



THE MAGAZINE OF THE SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

Paranormal Review

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Kai Mügge

THE PHYSICAL MEDIUM
TELLS HIS STORY

A FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT OF A
SÉANCE WITH THE FELIX CIRCLE

READERS REPLY TO 'THE FALL
OF THE HOUSE OF FELIX?'

Reliving Enfield

GUY LYON PLAYFAIR'S
ENFIELD SAGA

ACTOR MATTHEW
MACFADYEN TALKS
ABOUT *THE ENFIELD*
HAUNTING

WHAT IS THE
ENFIELD
EFFECT?

Hearing Voices

SPIRIT COMMUNICATION OR
AUDIBLE TEA LEAVES?

AUDITORY HALLUCINATIONS AND
THE QUANTUM BRAIN

LISTENING TO ELECTRONIC
VOICE PHENOMENA

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The Society for Psychical Research

The SPR was the first organisation established to examine allegedly paranormal phenomena using scientific principles. Our aim is to learn more about events and abilities commonly described as 'psychic' or 'paranormal' by supporting research, sharing information and encouraging debate. The SPR is a Registered Charity, established in 1882.

Membership

The SPR welcomes members of the general public, as well as students and researchers in all disciplines, to join. Membership does not imply acceptance of any particular opinion concerning the nature or reality of the phenomena examined, and the Society holds no corporate views. The minimum age for joining is 16, with reduced subscriptions for students, couples and senior citizens. To renew or apply for membership please visit the website at www.spr.ac.uk, telephone the Secretary, Peter Johnson, on 020 7937 8984, or email secretary@spr.ac.uk.

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The House of Felix has not fallen. I have been there. I have seen it. But what did I see? In a pitch-black basement I experienced almost the whole gamut of séance phenomena from lights, to levitations, to apports and more. It was a great privilege to be able to take part, but what exactly those things were, I cannot say.

Did I mention that the mediumship of Kai Mügge is controversial? Since publishing the last issue – particularly Prof. Peter Mulacz's article 'The Fall of the House of Felix?' – I have been inundated with emails on the subject and spent the recent joint Society for Psychical Research/Parapsychological Association Conference talking about little else. Both the articles and the reaction to them prompted me to wonder about the man at the centre of the storm. Putting aside all the claims and counter-claims, I wanted to hear his story and I wanted to give him the opportunity to tell it.

On 23 June, I set out to meet him. But I did not just meet him: he also invited me to take part in one of his séances – an event that took place a week later on 30 June. You will find the results of those encounters printed here.

The problem is that almost everything in parapsychology or psychical research is controversial. The Society's new President, Prof. John Poynton asks if things are getting any better for the subject. The announcement from the previous President, Dr Richard Broughton, now Hon. Treasurer and a Vice-President, provides one answer to this question.

I have three articles dealing in their own ways with the subject of hearing things. Ann Winsper, a PhD candidate at the University of Central Lancashire, introduces us to her research into Electronic Voice Phenomena (EVP) in an article based on her paper given at last year's SPR Conference in York. She is now able to supply us with a link to her online application form and I would encourage everyone to take part. Dr James Paul Pandarakalam, a

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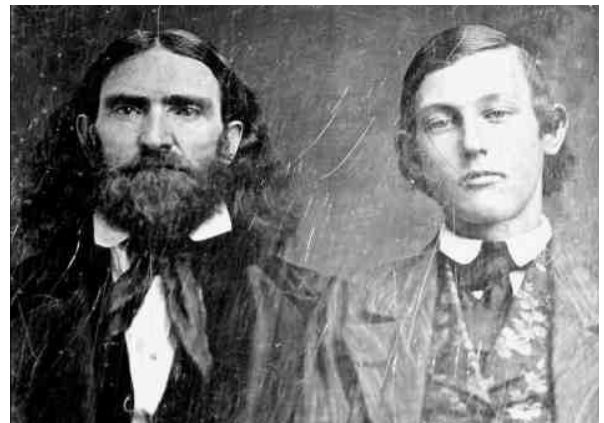
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rehabilitation psychiatrist in the UK, considers the question of auditory hallucinations. Finally, Dr Peter McCue investigates some specific EVP samples from a case in Pennsylvania, USA.

The recent TV mini-series *The Enfield Haunting* has revived an older controversy – that of the Enfield poltergeist case – and we are lucky to have Guy Lyon Playfair discussing the convoluted history of how, thirty-five years later, his book *This House is Haunted* made it to the small screen.

Actor Matthew Macfadyen gives us his thoughts about playing Guy and the series in general. When I asked Guy what it was like being played by Macfadyen, he answered ‘well, the fact that he made off with Keira Knightley twice (*Pride & Prejudice* and *Anna Karenina*) was encouraging’. But of the series he said ‘I’ve only spotted one incident so far that actually happened as shown’.

Nevertheless, the series has stirred up renewed interest in the SPR and John Fraser, a member of the SPR Council, asks what we should do about it. To top it all off, I have some great publicity stills from Sky Living to illustrate this section.

‘Recent Library Acquisitions’ makes its return to the *Paranormal Review*, although I have decided to rename it ‘Ex Libris’. Several of the titles will be familiar to readers from previous *Paranormal Review* articles. Callum Cooper is with us once again, reporting on the further exploits of the Centre for the Study of Anomalous Psychological Processing, on this occasion from the enchanting island of Crete.

As usual, Brandon Hodge brings the curtain down, this time with the first of a two-part article on the hunt for the remains of Jonathan Koons’s spirit room. And also as usual, he has sent me several wonderful pictures to publish.

Extra space had to be made to accommodate the ‘Letters’ section. Prof. Stephen Braude comments on Prof. Mulacz’s article and Prof. Mulacz responds to those comments. In addition, Michael Tymn, Prof. Eckhard Kruse and Elke Mügge, the mother of Kai Mügge, join the debate. The controversy is sure to continue. ♡

Dr Leo Ruickbie
Editor

editorial