

PARAPSYCHOLOGY AND THANATOLOGY

PROCEEDINGS OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

HELD IN BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

NOVEMBER 6-7, 1993

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Edited by
Lisette Coly and Joanne D.S. McMahon

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Dedicated to the memory of
Emilio Servadio
1904-1995

The Parapsychology Foundation, especially our founder
Eileen J. Garrett, was privileged for many years
to work with Emilio Servadio.
The legacy of Dr. Servadio's
lifetime contributions to parapsychology
will continue to be appreciated.

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INTRODUCTION

LISETTE COLY: Good Morning, Everyone. As I welcome you to this meeting in my capacity as Parapsychology Foundation Vice President, let me introduce myself, I am Lisette Coly. The 40th International Conference of Parapsychology Foundation is now in session.

It is with a sense of accomplishment that Parapsychology Foundation stands today sponsoring its 40th Conference, looking back over a considerable body of work since its inception in 1951. The Board of Trustees and staff are very excited to convene this particular conference addressing Parapsychology and Thanatology—a topic of fascination surely for all humankind but a topic of specific interest for our founder—author, executive, publisher and well respected psychic, Eileen J. Garrett. The Foundation was pleased to have previously sponsored two conferences—one in London, England, the other in the South of France, both in 1966—devoted to survival and its attendant issues. In a book that Garrett edited and published in 1957, *Does Man Survive Death?* her interest in today's topic was clearly stated when she wrote:

The study of human survival after death is not a form of esoteric dabbling... Out of a study of phenomena that pointed to an after-life, current psychical research has evolved. (p. 3) As long as I see this whole tapestry of past events, and often of the future, living its life side by side with the events of the moment, then I am compelled to ask whether survival as we comprehend it is indeed the answer, or is what is left that well of memory? It is my quest for the answer to this enigma that is driving me with passionate dedication to spend all the moments of my life making it possible for scientists and philosophers, theologians and psychologists, to search for the answer which has so far alluded me. (p. 16)

At the present time, I will introduce you to Parapsychology Foundation's President, Eileen Coly, who succeeded her mother Eileen Garrett in 1970, and has continued to apply the resources of the Foundation to the quest for answers to questions presented by the survival hypothesis and relevant inquiries raised in the science of parapsychology. I feel that Garrett would be gratified by her efforts in

this direction, and as the daughter of Eileen Coly I share the commitment to the same objectives. Ladies and Gentlemen, Eileen Coly.

REFERENCE

Garrett, E.J. (Ed.). (1957). *Does man survive death? A symposium*. New York: Helix Press.

GREETINGS

EILEEN COLY: Good Morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. I am very pleased to be able to greet you today assembled to shed more light on many aspects of the survival hypothesis. F.W.H. Myers (1903) wrote in the introduction to *Human Personality and Its Survival of Bodily Death*:

The question for man most momentous of all is whether or not he has an immortal soul; or—to avoid the word *immortal*, which belongs to the realm of infinites—whether or no his personality involves any element which can survive bodily death. In this direction have always lain the gravest fears, the farthest-reaching hopes, which could either oppress or stimulate mortal minds. (p. 1)

It seems we certainly have a busy program of deliberations and discussions for the upcoming two days!

We will be kept in line very capably and graciously during the conference sessions by our esteemed moderator, Dr. Hoyt Edge. Hoyt has long been a friend to Parapsychology Foundation both professionally and personally over the years in many capacities—grantee, conference participant, and observer. He did such a superb job chairing the 1988 Parapsychology Foundation Conference in Chapel Hill *Psi Research Methodology* we have prevailed upon him to once again act as moderator. I hope he will interject his expertise, thoughts, and comments into our discussions as we know they will be of great value.

As we all are anxious to begin I will now turn the proceedings over to Dr. Edge.

REFERENCE

Myers, F.W.H. (1903). *Human personality and its survival of bodily death*. London: Longmans, Green.