



UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA

HAMILTON'S FOOTSTEPS

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Libraries

Lecture on Levitation!

Speaker: Walter Meyer zu Erpen, BA, MAS, President, Survival Research Institute of Canada

Presentation: Do Tables Tilt, Turn and Float? Table Levitation Phenomena, 1850-2006: Understanding the Table Levitations Photographed by Dr. T.G. Hamilton, Winnipeg, 1923-1927

Date/Time: Thursday, 4 October 2012, 7:30-9:00 pm

Place: University of Manitoba Archives, Room 330 – Elizabeth Dafoe Library, Fort Garry Campus, Winnipeg

Admission: free, though donations to the Hamilton Memorial Research Fund are gratefully accepted.

Parking: free after 4:30 pm except spaces marked 24 hour reserved.

Lecture Overview

In 1991, historian and archivist Walter Meyer zu Erpen began an historical study of the psychical research experiments that medical doctor T. Glen Hamilton conducted between 1918 and 1935 in his Elmwood home. That in-depth study has convinced Walter of the objective reality of the physical phenomena photographed by Dr. Hamilton in his séances. In sharing his journey to understand just one aspect of the Hamilton experiments, the full, non-contact table levitations photographed between 1923 and 1927, Walter will show photographic images of the best European and North

American cases of table phenomena, which date from the 1850s. In addition, he will draw upon his personal experience as a member of a Spiritualist home circle that observed, between 1998 and 2010, strong psychokinetic table movements, including lifting, rocking, and pivoting of a square, 21-pound table. That Victoria-based group was featured in the made-for-TV documentary “Conjuring Philip” that has aired on Vision TV since 2007. The presentation will also include short video clips of the group’s table moving under good lighting conditions.

were well-known for being able to produce phenomena such as physical materialization of spirits or messages written by spirits.

At Camp Chesterfield, visitors often received messages printed on cards from departed loved ones or from spirit guides. These messages, unlike automatic or trance writing, were produced without the physical intervention of the medium. Blank cards were placed between two old school slates, or later on in covered baskets, and spirits would write on the cards during séances.

Hannah Mary MacPherson, a Winnipeg medium, travelled to Camp Chesterfield from the late 1940s to the early 60s and saved a large number of cards from her visits. Archives & Special Collections has preserved 251 of these cards, many containing short but poignant messages from her deceased sons and husband.

- Mary Horodyski, MAS
Student

Special points of interest:

- Description of Hamilton fonds translated into Polish

HAMILTON & UNESCO

In August, Brian Hubner, Acquisition & Access Archivist, Master of Archival Studies Intern Mary Horodyski, and I completed an application to the Canadian Commission for UNESCO’s ad-hoc Memory of the World Committee to have the Hamilton fonds recog-

nized as a world treasure.

This has gone forward to the international sub-committee. We’ll hear how our bid fared at that stage hopefully by December. Stay tuned!

- Shelley Sweeney, Head

Spirit Cards

Spiritualist camps began in the late 1880s in the United States and offered séances and lectures to visitors as well as the opportunity for camaraderie among like-minded seekers. Camps such as Camp Chesterfield in Indiana are still in operation today and provide Spiritualist services, workshops, and courses in a beautiful resort-like setting. Mediums at Camp Chesterfield