

Contributions to *Dictionary of Nineteenth-Century Journalism*

Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research

Published by Trübner and Co. [1882–1889] and Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co, [1890–1902]. Quarterly parts: wrapper; 20–500 pp. text (variable), illustrated. Bound volumes, which comprised up to four parts and which spanned up to two calendar years, included an index.

The Society for Psychical Research (SPR) was founded in February 1882 and quickly established itself as the most intellectually respectable face of the growing interest in mesmerism, apparitions, spiritualism, multiple personality, and other ‘psychical’ phenomena. The *Proceedings* was the principal forum for SPR members’ researches, and also featured the SPR presidents’ addresses, book reviews, and lists of members. Research papers were often illustrated with, for example, diagrams of telepathically transferred pictures and reproductions of spirit photographs. It was an expensive purchase (from 2s 6d to 7s) and was typically aimed at the same bourgeois and aristocratic individuals who dominated the society’s membership. Until the early 1900s, it was largely edited by, and filled with the researches of F. W. H. Myers, Henry Sidgwick, Edmund Gurney and other members of a small coterie of distinguished intellectuals who effectively ran the SPR. It presented the society’s most formidable arguments for the existence of ‘telepathy’, the survival of the soul following bodily death, and the existence of the ‘subliminal self’, and featured more controversial investigations into the physical phenomena of spiritualism and Theosophy. From 1884, the SPR issued a sister periodical, the *Journal*, which was issued privately to members and allowed more controversial researches and views to be presented.

Sources

Fodor, Nandor, *Encyclopaedia of Psychic Science* (London: Arthurs Press, 1934)

Gauld, Alan, *The Founders of Psychical Research* (London: Routledge, 1968)

Grattan-Guinness, Ivor (ed.), *Psychical Research: A Guide to its History, Principles and Practices* (Wellingborough: The Aquarian Press, 1982)

JOURNAL TEMPLATE

Imprint

1. Full title of journal: *Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research*
2. Start date: 17 July 1882
3. Places of Publication: N/A
4. Printers: National Press Agency Limited, 1882–
5. Trübner & Co, 1882–1889; Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co, 1890–1902
6. Type of serial: proceedings of learned society

Ownership

7. Proprietorship: Society for Psychical Research
8. Affiliations: N/A
9. Readership: educated, middle and upper classes
10. Circulation: unknown

Material Properties

11. Size: 20x13.5cm
12. Format: Demy Octavo
13. Pagination: 40–500 pp
14. Illustrated: Y
15. Adverts: Y
16. Masthead: N
17. Cover: Y; seen

Periodicity/Price

12. Variable, but usually quarterly

19. Day of week/month issued: N/A

20. Price: variable: e.g. 3s (Part XV, 1889–90), 3s 6d (Part XXV, 1893–1894), 7s (Part XXVI, 1894), 2s 6d (Part XXVII, 1895)

21. Unstamped: No

Editorial

22. Editors: unknown – informally, F. W. H. Myers and Henry Sidgwick

23. Signature

24. Contributors: letterpress: William F. Barrett, J. Milne Bramwell, William Crookes, Edmund Gurney, Richard Hodgson, William James, Oliver Lodge, F. W. H. Myers, Frank Podmore, Charles Richet, Eleanor Sidgwick, Henry Sidgwick, Balfour Stewart

25. Contributors: graphic: unknown

26. Departments of letterpress: N/A

27. Cross reference to topics and other names: medicine and journalism, orientalism and journalism, science and journalism, spiritualist press; William Crookes, Ada Goodrich Freer, Richard Holt Hutton, Andrew Lang, William Thomas Stead, Alfred Russel Wallace

Bibliographical sources relevant to title

28. Wellesley: N

29. Waterloo: N

30. ODNB: Y

31. Sullivan: N

32. Newspaper Press Directory: N

33. Others: N

34. Sources consulted: see end of entry

Reference Record

35. Date compiled: 04/05/07

36. Dates of copies consulted: 04/05/07

37. Location of copies consulted: Cambridge University Library

38. Name of researcher: Richard Noakes