

Psychics, Sensitives and Somnambules: A Biographical Dictionary with Bibliographies by Rodger I. Anderson. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2006. 250 pp. \$49.95 (paper). ISBN 978-0-7864-2770-3.

Rodger I. Anderson, known for his historical articles about spiritualism and psychical research, presents in this book much information about individuals (and a few animals) believed by many to have produced evidence for psychic phenomena of different sorts. Anderson focuses on over 300 figures about whom there is enough biographical information to provide a summary and, furthermore, "who actually provided some evidence of genuine ability" (p. 2). Nonetheless, Anderson is clear that he makes no attempt to decide whether specific phenomena require more than normal explanations. He emphasizes deceased individuals and provides limited discussion of fraudulent cases, while acknowledging the difficulties in deciding what is real, what is fraudulent, and what may be a mixed case.

The author includes a great variety of entries representing individuals from different time periods, groups, and movements. This includes saints (e.g., Veronica Giuliani and Teresa of Ávila), and mesmeric subjects (e.g., Emma L. and the joint entry of Alexis and Adolphe Didier). There are also poltergeist agents (e.g., Angélique Cottin and Tina Resch), individuals claiming to remember previous lives (e.g., Shanti Devi and Sumitra Singh), animals (e.g., Lady Wonder and Sugar the Cat), and famous figures from the annals of occultism such as Cagliostro, Nostradamus, and Rasputin. Furthermore, Anderson has many entries about mediums such as Charles Bailey, Eileen J. Garrett, Kathleen Goligher, D. D. Home, Gladys Osborne Leonard, Eusapia Palladino, and Leonora E. Piper. In addition, there are entries about psychics, among whom are Gerard Croiset, Pascal Forthuny, Stefan Ossowiecki, Raphael Schermann, Harold Sherman, Mary Craig Sinclair, and Ingo Swann.

Some of the entries are collective ones, for example, "Rhine's Sensitives," that lists the names of particular individuals such as A. J. Linzmayer and Hubert E. Pearce. Other entries are about people we do not know by name (e.g., "Estabrooks' Subjects" and "Gasparin's Subjects"). Further examples of the latter include "Gurney's Subjects," which refers to individuals that experienced telepathic experiences, and "Sabom's Subjects," about persons that had near-death experiences. While interesting, these entries could have included more information such as the number of male and female individuals.

Other entries are about little known individuals and unusual phenomena. An example is Philip S. Haley, who used himself and his wife as subjects in studies of multiplication of food. Another is Vincent Turvey, who, among other psychic talents, "claimed to be able to act as a 'control' during séances at a distance, speaking through the medium like a spirit communicator" (p. 175). A fascinating and incredible tale is that of Gef the Talking Mongoose, described as a "talking and apparently psychic animal that lived for several years in a remote farmhouse on the Isle of Man" (p. 69).

Each entry has bibliographical references presenting biographies or studies about the person in question. The actual references are listed at the end of the book. This list provides over 50 pages of books and articles from which biographical information was compiled.

Anderson's work fills a need in the field of parapsychological reference sources. While there are some useful reference sources with information about psychics, mediums, and other relevant individuals, there is nothing in print with so many biographical entries and with such a wide range of coverage. Its long list of references, some of which are annotated, allows interested readers to obtain further information on the subject. This is an excellent resource that will be useful to a variety of readers, including students, writers, and researchers. I plan to recommend and to include it in future revised editions of my bibliographies of reference sources in parapsychology.

While the book is well researched and represents an impressive work of scholarship, I would like to offer some critiques about its contents. My purpose is to offer suggestions in the hope that they will be considered in a second edition of this biographical dictionary.

Some entries are too brief, lacking information that would be helpful to understand specific individuals. For example, there is no mention of the names and varied manifestation of Mrs. Piper's controls. The entry on Marthe Béraud has almost no mention about this medium's career before she was called Eva C. But this period was very important both in the career of the medium as well as for its impact on views about psychical research. Not only was Charles Richet involved in the investigation of her early materialization phenomena, but his endorsement of the medium led to international controversies that affected negatively the public image of psychical research (Le Maléfian, 2002).

There are also omissions in the entry about Eusapia Palladino and Eileen Garrett. The entry on Palladino actually says nothing about important investigations such as the ones conducted by the Society for Psychical Research (SPR), by the Institut Général Psychologique, and by important investigators such as Enrico Morselli. One wishes that the entry on Garrett had said something about her work as a publisher and as the president of the Parapsychology Foundation. This would have provided readers with a more rounded picture of Garrett's life.

As for omissions, the dictionary could include several individuals for whom I believe there is enough information to provide entries. An example is Léonie Leboulanger, who was particularly important in France, being studied by Pierre Janet and by Charles Richet. In Brazil, medium Francisco Cândido Xavier, generally known as Chico Xavier, was practically a household name. Other omissions include painting medium Augustin Lesage, astral projector Sylvan J. Muldoon, psychic A. S. Van Dam, and Emilie Sagée, whose apparition or "double" was reported to be frequently seen around her.

While the bibliography Anderson has presented is very good, there are several omissions of recent publications. For example, there is no mention of Gaskill's (2001) biography of Helen Duncan, nor of Barrington, Stevenson, and Weaver's

(2005) discussion of Stefan Ossowiecki (although the latter may have appeared too late to be included in the book). Similarly, the bibliography misses several papers, some of which present either new information or novel perspectives about individuals such as Eusapia Palladino (Alvarado, 1993), Eleonore Zugun (Mulacz, 1999), Francis Ward Monck (Randall, 2003), and Hélène Smith (Shamdasani, 1994).

While Anderson has a long and detailed bibliography, it is unfortunate that he makes no attempt to include works published in languages other than English. Such a limitation is not mentioned in the preface of his book, but it is obvious that he chooses to focus only on English language materials. One can understand that the author may not have knowledge of languages and that he may prefer to stay in familiar territory, but at the very least, he could have listed several relevant references that would have been useful to those that can follow that literature. Unfortunately, a book that covers so many personalities from around the world is bound to show problems from a reliance on English-language materials. Examples of this include missing important overviews, such as Robert Amadou's (1957) discussions of Marthe Bkraud, Angklique Cottin, Pasquale Erto, and Stanislaw Popielska. Some entries suffer precisely because no attention was paid to non-English language literature. This includes discussion of phenomena reported by Stanislaw Tomczyk, such as the alleged manifestation of different types of radiations emanating from a medium (Ochorowicz, 1910) as well as the late-stage mediumship of Hklkne Smith in which she produced a variety of paintings about religious topics (Deonna, 1932).

My comments should not be interpreted to mean that the book is not a good reference source. To the contrary, Anderson's work has much to offer and shows much scholarship that deserves a place among the best current reference works in parapsychology. One hopes that we will see the appearance of similar works in the future focusing on such aspects as the life and work of the researchers who have investigated the individuals and occasional animals discussed in the work reviewed here.

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La Ricerca Psicica: Fatti ed Evidenze degli Studi Parapsicologici [Psychical Research: Fact and Evidence in Parapsychological Studies] by Massimo Biondi. Rome: Il Minotauro, 2004. 142 pp. €18.00 (paper). ISBN 88-8073-076-2.

Massimo Biondi, an Italian physician and writer on medical and scientific topics, is known for his writings about a variety of parapsychological topics. Readers interested in Biondi's work may consult his autobiographical essay (<http://www.pflyceum.org/l20.html>), which presents a bibliography of his published work in parapsychology, including his historical study *Tavoli e Medium: Storia dello Spiritismo in Italia* (1988). The book reviewed here, *La Ricerca Psicica: Fatti ed Evidenze degli Studi Parapsicologici*, is a fine introduction to modern parapsychology.

In the first introductory chapter, Biondi discusses the phenomena studied by parapsychologists as well as such topics as terminology and the history of the field. He admits that after more than a hundred years of work, parapsychology remains a field in which "reliability and validity are not universally admitted" (p. 15). Parapsychological work, Biondi states, is "criticized in terms of methodological and ideological considerations, its own existence as a separate research area is questioned" (p. 15).

The book is an excellent introduction to modern parapsychology, and one that pays attention to case studies, experiments, and other aspects of the field. After the introduction, Biondi discusses parapsychological phenomena in several chapters, the first of which is about "anomalous cognition." He starts by discussing spontaneous cases, such as the case collections of ESP (extra-sensory perception) phenomena of Gurney, Myers, and Podmore, L. E. Rhine, and Sannwald. There are also sections in the chapter about precognitive and out-of-body experiences.

Biondi devotes later chapters to apparitions, poltergeists, healing, and non-recurrent spontaneous psychokinesis. The latter, a topic seldom discussed in