C.D. Broad
The Witch’s Plough
Mysterious Paths of Versailles
SPR Conference Report
Psychical Research Before the SPR
Ghosts in the Machines
The Magic of Psi
Society for Psychological Research

Paranormal Review

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Editor
Leo Rubik
paranormalreview@spr.ac.uk

Proof Reader
David Evison

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The Society for Psychological 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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Note from photographer: ‘What’s All This?’ © 2017 Leigh Anderson. This photograph was shortlisted for the 2017 Paranormal Review Photography Competition.
We were all saddened recently by the news of Guy Lyon Playfair’s death. The world of psychical research has surely lost one of its brighter lights. The Psi Society column this issue carries a brief obituary and it is hoped that a future issue of the magazine might be dedicated to his memory. To this end, I would like to invite articles on the subject of ‘Guy Lyon Playfair: His Life and Work’ and would be delighted to hear from anyone wishing to write something, whether it is an analysis of an aspect of his work or recollection of a fond memory. As an example, please see the Tanous issue (PR78).

Our regular contributors, as always, do not fail to disappoint. The Society’s President, Prof. John Poynton continues his series on the SPR’s philosopher-presidents. The Museum of Witchcraft & Magic’s Dr Peter Hewitt reveals the mysterious workings of the ‘Witch’s Plough’, drawing some unsettling conclusions. Michael Tymn explores the pre-SPR history of psychical research, with a chronology up to 1882. Brandon Hodge brings his expertise to bear once again and this time presents a report on Dr Serena Roney-Dougal’s recent lecture to the Society.

Special contributions this issue include Michael Tymn’s overview and chronology of the history of psychical research before the establishment of the SPR in 1882, with assistance from Dr Carlos Alvarado. Mark Lamont joins us to re-open the Versailles time-slip case. Roney-Dougal’s recent lecture on ‘The Magic of Psi’.

The SPR’s 41st International Annual Conference will take place in Newcastle upon Tyne, read the call for papers.

Steve Parsons gives an overview of the whys and wherefores of the SPR’s new ‘Guide Notes for Investigators of Spontaneous Cases, Apparitions, Hauntings, Poltergeists and Similar Phenomena’.

Finally, Olympus have again generously agreed to support the Paranormal Review Photography Competition by providing a magnificent first prize. I am sure that, like me, you are looking forward to seeing what this year’s entrants send in.

Dr Leo Ruickbie
Editor