

Science and the Paranormal

Spontaneous Afterlife Contacts



Apparitions

Ghosts

Poltergeists

4/22/13 lecture 5



Brown Lady of Raynham Hall
Photographed by Captain Hubert C.
Provard 1936

Another ghost picture



A Famous Quote

Immanuel Kant

“Ghost stories are always listened to and well received in private, but pitilessly disavowed in public. For my own part, ignorant as I am of the way in which the human spirit enters the world and the way in which he goes out of it, I dare not deny the truth of many such narratives.”

Definitions

- Apparitions
 - Images of deceased persons who are going to or are already in the afterlife dimension
 - The most reported apparition is that of a just dead person to a close living relative, (grandmother/granddaughter) often with a message that they are now very happy
- Ghosts
 - Many repeated disturbances, (footsteps, doors opening, and less often, figures seen) over months, years in a single location (Haunting,)
 - The deceased are apparently not aware they have passed and/or are strongly attached to the location they are in

APPARITIONS/GHOSTS

- Seeing apparitions/ghosts is not rare.
 - In a recent survey 31% of British adults claimed to have experienced a ghost
- What the sighting means is the question
 - The scientific explanation: They are hallucinations
 - The problem with that explanation
 - They have been seen simultaneously by multiple people.
- The Captain Towns case
 - Two women observed the image of Captain Towns on the surface of the wardrobe. A third woman came in and immediately saw the image. This was followed by calling in four other people who each exclaimed at seeing the image
- Such multiple sightings are difficult to explain by denying the reality of the perceived image. They belie the assumption that apparitions are in the mind of the perceiver

British Survey

- 35 per cent have participated in a seance or played with a ouija board
- 66 per cent think dead relatives remain with us in spirit
- 31 per cent have seen a ghost
- 64 per cent have felt a presence in an empty room
- 49 per cent have noticed the temperature in a room suddenly go spookily cold
- 47 per cent have heard footsteps when no-one else was there
- 37 per cent would spend the night alone in a haunted house
- 61 per cent believe some of the many ghost photographs might be real

Apparitions

Scientific Studies

- **Phantasms of the Living (1886)**
- This two-volume work, is co-authored by Edmund Gurney (1847-1888), Frederic W. H. Myers (1843-1901) and Frank Podmore (1856-1910), all leading members of the Society for Psychical Research,
- It documents over 700 case studies of ghost-seeing,
- It proposed a theory that explained that apparitions were a visual product of telepathy
- Many of the cases were of apparitions of British soldiers in India communicating serious wounds and/or their death (God's telegraph)
- This pioneering study is an indispensable source for the history of psychical research. and is still the most extensive collection of seeing apparitions accounts available.

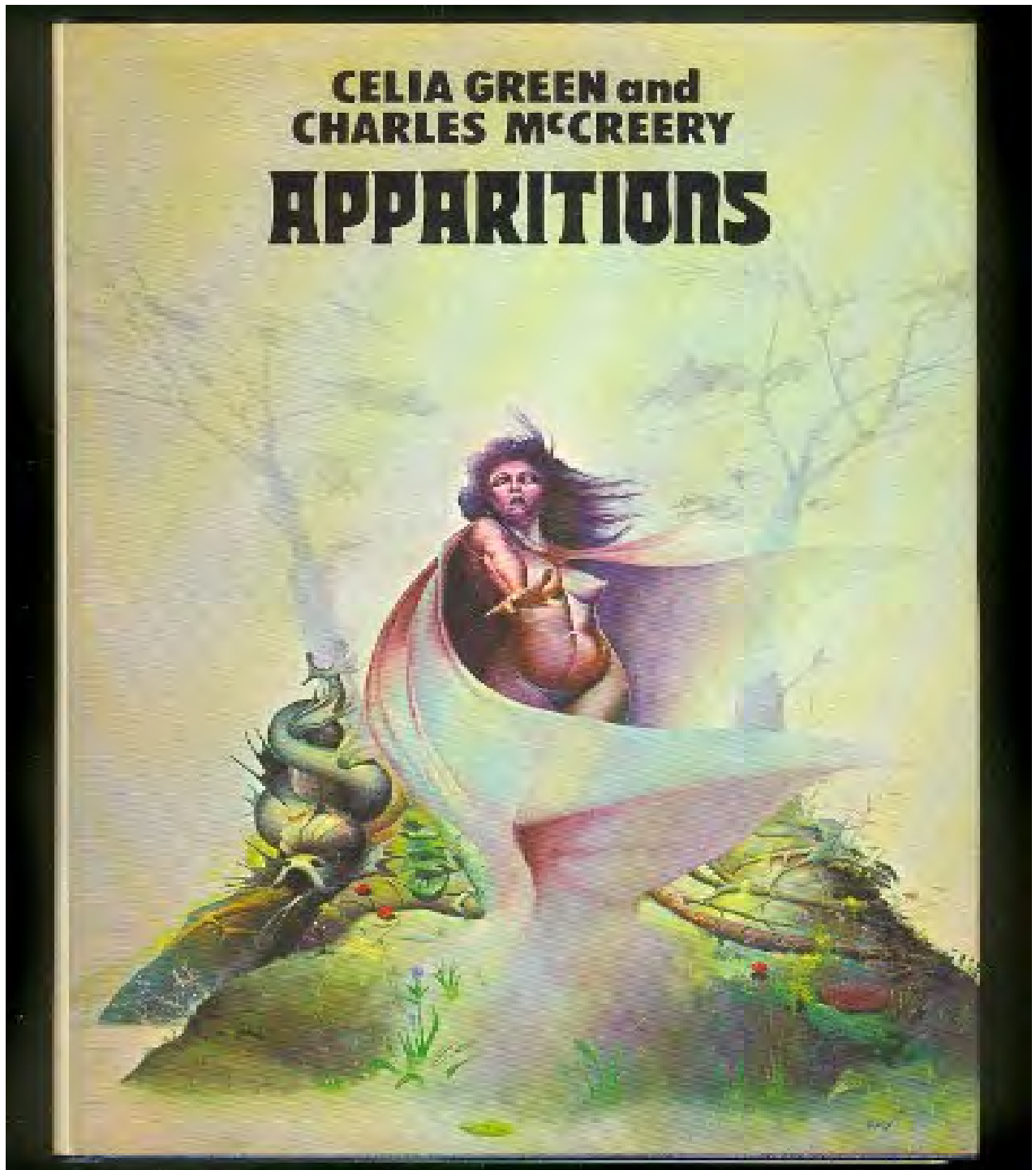
Phantasms of the Living

Some cases

- Case 237 The percipient, a young woman in service, recalled a childhood event from late October 1874. As she sat reading one evening with her mother, she saw a beloved school-friend standing near the doorway. As she was about to remark her surprise at the visit, the image vanished. She immediately described the incident to her mother, who was seated with her back to the door. A day or two later, the percipient received word that the other girl had died on the same evening and near the same hour as the apparition.
- Case 184 The percipient, was working in Paris at the close of 1880. Shortly after the outbreak of a smallpox epidemic, he sent three of his children home to his wife's mother in England. One morning he awoke to the sound of his absent 5-year-old's voice and a vision of his face. The phenomenon repeated later in the day. The family subsequently received word that the child had taken ill suddenly and died at the time of the first apparition.

Apparitions

Scientific Studies



Apparitions

- What are people reporting they observe?*
- 80% humans, 20% animals (cats/dogs), locations
- 28% are recognized
- 33% of the recognized are living
- 14% of visual apparitions speak
- 66% of living not in crisis situation
- 84% Visual, 37% Audible, 15% Tactile, 18% Temp,
- 8% Smell

* Data from 850 people responding to a questionnaire about their unusual experiences. “Apparitions” Celia Green & Charles Murphy

Ghost Stories

Catherine Crowe in 1848

NIGHT-SIDE OF NATURE;

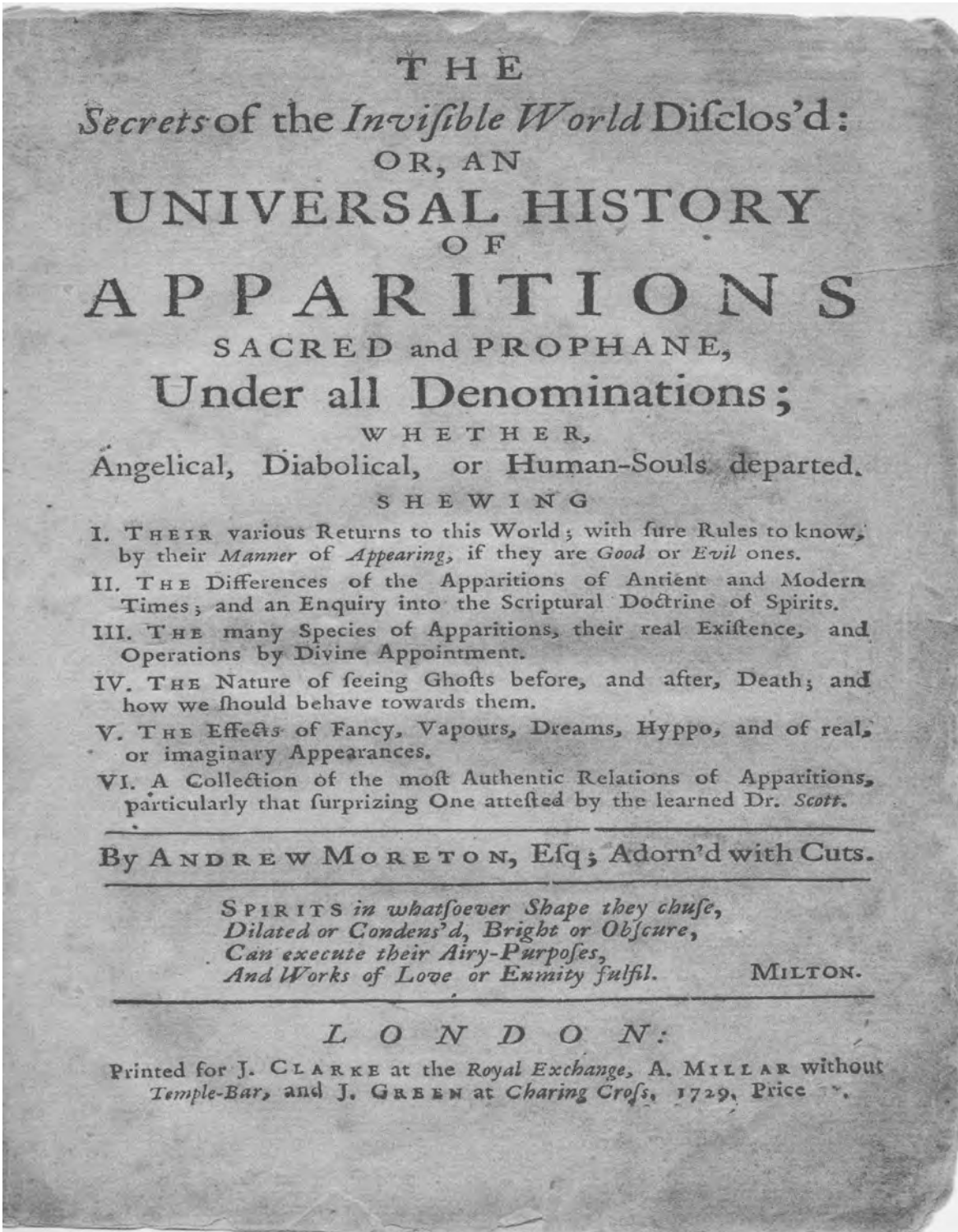
Ghosts and Ghost-Seers.

CONTENTS.

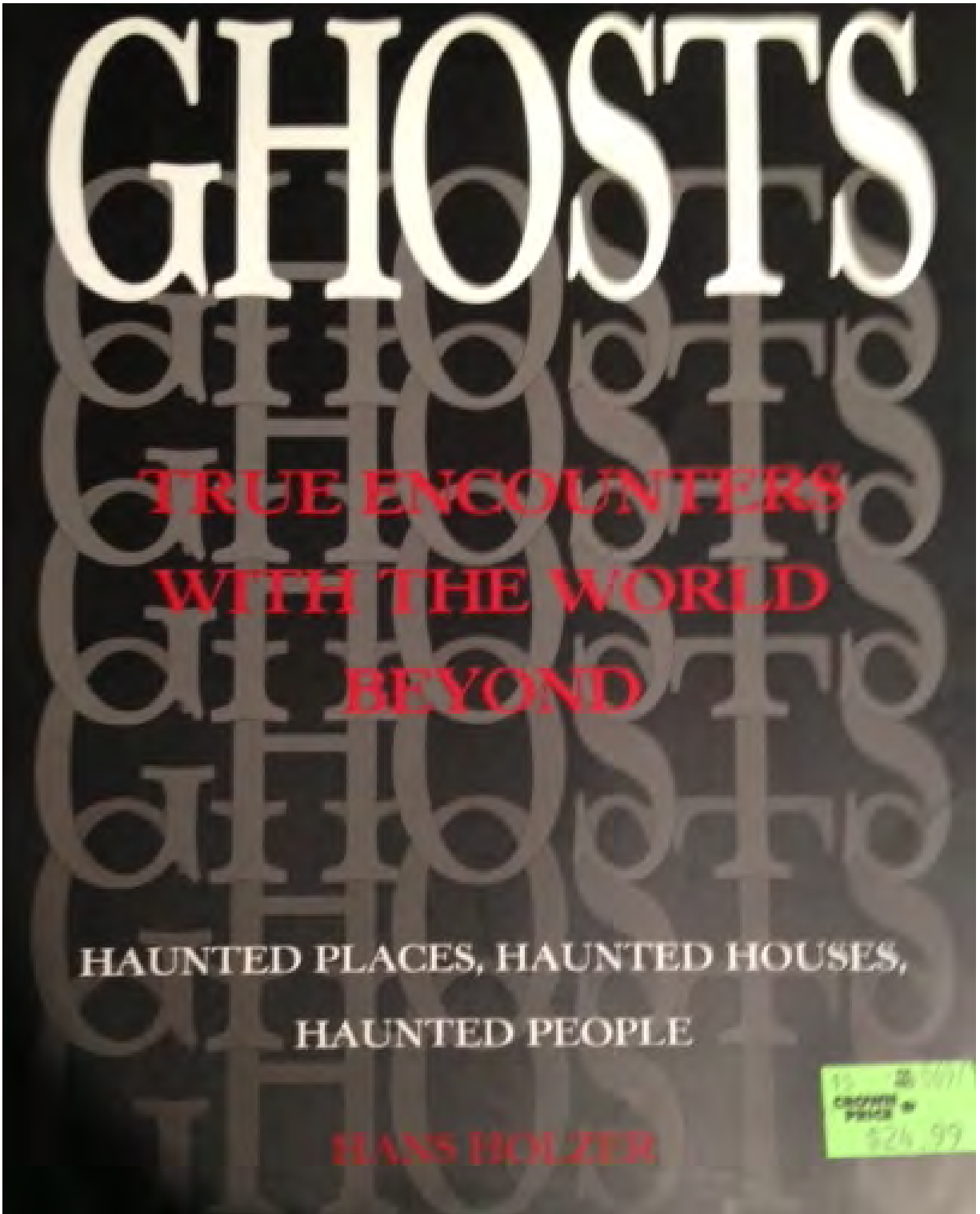
CHAPTER	PAGE
I.—Introduction.....	7
II.—The Dwellers in the Temple.....	19
III.—Waking and Sleeping, and how the Dweller in the Temple sometimes looks abroad.....	29
IV.—Allegorical Dreams, Presentiments, &c.....	48
V.—Warnings.....	66
VI.—Double Dreaming and Trance, Wraiths, &c.....	98
VII.—Wraiths.....	130
VIII.—Doppelgangers, or Doubles.....	149
IX.—Apparitions.....	171
X.—The Future that awaits us.....	204
XI.—The Power of Will.....	238
XII.—Troubled Spirits.....	252
XIII.—Haunted Houses.....	273
XIV.—Spectral Lights, and Apparitions attached to Certain Families.....	319
XV.—Apparitions seeking the Prayers of the Living.....	345
XVI.—The Poltergeist of the Germans, and Possession.....	376
XVII.—Miscellaneous Phenomena.....	411
XVIII.—Conclusion.....	434

Ghost Stories

Even Earlier, Daniel Defoe in 1729



Ghost Stories



GHOSTS

TRUE ENCOUNTERS
WITH THE WORLD
BEYOND

HAUNTED PLACES, HAUNTED HOUSES,
HAUNTED PEOPLE

HANS HOLZER

95 20071
CHECK PRICE
\$24.99

Ghost Stories

- Hans Holzer
 - Wrote over 100 books on the supernatural
 - “Ghosts” is 758 pages long,
 - The stories are of the 140 haunted houses he personally investigated
 - He was accompanied by a medium
 - She would sense the places where spirits had manifested
 - Holzer would contact the spirit through her and urge that they leave the house and follow the light to their new life. It often seemed to work.

Ghost Hunting TV

- There are/were 2 weekly TV Series based on ghost hunting
- Ghosthunters was a British series originally aired from 1996 to 1997 on the Discovery Channel
 - It consisted of stories of famous interactions with ghosts (see ghosthunters on Wikipedia)
- Ghost Hunters is a weekly series on Syfy
 - Each episode shows the investigation of a haunted site with a variety of recording sensors

Poltergeists

- Poltergeists have been reported in most countries including the US, Japan, Brazil, Australia, & Europe. The earliest recorded cases date back to the 1st century.
- The **Epworth Rectory haunting** is one of the best-known English poltergeist events, and has been described as "the second-best-authenticated ghost story in history".
- Epworth Rectory, in Epworth, Lincolnshire was home to the Reverend Samuel Wesley and his wife and their 19 children, one of whom, John Wesley, grew up to become a founder of the Methodist Church.
- From December 1716 until January 1717 it was plagued by a series of regularly occurring mysterious loud noises and knockings, apparently caused by a ghost the eldest Wesley daughter nicknamed Old Jeffrey, who made his presence known to all on Christmas Day 1716.
- In Mrs. Wesley's words, "there was such a noise in the room over our heads, as if several people were walking, then running up and down stairs that we thought the children would be frightened". As she and her husband searched the house in vain for the culprit, Old Jeffrey continued "rattling and thundering in every room, and even blowing an invisible horn at deafening decibels".
- Old Jeffrey disappeared in January 1717 just as suddenly as he had appeared.

Poltergeists

- Modern Investigations
- 116 cases Psychological Research Foundation 1977
- 59 cases IGPP Freiburg Germany 1989
- 247 cases by Allan Gault & A. D. Cornell 1979
- Type & Frequency of Poltergeist Phenomena
- Phenomena PRF IGPP Gault-Cornell
- Object Movements 91% 87% 67%
- Knocking, Rapping 52% 57% 56%
- Apparitions 23% 12% 38%
- Apportation of Objects 17% 37% 26%
- Floating/Flashing Lights 8% 26% 13%

Poltergeists

- Modern investigators' definition of poltergeist
- “A poltergeist is a large-scale form of psychokinesis or mind over matter, in which anomalous physical phenomena (moving objects, electrical disturbances, and noises without any obvious source) repeatedly occur in the presence of a certain person.”
- They deny that a spirit is ever the cause.