

THE MAGAZINE OF THE SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

Paranormal Review

www.spr.ac.uk Issue 81 Winter 2017 £5.00

JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS

MARY ROSE BARRINGTON EXPLAINS THE MEANING OF JOTT

Gerd H. Hövelmann

1956 – 2017

**Brian Millar
Interview**

**Saved by
the Paranormal?**

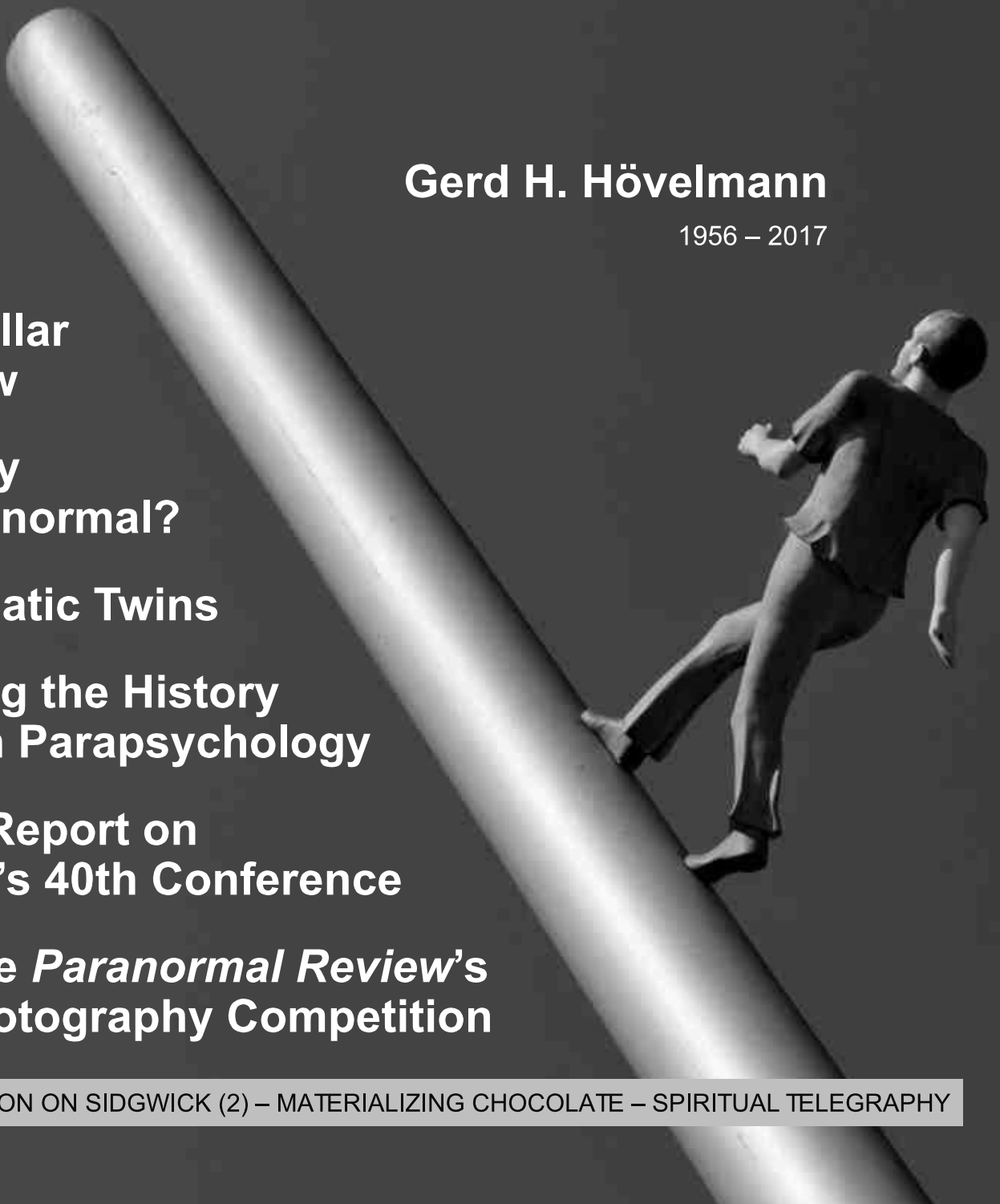
Telesomatic Twins

**Rewriting the History
of Dutch Parapsychology**

**6-Page Report on
the SPR's 40th Conference**

**Enter the *Paranormal Review's*
First Photography Competition**

PLUS: POYNTON ON SIDGWICK (2) – MATERIALIZING CHOCOLATE – SPIRITUAL TELEGRAPHY



Publisher

The Society for Psychical Research
1 Vernon Mews
London W14 0RL
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www.spr.ac.uk

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Subscriptions

Paranormal Review is sent free to members of the Society for Psychical Research. It is also available to non-members for a yearly subscription of £20.00, including post and packing in the UK. Contact secretary@spr.ac.uk

Back Issues

Members have access to previous editions of the *Psi Researcher* and *Paranormal Review* via the online library. Some back issues are also available for purchase at £5.00 per copy, including post and packing within the UK (outside the UK additional postage costs apply). Contact secretary@spr.ac.uk

Submissions

Features, articles, letters, experiences, notices, reports and reviews should be sent by email to Dr Leo Ruickbie at paranormalreview@spr.ac.uk. Material can also be posted to the Editor at 1 Vernon Mews, London W14 0RL. Please mark envelopes 'Paranormal Review'. Full submission guidelines can be found on the SPR website at www.spr.ac.uk under 'publications'.

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Printed in Great Britain by

Premier Print, London

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.

ISSN: 1369-0426

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The President of the SPR, Prof. John Poynton, concludes his two-part article on the SPR's first president, Henry Sidgwick.

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Dr Gerhard Mayer pays tribute to the late Gerd H. Hövelmann.

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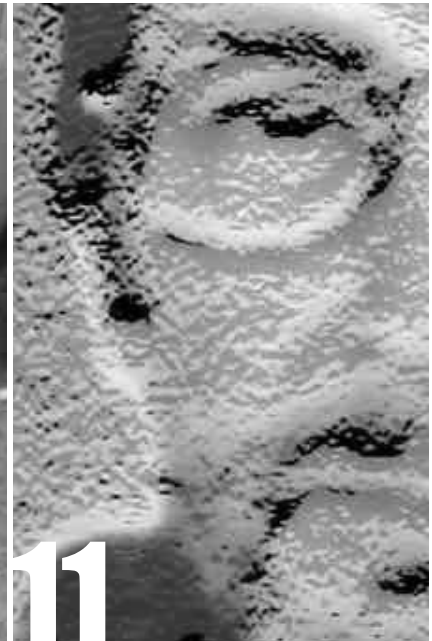
Dr Peter Hewitt presents an unusual exhibit from the Museum of Witchcraft and Magic in Cornwall: a piece of chocolate with a history.

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11 THE OCCULT LIFE OF AN EXTRAORDINARY EX-PARAPSYCHOLOGIST

In the first of a two-part interview, Prof. Adrian Parker talks to Brian Millar about his interrupted career as a parapsychologist.



New Approaches to Ghost Hunting

Should the SPR adjust its role in light of the large number of amateur groups now involved? Many illustrious scientists brought their expertise to the field in the early days of the SPR, but in the current media-driven age where are the scientists now? Who are the 'ghost hunters'? What do they do and why? What are the prospects of catching a ghost? Contributors include members of the Spontaneous Cases Committee, as well as published experts in the field.

Confirmed speakers:

Steve Parsons, 'Is the SPR Relevant to Modern Ghost Hunters?'

Dr Ciaran O'Keeffe, 'At the Portal of Psychical Research: Where Are the Scientists Now?'

Dr Leo Ruickbie, 'Hunting the Hunters: The Sociology of Ghost Hunting'.

Alan Murdie, 'Ghost Experiences and the Assessment of Evidence'.

John Fraser, 'Ghost Hunting: New Science or Trivial Pursuit?'

Where: The Society for Psychical Research, 1 Vernon Mews, London W14 0RL

When: Saturday, 29 April 2017, 10.00–17.15

SPR Members £38; Non-Members £42

(£4 reduction for students, benefits, and over 60s)

STUDY DAY

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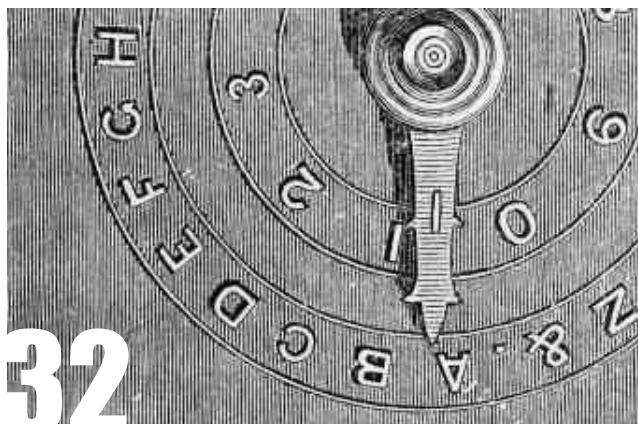
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The group photograph from the SPR's 40th conference in 2016.

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The year begins with the sad news of the death of Gerd H. Hövelmann. A long-standing member of the Society for Psychical Research, Editor of the *Zeitschrift für Anomalistik* and a prolific author, he was one of the leading experts in parapsychology and will be greatly missed. As well as a profound thinker, he was also a witty conversationalist – talking to him was always as amusing as it was instructive. His friend and colleague, Dr Gerhard Mayer, chairman of the Gesellschaft für Anomalistik, has written a moving obituary for this issue and later this year we will be able to publish an interview Hövelmann gave for the *Paranormal Review*.

In our regular features, Prof. John Poynton concludes his two-part discussion of Henry Sidgwick; Dr Peter Hewitt takes on the Permanent Paranormal Object challenge for this issue, introducing us to an unusual WWI-era exhibit from the Museum of Witchcraft and Magic in Boscastle, Cornwall; and Brandon Hodge presents Pine's Spiritual Telegraph from 1874.

Prior to publishing my first issue of the *Paranormal Review* in July 2014 on the theme of WWI, I had an interesting experience in the shape of a WWI postcard appearing apparently out of nowhere. According to Mary

Rose Barrington, objects that mysteriously appear, or disappear and re-appear, often dismissed as 'Just One of Those Things', may hold the secret to the problem of psi.

Ann de Jersey's experience was less easy to dismiss, but also involved a leap of faith in trusting apparently paranormal evidence. Prof. Adrian Parker talks to Brian Millar in the first of a two-part interview. New research by Wim Kramer and Iris van der Knaap inspired by an earlier issue of the *Paranormal Review* has unearthed some secrets of the past. Robert Charman joins us again, this time to look at the phenomenon of 'telesomatic twins'.

In this issue we also launch the *Paranormal Review's* first photography competition to capture the 'spirit' of the paranormal. With a high-powered judging panel and a fantastic prize from Olympus, plus the opportunity to have your photograph on the cover of the *Paranormal Review*, this is a competition to get your flashbulbs firing.

Finally, just as the magazine was about to go to press we were fortunate to get confirmation from Prof. Bernard Carr of the line-up for the next SPR Study Day on 29 April 2017. The full details are given opposite. I hope to see many of you there. Ψ

editorial

Dr Leo Ruickbie
Editor