

EVP NEWS

Issue No 28

July 1981.

FORMATION OF AN EVP FOUNDATION

Moves are being made in Britain to form a research network linking together the many regional research groups and organisations of specialist researchers. The formation of this network - temporarily called the Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena - is an ideal opportunity for evp researchers in Britain (and perhaps abroad) to rethink how we are organised.

I am involved with ASSAP and so is Dr Hugh Pincott, Alan Hughes, Maurice Townsend, David Christie-Murray, Hilary Evans, Dr Vernon H arrison, Mimi Khan, John Merron, Dennis Bury, Jonathan Cocking and many others.

This would be an ideal opportunity for improving the way evp researchers and work on the evp is done. Co-incidentally Gilbert Bonner sent me ideas on this theme some time ago but what do other people think? One suggestion may be the formation of a foundation. EVP News could continue to link researchers together but the foundation could also act as a forum for discussion on research techniques, administering specific research on evp and evp in relation to other subjects (eg. the work on the Rollright Stones). It could also supply speakers for conferences and for handling press inquiries (either newspapers or television/radio). It could hold workshops occasionally or join in symposiums with allied research. It could also produce publications.

What other ideas are there and how could they best be organised? Most of the above are done at the moment by individuals - all the foundation would seek to do is correlate this and aim to provide additional services. It may also be able to aid financially evp research. On page 5 of this issue of EVPN are further details of ASSAP and what it hopes to do nationwide and for research. The next meeting of ASSAP is on August 19 so please send any suggestions by then if possible to: Alan Cleaver, 6 Izane Road, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 8NX, England. Also write care of me if you want any further information about ASSAP.

Alan Cleaver

FORTEAN TIMES - The journal of Strange Phenomena. One year's subscription (four issues) is £4.00. Cheques and POs to be made payable to "Fortean Times". Write to Fortean Times, c/o DTWAGE, 9 - 12 St Annes Court, London W1, England.

COMMON GROUND - A new mag covering psychical research, UFOs and evp as well as a wide range of phenomena. Excellent value at only £1.00 an issue. Contact Kevin McClure, 8 Scotland Road, Little Bowden, Market Harborough, Leics, England.

£1.00 TAX ON CASSETTES ?

Britain could soon be facing a £1 tax on tape if suggestions in a recently issued green paper go-ahead. The sur-charge is an attempt to help record companies re-coup some of the losses made by people recording records off the radio or off other people's records. An alternative of putting a blocking signal on recordings which is only audible if someone attempts to copy the recording has so far proved unsuccessful. Some authorities suggest a better way would be to put a sur-charge on the tape-recorders. Either way would penalise evp researchers and sound-recordists who are not buying the tapes to re-record records.

REVIEW....

"Phone Calls From The Dead" by D. Scott Rogo and Raymond Bayless. New English Library, 1980. Price UK: £1.00

Obviously the connection between evp and phone calls apparently received by the dead is important and anyone considering evp must also consider this parallel phenomena. Perhaps one day hints from these phone calls will tell us how to improve evp links. Rogo and Bayless are to be congratulated on not only documenting many of these sproadic cases but also in getting them published.

In the appendix D. Scott Rogo is obliged to admit:

"Every author approaches the subjects discussed in his book with a set of biases and these he invariably passes on to his readers no matter how objective he tries to be...Frankly you are all 'stuck', so to speak, with our data and interpretations."

The bias most obviously portrayed by the authors in their book is their presumption that the phone calls are indeed from the dead. This may seem an obvious comment considering the title of the book. However they do admit, and to an extent, consider other paranormal calls received on the phone. Of all paranormal calls received by people by phone it is unfortunate their cultural and personal bias makes them select mainly those purported to be from the dead. Even the question mark is lost from the title borrowed from Rogo's article in Fate in October 1977 - "Phone Calls FROM The Dead ?". I think they would have been better to leave the question mark there as there is plenty of doubt about the origin of the calls.

I find it surprising, and disappointing, that msytery phone calls found in UFO lore are only give three pages.

Their calls from the dead cover a wide spectrum of short, long calls, calls also received from long distance, calls received at the time of the persons death, calls received years after a persons death and even the odd malicious call. A classic example is:- Mrs Adams (pseudonym) tells this tale:

"When I was about eight years old, I was living in Texas. My mother had a very dear friend whose daughter had gone away to college. The daughter came back home around the first of the year, each year. The third year, while on her way back home, she was killed in an automobile accident.

A couple of years later we were over at the home of this friend of my mother's for Thanksgiving, which was one of the holidays for which the daughter used to come home. The telephone rang. I was at the age when, if the grownups were away in the living room, and the kids were always running around, I would answer the phone. I picked it up and heard the long distance perator say, ' I have a collect aall.' She mentioned the name of my mother's friend, and then she mentioned the name of the daughter. (In other words, the calls was addressed to the friend, and the operator told Miss ADams tht the call was from the deceased daughter.) This threw me a little bit even as a child, and I said, 'Just a minute'. I went and got my mother's friend. She came to the phone. I stood watching her, because I had hear the name and thought tha myabe somebody was playing a joke on me or her or something. She listened on the phone, turned absolutely white, and fainted.

Later on I heard what happened. There was a great hushing up about it, but I learned that she had heard her daughter - who had been dead two or three yars - speak to her. She said the same thing she always did before she came home: 'mommie, its me', she said, ' I need twenty dollars to get home.' The mother always sen her twenty dollars for good luck. She said she recognised the voice. They called the phone company but they had no record of the phone call."

It is not unusual, it seems for "ghost operators" to also be involved. Forgive me quoting that one in full but it gives an idea of the sort of phenomena being dealt with in the book.

My main criticism is that even when the authors consider phone calls from the living (but which could not have been made by the person because they were no where near a phone or for some other reason) they do not consider a theory wider than just one of the origin from the dead. Instead their reasoning follows these lines:-

"If the dead can psychically produce these phone calls then one would expect that a living mind also possesses this same psychic ability. Likewise, one might argue the issue the other way around: If we can produce these calls psychokinetically while we are still alive then there is no reason to assume that we couldn't also produce them after death as well."

What the authors seemingly do not consider seriously is that is the human mind of a living person can produce phantom phone calls then there is no reason to assume that dead people are producing ones purported to be from the dead. Why not the human mind receiving telepathically the news that her husband has just died in a car crash and in order to tell her conscious mind producing a phantom phone call? Far-fetched perhaps but the logic is surely sound. I only seek to question the reasoning behind paragraphs like this:

"Determining how these calls (from the living) are produced might help us understand the nature of phone calls from the dead, their relation to phantom calls from the living, and the entire phantom phone call mystery as a whole."

Phone calls from Men IN Black, and other UFO related phone calls, hardly get a look in. Ironically they select a case which shows how clearly there is a link between calls from the dead and calls from UFO beings - that they may just be different parts of a long spectrum:

"A middle-aged woman, who was an acquaintance of Schwarz (the person who supplied the case to the authors), saw a UFO as she was driving in the country with her husband. The object followed her car for several hours before disappearing. Some time later, the witness received a phone call from a man who said his name was Roger. When she said that she didn't know any Roger, the voice said that he was a family secret and was her brother! The woman chalked up the call to a prank, but later learned that years before she herself was born, her mother had given birth to a stillborn child who would have been named Roger had he lived. This sad event had been kept a secret of sort and the witness had never been told about it."

Origin apart, it is the method of "how" paranormal calls are made that is of interest to us. The work Bayless and Rogo have done on this is excellent. The detail and work they have done on this aspect of the phenomena is an incredible achievement. They have also done a valuable job on the history of the evp - far greater in data than anything other publication(s) I have read. The book is worth buying just for this history of the evp.

The history covers from the early days of the telegraph, reports of psychic telephones, direct voice phenomena of Von Szalay, trumpet voices from the seance room of Mrs Blake to the evp of Jurgenson and Raudive. Or rather just Raudive because once again it is, curiously, Raudive who is credited more with evp. I have noticed this a lot in evp literature. Raudive is spoken more of although he was a student of the discoverer Jurgenson. And let us not forget Jurgenson is still alive!

EVP RESEARCH ESTABLISHES THE PARANORMAL ! - by G.G.Bonner.

On the basis of actual experimental research conducted weekly since the year 1972 I can state that without doubt "paranormal" voices are recorded alone or mixed with normal radio (according to the methods used) and these voices cannot be accounted for by normal physical laws, and neither are they in my opinion explained by psychological theories of the unconscious (animistic theory).

Obviously unknown energies and forces are used, that do not appear to be electromagnetic in nature. All possible tests have been made by experts in electronics, psycho-acoustics, physics, etc, etc, to no avail. The indications are that certain people (sensitives) are chosen, or used to receive the majority of recordings, but this may also involve psychological factors, or could be the introduction of this phenomena to us by way of people prepared to devote themselves to this work out of pure interest, and certainly not for gain, and indeed, often in the face of a hostile reception, especially from parapsychology.

Further research indicates to me that developments in this field may be more in the line of high energy physics than in abstract psychological concepts. That a phenomena is taking place can be demonstrated by researchers, even under test conditions. There is no question of fraud, and self-deception does not explain 'genuine' voice phenomena. I have made over 10,000 recordings of my own, and studied recordings by many others, plus all the data I can obtain world wide. My experience in this research, is therefore considerable, and I am informed of developments abroad by other researchers. I have no hesitation in saying therefore that here is something of major importance to science, and also probably to humanity, and no obstacles should prevent full research into the voice phenomena; making use of the knowledge of the pioneer workers in this field who have established the "link" that is so essential....'the bridge' to new dimensions of reality.

Sussex; May 3rd 1981.

A new research network is being formed to aid work on the paranormal. Temporarily it is called the Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena.

FIELD OF INTEREST: - By its very nature no precise limit can be set to the field thus compromised nor would it be desirable to do so. Just a few of the phenomena covered would be: clairvoyance, dowsing, dreams, evp, esp, hauntings; healing, hypnosis, ley lines, mediumship, metal bending, OOBES, poltergeists, PK, Spiritualism, survival, telepathy etc.

VIEWS & ATTITUDES: - ASSAP will hold no corporate views and will discourage dogmatism in its members. They will of course be free to hold whatever views they choose but when acting as members of ASSAP they must be prepared to treat those views as provisional only.

AIMS & ACTIVITIES: - Create and maintain a national investigative network.

- * Create or affiliate with specialist groups (eg. evp) to provide back up of expertise for field investigators.
- * Make available technical facilities.
- * Create and maintain a national data base, including libraries.
- * Sponsor or support study sessions, training seminars and other events.
- * Establish positive relations with media at both a local and national level.

ASSAP does not seek to replace or compete with any existing groups. Rather it aims to provide a central organisation to which existing groups may affiliate themselves for their own benefit. Benefits of individuals joining might include: Free subscription to the ASSAP newsletter, free or reduced cost admission to ASSAP functions, courses, etc. Free or reduced cost to ASSAP resources and facilities. Allocation of cases for field investigation and research.

Anyone requiring further information can contact Alan Cleaver 6 Izane Road, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 8NX, England.

THE LEY HUNTER MAGAZINE. The magazine of earth mysteries dealing with ancient alignments in Britain and elsewhere, and all aspects of geomancy, folklore, prehistoric and ancient sites, possible earth energies, strange phenomena, etc. Four issues subscription £3.80 UK; £5.00 Europe; £7.50 overseas airmail. Write to PO Box 13, Welshpool, Powys, Wales.