

# Science and the Paranormal

## Sought Afterlife Contacts



## Mental Mediums

## Lecture 7

# Mental Mediums

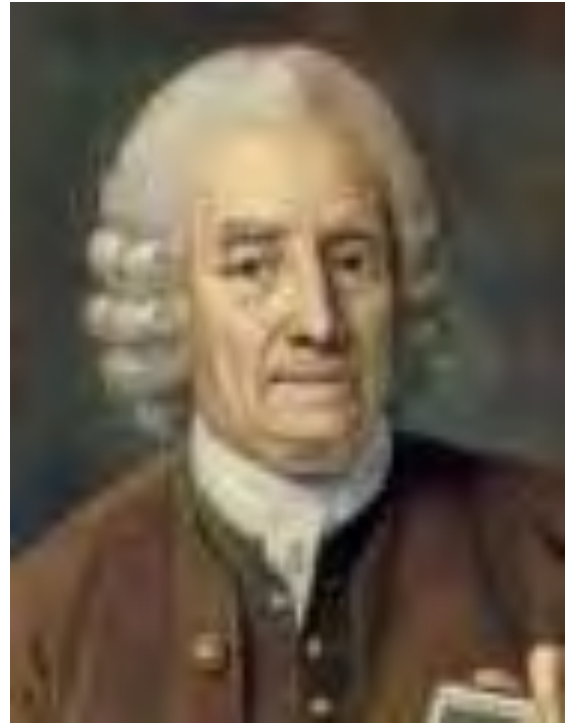
Mental mediums function in a variety of ways

**Reading:** The medium sees, hears or senses a deceased person and provides his impressions to the participant. This is by far the most used mediumistic process.

**Trance:** Their spirit contacts speak through and move their unconscious bodies. (They have no memory of session)

**Voice:** An independent voice created by either a trance or conscious medium. Early with trumpets but later without. In tests the voices heard while the medium had a mouth full of water.marbles etc.

**Automatic writing:** Writing under the control of the subconscious. It was the most widely used method in the classical period. Has been used by psychiatrists as an analysis tool and many books have been dictated in this way. (One medium's AW was written by the pen while it was held erect by the back of the medium's hand)



## Emmanuel Swedenborg 1688-1772

- One of the most eminent scientists and engineers of his time, spoke 11 languages
- In midlife a vision of God commanding him to “explain the scriptures to man” and the ability to visit heaven and talk to angels caused him to devote his life to theological writings.
- Kant was intrigued by his writings
- Swedenborgian Churches still exist

# Andrew Jackson Davis

1826-1910



## *John the Baptist of modern* **Spiritualism**

He thought he had seen Swedenborg

In 1845 he began trance dictation of “The Principles of Nature: Her Divine Revelations and A Voice to Mankind”. It took 15 months and was observed by many witnesses.

It had many Swedborgian characteristics.

In it he predicted modern spiritualism.

On March 31, 1848, he heard a voice saying, “Brother the good work has begun- behold a living demonstration is born”

On that day the raps began in Hydesville, N.Y.

## The Fox sisters, the first mediums



6. Margaret and Katherine Fox and Leah Fish (ca. 1850). Lithograph by Currier & Ives. Bettmann Archive.

Fox sisters contacted spirit with raps in Hydesville N.Y. in 1848

Spiritualism and mediumship spread very rapidly in the US and Europe

Mormonism and Seventh Day Adventists originated in the same area in upstate NY in 1840s

# Leonora Piper 1859-1950

## William James' "White Crow"

Investigated over 43 years by James, Lodge, Myers, Hodgson & Hyslop (maybe 5000 sittings)

She was tracked by detectives, sent to England, her mail opened etc All were convinced that fraud was not an option

They cut her wrist, put a needle in her hand and stuck a feather up her nose to prove she was in trance.

Used her voice for first 8 years, mostly AW after.

Once she provided 3 separate messages simultaneously, by voice and by auto writing with each hand.

Hodgson "having tried the hypothesis of telepathy from the living for several years, I have no hesitation in affirming that the "Spirit" hypothesis is justified by its fruits and the other hypothesis is not?"

Hyslop "Those who read the Piper case carefully will discover that the phenomena have all the appearance, at least, of being organized efforts on the other side to prove the identity of those who have passed away."

# Gladys Osborne Leonard 1882-1968

## The British Mrs. Piper

Was told by her control “Feda” in March 1914 that she must become a professional medium because big troubles were coming

Became famous for the communications between Sir Oliver Lodge and his deceased son Raymond. The communication of a detailed description of a picture of Raymond that was undeveloped at the time of the sitting is considered one of the better survival proofs.

Developed “book” tests in which the deceased would designate the book, page and position of a text in the sitter’s library. Of 156 tests, 121 were rated good, 19 indefinite and 16 as failures

Developed the “newspaper” tests that designated the location of names on the front page of The Times newspaper for the following day. Of the first 25 tests, 18 were good, 3 inconclusive and 4 were failures and these ratios remained about the same for subsequent tests

# Eileen Garrett 1893-1970

Most famous for communications coming from the deceased crew of the crashed airship R101\*

Very articulate and questioning about her gifts

Wrote 6 +books, Including her autobiography Many Voices

Formed The Parapsychological Foundation that sponsored yearly conferences of parapsychological scientists

Submitted to many tests by scientists

Recognized that she was psychic early in life

Saw auras, apparition of her just dead aunt, had 3 child playmates lasting from 4 to 13 that appeared and disappeared instantaneously and felt “as soft and warm as myself”

Her final judgment “it would be impossible to doubt the continuity of consciousness and the survival of the human entity after death”

- Read John Fuller’s “The Airmen Who Would Not Die” for a full account that includes contacts with another lost flier who communicates warnings of the airship crash



# The Cross Correspondences

For 30 years after the death of F. W. H. Myers in 1901, over 2000 examples of automatic purporting to be from Myers, Sidgewick, Gurney were written by Mrs. Piper in the US, Mrs. Verrail in England and Mrs. Holland in India. The scripts contained phrases, often fragments of Greek poems, that when assembled by the SPR, would identify a single idea, place or person.

“Taken as a whole, The Cross Correspondences and the Willet scripts\* are among the most convincing evidence that at present exists for life after death. For anyone who is prepared to devote weeks to studying them, they prove beyond all reasonable doubt that Myers, Gurney, and Sidgwick went on communicating after death”

Statement by Colin Wilson 1987, the author of many (and I feel among the best) investigative books on the paranormal)

\*The Willet scripts: A long and detailed story of Mrs. Willet’s life transmitted after her death to Geraldine Cummings and published as “Swan on a Black Sea”

# Two Direct Voice Mediums

## Leslie Flint 1911-1994

'I think I can safely say I am the most tested medium this country has ever produced ... I have been boxed up, tied up, sealed up, gagged, bound and held, and still the voices have come to speak their message of life eternal.'

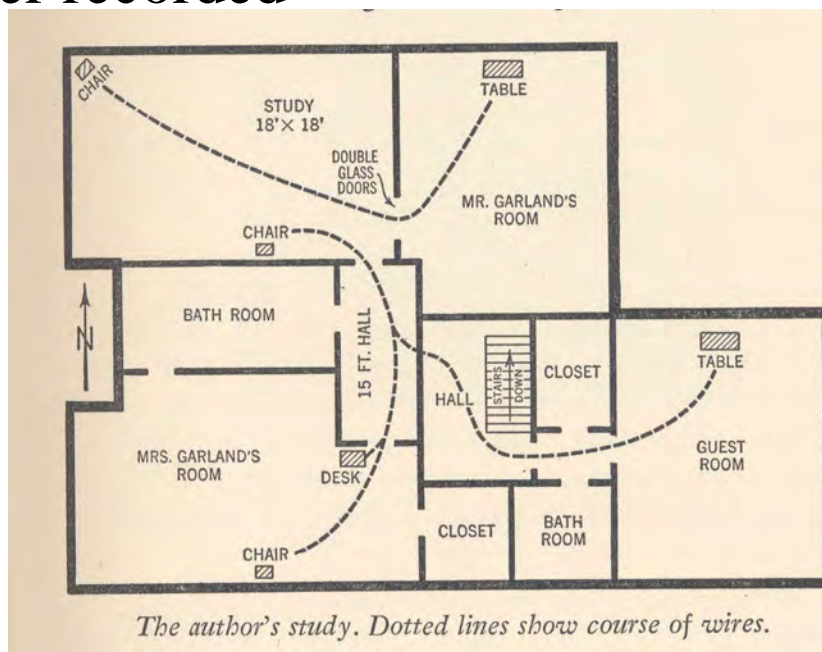
<http://www.leslieflint.com/recordings.html>

# Sophia Williams

Voice medium who directed Hamlin Garland to the buried crosses.\*

Placed in one room with a radio transmitter on her lap or on a nearby chair, and Garland in a separate room, a two way conversation was held with long dead priests, indians etc. Mrs. Williams could not hear the questions asked nor see the pictures used by Garland.

The separate rooms make this the best proof of the reality of medium communication ever recorded



\* Hamlin Garland "The Mystery of the Buried Crosses"

# Current Scientific Investigations of Mediums



**GARY E. SCHWARTZ, Ph.D.,** is professor of psychology, medicine, neurology, psychiatry, and surgery at the University of Arizona and director of its Human Energy Systems Laboratory. After receiving his doctorate from Harvard University, he served as a professor of psychology and psychiatry at Yale University, director of the Yale Psychophysiology Center, and co-director of the Yale Behavioral Medicine Clinic. He has published more than four hundred scientific papers, edited eleven academic books, and is the co-author, with Linda G. Russek, Ph.D., of *The Living Energy Universe*.

# Laurie Campbell “White Crow” Readings

## Protocol

Medium (M), Sitter (S) Experimenter (E)

E tells M & S they will phone S at time x

M mediates 1/2 hour before x

E calls S with M

The phone was muted for ten minutes  
while M records impressions

On phone contact the reading proceeded  
with M first stating what she had  
received and then continuing on with  
more impressions, that S answered Yes  
or No to.

The total session was with 3 separate  
sitters

# Some Results

## *Journal Article on the Campbell "White Crow" Readings*

Table 1. Summary of Names, Relationships, and Ratings

<i>Name</i>	<i>Relationship</i>	<i>Living/Deceased</i>	<i>Rating (0-3)</i>
<b>PRE-READING</b>			
George (G) **	Self	Living	3
Jerry (J)**	Friend	Deceased	3
John	Great-grandfather	Deceased	2
B name (Becky, Barbara, Betty)	Friend	Living	1
Maureen	Friend	Living	1
Robert/Bob (B) **	Father	Deceased	3
Talya/Tily/Tilya (T)**	Friend	Living	3
S (Suzane) (S)**	Dog	Deceased	2+
Sherm? (LC spelled)	Known	Living	1
<b>SITTER-SILENT</b>			
Michael (M)**	Friend	Deceased	3
Jerry (J)**	Friend	Deceased	3
Joyce	—	—	0
Fred	Friend	Living	2
Francis **	Friend	Living	3
Albert or Alfred **	Friend of friend	Deceased	3
Alice (A) **	Aunt	Deceased	3
Elaine	—	—	0
<b>ACTUAL READING</b>			
Michael (M)**	Friend	Deceased	3
Marcus **	Friend	Living	3
Jerry (J)**	Friend	Deceased	3
Albert **	Joel's friend	Deceased	3
Alice (A)**	Aunt	Deceased	3
George (G)**	Self	Living	3
Arthur	Friend of friend	Deceased	2+
name suppressed for privacy (K)**	Granddaughter of Alice	Living	3
Joe/Joseph	—	—	0

\*\*Refers to people or pets of special significance to GD.

—Means that no information was provided by LC.

# Normal Face to Face Reading Experiment

Five mediums:

George Anderson

John Edwards

Anne Gehman

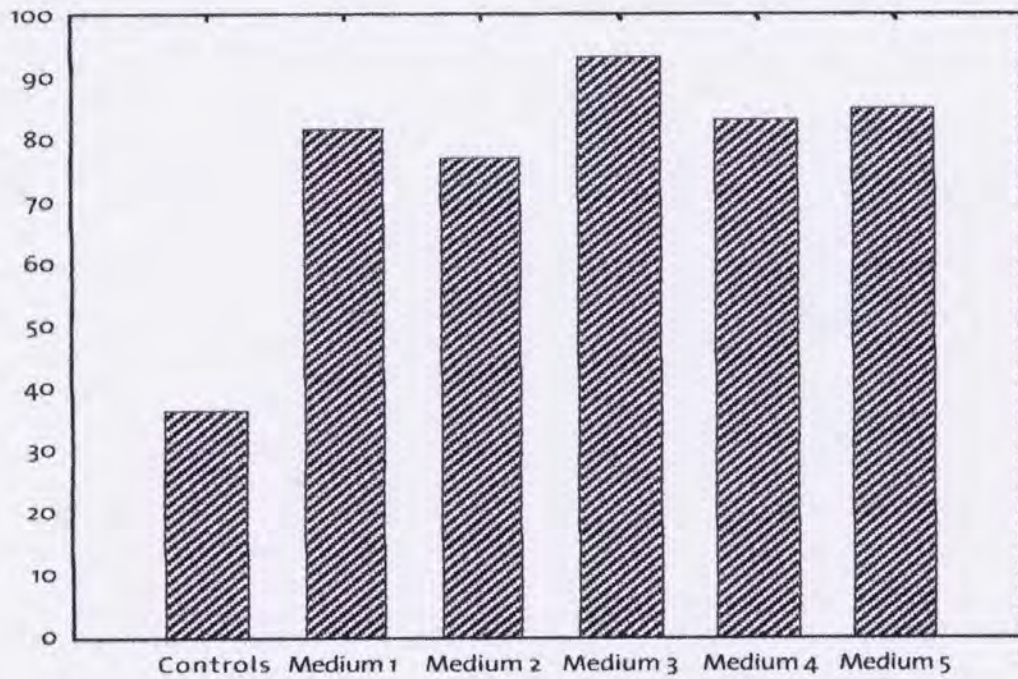
Suzanne Northrop

Laurie Campbell

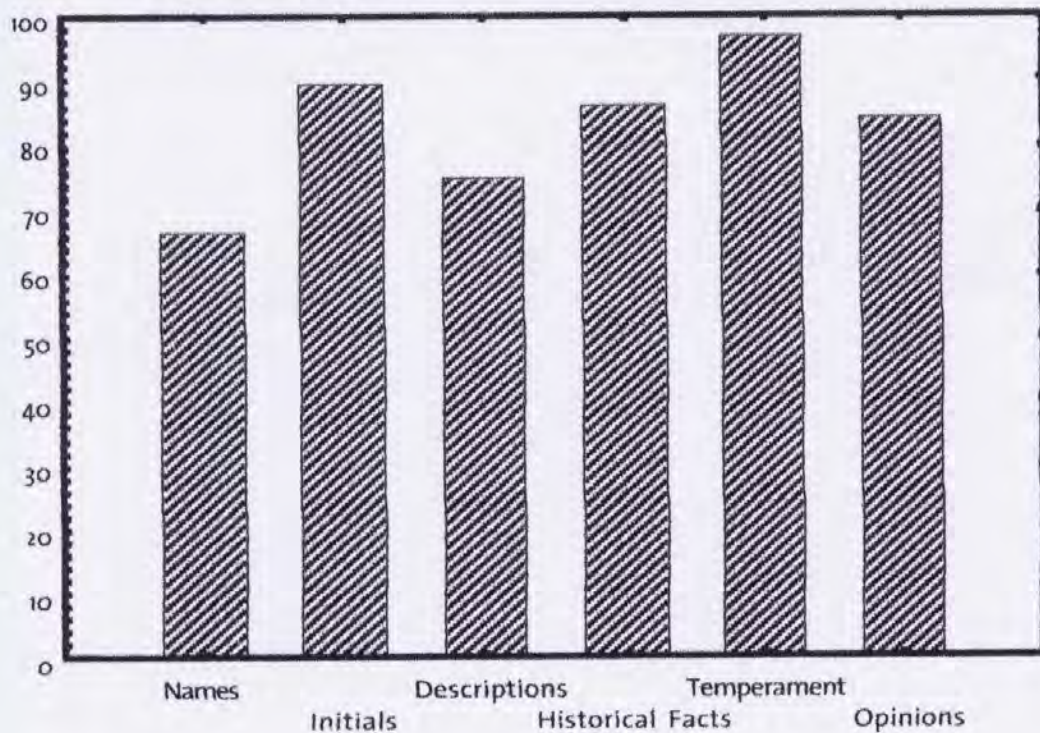
One sitter who had experienced  
the death of 6 loved ones in the  
past ten years

# Face to Face Results

Comparison of Guessing Performance of Controls (n=68) with Each Medium  
Control Performance Ranged from 20% to 54%



Percent Sure Hits (+3s) per Category averaged over 5 Mediums





# Face to Face Results

