

notwithstanding, the video is a solid documentary, exceeding in factual responsibility many of the documentaries prevalent on television.

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Psychic: True Paranormal Experiences by Hans Holzer. New York: Smithmark. x + 350 pp. (hard cover). ISBN 0-7651-0953-0.

Let me say at once that this is not a book that is likely to commend itself to readers of the *Journal of Scientific Exploration*. There is no bibliography, references, or other scholarly appurtenances. There is an index, but it does not seem to have been compiled with much care, as it lists Adlai Stevenson but not Ian Stevenson, although the latter is mentioned briefly in the text in the chapter dealing with reincarnation. Hereward Carrington is mentioned, but his first name is misspelled "Herewood." These are minor blemishes, but one soon realizes that this is a work of "pop-parapsychology," an adventure story for those who enjoy spooky tales rather than a serious contribution to the field.

Most of the episodes discussed relate to the author's experiences in the 1960s and 1970s, and much prominence is given to the medium Sybil Leek. The index gives her more citations than anyone else. The author was impressed by the fact that: "she was able to pinpoint the actual location of Camelot in England." But how, one may well wonder, does the author know that she got it right? It is my understanding that scholars now consider that the Arthurian legends are wholly fictitious. If that is so, then the only real "Camelot" would be the circle of favorites with which the late John F. Kennedy surrounded himself!

A large portion of the book is devoted to psychic photography. The only case of psychic photography that I know anything much about is that of Ted Serios, who was investigated so intensively by the late Jule Eisenbud. Holzer mentions Serios, but I cannot think it is helpful to be told: "Serios is capable of what we call astral projection. In the out-of-body states he visits distant places in a flash, then almost instantly returns to his physical body and records by his etheric eyes onto Polaroid film." The case of Ted Serios is, I consider, one of the most remarkable paranormal cases of this century, but I cannot see how invoking "astral projection" or "etheric eyes" (whatever they may be) throws any light on it.

The author, clearly, is very fond of ghosts, and the obliging Sybil Leek is often brought in in an effort to get at the root of some case which the author has pursued, whether on the East Coast or the West Coast of the United

States. But the quest is not limited to the United States, and the author has pursued his interest in hauntings in England and Ireland, as well as in Bavaria, Germany, and Austria. There is a chapter on psychic healing that gives much prominence to the doings of Edgar Cayce and a final chapter on reincarnation that has much to say about the work of the Indian parapsychologist, H. N. Banerjee.

The book is large and handsomely produced with copious monochrome illustrations and would sit well on a coffee table. It is written in a chatty style, as it is, no doubt, the published version of many talks that the author must have given over the years. But I hope I am not being unduly dismissive if I say that one is left with the feeling that more is needed before these cases can be accepted at face value as reliable records of authentic paranormal phenomena.

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CE-5: Close Encounters of the Fifth Kind by Richard F. Haines. Naperville, IL: Sourcebooks, Inc., 1999. 431 pp. \$24.95 (p). ISBN 1-57071-427-4.

This book probes reports of interactions between human beings and unidentified aerial phenomena that the human beings consider to be solid aerial objects or humanoid beings associated with them. Special emphasis is placed on the distinction between friendly and/or hostile responses from one side or the other. The study is phenomenological rather than physical, in that it notes and classifies reported experiences and in no way attempts to improve upon the methods of investigators such as James McDonald and J. Allen Hynek. Some 242 case files are considered, all of them seeming on the surface to involve interaction between humans and unidentified objects, and the cases are thought to contribute to the eventual scientific identification of the objects.

Apparently, Haines believes that the extra-terrestrial hypothesis was fairly reasonable even in the middle of the 20th century, and later cases only serve to strengthen it. Here and there Haines inserts remarks such as “it is assumed that” or “it is obvious that”; at any rate, the terms used appear to be equivalent when not identical with those quoted. There is no rush to adverse judgments against surface reports that are usually just accepted on their own terms as being more or less correct.

The author makes considerable use of cases taken from prior collections. Reference is made to reports from times prior to 1900. Twentieth century studies include those by The National Investigation Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) and those by the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO), and studies reported in the British *Flying Saucer Review* and the