

EVP NEWS

SPECIAL ISSUE ON METHODS FOR ATTEMPTING TO RECEIVE PARANORMAL VOICES (EVP)

"Today after 16 years of intensive research I look back to the eventful summer of 1959 when that fantastic first voice contact was recorded on tape. I could not know its significance at that time. I found myself like a person standing at the foot of a mountain. Its height and size could only be discerned from some distance. It was only by the distance of time and hard earned experiences that the outlines of the project became clear. Today it is evident that these voice contacts are the most significant and most important event of the century."

That was how the electronic voice phenomenon (evp) discoverer, Friedrich Jurgenson, described receiving that first voice in 1959. Even today, 21 years after the first voice, I do not think we have realised the full enormity of the mountain. The most we can say is we know it is there and we shall continue to climb it.

Many people still dispute the existence of the voices. One member of the Society for Psychical Research (SPR), David Ellis, announced in 1974 after seven years of research:

"There is thus no reason to postulate anything but natural causes: indistinct fragments of radio transmissions, mechanical noises and unnoticed remarks, aided by imaginative guesswork and wishful thinking, to explain the 'voice Phenomenon'."

Despite the negative conclusion of the book it is a wealth of informative material including details of the work of Dr. Konstantin Raudive, author of "Breakthrough" and the man who introduced evp to the english speaking world.

But Richard Sheargold, another SPR member, who unlike Ellis actually carried out his own experiments recently stated the idea that the whole affair is delusion can be rejected out of hand. "No one who was not completely bigoted or utterly ignorant can any longer hold this view. Without the slightest doubt I know from experience the phenomenon is an actuality" he wrote recently.

It is right there should be critics. I have heard so-called paranormal voices received by experienced researchers which are obviously "normal" - including a voice received by Dr. Konstantin Raudive ! But often so-called critics trot out the usual "Oh, it is radio transmissions being picked up by the tape recorder" without proper investigation.

I have heard specific samples of voices damned by people (who are "respected researchers") when they have not even heard the voice in question ! So if people will criticise let them be like Ellis - investigators first, critics second.

I know the phenomenon is genuine and I am anxious to take part in this new and exciting research. If you wish to take part as well here are some notes to get you on your way. But there is no right or wrong way as nobody knows exactly how to get voices.

EQUIPMENT

All one needs is an ordinary cassette or reel to reel tape recorder, a microphone and headphones and a domestic radio. Type and make of radio seems to be irrelevant. There is no evidence to suggest that a better recorder will receive better voices - only that it will play voices back better. But a warning: If you have a poor quality tape recorder it is more likely that normal noises created by electrical faults in the tape recorder maybe misinterpreted as paranormal voices. Always use factory fresh, good quality, tapes and never re-record over existing material.

METHODS

The tape recorder is set up in the usual manner - with the microphone plugged in to record your voice. Nobody knows the best time or place to record so I suggest you try various times over a suitable period of time. It used to be thought that complete silence was necessary in order that no normal noises could be mistaken for paranormal noises/voices but recent research suggests this is not the case.

Richard Sheargold has reached the conclusion from his own experiments that all paranormal voices are dependent upon the existence of normal sounds. "It is clear that the audio frequencies are being paranormally manipulated to produce evp" he says. So I suggest you do not worry about external noises but keep in mind that you may be reading paranormality into these noises when you play back the tape.

Start off the experiment with some introductory remarks: Details of time, place, date, method of recording, who is recording and who you are asking for. Follow this with something like: "Good evening my friends, I would be very grateful if you could try and talk to me". As author, Lyall Watson pointed out, you will sound daft saying that sort of thing to a tape recorder but if it gets results....

Keep the tape running, recording via the microphone, for ten, fifteen or thirty minutes. I do not recommend keeping the tape on for any longer because you will forget what external noises there were and it will take you too long to play it back and examine it properly.

At the end of that time, thank the voice entities for their help - even if you do not think you will have got results - and say goodbye. Leave a five second gap for the voices to return the farewell and switch off the tape recorder.

RADIO METHOD

A microphone and radio are plugged into the tape recorder in such a way that you can turn off one or the other when required. The tuning of the radio may be important. Some researchers try very hard to tune in between two stations so that the edges of both are heard. Others just try for any blank space and researcher Michael Vinter zooms up and down the dial like a yo-yo !

Often you will hear people talk about the "Jurgenson Frequency". This is a precise spot on the radio tuner (at about 1480 khz) used by European researchers to obtain voices. It is probably ideal for obtaining the evp because it is between two stations (Radio Moscow and Radio Vienna). However it cannot be obtained in this country as it is blocked for political reasons, so you will have to try elsewhere. I usually use medium wave but others have success with long wave, FM and short wave so try all.

Start with the microphone switched through to recording and make the introductory remarks as in the microphone method. Ask for the voice entities and ask them to try and talk to you. Switch through to the radio and let the tape run for a few minutes. You may occasionally switch back to the microphone and ask another question or retune the radio - even move slowly up and down the radio dial until you think you hear a voice then stop there. The advantage over the microphone method is that you can hear voices come over the radio and if you should be lucky to hear the voice clearly you can answer it or talk to it. With the microphone method you cannot hear the voices until playback.

As I have said researcher, Mike Vinter, tends to zoom up and down the dial. He offers this advice to researchers:

"Ask one question or make one statement after another until you hear something emerge out of the background babble. Whatever you do, do not attempt to decipher it unless it is at once clear which it rarely will be. Even if you think it is a natural broadcast voice answer it ! Thank it or ask it another question.

If nothing seems to be happening don't hang around. Move quickly to another frequency or change it to another wavelength. Speed is a significant factor. Keep asking questions or making observations and see what you have when you listen back. In my own case the phenomenon is developing more markedly with every experiment."

Mike uses a mixing switch so the microphone and radio can be recorded at the same time. You can see the tremendous difference between the traditional approach and Mike's approach but he has got some of the best results in Britain. There is no right or wrong method - find one that gets results for you.

RADIO MICROPHONE METHOD

The microphone is placed some small distance from the speaker of the radio (usually just a few inches). This means the microphone is recording the radio noise, your voice and any noises in the room where you are recording. This is one of the most popular methods of recording because it is one of the simplest and has often produced voices.

OTHER METHODS

There are other less known methods often developed by researchers in an attempt to find the "paranormal telephone" - or Dial M for Mother as it has been called. But the above should give you voices and then you can go onto developing your own methods. Even if those methods described above do not give you voices you can try variations until you do make contact.

PLAYBACK OF THE TAPE

How do you recognise a paranormal voice? Primarily by what it says. If a voice says: "Hello, my name is Konstantin Raudive and I am talking to you from beyond the grave" it is likely to be paranormal! Similarly if a voice calls your name it is likely to be paranormal because the odds of a radio station calling your name just as you are recording is millions to one.

The voices are not likely to be loud and it may take patient listening to the tape three or four times before you can find any voices (if there are any to be found). Disciples of Konstantin Raudive check the white noise carefully for very faint voices. Others like Jurgenson and Cass do not bother to look carefully for faint voices. They reason that if a voice cannot be heard the first time it is not worth worrying about.

I favour a middle of the road attitude. I will listen patiently for faint voices in case they contain information but if you listen too carefully you are more likely to be deluding yourself in picking out meaningless noises.

You will soon learn to determine what is radio, what are police or taxi radios and what is paranormal. But someone telling base he is heading for the local railway station is unlikely to be a message from heaven, hell or another galaxy ! Often message is not enough to tell a paranormal voice. It may not be mentioning anything that will give it away as paranormal. In these cases experience is what counts the most. Paranormal voices have a rhythm peculiar to themselves. It is very difficult to describe this in print and I am not even going to try. If you hear other people's voices and later your own you will soon know what I mean. Sometimes paranormal voices are preceded by a click or electronic "keying sound" which will warn you a message coming through.

CONCLUSIONS

The reader may quite rightly ask what authority I have to sit here like some God and talk about how to receive voices when the number I have got can be counted on one hand ! Well the information above is not based so much on personal research but on the data I have collected during the past three years as Editor of EVP News and in talking and corresponding with evp researchers the world over. So it is they who you have to thank if you get voices, not me. My intention is only to pass on the information to the rest of the public. May I say thank you to all researchers who have been kind enough to write to me or even let me visit them to discuss the evp.

As to the origin of the voices, how they get their voice over and other information, these are problems still being tackled and perhaps you, reader, will be able to throw light on them if you manage to obtain voices.

FURTHER INFORMATION : I have run out of space to detail addresses for information but if you write to me saying what you would like I will try and put you in touch with the book, tape or person.

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