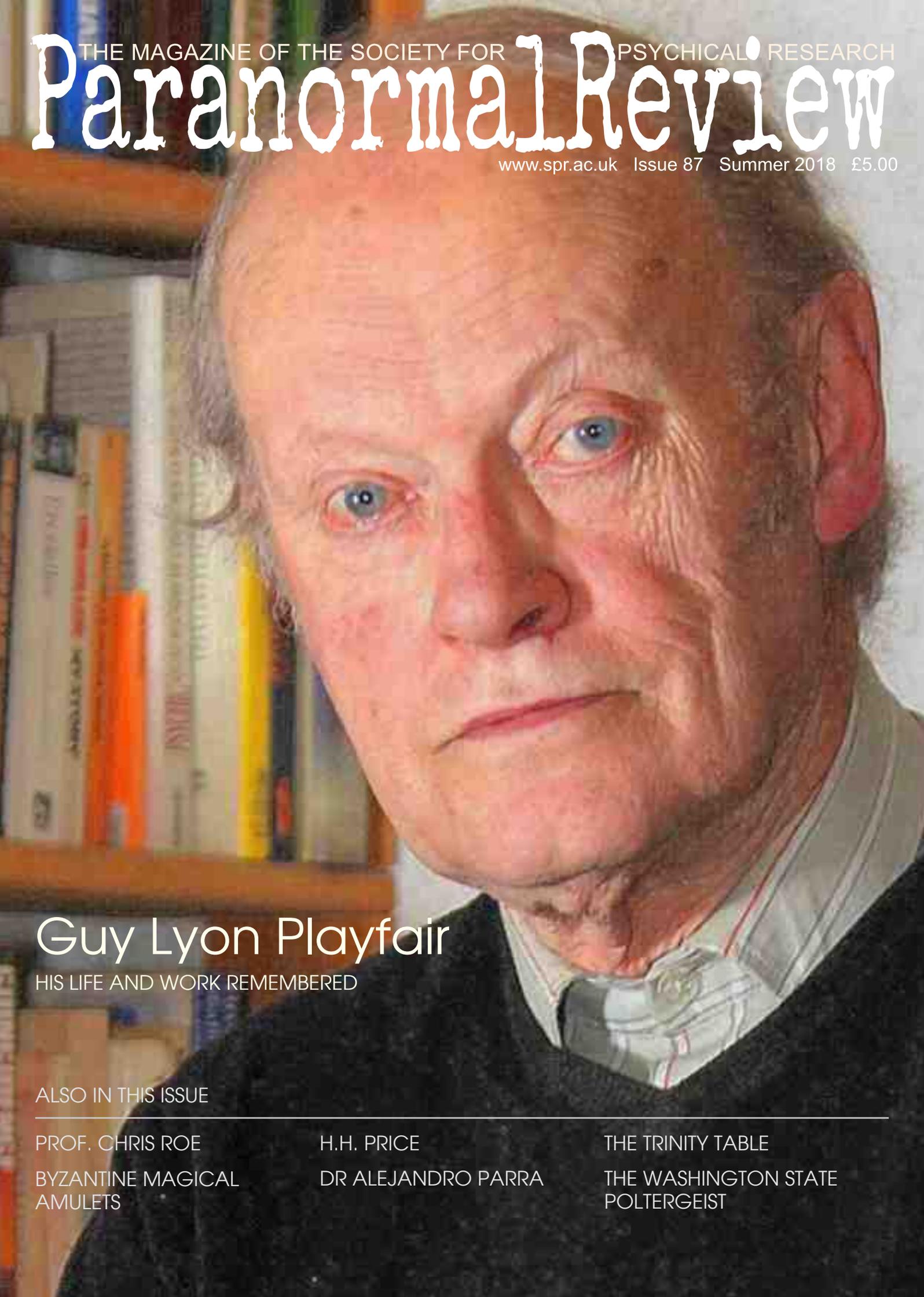


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A close-up portrait of an elderly man with light blue eyes and thinning hair, looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. He is wearing a dark sweater over a light-colored collared shirt. The background is a bookshelf filled with books.

Guy Lyon Playfair

HIS LIFE AND WORK REMEMBERED

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

PROF. CHRIS ROE

BYZANTINE MAGICAL
AMULETS

H.H. PRICE

DR ALEJANDRO PARRA

THE TRINITY TABLE

THE WASHINGTON STATE
POLTERGEIST

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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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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 was established in 1882 and is a Registered Charity.

Membership

The SPR welcomes members of the 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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contents

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>4 PERMANENT PARANORMAL OBJECT
Dr Antje Bosselmann-Ruickbie takes us to Byzantium on the trail of permanent paranormal objects.</p> | <p>13 THE POLTERGEIST TAPES
Dr Melvyn Willin describes the audio archive of Guy Lyon Playfair, including recordings from the Enfield poltergeist case.</p> | <p>20 PARANORMAL REPORT
Dr Richard Sugg documents an ongoing poltergeist case in the first of two parts.</p> |
| <p>5 PSI SOCIETY
In the news: Prof. Chris Roe has been elected as the new President of the Society for Psychical Research.</p> | <p>15 PLAYFAIR'S TWINS
Robert Charman explains the importance of Guy Lyon Playfair's work on telepathy between twins.</p> | <p>22 SPR LECTURE REPORT
Ashley Knibb reports on Dr Alejandro Parra's recent lecture for the SPR on 'Paranormal Events in a Hospital Setting'.</p> |
| <p>6 PHILOSOPHER PRESIDENTS
Prof. John Poynton concludes his series with an examination of the work of SPR philosopher-president, H.H Price.</p> | <p>17 MEDIUM OF THE CENTURY
Dr James Pandarakalam looks at how Guy Lyon Playfair introduced the English-speaking world to the Brazilian medium Chico Xavier, described as the 'medium of the century'.</p> | <p>24 GHOSTS IN THE MACHINES
Resident expert Brandon Hodge reveals the Trinity Table.</p> |
| <p>8 TO RIDE A FLYING COW
Alan Murdie discusses the life and work of the late Guy Lyon Playfair, beginning with the book that launched his career: <i>The Flying Cow</i>.</p> | <p>19 A MESSAGE FROM URI GELLER
Uri Geller offers some words on the passing of Guy Lyon Playfair.</p> | <p>26 PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION
The deadline for the <i>Paranormal Review</i> Photography Competition has been extended.</p> |
| | | <p>27 CONTRIBUTORS</p> |
| | | <p>28 EVENTS
Is the SPR's International Annual Conference in your calendar?</p> |

editorial

Dr Leo Ruickbie
Editor

It is always satisfying to do a retrospective of a great psychical researcher's life and work, and Guy Lyon Playfair's contributions to the field were many and of lasting importance, but it is a satisfaction tempered by sadness and an awareness of loss. Although I corresponded with Playfair, I never met him and regret not having had the opportunity to do so. This reinforces in me the awareness that the magazine plays such a crucial role in documenting the Society for Psychical Research. Recently, when researching its history for my next book, I found that it was often the marginal things – the minutes of meetings, announcements of events and obituary notices – that gave an insight into the activities of the Society and the lives of its members, more than the theoretical speculations and statistical analyses. Should this be the case? We could do more to record the heartbeat of the Society while it is still beating, for it is this that will engage our members today and inspire our future members tomorrow. We must document or disappear.

Even as some things end, others begin anew and in this issue I am pleased to welcome Prof. Chris Roe as the incoming President of the Society for Psychical Research and thank Prof. John Poynton for his leadership at a time when the Society faces many challenges. Prof. Roe has assured me that he will continue the tradition of writing a President's Letter for the magazine and I am sure that, like me, you are looking forward to reading his thoughts and suggestions for our discipline.

I am also delighted to welcome a new contributor to the magazine, Dr Richard Sugg, thoughtfully introduced to me by Robert Charman. Dr Sugg will begin his new column, 'Paranormal Report', with the first part of an article examining an ongoing poltergeist case. It is a fitting contribution to this issue given the key role of a poltergeist case in another researcher's career.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the extension of the deadline for the *Paranormal Review* Photography Competition to 31 October, appropriately enough. ♀

