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## editorial

Dr Leo Ruickbie  
Editor

**P**R89 is another 'document or disappear' issue, this time focusing on the Preserving the Historical Collections of the Paranormal (PHCP) conference that was held in Winnipeg, Canada, in May 2018. Following on from the first PHCP conference in Utrecht in 2014, this conference gave North American collectors, curators and experts the opportunity to join the debate. Dr Shelley Sweeney provides an overview and, from amongst the many other participants, I have selected two papers that show the value of preserving archival material through intensely interesting background stories. I would like to thank Dr Sweeney and Walter Meyer zu Erpen for additional help behind the scenes in preparing these contributions for publication.

Our regular Ghosts in the Machines column from Brandon Hodge is, of course, a perfect fit for this sort of subject, but in addition to that I am able to bring together a number of other important contributions that gel with the overall theme. Dr Matt Colborn looks at the work of the Survival Research Committee, which will itself be an important reference point in years to come for people wishing to understand the Committee's work. Dr Callum Cooper submitted an update on archival work ongoing at the University of Northampton. Most opportunely, Dr Tom Ruffles recently visited the 'Smoke and Mirrors' exhibition at the Wellcome Collection, London. Concerned with the psychology of magic, the exhibition begins with the investigation of Spiritualist mediums, with the Society for Psychical Research featuring prominently from the first board. My only criticism is that there was no indication given that the SPR was a still flourishing organisation. Whilst the curator seemed responsive to our Secretary's suggestions in this regard, nothing further came of them.

Speaking of the SPR's Secretary, we should also take a moment to congratulate Peter Johnson, who celebrates twenty years with the Society this year. Other noteworthy events include former SPR President Prof. John Poynton, who celebrated his 88th birthday at the Council meeting in May, Vice-President Prof. Donald West, who turned 95 on 9 June, and David Ellis, the *Paranormal Review's* proofreader (amongst other things), who published his book *Our Fifth-Sunday Hymn Services* with colleagues from his local church. ♣

