

COMMUNICATION AND PARAPSYCHOLOGY

PROCEEDINGS OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

HELD IN VANCOUVER, CANADA

AUGUST 9-10, 1979

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Edited By
Betty Shapin and Lisette Coly

PARAPSYCHOLOGY FOUNDATION, INC.
NEW YORK, N.Y.

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Published by the Parapsychology Foundation, Inc.
29 West 57th Street, New York, N.Y. 10019

ISBN 0-912328-32-0
Library of Congress Catalog Number: 80-80486

Manufactured in the United States of America

The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual participants and do not represent the viewpoints of the editors nor of the Parapsychology Foundation, Inc.

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INTRODUCTION

ANGOFF: I am Allan Angoff of the Parapsychology Foundation. For the Trustees, I open this Twenty-eighth Annual International Conference and call to order this first session. This conference, addressed to the theme, "Communication and Parapsychology," is the current contribution to an annual series established three decades ago by the founder of the organization, Eileen J. Garrett. She was a friend of learning and a pioneer parapsychologist who, in that early era as it now seems, comprehended so well the importance of bringing together regularly from all over the world, the scientists, the researchers, the men and women of learning so often working in isolation from colleagues, and sympathetic observers, so that they could compare views on findings in parapsychology and related areas.

The first Annual Conference of the Parapsychology Foundation was held at the University of Utrecht, the Netherlands, and at that first session, it is well to recall now, Gardner Murphy, the Foundation's Director of Research, proclaimed in his opening address, and I quote Dr. Murphy:

"I would emphasize five words," he said at that first conference of the Foundation. "*Scientific, international, democratic, informal, courageous.* As scientists, we shall neither attack nor endorse, but we must continue to give our eager attention to every fact and look forward to an era when we shall have suitable methods and suitable facts to warrant continuous yet scientifically solid statements about the relations of human personality to that world that appears to transcend description in terms of the concepts of time and space now known to us. It seems to me," concluded Dr. Murphy, "that the scientific spirit can lead us to an integrated conception of the nature of man more satisfying than that which we now possess. In this integrated effort, of all the modes of our understanding of man, parapsychology will, if our work be done well, play a vital role."

That was Gardner Murphy at the Foundation's First Conference in Utrecht, the Netherlands. This distinguished scholar and scientist died earlier this year. The Parapsychology Foundation dedicates this Twenty-eighth Annual International Conference to his memory.

And now, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to present the President of the Foundation—Eileen Coly.

EILEEN COLY: Thank you. All I'm going to do is bid a good morning to participants and observers, and welcome you all to this conference. I suggest we start at once with the presentation of the papers.