went on to tell me that she herself had sat in the

same circle for a great many years but that sadly it had failed to achieve results.

Then, lifting her hand, she whispered to me from behind it – "Of course, it was spoilt by him over there – no one could stand him". I was rendered speechless.

Dedicated sitters are indeed extremely difficult to find. It is an age old problem and I rather imagine that it will always be so. However, please do take heart and try not to be too discouraged for it is true that some excellent mediums (physical & mental) in the past have indeed developed their gifts in very small circles. Harmony is far more important than numbers in every sense.

I wish you well.



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