

EVP

(Electronic Voice Phenomenon)

NEWSLETTER

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This month is the first Special Issue - and I hope that there will be more during the next year and then perhaps periodically for the many years I hope this newsletter will last.

My personal thanks to Peter Bander of Van Duren Press for allowing me to reproduce it.

As I said last month, I hope to write to Jurgenson with any questions that you readers would like to ask him and to find out the latest developments so if you want to know anything write after the next month when the article will be completed. It must be remembered however that the article is a few years old now.

I am sorry I could not fit all of the article into a one month Special but I am printing a few extra copies to which I will attach the few pages of next month as sample copies for prospective subscribers.

I am getting many worthwhile suggestions for improvement of the newsletter and for future issues so many thanks to all those who have written and keep the ideas coming! - also the articles !

Next month I hope to send out a list of all available literature dealing with the EVP. Also I am now thinking about the first (?) EVP confrence in England to be held next Spring so if anyone has any ideas for the programme please let me know.

I hope you all enjoy the Special Issue.

Alan

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COMMUNICATION - NOT GIBBERISH IS WANTED

Friedrich Jurgenson, the discoverer of the Electronic Voice Phenomenon paid his first visit to Britain. In an exclusive interview Mr Jurgenson explained the immense progress which has been made in this field of psychical research. In three demonstrations he convinced us that the methods of recording voices as done in the English speaking world - following Dr. Raudive's methods - is far behind the times. "You got stuck in the stone age," he laughingly observed, "the space age is here now and it is time for your researchers to catch up."

During his short stay in England, Friedrich Jurgenson, the discoverer of the Electronic Voice Phenomenon, gave one interview only. Despite several requests from other papers which had heard of his visit to this country, Mr Jurgenson declined to accept them. "I think it would be unfair and possibly open to misinterpretation if I were to engage in large scale publicity. Dr Raudive has died only recently; his book "Breakthrough" introduced the EVP to the English speaking world. Unfortunately, I was unable to come to Britain before; now that Raudive is dead, it may look as if I was making use of the present controversy going on about him. I have long wanted to visit Britain. Also, I have some personal friends in England. What made me come so suddenly was the final part of a documentary film on psychical phenomena and especially the Voice Phenomenon, which I hope will also be shown on BBC. No film is complete unless one covers the latest developments. So it was Matthew Manning I really came to see."

Jurgenson's own book "Sprechfunk mit Verstorbenen" (Radio Communication with the Dead) was never published in this country. "Mind you," he explained, "it would be wrong to publish it now as I wrote it almost ten years ago. So much has happened since I wrote it that it would have to be completely re-written before I could allow it to go into print again. I find so little time for writing; my commitments as film producer takes up so much time. From time to time I put some of the latest advancements down in writing, but I think it is a waste of time to go over the same ground again which I have covered before and which - to some extent - Dr Raudive seems to have used from the records of my very early research. For four years, Konstantin Raudive spent much time at my laboratory in Sweden. He always assured me that he could not possibly do his work without my help. Then one day he decided to write a book and that was the last I saw of him. He wrote occasionally, but it was only after some of my collaborators had ordered a copy of his book from England, that I realised what he had done. I really don't mind that he laid claim to so many things. As long as the Electronic Voice Phenomenon becomes widely known and researchers all over the world give their time for a thorough study to it, the objective is achieved. But I don't think that the gibberish, those soft and often inaudible whispers and voices which he produced and taught others to produce are the same thing I have been engaged in. We wanted proper communication. I wanted to establish dialogue.

I don't want to sit in front of a tape-recorder for hours and play some guessing game, spend hours on interpretation. I certainly don't want to compete with those who quite happily record all possible "pick-ups", conversations between aircrafts and ground-control, interferences from radio stations and the like."

Friedrich Jurgenson was quite adamant that it was a waste of time to listen to voices (even if they are genuine) if they are inaudible. "This is just the kind of thing which gives the EVP a bad name," he added, "either you come up with clear cut evidence, or keep quiet about your work."

Mr Jurgenson's voices on the tapes ARE different from anything we have heard so far. He does establish a meaningful dialogue, and at times one feels that he has overcome the many teething troubles from which the English and American researchers still suffer.

For example, Jurgenson dismisses "microphone play-ins" as outdated, primitive and highly unsatisfactory. "You only get the odd five or six syllables, and most of your time is taken up by arguing and guessing about the correct interpretation." The same goes for diode voices, Jurgenson feels that the results leave much to be desired; in fact he told us that he has observed diode recordings and considers them a complete waste of time.

What Raudive described as "interfrequency method" ie recording from a radio bandwave, seems to have been misunderstood and wrongly presented. From our reckoning, Dr Raudive set himself up independently roughly when Jurgenson was about to make his breakthrough with the "interfrequency method". This may account for the fact that we were always given to understand that one "looks for a waveband which may normally carry a transmission and closed down." In fact, it became obvious that the principle employed by Jurgenson differs greatly in this respect. "I need a carrier wave - a ground wave, if you like," he explained.

The most remarkable achievement is, however, the collaboration Friedrich Jurgenson has had from physicists, especially the Chief Engineer of the Postal and Telegraphic Communications Centre in Berlin. Voice prints from "play-ins" have been compared with those made of voices of persons who were also recorded when they were alive. And there is a definite pattern of similarity. Characteristics are there which cannot be described as coincidental. Phillips are issuing two long-playing records of Jurgenson's voices shortly.

Two forty-five minute documentary films are also nearing completion, and the Electronic Voice Phenomenon, may once again be presented; only this time there will be fewer loopholes. However, a series of recent play-ins seem to indicate that the EVP is not restricted to voices alone. Two separate recordings made hundreds of miles apart, give total re-enactment of a whole scene: in both cases a motor accident was recorded on tape, starting about ten seconds before the crash occurred, the screeching of the brakes, the crash itself, and seconds later, the hysterical reaction of the driver (in the first case) the assuring voices of three or four others (known to be dead) who identify themselves and then calm the driver down; the comments made about the accident and so on. This recording lasts for about five

minutes. The first case was recorded at the time of the accident, over a hundred miles from the scene of the accident by a researcher, who immediately telephoned Jurgenson; his name had been mentioned several times and the researcher wondered whether it could have something to do with him. As it happened, only two days later did Jurgenson receive official confirmation that his wife's sister had died tragically in a motor car accident during her holiday on the continent. Although Jurgenson knew of this incident through the recording - and so did many witnesses, it took the continental police that long to find the relatives. Jurgenson did not know where his sister-in-law was at the time.

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW WITH FRIEDRICH JURGENSON

- Q - You are aware of the information which was made available to the English speaking world in Raudive's book BREAKTHROUGH. Would you say that this truly reflects the state of the Electronic Voice Phenomenon or have there been advances which we don't know?
- J - Raudive's book reflects reasonably accurately the beginning of the voice recordings. The advances which have been made are immense; today we have a clear form of communication, a dialogue, questions and answers. But we must always recognise that we cannot force a communication to take place at a given time. Such communications depend largely on atmospheric conditions and several as yet unknown factors. These are factors which I have not been able to identify.
- Q - I have in the past strongly advocated that researchers should use the microphone method of recording voices because I was unhappy about the so-called "inter-frequency methods" used by Raudive. Was I wrong in discouraging the radio method?
- J - No, you were absolutely right. I too have always discouraged the use of the radio method. I'll tell you why; it took me about three years to perfect the method of radio play-ins. There is the question of linguistics to be considered. One has to learn where to look for the right carrier wave. For example, I am very worried when I hear of researchers using VHF, for example. There are police calls, taxi calls, aircraft and ground control calls and so on. I am using the medium band; I am not interested in getting the acoustics of a wave band.
- Q - Does this mean that you turn the volume down completely?
- J - No; the carrier wave has no acoustics, there is no transmission and I don't have to worry about this. All I get is an even white noise. The wave which I am using is on the medium band and lies between Moscow and Vienna. This is by far the best carrier wave I know. Unfortunately, I discussed this with the engineers from the BBC and discovered that this particular wave band is "blocked" in this country and cannot be received. It appears that this is some kind of political retaliation for blocking a British transmitter to Russia. They did not go into the reasons for it but the actual wave is not obtainable in Britain. This does not mean that there is not another frequency which is not equally good,

but I would have to have a few days to find it. The one I use is 1445/1450 KHz approximately.

Q - Can you give a brief outline of the progress you have made? You know already what the most common methods of recording are which we use.

J - Let me put it this way: the voices which Raudive has produced, or the vast majority of them, I would not accept in the first place. If I have to play something twenty times to make sense of it, I am not interested at all. These voices are open to any interpretation you care to put on them. In most cases, the interpretation put on these voices are just wishful thinking. Surely you have experienced this. If some body else comes along, he hears something quite different. In the end some kind of consensus is achieved; one "agrees" that it could be this or the other. No, - if you have a proper voice, then everybody ought to hear the same right from the start. I will only accept such voices which are above any doubt and question as to their meaning.

Q - Mr. Jurgenson, the voices we have heard during your first demonstration were not only absolutely clear and audible to everybody, but they were relevant; they were not banal - an accusation often made against Raudive's voices. How is it that we did never hear the kind of Electronic Voice Phenomenon as you have demonstrated?

J - I deeply regret now that I did not come to England in 1970 or a little later. We could have put the record straight then. Unfortunately illness and also my work prevented me at the time. Also, if I had appeared suddenly, it would have looked as if I was challenging Raudive. I really felt sorry for him, and not at all angry when I saw what he was trying to do.

Q - Mr Jurgenson, surely you must bear some of the responsibility for the fact that the EVP was presented in Britain and America, if you like, in a most unsatisfactory manner. After all, the book "Break-through" was out for at least five months before I received a letter from several Swedish scientists who drew my attention to the fact that Raudive had completely distorted your role in the discovery and development of the phenomenon. In fact, one of the scientists from Germany Dr Bender, used the analogy of "the British picked themselves a Rhinestone in Germany and left the diamond untouched in Sweden". Surely, you could have spoken out then.

J - I don't consider myself all that important. And let us get this right: Raudive was my student for four years. I still have all his letters, which are almost embarrassing with flattery. He always assured me that his greatest difficulty was hearing. Then he succeeded in getting some voices and he suddenly stopped coming to Sweden. I like Raudive; I also can understand his almost fanatical desire to make a name for himself. Don't forget that he was married to one of the most brilliant writers and philosophers in Germany, Dr Zenta Maurina. His wife has always been famous. She is the world's leading authority on Dostojewski;

she is a novelist of the highest order, a broadcaster - a household name in literary circles, in Germany. I imagine, dear Konstantin, ambitious and hard pressed to do well and to make his name independently from his wife. This is how he created the "Raudive voices". Of course, he could not do this with my approval. This is the reason why I only discovered what he had done when a colleague showed me the book, "Breakthrough". I am really sorry about all this. Konstantin Raudive was a friend, and he is dead now. It is very sad that this has to be said to explain the situation and the confusion which has arisen. Now we can dismiss this from our further discussion. Let us start from the premise that what you know and carry out in your experiments is the beginning of the Electronic Voice Phenomenon.

Q - Can we take it then step by step. What was the next step you took in your research.

J - First, I concentrated on quality. I did not need or want thousands of whispers and quiet voices. I wanted about ten clear voices which everyone could hear, voices that made sense and which were relevant. Then I slowly built up a direct communication. Once I had satisfied myself, and that goes for my collaborators as well, that I was recording the voices of dead friends, and not some "pick-ups" or random sounds - once I was convinced that I had established a communication I concentrated on these. I had established that about fifteen persons seemed to communicate clearly and in a relevant manner. So I stopped searching for other voices, I concentrated on those. Very early on, I asked them about their means of communication and I was given clearly to understand they used something not unlike the "radar" system which we used on earth. They told me that Edison and Marconi were deeply involved in assisting them in their efforts to "get through". I accepted this statement at face value and adopted a positive attitude; I tried to go along with them.

Q - May I interrupt here for a moment because your explanation throws a different light on the whole exercise. It was only in September 1973 that I received a letter from you which indicated for the first time that the discovery - and subsequent development of the voice phenomenon by you, was not accidental or by chance but that you had set out to establish communication with the dead. You must realise that this immediately raises serious objections among those scientists who are quite prepared to investigate the phenomenon as such, but who insist on the possibility that other reasons might account for the voices.

J - I have obviously been misrepresented; take it from me that I have fought every inch of the way with Professor Bender about the animistic theory. And I assure you that although Professor Bender holds on to the theory he has put forward now for many years, he is totally convinced that these paranormal voices cannot be explained with the animistic theory; some of them, perhaps, but most of them not. Again I am not here to speak for Prof. Bender. I am sure that once he is free from the restrictions placed upon him by his academic position, he may have one or two things to say. Don't forget that few academics could afford to declare openly that these are the voices from the dead. Whatever they think or say in private must remain

private until they chose to speak up publicly. There has never been any doubt in my mind about the voices. When I received the first voice, that of my mother I was convinced.

I have never pretended that these voices were anything but what they purported to be. The reason I have kept quiet, although I realised that it might be damaging to me personally, was only because I consider public quarrels abhorrent; I did not want to do harm to the genuine desire of the many thousands who carried out experiments. I was sure that sooner or later they would also become as convinced as I was. After all, I had done my part. What does a person matter when so much is at stake. Surely, the possibility to take away fear of death for millions is so much more important than the reputation of a single man. Of course, there were those who wanted to start a campaign to put me in the foreground. I absolutely refused to have anything to do with that. I was not concerned with religious questions, I simply was concerned with the cardinal question of what happens after you die. There is this period when you are neither here - on earth, nor have attained some form of higher awareness. It was that period I was interested in, nothing else.

Q - But surely, when you realised that research was taking some strange course, you could have intervened and spoken out publicly ?

J - No, not at all. Men will make mistakes and it is by their own mistakes that they will learn, not by interventions from outside.

Q - What convinced your own colleagues that those voices were what they purported to be ?

J - I think it was the "premonitions", if that is the right word. The things which were said about future happenings. Some of them nine months ahead of time, some two weeks, some a day or so. These prophetic messages, warnings or simply statements, have caused even the most sceptical observers to accept the paranormality of the voices. To me and my collaborators they simply meant that they were the voices of our friends who had achieved, if not a greater awareness as yet, though certainly a detachment from time. They saw the past, present and future from a slightly higher plane than we could. That is perhaps the best way of describing it.

The interview between Van Duren Press and Friedrich Jurgenson will be continued in next months issue.

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