

# Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research

Volume 61, Part 225

October 2023

***Reminiscences of Séances with the Medium  
Franek Kluski***

*By Norbert Okołowicz*

[First published in Warsaw in 1926]

**TRANSLATED AND EDITED BY ZOFIA WEAVER  
WITH INTRODUCTIONS BY ZOFIA WEAVER  
AND MICHAEL NAHM**

SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH  
1 Vernon Mews, London W14 0RL

## **Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research**

The Society for Psychical Research was founded in 1882 “to examine without prejudice or prepossession and in a scientific spirit those faculties of man, real or supposed, which appear to be inexplicable on any generally recognised hypothesis.” In keeping with most scientific bodies, the society holds no corporate views, and any opinions expressed in this journal or the society’s other publications are those of the authors alone.

### **EDITOR**

Malcolm Schofield, BSc, PhD, University of Derby, UK.

### **ASSOCIATE EDITOR**

Zofia Weaver, BA, PhD, Independent, UK.

### **REVIEW EDITOR**

Nemo Mörck, BA, MSc.

### **EDITORIAL ASSISTANT**

Tammy Dempster, BSc, PhD, Canterbury Christ Church University, UK.

### **EDITORIAL BOARD**

Prof. Chris Roe, BSc, PhD (Chair), University of Northampton, UK.

Prof. Stephen E. Braude, PhD, University of Maryland, USA.

Richard S. Broughton, BA, PhD, University of Northampton, UK.

Prof. Bernard Carr, MA, PhD, Queen Mary & Westfield College, UK.

Prof. Deborah Delanoy, BA, PhD, University of Northampton, UK.

Alan Gauld, MA, PhD, DLitt, Independent, UK.

James Houran, MA, PhD, Independent, USA.

Harvey Irwin, PhD, Visiting Research Fellow, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK.

Julia Mossbridge, MA, PhD, Northwestern University and IONS, USA.

Prof. Adrian Parker, MA, PhD, University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

Prof. John Poynton, MSc, PhD, The Natural History Museum, UK.

Adrian Ryan, Independent, UK.

Stefan Schmidt, PhD, University of Freiburg, Germany.

Paul Stevens, BSc, PhD, University of Derby, UK.

David Vernon, BSc, PhD, Canterbury Christ Church University, UK.

Prof. Caroline Watt, BSc, PhD, University of Edinburgh, UK.

Prof. Robin Wooffitt, BSc, PhD, University of York, UK.

The annual subscription to the journal, which is published quarterly, is £56. This includes any proceedings published. More information is available on the society’s website at: [www.spr.ac.uk](http://www.spr.ac.uk).

**ISSN 0037-9751**

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

Telephone 020 7937 8984, email [journal@spr.ac.uk](mailto:journal@spr.ac.uk), website <https://www.spr.ac.uk>.

# Reminiscences of Séances with the Medium Franek Kluski

By Norbert Okołowicz

[First published in Warsaw in 1926]

*Translated and edited by Zofia Weaver*

*With introductions by Zofia Weaver and Michael Nahm*

*This volume is the most comprehensive known collection of reports, photographs, sketches and diagrams documenting the brief mediumship of Franek Kluski (1873–1943), a Polish medium made famous by the French researchers Gustave Geley and Charles Richet. It was compiled contemporaneously by his friend Norbert Okołowicz and published in Warsaw in 1926. This collection has now been translated into English for the benefit of current and future researchers into mediumship.*

# CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES.....	vii
NOTES ON THE EDITING .....	ix
INTRODUCTION I: HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL BACKGROUND .....	1
<i>By Zofia Weaver</i>	
The science of metapsychics in the new Poland .....	3
The mediumship of Franek Kluski .....	5
Automatic writing .....	7
“Life force” and consciousness.....	8
INTRODUCTION II: PHENOMENA OF FRANEK KLUSKI’S MEDIUMSHIP AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF MATERIALISATIONS FOR THE SURVIVAL QUESTION.....	10
<i>By Michael Nahm</i>	
Kluski’s mediumship: An enigma that endures .....	11
The significance of materialisations for survival research .....	23
The significance of materialisations for biology .....	30

## REMINISCENCES OF SÉANCES WITH THE MEDIUM FRANEK KLUSKI

BY NORBERT OKOŁOWICZ

INTRODUCTION .....	43
--------------------	----

### PART I SÉANCE REPORTS

PHASE ONE 1919–1920.....	49
General characteristics .....	49
Report No. 1, 30 August 1919 .....	52
Report No. 2, 3 September 1919 .....	54
Report No. 3, 7 September 1919 .....	56
Report No. 4, 14 September 1919.....	59
Report No. 5, 23 November 1919.....	61
Report No. 6, 25 December 1919 .....	63

Report No. 7, 17 March 1920 .....	66
Report No. 8, 21 March 1920 .....	70
Report No. 9, 15 June 1920.....	71
 PHASE TWO 1920–1921 .....	73
General characteristics .....	73
Research at Institut Métapsychique International in Paris .....	74
Organisation of séances .....	76
Primary substance and the light phenomena .....	79
Visual confirmation of materialisation of human limbs .....	82
Tactile confirmation of materialisation of human hands .....	83
Materialisation of human faces .....	84
Movements of objects without being touched, and knockings .....	87
Materialisation of animal forms .....	88
Intellectual phenomena .....	89
Séances in Florence and Vienna [By Norbert Okołowicz].....	90
 PHASE THREE 1921–1925 .....	92
General characteristics .....	92
Report No. 10, 10 March 1921 .....	93
Report No. 11, 10 August 2021 .....	98
Report No. 12, 16 September 2021 [NO's summary] .....	102
Report No. 13, 29 September 2021 .....	102
Report No. 14, 23 September 2021 [NO's summary] .....	106
Report No. 15, 30 September 2021 [NO's summary] .....	107
Report No. 16, 4 October 2021.....	107
Report No. 17, 7 October 2021 [NO's summary] .....	111
Description of séances on 24 April and 5 May by Dr Geley .....	112
Summaries May–June 1922 .....	115
Report No. 18, 26 October 1922.....	117
Summaries October 1922–April 1923.....	119
Report No. 21, 3 April 1923 .....	125
Report No. 22, 26 April 1923 .....	127
Report No. 23, 29 April 1923 .....	128
Report No. 24, 24 May 1923.....	130
Summaries May 1923 .....	136
Report No. 25, 6 June 1923.....	139
Séance on 21 June 1923 .....	147
Summaries July–September 1923 .....	154
Séances in Florence .....	159
Twelve séances before the end of 1923.....	161
Séance on 9 January 1924 .....	167
Report by Prosper Szmurło, 30 January 1924 .....	169
An hour in the land of magic, 17 February 1924 [Report by Dr Boy-Zelenski].....	176

Report No. 27, 22 March 1924 .....	181
Report No. 28, 29 March 1924 .....	183
Summaries March–May 1924 .....	184
Report No. 29, 22 May 1924.....	188
Séance on 11 June 1924 (reported on 5 November 1924) .....	191
Séance on 20 June 1924 .....	194
Séance on 30 June 1924 .....	195
Séance on 3 July 1924 .....	197
Report No. 30, 11 July 1924.....	199
Séance on 29 July 1924 in Milan .....	203
Report No. 31, 10 December 1924 .....	205
Report of the séance held on 6 January 1925 .....	207
Report No. 32, 7 January 1925 .....	211
Report No. 33, 26 January 1925 .....	213
Report No. 34, 12 February 1925 .....	218
Report No. 35, 13 February 1925 .....	222
Report No. 36, 14 February 1925 .....	224
Report No. 37, 17 February 1925 .....	227
Report No. 38, 19 February 1925 .....	231
Séance on 22 February 1925 .....	232
Report No. 39, 2 March 1925 .....	232
Report No. 40, 4 March 1925 .....	235
Report No. 41, 13 March 1925 .....	237
Report No. 42, 26 March 1925 .....	241

**PART II**  
**SÉANCE ANALYSES**

INTRODUCTION .....	247
THE MEDIUM .....	249
THE PARTICIPANTS .....	268
Summary of Report No. 19 .....	270
LIST OF THE PERSONS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE SÉANCES WITH FRANEK KLUSKI FROM DECEMBER 1918 UNTIL THE END OF MARCH 1925 IN POLAND AND ABROAD .....	283
THE SÉANCES .....	289
METHODS OF OBSERVING THE PHENOMENA .....	295
ANIMALS AT MATERIALISATION SÉANCES .....	300
LIGHT PHENOMENA .....	303
ODOURS.....	312
KINETIC PHENOMENA AND APPORTS .....	316
Apports .....	321

PARAFFIN MOULDS .....	323
Moulds of materialised human limbs .....	323
New paraffin moulds of materialised limbs.....	326
SOUNDS .....	341
Human and animal voices.....	341
Rustlings, rubbings, knocking, rapping .....	342
MATERIALISATIONS .....	344
Initial materialisations—touches etc .....	345
Dark phantoms.....	347
Breezes.....	350
Nebulae and floating and misty phantoms .....	351
Materialisations that are incomplete, loose, “artificial” and smaller or larger than natural.....	353
Accessories.....	354
Apparitions of animals .....	358
Phantoms illuminated by the screen .....	363
Phantoms of deceased persons.....	368
Relationship and similarity between phantoms and the medium .....	371
Self-illuminating phantoms.....	371
Phantoms in full light.....	372
Intellectual phenomena .....	374
Automating typing on a typewriter .....	376
Automatic writing .....	377
VARIOUS EXPERIMENTS.....	382
Experiments with a compass .....	382
Report No. 43, 16 September 1921 .....	382
Report No. 44, September 1921.....	384
Experiments with a galvanometer .....	387
Report No. 45, 16 and 23 September 1921 .....	387
TURNING ELECTRICAL LIGHT ON AND OFF .....	391
PHOTOGRAPHS.....	392
ATTEMPTS BY THE MEDIUM TO INFLUENCE PHOTOGRAPHIC FILM DIRECTLY.....	393
OPINIONS.....	394
Survey of participants in the séances with Franek Kluski .....	394