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If ESP is related to more familiar cognitive processes, the errors or confusions made between targets should show consistencies. For example, they may resemble those made in perception or memory. If so this could throw light on theories relating ESP and memory. Previous studies of errors in ESP are considered and four experiments are reported. Two used special picture targets between which confusions of either association or visual similarity could be made. The first produced more confusions between associated pictures but the method proved to be flawed. A second study using a different design showed no significant differences. In a third a comparison of the two designs was made but no difference was found. None of the three experiments provided significant extrachance scoring. A final experiment used words as targets, related to each other by either visual similarity or by meaning. Again, no significant overall scoring was obtained. Although there were significantly more visual confusions than direct hits, this unexpected finding must be considered in the context of the nonsignificant ones. The conclusion reached was that chance best accounts for the results. From these results it was not possible to determine whether visual or associative confusions would predominate. - DA

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The author defines five problem areas in the study of psychic healers. In this article he concentrates on only one: Can the healer interfere in a positive sense on the course of illness and particularly on factors determining it? If so, does the healer act in connection with only some illnesses? In particular, does he or she act only in connection with psychosomatic illness? The author discusses the problems involved in research in healing and offers three models to explain psychic healing: the physical, the psychological, and the parapsychological. - R.A.W.

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The bulk of information directed at the public as regards suggestive paranormal cases most probably comes through the mass media. Under favorable conditions, when the information has been carefully researched, it could be of considerable value not only to the seriously interested layman but to the professional parapsychologist. Regrettably, stories implying paranormal events are usually reported for the sake of sensationalism. Not rarely some stories may be an act of intentional fabrication.

In this paper a case of a suggestive apparition of the dead that was published in a Swedish magazine in 1978 is described. The interesting results of our follow-up and testing of the reliability of this story as to its paranormality are presented. The author of the article gave specific details and assured in other ways, for instance, by naming of reliable witnesses, that it was a true story. If this really was the case it would suffice as a comparatively

well-documented case of the apparition of the dead or dying person. As we discovered, it was not only impossible but also irrelevant whether the case was considered an apparition of the dead or regarded as an out-of-body experience. Although the basis of this story -- a murder case -- actually occurred, the supposed paranormal elements were a fabrication added later. Parapsychologists should be mindful of the possibility of fabricated ESP stories in magazines and newspapers. - R.A.W./DT

02438. Martínez-Taboas, Alfonso, and Alvarado, Carlos S. Poltergeist agents: A review of recent research trends and conceptualization. *European Journal of Parapsychology*, 1981 (Nov), 4(1), 99-110. 38 refs

Historical surveys of poltergeist phenomena do not leave any possible doubt on the curious fact that in a substantial number of cases the phenomena are associated, spatially and temporally, with some specific person. What is more problematic is the reason for that association. Demonologists such as Guazzo were inclined to the view that the manifestations were diabolic phenomena caused by a witch. Writers with a survivalistic inclination see intents of a discarnate agent to communicate with some person. With the advent of dynamic psychiatry others see the expression of repressed tension and anger.

Our purpose in this paper is to evaluate all published studies from 1973 to 1979 whose authors made a judgment or clinical study of the poltergeist agent as it relates to the etiology of the manifestations. Besides the analysis and discussions of these recent cases, we will also present a criticism of a recent theory of poltergeist phenomena: the central nervous system (CNS) or epileptic theory proposed by Roll. - DT/ R.A.W.

## II. PARAPSYCHOLOGY JOURNALS (NON-ENGLISH)

### DUTCH LANGUAGE

(Editors: Daniel Dumalin and George Zorab)

#### *PSI-FORUM*

02439. Gondry, Dirk. The other Houdini. *Psi-Forum*, 1984, 1(1), 10-16. 2 illus

The author describes the second career of the famous "King of Handcuffs," Harry Houdini. He became interested in magic through a book which revealed a few tricks used by fraudulent mediums. At first he used the book as a guide to perform seances himself. He quit this practice for moral reasons and developed his career as the King of Handcuffs. Later he used the same book to expose the practices of fraudulent mediums. It is from this that the author makes a link with parapsychology. He states that it is impossible to do psi research without knowledge of magic and illusion. This is illustrated by the unfruitful attempts of a logic professor and his students to discover the technique used by Houdini in his famous escape from a postal sack. - D.D.

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The author describes the evolution of CSICOP. Although in 1976 the Committee stated its aim of promoting critical investigations of the paranormal and fringe scientific claims from an objective viewpoint, its activities soon became infested by radicals. CSICOP became the new in-

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