

BRAIN/MIND AND PARAPSYCHOLOGY

PROCEEDINGS OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

HELD IN MONTREAL, CANADA

AUGUST 24-25, 1978

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Edited By
Betty Shapin and Lisette Coly

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PARTICIPANTS

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| John Beloff | University of Edinburgh
Edinburgh, Scotland, U.K. |
| J. Bigu | Elliot Lake Laboratory
Canada Centre for Mineral and Energy
Technology
Ontario, Canada |
| Thomas H. Budzynski | Biofeedback Institute of Denver and
University of Colorado Medical Center
Colorado, U.S.A. |
| Norman F. Dixon | University College
London, England, U.K. |
| Jan Ehrenwald | Roosevelt Hospital
New York, New York, U.S.A. |
| Charles Honorton | Division of Parapsychology and
Psychophysics
Maimonides Medical Center
Brooklyn, New York, U.S.A. |
| Edward F. Kelly | Duke University
Durham, North Carolina, U.S.A. |
| Karl H. Pribram | Stanford University
Stanford, California, U.S.A. |
| Emilio Servadio | Psychoanalytic Center of Rome
Rome, Italy |
| Charles T. Tart | University of California, Davis
California, U.S.A. |

OBSERVERS

Louis Belanger	University of Montreal, Canada
David Davies	Province of Quebec, Canada
Douglas Dean	Princeton, New Jersey, U.S.A.
Leopold Goegebeur	British Columbia, Canada
Bernard Grad	McGill University, Montreal, Canada
Michael Thorne Kelly	Brooklyn, New York, U.S.A.
John McAllister	Ottawa, Canada
Diane McGuinness	Stanford University, California, U.S.A.
Carmen Olmedo	Jamaica, New York, U.S.A.
Luther Rudolph	Syracuse University, New York, U.S.A.
Charles Small	Montreal, Canada
Edward Storm	Syracuse University, New York, U.S.A.

PARAPSYCHOLOGY FOUNDATION, INC.

Eileen Coly	President
Lisette Coly	Vice President
Allan Angoff	Chairman, Domestic and International Programs
Robert R. Coly	Administrative Secretary

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INTRODUCTION

ANGOFF: Good morning . . . I am Allan Angoff of the Parapsychology Foundation. For the trustees, I am glad to call to order and open this Twenty-Seventh Annual International Conference of the Foundation.

This conference series was begun, as many of you know, almost three decades ago, shortly after the Foundation was organized by Eileen J. Garrett and Frances P. Bolton, two remarkable friends of science and learning. They recognized in those pioneering days of parapsychology the importance of bringing together from all over the world some of the men and women working in isolation in a field regarded by so many of their academic colleagues as too remote for respectable research. Let us recall here again that even the daring Thomas Henry Huxley called it "twaddle" and that Hermann Von Helmholtz said telepathic communication "is clearly impossible." He would not believe it even if it were endorsed by the Fellows of the Royal Society itself.

In the midst of such negativism pervading the academic world—as it still does, albeit to a lesser degree—Eileen Garrett inaugurated these conferences to encourage those early parapsychologists "to advance beyond an easy orthodoxy of thought and technique into the broader aspect of physics, chemistry, and biology, and to relate these fields of research to the human personality and the largely unknown extrasensory capacities it contains."

Our conference sessions today and tomorrow are addressed to the theme: "Brain/Mind and Parapsychology," and the distinguished scientists it has brought together are, I think, eloquent testimony to the vision of Eileen Garrett and to what she so well termed—again, to use her precise words, "the advance beyond easy orthodoxy." A pause now for a moment, ladies and gentlemen, to introduce Eileen Garrett's successor—the second president of the Parapsychology Foundation—Mrs. Eileen Coly.

EILEEN COLY: I have already had the pleasure of greeting all the participants. Now I would like to welcome the observers, as well as the participants, to this conference. And let us start immediately.