

PARAPSYCHOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

PROCEEDINGS OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
HELD IN LONDON, ENGLAND
AUGUST 29-31, 1973

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EDITED BY

Allan Angoff and Diana Barth

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INTRODUCTION

ALLAN ANGOFF: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of the trustees, I am glad to declare open this Twenty-Second International Conference of the Parapsychology Foundation. We of the Foundation welcome you as participants and we welcome you as observers.

Our theme is, as you know, "Parapsychology and Anthropology." It suggests some observations made by Dr. J. B. Rhine some thirty years ago in an editorial in his own *Journal of Parapsychology*. "Whose field is parapsychology?" asked Dr. Rhine, and then he went on to remark (I'm quoting him): "It is not enough to say that parapsychology belongs to the parapsychologists. It is revealing no state secret that there are not enough active parapsychologists in the world today to continue an adequately self-sufficient group. To whom," continued Dr. Rhine, "then does the field belong? Who are the people who hold such an interest and by means of it are led either to become explorers or students of the problems called parapsychological and of the evidence for their solution."

Again, Dr. Rhine replied to his own question and in this manner:

Perhaps the only group of professional men who can be said to have played a positive role in bringing the attention of the scientific world to the need of investigating parapsychological occurrences, are the anthropologists. There appears to have been fairly widespread agreement in their reports that they have witnessed behavioral phenomena that they were not able to explain by present-day behavioral concepts. Here, by definition, is where parapsychology comes in.

Now these are the words of a parapsychologist—a very great one, a great pioneer in the field who still knows that his discipline (and he insisted it was a discipline) was not so respectable. Remember, it was only three years ago that parapsychology achieved in the United States a measure of respectability when it was recognized by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. It is quite significant, therefore, I think, that

a decade after Dr. Rhine's remarks, a great ethnologist and anthropologist, Dr. John R. Swanton of Harvard, familiar to some of you, former president of the American Anthropology Association, and the Vice-President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, wrote his famous "letter to anthropologists" in Dr. Rhine's *Journal of Parapsychology*, and urged his colleagues to "shun caution and respectability and to heed the phenomena uncovered" in what he called "the significant revolution which concerns us all and is taking place quietly but surely in a related branch of science and that is not being met in an honest and truly scientific manner."

Today, twenty years later, after Dr. Swanton's daring appeal, we have here, in this room, some of the most eminent anthropologists sharing our discussions of the psychic elements in man's history, with scientific colleagues of equal eminence from other fields. Thus, this conference symbolizes, how far we have come from the days when Dr. Rhine and Dr. Swanton—a parapsychologist and an anthropologist—suggested the immense potential for research, experiment and discovery in an area of common interest for both sciences. I think we can begin on that note.

Before I do so, however, let me note that Eileen J. Garrett established this Foundation and inaugurated these conferences more than two decades ago. Her great associate, her strong coworker, was her daughter, the second president of the Parapsychology Foundation. I am glad to present her now—Mrs. Eileen Coly.

GREETINGS

MRS. EILEEN COLY: It is just my very pleasant duty to welcome all the participants, all the observers; thank those of you who have travelled a great deal and long distances to be with us, and we look forward to some very good things coming from this conference, stimulating papers, and I think it's going to be a great one. Thank you.

ALLAN ANGOFF: Thank you, Mrs. Coly. We could hardly begin a conference in London without some words about this great London area where so many of the early researches were carried on, where Mrs. Garrett herself carried on her pioneer researches in psychic phenomena. There is hardly a person, anywhere in the world, better qualified to speak for London and the early investigations here in this metropolitan area than Dr. Eric Dingwall, surely the Dean of psychic researchers today. Dr. Dingwall.

DR. ERIC J. DINGWALL: Our President, Ladies and Gentlemen, I've been asked to welcome the foreign delegates to the great city of London. London, since the Roman occupation, has been the scene of many remarkable events, and from our point of view, London is the "haunted city."

Haunted spots, such as Dr. Scott's house in Broad Street—the story of which was told in 1770; the Tower of London, Covent Garden, houses in Baker Street, Berkeley Square, and Chelsea. Indeed, there are so many haunted places in London that whole books have been written about them, such as the one by Walter Thornbury in 1865, and the later book by my old friend and ghost hunter, Elliott O'Donnell, in 1909. Poltergeists have been active here since the seventeenth century, but it was much later that it became the real center of intellectual interest in the Victorian age. In mystic London, as Maurice Davies called it, mediums of every kind were giving demonstrations and seances.

William Crookes was walking about arm in arm with Katie King—a full-form materialization, while the friend of the medium, Miss Florence

Cook, was telling people how the props and the masks for the materializations could be bought in Houndsditch for just a few shillings; but apart from these performers, it was Daniel Dunglas Home and the Reverend Stainton Moses who were puzzling the Victorian intellectual world. Home moved from house to house in distinguished company and his name was known to the nobility and gentry all over England. In those days, London was almost as noted for its interest in the occult as it is today. Ample opportunities existed to delve into the so-called psychic mysteries. They still do.

I welcome, therefore, our foreign delegates to London—the center of occult England. If you do go ghost-hunting in this great city, I can at least wish you good sport and good luck!

ALLAN ANGOFF: Thanks, Dr. Dingwall. I'll now introduce the first of our six chairmen. There is a chairman for each session.

The first is the veteran Dr. Emilio Servadio.

DR. EMILIO SERVADIO: I am very flattered and honored to be the first chairman in this conference. So we start with our session and I see that we have first of all on our program, "The Implications of ESP Experiments for Anthropological ESP Research" by Hans Kreitler and Shulamith Kreitler. I think that Dr. Kreitler will read his report.