

# THE REPEATABILITY PROBLEM IN PARAPSYCHOLOGY

PROCEEDINGS OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

HELD IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

OCTOBER 28-29, 1983

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Edited By  
Betty Shapin and Lisette Coly

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## INTRODUCTION

ALLAN ANGOFF: Good morning. I am Allan Angoff of the Parapsychology Foundation, Inc. I call to order the 32nd Annual International Conference of the Parapsychology Foundation. This conference is now in session. I will serve you as conference chairman during our morning and afternoon sessions today and tomorrow. The formal papers presented here during these two days will be addressed to the all-embracing conference theme: **THE REPEATABILITY PROBLEM IN PARAPSYCHOLOGY.**

Yes, repeatability in psychical research represents a great and baffling problem. "Vast, indeed, and difficult is the inquirer's prospect here," said William James seventy-five years ago, as if replying to this confrontation with modern science, "but when was not the science of the future stirred to its conquering activities by the little rebellious exceptions to the science of the present? Hardly, as yet, has the surface of the facts called 'psychic' begun to be scratched for scientific purposes. It is through following these facts, I am persuaded, that the greatest scientific conquests of the coming generation will be achieved." That was William James, in the last year of his life, in an article he called, "The Final Impressions of a Psychical Researcher." It is well that we recall his thoughts as we begin this conference.

At this time, I am pleased to introduce the President of the Parapsychology Foundation. Ladies and gentlemen, Mrs. Eileen Coly.

EILEEN COLY: For the Parapsychology Foundation, I am pleased to welcome all of you to this conference in America's Southwest. Thank you for coming from near and far to present and exchange views on parapsychology. Your discussions here contribute to the progress of science. And that was indeed the hope and the vision of Eileen Garrett who established this Foundation more than three decades ago and inaugurated these annual international conferences.

When she discussed the future of parapsychological research back in 1955 for an Editorial in *Tomorrow* magazine, she wrote: "Today's attitude of science toward the all-important subject of psychic research is conservative, and perhaps rightly so. But sooner or later it must come to recognize that here is a significant field of investigation, strictly within the limits of its aims, and even of its methods. The



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same confusion regarding the nature of extrasensory perception exists today, as existed a century ago concerning facts in the physical world . . .”

I would like to briefly introduce you to the other members of the Foundation staff, Lisette Coly, Vice President of the Foundation and Associate Editor of these conference proceedings and Robert Coly, Administrative Secretary and Treasurer.

Again thank you for joining us. I will now turn you back to Allan Angoff and we can let the proceedings begin.