

STATEMENT REGARDING THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES HELD BETWEEN THE TWO WORLD WARS

At the Utrecht Conference of 1953, so ably organized by the Parapsychology Foundation of New York, we were invited, as three of the persons taking part in that Conference who had also been associated with the series of International Congresses held between the two World Wars, to draw up a statement for publication as to the important part played by these Congresses in laying the foundation for international co-operation in the study of paranormal phenomena. The first of these Congresses was held in Copenhagen in 1921 on the initiative of Mr. Carl Vett. Subsequent Congresses were held at Warsaw in 1923, Paris 1927, Athens 1930, and Oslo 1935.

A considerable number of men and women distinguished in many branches of science and scholarship attended the Congresses and contributed papers to them. Discussion ranged over all the many branches of psychical research. A permanent Committee was set up consisting of Sir Oliver Lodge, Professor Charles Richet, Dr. F. von Schrenck-Notzing, and after the latter's death, Professor Hans Driesch, with Mr. Carl Vett as Organizing Secretary. National Committees were formed in a great number of countries for the purpose of scrutinizing papers originating in those countries that it was proposed to read at the next Congress: the object of this was, so far as was practicable, to keep discussion on a high intellectual level.

Now that, owing to the initiative and generosity of the Parapsychology Foundation, a successful start has been made in reviving international co-operation in this important field of study, after the interruption caused by the second World War, we should like to place on record the debt which we

are sure parapsychologists all over the world would wish to acknowledge to Mr. Carl Vett, of whose continued activity in this subject we are delighted to learn, and to the Societies in Denmark, Poland, France, Greece and Norway for their charming hospitality.

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