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Fifty Years of Supporting Parapsychology: The Parapsychology Foundation (1951-2001)

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Parapsychology Foundation

In 2001, the Parapsychology Foundation (PF) is proud to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of its founding on December 14th, 1951. To commemorate this event a series of presentations were given by PF staff at the 44th Annual Convention of the Parapsychological Association held in New York City in 2001 and hosted by the Parapsychology Foundation. The presentations have been crafted into this paper which is an overview of the history of the PF and of its contributions to parapsychology.

The Beginnings of the Parapsychology Foundation

The efforts of two creative and dynamic women — Eileen J. Garrett (1893-1970) and the Honorable Frances P. Bolton (1885-1977) — led to the establishment of the Parapsychology Foundation in 1951. As early as the 1920s, Eileen J. Garrett was noted for her abilities as a psychic and as a medium (e.g., Book tests, 1926; Walker, 1929).¹ She came to fame early in the 1930s following a series of mediumistic sessions in which Garrett appeared to have received detailed and highly specific top secret information about the crash of the English dirigible, the R-101. The material communicated seemed to come from the deceased captain of the crashed air-ship (Fuller, 1979; Hinchliffe, 1930). Throughout her long career, beginning in the 1920s and continuing until her death in 1970, many well-known investigators in psychical research and parapsychology studied Garrett and her abilities. Among these were Whately Carington (1934), Hereward Carrington

1. For biographical information on Garrett, see Angoff (1974). Brief discussions of Garrett and her work appear in the writings of Alvarado (2002a), Hastings (2001), McMahon (1994), Rhine (1971), Servadio (1971), and Stevenson (1971). For autobiographical material see Garrett (1939, 1949, 1968). A list of books and articles by and about Garrett (Bibliography, 2002, pp. 225-228) and several vignettes by people who knew her personally (Remembrances, 2002, pp. 187-224).

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(n.d., ca 1933), Lawrence LeShan (1968), Ira Progoff (1964), J. B. Rhine (1934), and John F. Thomas (1937).

Apart from her own psychic work Eileen Garrett was also an author, lecturer and publisher prior to the establishment of the Parapsychology Foundation. In 1941 she founded *Tomorrow* magazine and established her own publishing house, Creative Age Press. She wrote several autobiographical books as well as other books dealing with parapsychological topics (e.g., Garrett, 1939, 1941, 1949, 1950). Garrett also published a number of articles on such varied topics as her personal experiences during the Second World War (Garrett, 1945), her mediumistic controls (Garrett, 1963), psychometry (Garrett, 1953), auras (Garrett, 1954), and ESP (Garrett, 1961). In addition, she wrote and published several novels under the name Jean Lyttle (e.g., 1942, 1943). Finally, Garrett was also an administrator, serving as President of the Foundation from its founding in 1951 until her death in 1970.

Frances P. Bolton, PF's co-founder and benefactress, came from a wealthy Ohio family (Eiben, 2000; Loth, 1957). Her uncle, Oliver Hazard Payne, was a partner of John D. Rockefeller in the Standard Oil Company of Ohio. Born into extreme privilege, Mrs. Bolton was a philanthropist with a wide variety of interests above and beyond her particular interest in parapsychology. She had a long and distinguished career in public life, serving with distinction as United States Congressman from Ohio for 28 years.² Perhaps best known for her work on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Bolton served as the Congressional Delegate to the United Nations and was especially active in African affairs. She is perhaps best remembered for her contributions to nursing education. During World War I, Bolton persuaded the Secretary of War to establish the Army School of Nursing and during World War II the "Bolton Bill" created the U. S. Cadet Nurse Corps. With her long-time friend and Congressional colleague, President Gerald Ford, Bolton was instrumental in convincing another close friend, General Dwight D. Eisenhower to run for the U. S. Presidency. Frances Bolton died three weeks before her 92nd birthday in 1977.

Prior to the establishment of the PF, both Garrett and Bolton contributed to parapsychology in whatever manner was open to them. Garrett stimulated interest in psychic phenomena as she continually searched for answers to the questions raised by her gifts. Bolton, at Garrett's urging, set up the McDougall Research Fund at Duke University so as to support Dr. William McDougall's protégé, Dr. J. B. Rhine, during the early days of his career. The support Rhine received from these women continued throughout his life.

J. B. Rhine (1971) recalled that in 1936, Garrett had discussed an idea with him which later became the PF, a reminiscence which suggests that Garrett had been thinking about the need for such an organization for at least 15 years before the PF was founded. Early in 1951, as Garrett remembered in

2. Mrs. Bolton was known during her lifetime to have preferred the title "Congressman."

her autobiography *Many Voices* (1968), she had an experience that spurred her on. She remembered:

One day ... I had an auditory experience that brought into focus my plans for setting up a research foundation. On the periphery of sleep, I heard a voice telling me I must get well and build an “edifice” that would honor the subject to which I had devoted my life. ... After a few days thought, plans evolved for a periodic conference, to be held within an university, that would consist of parapsychology students of all ages; and for a research foundation that would help scholars explore new fields, as well as introduce young people to the vast body of literature now stored away in the rooms of the various psychical research offices. ... I wanted most of all to bring to the attention of distinguished scholars a subject that one day must compel their attention and that of the world if man were to understand some of the deeper motivation of his own being (Garrett, 1968, pp. 158-159).

The monetary support Bolton provided allowed Garrett to bring her dream to fruition. On December 14th, 1951, the Parapsychology Foundation was chartered by the State of Delaware, taking offices in New York City where it continues its activities fifty years after its founding. The PF’s mission, as stated in its charter, is:

To further by study and lecturing programs the knowledge of human responses to psychologically recognized stimuli, transmitted to human beings by means other than sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell; and allied fields known as parapsychology, electrobiology and extra-sensory perception; to conduct and carry on the work of the Foundation not-for-profit but exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes. ...

In *Many Voices* Garrett wrote that she envisioned her work as falling into three different areas (which will be discussed further in later sections of the paper): the first was to provide monetary resources to researchers; the second, to form a comprehensive library of reference materials; and the third, to bring researchers and scholars together to discuss their subject matter, keeping the dialogue open on the issues of parapsychology.

From its beginning, the PF explored and supported all parapsychological topics and research methods. The breadth of the Foundation’s interests is clearly visible in the list of grants awarded over the last fifty years (e.g., *Ten Years of Activity*, 1965). In the Annual Report the PF published in 1962, Garrett stated that it was the explicit policy of the Foundation not to endorse any particular techniques to study parapsychological phenomena. Instead, the PF kept a “constant interest in statistics, psychological testing techniques, religio-cultural aspects of psychology, theological concerns with ‘miracles,’ apparent unorthodox healing and psychosomatic medicine, certain areas of pharmacology and ... neuro-physiology” (Garrett, 1962, p. 4).

With the passing of Eileen J. Garrett in 1970, her daughter, Eileen Garrett Coly assumed the presidency of the Foundation. The late Robert R.

Coly, Eileen Coly's husband, joined the Foundation, showing a particular talent for the management of the Foundation's finances. In 1999, Garrett's granddaughter Lisette Coly, the daughter of Eileen and Robert Coly, was made Executive Director of the Foundation. Having served an apprenticeship in the Foundation for more than 30 years, Lisette Coly now administers the PF and its programs jointly with her mother.³

The Parapsychology Foundation as a Funding Organization

Writing about the contributions of Eileen J. Garrett and of the Parapsychology Foundation, J. B. Rhine (1971) once said their greatest gift to parapsychology was funding: "There has been nothing else to compare with the generosity of this Lady Bountiful of Parapsychology as she willingly poured out the financial aid needed by isolated workers in many countries struggling to do something in or near the field of psi research" (p. 61). It may be argued that the PF's financial contributions to the field constitute a significant chapter of the social history of modern parapsychology. The magnitude of that support is apparent by even a quick search through the pages of the American parapsychology journals. Table 1 demonstrates that a good proportion of papers published in the main American journals for the period 1953-2000 were funded by the PF.⁴

Table 1.

Funding by the Parapsychology Foundation and Other Institutions as Reported in Papers Published in American Parapsychology Journals

Journal	N*	PF	Other Institutions
<i>Journal of Parapsychology</i> (1953-2000)	212	24%	76%
<i>Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research</i> (1953-1999)**	114	52%	48%

Note. * This includes only papers with information about funding.

** At the time of writing this journal had been published only through 1999.

From its beginnings, the PF's interests in the field were broad. That is, the administration of the PF was willing to fund virtually any area or

3. We are aware, as historians have shown, that the work of any scientific discipline is not conducted only by the leading scientists and administrators in the field, but by all those who contribute to the life of an organization, research laboratory, university department, or other institution. This is also true in the case of the PF. Therefore, we wish to acknowledge many individuals who contributed to the Foundation's work through consulting, administrative, and editorial work. The list includes, but is not limited to the following: Alan Angoff, Martin Ebon, J. Fraser Nicol, Laura Oteri, Michel Pobers, and Betty Shapin.

4. The year 1953 was chosen as a starting point to give an opportunity for papers to be published from the PF's first round of funding in 1951.

approach that seemed to present the potential of contributing to the enterprise. Projects funded included experimental work, spontaneous case research, philosophical and theoretical writings, historical investigations, education, criticisms, and publications. In addition, some grants provided institutional and travel support.⁵ In addition, the PF grant program had, and still has, an international orientation.

The roster of grants given to conduct experimental research on extrasensory perception and psychokinesis reads like a “who’s who” in parapsychology. Staff members of J. B. Rhine’s laboratory were frequent grantees. Among these were such investigators as Margaret Anderson (Anderson & White, 1956), Esther Foster (1956), Winifred Nielsen (1956), Karlis Osis (1955), Robert Van de Castle, and Rhea White (1955). The PF also funded research conducted in England by George Fisk and Donald J. West (1956), in the United States by Betty Humphrey and J. Fraser Nicol (1955), by J. Gaither Pratt (1967), and by Gertrude Schmeidler (1964). Among the grants given to French researchers was one awarded to Christine and Paul Vasse (1958). The PF has funded a number of experimental research programs which are now known to have been particularly important to progress in the field, but which were also very novel at the time they were conducted. This work included research on the relationship of distance and ESP (Osis & Pienaar, 1956), psychokinetic effects on the growth of plants (Grad, Cadoret & Paul, 1961), dream ESP (Ullman & Krippner with Vaughan, 1973, Chapter 7), out-of-body experiences (Morris et al., 1978), cognitive correlates of ESP mentation (Stanford, Angelini & Raphael, 1985), and some field experiments conducted in cultures much different from that of the experimenters. Among this latter type of work were experiments conducted with Australian aborigenes (Rose, 1955), with the Cuna Indians of Panama (Van de Castle, 1972), and with Brazilian cultists (Giesler, 1985).

The PF also provided important funding for the study of spontaneous cases. Projects for which grants were given included: studies of specific ESP cases (Stevenson, 1963); an examination of poltergeist cases (Owen, 1964, pp. 129-169); and a survey and follow-up study conducted by the American Society for Psychical Research on ESP and apparitional cases (Dale, White & Murphy, 1962). One particularly important project the PF funded was Hornell Hart’s work on the features of the OBE and their relationships to apparitions of the living and apparitions of the dead (Hart & Collaborators, 1956). Among the other pioneering work that the PF supported were: Louisa E. Rhine’s (1957) ESP work; Ian Stevenson’s (1966) reincarnation research; Donald J. West’s (1957) study of so-called miraculous healings in Lourdes;

5. For example, in 1955 the PF gave a grant of \$10,000 to cover the operating expenses incurred by Duke University’s Parapsychology Laboratory (*Research*, 1955). According to J. B. Rhine this was a “very substantial and even essential part of the fiscal year budget of the Laboratory” (*Annual*, 1955, p. 1). In contrast, in 1965, one of the Foundation’s grants assisted in the development of a library for Israel’s Parapsychology Society (*Israel*, 1965).

and John Palmer's (1979) now classic survey of psychic experiences among University of Virginia students and townspeople in Charlottesville, Virginia.

To achieve the goal of providing significant support for education in parapsychology, the PF has funded a variety of students in different ways. One of the current vehicles by which the Foundation provides such support is the Eileen J. Garrett Scholarship. The PF has also supported education in parapsychology through such grants as those given to John Palmer and Robert L. Morris which enabled them to teach parapsychology courses at John F. Kennedy University and the University of California at Santa Barbara, respectively.

Eric J. Dingwall's four-volume edited series *Abnormal Hypnotic Phenomena* (1967-68) was also funded by the Foundation. These volumes consisted of essays on the history of 19th reports of psychic phenomena and the concomitant development of theory as it occurred in the context of the mesmeric movement. The PF also funded other historical work, among these were biographical work on such individuals as the 19th-century mediumship expert J. Hewat McKenzie (Hankey, 1963), the medium Gladys Osborne Leonard (Smith, 1964), and the medium Florence Cook and her involvement with psychical researcher and physicist, Sir William Crookes (Hall, 1963).

The PF has also provided financial support for: conceptual work done by C. T. K. Chari (1967); an evaluation of free-response methodology by Charles Honorton (1975); Sergio's (1991) overview of Ibero-American parapsychology; and Champe Ransom's (1971) overview of criticisms of parapsychology. In addition, the Foundation underwrote the preparation of an abridged version of F. W. H. Myers' *Human Personality and Its Survival of Bodily Death* (prepared by Susy Smith; Myers, 1961), and, for a brief time or for specific issues, the publications of such European journals as the *Revue Métapsychique* and *Luce e Ombra*.

Although grants have been given less frequently in recent times, the Foundation's records, nonetheless, include an impressive list of individuals who have benefitted from such special grant programs as the Eileen J. Garrett Scholarship (for undergraduate and graduate students) mentioned earlier, the Frances P. Bolton Fellowship (for post-doctoral writing), and the D. Scott Rogo Award for Parapsychological Literature (for writers). In addition, one can still find relatively recent acknowledgments of research support (e.g., Alvarado, 2001; Roll & Persinger, 1998) in the published literature of the field.

The International Conferences of the Parapsychology Foundation

Eileen J. Garrett and the Honorable Frances P. Bolton knew that supporting scientific investigation of psychic phenomena required more than funding, however. Bringing scholars together in a stress-free environment to focus on topics of interest to the academic and scientific community was also important. Garrett and Bolton were well aware that the average research worker in parapsychology was a penniless academic, pursuing his or her research on a small budget, under the often disapproving eyes of colleagues and family, and with infrequent access to peers. The international conference program was inaugurated to bring such scholars together in an environment in which structured presentations and formal discussions could lead to creative after-hours conversations.

Perhaps the best known, and most important of these, was the First International Conference of Parapsychological Studies held at the University of Utrecht in 1953.⁶ The Utrecht Conference represented a return to the truly international psychical research congresses such as those organized by Carl Vett and others between 1921 and 1935.⁷ Four working groups on different issues within the field were organized in advance of the actual meeting. Sessions devoted to the topic of each of these groups were then held at Utrecht. The groups were: (1) quantitative studies; (2) psychotherapeutic and psychoanalytic approaches; (3) spontaneous phenomena and qualitative research; and (4) the personality of the sensitive. Among the participants were: Professor Hans Bender, the founder of the Institut für Grenzgebiete der Psychologie und Psychohygiene in Freiburg, Germany; Dr. Gertrude Schmeidler, the American psychologist whose exceptionally productive career still continues in retirement; Dr. Emilio Servadio, who was among the most prominent psychoanalysts and parapsychologists in Italy during his long career; and a host of others. The conference set the tone for the Foundation's later meetings in that key players in the field were invited, a pleasing venue was provided, a timely topic was chosen, and the intellectual work that resulted was both ambitious and ground-breaking.

Garrett and Bolton were able to create again the sense of international community at Utrecht that had been lost due to the dominance of experimental parapsychology and the Rhinean School in the U.S., and because of other such important global-political factors as the disruptions to every aspect of intellectual, scientific, and cultural life caused, especially in Europe, by the Second World War. At Utrecht, and in later conferences, Garrett and

6. The proceedings of presented papers were published both in English and in French (*Proceedings*, 1955; *La Science et le Paranormal*, 1955). For further information about the planning of and the events which took place at the Utrecht Congress see discussions of it published before (The First International Conference, 1953) and after the event (Hankey, 1954; Pobers, 1954).

7. These congresses were held at Copenhagen (1921), Warsaw (1923), Paris (1927), London (1930), and Athens (1935). See, for example, the proceedings of the first of these congresses held in Copenhagen (Vett, 1922).

Bolton were also able to achieve something more important. They provided a context for researchers to discuss the state of the art of parapsychological research, and thus by taking stock of the most promising areas of research, to set the agenda for future work to come.

Beginning with Utrecht, the PF established a formal series of conferences. Eight more were held in the 1950s alone, with topics ranging from unorthodox healing to spontaneous phenomena to the relationship between seemingly paranormal phenomena and psychedelics. Similarly, from 1961 to 1965, five more conferences were held with such wide-ranging topics as psychophysiological correlates of paranormal states, and the intersection of religion and parapsychology. Venues ranged from Cambridge University which hosted the spontaneous case conference in 1955 to the Foundation's European headquarters in the south of France.

To give a flavor of what these conferences entailed, we will briefly describe the topic, venue and some of the participants of the conferences from Utrecht to 1965, providing a reference, where available, to published proceedings.

(1) The "International Philosophic Symposium" was held at St. Paul de Vence in France in 1954. Topics included varying theories of psychic phenomena and their possible meanings. Among the participants were C. J. Ducasse, Aldous Huxley, Pascual Jordan, Gabriel Marcel, C. W. K. Mundle, and H. H. Price (*Proceedings*, 1957).

(2) Also in 1954, the "International Study Group on Unorthodox Healing" met at St. Paul de Vence in France. Miraculous healing and methodologies to study claims of psychic or miraculous healing were discussed by, among others, Hans Bender, Eileen J. Garrett, Hubert Larcher, François Leuret, Emilio Servadio, and D. J. Van Lenep (*Proceedings*, 1957).

(3) In 1955, the "Conference on Spontaneous Phenomena" was held at Cambridge, England. Methodological issues were on the minds of the participants who included Lydia W. Allison, Kathleen M. Goldney, Hornell Hart, C. A. Meier, Gardner Murphy, Louisa E. Rhine, and W. H. Salter (*Proceedings*, 1957).

(4) In 1956, the "International Symposium on Psychology and Parapsychology" was held at Royaumont in France. Among the topics discussed were psychodynamic processes, personality variables, and attitudes and ESP. Robert Amadou, Ernesto de Martino, Jan Ehrenwald, Jean Lhermitte, C. A. Meier, and Emilio Servadio were among the participants (*Proceedings*, 1957).

(5) The “International Research Coordination Meeting” was held in 1957 at St. Paul de Vence in France. Participants, including Piero Cassoli, Jan Ehrenwald, J. M. J. Kooy, Emilio Servadio and George Zorab discussed, among other things, recent studies of ESP experiences, the concept of precognition, and evidence for survival provided by mediumship.

(6) The “Conference on Parapsychology and Psychedelics” was held in New York City in 1958. The conference was devoted to the implications of psychedelic drugs on ESP experiences, and on human potential. In addition participants, including Duncan B. Blewett, Eileen J. Garrett, Karlis Osis, Humphry Osmond, Ira Progoff, and John R. Smythies, discussed suggestibility and research methodologies for the study of the effects of psychedelics (*Proceedings*, 1961).

(7) In 1959, at St. Paul de Vence, in France, the Foundation sponsored the “Conference on Parapsychology and Pharmacology.” This conference continued the discussion of the conference that preceded it, expanding the topics to personality variables and enhanced awareness during the use of hallucinogens. In addition to Duncan B. Blewett and Emilio Servadio who also attended the preceding conference, Alain Assailly, Roberto Cavanna, Rosalind Heywood, and Father Réginald-Omez participated (*Proceedings*, 1961).

(8) In New York City in 1959, the Foundation sponsored “The Study of Precognition: Evidence and Methods” which focused on definitions of precognition, the history of research on spontaneous and experimental precognition and as well as the future of then-current methodology. The participants included C. J. Ducasse, Francis Huxley, Gardner Murphy, Joseph Rush, Robert Van de Castle, and Rhea White.

(9) The “Conference on Inter-Disciplinary Studies” was held at St. Paul de Vence in France in 1961. Among others, Douglas Dean, Martin Ebon, Aldous Huxley, Jan Kappers, Marcel Martiny, and W. Grey Walter discussed the potential contribution of a variety of disciplines to the problems of parapsychology. Some of the specific topics discussed were research in the then Soviet Union, the effects of LSD on ESP, and psychoanalysis and ESP.

(10) In 1963, also held at St. Paul de Vence in France, the PF sponsored a conference called “Psycho-Physiological Correlates of Paranormal Mental States” which focused on the relationship of psychophysiology and altered states of consciousness to paranormal phenomena. Among the participants were H. A. C. Dobbs, Jule

Eisenbud, C. A. Meier, John R. Smythies, Inge Strauch, and W. Grey Walter.

(11) In 1964, in London, the Foundation convened a conference entitled “Parapsychology: The Next Decade” which involved discussions of future directions for the field, redefinitions of terms, and promising research areas. John Beloff, Roberto Cavanna, Eric J. Dingwall, Muriel Hankey, and J. Fraser Nicol were among the participants.

(12) Returning to St. Paul de Vence in France, the PF hosted “Psychological Aspects of Parapsychological Phenomena” in 1964. Participants, among them Joost A. M. Meerlo, Emilio Servadio, Ian Stevenson, Inge Strauch, Solco Tromp, and Ludmila Zielinki, discussed studying paranormal phenomena in primitive people, and the importance of symbiotic relationships to ESP.

(13) In 1965, “Religion and Parapsychology” was held at St. Paul de Vence. The topics discussed by S. Hugo Bergman, Corrado Balducci, Bonnaventure Kloppenburg, J. Fraser Nicol, and Walter N. Pahnke, among others, included demonic possession, psychic phenomena in the Islamic tradition, and the general literature of religion and parapsychology.

Later conferences continued the tradition established earlier of having interdisciplinary presentations. What is most interesting about these proceedings is the often prescient nature of the topics. For example, altered states of consciousness and quantum physics and their varying relationships to psychic phenomena were explored well before the notions took hold in the field at large (Cavanna & Ullman, 1968; Oteri, 1975; *Proceedings*, 1961). Another key element in the PF conferences was the deliberate and productive mix of key insiders and important outsiders with fresh perspectives on the problem areas of the field. What follows is a list of these and many other conferences held until 1993.

(1) “Psi and Altered States of Consciousness,” held in 1967 at St. Paul de Vence in France, centered on hypnosis, drugs, dreams and parapsychology. The participants included Bernard S. Aaronson, Raúl Hernández-Peón, Stanley Krippner, Lawrence LeShan, Arnold W. Ludwig, and Charles T. Tart (Cavanna & Ullman, 1968).

(2) “Psi Favorable States of Consciousness” was held in 1968 at St. Paul de Vence in France. The participants, including Jan Ehrenwald, Anthony Flew, Joe Kamiya, Henry Margeneau, A. R. G. Owen and K. Ramakrishna Rao, discussed methodology in parapsychology with

an emphasis on altered states (Cavanna, 1970).

(3) “Psi Factors in Creativity” was also held in St. Paul de Vence in France in 1969. The conference focused on creativity as a door to psychic phenomena, neuropsychological aspects of creativity, and creative education. Among the participants were Arthur E. H. Bleksley, Kenneth Burke, Eugenio Gaddini, Jerre Mangione, Emilio Servadio, and W. Grey Walter (Angoff & Shapin, 1970).

(4) In 1970, “A Century of Psychical Research: The Continuing Doubts and Affirmations” was held in St. Paul de Vence in France. Participants included E. J. Dingwall, C. E. M. Hansel, Alister Hardy, B. K. Kanthamani, Walter N. Pahnke, and D. J. West (Angoff & Shapin, 1971).

(5) In 1971, also in St. Paul de Vence in France, the PF sponsored the conference “Parapsychology Today: A Geographic View.” Participants — among them Hans Bender, Piero Cassoli, J. Ricardo Musso, Soji Otani, J. C. Poynton, and Jamuna Prasad — reviewed the progress of parapsychology in such countries as Argentina, Germany, India, Israel, Italy and South Africa (Angoff & Shapin, 1973).

(6) “Parapsychology and the Sciences” was held in 1972 in Amsterdam, in the Netherlands. The conference was devoted to discussions about the relationship of parapsychology to such other sciences as abnormal psychology, biology, and physics. The participants included Bob Brier, John Beloff, Arthur Koestler, John E. Orme, Russell Targ, and Edgar D. Mitchell (Angoff & Shapin, 1974).

(7) In London in 1973, the PF sponsored a conference called “Parapsychology and Anthropology.” Some of the specific topics included psychic phenomena in tribal groups, altered states of consciousness, and cross-cultural research. Among the participants were George Devereux, Joan Halifax-Grof, Alister Hardy, Ioan M. Lewis, Marcel Martiny, and Robert Van de Castle (Angoff & Barth, 1974).

(8) “Quantum Physics and Parapsychology” was held in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1974. C. T. K. Chari, O. Costa de Beauregard, Gerald Feinberg, Harold Puthoff, and Russell Targ were among the participants. The topics discussed were the study of physical paranormal phenomena, precognition, and the importance of the concept of entropy to understanding psychokinesis (Oteri, 1975).

(9) In 1975, in San Francisco, California, the Foundation sponsored

the conference “Education in Parapsychology.” John Beloff, Robert L. Morris, J. B. Rhine, D. Scott Rogo, Rex G. Stanford, and Rhea A. White were among the participants who discussed various aspects of education in parapsychology such as course criteria, curricula, the training of teachers and preparing for a career in parapsychology (Shapin & Coly, 1976).

(10) Held in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1976, the conference “The Philosophy of Parapsychology” focused on different aspects of the relationship between philosophy and parapsychology. Some of the specific themes were what a causal theory of ESP would look like and the problem of survival of identity after bodily death. The participants included John Beloff, Frederick C. Dommeyer, Hoyt L. Edge, Peter A. French, Lawrence LeShan, and Terence Penelhum (Shapin & Coly, 1977).

(11) “Psi and States of Awareness” was held in Paris, France in 1977. William G. Braud, Charles Honorton, Adrian Parker, Emilio Servadio, Inge Strauch, and Charles T. Tart, among others, discussed ganzfeld methodology, brain hemispheric functioning, and altered states and ESP (Shapin & Coly, 1978).

(12) In 1978, “Brain/Mind and Parapsychology” was held in Montreal in Canada. Different conceptual issues surrounding the mind, the brain, and parapsychology were discussed, among them, Eccles’s psychophysical interaction model, brain hemisphere functioning and the mind-body problem. The participants included J. Bigu, Thomas H. Budzynski, Norman F. Dixon, Jan Ehrenwald, Edward F. Kelly, and Karl H. Pribram (Shapin & Coly, 1979).

(13) In Vancouver, Canada, in 1979, the Foundation hosted a conference devoted to the analysis of parapsychological processes as examples of communication. Called “Communication and Parapsychology,” the conference included such specific topics as the relationship of parapsychological processes to information processing theory, nonverbal communication and culture. David Read Barker, Harvey J. Irwin, Robert L. Morris, Robert Rosenthal, Martin Ruderfer, and Montague Ullman were among the participants (Shapin & Coly, 1980).

(14) “Concepts and Theories of Parapsychology” was held in New York City in 1980. Participants included William Braud, Stephen Braude, Brenda Dunne, Robert Jahn, Robert L. Morris, and Rex G. Stanford discussed such issues as classification and theory in psychokinesis, internal attention states, and physical models for paranormal phenomena (Shapin & Coly, 1981).

(15) In 1981, the PF hosted “Parapsychology and the Experimental Method” in New York City. The conference focused on different aspects of experimental parapsychology such as the use of computers for research. Richard S. Broughton, Hoyt Edge, Anita Gregory, Donald McCarthy, K. Ramakrishna Rao, and Rex G. Stanford were among the participants (Shapin & Coly, 1982).

(16) In 1982, in London, the Foundation convened “Parapsychology’s Second Century.” The meeting was devoted to the discussion of replication in parapsychology, and the use and meaning of psychic phenomena. Among the participants were Susan Blackmore, Dick Bierman, Elmar Gruber, Emilio Servadio, Ernesto Spinelli, and Kathleen Wilson (Shapin & Coly, 1983).

(17) “The Repeatability Problem in Parapsychology” was held in San Antonio, Texas in 1983. The importance, process and evaluation of replication in parapsychology were discussed. Participants included John Beloff, Hoyt Edge, Charles Honorton, Marilyn Schlitz, Rex G. Stanford, and Evan Harris Walker (Shapin & Coly, 1985).

(18) In New Orleans, in 1984, the PF hosted “Current Trends in Psi Research.” A wide variety of recent developments in parapsychology were reviewed, including psychic healing, out-of-body experiences and criticisms of parapsychology. Participants included Carlos S. Alvarado, Daniel J. Benor, Michael Grosso, John Palmer, William G. Roll, and Debra H. Weiner (Shapin & Coly, 1986).

(19) “Parapsychology, Philosophy and Religious Concepts” was held in 1985 in Rome. The participants, including Corrado Balducci, Sergio Bernardi, Michael Grosso, Michael Perry, Leslie Price, and Rhea A. White, discussed, among other things, mysticism, theosophy and the concept of the supernatural as they related to psychic phenomena (Shapin & Coly, 1987).

(20) In 1986, “Parapsychology and Human Nature” was convened in Washington, D.C. The conference was dedicated to those aspects of human nature seemingly involved in psychic phenomena such as hypnotizability and the general ability to achieve altered states of consciousness. The normalcy of psychic abilities were also discussed. Among the participants were H. M. Collins, Elizabeth E. Mintz, Vernon M. Nepe, Richard Noll, Charles T. Tart, and Ian Wickramasekera (Shapin & Coly, 1989).

(21) The Foundation hosted “Spontaneous Psi, Depth Psychology, and Parapsychology” in Berkeley, California in 1987. The focus was on spontaneous experiences and related clinical and psychodynamic

issues. Keith Harary, Arthur Hastings, Julian Isaacs, Jurgen Keil, Helen Palmer, Marilyn Schlitz, and Ruth-Inge Heinze were among the participants (Shapin & Coly, 1992).]

(22) “Psi Research Methodology: A Re-Examination” was held in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, in 1988. The conference was devoted to the differing methodological issues surrounding free-response ESP testing, the use of technology in experimental parapsychology and the measurement of altered states of consciousness. Victor Adamenko, William Braud, Richard S. Broughton, Edwin C. May, John Palmer and Rex G. Stanford were among the participants (Coly & McMahon, 1993a).

(23) Returning to London in 1989, the PF sponsored “Psi and Clinical Practice.” The conference discussed such topics as counseling individuals with psi experiences, multiple personality, and the definition of normality and paranormality. Keith Harary, Wim H. Kramer, Robert L. Morris, Vernon H. Neppe, Adrian Parker, Ian Tierney and Robert Van de Castle were among those who participated (Coly & McMahon, 1993b).

(24) “Women and Parapsychology” was held in 1991 in Dublin, Ireland. The conference was devoted to women and gender issues in parapsychology and touched on such topics as feminist approaches to science, images of women as mediums, and gender differences in belief in the paranormal. The participants included Anjum Khilji, Beverly Rubik, Marilyn J. Schlitz, Jessica Utts, Rhea A. White, and Nancy L. Zingrone (Coly & White, 1994).

(25) The most recent international conference hosted by the Foundation took place in Boston in 1993. “Parapsychology and Thanatology” focused on aspects of death and the survival of death. Among the topics discussed were near-death experiences, theories of survival, dissociation experiences and evidence for survival. Robert Almeder, Stephen E. Braude, Michael Grosso, John Palmer, William G. Roll, and Eugene Taylor were among the participants (Coly & McMahon, 1995).

One of the most important aspects of this second group of international conferences was that, in addition to the presenters, a small, select group of observers were also invited to each conference. The proceedings of all of these conferences were published and are still in print. They include not only the presented papers but also transcripts of the discussions which followed each presentation, and because of this addition, provide a valuable, if not unique, record of the development of parapsychological research and theory.

Other Programs and Developments

Over the course of its fifty-year history, the PF has also supported the field of parapsychology in other ways. From the beginning, Garrett put a great deal of effort and financial resources into the development of a first-rate parapsychology library on the Foundation's premises. In the early days of the Foundation, J. Fraser Nicol, then a staff member, actively sought many classic and contemporary books to add to the Foundation's collection which is housed in the Eileen J. Garrett Research Library. The collection now numbers close to 10,000 books, more than 100 research journals and magazines, and more than 400 videos and audio tapes.⁸ All of these materials range from the popular to the technical. Within the journal collection, the library has complete collections of such basics as the *Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research*, the *Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research*, the *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research*, and the *Journal of Parapsychology*. Other more rare holdings include a substantial portion of each of the following international journals: *Annales des Sciences Psychiques*, *Luce e Ombra*, and *Revue Métapsychique*.

In 1957, the Foundation established a research division under the directorship of Karlis Osis, who was joined somewhat later by Douglas Dean (*Ten Years of Activities*, 1965, pp. 17-19). Work completed under Osis included an extensive investigation of deathbed visions (Osis, 1961), and studies with mediums (Osis, 1966). The first dream ESP experiments were conducted at the PF's headquarters (Garrett, 1962, p. 5; *Ten Years of Activities*, 1965, p. 19), a project which culminated in the Maimonides dream work. This research division was discontinued in 1962.

The Foundation has always been a publisher. From 1953 to 1970, the Foundation published a newsletter. At first it was mainly staff-written and devoted to PF news only, but its content gradually changed to include general news in scientific parapsychology as well as articles by other authors. From 1970 to 1990, the PF published a magazine, the *Parapsychology Review*. Issued six times a year, the *Review* combined news with articles aimed at both professionals and the general public. Perhaps the Foundation's most important publication has been this journal, the *International Journal of Parapsychology*. Originally published between 1959 and 1968, the *IJP* resumed publication in 2000. The journal has always been characterized by articles with an interdisciplinary and international perspective, and has always been abstracted in English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish. With Volume 11, 2000, Japanese and Portuguese abstracts were added.

The PF has published books through its imprints, Garrett Publications and Helix Press. Among these were: an examination of the American seances of Italian medium Eusapia Palladino (Carrington, 1954); a study of healing at

8. In the delay between the preparation of this article and its publication, the Foundation's library has increased to 12,000 books and 550 videos, CDs, DVDs and audio tapes.

Lourdes (West, 1957); an overview of psychical research by psychoanalyst Nandor Fodor (1959); a treatise on poltergeists (Owen, 1964); ostensible parent-child telepathy (Schwarz, 1971); and out-of-body experiences (Smith, 1965). The most recent books are Cornell's (2002) examination of cases of mediums, poltergeists and hauntings; and a reprint (with new material) of one of Garrett's autobiographies (Garrett, 2002).

Under the Foundation itself, as mentioned earlier, the proceedings of the international conferences have been published since 1965. The Parapsychological Monographs series, which began in 1958, is comprised of relatively brief scholarly treatments of specific topics. Among the titles available are: *A Review of Published Research on the Relationship of Some Personality Variables to ESP Scoring Level* (Mangan, 1958); *ESP in Relation to Rorschach Test Evaluation* (Schmeidler, 1960); *Deathbed Observations by Physicians and Nurses* (Osis, 1961); *Psychophysical Elements in Parapsychological Traditions* (Tanagras, 1967); *Toward a General Theory of the Paranormal* (LeShan, 1969); *Dream Studies and Telepathy* (Ullman & Krippner, 1970) and *Altered States of Consciousness and Psi: An Historical Survey and Research Prospectus* (Kelly & Locke, 1981). A number of new titles are in development, with *A Common Thread Between ESP and PK* (Thalbourne, 2004) the first slated to appear.

More recently, the Foundation has inaugurated the PF Pamphlets series, designed to provide materials for students, teachers and members of the general public. *Introduction to Parapsychology* (1999), *Education and Parapsychology* (1999), *A Brief Manual for Work in Parapsychology* (1999) have already appeared, as have translations of *Introduction to Parapsychology* into Japanese and Simplified Chinese. A Spanish-language introduction to the field was also published (Alvarado, 1999) and a general guide to bibliography, terms, organizations and journals is also being prepared (Alvarado, 2002b).

Concluding Remarks

As we have discussed in this paper, for the past 50 years the Foundation has accomplished much to encourage the global study of parapsychology. Both the grant programs and the organization of conferences have been major contributions. Through its grants the PF has been an important force in shaping the field. Its support of virtually all aspects of the field — from the technical to the popular, from the quantitative to the qualitative, from the experimental to the experiential, from the practical to the theoretical — has been an important force in the development of parapsychology. Similarly, the PF's conferences can also be seen as a contribution to the conceptual development of the field. If social historians of parapsychology must acknowledge the contribution of the Foundation's grant program to the development of individuals and lines of research in the field, then intellectual historians must acknowledge the profound impact that the Foundation's conferences have had on each generation of workers since 1951, both through personal experience of these exciting meetings and through the published

record.

But the PF's contributions are not limited to the grants, conferences, or publications. Both past and recent efforts have underscored the PF's commitment to an international view of parapsychology and to education in the field. The international orientation of the PF assumes that good ideas and work can take place anywhere in the world. Even more, this international diversity comes from sources other than political correctness; it is a recognition that variety and flexibility invites creativity in the development of new theoretical and methodological approaches to study parapsychology's subject matter.

Similarly, from Eileen Garrett to Eileen Coly to Lisette Coly, there has been a strong belief in the potential of education to help parapsychology. On the one hand, there was the task of encouraging and educating new researchers, and on the other hand, there was the issue of interesting outside scientists and scholars (and educating them as well) to bring fresh perspectives into the field. In the last few years the PF has started to explore another aspect of education, the education of the general public. This is a challenging and difficult enterprise, but one that needs to be developed further for the survival of parapsychology. After all, it is from the general public that new students and researchers come into the field. Such endeavors are part of the future of the Foundation in the years to come.

In looking forward, it becomes clear that the future work of the organization must respond to the needs of both our constituencies — the academic community and the public at large. Coinciding with our anniversary, the new millennium is a fitting time to reach for wider horizons. As PF President Eileen Coly has stated:

Mysteries raised by psychical research remain largely unsolved. A half century of Parapsychology Foundation's support of parapsychological research has merely scratched the surface of explanation, shedding light on some areas but whetting our appetite for further enlightenment. Parapsychology Foundation has rededicated itself to the goals of our founders and has renewed efforts to stimulate the active exploration and ultimate understanding of the psychic elements in our lives (Parapsychology Foundation Celebrates 50 Years, 2001, p. 1).

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Abstract

The Parapsychology Foundation (PF) celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in December, 2001. The paper reviews the history of the Foundation and outlines its current direction. It is shown that, from its beginning, the PF has provided important institutional support of the scientific study of psychic phenomena through: the grants and scholarships program; more than 35 international conferences; such publications as the scholarly *Parapsychological Monograph* series, titles published by its imprints, Garrett Publications and Helix Press, such periodicals as *Parapsychology Review* (1970 to 1990) and the *International Journal of Parapsychology* (1959 to 1968); and the establishment of the Eileen J. Garrett Research Library in New York City. Recently the Foundation has: resurrected the *International Journal of Parapsychology*; expanded its publishing program with new titles and new series; and renewed its commitment to international and educational focuses through the establishment of the PF International Affiliates Program and the PF Lyceum Program as well as through an expanded presence on the Internet.

Résumé

La «Parapsychology Foundation (PF)» a célébré son 50^{ème} anniversaire en décembre 2001. Cet article retrace l'histoire de la fondation et donne un aperçu de ses orientations actuelles. On montre que, dès son origine, la PF a fourni un soutien institutionnel important à l'étude des phénomènes psi au moyen de : des subventions et des bourses d'études ; plus de 35 congrès internationaux ; des publications telles que la collection universitaire *Parapsychological Monograph*, des titres publiés sous ses propres éditions Garrett Publications et Helix Press, des périodiques tels que *Parapsychology Review* (1970 to 1990) et l'*International Journal of Parapsychology* (1959 to 1968) ; et la création de la bibliothèque Eileen J. Garrett Research Library à New York. Récemment, la fondation a repris la publication de l'*International Journal of Parapsychology* ; étendu son programme de publication à de nouveaux titres et

nouvelles collections ; et renouvelé son engagement en des centres d'intérêts internationaux et éducatifs par la création des programmes «PF International Affiliates» et «PF Lyceum Program» ainsi qu'en intensifiant sa présence sur Internet.

Zusammenfassung

Im Dezember 2001 hat die „Parapsychology Foundation“ (PF) (Stiftung für Parapsychologie) ihr 50-jähriges Jubiläum gefeiert. Der Artikel gibt einen Überblick über die Geschichte der PF und skizziert ihre derzeitige Richtung. Es wird gezeigt, daß die PF von Anfang an wichtige institutionalisierte Unterstützung für das wissenschaftliche Studium paranormaler Phänomene geboten hat, und zwar: durch ein Programm von Zuschüssen und Stipendien, durch mehr als 35 internationalen Konferenzen, durch Publikationen wie die wissenschaftliche Buchreihe „*Parapsychological Monograph*“ sowie von Titeln, die unter „Garrett Publications“ bzw. „Helix Press“ erschienen sind, von Zeitschriften wie „*Parapsychology Review*“ (1970 bis 1990) und „*International Journal of Parapsychology*“ (1959 bis 1968), und durch die Einrichtung der „Eileen J. Garrett Research Library“ in New York City. Jüngste Aktivitäten der PF: Wiederbelebung des „*International Journal of Parapsychology*“, Ausweitung des Publikationsprogramms mit neuen Titeln und Serien, aktuelles Engagement mit internationalen und aufklärerischen Akzenten in Form des „PF International Affiliates Program“ (Internationales Partnerprogramm der PF) und des „PF Lyceum Program“ (Unterrichts- und Vortragsprogramm der PF) wie auch in Form des Ausbaues ihrer Internetpräsenz.

Sommario

Nel dicembre del 2001 la Parapsychological Foundation (PF) ha celebrato il suo cinquantesimo anniversario. L'articolo è una panoramica storica sulla Foundation e ne delinea inoltre gli impegni attuali. Viene mostrato come sin dall'inizio la PF abbia dato un rilevante supporto allo studio scientifico dei fenomeni paranormali, attraverso: finanziamenti di progetti e programmi educativi; più di 35 conferenze internazionali; pubblicazioni specialistiche, quali una serie di monografie (*Parapsychological Monograph*), volumi editati con i propri marchi editoriali Garrett Publications ed Helix Press, e i periodici *Parapsychology Review* (tra il 1970 e il 1990) e *International Journal of Parapsychology* (dal 1959 al 1968); l'istituzione a New York City della biblioteca intitolata a Eileen J. Garrett (Research Library). Di recente la PF ha: ripreso le pubblicazioni dell'*International Journal of Parapsychology*, ampliato il suo programma editoriale con nuovi titoli e nuove serie; e rilanciato i suoi impegni in campo internazionale e nella didattica, mediante l'avvio di un PF International Affiliates Program e di un PF Lyceum Program, nonché ampliando la sua presenza in Internet.

抄 録

超心理学財団（PF）は、2001年12月に創立五十周年を迎えた。本稿では、当財団の歴史を振り返り、現在向かっている方向の概略を述べる。設立当初からPFは、心霊現象の科学的研究に対して、重要な支援を行ってきた。それは、研究助成および奨学金賦与事業、35件以上の国際会議、学術的な『超心理学モノグラフ *Parapsychological Monograph*』シリーズのような刊行物、ギャレット書店およびヘリックス出版という出版部門による出版物、『超心理学レビュー *Parapsychology Review*』（1970年から1990年）や『国際超心理学雑誌 *International Journal of Parapsychology*』のような定期刊行物、ニューヨーク市のアイリーン・J・ギャレット研究図書館の創設である。最近、当財団は、『国際超心理学雑誌』を復刊させ、出版事業を拡張して新刊書や新しい双書を出版し、PF国際会友事業やPF文化会事業を確立することを通じて、さらにはインターネット・ホームページの充実を図ることを通じて、国際的な教育の中心にかかわるべく再び活動を開始した。

Resumo

A Fundação de Parapsicologia celebrou seu cinquentenário em dezembro de 2001. O artigo revisa a história da Fundação e apresenta suas atuais realizações mostrando que, desde seu início, a Fundação de Parapsicologia forneceu importante apoio institucional ao estudo científico dos fenômenos parapsicológicos por meio de: programas de bolsas de pesquisa; mais de 35 conferências internacionais; publicações tais como a série *Parapsychological Monograph*, títulos publicados pelas suas editoras, Garret Publications e Helix Press, periódicos como o *Parapsychology Review* (1970 a 1990) e o *International Journal of Parapsychology* (1959 a 1968); expansão de seus programas de publicação com novos títulos e novas séries; renovando seus compromissos com foco internacional e educacional pela criação do Programa de Afiliados Internacionais da Fundação Parapsicológica e do Programa Lyceum da Fundação Parapsicológica, bem como por meio da expansão de sua presença da internet.

Resumen

La Parapsychology Foundation (PF) celebró su quincuagésimo aniversario en Diciembre del 2001. Este artículo resume la historia de la Fundación y de sus desarrollos recientes. Mostramos que, desde el comienzo, la PF ha sido importante por su apoyo a el estudio científico de los fenómenos psíquicos a través de: becas; más de 35 convenciones internacionales; publicaciones tales como la serie de las *Parapsychological Monograph*, libros publicados por Garret Publications y Helix Press, revistas como *Parapsychology Review* (1970-1990) e *International Journal of Parapsychology* (1959-1968); y la Biblioteca Eileen J. Garrett de Investigación en New York. Recientemente, la Fundación comenzó nuevamente a publicar el *International Journal of Parapsychology*; expandió su programa de publicaciones con nuevos libros y series; y renovó su compromiso de apoyar actividades internacionales y educativas a través del Programa de Afiliados Internacionales de la PF y del Programa del Liceo de la PF, al igual que a través de una expansión de su presencia en la Internet.