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WE WERE ASSEMBLED TO INVESTIGATE, NOT SEE MEDIUMISTIC PHENOMENA--ETC(U)
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FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION



"WE WERE ASSEMBLED TO INVESTIGATE,
NOT SEE MEDIUMISTIC PHENOMENA"

by

Boris Volodin



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EDITED TRANSLATION

FTD-ID(RS)T-1236-77 29 July 1977

FTD-77-C-000919
"WE WERE ASSEMBLED TO INVESTIGATE, NOT SEE
MEDIUMISTIC PHENOMENA"

By: Boris Volodin

English pages: 39

Source: Khimiya i Zhizn', Nauchno-Populyarnyy
Zhurnal Akademii Nauk, SSSR, No. 10,
1969, pp 54-63.

Country of origin: USSR

Requester: FTD/XRQ

Translated by: Carol S. Nack

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

U. S. Board on Geographic Names Transliteration System	11
Greek Alphabet	11
Designations of Trigonometric Functions	111
Graphics Disclaimer	111
PART TWO	
Chapter Five . Mediumistic Sputum	1
Chapter Six. "The Room was Lit Up by a Match"	6
Chapter Seven. "Tables Move Like Dogs"	11
Chapter Eight. "Then I Felt Sorry for Them"	14
Chapter Nine. "Perhaps We are not Sitting in the Proper Order?".....	15
Chapter Ten. "...See What the Crowd Sees...".....	20
Chapter Eleven. "They Would Become!"	25

U. S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES TRANSLITERATION SYSTEM

Block	Italic	Transliteration	Block	Italic	Transliteration
А а	А а	A, a	Р р	Р р	R, r
Б б	Б б	B, b	С с	С с	S, s
В в	В в	V, v	Т т	Т т	T, t
Г г	Г г	G, g	У у	У у	U, u
Д д	Д д	D, d	Ф ф	Ф ф	F, f
Е е	Е е	Ye, ye; E, e*	Х х	Х х	Kh, kh
Ж ж	Ж ж	Zh, zh	Ц ц	Ц ц	Ts, ts
З з	З з	Z, z	Ч ч	Ч ч	Ch, ch
И и	И и	I, i	Ш ш	Ш ш	Sh, sh
Й й	Й й	Y, y	Щ щ	Щ щ	Shch, shch
К к	К к	K, k	Ъ ъ	Ъ ъ	"
Л л	Л л	L, l	Ы ы	Ы ы	Y, y
М м	М м	M, m	Ь ь	Ь ь	'
Н н	Н н	N, n	Э э	Э э	E, e
О о	О о	O, o	Ю ю	Ю ю	Yu, yu
П п	П п	P, p	Я я	Я я	Ya, ya

*ye initially, after vowels, and after ь, ъ; e elsewhere.
 When written as ë in Russian, transliterate as yë or ë.
 The use of diacritical marks is preferred, but such marks may be omitted when expediency dictates.

GREEK ALPHABET

Alpha	A	α	•	Nu	N	ν
Beta	B	β		Xi	Ξ	ξ
Gamma	Г	γ		Omicron	Ο	ο
Delta	Δ	δ		Pi	Π	π
Epsilon	E	ε	•	Rho	Ρ	ρ
Zeta	Z	ζ		Sigma	Σ	σ
Eta	H	η		Tau	Τ	τ
Theta	Θ	θ	•	Upsilon	Υ	υ
Iota	I	ι		Phi	Φ	φ
Kappa	K	κ	•	Chi	Χ	χ
Lambda	Λ	λ		Psi	Ψ	ψ
Mu	M	μ		Omega	Ω	ω

RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH TRIGONOMETRIC FUNCTIONS

Russian	English
sin	sin
cos	cos
tg	tan
ctg	cot
sec	sec
cosec	csc
sh	sinh
ch	cosh
th	tanh
cth	coth
sch	sech
csch	csch
arc sin	\sin^{-1}
arc cos	\cos^{-1}
arc tg	\tan^{-1}
arc ctg	\cot^{-1}
arc sec	\sec^{-1}
arc cosec	\csc^{-1}
arc sh	\sinh^{-1}
arc ch	\cosh^{-1}
arc th	\tanh^{-1}
arc cth	\coth^{-1}
arc sch	sech^{-1}
arc csch	csch^{-1}
—	
rot	curl
lg	log

GRAPHICS DISCLAIMER

All figures, graphics, tables, equations, etc.
merged into this translation were extracted
from the best quality copy available.

DOC = 1236

PAGE 1

1236

"WE WERE ASSEMBLED TO INVESTIGATE, NOT SEE MEDIUMISTIC PHENOMENA..."

Exclusive Documentary Story on Telekinesis and Other
Spiritual-Telepathic Phenomena Compiled by

Boris Volodin

(Conclusion. Beginning in preceding issue of this magazine.)

Part Two

Chapter Five. Mediumistic Sputum

"...Two types of transmission were tested: Zener maps and pictures of random objects... During the seances Nikolayev rather clearly received the image of dumb-bells and a screwdriver... A great deal of associative interference was intermingled with the reception of the other images. However, the experimenters consider it possible to reduce these interferences in the future by considering the first test..."

"Moscow-Novosibirsk Thought Transmission."

Newspaper of 7 July 1966.

"Science is mainly interested in reproducible phenomena. Phenomena for which there exists a set of conditions such that if all the conditions in this set are reproduced, the phenomenon must (or with a high probability) also be reproduced.

...Since the purpose of tests is to evaluate certain theories, it is completely unacceptable to sort the results into those which will be taken into consideration and those which for some reasons ("they got tired") will not be considered... The rules of the game must be agreed upon before the tests and all the results obtained in

accordance with these rules must be considered."

M. Bongard and M. Smirnov. "Telepathic Experiment:

Necessary Requirements." "Nauka i zhizn'," 1967,

No. 12.

From the minutes of the Commission of the Physics Society of the Saint Petersburg University created to examine mediumistic phenomena at the suggestion of D. I. Mendeleev. Session of 11 November 1875.

"...This time Aksakov suggested studying the movement of a table, not phenomena in front of a curtain, like the last time. Messrs. Borgman, Bulygin, Gezekhus, Yelenev and, for half of the sessions, Butlerov sat at the table, besides the mediums; the seance lasted for around an hour, part with music and part without it; at first with the light of one candle, and then in darkness. The table did not move..."

The second seance... lasted around an hour. According to Aksakov's

statement, the table moved slightly during this session, then drops of liquid began to appear on Borgman's hands, the table and the blotting paper. According to the Petti boy's statement, this type of phenomenon is mediumistic and is not produced by the medium himself.

The members of the commission who sat at the table insist that the drops of liquid which appeared caused the same reaction on chemically treated blotting paper as that obtained by directly wetting the paper with the medium's sputum. The drop did not appear when the medium's mouth was bound with a handkerchief..."

The following commission members and witnesses signed: Aksakov and Butlerov. The latter added his own special statement:

"I consider it necessary to point out that it was not verified that the reaction from the medium's sputum was identical to the drops which appeared, and it seems to me that the statements of the commission members who sat at the table are rather premature."

A. Butlerov.

"...It should be pointed out that even very great expertise in a particular field of science (zoology, medicine, radio engineering,

etc.) often does not prevent an individual from making basic errors in setting up or verifying telepathy tests."

M. Bondar and M. Smirnov. "Telepathic Experiment:

Necessary Requirements." "Nauka i zhizn'," 1967,

No. 12

Remark made by D. I. Mendeleev:

"...In order to analyze the phenomenon it is first necessary to be certain whether the drops are the same as the sputum or different from it. The following method was selected to do this. Human sputum contains sulfurous cyanide (thiocyanate) salts. Their presence in the smallest quantities is either detected by iron oxide salt solutions, or else its interaction causes a new substance to form which is very brightly colored in red light. If we wet unglued paper (filter, bible) with an iron oxide salt solution, e.g., a solution of iron chloride (iron 2,3-chloride or iron trichlorate $FeCl_3$, where Fe-56 is

dissolved in water), the paper assumes a yellow color which is not very noticeable in artificial light, but clearly visible in daylight. Sputum leaves a reddish or reddish-violet spot on this paper. This paper also was used as the reagent (test) paper in the commission's observations of the drops which appeared on the Petti boy. The drops had the indicated sputum reaction each time they appeared..."

Chapter 6. "The Room Was Lit Up by a Match"

"These are the factors which cause another of the article's authors to consider it very unlikely that tests alone will confirm the existence of telepathy (as well as clairvoyance and telekinesis). One must remember that up to now no cases in which the laws of physics found when studying inanimate world did not turn out to be true for living world have been detected outside the field of parapsychology."

M. Bondar and M. Smirnov. "Telepathic Experiment:"

Necessary Requirements." "Nauka i zhizn'," 1967,

No. 12.

From the minutes of the same session:

"...At Mr. Aksakov's suggestion, the seance was begun at 0945 hours in a dark room, with both of the mediums sitting in front of a curtain tacked to the floor and edges of a niche. This curtain ...was ...ripped along one seam from the bottom to a height of 164 centimeters, then tacked together along the ripped seam. Like in the previous session, a small bell was placed behind the curtain. The curtain and the position of the bell were examined by the commission members before the session. The mediums were seated on chairs immediately in front of and facing the curtain and were completely free. The attendees who participated in the seance sat in a semicircle around two and one half meters away... At the request of the mediums, the light was dimmed as much as possible, so the commission members could not distinguish the mediums sitting in front of them. Therefore, it was suggested that the mediums cover their heads with white handkerchiefs, which they did... Falling into a so-called trance, the younger medium sang loudly with the music and made a snapping noise, apparently with his fingers. Several times the attendees reported that they heard a noise which sounded like paper

rustling. When attention was brought to this, the elder medium, who was in a so-called trance during the entire time, reported that this rustling is one of the mediumistic phenomena. Fifty minutes after the seance began, the room was suddenly illuminated for all of two seconds by a match lit by Mr. Mendeleyev, who had stood up. This made Mr. Aksakov announce that "this is not good." The mediums began to loudly voice their displeasure with the sudden illumination of the room and demanded to know why this was done, to which Mr. Mendeleyev replied that it seemed to him that the elder medium had been leaning over. The mediums went on to state that the bell would ring in this same seance if everyone promised not to suddenly light a match. This promise was made. Five minutes later, the loud noise of a chair moving was heard, immediately followed by a noise that sounded like a human body falling. The attendees at the seance noticed that the white spot from the handkerchief on the head of the elder medium had disappeared. The convulsive movements of the elder medium could be heard on the floor close to a window in the corner, far from the curtain...

Immediately after the seance was over, the commission members examined the curtain and the position of the small bell.

During this examination it was found that:

1) a wide tear 83 centimeters long had formed 44 centimeters from the floor at the place where the seam was tacked, i.e., just in front of the pin which marked the end of the seam which had been made;

2) some of the stitches of the threads with which the curtain was tacked had remained in place, while others were found on the floor;

3) the bell behind the curtain was found in the same position as before the seance.

Then Mr. Borgman immediately pointed out that some of the stitches were on the left cuff of the elder medium's jacket...

Mr. Mendeleyev made the following statement: while sitting in the semicircle, he had first clearly distinguished the white handkerchiefs on the mediums in the normal position, and then he seemed to see the position of the elder medium's handkerchief change considerably. Verifying this impression several times, he lit the match to make this out and managed to observe that the elder medium was sitting bent over toward the curtain, turning his head back to the right.

...Mr. Aksakov stated that he was discontinuing the session with the Petti mediums and announced his intention to search for a new medium.

A. N. Aksakov returned to England and found a real treasure after a long search - the remarkable Ms. Klayyer, who even managed to convince the famous English physicist William Crooks of her astonishing mediumistic potentials.

"Tables move like dogs for her!" they said of Ms. Klayyer.

"...Since these documents contained no proof of the existence of telepathy, the editor, wishing to avoid misinforming the readers, will abstain from publishing the article "Parapsychology - the Science of the Future" until such time as it is proven. It was decided to conduct a control experiment."

"The Telepathic Effect Was Not Detected.

Moscow-Kerch' Control Test." "Literaturnaya

gazeta," 5 June 1968

Part Three

Chapter Seven. "Tables Move Like Dogs"

"...Some people think that telepathy does not and cannot exist, since it contradicts the basic laws of physics. Others say that they believe in telepathy, and if it breaks the laws of physics, all the better. Yet others feel that there is nothing surprising about telepathy: there are biocurrents in the brain which generate radio waves, radio waves which are received by another brain."

M. Bongard and M. Smirnov. "Telepathic Experiment:

Necessary Requirements." "Nauka i zhizn'," 1967,

No. 12

Session of 11 January 1876

"At Mr. Aksakov's suggestion, the seance was begun at the table at eight o'clock... The participants were seated around the table in the following order: the medium (Ms. Klayyer), to his left Messrs. Mendelejev, Borgman, Bulygin, Aksakov, and Butlerov. The hands of all the participants were placed on the table. Five minutes after the seance began, muffled knocking was heard, first faint, then becoming louder and louder. This was followed by the movement of the table, the rotation and inclination of various parts of it. The knocking alternated with the movement of the table, the knocking being loud and clear at times, then very faint. Twenty-five minutes after the seance began, as the table was rocking sharply from side to side, it suddenly raised up ten centimeters and then fell down, as if dropped; one of its legs broke as it fell...

At 0845 hours we were sitting at the manometric table with one of the

medium's hands on one of the moving parts of the table top and the hands of the closest of the participants on the other. The members of the commission sitting at the table had announced that during the test they would press down on the table top with their hands (A. M. Butlerov did not participate in the seance at the manometric table). There was no knocking and the table did not move. At the suggestion of one of the members, Ms. Klayyer placed her hands on the immobile part of the table top. But nothing happened in this case. The medium, Ms. Klayyer, suggested replacing the individuals participating in the seance with others. The seance was over at 0915 hours. The manometers behind the manometric table were observed during the seance. The movements of the fluids in the manometers corresponding to the different sides of the table indicated approximately identical pressures produced on both mobile parts of the table top in this case.

The seance was repeated at a table with a square top. A. M. Butlerov noted a page in the record book, placed a pencil in it, and placed it on the floor under the table, expecting something to be written on it. But the examination of the page showed that nothing was written on it. A small bell was set on the table, and a glass was set under the table with a ring beside it. The medium expected the bell to ring and the ring to be placed in the glass. But neither happened. The seance ended at 1030 hours.

Chapter Eight. "Then I Felt Sorry for Them..."

From D. I. Mendel'ev's special statement concerning the minutes of
11 January 1876

"...When the table raised up and broke as it fell, I positively and with complete certainty saw the thumb of the medium's right hand under the edge of the table top. Turning my attention to the medium's hands, I noticed considerable development of the musculature in her thumbs. In view of these circumstances, I assume that the events observed in which the table raised up can be no more than the result of the adroitness of Ms. Klayyer, and can in no way confirm the presence of any special force other than muscular...

"During the seance at the manometric table, I sat closest to Ms. Klayyer and saw her dress move toward one of the legs of the table. Then, excusing myself, I quickly moved my leg to the spot to which the dress had moved. There my foot encountered that of Ms. Klayyer,

who then quickly moved her foot and dress away from the leg of the chair. Moreover, I noted that part of my hand touched (but did not press down on) that part of the moving table top on which the hands of the medium rested, and I clearly felt the strong pressure the medium exerted on the table top. Obviously, in my opinion, the medium was trying to proceed with the manometric table in the same way as she did with ordinary tables, wishing to move it by the pressure of her hands.

"...First we are standing up, listening to the witnesses, then sitting at simple tables, listening to knocking, etc., which can be produced by a particular adroitness. We were to see this and write it down - but we were not in the least convinced of the existence of a special force, and it has become probable that the sad assumption that the followers of spiritualism came to their conclusions by similar nonsense - the abstract, not experience - was true. Then I felt sorry for them, for they are dealing in an area which is foreign to science."

Chapter Nine. "Perhaps We Are Not Sitting in the Proper Order?..."

"...According to the information of the Hydrometeorological Center, the state of the Earth's magnetic field is normal, reported inductor Yu. I. Kamenskiy. (Yu. Kamenskiy requested the information on the state of the Earth's magnetic field.)"

"Moscow-Kerch' Control Test." "Literaturnaya

Gazeta," 5 June 1968

Session of 25 January 1876

"...Before the seance, the commission announced its wish to have one of its members sit apart from the other participants during the seance in order to observe and record the events which took place during it. The medium's spokesmen refused this, and suggested that one of their own group sit apart from the rest and record the events. The committee found it impossible to agree to this.

... Around 0900 hours we could hear what sounded like knocking on the floor and the table began to rock slightly. At the medium's suggestion, the table was moved closer to the light so that it fell

on the top and, at Mr. Aksakov's suggestion, we dimmed the light. The movements of the table intensified. At 9:10 the table raised up a bit and descended immediately, as if it had been dropped. Then no movements of the table were observed for several minutes. Mr. Aksakov asked the following question in English: "Is it possible that we are not sitting in the proper order?" Three knocks were heard, which, in Mr. Aksakov's words, indicated a confirmative response. Then, in the very same manner, i.e., with Mr. Aksakov asking questions in English and answers given by knocks, the participants were informed that Messrs. Mendelejev and Vagner should change places, which was done. Soon after this the table began to oscillate again, and it raised up again for one instant at 0920 hours..."

From Mendelejev's special statement:

"While sitting next to Ms. Klayyer at the table during the seance, throughout this time I observed attempts on her part which were identical to those which I described in the statement of 11 January.

...When Ms. Klayyer had me move away from her (N. P. Vagner sat next to her in my place) and we were sitting at A. N. Aksakov's

table, N. P. Bulygin sat to my right. Continuing to observe Ms. Klayyer's legs from here, I once saw her dress move toward both of the legs on her side of the table. Then I asked Mr. Bulygin to move his foot to the left leg of the table next to the medium, which was the closest to him, and at the same time I moved my foot to the other leg of the table next to the medium, i.e., to the one closest to me. My foot felt another foot at the table leg, namely, Ms. Klayyer's right foot. If we had then not been told to approach the table and been advised not to look under the table, I think we might have discovered how, after rocking the table, the medium placed its leg on the previously prepared tips of her feet and then dropped the table..."

From the minutes of the session:

"...It was proposed that we proceed to tests with the instruments made by the commission: Mr. Aksakov refused this suggestion, saying that instruments could only be used after many seances. The seance was over at 1030 hours.

Session of the Commission of 21 January

"...Mr. Mendelejev brought out the urgent need to immediately start using precise methods for studying at least one selected phenomenon. We could obtain unquestionable instrument readings by replacing the usual methods of observing mediumistic phenomena with more precise ones, replacing the subjective, always more or less dubious testimonies of the attendees...

At present it is necessary for the commission members participating in the seance to follow the hands, feet and other parts of the body of the medium, her dress and movements. This complicates the observation method and does not permit the investigation of the conditions under which the phenomena occur. The instruments can free the commission members from these inconvenient and unscientific approaches. It does the witnesses themselves no good to arouse the suspicions of the commission members, which is unavoidable during a seance at a table, when observing voices, etc., for an investigation of phenomena cannot be based on believing individuals. Doubt is

mandatory here; otherwise, the test conditions permit the possibility of fraud. The witnesses who sympathized with the medium should have been glad for the chance to remove the suspicion of tricks from these phenomena; thus, they should have jumped at the chance to use precise measuring devices and leave the methods which are used for mediumistic amusement in salons behind.

...The spokesmen expressed their fear that if the mediumistic phenomena were not completed with instruments, the commission would make an overall denial of the very existence of these phenomena. Therefore, they wished to make a preliminary partial test of the commission's instruments."

Chapter Ten. "...See What the Crowd Sees..."

Session of 8 March 1876

"...The following statements were read: N. P. Vagner (of 20 February, appendix No. 20), A. N. Butlerov (of 4 March, appendix No. 22), and

A. N. Aksakov (the same appendix, No. 21), in which these individuals refuse to participate in the commission's studies.

From A. M. Butlerov's statement

"...Based on the fact that "no mediumistic phenomena occurred" in these cases, it was considered possible to deny their existence; the witnesses found nothing which allowed them deny the positive - and not isolated, but numerous - testimonies of people who had seen these phenomena many times and were convinced that they were seeing correctly.

"...Almost from the beginning, the commission had categorically demanded the use of instruments. New conditions were imposed along with the instruments, and mediumistic phenomena, always capricious and sensitive to these conditions, might not occur in their presence... If they occurred, they might nevertheless fail to be verified if the instruments turned out to be unsatisfactory. Furthermore, the commission's opinion on the matter was already apparent, to the point that the result could not be doubted: if the phenomenon did occur, but was not verified by the instrument, the

commission would deny that it was real, while if no phenomenon occurred at all, the commission would repeat the verdict which we already know from published materials..."¹

Footnote: ¹Butlerov had the published lectures of D. I. Mendeleev in mind, in which he exposed spiritualism and told a large audience about the course of the Physics Society Commission's work even before it had been completed. - Soviet Ed. End footnote

From A. N. Aksakov's statement

"...I would like to explain how the commission went about the study they have undertaken, where we are dealing with a medium in the current sense of the word, i.e., a medium who is unprofessional, with a completely independent material and social status, an individual who has decided to venture into this extremely unpopular arena with his only reward being the scientific goal of the investigation.

"I had the honor of presenting this medium to the commission in the person of Ms. Klayyer. From the very first session with her, the

mediumistic phenomena which are the characteristic trappings of her mediumism, i.e., various knocking sounds, movements and raising of a table, were observed very markedly.

"...Of the statements which have already been made, two profuse statements by Mr. Mendelejev are the most visible. They were full of unproven assertions to make everyone think that the phenomena mentioned in the minutes were none other than the dubious results of the movement of the medium's hands and feet, i.e., deception... Under these conditions, I do not feel I have the right to further subject someone, especially a woman, to such unfounded reprimands, which must be insulting to anyone who knows his rights.'

"...Thousands of people claim that mediumistic phenomena exist; the duty of the commission, if it were to take the social approach, would be to go along with the crowd and, most of all, to see as the crowd sees, and what the crowd sees, then to use the appropriate instruments after this with knowledge about the other side of the matter... Considering this deplorable state of affairs, a negative result of the commission's tests with the instruments should be taken as proof of the inadvisability of the instrument, rather than proof of the lack of existence of mediumistic forces. Therefore, any concession the individuals who insist on the reality of mediumistic phenomena make in this regard can only compromise the situation.

"...The commission fails to see that mediumism obtains its beginning, strength and support from family tests, against which sermons of denial and deception are powerless. Questions which have reached the level of social significance are not resolved by ignoring and denying them. Let those who do not believe find wisdom and knowledge, but then, on the other hand, become convinced of the reality of the facts gathered by their own senses and intellect."

From A. M. Butlerov's statement

"...To accept this view of the matter would require the proponents of mediumism to willingly give themselves up into the hands of their enemies for annihilation, dooming themselves to becoming laughing-stocks to be ashamed of, as the example has already shown."

Chapter Eleven, the Last. "They would become!"

From the minutes of the session of 8 March 1976

"After discussing what had been seen and learned, we decided to discontinue further studies and meet on Thursday, 11 March to draw up our conclusions..."

"A commission made up of the following individuals was created to develop the test program and procedures, monitor how it was conducted, and determine its results:

Turchin, V. F., Dr. Phys.-Mat. Sci. (chairman of the commission), Institute of Applied Mathematics of the AS [Academy of Sciences] USSR.

Bongard, M. M., Cand. Phys.-Mat. Sci., Institute of Problems of Information Transmission of the AS USSR.

Danin, D. S., writer.

Kogan, I. M., Dr. Tech. Sci., MVTU [Moscow Higher Technical School] imeni Bauman. Bioinformation Section of the Scientific Research Society of Radio Engineering and Electrical Communications imeni Popov.

Kuzhinashvili, V. V., engineer, Psychophysiology Laboratory.

Malkin, L. M., mathematician, Computer Center of the Moscow State Pedagogical Institute.

Mirza, D. G., Psychiatrist, Psychophysiology Laboratory.

Mitkin, S. L., radio engineer, associate of "Literaturnaya gazeta."

Slavinskaya, N. A., Cand. Chem. Sci., Physico-Chemical Institute imeni L. Ya. Karpov, Technical Parapsychology and Introspection Section of the All-Union Scientific-Technical Society imeni Vavilov.

Shirokov, P. V., Cand. Phys.-Mat. Sci., Moscow Power Engineering Institute...

In accordance with the wishes of Yu. I. Kamenskiy, pictures of

objects were transmitted. The number of different messages, the method of transmission and reception of the telepathic signal, the method of determining which of the pictures were transmitted and, finally, the transmission and reception points were also selected with the concurrence of Yu. I. Kamenskiy and K. N. Nikolayev.

The procedure agreed upon by Yu. Kamenskiy and K. N. Nikolayev had the following features:

1) the objects to be transmitted are selected immediately before transmission by drawing lots.

2) from the time when the reception point was taken and it was decided exactly which pictures would be used in a particular seance, all communication must be cut off between the transmission and reception groups;

3) the test is only considered to be successful if the number of the object indicated by the operators and perceptant matches the number of the transmitted object...

1. Inductor Yu. I. Kamenskiy had no complaints or requests for

the commission 30 minutes after transmission began...

2. The lots were drawn at 1900 hours... Object No. 30 was transmitted to the inductor.

3. The transmission of the first object began at 1915 hours sharp...

...The table shows the results of the comparison of the minutes of the Moscow and Kerch' groups."

"No telepathic effect was detected. Moscow-Kerch'

Control Test." "Literaturnaya gazeta," 5 June 1968.

From the Commission's decision to examine mediumistic phenomena published in the newspaper "Golos" on 25 March 1876

"...In view of:

a) the rate at which interest in mediumistic phenomena began to spread at the beginning of 1875,

b) the superficial attitude of many people to the mystic study of the spirits, and

c) reproaches of science, which does not recognize spiritualism, on the part of the individuals who have begun to spread this knowledge to us - in May 1875 the Physics Society formed a commission to study spiritual phenomena. The purpose of this commission was to remove the veil of secrecy from these phenomena, to verify their authenticity and to study the genuine ones, if they exist, using scientific methods.

As soon as it was set up, the commission approached the individuals who were preaching spiritualism here, inviting them to provide information on genuine spiritual phenomena.

...The commission felt that it had reached its goal, for it turned out that not one of the phenomena produced by the most powerful medium under the most favorable conditions possible could prove the existence of a special class of phenomena called spiritual.

...The majority of the individuals investigating spiritualism

neither supported the opinions of individuals who saw nothing scientifically new in spiritualism, nor were critical of the object of their beliefs, nor did they desire to study mediumistic phenomena by the ordinary scientific study methods. Furthermore, the spiritualists are especially persistent about disseminating their mystical views, which they proclaim as new scientific truths. Many people take these views on faith, basically because they follow ancient superstitions, which science and truth have been fighting for a long time. The men of science who have been attracted by spiritualism consider them almost exclusively in the capacity of curious entertainment lovers, not inquisitive individuals studying natural phenomena.

...Studies of phenomena passed off as mediumistic have been conducted with precautions which made it possible to detect the individuals' participation in producing these phenomena. When the logical beginnings of scientific research are observed, as was the case in the observations of Guy-Lussac, Arago, Chevreton, Faraday, Tindal, Carpenter, etc., it turned out that the phenomena considered to be mediumistic either resulted from involuntary movements ensuing from the natural peculiarities of the organism, or the cunning and deception of the individuals who called themselves mediums. This was also true of observations the commission made of the three English mediums presented to us by our spiritualists.

Based on all that had been learned and seen, the members of the commission unanimously came to the following conclusion:
spiritualistic phenomena originate from unconscious movements or conscious deception, and spiritualistic teaching is superstition...

Signed by commission members:

D. Bobylev, Privat-Docent of physics at Petersburg University.

I. Borgman, Laboratory Assistant of the Physics Cabinet of Petersburg University.

N. Bulygin.

N. Gezekhus, undergraduate in physics.

A. Yelenev, Laboratory Assistant of the Chemistry Laboratory of Petersburg University.

K. Krayevich, physics instructor at the mining institute and engineering school.

D. Lachunov, physics instructor at the Petersburg Agricultural Institute.

D. Mendelejev, Professor of chemistry at Petersburg University.

N. Petrov, Professor of mechanics.

F. Petrushevskiy, Professor of physics at Petersburg University.

A. Kholmovski, physics instructor.

P. Van-der-Flit, Privat-Docent of physics at Petersburg University.

21 March 1876

From the remarks about the publication of "The Effect of Telepathy Was not Detected. Moscow-Kerch' Control Test." "Literaturnaya gazeta," No. 23, 5 June 1968

"...The question dates back to antiquity, thus it is completely

natural that numerous attempts at discovery are made in the group of doubters, as well as frequent fantastic reports on telepathy, if only of dubious reliability. These attempts should not be forbidden.

...We should clearly state to a wide circle of readers that there are no cases in which the transmission of thoughts or pictures over distances has been established with complete certainty. Reports on telekinesis are even more fantastic...

Academician A. N. Kolmogorov"

"...Furthermore, it is extremely important to publish the negative results of strict scientific tests conducted under controlled conditions.

...We will not give in to the fantasies which we would have had if the result had been positive... Taking the wise advice of Anatole France, we are "ready to accept the supernatural, if it occurs." But the reliability of such a case must be impeccably proven and must leave no room for doubt.

Academician Ye. N. Kreps,
Associate Member of the AS USSR
B. A. Astratyan."



Fig. 1. The magazine "Malyar" printed detailed comments on everything which took place at the the commission's sessions for investigating mediumistic phenomena. "The drops of liquid which appeared had the same reaction on chemically treated blotter paper as the direct moistening of the paper with the medium's sputum. When the medium's mouth was bound with a handkerchief, the drop did not appear..."

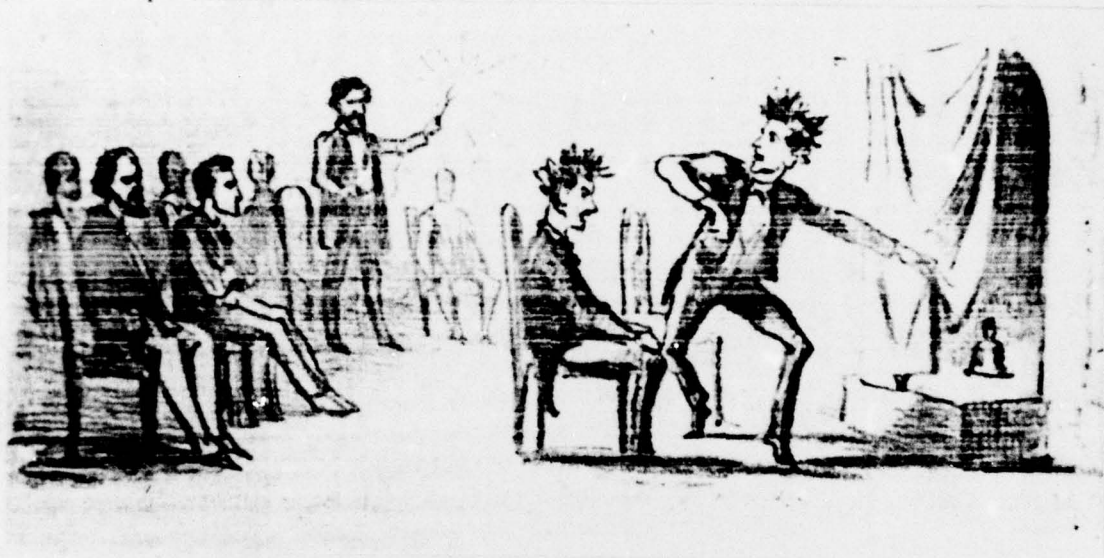


Fig. 2. Fifty minutes after the seance began, everyone was surprised by the sudden illumination of the room by a match lit by Mr. Mendeleyev as he stood up... The mediums began to loudly voice their displeasure."



Fig. 3. Mr. Aksakov stated that he was discontinuing the session with the Petti mediums and announced his intention to search for a new medium..."

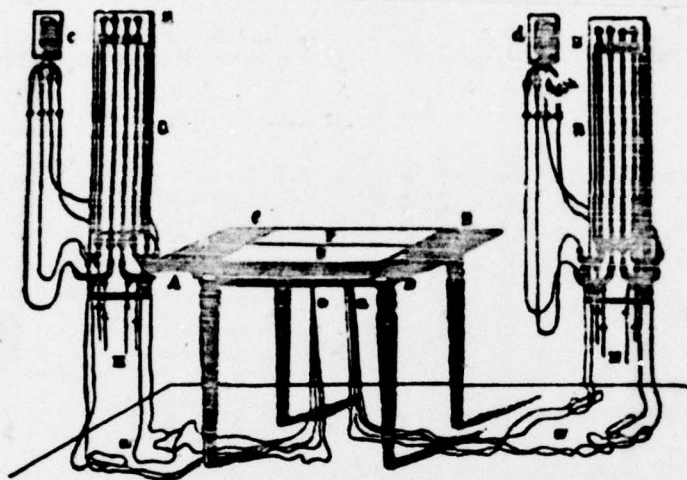
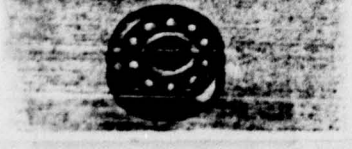


Fig. 4. At 0845 hours we were sitting at the manometric table... there were no knocks or movements of the table..."

D. I. Mendel'ev invented the manometric table for the special purpose of exposing spiritualists. Any forces applied to the mobile tops of the table were recorded by manometers. Both the force and direction of the pressure on the table top were recorded.

The proponents of spiritualism did not find this device to their liking.

(1) ПЕРЕДАВАЛОСЬ



(3) Свинцовый кабель, завязанный узлом — № 30

(4) Радиатор охлаждения — № 9

(5) Резинка для стирания (ластик) — № 9

(6) Блюдечко фарфоровое — № 32

(7) Модель катера — № 46

(8) Пробка от шампанского — № 3

(9) Прямоугольная алюминиевая пластина с дырками — № 37

(10) Половина ножовочного полотна — № 41

(11) Юбилейный рубль — № 12

(12) Модель катера — № 46

(13) Топор — № 13

(14) Солдатик деревянный — № 26

(15) Стелька — № 34

(16) Свинцовый кабель, завязанный узлом — № 30

(17) Шарикоподшипник — № 31

(18) Нога пластмассовой куклы — № 27

(2) ПРИНЯТО

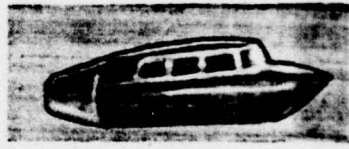


Fig. 5.

Fig. 5.

KEY: (1) Transmitted. (2) Received. (3) Lead cable, tied in a knot - No. 30. (4) Cooling radiator - No. 9. (5) Rubber (eraser) - No. 9. (6) China dish - No. 32. (7) Model boat - No. 46. (8) Champagne cork - No. 3. (9) Rectangular aluminum plate with holes - No. 37. (10) Half of saw blade - No. 41. (11) Jubilee ruble - No. 12. (12) Model boat - No. 46. (13) Hatchet - No. 13. (14) Wooden soldier - No. 26. (15) Insole - No. 34. (16) Lead cable, tied in a knot - No. 30. (17) Ball bearing - No. 31. (18) Bottom of plastic hammer - No. 27.

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SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE (When Data Entered)

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE		READ INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE COMPLETING FORM
1. REPORT NUMBER FTD-ID(RS)T-1236-77	2. GOVT ACCESSION NO.	3. RECIPIENT'S CATALOG NUMBER
4. TITLE (and Subtitle) "WE WERE ASSEMBLED TO INVESTIGATE, NOT SEE MEDIUMISTIC PHENOMENA"		5. TYPE OF REPORT & PERIOD COVERED Translation
		6. PERFORMING ORG. REPORT NUMBER
7. AUTHOR(s) Boris Volodin		8. CONTRACT OR GRANT NUMBER(s)
9. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRESS Foreign Technology Division Air Force Systems Command U. S. Air Force		10. PROGRAM ELEMENT, PROJECT, TASK AREA & WORK UNIT NUMBERS
11. CONTROLLING OFFICE NAME AND ADDRESS		12. REPORT DATE 1969
		13. NUMBER OF PAGES 39
14. MONITORING AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS (if different from Controlling Office)		15. SECURITY CLASS. (of this report) UNCLASSIFIED
		15a. DECLASSIFICATION/DOWNGRADING SCHEDULE
16. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of this Report) Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.		
17. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of the abstract entered in Block 20, if different from Report)		
18. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES		
19. KEY WORDS (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number)		
20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) 05; 06		

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