



ASUP, Inc.

(Association for the Study of Unexplained Phenomenon)

ASUP, Inc. FIELD GUIDELINES

ASUP, Inc. History:

Founded in 1973, ASUP, Inc. (Association for the Study of Unexplained Phenomenon) was begun to research all forms of Fortean Phenomenon, including Ghosts, Hauntings, UFOs, Cryptozoology and virtually anything else that goes bump in the night! The original members included Rita Allen, Peter Jordan, Paul Hoffman, Steve Kaplan, and Rick Moran and was chartered in New York City, based upon the following mission statement:

"Our mission is to research and study all paranormal phenomenon in the pursuit of possible proof of individual survival of human personality after death and to help support the efforts of similar organizations to that end and to educate the public as to those findings."

To understand The ASUP, Inc., you have to go back to the roots of psychical research from the time of The Society for Psychical Research (SPR) which was founded in 1882 by three dons of Trinity College, Cambridge. Sir William F. Barrett, a professor of physics at the Royal College of Science in Dublin, had been conducting experiments in the 1880s testing the notion of thought-transference. Barrett conceived of the idea of forming an organization of spiritualists, scientists, and scholars who would join forces in a dispassionate investigation of psychical phenomena. F.W.H. Myers, Edmund Gurney and Henry Sidgewick attended a conference in London that Barrett convened, and the Society for Psychical Research (SPR) was created with Sidgewick, who had a reputation as an impartial scholar, accepting the first presidency.

The great American psychologist, William James, met Gurney in England in 1882 and immediately they struck up a close friendship. Later James also became a close friend of Myers. In 1884, Barrett toured the United States and succeeded in arousing the interest of American scholars in forming a similar society, which was established in 1885, and in which William James took an active role. The American Society for Psychical Research constituted the first organized effort for experimental psychological research in the United States. For a period of many years, before the ascendancy of the German experimental approach of Wilhelm Wundt, psychology in the United States was equated with the efforts of psychical research, but from the beginning met strong opposition from other disciplines in the scientific community, even with the Nobel Laureate James at its head.



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The ASUP set up six working committees, each with a specific domain for exploration. These included:

1. An examination of the nature and extent of any influence which may be exerted by one mind upon another, apart from any generally recognized mode of perception.
2. The study of hypnotism, and the forms of so-called mesmeric trance, with its alleged insensibility to pain; clairvoyance and other allied phenomena.
3. A critical revision of Reichenbach's researches with certain organizations called "sensitives" and an inquiry whether such organizations possess any power of perception beyond a highly exalted sensibility of the recognized sensory organs.
4. A careful investigation of any reports, resting on strong testimony, regarding apparitions at the moment of death, or otherwise, or regarding disturbances in houses reputed to be haunted.
5. An inquiry into the various physical phenomena commonly called spiritualistic; with an attempt to discover their causes and general laws.
6. The collection and collation of existing materials bearing on the history of these subjects.

Today the Society states its principal areas of study as "exchanges between minds, or between minds and the environment, which are not dealt with by current orthodox science." Of its initial aims, the most successful has been the gathering of data relating to the history of the paranormal - the SPR has built up an extensive library and archive.

Famous supporters of the society have included Alfred Lord Tennyson, Mark Twain, Lewis Carroll, Carl Jung, J.B. Rhine and Arthur Conan Doyle. The Society was especially active in the thirty years after it was founded, gaining fame for its debunking of Madame Blavatsky and the Theosophical Society in 1884. Most initial members were spiritualists but there was a core of 'professional' investigators - the Sidgwick Group, headed by Henry Sidgwick, a formation pre-dating the SPR by eight years. The Society was wracked by



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internal strife, a large part of the membership (the Spiritists) leaving as early as 1887 in opposition to the approach taken by the so-called intellectuals.

Psychical Research Foundation:

Of course, no history of The ASUP, Inc., would be complete without recognition of the Psychical Research Foundation (PRF), once housed on the campus of Duke University. The PRF is a parapsychological research facility established in 1960 with funds from Charles E. Ozzanne, a high school and college teacher interested in the question of survival of death. The foundation was created to investigate phenomena relating to the survival of human personality after death. The foundation serves as a scientific and educational research center to investigate the possibilities of continuation of consciousness after death of the physical body. Its research program includes study of sensitives, haunting and poltergeist phenomena, as well as out-of-the-body travel.

In 1960, William G. Roll became project director. Under Roll's leadership the foundation has established an outstanding record of parapsychological research on meditation, haunts, poltergeists, out-of-the-body experiences, and mediumship. During the Roll years, both Peter Jordan, a doctoral candidate in psychology and Rick Moran, a journalist, were visitors and collaborators with the PRF, Jordan as a field investigator and Moran principally interested in the Out of Body Experiences (OOBE) being studied there, with D. Scott Rogo, one of the most noteworthy researchers of his day. Moran had one major disagreement with his friend Rogo, insisting that Rogo's position that field investigation should be limited to "lettered professionals" was a grave error. Moran argued such work would be better conducted by trained investigators, who understood the principles of police procedures, corroboration and proper evidence handling.

Eventually, Moran went on to form The ASUP, Inc. with Jordan, Paul Hoffman a noted crime reporter with the *New York Daily News*, Rita Allen, a science researcher and educator, and Steve Kaplan, a college professor with the State University of New York, severing ties with the PRF. When the infamous book, *The Amityville Horror* was first released, suggesting that the PRF had been involved in the initial investigation of the case, Roll asked Jordan and Moran to intercede and The ASUP, Inc. became known worldwide as Amityville's debunkers.



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Since that time, The ASUP, Inc. has investigated thousands of cases, some famous, such as the claims of John Keel's book, *The Mothman Prophecies*, but many more that garnered little public attention. Over those years the group has shared its techniques with many other organizations and in many ways has helped to bring modern psychical research to the popular point it enjoys today. The ASUP, Inc. currently has working research units in New York, Ohio, and England, with its principal office in the Dallas Metroplex, in Texas.

ASUP, Inc. (Association for the Study of Unexplained Phenomenon) is a serious research group. This is not a club, what we are doing is not a hobby. There are procedures and processes that must be followed to stand up to the scrutiny of the public and skeptics. This corporation was founded by members of law enforcement and the press and the techniques used are drawn from established investigative techniques. The organization is now run by Bill Lauer. We must always maintain our integrity. We are not the "other guys". We ARE a step above the rest. Let's show it!

If you are joining us because you too are interested in serious research, we welcome you all with open arms and open minds. If, however, you are here for anything less than that, please reconsider. You do not need any special training to join us, nor do you need any type of prior knowledge about the paranormal. You do not need to purchase any of the equipment that we will show you and be using, although you may find that you actually wish to begin to collect some of it. Someone will usually have extra equipment you may use for an investigation. The only requirements for equipment are an open mind, a notebook that has pages not easily torn out (they may be necessary in the future) and 2 pens (one is a spare) or an inexpensive digital audio recorder to record your findings. If you do bring your own equipment, it is important that you know how to use it and retrieve the data. In the event you do discover noteworthy for consideration.

We will teach you the investigation techniques that we use, and will happily answer the questions you have to the best of our knowledge. If you have questions and we are still researching to find an answer, we will let you know. If you have a question you have not heard asked or answered, please ask. There are no questions that should not be asked.

Unlike TV shows that seem to wrap everything into a neat little package in a few hours, real investigations of the paranormal can take weeks, even months to accomplish. Sometimes the cases never close. The typical case will have a research component that will take many days to compile, and we rarely have the



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luxury of closing a field case with just one visit. Every investigation is subtly different, every site offers unique challenges, and so the team has to be ready for anything!

How We Investigate a Case

Investigating a reported paranormal activity is a multi-pronged approach in most cases, that is to say it requires two select teams to accomplish. In order to do it all correctly, the two teams work independently of each other.

Client Services ASUP, Inc. receives requests for investigations from several sources, including telephone calls or letters from the folks involved in a phenomenon, inquiries through our web sites, media requests, referrals from other research groups and academic sources. Each request is first reviewed by The Manager of Client Services by conducting a phone interview or email exchange. If determined to be a case needing investigated. The ASUP, Inc. Director, Manager of Research & Client Services will discuss how we move forward. Once deemed feasible, every case is handled virtually the same, going through the following steps.

The Research Team is the “Brains” of the operation, who dive into the mundane work of researching the history of a place we’re investigating. The Preliminary Interview is conducted by the Director or the Manager, Client Services (via phone) of the folks who are involved in the case; principles, witnesses, etc. prior. Then phase one begins, the research team begins searching public records, title searches, newspaper reports and finally the personal history of any interesting parties to the phenomenon. What is the history of the property and the people who have lived there; original floor plans are sometimes found and any historic facts about the house (i.e. fires, crimes, deaths, historic events, etc.) are uncovered. The Research Team also looks for newspaper records about the house and the names of the people they have found and if necessary further personal histories, such as military service, employment, education, etc. are collected. This is both time consuming and arduous work. Only after a detailed report summary of all the gathered research is created and reviewed by the Director do the Field Investigators go to work.

On-site Client Interview - The Director, Manager of Research or Client Services will conduct uniform interviews with the folks who are involved in the case; principles, witnesses, etc. The purpose of this interview is to confirm what we have learned through our research and add background information that could help to explain what we might find when we begin the field investigation. This will occur prior to the field investigation starting and in some cases will be done independently of the actual field investigation.



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The Field Investigation - Once the preliminary client interview or visit to the site is done and the Research Team has done their due diligence, the actual on-site investigation will take place, which is phase two. At which time the Manager of Field Investigation will takeover. They will either send out an email announcement to the field team with a date & time of an investigation requesting investigator. Or they will begin by meeting with the onsite Gatekeeper, Field team manager and technology team manager to begin setting up the location for the investigation and documenting the surrounding and taking baseline readings. The Manager of Field Investigation is in charge once the setup and investigation begins until it ends.

The overall field investigation can sometimes be accomplished in a day or two, or over a period of months, depending on the case. There are no set rules concerning the length of a study. It can not be too strongly stressed that no one in the field team is given any information about the case or the findings of the Research Team. They reach their conclusions independently. Each team member writes a detailed report after every visit, without exception. Only after all the team leaders are satisfied, is a secondary analysis by ASUP written.

While the two-man team is investigating, the team should be comprised of an Investigator and a Reporter. The Investigator's responsibility is to observe the scene, take readings with the equipment he/she is equipped with, and pass his reading and observations on to the Reporter. The Reporter's responsibility is to keep a log of all that happens on that segment of the investigation. The Reporter only uses tools when requested by the Investigator, such as take pictures of a certain location. The Reporter will also write any subjective information about feelings felt by the Investigator and him/herself. It is important to note everything you hear, smell, feel, sense and experience. Don't automatically dismiss them as we have another team that will go through all investigators field reports. It just could be, what you felt or smelled was also experienced by 3 other teams as well. On the next segment of the investigation, the roles reverse so each member gets a chance to do each job.

It should be noted that in some cases, we make use of individuals who have "psychic" talents as part of the field investigation, we call them, *sensitives*, but these team members only come out when the Director sees some useful purpose for such a visit. When a sensitive is used, they come to the location accompanied by a Manager, Field Investigator. No one in the Field team is told anything about the case and the person accompanying the sensitive is no exception, he or she is responsible for their partner's safety, as well as acting as the "recorder" for the visit. If necessary, more than one sensitive can



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be used on a case, but never teamed up together and never used at the same time, or in the same space.

Usually all field team members are at the scene at the same time, but not always; that is the call of the Lead Investigator for the case to decide. Team members are requested not to discuss their findings with other team members except for what may occur at the time along with the person with whom you are partnered. You will find that this method works very well for all concerned, eliminating any preconceived ideas in the beginning of an investigation, while expanding the possibilities in the final steps.

While originally created for the classic haunting, it will work for virtually every other kind of case we might be asked to look into, with the possible exception of the cemetery investigations, which are unique. There are some basic rules when doing a field investigation that should never be broken. Always work in teams. A team member should never be alone and each team is responsible to be sure the “gatekeeper” or person controlling the flow of traffic at the site, knows exactly where the team is at all times. To do this we use two way radios on every case.

In most cases, the team’s field tech team will install remote cameras, video and audio devices before the team enters the area. For that reason, as a team moves from place to place, they will announce themselves, “Bill and Joi In!” or “Joi and Bill Out!” so that anything recorded can later be traced to the team at the time with the devices in use. Also it is important for investigators to verbally tag events (bumps, bangs, noises they make) so that the evidence team knows and does not include it as a possible finding. Civilians and untrained personnel are never permitted on site during an investigation unless specifically authorized by the Director. If you see someone, ask them to leave!

Can this be used in other kinds of cases? Definitely! While originally created for the classic haunting, it will work for virtually every other kind of case we might be asked to look into, including cryptids, UFO phenomenon or anything else. Again, the only exception is the cemetery investigation, which is unique.

But why keep the teams separated in the early phase of an investigation? Simple! Did you ever play the parlor game “telephone?” Person number one is given a simple sentence to read. He is then told to pass along that message to the person next to him, without reading the text to the person. In turn that person passes it on to the next and then the next. If you



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string ten people in the chain you will be amazed at what you get at the other end. Try it sometime. Get ten people in a room; give one a piece of paper that says, "John and Mary are seeing each other." By the end of the chain you will be absolutely shocked at what that can turn into... and it is different every time!

This has happened in past investigations and we don't want it to happen again! Keeping the two teams apart initially, keeps the amount of "Telephoning" to a minimum. That is also why the guidelines stress the need for written notes and reports, before any discussions. Once of course, you have made the initial inquiry, you can mix the two teams together again for the free passage of ideas and data.

Let's Review the Investigation Procedures

First and foremost in every investigation is safety. We make a point to try having medically trained personnel on site during every investigation. We do not put anyone in dangerous situations if we have any thought that it could be dangerous, but if someone is injured, we are prepared to assist them and get medical attention quickly. All ASUP, Inc. members are required to sign a annual Liability Release form.

We expect you to be professional at all times. Since we are a serious research group, everything we do is expected to be scrutinized to the extreme. We do not want the actions of one member to taint our investigations or to discredit our group. If you do observe another member of our group doing anything you believe would not be approved of, let any of the Director or Manager know about it. You need not do anything else; they will assess the situation and handle it appropriately.

You should never go anywhere by yourself, except to use the facilities. There should always be at least two people going anywhere at one time. Besides the obvious safety issue, you cannot corroborate anything by yourself. Our Manager, Field Investigations was walking her dog by herself one day, and the dog brought to her attention the sound of approaching horse's hoof beats and the image of a horse and rider. They kept walking toward the shadowed rider, who never passed them and suddenly disappeared at a point where the path curved out of sight. As hard as she tried, she couldn't get her dog to tell anyone what they saw!!



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If an event was only observed by one person, it didn't happen, except for a great anecdotal story. Unfortunately, that doesn't qualify as research by a university giving us a grant. Dogs may be people too, but not for corroboration. We also had our Director use the facilities in a house we were investigating. While he was in there, the shower door slowly opened. He tried to recreate it when he was available to, and couldn't. Since he was by himself, he had no one to corroborate, and we have another great anecdotal story. It doesn't matter who you are, if you don't have another person to corroborate your observance, it didn't happen. Period!

As stressed earlier, no member is to discuss an ongoing case or organization business without prior approval. Treat everything you do and say as if you are on a confidential assignment. You are! Everything that is said and done in an investigation should not be discussed anywhere outside of the investigation. You don't want to say anything in an elevator or at a restaurant, for example, because you don't know who the person next to you might be. We stress confidentiality to our clients, and the person in the booth next to you or who just got on the elevator, may be the client's relative. There goes the reputation of ASUP, Inc. for keeping things confidential! Likewise, not discussing an ongoing case even among ourselves is vitally important. Just don't do it!

Please note, the Manager, Field Investigations or he/she designate is in charge when you are in the field. If that Manager is not present, look to either the Assistant or up-line to another Manager. You are acting as their eyes and you will perform whatever function they request. You are never to act independently. Always wait for direction from the supervisor at the scene and never assume anything.

When you are in the field, **DO NOT** take it upon yourself to provoke spirits! We know that you see it done on TV all the time, but it is not your call to decide when it will be done during an ASUP, Inc. case. There was a senior ASUP, Inc. Field Investigator who got slammed into a wall while provoking and had to be taken to the emergency room! He was NOT directed to provoke! It can be **DANGEROUS!** If there is a positive reason to provoke, the Director will make that decision and it will be done after precautions are taken for everyone's safety.

Dress Code: Wear a simple black shirt or an ASUP, Inc. shirt, with blue jeans or similar dark pants that you do not mind getting dirty, and sometimes very muddy, depending on the location of the investigation. Shorts are sometimes permitted during the summer hot months but must be of dark material and the Manager of Field Investigation will notify the field team if shorts are allowed on the investigation or not, don't assume they are. Sandals, flip-flops, lightweight shoes are to be never worn on investigation. No reflective material on clothing, and preferably not on shoes, if at all possible. Work style boots are preferred. This is



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obviously for safety purposes but the rules on color and reflective surfaces exist because it may be difficult to tell when reviewing pictures whether it's a reflection or something else from clothing. If you have long hair, wear it in a ponytail and/or a hat. If the wind is blowing, it may blow a strand of your hair in front of the camera lens. When you look at your pictures, it may be difficult to tell if it is hair or something else.

If you have a strap on your camera, or external microphone with a wire for your audio recorder, or any other equipment with a wire, be careful not to get it in front of your camera lens. When you look at your pictures, it may be difficult to tell if it is the strap or wire, or if it could be something else.

Learn to use your natural night vision. Even on moonless nights you will realize that after only a few moments, your eyes will adjust to the darkness, and you will be able to see. Yes, flashlights are on the list of necessary personal gear, but only shine it at the ground and only in short periods. Besides affecting your night vision, if the light accidentally shines in someone else's eyes it would affect their night vision as well. This could cause an injury to them because their night vision has been compromised, even momentarily.

Turn the sound off your camera shutter and any other functions on the camera that have beeps or other sounds. We did an investigation where the camera beep may have covered up an EVP, but we can't tell for sure because the camera apparently covered up a faint whisper. The same is true with all of your other equipment. In theory, some of the "spirits" we seek don't have much energy to manifest themselves, so they are only heard as faint voices on a recording for example. If you aren't sure how to turn off a warning beeper on your equipment, ask one of the Managers or Assistants at the scene. If they can't figure it out, they'll find someone on the tech-team who can.

Take at least two pictures simultaneously, one right after the other and one directly behind you. More if you are so inclined. Any time you feel like you should take a picture, take several. And sometimes point the camera behind you. You may have something there worth shooting. It is important to rely on your natural instincts on an investigations verses your beliefs. If you are using a "flash" with your camera it is important to announce out loud before snapping your photo "flash". To allow your partner to be aware and the gatekeeper can document it on their report if a stationary camera is present in that room.



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When you use the non-contact thermometer, be sure to leave the laser aiming light turned off. You shouldn't need to get to such an exact point that you need it on. It can be dangerous if accidentally pointed in someone's eyes and when we have a video recorder on and you use the laser light, it may be difficult to tell if it is the laser light or if it is something else on the video, especially if it is a reflection.

When you are inside a house or other structure, you want to use your natural night vision as well as when you are outside. A lot of times you can use the light of your camera, which will be on anyway, as the little bit of light needed to read your other equipment. If you absolutely have to turn on a flashlight, shine it only on the floor as close to you as you can. Do not shine it around the room or have it hanging on you somewhere. When a video camera is recording, it may be difficult to tell what is flashlight or something else. Again a single red lens flashlight, if you must use one, is probably best. Never position your directly in front of a stationary camera. If using equipment that have visible readings. Try to place them in line of sight of the stationary camera.

There will be a "Gatekeeper" on all investigations. All entrances and exits will be locked, except for where the Gatekeeper is seated. That person will record who goes in, what time and how long they are in there. The investigation team will be the only ones in the investigation area. Everyone will remain in the "Holding Area" until it is their turn to investigate. If anyone comes up to you at any time on an investigation and wants to ask you questions about what you are doing, send them to the Lead Investigator for answers. Do not give them any information. Do not tell them what you are doing. Tell them you cannot speak to them, they must speak to the Gatekeeper if they have any questions.

When you are in the "Holding Area" whether it is inside or outside, talk softly "whisper" and try not to make other loud noises. They may be heard by the team taking their turn investigating and may be difficult to tell if it is something or not.

Never wear perfume or cologne. Some anomalies are observed by scent. If you wear perfume, others may not be able to tell the difference. If you use bug repellent or sunscreen waterproof use unscented only, and apply beforehand or away from the investigation site. For example, if the holding area is outside a house, go down the sidewalk so the scent of the bug spray does not drift into the investigation area.



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If there is a video camera recording, try not to flash your camera in the direction of the video camera. Many times the video cameras will have the night vision on and the flash can damage the video camera.

When you take photographs you may use either digital (min. 5 megapixels setting) or film cameras. Two reasons digital is preferred over film on investigations are first, you can take as many pictures as you want to with the capacity of your camera at no additional cost; and second, you can download them to the computer where you can zoom in on them and study the photographs more closely for anomalies. If you do use a film camera, the film should be developed locally (as in a one hour photo processing) and be sure to request that the developer NOT cut the negatives apart. Many times we need to review the photos taken before and after the picture in question. If they are not cut apart, there is less likelihood that skeptics will be able to say they are from different times. It is also recommended that you have your time and date set correctly, but do not have it show on the picture; sometimes the day/date will obscure a vital part of the photo. Obviously, there are some advantages to using film but there is also the ongoing expense for the purchase of film and the cost of developing. But the decision is entirely up to you as to digital or film. Sometimes a Director will ask that film be shot for a specific reason, so don't throw away that old 35 mm camera!

On Investigating a Cemetery....

Cemetery investigations offer an entirely unique challenge to a field team. First there is the very real possibility of outside interference, that is to say, the "kids" factor, teens who like to hang out in a cemetery, drink beer and cause mischief. Many times, we end up doing an investigation in places like this because there is a report of strange lights in the area, which could be flashlights from midnight marauders or real paranormal activity.

The cemetery cases are also unique for another reason. In most cases they are at least a two-day affair minimum and more difficult than other cases, and if second looks are necessary, another two days will be needed, this on top of normal research beforehand. When we do a cemetery, we go out for a full night at the site, then we have to return the next day to assess what we had done the previous night, even before we get to look at photo evidence or anything else we may have gotten.



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The center of most cemetery investigations is what is called “Cemetery Luminescence”; strange lights, from dimly lit orbs to fast moving sprites. Over the century these lights have taken on all sorts of names. The most common, the sprite, denotes the light emitted from fairies as they dance in old cemeteries, first mentioned hundreds of years ago in Great Britain, which later moved to the New World. Some scientists have since explained them away as “Swamp gas” although none have actually captured a sample of this gas to prove their contention. In most cases, the lights are reflections from passing cars, flashes from photo equipment or flashlights. But there are enough documented cases to suggest there is something else out there that investigators are seeing. Likewise there is any number of disembodied forms to be found in a cemetery, from dark shadow apparitions to “regular” ghosts; all are well documented in the paranormal literature.

So, how do we investigate claims of the paranormal in a cemetery? To start, we follow the basic rules of all investigations. The research section will do their job, cataloging any published claims as well as looking at the history of the place. We will secure proper permission to be on the premises and notify authorities that we will be there, and we will place our “gatekeeper” near the main entrance to the area. Of course, the last step is easily bypassed by those who might want to “play” with the team, but the gatekeeper will still serve as the central command center for the investigation.

To do this right, you will need min. of eight team members, ten is better. You need three field teams, the gatekeeper and a safety officer at the entrance, and five two-way radios along with all the ancillary equipment we would normally take into the field. Of primary importance, the teams will meet away from the site before going to the cemetery. At this removed location, we will test all gear, change to new batteries, and review the investigation plan using a map of the cemetery that shows major landmarks. This is accomplished by the tech team in daylight hours, long before the actual investigation.

WARNING: *If there was ever a time when developing your night vision will be essential, this is it! Flashlights, red lights, or any other kind of lights are to be used at a MINIMUM!*

The three teams (four if you have the manpower) are to be located at the three (or four) most distant points of the cemetery area to be investigated. No clumping up of the teams at one place on site. Know where each team is initially



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located, use your radios and start with each group at a known landmark. The triangle where you are now “points” to what is now your target area. Do not become disoriented, do not be distracted. In the beginning you will all be stationary until your night vision improves, looking into the “triangle” for light, objects or apparitions. Mark your spot using a “gutter mail” or other easily seen and located pinpoints. **THIS IS IMPORTANT!** Do a GPS reading to exactly locate your start position and set up your camera over your pinpoint? Do preliminary atmospheric readings. ALWAYS note the direction that you are always aiming your cameras and video and keep track of them for later reference.

Once again, be aware that there can be outsiders present that are there to “play” with you. The primary purpose of your presence is to study paranormal activities, not to chase vandals. Try to change your mind set to an animal seeking its prey. In a triangle pattern, you can advance on your target and know that there are two other teams aware of your activities, which are now at the back of your prey. If the sprite, dark object or disembodied entity attempts to retreat, it can only move toward another team. Know what direction of the compass you are walking toward, from your pinpoint. Using your radios, you can communicate with other investigators and close in on what you are observing. When you lose your target, take another GPS reading to mark your site and another set of atmospheric readings, then use another flag or pinpoint to physically mark that place.

If you lose your target, back up to your original point of observation. Can you see the target again? Photograph it from this point, video it. Resume your hunt, moving in slowly on the target...does it disappear at the same place or a new one? Mark the spot, GPS, atmospheric and everything else all over again. The important point is not to turn to a “pack” mentality...keep the groups separated and in constant communication.

If there is any thought that there might be an outside “visitor” or vandals, utilize your gatekeeper team to work the parameter with his partner. Do not lose focus on your zone INSIDE the triangle. If you feel that there is activity outside that zone, call your lead investigator and he or she can decide if they want to redirect the center of the investigation. DO NOT take such action on yourself. We may have to return to the location on another night and redeploy focusing on another space, or if the tech team feels that shifting the focus can be safely and easily accomplished, they will advise the lead of that possibility.



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The investigation ends when the lead investigator says it ends! NO ONE stays after the investigation is called off, NO ONE lingering, NO ONE is to go back later for a personal look at the scene that night. **NO ONE!!!**

The next day, in daylight, we meet back up at the original meeting site, the neutral place we had all met the previous evening for debriefing. We will then, as a group, return to the cemetery and revisit our pinpoints and attempt to take

photos and video from the same points and angles as we did the evening before. If we had been involved in a “chase” we would also revisit those sites and attempt to recreate the incident, photographing as we go. This gives us the obvious chance to look once again at the surrounding topography, headstones, possible points of reflection, and so on, and again, photograph them. You will be amazed how different the lay of the land will be the day after a field investigation in a cemetery.

Once all the points are covered, the group can leave, as a group, to re-evaluate their evidence from both the evening investigation and the follow up. Each team member will prepare two reports, one for the evening and one for the daylight follow-up, and forward that material and all relevant photos, audio and video to the lead investigator.

As you can see, this kind of investigation is no walk in the woods and will eat up a good deal of time, in many cases, much more than a typical house investigation. It is often necessary to do a follow-up to the site, change the area of focus, or just try to take a second look at what we have unearthed. Cemetery investigations can be exciting, but time consuming; they are definitely not just a thrill ride experience when ASUP, Inc. does them!!!

When You Have Questions.....

If you have any questions, ask someone other than another associate investigator. It can be anyone from a Field Investigator or one of the Tech Team, a Assistant, a Manager or even the Director. Everyone will be glad to answer any of your questions as long as they are not about the investigation itself.

DO NOT ask any details of any investigation except for where and what time. You will find out what you need to know about the investigation and location when you need to find out, and not before. Do not ask anyone details of the investigation. It is very important that everyone write their Field Report before hearing anything from anyone else. And be sure to write down or verbalize all of



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your experiences, feelings, or whatever sensations you have. If you smell a rose, write it down or verbalize it; especially if you do not see a rose bush. Or a cigar, or a steak, or whatever you experience with any of your senses. If your team member or members experience something that you are aware of, write that down or verbalize and include it in your report, no matter how minor it seems. We don't want to miss anything. It is your job to investigate and report, not to decide what is or is not important. And remember the key word, corroboration.

If you feel that another person has done or said or not done something and you are not sure if it was correct procedure or if it was unacceptable behavior, go to any of the Manager and let them know. Say nothing more about it to anyone. The Managers will handle the situation appropriately. If you must discuss anything about another team member, only go to one of the Directors to discuss it.

All photographs, audio recordings, video recordings and all other data in any form are the sole property of The ASUP, Inc., Inc., during the investigation process. They may not be used for any reason without written authorization from The ASUP, Inc., They may jeopardize the integrity of the investigation if they are used inappropriately. All rights will revert to the individual after the case is closed, with the understanding that The ASUP, Inc., has the right to use them in the future.

A note on radio communications: You have no doubt noted that we use several kinds of radio devices in the field, including short range transceivers and ham radio, which requires a special FCC license to operate. The little MURS radios we use at a scene are for general, short range communications and anyone can use them. For your information, we normally operate these units on channel 2 without a sub-tone at a scene. Be careful what you say, the whole world knows how to listen to these units. We also use a variety of Amateur Radio gear in the field, including VHF transceivers. We utilize 146.52 for local communications once at the site and a variety of "repeater" frequencies, depending on the location we are traveling to. Locally, we are operating on several repeaters, including ones in Allen, The Colony and Denton, which gives us good coverage over most of the home area. We also use other frequencies to keep in touch with teams further away in the field.

Ham radio licenses are relatively easy to get, a simple written exam is all it takes and the ASUP, Inc., Inc. works with several clubs to place our members in weekend classes to prep for those exams, if they wish. Not everyone has to be, or wants to become a ham, but it is something we hope everyone will consider. Ham radio does not rely on commercial carriers or cellular services, which sometime fail or become overloaded or are not available all over the map. Ham repeaters are operational all the time, are used for emergency communications when all else



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fails nationally and virtually eliminates the “Blair Witch effect.”

Likewise, the uses of GPS units in the field are growing in numbers. Most of our members have at least an inexpensive GPS handheld available to them and like the compact hand-held weather stations you will see us use, are gaining in popularity. Why? Because they allow us to pinpoint our locations and that of anomalous activities, and be able to answer the questions we know that skeptics will always raise about atmospheric conditions, direction and speed of the wind, humidity, etc. Between the two, we can finally give definitive proof that what we are reporting existed outside the “natural” environment. Like ham radio, you don’t have to own a GPS, a portable weather station or any other high tech, and high priced gear, someone will always be able to give you readings for your reports, but you should be aware of their use and basic operation. To that end we will schedule routine training sessions, dedicated to the equipment we use.

Commonly Used Equipment:

We use a variety of equipment on all investigations. You are NOT required to buy any of the equipment, but will need a notebook & pen or pencil for note taking. We do not want to put any type of financial burden on anyone outside of the annual membership donation. This is an all volunteer organization, both for members and for equipment. There is usually enough equipment that you may borrow someone’s for the investigation. This is also true if you want to try something out to decide what you want to buy. Not everyone has the same brand and same model of all of the equipment. Only one or two things are identical. It is always a good idea to look around at different stores and ask others who have already purchased them how much they cost and where they purchased them as the prices can vary. And watch for sales, this equipment does go on sale.

Bound Notebook: The most important part of the “Ghost Hunters” kit is a bound notebook, with pages not easily torn out. Along with two non-erasable writing instruments (one is a spare). Everything should be written in your notebook, in ink. There have been occasions where the notebook was notarized and used as a legal document. You do not want your notebook to be missing any pages in case the attorney decides to count the pages. You do not want anything erased. If you make a mistake, draw one line through it so it can still be read. If it’s not in your notebook, how can you prove it happened?

Flashlights: A good flashlight is important, but it is important to learn to use your night vision, so you do not need a flashlight. Please make sure you do not buy an LED type light, these may last longer but are extremely bright and destroy night vision! If you can buy a flashlight that produces a green light. That works well for field work and is helpful on others night vision. And make sure you



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keep it pointed at the floor or the ground, close to your feet, not shining it all around. It may be difficult to tell if it is the flashlight or an anomaly when you look at photos or video.

Audio Recording Devices: The most common today is the digital recorder (USB or USB type C) make sure you are able to get your audio files onto your computer or laptop for editing if necessary. There are still some cassette devices used in the field. The most important issue is that the unit HAS to be able to download to a computer with audio enhancement software. If you get an EVP, you can email that to the technical team for more in depth analysis. The audio enhancement software most commonly used is Audacity, and it is free to download from the internet. Or another option is AVS4You.com and for \$50.00 you get audio, video and photo software. Another important issue is that it can be used with a lapel or remote microphone. You want to eliminate as much of the “swish-swish” of your clothes as you possibly can. More often than not, these devices will be put in a certain location of the investigation site and left recording throughout the investigation. If yours is not being used for such purposes, please keep it recording continuously while you are actively investigating. Currently, field teams also utilize the H-2 360, H4N and RT-EVP recorders whenever possible.

Cameras: Several types are common:

1. *Digital still camera* – minimum 3.5 MP – Kodak Easy Share, Olympus or HP is the most common. Keep it simple, easy to operate, not too many options. You will not have time to play with complicated settings in many cases.
2. *Digital still camera* – 35 mm type – For more detailed work when lens anomalies are not an option. If you have one, great, but be prepared to also have a good tripod and cable release of some sort to cut down on camera movement in long exposure shots.
3. *35 mm Film Camera* – The old standby when you want a film record of what you shot. Just remember, you’ll have to wait to get the film developed locally (as in a one hour processing) and ask them to NOT cut the negatives apart. Many times we need to review the photos taken before and after the picture in question. If they are not cut apart, there is less likelihood that skeptics will be able to say they are from different times.
4. *Mini Video Camera* – There are usually three of these on a case, and each one needs a tripod. The choices are a video camera with Hard Drive (HD) memory, 30GB is common, and a video camera that records to tape or to DVD. The more memory and recording time you can get the better. Typically, these units are left running in a set place for several hours.



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5. Night vision or low light adaptable is a must, but almost all, if not all, come with that now, even the inexpensive ones. Another must is that it can be downloaded to the computer, for the same reason the audio recorders need to be, so when you do have something, it can be copied and given to the technical team for further analysis.
6. *Thermal Imaging Camera (FLEUR)*: This is NOT a common piece of equipment, but everyone's dream. VERY few actually have one!
7. *Full Spectrum IR Digital Camera* is also used on most cases.

As mentioned before, make sure all the "noises" are turned off on your camera. Most cameras have a function where you can set it to take 2 or more pictures with one press of the shutter; this is good for taking the double pictures we mentioned before.

Heat Sensors and Thermometers: The most common one is the hand held "pistol grip" IR non-contact thermometer. Most of them also have a laser light, that can be turned on and off, so you can see exactly where you are pointing it. However, that function is almost never needed for our purposes. Always make sure the laser light is **TURNED OFF!** It can injure someone if you shine it in their eyes accidentally, and on pictures and videos, it may be hard to tell if it is the laser light or an anomaly. Others types include dual models, modular thermo-coupled devices, and others. In all cases, know how to use them before you get into the field. It is always a good idea to obtain an ambient temperature reading of the location or area you are actively investigating. This is to be able to detect cold spots.

EMF Field Tester: The theory is that electromagnetic field radiation is peaked in the presence of some anomalous environments, due to their either emitting or attracting electrical energy. There are several different types, the most common being the Sperry EMF-200 meter, which is a relatively high accuracy, narrow banded unit. There are also some very good generic models available. A personal unit, like the Sperry is useful, but others are available to the teams as needed.

The K-II Meter: Also, an EMF meter, we have found the K-II works exceptionally well in situations with psychic-mediums in a haunted environment. The "Sensitive" holds the meter while investigators ask questions (yes or no) of the reported entities. It works very well, although we are pressed to give a full explanation of why it works better for some than others. In most investigations, a script will be used along with the K-II meters.

Tri-Field Meters: Similar to the basic EMF detector, the tri-field adds radio/magnetic and electrical monitoring to the package. Double the price, but has some advantages.



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Mel-Meters: Similar to the basic EMF detector, the Mel-meter adds ambient temperature monitoring to the package. This is a great way for documenting EMF changes and temperature changes at the same time. There are also other versions of the Mel-meter available with additional options on them besides the EMF/temperature readings.

REM POD – Shadow Detector: Like the basic EMF detector, the REM POD creates its own EMF field. When that field is broken, and audible alarm sounds with light notification. More lights indicate a stronger break in the EMF field. Also this unit utilizes an infrared beam to help pick up unseen shadow movement through a light sensor.

EDI+ Meter: Measures EMF, Vibration, Temperature, Data logging & EDI graphing, Humidity & Pressure all at the same time.

Geophone Detector: This device detects vibrations and movement. And also measures for positive / negative IONs in the atmosphere.

Measuring equipment: You will learn a lot about triangle placement and location techniques, most often used in crime scene investigations, for which you will need a good, relatively long tape measure, as well as several smaller rulers used when photographing objects to show its relative size. An “L” square is useful in such settings.

Compass: It is always good to have a compass, which you can purchase at very little cost. It will also work like an EMF meter. If there is anything magnetic, the compass will react to it.

Spare Batteries: Historically, batteries die in electronic devices of every kind when on an investigation. That is an anomaly all to itself and currently being investigated by our tech support team. Be sure you are carrying spare batteries with you in the size you need for every device you have. Even new batteries tend to die long before their time.

Lab, evidence, specimen storage: Everyone should be carrying several zip-lock storage bags and, if possible, a couple of sealable test tubes to hold evidence secured at the scene, as well as a waterproof Sharpie marker to note contents, location found, date, time, etc.

Portable weather station - handheld weather instrumentation: Really nifty for investigations where you are looking at possible environmental causes of a phenomenon. Some of the handheld weather stations will give you only one or two different readings, such as temperature and humidity, for around \$50.00. You can also get them with all the different readings: temperature, humidity, magnetic



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north, true north, wind speed, wind direction, wind chill, heat index, dew point, barometric pressure, and just about every possible weather condition you can possibly want to record for an investigation. You can also change how often it records the readings, from every minute or two up to every couple hours. They will continue to record when it's turned off. And some of them can be downloaded to the computer. If you do have an anomaly, you can check the weather conditions at the time of the anomaly to see if, for example, you have something moving toward you but the wind is blowing the opposite direction at 20 mph, you may have found something paranormal! The cost for the higher-end hand-held weather station can be several hundred dollars, but the price has been coming down to be more affordable. It is definitely worth having, especially when you consider their download capability to a computer.

Global Positioning Systems (GPS): You will use this for a lot of things: every case has a GPS coordinate recorded, along with height above sea level, and distance to other points of reference, too far to measure with a tape, so one person on a team has to have a GPS. Most important, the GPS helps you get to where you want to go (many times we travel to remote locations) and of course it eliminates the possibility of "Blair Witch Syndrome."

Night scopes: The more you see, the better off you will be. Some members have night vision scopes. They are pricey, but if you can afford them, they are great!

Radios: Everyone is encouraged to have a cell phone. We also suggest a MURS personal two-way radio set to channel for intercommunications between members. The teams have several extras, but like everything else, it is usually desirable to have your own, if possible. Finally, several investigators now have or are in the process of getting an FCC Amateur Radio License (HAM) so that we can use the extensive HAM repeater system. This system is tied to both Homeland Security and Civil Defense and never goes down. When you are in the field and the cell system quits, this method of communications is still up and running, and will give you an average of 100 miles talk around links. During all investigations, when you are out in the field, always have your radio on!

Computers: Many investigators have laptops that they take on some investigations. Obviously, the home computer is a must along with the software to deal with downloaded photos, audio files, and all the other downloadable equipment. For audio we suggest AUDACITY which can be downloaded free of charge from the Internet. Or AVS4You for \$50.00 which has Audio, Video and Photo software. For those who have digital cameras ensure you can get your photos downloaded to your laptop or computer via USB or USB-C. All members must have an ASUP, Inc. e-mail address via google, which will be issued to you, and we strongly suggest having



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a Facebook, Messenger account, which can be set up free of charge. E-mail and IMs are constantly in use between team members and Directors, as well as between the Directors themselves, so you don't want to miss out on those memos and discussions. If you have a microphone for your computer, it is also a good idea to set that up. We also utilize Google Suites for non-profits organizations.

Basic Uniform: The ASUP, Inc. **NEVER** requires **ANY** members to purchase ASUP, Inc. shirts, hats or anything else. The ASUP, Inc. does not make a penny off of ANY direct sales although we are working on becoming members of Amazon.com, Good Search and Mission Fish Affiliate programs. As such we get a small percentage off of any sale by anyone who purchases anything by going through the link on our website. You are free to purchase anything from anywhere, however. Along with being a charity that one can choose on Facebook as well to raise funds for. Common sense suggests that it is important to present ourselves in a neat, uniform manner. Members are expected to wear a simple black shirt or an ASUP, Inc. black T-Shirt, with blue jeans (no shorts except on occasion) or similar dark pants that you do not mind getting dirty, and sometimes very muddy, depending on the location of the investigation. Never sandals, flip-flops or lightweight shoes on any investigation. No reflective material on clothing, and preferably not on shoes, if at all possible. Work style boots are preferred. This is for your protection as well as the uniform look. We tend to get into some rather "rough" places, woods, overgrown fields, house attics and musty, dirty places. So the overall word on this is wear something "durable" that will give you some level of protection and you won't mind if it gets dirty or muddy. The rules on color and reflective surfaces exist because it may be difficult to tell when reviewing pictures whether it's a reflection from clothing or something else. If you do want an ASUP, Inc. shirt, ask one of the Manager or Director how you can obtain one or how to create your own by buying your own preferred shirt and using our embroiderer.

Safety Gear: On every investigation we have people trained in "Basic First Aid" on site and there is always someone on hand with an emergency "jump bag" but it is still a good idea to have a small first aid kit with you, along with some Unscented "Off" or "Cutters" or some other kind of bug spray, maybe even some bite medication in case you do get bitten. Another word about bug spray: be sure to use it AWAY from the investigation area. If you are investigating a house, go down the sidewalk a bit to spray it, so the fumes don't linger or drift into the investigation area.

Carrying cases: Some sort of case, bag, or vest to store and carry your equipment to and from an investigation is recommended. We use a lot of little pieces of equipment, but only have two hands! We have tactical type vests available for purchase to carry all your equipment and keep it within easy reach while out on investigations. *This is a just a partial list and if you talk to the more*



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experienced investigators you will learn about a whole range of other nifty tools that could be helpful in the field. But a word of warning, you can spend a fortune! And remember gasoline is probably going to be your biggest single expense. For more information on various kinds of gear we use, you can e-mail your Tech Leads!

Things to Record in Your Notebook/Audio recording to Include in Your Report

Everything should be recorded in your notebook/audio recorder. If you make a mistake, cross it out with one line and correct it, so the mistake can still be seen. The field investigators' books have been used as legal documents after being notarized in some instances.

After each investigation you will turn in a completed report as soon as you can. The next day is best if at all possible. Reports are due within 7 days of the investigation. Everything will be fresh in your mind and you will be less likely to leave anything out. Sometimes reviewing your pictures will remind you of something you want to include in your report or listening to your walk throughs on your digital recorder.

Report forms are downloadable from our ASUP, Inc. Google Team Drive and are interactive, so you can fill them out online, if you wish. Once completed you will upload or place your report in the ASUP, Inc. Google Team Drive (ASUP Cases, Case Number, Field Reports). You will put your evidence in the same folder just in the evidence folder (picture, video or audio). These forms contain the core information we will need and include dates, times, locations (including GPS coordinates if available), time you arrived, time you started your part of the investigation, time you departed. Who was your team partner (or partners in some instances)? Usually you will have one team member besides yourself, sometimes two. Who was the recorder and who took pictures and used the equipment? Who else was present? Weather conditions (rain, sunny, cold, hot and humid for example).

General environment (residential, on a cul-de-sac, lots of trees, and no trees for example) and equipment you have with you. These are all questions you will need to answer on the report you complete after the investigation. Other information you will want to write down for your report you personally may not have the equipment for, but someone will in most cases.



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Just ask who has this information, the Gatekeeper has the official record at the scene:

- GPS Coordinates
- Elevation
- Temperature
- Humidity
- Barometric pressure and whether rising, falling or steady
- Dew Point
- Lead Investigators instructions to you

The Narrative on the Report

After you have completed everything about the area and what your instructions are, you will write a narrative of your investigation with your team member(s) at this site and only on this particular occasion. Do not elaborate on background and historic information. Do not include any third party observations, unless they were not members of the team and refused to complete a report. (A blank report form should be offered to any non-member at the scene who wishes to report anomalous incidents.) Do not include information about your evidence findings in your actual field report but do include it in the evidence section only.

Write down anything you observe whether you think it is important or not. Write down any feelings you have, impressions you get, things you see, or if you have none of these. Your narrative section should be written in a bullet point format for each room you investigated. (example);

- Stairwell/Entry Area
 - Baseline Temperature ranging from
 - Lowest: 79.7 (base of stairs)
 - Highest: 81.5 (top of stairs).
 - Baseline EMF readings from 0.0 – 3.8 (walls and also on steps)
 - 3.8 reading was observed on the left wall by the outlets
 - 0.0 reading all other areas
 - Conducted EVP/KII session
 - While conducting EVP session heard a “noise” comes from the base landing area of the stairwell. Upon investigating the location nothing was noticed to be outside of the ordinary. Or Upon investigating the location we noticed a picture had fallen off the wall. The nail/tack was still securely in the wall and no indication of being loose.



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- “Are you a man?”
 - KII Red response, 3 flashes
 - Mel-meter EMF reading 0.00 to .75
- “Do you need our help?”
 - KII Yellow response, 1 flash
 - Heard a female response on the RT-EVP at 8:32pm
- “Did you open the closet door?”
 - KII Red response, 2 flashes
 - Mel-meter temp change from 80.5 to 79.1
 - Mel-meter EMF reading of 0.00 to 1.7
- Bill reported feeling like something went through him and also reported getting chilled (2/3 of the way to the top). I was at the bottom of the stairs and shortly after his report felt chilled also. (Coming back down from upstairs)
 - Mel-meter temp change from 79.5 to 81.5
- Bill and I both heard a male voice say “Hello” at 8:48pm. No other person was in the investigation area besides us and no voices/noises could be heard from the investigators outside.

At the end of the narrative you may add notes to the Lead Investigator on items such as special needs for the future, equipment lost or destroyed, any problems you encountered personally and any other observations you might feel would be helpful to the overall investigation of this site, or group operations in the future. Just because you are new to the group, does not mean your input is not important. We are always interested in anyone’s thoughts and ideas.

After you’ve completed your report you will load it directly into the appropriate case folder on the ASUP, Inc. Google Team Drive > ASUP Cases > Case Number > Field Report and or Evidence, along with any evidence you’re submitting. If unable to load it on to the ASUP, Inc. Google Team Drive you can email the completed document or scanned document to asup@asupinc.org. Send any and all items that have something you think even might be a possibility of it being something. ***It is not your job to decide what is and what is not important.*** Your job is to investigate and report. After a while you will learn more about what you see on your photos. Send whatever you have. Same is true for audio recordings. As with everything else, if you run into problems reach out to any Manager. If the question is technical, involves software or hardware, contact the tech team for help.



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Be patient! Eventually, you will know more about the investigation that you were a part of. As soon as all the paperwork, photos, videos, EVP's, and anything else that anyone has have been documented properly, you will begin to be privy to more details of the investigation! The field investigation process can sometimes seem to be illusive, often being tied to a set of technical apparatus and instrumentation, or what we call "gadgets" without giving much consideration to exactly what we are attempting to do. We often call our technical support personnel "the think tank."

The field investigator is being challenged to mix modern observation techniques with primordial triggering responses in an effort to detect the presence of an otherwise undetectable presence, in an effort to support the belief in the survival of the human personality after death.

Mankind has forgotten a good deal of the skills he once had gained naturally in earlier periods of his evolution; for instance modern man still reacts to an approaching thunderstorm in an alarmed fashion, but often does not recognize these biological triggers as a warning mechanism. The rising of the short hairs on the arms is a natural warning; in cases of tornados the victims

often tell rescuers that there was a strong feeling of impending doom just prior to the calamity, even when the weather seemed unnaturally calm just prior to the disaster and they could not see the approaching storm due to darkness. This meteorologist now attribute to radical shifts in the barometer preceding the storm. The fact that other animals "read" warning signs that humans fail to recognize, is now accepted science. Wild animals will flee a place that is about to be changed by a disaster, like an earthquake or tidal wave, when man feels nothing.

Similarly, that dread or doom scenario is often found in places we call "haunted", so we note changes in the atmosphere using a variety of tools. Unfortunately, that is often not enough; we have to learn to tie in what we "feel" with what we observe in the field. Therefore, when a team enters a house, for example, we are expecting them to tie into all of their senses, as well as record mechanical instrumentation readings, which are there to confirm, but not eliminate the need for human interaction.

Some might suggest that we are diverting our efforts from our stated methods, the use of accepted police procedures, but that is simply not true; a good "detective" makes use of all of his senses in an investigation, including what he might call "intuition" in many cases. He reads both people and places, often acknowledging a "sixth sense" in his work. Likewise, we have to tap into those same senses.



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Let's use a scenario to illustrate our point. Upon entering a house in an investigation for instance, the gatekeeper notes the time of entry, as well as the persons entering. Why? Because in some kinds of cases, there is a "lost time" factor, the person feels that they are in a place, witnessing a series of events, that to them took a few short minutes, when it too much longer. We go from room to room, looking all around, furniture, carpeting, wall colors, as well as the physical size of the space as they see it. These observations might later become a factor when compared to the "actual" physical space as measured earlier by the technical team. We listen for sounds and attempt to record things that we do not necessarily "hear" with the human ear. We record smells, lighting conditions, we make physical contact with the walls and furniture, using all our natural senses to size up the site. We also leave ourselves open to other senses, which we have already acknowledged as being normal but often underutilized in every human being, as notes in our weather scenario. These observations, as well as the technical data collected can help to give us a fuller understanding of the environment. You don't have to be recognized as a "psychic" or "sensitive" to accomplish this; those who are recognized as such have simply developed their ability to utilize their natural feelings more than others, who have over the years worked hard to suppress them.

The fact is that anthropologists will admit that mankind has selectively eliminated many of the senses used by our earlier ancestors for survival and others suggest that many religious practices are now performed in a rote fashion, having lost their natural component; what some might call magic.

Similarly, the team at a "haunting" may attempt communication with the energypresent. This is of course where our work becomes more controversial in

that we are making the leap between recognizing "energy" at a site and accepting the possibility that such energy has a human side. Nevertheless, we do routinely photography such energy in our environment and record electronic voice phenomenon in these investigations, which bolsters the belief that we are dealing with human personalities, who might otherwise be unable to communicate with.

Working from room to room taking your time on avg 5 minutes per room, don't rush, walking the grounds of a locale. If you have time you can go back to a certain room or rooms. Doing this will often give us a much fuller picture of what the environment holds and admittedly, the more you do this as you go from case to case, the better you become at picking up on the more subtle changes. Sometimes an experienced investigator will admit to that often referred to, "Feeling of doom" or "Being watched," and will automatically look for a strong source of man-manipulated power to explain it – an electronic device that might be malfunctioning, for example. Other times the "feeling" persists and there is no explanation for it.



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ASUP, Inc. FIELD GUIDELINES

We write down all of these factors for inclusion in our field reports and once all of them can be compared with others collected, the researchers can note sometimes subtle connections. Many civilians think we are going into a house to see a ghost... that would be nice, but impractical; in most cases we hope only to locate the residue of their presence. Ours is a much more elusive target and while we acknowledge that we sometimes come in contact with full body apparitions, very audible voices and other phenomenon, the greater majority of our evidence is in the form of cold spots, momentary lights, and odd feelings, collected along with technical data that confirms their presence.

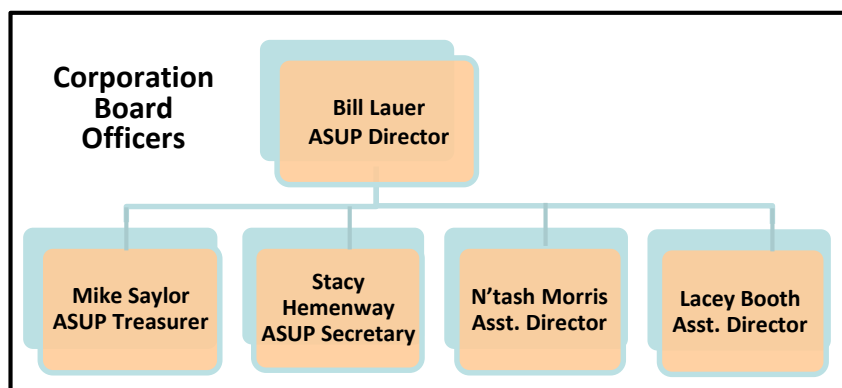
Finally, The ASUP, Inc. now utilizes the *Fourth Hypothesis* paranormal mapping system developed by Dr. Tim Barth at TCU. This is a great tool available to all members and you will be briefed in it use by your mentor during the training phase of your membership.

We have also introduced our own EVP rating system alongside the standard (A, B, C) a lot of paramornal groups use. You will more about as you continue though this guide.

We hope that this information will be of some help to the new member, as well as the old. It is our intention to add material to these pages as new equipment or procedures are introduced, so please refer back to the copy on our website for the latest information.

Bill Lauer
ASUP, Inc. - Director
blauer@asupinc.org

ASUP, Inc. Organization Chart 2019

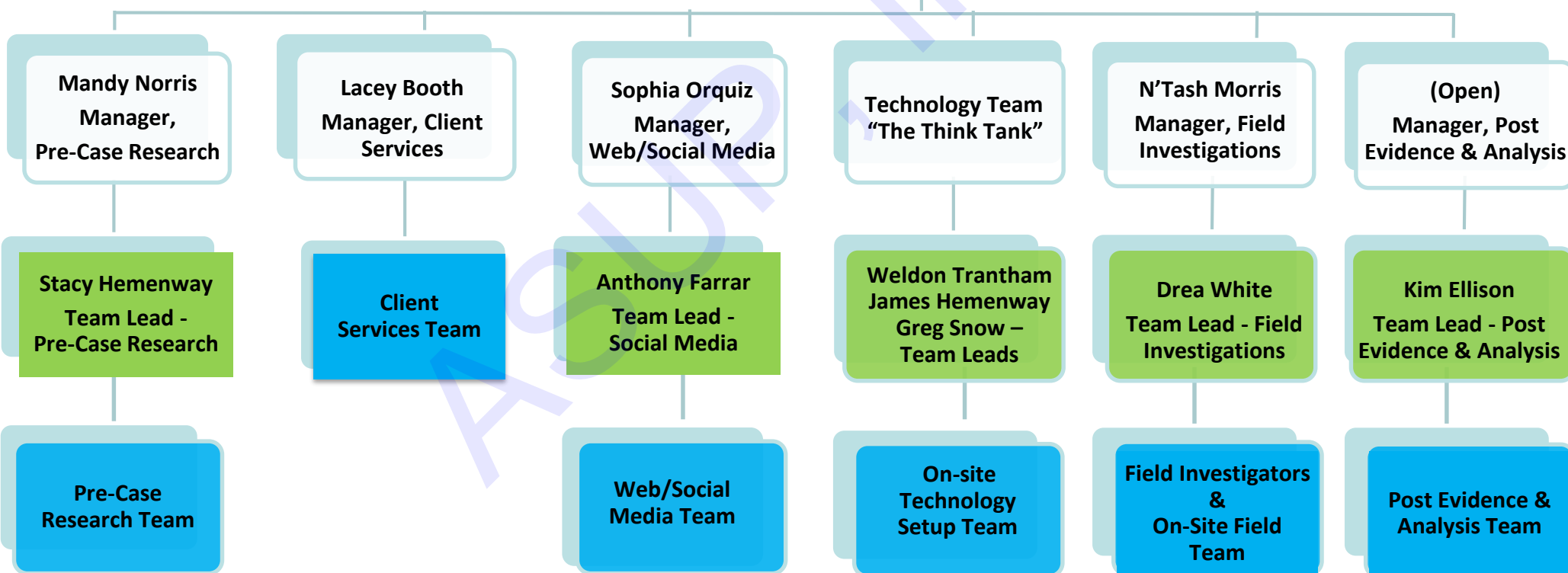
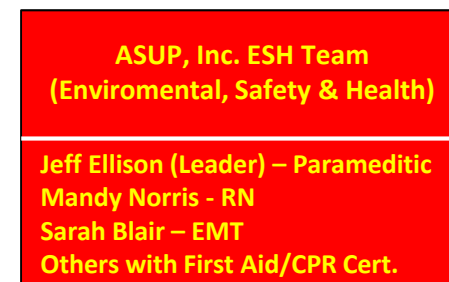
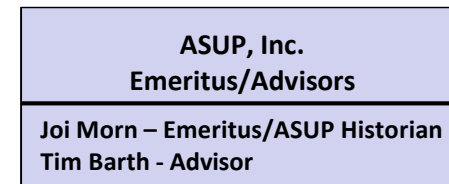


Yellow – Operation Director

White – Department Managers

Green – Department Leads

Blue – Member Staffed Unit



Articles of Incorporation

Bylaws

ASUP, Inc.

(Association for the Study of Unexplained Phenomenon)
“DFW Paranormal Research Group”

A 501 (c) (3) IRS Tax Exempt Corporation with non-profit status in The
State of Texas as originally filed with the Secretary of State,

March 2007

(filed February 2019)

This is a copy of the original document, with declarations and amendments. A folder contains the original Articles of Incorporation as well as a copy of the original receipt and Certificate of Filing and all subsequent articles and amendments and minutes of the Corporation is currently in the possession of the Incorporator.

Articles of Incorporation

ASUP, INC.

(Association for the Study of Unexplained Phenomenon)

"DFW Paranormal Research Group"

The undersigned registered agent, a natural person 18 years of age or older, under Article 3.02, Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act, providing for the formation, liability, rights, privileges and immunities of a not for profit corporation, adopts the following articles of incorporation.

ARTICLE I

William Lee Lauer

The name of this corporation shall be ASUP, Inc. (Association for the Study of Unexplained Phenomenon) DFW Paranormal Research Group DFW Paranormal Research Group, herein known as ASUP, Inc. located at 2934 Furneaux lane, Carrollton, TX 75007

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

This Corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, scientific and educational purposes, more specifically to conduct scientific research in the field of the paranormal and all unexplained phenomenon. The corporation will further work to set guidelines for the study of such phenomenon, making training available to all interested organizations, publishing data and case studies as it becomes available and to aid in the distribution of funds to other research groups, as such funds become available to us for that purpose. Our mission is to research and study all phenomenon in the pursuit of possible proof of individual survival of human personality after death and to help support the efforts of similar organizations to that end and to educate the public as to those findings. To this end, the corporation shall at all times be operated exclusively for charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as now enacted or hereafter amended, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as now enacted or hereafter amended. All funds, whether income or principal, and whether acquired by gift or contribution or otherwise, shall be devoted to said purposes.

ARTICLE III

EXEMPTION REQUIREMENTS

At all times shall the following operate as conditions restricting the Director and activities of the corporation:

1. No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or others private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purpose set forth in the purpose clause hereof.
2. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall constitute the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, or any initiative or referendum before the public, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including by publication or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office.
3. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

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ARTICLE IV CORPORATION DURATION

The duration of the corporation existence shall be perpetual and remain in the William Lauer family. Unless designated to another party by William Lauer through a notarized document. Though the corporation will remain in the William Lauer family, this does not extend any special privilege or designated rights to override or dismiss the Director or designated Corporation Management designees. This section just ensures the corporation remains in the William Lauer family or to a designated party. In the event the Director does voluntarily resign, The Corporation Officers with a 100% vote in conjunction and consultation of the Lauer family will name a new Director.

ARTICLE V MEMBERSHIP/CORPORATION MANAGEMENT

The corporation shall have a non-voting general membership. The management of the business affairs of the corporation shall be vested in the Director, Assistant Director, Secretary and Treasurer. The appointment to these positions is permanent (life-time) until the said designee voluntarily resigns from the designated position through a notarized letter to the corporation. Membership criteria do not apply to these 5 positions. Open positions will be filled with a 100% percent vote of the existing Corporation Officers in conjunction and consultation of the Lauer family. These designated positions have full voting rights on corporation business related matters and full voice and vote at all other corporation meetings.

There will also be a group of Operation Managers, overseen by the Director. The Director has sole power to appoint designees to fill open positions or add additional Operations Manager support positions. These Operations Managers will oversee key areas of the daily Operations and act in an advisory capacity to the Director. No Manager shall have any right, entitlement, or interest in or to any property of the corporation.

Corporations Officers:

William Lauer, ASUP Director, 2934 Furneaux Lane, Carrollton, TX 75007

N'tash Preston-Morris, ASUP Assistant Director, 2934 Furneaux Lane, Carrollton, TX 75007

Lacey Booth, ASUP Assistant Director, 2934 Furneaux Lane, Carrollton, TX 75007

Michael Saylor, ASUP Treasurer, 2934 Furneaux Lane, Carrollton, TX 75007

Stacy Hemenway, ASUP Secretary, 2934 Furneaux Lane, Carrollton, TX 75007

Operations Managers:

N'tash Preston-Morris, Field Investigations

Lacey Booth, Manager of Client Services

Recruiting, Manager of Information & Technology Services

Mandy Norris, Manager of Research

Recruiting, Manager of Social Media & Webmaster

Joi Moran, ASUP Historian (non-manager position)

Members of the Operations Managers shall serve until they resign or are removed as provided in the bylaws, by the Director.



The open membership will be comprised of three sections, advisory member, full member and associate member and annually members will contribute a \$30.00 tax deductible donation. The donation periods are (completing an application for membership) and for ASUP members January 1st – January 31st of each year.

Advisory members are welcome to sit with the board when operations or theoretical issues are being discussed. They do not have to be full members and they have a full voice, but no vote on matters governing ASUP INC.

Full members (known as: Investigator) enjoy full membership, who have completed field training and deemed prepared to participate in field investigations. They will have a full voice and vote at general membership meetings. All Operations Managers must be full members of the corporation in good standing.

Associate Members (known as: Junior Associate Investigator or Associate Investigator) are either prospective members or members who have not completed field training. They will be welcome at all meetings and work in cooperation with ASUP, Inc. leaders and full members as approved by the Board. They have a voice at meetings however no vote at general membership meetings.

ARTICLE VI PERSONAL LIABILITY

No member, officer, director or manager of this corporation shall be personally liable for the debts or obligations of this corporation of any nature whatsoever, nor shall any of the property of the (members) officer, directors or managers be subject to the payment of the debts or obligations of this corporation. All members will sign an annual liability release statement form.

ARTICLE VII DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of the organization which requires a 100% vote of the 5 Corporation Officers as outlined in Article V, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of by the District Court of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

ARTICLE VIII MEMBERSHIP FEES

Membership is open, and annually members will contribute a \$30.00 tax deductible donation. The donation periods are (completing an application for membership) and for ASUP members January 1st – January 31st of each year. These donations fees help to cover ASUP operating costs, equipment given to new members, ID badges and such. Any equipment or ID badges lost by a member, they will need to purchase replacement equipment at their own cost.

ARTICLE IX MEETINGS

The corporation will hold 1 general membership meetings quarterly, or as the business deems, as provided in the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws. ASUP, Inc. are required to attend at minimum 2 of these meetings.

Operations Management Meetings will be held six times a year at a minimum, or as the business deems, which could include teleconference.

ARTICLE X OFFICERS

The corporate business affairs of the organization shall be managed by the 5 designated Corporation Officers as outlined in Article V.

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ARTICLE XI
APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR MANAGERS TO SPECIFIC DUTIES

Upon date of incorporation of ASUP Inc. (Association for the Study of Unexplained Phenomenon) DFW Paranormal Research Group, the Operations Managers shall be appointed to specific areas of responsibilities by the Director, including but not limited to as outlined in Article V. Thereafter, the managers shall be appointments as necessary, as deemed by the Director.

ARTICLE XII
DUTIES

As provided in the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws.

ARTICLE XIII
COMMITTEES

As provided in the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws.

ARTICLE XIV
AMENDMENTS

The By-Laws of the corporation may be altered, amended or rescinded at any annual meeting of the corporation by a two-thirds vote of those members present. Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation may be proposed by any member present at the annual meeting and shall be accomplished in the same manner as By-Law amendments.

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ARTICLE VIII
Registered Agent

The Registered Agent of this corporation is:

William Lee Lauer

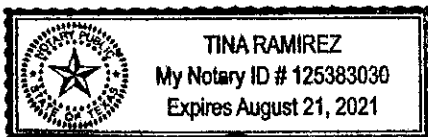
The undersigned registered agent certifies that she executes these articles, original copies attached, for the purposes herein stated effective February 4, 2019 with the Office of the Secretary of State, the State of Texas.

William Lee Lauer

William Lauer, ASUP Director

The undersigned Corporation Officers of this corporation hereby sign in witness to this declaration, and to the subsequent amendment as stated above, subject to the penalty imposed by article 9.03A, Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act, for the submission of fraudulent documents.

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| DocuSigned by: <i>William L. Lauer</i> DE724570B62645B... | 2/4/2019 |
| William Lauer, Director | Date and Signature |
| DocuSigned by: <i>N'tash Morris</i> 8015EDAB03814A5... | 2/5/2019 |
| N'tash Preston-Morris, Assistant Director | Date and Signature |
| DocuSigned by: <i>[Signature]</i> 142219E0D39142F... | 2/5/2019 |
| Lacey Booth, Assistant Director | Date and Signature |
| DocuSigned by: <i>msaylor@unicon.net</i> D7A204873017498... | 2/5/2019 |
| Michael Saylor, Treasurer | Date and Signature |
| DocuSigned by: <i>[Signature]</i> D3AA1B396E8B4ED... | 2/5/2019 |
| Stacy Hemenway, Secretary | Date and Signature |



Tina Ramirez
2/05/2019

ASUP, Inc. By-Laws

Article I

Name and Jurisdiction

Section 1. This organization shall be known as ASUP, Inc and has been in existence under that name since 1973, first formed in the State and City of New York, USA.

Section 2. The jurisdiction of this organization is worldwide with a special emphasis on the United States and Texas.

Section 3. The principal office of this organization shall be in the County of Denton, State of Texas. The organization may have such other branches either within or without the State of Texas as the Corporation Officers may require.

Article II

Objects

Section 1. The objects of this organization shall be:

- A. To scientifically and without prejudice explore the realm of the supernatural, more commonly referred to as paranormal investigations with a special emphasis on the topics of ghosts, hauntings, poltergeists, UFOs, cryptids and any other unexplained phenomenon as sanctioned by the Board with specific studies as they might relate to the survival of the human personality after death.
- B. To attempt to prove the existence of such phenomenon through on-site investigations at alleged locations with the aid of special equipment.
- C. To record such findings in the organization's official paranormal reports and Internet websites.
- D. To examine all forms of evidence for the existence of such unexplained phenomenon including; videos, photographs, audio and any physical proof gathered through existing or emerging technology.
- E. To receive, manage, invest, expend or otherwise use the funds and property of this organization to carry out the duties and to achieve the objectives set forth in these By-Laws and for such additional purposes and objects not inconsistent therewith as will further the interests of this organization and its members, directly or indirectly.
- F. To offer training and assistance to all likeminded organizations and the public in the field of the investigation of unexplained phenomenon.
- G. When possible, through grant funding and other financial donations, to aid other research groups in the study of unexplained phenomenon financially as deemed appropriate by the board.
- H. To work with other similar organizations to set practical standards of conduct for the field and to aid the general public as becomes necessary to locate and refer consumers to legitimate research organizations.

Article III

Eligibility for Membership

Section 2. Subject only to the specific conditions stated hereinafter, any person of good moral character who has an interest in the paranormal shall be eligible for membership at the discretion of the Corporation Officers or those designated to oversee member applications:

- A. All Full Members must be at least eighteen (18) years of age and have a valid ID or driver's license prior to joining. The Corporation Officers may, as they see fit, allow active membership to be given to those younger than eighteen, on a case by case basis, with a 100% vote.
 - 1. If under 18, a member may be known as a Jr. Investigator with written permission from a parent or guardian. Completion of ASUP, Inc. Parent/Guardian release form is required. Also, a meet & greet with the corporation officers is required.
- B. All members must fill out an Application, complete a written exam, undergo and pass a criminal background check annually, complete a liability release form annually and submit to a photo session for ASUP, Inc. credentials.

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- C. All applicants must make themselves available for an interview with a Corporation Officer prior to acceptance in ASUP, Inc.
- D. Members must attend at least (2) general meetings per year and (4) investigations, projects or non-meeting events to remain active in the organization to sustain membership. Unless there is a legitimate known hardship preventing attendance and the member has notified the Corporation Officers at which time the hardship occurs. During this hardship the active member will be placed on "leave of absence".

Section 3. No person seeking membership shall be eligible if:

- A. There is reason to believe that he/she may not adhere to and abide by the By-Laws and our rules and regulations.
- B. He/she advocates race, religious, sex, orientation or any type of class hatred.
- C. He/she is known to use or consume alcohol or drugs during an ASUP INC. event, unless designated a party.
- D. ASUP has zero tolerance drug policy.
- E. His/her attendance at meetings, field investigations or other activities is deemed inappropriate by the Board during visitation and training period.

Section 4. Your Active Membership can be permanently revoked by the Corporation Officers, requires 2/3 majority vote, if:

- A. He/she has not adhered to and abided by the By-Laws and our rules and regulations.
- B. ASUP, Inc. has a ZERO Drug Tolerance Policy during sanctioned events.
- C. He/she is known to use or consume alcohol or drugs during an ASUP INC. event, unless designated a party.
- D. Attendance at ASUP, Inc.'s sponsored events fall below the minimum requirements.
- E. He/she advocates race, religious, sex, orientation or any type of class hatred.
- F. Divulging privileged or confidential information gathered at Field Investigations with anyone outside the ASUP Inc. without prior permission by a Board member.
- G. Attempting to undermine the credibility of the organization in anyway or acts contrary to accepted norms of conduct and ethics, as set by the Board.

Section 5. Other membership points:

- A. the Corporation Officers has the right to deny Active or Regular Membership to anyone who does not meet with the high standards set forth by ASUP, Inc.
- B. All membership cards, including photo ID's, are the exclusive property of ASUP Inc. and must be surrendered to the board upon request when dropped from the organization, member resigns or failure to renew said membership promptly.
- C. Active Members will be issued ID's which remain the property of ASUP, Inc. and must also be surrendered when requested.
- D. All Active Members are given a trial period of (1) one year and evaluated at the end of that time. It is then up to the Corporation Officers whether the said member will be invited to renew as a Full Member. Any matters of non-renewal are forward to the Corporation Officers for final approval, 2/3 majority vote required for non-renewal. Renewal points taken into consideration are: attendance at meetings, field investigations, ability to learn and grow with ASUP Inc., neatness of appearance, willingness to contribute to the society and other general membership practices as deemed by the Corporation Officers.
- E. the Corporation is not obligated in any way to retain any individual that does not meet with the above-mentioned criteria and others deemed necessary by the Corporation Officers.
- F. ASUP, Inc. is not obligated to accept members who already have their own paranormal research organization established at the time of their joining if the Corporation Officers deems such affiliation constitutes a conflict of interest.

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Article IV *Corporation Officers*

Section 1. Corporation Officers members of this organization shall consist of the Director, 2 Assistant Directors, Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 2. Eligibility to hold office shall be governed solely by the provisions of the By-Laws.

Section 3. The appointment to these positions is permanent (life-time) until the said designee voluntarily resigns from the designated position through a notarized letter to the corporation. Or if the board member is non-active for 12 consecutive months, their position will be "voluntary vacated" and filled by the Director. Unless they informed the Board of an illness or other life altering reason for an absence. Membership criteria do not apply to these positions.

- A. All Corporation Officers members are appointed and confirmed by the board with a 100% percent vote of the board.
- B. Corporation Officers members and appointed managers have a supervisory ranking over other Full Members and are offered some special privileges.
- C. Any Full Member may apply for any vacant position any time after their one (1) year anniversary date. You must maintain a better than average attendance to all meetings and Field Investigation for consideration. The officers at their discretion can appoint someone outside of this requirement for a Corporation Officer position.

Section 4. It shall be the responsibility of the ASUP Director:

- A. To oversee the Corporation Officers and to present corporation business for approval or denial and to report on the status of the corporation.
- B. To preside at all meetings of this organization or assign another member of the board to perform that function and to preserve order therein. Shall appoint all committees and shall also have the right to serve on all committees by virtue of office.
- C. To act in good faith on behalf of the Corporations Director in public, writings and any other activity's while representing ASUP, Inc.
- D. Minimum age requirement is 21.
- E. To supervise Assistant Directors, Secretary & Treasurer all Operations Managers.
- F. To review and approve all final reports of investigations and present such finding in accordance to the purpose, mission and values of the Corporation.
- G. To appoint Managers to the organization. The Director may appoint any member in good standing that exceeds the requirements set forth in these By-laws to a Manager's position. The appointment must be ratified by the Corporation Officers with a majority vote. The Director may discharge an appointed Manager for failure to perform assigned duties according to the By-laws. Corporation Officers approval is not needed but the Director will make the Corporation Officers aware of the discharge and reasons for said action.
- H. Make recommendations to the Corporation Officers for their approval about creating branches in other states or countries; dissolve said branches or the organization at any time which will require a 100% vote of the Corporation Officers.
- I. To authorize Field Investigation, Case Research, Projects, Special events or activities for the corporation.
- J. To act in good faith on behalf of the Corporation in public, writings and any other activity's while representing ASUP, Inc.
- K. The Director will ensure ASUP Inc. maintains both a public and professional presence through various media access points. The Director has access to all ASUP, Inc. media, social networks, websites and servers with content influence and editorial ability. The Director may designate any member in good standing with the duty of maintaining any media/social access point. That member/s will report directly to the Director.

Section 5. It shall be the responsibility of the ASUP Assistant Director:

- A. To assist the Director with business operations.
- B. To preside at meetings of this organization when the Director is not present or assigns another member to perform that function and to preserve order therein.
- C. Fulfill the role of Director in the absence of the Director for the designated time period and fulfill all duties and responsibilities of the Director position.
- D. Minimum age requirement is 21.
- E. To assist in overseeing the Operations Managers at the discretion of the Director.
- F. Make recommendations to the Director to have a Manager discharged from their position for not meeting their job responsibilities.
- G. To authorize Field Investigation, Case Research, Projects, Special events or activities for the corporation in the absence of the Director.

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H. To act in good faith on behalf of the Corporation in public, writings and any other activity's while representing ASUP, Inc.

Section 6. It shall be the responsibility of the **ASUP Secretary:**

- A. To take meeting minutes at all meetings. This would also include later typing out the same and seeing that the Board receives a copy and general membership.
- B. To assist the Director at meetings with the distribution of materials, i.e. newsletters, application forms, flyers and to assist new applicants with questions.
- C. To assist Director in setting ASUP, Inc. board/general membership meeting schedule and securing meeting location.
- D. To assist in planning 2 fun ASUP, Inc. annually and other projects the boards or managers wish to pursue. (ex: Project 2010 Ojai board study)
- E. To maintain ASUP, Inc. case investigation, client meeting, reveal calendar
- F. To maintain a record of all members, active or otherwise, in good standing with their last known address. Said record shall not be opened to inspection of any member except the Corporation Officers as and to the extent required by statute. And ensure they are digitally house on ASUP Google Team Drive in the Manager Folder
- G. To send an e-card from ASUP, Inc. on a members Birthday
- H. Responsible for ensuring that all ASUP Inc. paperwork and timely check-ins with the state of Texas are completed to allow ASUP INC. to maintain its incorporation status with the State of Texas.
- I. To act in good faith on behalf of the Corporations in public, writings and any other activity's while representing ASUP, Inc.
- J. Oversee the internal corporations email system and provides access to all Corporation Officers.
- K. Minimum age requirement is 21.

Section 7. It shall be the responsibility of the **ASUP Treasurer:**

- A. Open and maintain a Corporation Checking Account
- B. Make regular reports to the Corporation Officers & general membership on the fiscal status of the Corporation.
- C. Handle all communications with the IRS and other fiscal government organizations as required by law.
- D. Complete the annual ASUP, Inc. 990-EZ tax filing and ensure tax filing is digitally house in ASUP Google Team Drive in the Manager Folder
- E. Oversee all access points of revenue for the Corporation.
- F. Be responsible for all fiscal dealing of the Corporation.
- G. To act in good faith on behalf of the Corporations Director in public, writings and any other activity's while representing ASUP, Inc.
- H. Gain Corporation Officer approval, 100% vote for expenditures exceeding \$100.00.
- I. Minimum age requirement is 21.

Article V
Operation Managers

Section 8. It shall be the responsibility of the **Manager of Field Investigations:**

- A. To report directly to the Directors.
- B. To accept the preliminary report of the Research Director from the Directors and review it.
- C. To set up and schedule all field investigations to follow up on the Research Manager's findings.
- D. To undertake whatever steps deemed necessary to bring a field investigation to a meaningful end.
- E. To supervise all personnel assigned during the field investigation.
- F. Ensure all investigators complete a comprehensive field report that is stored digitally on our Google Team Drive
- G. Create a field investigation case summary to be forwarded to the Directors and stored on Google Team Drive
- H. To have seniority over all other full members.
- I. To act in good faith on behalf of the Corporations Director in public, writings and any other activity's while representing ASUP, Inc.
- J. Minimum age requirement is 21.
- K. Manager of Field Investigations can choose their own Assistant (in good standing & Full Investigator status), sharing the knowledge with another manager's is encouraged but not required.

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Section 9. It shall be the responsibility of the **Manager of Technical & Information Services:**

- A. To report directly to the Directors.
- B. To oversee all technical operations and procure & maintain all field equipment.
- C. To advise the Corporation Officers / Director on all matters regarding equipment needs and research.
- D. To handle any and all research of a technical nature and develop equipment and systems as deemed necessary by the Operation Director and to act as the advisor to the Director in all technical matters and as needed by the officers of the Corporation.
- E. Is responsible in getting the evidence from members after cases and ensure they have loaded to the Google Drive case for review.
- F. Review all evidence submitted from field investigations and complete the evidence evaluation form.
- G. Maintain the storage of field investigation evidence.
- H. Create a field investigation evidence summary to be forwarded to the Director/ Directors Coordinator.
- I. Ensure all valid evidence is digitally stored chronically on the Google team drive by case.
- J. To have seniority over all other full members.
- K. To act in good faith on behalf of the Corporations Director in public, writings and any other activity's while representing ASUP,
- L. Minimum age requirement is 21.
- M. Manager of Technical & Information Services can choose their own Assistant (in good standing & Full Investigator status), sharing the knowledge with other managers is encouraged but not required.

Section 10. It shall be the responsibility of the **Manager of Client Services:**

- A. To report directly to the Directors.
- B. To conduct client interviews for new cases as directed by the Directors and report such findings to him/her without prejudice. And ensure notes are stored on our Google Team Drive
- C. Conduct on-site client interview with Manager, of Field Investigations and ensure those notes are stored on our Google Team Drive
- D. To maintain research materials, online search services, etc. to fulfill the duties of this post.
- E. To have seniority over all other full active members.
- F. To act in good faith on behalf of the Corporations Director in public, writings and any other activity's while representing ASUP, Inc.
- G. Minimum age requirement is 21.

Section 11. It shall be the responsibility of the **Manager of Research:**

- A. To report directly to the Directors.
- B. To research and investigate new cases as directed by the Directors or Client Services and report such findings to him/her without prejudice.
- C. Create on-site KII questionnaire for investigations
- D. To maintain research materials, online search services, etc. to fulfill the duties of this post.
- E. To have seniority over all other full active members.
- F. To act in good faith on behalf of the Corporations Director in public, writings and any other activity's while representing ASUP, Inc.
- G. Minimum age requirement is 21.
- H. Manager of Research can choose their own Assistant (in good standing & Full Investigator status), sharing the knowledge with other directors is encouraged but not required.

Section 12. It shall be the responsibility of the **Manager of Social Media / Webmaster:**

- A. To report directly to the Directors.
- B. Maintain and update the ASUP, Inc. website keeping it current to the times & trends
- C. Establish protocols for on-site web casting from investigation sites via Facebook page or YouTube page
- D. Ensure that our social media presence is constantly refreshed with relevant ASUP, Inc. items to keep are followers engaged and to grow the follower base. Ensuring to engage our social media followers at min 2x times weekly, more if needed.
- E. To oversee the G-Suite ASUP account and ensure all new members have email accounts and know how to use the service
- F. More to be determined as position grows
- G. To have seniority over all other full active members.
- H. To act in good faith on behalf of the Corporations Director in public, writings and any other activity's while representing ASUP, Inc.
- I. Minimum age requirement is 21.

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Section 13. It shall be the responsibility of the **Emeritus/ Advisory Board members:**

- A. To report directly to the Corporation Officers.
- B. To Advise the Corporation Officers in matters of fundraising, grants, oversight on funding other groups and any and all other duties as specified.
- C. To act in good faith on behalf of the Corporations Director in public, writings and any other activity's while representing ASUP, Inc.
- D. They are exempt from the \$30.00 annual membership donation.

Other officers:

- A. Foreign Correspondents are individuals in foreign countries that are not necessarily members of the ASUP, Inc. They are simply called upon by this organization for their expertise about the paranormal and the occult.
- B. Special Consultants are individuals within the United States that are not necessarily members of ASUP, Inc. They are called upon by the ASUP, Inc. for the expert opinions in the subject of the supernatural and/or the paranormal.

ASUP, Inc. ©

DS DS DS DS DS
WL NH RB MJS Sh

Motion before the Corporation Officers

ASUP, Inc.

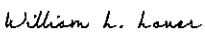
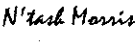

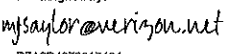
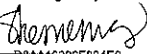
February 04, 2019

This resolution approves the acceptance and passage of the Articles of Incorporation & Bylaws for ASUP, Inc. (Association for the Study of Unexplained Phenomenon) DFW Paranormal Research Group.

These articles are hereby passed and accepted unanimously on this the

04th day of February 2019 by the undersigned members of

The Corporation Officers of ASUP, Inc.

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| DocuSigned by:  DE724670862C46B... | 2/4/2019 |
| William Lauer, ASUP Director | Date and Signature |
| DocuSigned by:  0015EDA063014A5... | 2/5/2019 |
| N'tash Preston-Morris, ASUP Assistant Director | Date and Signature |
| DocuSigned by:  F42E70E0D09742F... | 2/5/2019 |
| Lacey Booth, ASUP Assistant Director | Date and Signature |
| DocuSigned by:  07A2D4073017164... | 2/5/2019 |
| Michael Saylor, ASUP Treasurer | Date and Signature |
| DocuSigned by:  B0AA16306E064E0... | 2/5/2019 |
| Stacy Hemenway, ASUP Secretary | Date and Signature |



Tina Ramirez
2/05/2019

Article V
Officers - Generally

Section 1. All officers of this organization when installed after appointment may be required to take the following obligation for office:

I, William Lauer, do most sincerely promise, upon my honor, that I will truly and faithfully, to the best of my ability, perform the duties of my office, as prescribed in the By- Laws of this organization."

Section 2. All officers in the performance of their duties shall adhere to the terms of these By-Laws.
*These articles are hereby passed and accepted unanimously on this the
04th day of February 2019 by the undersigned members of
The Corporation Officers of ASUP, Inc. as a non-profit corporate entity in the State of Texas.*

INITIAL ONLY

William Lauer, ASUP Director

DS
WL

N'tash Preston-Morris, ASUP Assistant Director

DS
NM

N'tash Preston-Morris, ASUP Assistant Director

DS
JB

Michael Saylor, ASUP Treasurer

DS
MJS

Stacy Hemenway, ASUP Secretary

DS
SH

**Motion before the Corporation Officers
ASUP, Inc.
February 04, 2019**

It is hereby directed that the Corporation shall admit the following individuals to the Advisory Board effective February 04, 2019

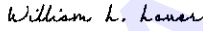


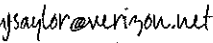
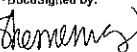
Corporation Advisor, Dr. Timothy Barth
Corporation Advisor & Historian, Joi Moran
Corporation Advisor, Nicole Moran-Watson
Corporation Advisor, David Watson

**Motion before the Corporation Officers
ASUP, Inc.**

February 04, 2019

This resolution approves the opening of a checking, and/or saving account in the name of the Corporation. Said authorization is hereby given to Mike Saylor, Treasurer. The Corporation requires that all checks drawn for whatever reason require only one signature. All expenditures exceeding \$100.00 require 100% Corporation Officers approval.

*These articles are hereby passed and accepted unanimously on this the
04th day of February 2019 by the undersigned members of
The Corporation Officers of ASUP, Inc. as a non-profit corporate
entity in the State of Texas.*

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| <div>DocuSigned by:  DE7245700020405...</div> | 2/4/2019 |
| William Lauer, ASUP Director | Date and Signature |
| <div>DocuSigned by:  0010ED7A005014A5...</div> | 2/5/2019 |
| N'tash Preston-Morris, ASUP Assistant Director | Date and Signature |
| <div>DocuSigned by:  F42276C0D09742F...</div> | 2/5/2019 |
| Lacey Booth, ASUP Assistant Director | Date and Signature |
| <div>DocuSigned by:  D7A2D4673017494...</div> | 2/5/2019 |
| Michael Saylor, ASUP Treasurer | Date and Signature |
| <div>DocuSigned by:  D59A10530E504E0...</div> | 2/5/2019 |
| Stacy Hemenway, ASUP Secretary | Date and Signature |

**Motion before the Corporation Officers
ASUP, Inc.**

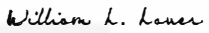
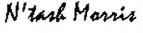

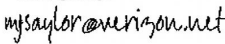
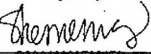
February 04, 2013 (re-ratifying)

This resolution approves the acceptance of Joi Moran relinquishing her position at ASUP, Inc. as Executive Board Chairman and holdings of ASUP, Inc. Joi Moran will be an ASUP life-time emeritus member and Advisor/Historian if she so desires to be involved with ASUP, Inc.

These articles are hereby passed and accepted unanimously on this the

04th day of February 2019 by the undersigned members of

The Corporation Officers of ASUP, Inc.

| | |
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| DocuSigned by:  DE72467006546D... | 2/4/2019 |
| William Lauer, ASUP Director | Date and Signature |
| DocuSigned by:  0045EBA660044A5... | 2/5/2019 |
| N'tash Preston-Morris, ASUP Assistant Director | Date and Signature |
| DocuSigned by:  F42270E3D39742F... | 2/5/2019 |
| Lacey Booth, ASUP Assistant Director | Date and Signature |
| DocuSigned by:  D7A2B4070047404... | 2/5/2019 |
| Michael Saylor, ASUP Treasurer | Date and Signature |
| DocuSigned by:  D3A0A10390E804E0... | 2/5/2019 |
| Stacy Hemenway, ASUP Secretary | Date and Signature |

**Motion before the Corporation Officers
ASUP, Inc.**

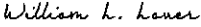
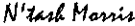


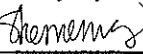
February 04, 2019

This resolution approves the acceptance of Nicole Moran-Watson & David Watson relinquishing their positions at ASUP, Inc. as Executive Board members and holdings of ASUP, Inc. Nicole Moran-Watson & David Watson will be an ASUP life-time emeritus member as long as they so desire to be involved with ASUP, Inc.

These articles are hereby passed and accepted unanimously on this the

04th day of February 2019 by the undersigned members of

The Corporation Officers of ASUP, Inc.

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| <div>DocuSigned by:  DE724670862546B...</div> | 2/4/2019 |
| William Lauer, ASUP Director | Date and Signature |
| <div>DocuSigned by:  9916EDBA660614A5...</div> | 2/5/2019 |
| N'tash Preston-Morris, ASUP Assistant Director | Date and Signature |
| <div>DocuSigned by:  F42278E3D39742F...</div> | 2/5/2019 |
| Lacey Booth, ASUP Assistant Director | Date and Signature |
| <div>DocuSigned by:  D7A2D4670017404...</div> | 2/5/2019 |
| Michael Saylor, ASUP Treasurer | Date and Signature |
| <div>DocuSigned by:  D3A710330E804E0...</div> | 2/5/2019 |
| Stacy Hemenway, ASUP Secretary | Date and Signature |

Article VI (amended at the Request of the IRS)

B. Conflicts of Interest

Article VI (amended at the Request of the IRS)

B. Conflicts of Interest

It is hereby ordered that the Association and all its members adopt a strict policy concerning Conflicts of Interest within the ASUP, Inc. as follows:

Article I

Purpose

The purpose of the conflict of interest policy is to protect this tax-exempt organization's (Organization) interest when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of an officer or director of the

Organization or might result in a possible excess benefit transaction. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state and federal laws governing conflict of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable organizations.

Article II

Definitions

1. Interested Person

Any director, principal officer, or member of a committee with governing board delegated powers, who has a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined below, is an interested person.

2. Financial Interest

A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family:

- a. An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which the Organization has a transaction or arrangement,
- b. A compensation arrangement with the Organization or with any entity or individual with which the Organization has a transaction or arrangement, or
- c. A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which the Organization is negotiating a transaction or arrangement. Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are not insubstantial.

A financial interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. Under Article III, Section 2, a person who has a financial interest may have a conflict of interest only if the appropriate governing board or committee decides that a conflict of interest exists.

Article III

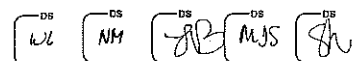
Procedures

1. Duty to Disclose

In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an interested person must disclose the existence of the financial interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts to the directors and members of committees with governing board delegated powers considering the proposed transaction or arrangement.

2. Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists

After disclosure of the financial interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the interested person, he/she shall leave the governing board or committee meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining board or committee members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.



3. Procedures for Addressing the Conflict of Interest

- a. An interested person may make a presentation at the governing board or committee meeting, but after the presentation, he/she shall leave the meeting during the discussion of, and the vote on, the transaction or arrangement involving the possible conflict of interest.
- b. The chairperson of the governing board or committee shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement.
- c. After exercising due diligence, the governing board or committee shall determine whether the Organization can obtain with reasonable efforts a more advantageous transaction or arrangement from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest.
- d. If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably possible under circumstances not producing a conflict of interest, the governing board or committee shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested directors whether the transaction or arrangement is in the Organization's best interest, for its own benefit, and whether it is fair and reasonable. In conformity with the above determination it shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement.

4. Violations of the Conflicts of Interest Policy

- a. If the governing board or committee has reasonable cause to believe a member has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the member of the basis for such belief and afford the member an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.
- b. If, after hearing the member's response and after making further investigation as warranted by the circumstances, the governing board or committee determines the member has failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action.

Article IV

Records of Proceedings

The minutes of the governing board and all committees with board delegated powers shall contain:

- a. The names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a financial interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest, the nature of the financial interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and the governing board's or committee's decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed.
- b. The names of the persons who were present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement, the content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement, and a record of any votes taken in connection with the proceedings.

Article V

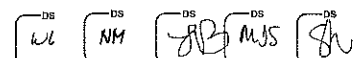
Compensation

- a. A voting member of the governing board who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Organization for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.
- b. A voting member of any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Organization for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.
- c. No voting member of the governing board or any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Organization, either individually or collectively, is prohibited from providing information to any committee regarding compensation.

Article VI

Annual Statements

Each director, principal officer and member of a committee with governing board delegated powers shall annually sign a statement which affirms such person:



- a. Has received a copy of the conflicts of interest policy,
- b. Has read and understands the policy,
- c. Has agreed to comply with the policy, and
- d. Understands the Organization is charitable and in order to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.

Article VII

Periodic Reviews

To ensure the Organization operates in a manner consistent with charitable purposes and does not engage in activities that could jeopardize its tax-exempt status, periodic reviews shall be conducted. The periodic reviews shall, at a minimum, include the following subjects:

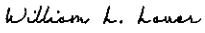


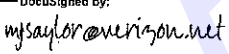
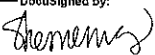
- a. Whether compensation arrangements and benefits are reasonable, based on competent survey information, and the result of arm's length bargaining.
- b. Whether partnerships, joint ventures, and arrangements with management organizations conform to the Organization's written policies, are properly recorded, reflect reasonable investment or payments for goods and services, further charitable purposes and do not result in inurement, impermissible private benefit or in an excess benefit transaction.

Article VIII

Use of Outside Experts

When conducting the periodic reviews as provided for in Article VII, the Organization may, but need not, use outside advisors. If outside experts are used, their use shall not relieve the governing board of its responsibility for ensuring periodic reviews are conducted.

Having been duly discussed, voted and passed, and read to the general membership in an open meeting on February 04, 2019 the afore stated Article is therefore added to our legal constitution and bylaws effective that date.

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| DocuSigned by:  DE7265706020408... | 2/4/2019 |
| William Lauer, ASUP Director | Date and Signature |
| DocuSigned by:  6015ED7A0636174A3... | 2/5/2019 |
| N'tash Preston-Morris, ASUP Assistant Director | Date and Signature |
| DocuSigned by:  F42270E3D39742F... | 2/5/2019 |
| Lacey Booth, ASUP Assistant Director | Date and Signature |
| DocuSigned by:  07A2D4873017494... | 2/5/2019 |
| Michael Saylor, ASUP Treasurer | Date and Signature |
| DocuSigned by:  03A110580E604ED... | 2/5/2019 |
| Stacy Hemenway, ASUP Secretary | Date and Signature |

Motion before the Corporation Officers

ASUP, Inc.




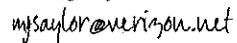
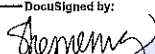
February 04, 2019

This resolution approves the acceptance that ASUP, Inc. (Association for the Study of Unexplained Phenomenon) DFW Paranormal Research Group. Will adopt a ZERO Recreational Drug & Alcohol tolerance policy regarding members that participate in any ASUP, Inc. sanctioned event. Unless the event is sanctioned a "party" where alcohol is permitted, never drugs.

This resolution is hereby passed and accepted unanimously on this the

04th day of February by the undersigned members of

The Corporation Officers of ASUP, Inc.

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| <div>DocuSigned by:  DE7245708825458...</div> | 2/4/2019 |
| William Lauer, ASUP Director | Date and Signature |
| <div>DocuSigned by:  8015EDA683614A5...</div> | 2/5/2019 |
| N'tash Preston-Morris, ASUP Assistant Director | Date and Signature |
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| Lacey Booth, ASUP Assistant Director | Date and Signature |
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| Michael Saylor, ASUP Treasurer | Date and Signature |
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| Stacy Hemenway, ASUP Secretary | Date and Signature |

Basic EVP Recording Technique

What is EVP?

Electronic Voice Phenomenon (EVP) are intelligible voices found in recording media that have no known physical explanation. Many of the voices are thought to originate from deceased people. This is the primary reason that people first began experimenting with EVP.

Characteristics of the Voices

The recorded voices may be very quiet and may be difficult to hear and understand. Most EVP experimenters **say that they have developed an "ear" for the sounds** after learning to distinguish them from background noise. In transform EVP, the voices can often be recognized as male or female, young or old. Messages are seldom longer than two to four words. The words may be spoken very quickly, and there is often a distinctive cadence to the voices. Analysis shows that they are simulations of voice made from whatever sound is supplied, and are often missing voice box frequencies and have oddly arranged formants.

Types of Recording

In controlled conditions recording, it is possible to control ambient noise and supply special forms of background noise. Auric energy is thought to accumulate in a **"special" recording area, which is thought to help make contact.** In field recording, it is difficult to control environmental conditions or supply background sound, but in known **"haunted" locations, the energy helpful for contact may already be present.**

EVP formed in an audio recorder by transforming available background sound is referred to as **"transform EVP."** In this, it is sometimes possible to recognize the voice of the speaker. EVP Formed by sweeping a radio dial, or with a computer program such as EVPMaker, are referred to as **"opportunistic EVP"** because sounds for voice formation must be made available on an **"as needed"** basis. Radio sweep, and in some applications, EVPMaker, depend on the use of **"live" voice.** ATransC will not use live voice examples for research because of the problem of undetected false positives. EVPmaker using synthesized voice is preferred for opportunistic EVP.

Environmentally stimulated speech synthesis is a relatively new and promising technique, but it should be noted that all speech synthesis approaches currently being tried do not support speaker recognition.

Recording Procedure

Recording Equipment—Digital voice recorders are recommended for transform EVP. Less expensive models produce more internal noise which is useful for voice formation. High quality units will probably require added background noise. A computer can also be used, but will probably require added noise.

Scheduling—Entities will speak at any time of day or night. In the beginning, however, it is advisable to record at a regular time and place. By doing this, the entities learn when there will be an opportunity for contact and expectation of the upcoming session helps focus attention on the process. Try to find a place that will

be quiet and free of interruptions. Background sounds are okay, but it is important to be aware of these so that they can be distinguished from the EVP.

Background Sound Source—Research has shown that for transform EVP, the entities use sounds in the environment to help form the words. Most recording situations have some background sounds, but it may be necessary to add noise with something like a fan or running water. Some people use foreign language radio, crowd babble or audio tapes; however, as more has been learned about EVP, the recommended practice has been to avoid the use of radio static or live voice of any form.

Preparation—Begin with meditation and a short prayer to ask for only those intending the highest good and an invitation to friends on the other side to participate. *It is best to recording when personal energy is the highest.*

Recording—Vocalize your comments during an EVP session. The entities will often come through as soon as the recorder is turned on. These beginning messages may be the loudest, so it is a good idea to turn on the recorder and wait a few seconds before speaking. Questions should be recorded, and a period of time between each comment should be left for the entities to respond--about ten seconds. At the end, ask if the entity has something to say.

It may help to make an “appointment” with the intended entity the day before, during prayer or meditation. Some also provide feedback before the session so that the entities will know what worked in the last experiment. It is not necessary to record in the dark. People often try different devices and energy sources to help the entities communicate. Leaving written questions in the EVP experiment area the day before has worked for some.

Keep recording short. Recordings should be closely examined, at least until it is understood where to find the voices. A best practice for field recording is to use two recorders. As a rule, EVP will only occur on one recorder or sound track, making it possible to avoid mistaking local sounds for EVP (false positives).

Playback—In transform EVP, the voice is usually not heard until playback. Experimenters report that the voices tend to become stronger and clearer as the entities gain in experience, but at first the voices may speak in whispers. Voices may not be recorded in every session and it may take several sessions to discover the first voice. Hearing the voices is a learned ability. It might take thirty minutes to examine a three or four minute recording.

Classes of Voices (non ASUP, Inc rating scale)—A **Class A** voice can be heard and understood over a speaker by most people. A **Class B** voice can be heard over a speaker, but not everyone will agree as to what is said. A **Class C** voice can only be heard with headphones and is difficult to understand. Class B or C voices may have one or two clearly understood words. Loud does not equal Class A.

Keeping a Log—Maintaining a record of recording results is very helpful. Include the date, time, seconds into the recording, the message itself and the question asked. Be sure to label and save the audio file so that they can be found at a later time. Experimenters report that they feel weather may affect results, but this has not been well studied. The [Geoweather](#) page has Geomagnetic and solar reports. There is also a link for moon phase information, as well.

Digital Voice Recorders

Digital voice recorders are recommended for EVP experiments. Today, all sound tracks—digital or analog—should be listened to in a computer and with a headset. Unlike tape recorders, the built-in microphone is usually satisfactory for EVP. There is a [selection guide for audio recorders here](#). The section includes a [setup guide](#) for [Audacity](#), which is an effective audio management program that can be downloaded at no cost.

Computer Recording

A computer instead of a digital recorder can be used for recording EVP. It should have an audio input jack, speakers, headphone jack and sound player application such as Audacity. Most experimenters use the computer to analyze and store examples. If the recorder does not have a USB interface, it is possible to play the recording into the computer while recording with a recorder program. The Earphone jack of the recorder can be connected to the Microphone or Line 1 jack via a cable. The sound source should be set to the correct jack via the pull-down menu in Audacity. Recording with a sample rate of 11025, mono and 16 bit resolution is sufficient for EVP. Files should be edited as *.wav format, but shared as *.mp3.

Analyzing the Recording for EVP

Always use headphones when listening to the recording in a computer. The earmuff style that completely covers the ear is best, but also good are the soft rubber ear buds that are inserted in the channel of the ear.

Be sure to set up a method of saving your recordings in your computer that will allow you to easily locate examples. A good practice is to save the raw recording session in a dated folder and then also save clips containing the EVP in the same folder. Field recordings are saved under the name of the location and the date. It is helpful to keep a separate folder for your Class A examples for easy retrieval for demonstration to friends. ATransC follows the labeling practice of: (c)lisa_butler2008-what_evp_says.mp3. The (c) symbol indicates the intention to protect rights to the example. If you are making the example available under the [Creative Commons license](#), then use (cc) instead of (c). Using first and last name helps sort many examples in the folder for easy retrieval. The underline and dash symbol with no use of capitals helps assure that computer systems and the Internet accept the name. A 200 kb audio file can be reduced to around 15 Kb when converted from a *.wav file to an *.mps file. This makes it easy for sharing files via the Internet.

Characteristic Test for EVP

Abstract

There are a number of characteristics commonly associated with Electronic Voice Phenomena (EVP). If a possible EVP does not exhibit at least some of these characteristics, it may be prudent to set it aside until more evidence is available. This is not to say that a previously unknown characteristic may not be found in a "genuine" EVP, but the majority of examples clearly show a number of these characteristics, especially items 6, 7 and 9, below. As such, it is recommended that experimenters and researchers become familiar with this list, and seriously consider using it as a means of avoiding false positives.

Introduction

By definition, EVP are unexpected voices that are collected on digital and analog recording media, that are not explained by currently known physical principles. They appear to be ubiquitous, in that experimenters around the world are able to collect them with just about anything that will record human voice frequencies and under just about any recording circumstance. Their nature tends to vary, relative to the experimenter, recording environment, and technique.

The majority of EVP examples are considered Class C, meaning that they are difficult to hear and understand, and it is likely that not all of the words will be correctly deciphered. Nevertheless, Class C examples can sometimes be shown to be phenomenal utterances and often provide useful information.

Even experienced experimenters are liable to mistake some environmental sounds, technological artifacts and editing errors as EVP. For instance, the unconscious intake of breath before speaking might sound like the word "help." During field recording, an unnoticed person might be speaking in another part of the building and the resulting recorded words might be mistaken as a phenomenal utterance.

There is a Best Practice titled [Using a Second Audio Recorder as a Control](#), suggests using two audio records during experiments in order to reduce false positives. Some experimenters also protect the primary recorder with a portable radio frequency shield, such as two or more insulated and nested metal containers; however, such precautions can be clumsy, and may be difficult for the average person who is just trying to record a few EVP. Given that it has been experimentally established that EVP can be recorded in conditions isolated from ambient sounds, light or radio frequency contamination, it is reasonable to expect the average person to be able to record EVP in uncontrolled conditions.¹² If a person is familiar with the more common characteristics of the voices, and is willing to discard examples that do not fall within the "norm," it is reasonable to conclude that the resulting EVP are likely to be genuine.

A characteristic test is not an absolute proof of EVP, but if stringently applied, it should reduce false positives to a reasonable minimum.

Typical Characteristics of Transform EVP

1. **EVP Are Distinctive:** EVP have a distinctive character of cadence, pitch, frequency, volume and use of background sound. The voices have a distinctive sound to them that is difficult to describe. For instance, EVP messages often have an unusual speed of enunciation; the words seem to be spoken more quickly than normal human speech. Regarding this peculiarity, Konstantinos ² wrote, "The best way I can describe it is that it's almost as if each word is spoken quickly, yet the pauses between the words are of a natural length. The combination of these two speed factors makes for the peculiar rhythm and perceived speed." You may also notice that the paranormal voices often have a hollow and/or monotone quality.
2. **Frequency Range:** EVP are sometimes received at higher or lower time base than normal speech. The enunciation of words is not just faster, but the frequency range of the phrases are sometimes higher than normal human speech.
3. **Missing Frequencies:** Italian researcher, Paolo Presi, ³ has reported that spectral analysis of EVP samples has shown that the fundamental frequencies of voice associated with the human voice box are sometimes missing in EVP. He describes the typical EVP as a "thickening" of the background noise to form the voice.
4. **Precursor Sounds:** Sounds are often heard prior to an occurrence of EVP. Although these vary in nature, they tend to be within tenths of a second of a phrase and are a "popping" or "clicking" noise reminiscent of the "squelch" sound caused when the automatic gain control engages as the "push to talk" button is depressed on a Citizen's Band radio. ⁴
5. **EVP Show Evidence of Being Limited by Available Energy:** Alexander MacRae (5) has noted that the utterances tend to have about the same amount of audio power in their associated sound wave from one EVP sample to another. That is, a short EVP will tend to be louder than a long EVP. A very long phrase might be composed of two or more average length phrases separated by minor pauses. Also, an utterance may trail off at the end, as if the energy is being depleted before the message is delivered. Again, this is as if the communicator is attempting to manage available power as "packets" of energy. The evidence is very strong that EVP are energy-limited phenomena.
6. **EVP Are Complete Words or Phrases:** Researcher Alexander MacRae has also conducted considerable analysis of EVP messages, determining that a message is typically one to two seconds in duration and is not truncated at the beginning or end. If EVP were crosstalk, they would often begin in the middle of a word. EVP messages are usually complete thoughts, as well.
7. **EVP Are in the Language of the Experimenter:** Alexander MacRae has conducted experiments in a place that has no English language radio or television stations, yet resulting EVP were in English, which is his primary language. It is typical for the EVP, no matter where they are recorded, to be in a language that the experimenter understands. There have been exceptions to this which were apparently intended as a demonstration, but as a rule, EVP will be spoken in a language understood by the experimenter or an interested observer.

This brings up an interesting point of speculation about psi-based communication. Mental mediums often report that they receive communication from nonphysical entities as images which they must

interpret. These images are not just mental pictures. They are packets of information that are sufficiently complete for the receiver to fully understand their meaning. Robert Monroe ⁶ referred to this form of information as "Thought Balls."

8. **EVP Are Not Ambient Sound or Broadcast Programming:** Again, Alexander MacRae has made a contribution to the field of EVP by submitting the newest model of his Alpha Device for testing at the Institute of Noetic Sciences (IONS) The device produced EVP in a chamber that was shielded from environmental Radio Frequency (RF) sound energy and light. ⁷ This demonstration proving that EVP are not stray sound or RF has been made before. ¹⁰ One of the problems **researchers have faced in the past is that "old proof" is often discounted because of the considerable improvement in instrumentation, experimental protocol and understanding of physical principles.** In light of this, it is important that our modern generation of scientists is able to witness demonstrations that adhere to modern standards for research, such as that just provided by Alexander MacRae. As of the writing of this book, we await a response from the scientists.
9. **EVP Are Appropriate to the Circumstances:** There are numerous examples of EVP that are clearly direct responses to questions recorded just prior to the EVP phrase or to the circumstances. An example of an EVP being appropriate to a circumstance is an instance in which experimenters were trying to figure out how to set up a new tape recorder for an EVP experiment. The tape recorder was finally set up correctly, but not before causing a very loud feedback squeal that was recorded. On that recording, a **male voice said in a Class A EVP, "Leave it alone" right after the loud squeal.**
10. **Precognitive Responses:** Answers to questions may be recorded prior to a question being asked, so that the answer, as a phenomenal message, is on the sound track followed by the experimenter asking the question. More research is required before making informed speculation about this observed characteristic, but the indication is that, while time may be meaningful to us, our time may well be irrelevant to a nonphysical entity. Alternatively, the entity may be sensing what the experimenter is about to ask.

EVP Found on the Reverse Direction of a Sound Track

Please use the technique of looking for EVP on the reverse with care. EVP seems to be formed in noise wherever in the spectrum the experimenter might look for the voice. That is probably why some researchers have theorized that EVP are always ultrasonic or infrasonic. However, in reversed sound track EVP, the presence of the voice seems to be more of a demonstration that the communicators are able to do something that is simply not explainable with known physical principles. Also, EVP is considered communication and leaving a message in a place that most people would not consider looking,

11. **EVP Are Found by Playing the Soundtrack Backwards:**

One of the more bizarre characteristics of EVP is that it is possible to discover an EVP that seems to be garbled, but that makes perfect sense when the soundtrack is played in reverse. By this, we mean to say that the sound track is played so that the voice of the experimenter can be heard speaking backwards, but the EVP can be heard speaking forwards.⁸

or do not have the tools to look, is not realistically considered an attempt to communicate.

Many offered examples of EVP found on the reverse turn out to be nonsensical, and one of the Best Practices in EVP is that, if the message is not meaningful in some way, it should be set aside until supporting material is available. There is also a problem with the value of utterances found on the reverse as evidence. Knowledgeable researchers understand that there are many words that, when heard in the reverse, naturally form other normal words. It is also disconcerting for a researcher to recognize the staccato cadence of reversed voice **speech in someone's offered EVP example and** reverse it only to discover the person speaking in the forward direction. Considering these issues, it is often recommended that researchers use the technique of reversing a sound track in search of EVP sparingly, and avoid offering examples that are clearly a forward speaking voice played in the reverse.

As with the ability of communicating entities to anticipate questions by placing answers into recording media before the question is asked, the phenomenon of reverse track EVP provides important hints as to the nature of time.

12. **Vocalized Questions Elicit More EVP:** There is evidence that the communicating entities are able to read our thoughts, as in placing an answer on a recording prior to the asking of a question. However, experiments conducted by Alexander MacRae⁵ have shown that EVP responses increase when questions are asked out loud. MacRae conducted a simple experiment during which he ran numerous sessions and did not verbalize questions, and then the same number of sessions speaking the questions. He then counted the number of EVP responses. On the non-verbalized sessions he collected 3.2 utterances per session, whereas on the verbalized sessions he collected 5.3 utterances per session. (MacRae uses a baseline recording session duration of five minutes for such controlled sampling.)
13. **The Voices in EVP Are Often Recognizable:** It is common for an EVP to contain the recognizable voice of the discarnate person thought to be speaking. It is also common for that entity to say something that was typical of what he or she would have said while in the physical. Their personality clearly remains intact even though the person no longer has a physical body.⁹

14. **Mundane Voices Are Sometimes**

Transfigured: A

communicating entity will sometimes remodulate or transfigure the **experimenter's words into** EVP. In one striking example, the words of a French-speaking radio announcer were changed, mid sentence, into an English spoken EVP. The EVP was clearly inappropriate for what the announcer had been saying.

Transfigured

The term, "transfigured," is used in much the same way here that it is used in mediumship to describe how an entity **transfigures or changes the medium's features into the entity's likeness.** Many successful experimenters use a foreign language radio station or recording for background noise and have great success in receiving loud message in their own language, even though the sound source is from a speech spoken in a different language

15. **Party Line:** Some EVP sound as if they are comments intended for someone other than the experimenter. This is much like momentarily listening in on a party line telephone call. It is not uncommon in both field and controlled recording situations to record comments that seem as if **unseen people are discussing the experimenter's actions in much the same way** that you might discuss the activity of someone that you were watching.
16. **A Need for Background Sound Sources:** Research has shown that the **voice in EVP is formed as "a thickening" of ambient sound energy. This is an** opportunistic use of sound energy that often results in no or largely missing voice box frequencies and an unnatural arrangement of other frequencies usually formed by the passage of the fundamental frequencies through the mouth.¹⁰ Also, EVP has been recoded by audio recorded devices or processes which have been isolated from ambient sound by such techniques as removing the microphone, and in some instances, acoustically isolating the recording device.

Because of these characteristics, it is standard practice to assure the availability of ambient sound for voice formation, even while isolating the recording device or process from uncontrolled ambient sounds, such as crowd noise.

17. **Layered EVP:** Experimenters often comment that having several layers of EVP appear in the same location of the recording media. This is especially common when more than one background sound source is used during the experiment. For instance, if a fan and radio static are used for background sound, then a message might be found in the fan noise while a second message is found in the radio static—both in the same segment of the sound track.
18. **The "Newness" Effect:** The experimenter's excitement in trying a new detection device or recording technique may be the source of improved EVP collection. **As the new approach becomes "normal operating procedure," the improvements generally fade back to a more "normal" Quality and Quantity (QQ) of EVP collection.** This suggests that it is important for the experimenter to maintain peaked interest during experiments. This is also one of the reasons it is speculated that the experimenter is an integral part

of the recording circuit. The experimenter is apparently supplying the necessary psi energy to enable a nonphysical to physical transfer of energy.

19. **Effective Devices Unique to the Experimenter:** Exceptionally effective EVP and ITC collecting systems have been developed; however, these typically work well for the developer, but do not work as well for other experimenters. This paradox supports the belief that the experimenter is part of the recording circuit. It has also reinforced the concept that the communicating entity may be specific to the experimenter.

Because various devices and equipment setups have worked exceptionally well for one experimenter and not for another, it has been argued that it is a waste of time to try to develop the hoped for equipment that would become the proverbial "spirit telephone," allowing anyone to use it to call up a loved one on the other side.¹¹ This may prove to be the wrong assumption. There is growing evidence that people who have not done well with a cassette recorder are now recording increased QQ EVP using digital voice recorders.

20. **EVP Can Be Thoughts of Living People:** There have been a number of well designed experiments that appear to have resulted in EVP initiated by living people who were sleeping at the time. As an ethical consideration, such experiments are always prearranged with the person who volunteers to be the sleeping "sender." In these experiments, questions are clearly answered by a communicating entity, and the answers are appropriate for the sleeping person. This fact of EVP suggests the possibility that EVP can become an important tool for consciousness research. For instance, is it possible that a patient in a coma might initiate an EVP when requested?
21. **EVP Is Found Wherever the Experimenter Listens:** This suggests that the source of audio noise is not a factor for EVP, so long as the audio energy is suitable for voice formation. In practice, the majority of techniques for recording EVP involve sound conditioning, rather than unique forms of psi detection. For instance, up-scaling infrasound so that it can be heard by human ears or down-scaling ultrasound, really constitute techniques of sound conditioning, and the resulting EVP is not evidence that the utterance was formed beyond human hearing, but that it was formed when the audio energy was made available to the recording

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ASUP EVP Standard Ratings System

ASUP, Inc. has pioneered a new system for categorizing EVP phenomenon. Classification of various EVPs varies greatly from one research group to another, so in order to organize what we are now collecting ASUP, Inc. has created their own system. ASUP, Inc. system divides EVPs into five classes. In ASUP, Inc. system, there are two subsets of a Class One EVP.

- Class 1a: is an EVP that is clear, without distortion and needs no amplification or enhancement to recognize words in the English Lexicon. It was however not heard by an investigator at the time of the recording, either because no one was present or were present but not heard.
- Class 1b: is an EVP that fits the above description, but has been heard audibly by investigators when the recording was being made. EVPs can be captured in any media, digital or analog either in combination with video or from standalone recording devices.
- Class 2: is an EVP recording that has an understandable message, but has been altered or enhanced by investigators for clarification and to understand that message clearly.
- Class 3: is an EVP that sounds like whispers or lower audio recording that even when enhanced cannot be fully interpreted.
- Class 4: is an EVP with random noise, such as tapping, banging, scratching that has no known message but is nevertheless on the media. Here too we divide the category into;
 - Class 4a: which has been heard by investigators at the time, but which are out of place in the existing environment.
 - Class 4b: are random sounds under the same conditions, captured without a witness present. The class Four EVP is important to save because it might later help to clarify the nature of the phenomenon in a case. In and of itself, the noise could just as well be a critter in the house, but if they did exist prior to some other phenomenon, it can be used as an indicator. This is also true in many poltergeist cases.
- Class 5: is an EVP which is the catch-all category, including such anomalies as reverse recordings, unknown language and virtually anything else that does not fit into the other four.











Routinely, ASUP, Inc. only releases Class 1 and in some extremely rare cases, Class 2 recordings to our client. We do archive all recordings that can't be ruled out of the basic EVP definition. In most active investigations, investigators will collect at most five or six EVPs in one session.

ASUP EVP Standard Ratings System

Of these EVPs, the following have been categorized as the most likely to be true EVPs and not ambient human chatter. Please use headphones to listen to these recordings on your laptop or computer, not phone. It is also recommended to play at maximum volume.

We also include video and photo evidence on this log as well to contain all case evidence in one document.

Example:

| EVP File Name | Verbiage caught and Clip Context | Frequency Range | Class | Speaker or Headphones  |
|---|--|-----------------|----------------|---|
| Case 1330-Bill and Drea Walk-Thru-001.wav | Clicking from Bill taking pictures. At 00:03 I hear a woman's voice say what sounds like "Hello". Investigators talking in the background. Bill asks them if someone heard a whisper or if someone in the room whispered. | | 1b |  |
| Case 1330-Bill and Drea Walk-Thru-005.wav | Door creaks. Background noise. Drea is talking. At 00:01 I hear a female voice say what sounds like "I was standing down stairs". | | 1a |  |
| Case 1330-Bill and Drea Walk-Thru-006.wav | Drea and Bill are talking. At 00:03 I hear a woman's voice say what sounds like "Mine". | | 2 |  |
| Case 1330-Client Interview2002.wav | Background noise. Client is talking. At 00:07 I hear a female voice say what sounds like "Suck it up". | | 1a |  |
| Case 1330-Client Interview2004.wav | Background noise. Client talking to N'tash. At 00:04 I hear a male voice say what sounds like "No". | | 2 |  |
| Case 1330-Client Interview2005.wav | Bill is talking. At 00:04 I hear a male whispering what sounds like "By night it's cold". | | 1a |  |
| Case 1330-Client Interview2007.wav | Male client and Bill are talking. At 00:03 I hear a female voice say "Yep". | | 1a |  |
| Case 1330-Client Interview2008.wav | N'tash and male client talking. At 00:04 I hear a male voice say what sounds like "Don't rush". | | 1a |  |
| Case 1330-Client Interview2010.wav | Background noise. N'tash and Bill are talking. At 00:025 I hear a male voice say "They'll freeze?" At 00:05 I hear another female voice say what sounds like "Marteen". At 00:06 I hear a male voice say what sounds like "Plug it in?" At 00:07 I hear a male voice say someone | | 1a, 1a, 1a, 1a |  |

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| | | | | |
|--|--|--|----------------|--|
| Case 1330-Client Interview2013.wav | Bill asks "Are there any men here w/us?" At 00:05 I hear a male voice, say "Yes". | | 2 | |
| Case 1330-Client Interview2014.wav | Background noise. At 00:05 I hear a 'bang' then what sounds like footsteps. Then Bill asks N'tash if she just knocked something over. | | 4b | |
| Case 1330-Client Interview2016.wav | Bill asks "Is there anyone over here with us?" At 00:04 I hear a woman's voice say what sounds like "Yeah...take them to Osborn". | | 1a | |
| Case 1330-Client Interview2018.wav | Background noise. Banging. Bill and N'tash talking. At 00:05 I hear a male voice say what sounds like "I'm not". At 00:06 I hear a woman's voice say what sounds like "Alice". At 00:08 I hear a male's voice say what sounds like "I hate this". At 00:08 Then I hear a woman's voice say what sounds like "Come in". Could be outside sources. | | 1a, 1a, 1a, 1a | |
| Case 1330-Client Interview Marker 08.wav | Clients talking to Bill At 00:05 I hear a male voice say what sounds like "Bill". | | 1a | |
| Case 1330-Client Interview Marker 09.wav | Clients talking. At 00:06 I hear a male voice whisper what sounds like "No". | | 2 | |
| Case 1330-Client Interview Marker 10.wav | Bill and clients are talking. At 00:03 I hear a male voice say what sounds like "I had a son". At 00:05 I hear the male voice again, but cannot interpret what he is saying. | | 1a, 3 | |
| Drea 1330 2.wav | Bill asks "You're hiding out in here?" At 00:02 I hear a female voice say what sounds like "I'm studying". | | 1a | |
| Drea 1330 1.wav | Clicking in the background (Bill is taking pictures). Drea mentions that the temp is fluctuating a lot. At 00:03 I hear a male voice say what sounds like "Go away". Then Bill ask Drea "Did you hear that?" | | 1a | |

Photography 101

To understand the use of photography in paranormal situations, you first have to grasp the history of photography in general. The first photograph was created by a device later named the camera obscura (Latin for veiled room), literally a room flooded by the faint light from the outside through a hole in one wall; that “image” was thus projected to the opposite wall (the image on the wall was upside down). This technique was then used to trace out the scene in detail by an artist and is first mentioned by Aristotle around 350 BC. He wrote on the subject of optics, mentioning the camera obscura and noting that the smaller the hole through which the light was admitted, the sharper the image.

About 1000 AD, the Arabs introduced the concept of optical lenses, thus making the camera obscura more interesting in that by using a lens with a moving aperture, you could project a scene lighter without losing sharpness. The Arabs also introduced the concept of time effect in such devices, therefore the birth of the concept of light traveling at a specific speed, in this case from the lens to the opposing wall.

The camera as we know it became more popular in the nineteenth century. The first recognizable photography that still survives, was taken in 1826 and required an eight hour exposure due to the light sensitive material used on the plate, which effectively replaced the opposing wall from the camera obscura model.

The new camera was comprised of a lens with a variable aperture to adjust the iris to control the light source, a photographic medium (film or paper plate for example). The length of the exposure was decided by two factors, the amount of available light to the object being photographed and the speed of the photosensitive material onto which the image is being projected. The basic rules of the camera obscura remained constant, the larger the aperture the less defined the image to the plate; the faster the photosensitive material on the plate, the smaller the aperture setting has to be. One other rule applied, the slower the time used to make an image, the more stability was needed to be sure the camera did not move. As better and faster films came to be, the smaller the camera, thus shrinking the room sized camera obscura down to a hand held variety.

After World War II, the wide use of film based 35 mm cameras became the standard for most photographers, but larger formats were still utilized when fine grain and greater detail was required. Photojournalism jumped from a 4x5 Speed Graphic to the 35mm Nikon “F” series in the 1950s when Nikon introduced a line of optics unheard of previously; the basic camera stayed the same, but interchangeable lenses made limitless imaging possible in the field, utilizing common lenses that ranged from the wide angle 24mm to the long distance 1200mm variety. A photographer at a baseball game no longer had to hug the first base line to capture a working image, he could now sit in the press box on the second tier and capture the same image in relative comfort, freeing up the choice seats for people who could pay top dollar to be there. Suddenly, but the 1960s “spot news” was the norm and street photography was considered an acceptable way of life in most big cities as press photographers roamed freely with one Nikon F slung across his chest with a long lens attached, a second was over the shoulder with a 24mm lens in place and a “gadget bag” hugged his hip with assorted filters and extension tubes to match any challenge.

Today, the 35mm “Style” Single lens reflex camera still reigns supreme, but instead of roll film the photographer is making his images onto a highly sensitive electronic medium called

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the CCD or Charged Coupling Device which replaces the film. The first digital camera was offered less than 20 years ago by Sony, called the Mavica and later Kodak introduced the more sophisticated DCS100, which had limited use with print journalists. The majority of professional photographers say that they have not abandoned the film based camera; the digital age is here, and now digital cameras in cellular telephones are the norm.

So, how does this affect the use of photography in paranormal investigations? There are two distinct items that beg this question; time and reflectivity. Reflectivity is the basis of photography; the image is simply the capture of reflected light.

Let's take an example from every day investigating, the most common photo anomaly we see, the ORB. The true test of the orb as a photographic anomaly is its self luminescence, that is, its ability to emit light, rather than to reflect it. Most digital cameras have one or more flaws that do not normally crop up in day to day shooting but play havoc for the would be ghost hunter. They have automated exposure, automatic flash and some sort of either fixed focus or auto focusing mechanism. In the least expensive models there are also inherent lens problems, flaws or anomalous artifact when there is a plastic lens. For the purpose of this discussion, we will assume that the camera being used has a good quality glass lens and that it can be fitted with a removable filter.

When you take a flash photo, the flash fires in sync with the shutter. While the camera will attempt to focus on the object in the viewfinder, the point of focus is weighted; in other words in an expensive digital, there may be five or six focal points and the internal computer attempts to find the best focus to accommodate all of them; in a less expensive camera, you may be looking at three points of focus, or even just one, but in all cases, unless there is a large object on the periphery the camera normally attempts to focus on the center of what you are looking at.

If there is another object between that focal point and the camera, it is subject to the basic laws of physics and will reflect light based on its makeup and location in the frame. The closer the object, the more reflectivity -- the further away the less. Likewise, the more mass the object has, the more reflective surface. As an example, a recent string of photos shows a very bright orb in the first photo. In the second frame it is further away, less bright and traveling. The third is the least bright, the furthest away and still moving, presumably on a minute current of air. This is commonly the phenomenon found with dust.

Not all orbs however fit the pattern. We have another photo, taken in an apartment. The focal point is infinity; the lens is focusing at a distant wall. Half way between the camera and the focus point is a hanging beam and at that point there is an orb that is partially obscured from view by the beam. While the object may be reflective, it is much brighter than the surrounding objects, suggesting self luminescence. The orb in this photo is complex, when enlarged 40 times the norm, you can see a swirl of very intricate and interlaced "wires" that given the distance of the camera could never reflect the flash to that degree. This is a true paranormal occurrence.

Likewise, every photo that shows an anomaly must be scrutinized accordingly, looking to the logical answers first. As Arthur Conan Doyle states, "Once you have eliminated every other possibility, what is left is the true answer, no matter how unlikely." Assume that any photo you take that contains an anomaly will be scrutinized in this way. You will never hear an

Photography 101

ASUP spokesperson say that they have a ghost photograph; rather they will at best say they have a photo that seems to have a ghost in it. We never speak in absolutes.

When in doubt, the ASUP will share an image with a professional for re-evaluation, but as we have seen, these individuals are looking at the nuts and bolts of an image and as one recently shared, when showed a photo of a ghost on a staircase, the expert responded, “If there was someone standing on the stair it is not a ghost, but if there was no one standing on the stairs, it is a ghost!”

Better photos can be captured with better equipment. The addition of a simple UV (Ultraviolet) filter will cut down on reflections, lens flare and light anomalies for instance. Every camera should have a simple UV filter, they were commonly given to new camera owners when film was used, but new digital camera sellers tend not to want to give things away. The practice of giving away the filter in the first place was to correct heavy reflection and to protect the expensive lens on the older cameras but today’s cameras are, for the most part, considered throw-aways to begin with. Therefore your choice of camera is important, more expensive is not necessarily better but cheap rarely works for these studies.

As previously mentioned both at the last meeting and in a training bulletin, the latest “old thing” being resurrected by the pros in our field is the use of IR photography. When we talk about what was entitled, “Spirit Photos” the use of Infrared is the name of the game. Distributed at the last meeting, I gave away a handout on the topic, which I have added here for those who did not get it.

In Consideration of IR Photography as It Relates to Hauntings

A good deal has been noted in the last year in reference to the use of IR and Full Spectrum photography in the investigation of haunting cases and several protocols have been set to standardize the use of such equipment. Whether you are using an antique Olympus 2020Z (\$150 used), an Olympus IR-300 (\$250) or the latest Fuji IS-PRO (\$2,500 - \$4,000) or S3 Pro UVIR (\$1,200 to \$3000), the rules seem to be stacking up the same, but there is room for the more esoteric considerations when groups like the ASUP are formulating their guidelines.

First, it should be recognized that while Infrared has been popular in our field of research since the very first photo investigations by the ASUP in the 1970s (using Kodak and Ilford films) it has been only recently that popular growth has been seen in paranormal investigations, thanks in part to the work of the group in Gettysburg (thus the term Gettysburg protocol) and more recently through the efforts of Barry Fitzgerald of GHI on TV. Particular credit is given to Fitzgerald because of the innovations he has introduced in this area; noteworthy the dual camera rig shown on TV - two matching cameras, one shooting normal digital images the second shooting full spectrum in tandem, utilizing a “servo” to guarantee that both are firing at precisely the same time at the same field of view. The result is a great comparison of what can be seen from each, the invisible suddenly becoming visible.

Of course the GHI-Fitzgerald tandem set-up is almost as expensive as the much sought after FLIR thermal imaging camera, but practically speaking, similar results can be produced with less expensive systems, like the old 2020Z Olympus. The dual camera system simply

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eradicates the skeptics' nay-saying by offering in essence, what you see vs., what you don't see results, similar to the same types of cameras being used in both police forensics and lab based investigations made popular by TV shows like CSI. For those who wish to learn a little more about what we are actually capturing in that full spectrum-IR field, I have attached a brief explanation at the end of this piece.

The history of digital IR is simple. The very first digital still cameras had no IR filtering, but users complained that the color rendition was bad and the manufacturers soon adopted a universal filter that exists inside virtually every camera today. While some third-party technicians have introduced the idea of modifying any digital to take IR by opening and cutting out the offending filtration, the outcome is less than desirable in some cases, based on the technological variances from camera model to camera model. Likewise, once you remove the filtration that gives you the true color matching in a digital, you have to add a deep-red filter (R72) to once again capture the IR spectrum. You can at this point opt for other filters in front of the camera lens, to adjust to the spectrum you wish to photograph.

The other rule in IR is that what you are aiming for is not what you get. When shooting IR film in a good SLR, you would note a little mark on each of your lenses. Assuming you are shooting to infinity, this is where you would set your lens, NOT to focus through the camera, but a few mm down. That is because IR does not focus to infinity normally, you have to adjust the focus to match the characteristics of the film being used. In digital cameras, this is not true, there are no IR marks on the lens because the manufacturer of the camera did not see any reason to include them. Nevertheless, the only way you can get a really sharp IR image with an IR enabled camera is with a longer than normal exposure on a tripod or under extremely bright lighting, such as a sunny day.

While the technical side of this is fascinating, what is more interesting so far in all the years that I have been shooting IR is what I would like to think of as the "invitation" phase of such photography in the paranormal setting. After shooting IR for years, I have come to the observation that when the photographer subconsciously states his purpose and belief that such a photo is possible, should there be a willing "subject" the equipment is more likely to appear on the film or digitally, than just anyone snapping away. It is almost as if, when a serious researcher is out to get an image, he or she is more likely to succeed over the use of remote cameras that shoot at random without the "invitation" to the subject. Of course to the skeptic, this is rubbish, just as all the photos taken to date have explainable causes; for the purpose of this presentation, I will not allude to that faction further. If you believe, this is another possible extension of the camera; if you don't believe no amount of technical information is going to change your mind!

To look at results objectively, you must first begin with the protocols suggested earlier. What I call the "Gettysburg" protocol refers to some simple guidelines. First and foremost is the basic idea that a single photo will not stand well on its own, and that if you shoot multiple images of the same scene in succession, the results will give you much more to work on. This is a poor man's answer to the dual camera rig introduced by Fitzgerald. In Gettysburg, the protocol has yielded many good images that you can see on the Internet, where one frame is just the landscape, while the second shows the clear image of a "ghostly" figure.

As noted, all of this is random unless you do several things. First, it is advisable to have a

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“recorder” or person standing next to you when you take each shot, who is also looking at the landscape to note the errant sightseer rambling into the photo, which would certainly look like a ghost under certain conditions in IR. Having a witness eliminates the soul searching associated with the aftermath, when you find that image in a frame you can’t deny.

There are many “What ifs” associated with IR and full spectrum photo evaluation. “What if there was a person walking into the frame?” being the best example, but equally troublesome, “What if the light source shifts?” or “What if it is just an error of double exposure?”

The answers have to be considered in how you shoot. The witness at your side will hopefully be able to attest to the scene being “people” free, both the photographer and witness should be aware of changing light sources, flashes, etc. while the double exposure is not as easy with digital photography as one might think. Yes, there is always Photoshop and photos can be manipulated, which is why the old timers in the field trust no one but themselves to begin with.

Hopefully, the image you have caught is well documented and witnessed and the researcher’s credentials can attest to his or her intent.

All of that being said, we come full circle to the issue I raised earlier; “The Invitation,” and if it has a place in this form of research. There is something to be said for positive thinking, but timing is also to come into the equation. Given some widely accepted theories about the materialization of ghostly images, we might do well to add it to our protocol. Based on the “cold spot” theory, that cold and sometimes hot spots are documented in haunted places and that these are related to a spirit that is gathering energy to manifest itself (thus the use of thermal imaging equipment like the FLIR) we might assume that in order to capture an image of that spirit in IR or full spectrum, it must first have drawn enough energy from its surroundings to show itself successfully. In the investigation of cold spots, the issue is once again raised that to be successful, it is more likely when willing participants are present and asking the spirit to materialize. If that is true, then a similar invitation would work well for a photographer wishing to capture such an image.

I will now digress a moment to a recent investigation in Jefferson, Texas, where a dozen trained field investigators took over a reputedly haunted Bed & Breakfast for the weekend. The hostess gave the group full access to two buildings and the group worked for 12 hours overnight and again for several hours the next day, without any interruptions by guests who would normally be around the grounds and buildings.

In all literally thousands of photos were taken that weekend, as well as extensive recordings, K-2 sessions, which in and of themselves were sometimes startling, and Mini-Box experiments. Several investigators were also taking Full Spectrum –IR photography. At the end of the weekend, there were several “interesting” photos found, not the least of which was from a series of photos taken in IR, which included the main staircase of the Victorian mansion.

The hostess had noted earlier that she had witnessed a male figure on the stairs previously. When reviewing the images, and noting that it was captured following the “Gettysburg Protocol,” there was one frame that had a remarkable ghostly image on the stairs. There were three images taken in succession using ambient lights, no flash, one after the other, and utilizing a tripod... the other two were also sharp images, but without any “ghost”. The

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photographer asked his witness to think about that series; could there have been someone walking down the stairs? No.

On follow up, the photographer asked that an officer poll the others in the house to confirm who, if anyone had also witnessed the photos being taken or if there was any chance that someone had come bouncing down the stairs during the series (the timeline is important here, with less than one second between frames, which would have been in and of itself remarkable, given the steep incline of the stairs). While this image is still under investigation and the ASUP has not officially commented on its nature to this point, there is definitely something there.

Noteworthy, is the timing in question. The series was taken “the morning after” investigators had working in the house for 12 hours, only breaking for a rest at 4 a.m. This obviously could be seen as an “excitement” for anything paranormal in the house and followed an extensive K-2 and Mini-Box session at the end of that first night that identified three individual spirits in residence. If the “ghost” needed energy, he certainly had ample supplies at hand. The next morning, people were just arising when the IR photo session was being accomplished. The attitude of those in attendance was extremely positive and upbeat, based on the previous day’s activities, so there was, once again, ample energy for something to manifest within the confines of the old house and would suggest an invitation for contact... resulting in what appears to be a full body apparition as shown below.

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Obviously, the image above looks similar to the famous “Gray Lady of Raynham Hall” which has been a benchmark of spirit photography for over 100 years. It certainly is not unique to the files of paranormal investigations, but is rare if you were to count it among the millions of images taken annually around the globe. While this was not the only photo of interest to the researcher’s this weekend, (there were several others) this is the quintessential image sought after by so many of their kind. The only comment made officially by the ASUP was, “It is the kind of thing we have come to expect in Jefferson, a city with a long history steeped in the lore of the restless spirit. We are pleased, but not surprised.”

So what is IR photography

When shooting IR film, the biggest obstacle to getting a good print is exposure, which in and of itself is not as great a problem when shooting IR or Full Spectrum digitally. The biggest problem with digital IR images is associated with the cost of the equipment.

Infrared is not simply infrared. The width of the spectrum is extremely wide. It begins at 700 nm, the

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extreme edge of the visible spectrum and from there it merges into heat waves. Infrared is broken down into four ranges. The actinic range is the nearest to visible light. These wavelengths are produced by incandescent objects such as the sun or a light bulb. This radiation can also be reflected by objects which are not themselves hot. Good *reflectors* of this type are green leaves and the human body.

The next range is called the *hot-object range*. This is the infrared radiation given off by hot irons or electrical appliances having a temperature of about 400C. Next is the *calorific range*. This non-actinic radiation is produced by objects having a temperature from about 100C to 200C. Finally there is the *warm range*, non-actinic radiation given off by the human body or the ground. The wavelength involved here is about 9000nm and *cannot be recorded* by film. (In other words, the heat given off by the body and the landscape cannot be photographed. There must be a source of IR light that can be *reflected*.)

IR film is sensitive to a range from 650 to 800 nm, although it peaks in its sensitivity to IR at about 750nm, only 50 nm above the visible spectrum. Kodak's film is capable of recording IR from 750 to 900+nm. As you can see, therefore, both films are only capable of recording IR in the first two ranges. Except for the sun or artificial lights, in most infrared photography, all objects will be *reflecting* IR not emitting it, an interesting footnote given the supposed nature of what we call ghosts. We are not talking about thermal imaging, such as the FLIR camera. Therefore like ordinary photography we are shooting subjects which reflect light from a source. And that source will be the sun or an artificial light such as tungsten lights or strobes.

Experimenting in IR or Full Spectrum is unique, it certainly has its place in the paranormal investigators bag of tricks, but like everyone else we study, there is a human connection that skeptics tend to negate. That is not to say a non-believer could not have taken this kind of image, they can and they often do; rather the image was taken at a point in time when the air was emotionally charged, making the process all that much more easy. We still have a lot to learn, but the future looks very promising indeed for this particular part of what we study.

In conclusion, I once again want to be sure we are all on the same page, so to speak. Photographically, whether we are shoot IR, Full Spectrum or normal digital images, the resulting image is coming from a source that either reflects or emits light or energy which is transferred through the lens and onto the CCD screen. The camera captures exactly what it sees within the limits of the spectrum you are shoot. If you shoot IR or full spectrum, you will probably opt for output in B&W because any color

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you get is irrelevant, unless of course, you are shooting “art” and were trying to make green leafed trees in the summertime look like they are covered by ice and snow.

And, when shooting in either of these alternative formats, it is reasonable to use the person accompanying you as record to also be a sensitive, who is open to capturing the unusual. This added bonus seems to have the desired effect more often than when the photographer and recorder as more skeptical. You really do have to be open to all the possibilities, even when you are trying to capture the image of an unusual occurrence with a regular digital camera.

Some might argue that the resulting image is somehow a hallucination that the sensitive projects onto the camera, but I tend to disagree with the entire telepathic argument. Nevertheless it is our job to consider all the possibilities and our voyage into the world of photography is part of that quest. To be really good, you need to become an accomplished photographer, intimate with your gear and ready to shoot; some would say that is a lot of work for a little payback, I think it is just part of the landscape in which we toil.

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The Truth About Orbs, Photos and Analysis

Well, if you are going to address a tough topic in paranormal circles, ORBS would be it! The analysis of photos and EVPs are our stock and trade, but as anyone who has been around awhile can attest, there are many opinions on what is solid paranormal evidence.

While I hate to generalize, I personally subscribe to the thought that all ORBS are dust! That is in keeping the ASUP's general rule for all evident, "When in doubt, throw it out!" The truth is that no really knows what an ORB is, some say it is simple energy, the fact is no one really knows for sure. Unlike Spook Lights or Ball Lightning, which can be measured and reproduced in a lab, true ORBS are more illusive and are all too often misidentified. Let me explain.

In photography you are capturing an image through a lens onto a sensitive medium, be it film or a digital plate. But cameras do not have the ability that a person does, they do not rationalize, they simply capture whatever is in front of the lens at the moment the trigger mechanism is released. The camera is recording light, pure and simple and as a result captures all the tones in the light spectrum. In black & white photography, the color is translated in thousands of shades of gray. If a flash is used to illuminate the scene to be photographed, the light bounces back to the lens off of anything in front of it. If there is a particle of dust, the light will bounce off it and it will be captured, but the image will show all the movement captured while the shutter is open, as well as the illusion of an infinitely small object reflecting light so it looks much bigger. We compound that problem in most cases by shooting the photo with the camera focused on a more distant point of the frame, so anything that is in front of that point will be out of focus.

When light bounces back from a fleck of dust and is captured in a photo where the more distant point puts that dust out of focus and the shutter is open for lets say a 60th of a second, the result is a picture of the more distant object, with the dust particle reflecting back from somewhere between the camera and the focal point. The result is an ORB! The light from the dust is reflected, then reflected again, as long as the lens is open, causing a halo effect that causes the viewer to see something that the photographer did not, namely reflected light from the dust.

Now, when a camera has a small, inexpensive lens that is sometimes made from plastic, the distortion only adds to the problem. When using a more advanced camera system, many photos that should show ORBS, simply do not capture them and there are several good reasons for this. First, the more expensive camera probably has some sort of polarizing filter in place, all UV filters serve this purpose. The polarization of the reflected light filters out artifact from glare. The best example of this is

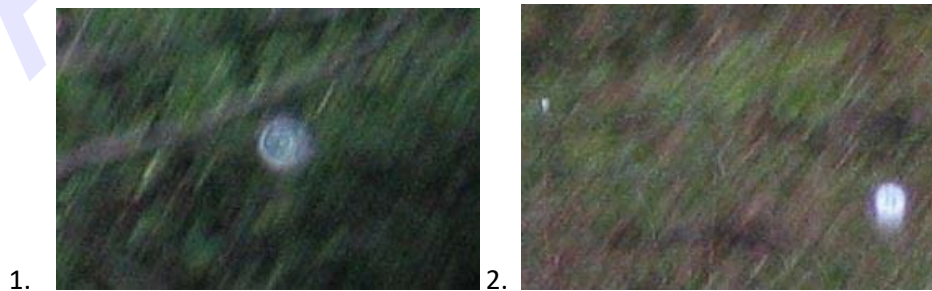
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when you take a photo of fish swimming in a shallow pond on a sunny day. Without a UV filter to polarize the image, you would not get a clear picture of the fish, you would most likely get the glare of the sunlight off the water's surface. With the filtration in place, the glare is eliminated and you get a photo of the fish, swimming in the water below the surface.

Most inexpensive cameras do not have the ability to add a filter in front of the lens, thus there is no polarization, no UV filtering. In the more expensive camera the photographer automatically adds the UV filter simply to protect the lens and as an added bonus, he eliminates the element of glare and flair. I have seen hundreds of photos taken with inexpensive cameras that have an ORB, which the same scene taken with a higher priced SLR has none.

Now, we started by saying that ALL ORBS ARE DUST. But obviously, that is not true in the empiric sense. Some ORBS are balls of energy, most enlightened paranormal investigators will tell you. What kind of energy, where it comes from, etc. is still in question, but you have to concede the fact that there are ORBS that are not just light anomalies caused by unfiltered lenses. How do we know? Because sometimes, only rarely, do we see a photo with a true ORB, taken with a good camera and properly filtered. Those ORBS, first and foremost are solid in form, not a matrix of reflected light. In additional cases the ORB appears behind something, a pillar or piece of furniture, that is obscuring the total image of the ORB. That of course proves this is not reflected light because a false ORB is always round. If part of the ORB is obscured, then it would have to have been a solid object, not just a reflection.

A true orb will appear to be a solid object, something that will give the viewer pause because it is in the frame, properly illuminated and looks like a round lamp covering that is floating in air. We have actually seen ORBS that were mistaken to be a ceiling fixture, only to realize it was not present in other photos of the same view. So, a true ORB appears to be SOLID, not transparent. How often does this happen? Only rarely. Getting a photo of a true ORB is as about as likely as getting a full apparition in a photo. So, are any of these photos a true ORB?



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6.

7.



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Sorry folks, with the exception of photo six, none of these photos are ORBS. I will reserve judgment on #6 because it was reported that the ORB was “cut off” on top due to an overhanging beam at the residence where it was shot. Not having the full image, it is impossible to debunk it, although while the image is very pretty, it is certainly not solid. It should be noted here that we do not have a true ORB photo at ASUP, that is to say an ORB that is perfectly solid, in focus and at a reasonable distance. That is not to say that a true ORB does not exist, although this might be a question of semantics. Spook Lites are ORB-like spheres, they are solid and have been tested to show that they are in fact charged, thus a ball of energy. Likewise a good photo of ball lightning meets the same physical criteria, although it moves too fast to be photographed without a blur. Finally, Sprites, those self-luminescent little balls found occasionally in a cemetery could be called ORBS, but again act differently and are electrically charged. The difference between ORBS, spook lites, Sprites and Ball Lightning is in the nature of the element.... In other words people see the last three without using a camera! They are physically present and obvious to the observer, where ORBS are not visible.

While it would be easy to debate this all day, the fact is that ORBS did not exist before the invention of the digital camera, it is simply an artifact found in their design. The fact that they show up in ghostly situations is in the eye of the beholder. I will not go so far as to say there is no such thing as a real ORB, I am aware that they do exist, but in such relatively few numbers that the chances of getting a photo of one is about as good as capturing a visible ghost through the lens. I will not say that ORBS should not be accepted for study, that would be foolish, but I do hope that everyone consider the reality of the situation before firing off copies of reflective dust as a paranormal occurrence.

While we are about it, I draw your attention to frames #3 and #7. While not orb-like they are also common enough and I think #7 is an artifact caused by a relatively fast moving insect. The photo frame #3 is another story. I am not sure what it is, although I would guess it is a reflection from the shiny white surface next to it. I bring these into account for a very good reason. In order to actually explain them, you have to refer back to the most basic ghost hunter's tool...the note book. With #7 we would be able to better explain it if the investigator had good notes and if an environmental field unit (weather station) was in use. It is a good idea to look at what you have when you are snapping away and if you have something like this, note the time and atmospheric conditions in your notebook and pass it along on your evidence log. Was it hot, humid, snowing, were there a lot of bugs, etc. and what time was the shot taken. Now we can judge the photo on a level playing field.

In #3 we have only one frame, not two, so there is nothing to compare this photo to, it is just “something” but will remain a mystery photo without further information.

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Obviously, photography is a blessing to the ghost hunter, pure and simple. A photo is worth a thousand words, but in the analysis phase, words are the key to understanding the photo as a piece of evidence. We can't jump to conclusions! I offer one other photo here for your consideration, taken in Jefferson TX, the same day as the famous OOPS photo of the apparition on the stairs, it was a shot of two ASUP investigators sitting in the parlor.



So, what is that shiny little “bug” on Stacy’s collar?

From this one photo, you can only guess, but if you look at the TWO photos taken in a row, the answer become more obvious.... It is a BUG! Note that in frame one, the bug is actually on the pink throw that is covering Jesse and Stacy (below), in the second it is on Stacy’s collar (above).



I trust this will assist you all in your photo analysis, and remember the rules, always shoot twice, always look for the obvious answer first and when in doubt, send it for further analysis to your Director for Evidence. And don't take this personally, but when we are in doubt, we will throw it out!

The Fourth Hypothesis

“Once you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains, no matter how improbable, must be the truth.”

I give to you the primary test of any good investigator, paranormal or otherwise. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle penned this phrase in *The Sign of Four* in 1890, part of the Sherlock Holmes series. He also wrote, “There is nothing as deceptive as an obvious fact,” which also ties into my topic of the week, namely the scholarly work of Professor Tim Barth at Texas Christian University and his colleague, Don Dansereau for The Fourth Hypothesis!

While the ASUP has strove to apply Conan Doyle’s enlightened prospective, that in the search for truth, you must accept the improbable after eliminating the impossible, we still tend to second guess ourselves in some cases. Perhaps the famous creator of Sherlock Holmes has overlooked a critical fact, an obvious one that is no less deceptive. The point being that to do the job right, you first must have all the facts, not the convenient ones and guard against the human tendency to adjust fact to fit the desired outcome.

Dr. Barth has addressed these concerns In the creation of The Fourth Hypothesis, a flow chart that addressing the need for a paranormal guide map that can be utilized by field investigators in search of the sometimes illusive truth. The flow chart allows the investigator to “fill in the blanks,” to arrive at a solution, no matter how improbably.

Now, it should be mentioned that Dr. Barth is not a parapsychologist, a paranormal researcher or anything of that order. He chairs the Psychology Department at TCU and admittedly has little input from the paranormal community, in fact he spends a good deal of time in the field of nutrition and health in brain function, including in-depth articles on subjects like Aspartame, all a tad bit removed from our studies, but he was still intrigued by what some of us do and how we do it. When asked recently about his views of the existence of ghosts and otherworldly affairs, Dr. Barth shrugged and said simply, “Why not?”

Dr. Barth’s motivation seems simple enough, if you are going to study anything, you have to create a model to follow for that study to succeed. Thus, The Fourth Hypothesis!

There is nothing really new in Dr. Barth’s model, obviously Conan Doyle followed the same concept when he created Sherlock Holmes. Every investigation should in theory be uniform, each step fulfilled and then scrutinized to see that we have not lost anything in our translation. The common pitfall, of course, is that we rely on second hand information, thus our interview methods have to be better than just good. Subjects forget things, reinforce things, rationalize, all of which we must be constantly aware of in our work.

In a recent conversation with Nate Riddle, a former student of Dr. Barth, who is now writing a book on those who study the paranormal, I mentioned an old classroom trick I utilized more than once while on staff at John Jay College. The test was devised to bring to light the shortcomings of “eyewitness” testimony, even moments after an occurrence and was utilized in courses most often attended by superior officers of local police departments.

The class would be seated at the normal start time of the lecture. A graduate assistant would be standing at the podium, adjusting a notebook for the lecturer, when a disheveled young man would come into the lecture hall and begin screaming at the assistant. Words were exchanged, the assistant would wrangle the man into a hallway, just out of eyesight, then there would be the unmistakable sound of two gun shots in the hall. Just as the lecture hall was about to empty

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of the hundred or so cops who had witnessed the affair, I would walk in, block their egress and tell them to sit down again.

I would quickly tell them that they had just witnessed a staged test and proceeded to hand out detailed questionnaires that would later be graded on their perceptions; everything from the color of the “perp’s” shirt, to what kind of gunshot they had heard. Uniformly, these trained observers, many of whom supervised other rank and file cops, scored very poorly. The objective was met, if the trained observer did a bad job of describing a three minute event, what could they expect from civilians on the street?

I have spent a good deal of time lecturing the ASUP field investigators on good interview practices. The interviewer is not simply asking questions and soliciting responses, they must engage their subjects, gaining their trust and soliciting full cooperation. They must also become adept at reading the subtleties of body language and environment. If we fail to create a complete package, then we will fail in our investigation as a whole. That is the whole point to multiple interviews. The Director of Research will interview the subjects on the phone at length long before a team travels to the location in question. Once there, either the Coordinator or the Director of Field Investigations will once again sit down with the clients to interview them once again, this time in their own environment, recognizing the body language and not just the words.

There really is a good reason why those in-field interviews are done by the Coordinator and the Director of Field Investigations; both are trained law enforcement professionals and after thousands of interviews, they know what answers are forthcoming and which need follow-up questions. How many times have we gone into the field with a full set of interview notes, to learn on site that the client has eliminated a key element previously, thinking it was either not important or somehow embarrassing. That is human nature and a seasoned interviewer will catch it immediately. They may not know what is being withheld, but they can tell something is not in order. Good investigators know that, which of course, has been our point since the earliest days of the ASUP, when I publically said at a meeting of the PRF at Duke that cops and reporters were far better prepared to do field work than academics who spend most of their time in a lab. Obviously there are exceptions, a good clinical psychologist is a professional investigator, but the numbers of lettered professionals with such credentials, who have the time to do field work are few.

Returning to Dr. Barth’s flow chart, it is best described as a logical map of how any good investigator of any given paranormal occurrence would hopefully follow. It obviously begins with the Observation, where the investigator describes in detail what has been reported, frequency and differences included. Besides that basic information, it prompts the investigator to learn about the physical, cognitive and emotions of the observers, belief systems and past histories that might influence the observation, historic precedents for this observation and environmental conditions when the observations were made.

Based upon that information, the investigator can make a gross assumption for each of four hypothesis, namely mental construction; Hoax, accident or chance, Natural phenomenon or something Paranormal!

Under hypothesis one, we would look at the possibilities of perceptual distortion or memory distortion and based on the mapping of all of those possibilities, rate the probability from one to ten. In hypothesis two, we consider, in depth the possibilities of the reported phenomenon being a hoax, accident or strictly chance, again summarizing all of that information on the

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same one to ten scale. In hypothesis three, natural phenomenon is put into play, rating again the probability of the observer's misidentification of a natural occurrence and finally, in hypothesis four, we consider the observation as a paranormal phenomena, and rating that information in the same manner.

Each of the four hypothesis have associated mapping instructions. Map one considers perceptual distortion, including subsets that include variables such as expectations, mood and even dream states. The context and setting are considered, poor observation conditions and social influences, such as other's perceptions and interpretations. Map two further dissects the possibility of intentionally creating a misleading observation, technological accidents or the chance of random happenings. Finally, map three considers the possibility of natural phenomenon being misobserved as paranormal., possible weather related, geological activity and/or other physical forces of nature; water, wind, magnetism or optics, for example.

Once mapped, the investigator is asked if there is any possibility that the phenomena is a combination of any elements of the first three hypothesis and that too is given a rating of between one and ten. Once all of that is concluded, the investigator looks at the scores objectively and, as Conan Doyle so long ago suggested, "Once you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains, no matter how improbable, must be the truth."

Of course, there is one rather large pitfall that we all face when ordering any prioritized collection, our own prejudices! Note well that even Dr. Barth lists mental constructs as the first hypothesis, giving preference to his own field of endeavor. Likewise, we all know that many cases involve multiple layers where they may be a spirit presence, but also challenges that could suggest poltergeist. In that regard, we have to recognize that the phenomenon reflects multiple possibilities, thus the case requires multiple hypothesis to work. You can, for example have a poltergeist and a ghost in the same environment, for very different reasons.

The Fourth Hypothesis is a good ground level step for the intermediate investigator to collect his thoughts and file them in an orderly fashion so that he can come to a rational conclusion in a case. It is by no means the end-all of paranormal investigation techniques, but certainly can help eliminate the clutter in many cases. The system is now slated for study in field tests by the ASUP this spring and those using it will file reports on how they individually would alter the program to better suit their needs. Those findings will then be forwarded to Dr. Barth for further consideration. In the meantime, any useful tool to assist field workers is appreciated and the Fourth Hypothesis certainly is a welcome tool! Bravo to Dr. Barth and his colleague, Don Dansereau for a job well done.

* Tim Barth is currently Chairperson of the Department of Psychology at Texas Christian University (TCU). His interest in parapsychology began as an undergraduate at St. Bonaventure University where he completed the class "Religion and the Paranormal" taught by Fr. Alphonsus Trabold a noted investigator of paranormal events in western New York and Pennsylvania. Fr. Trabold was the principal investigator of the Hinsdale haunting during the 1970s (subject of the book "Echoes of a Haunting" by Clara Miller and the episode "Dark Forest" from Discovery Channel's 'A Haunting' series). Dr. Barth received a Ph.D. in experimental psychology from the University of Texas at Austin and began as an Assistant Professor at TCU in 1990. He teaches courses in Parapsychology to both undergraduate and graduate students. These courses are aimed at challenging the belief systems of students by objectively presenting the evidence for and against paranormal interpretations of personal

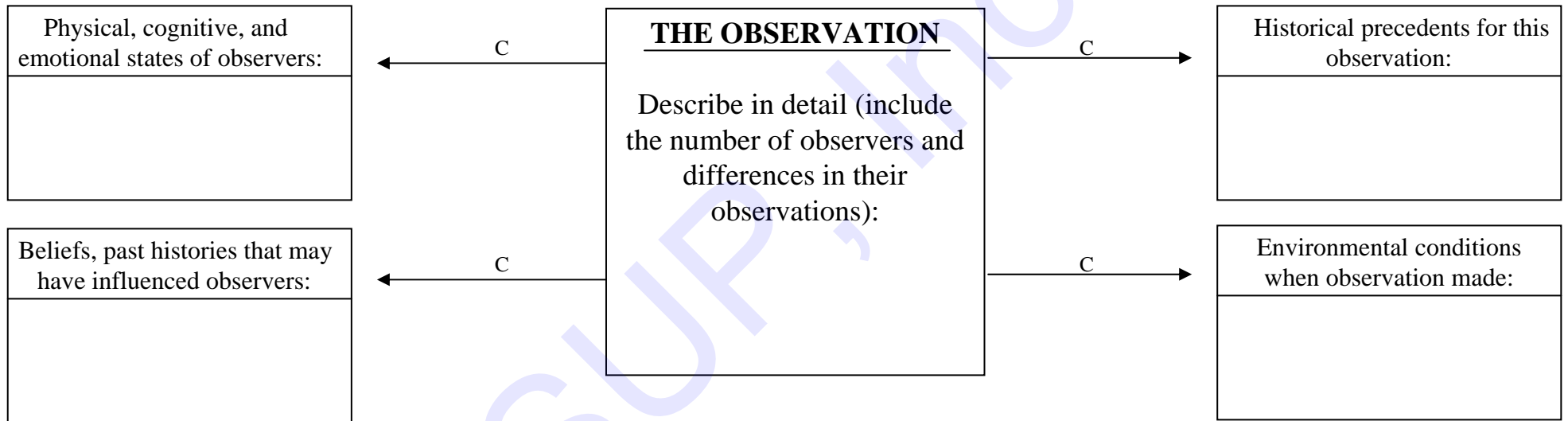
The Fourth Hypothesis

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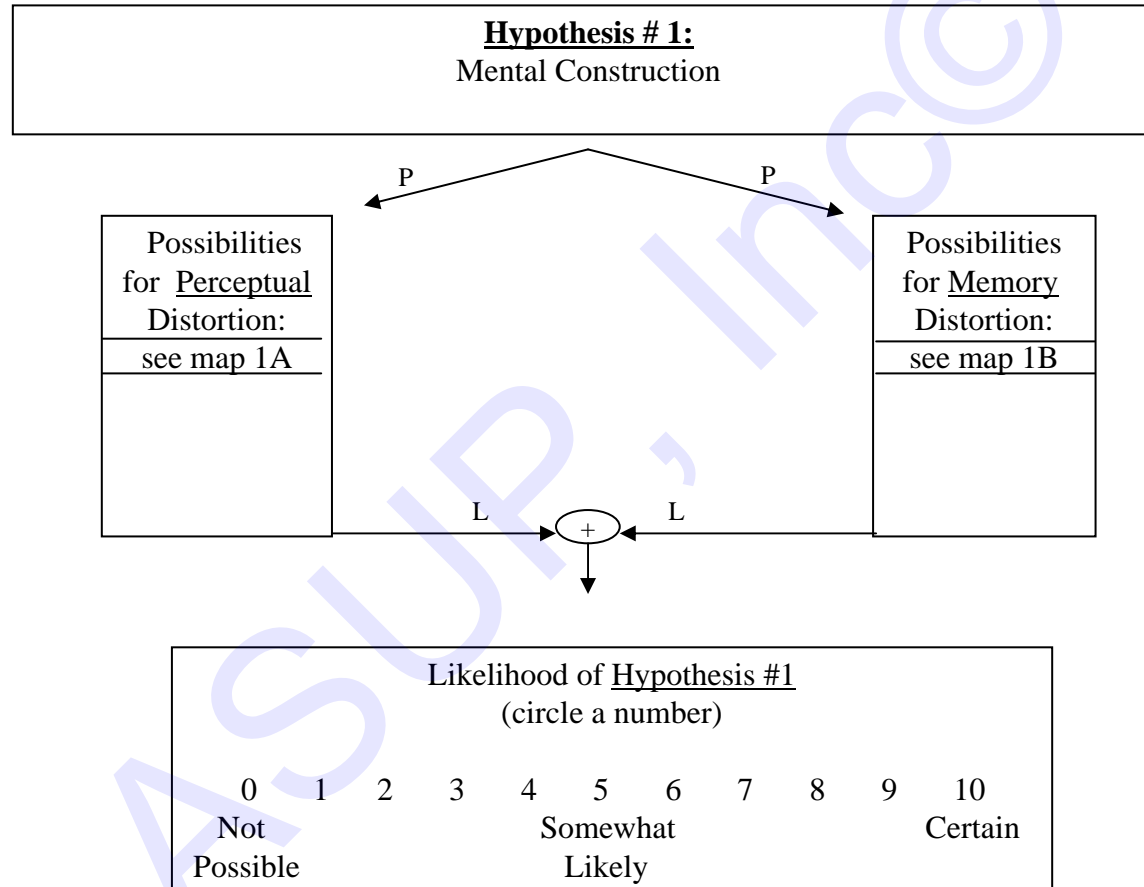
Don Dansereau has studied cognitive psychology for over 30 years at TCU. His guide maps to effective decision-making have been used in many areas including substance abuse counseling, stress management, and education. The Fourth Hypothesis: A Paranormal Guide Map is the product of many conversations regarding possible explanations for paranormal experiences and how to think about them when they occur.

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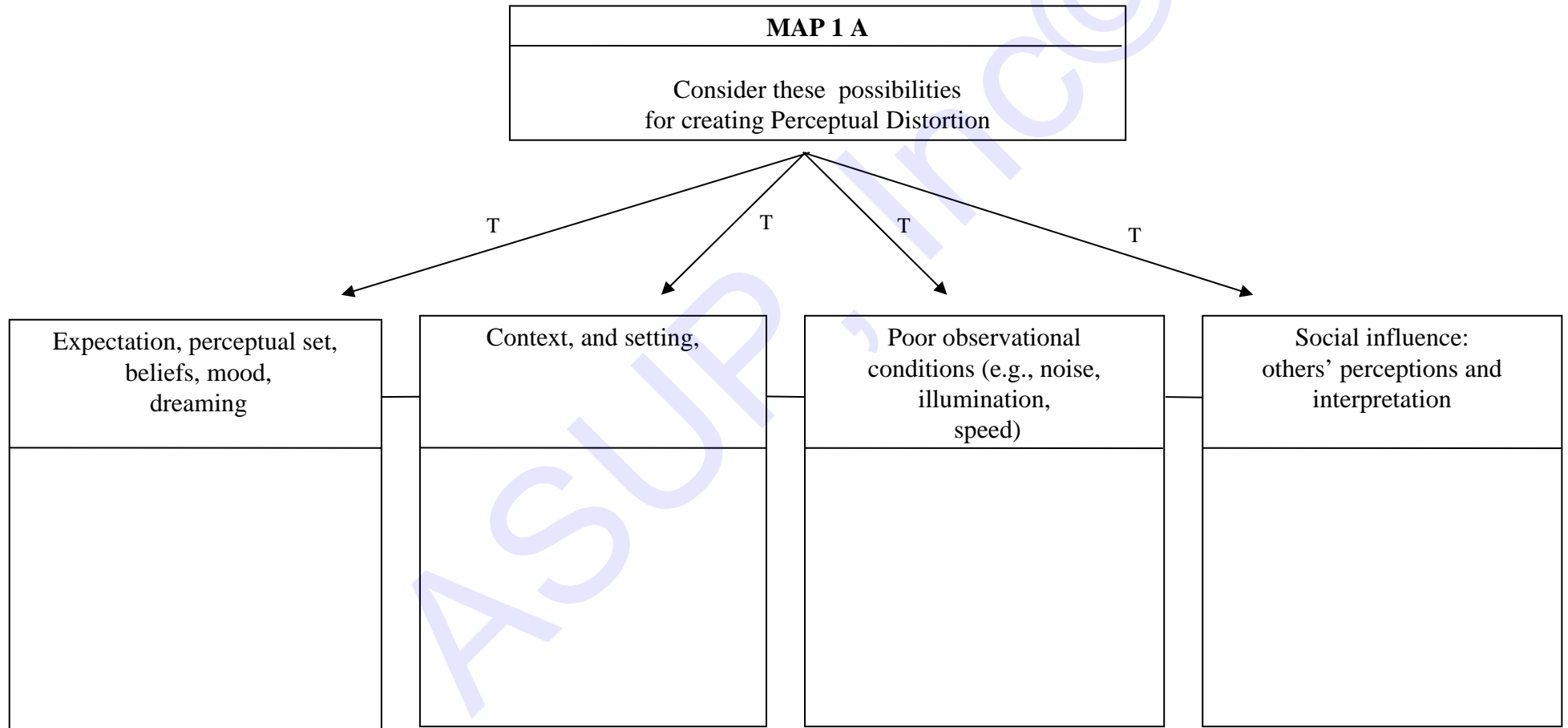
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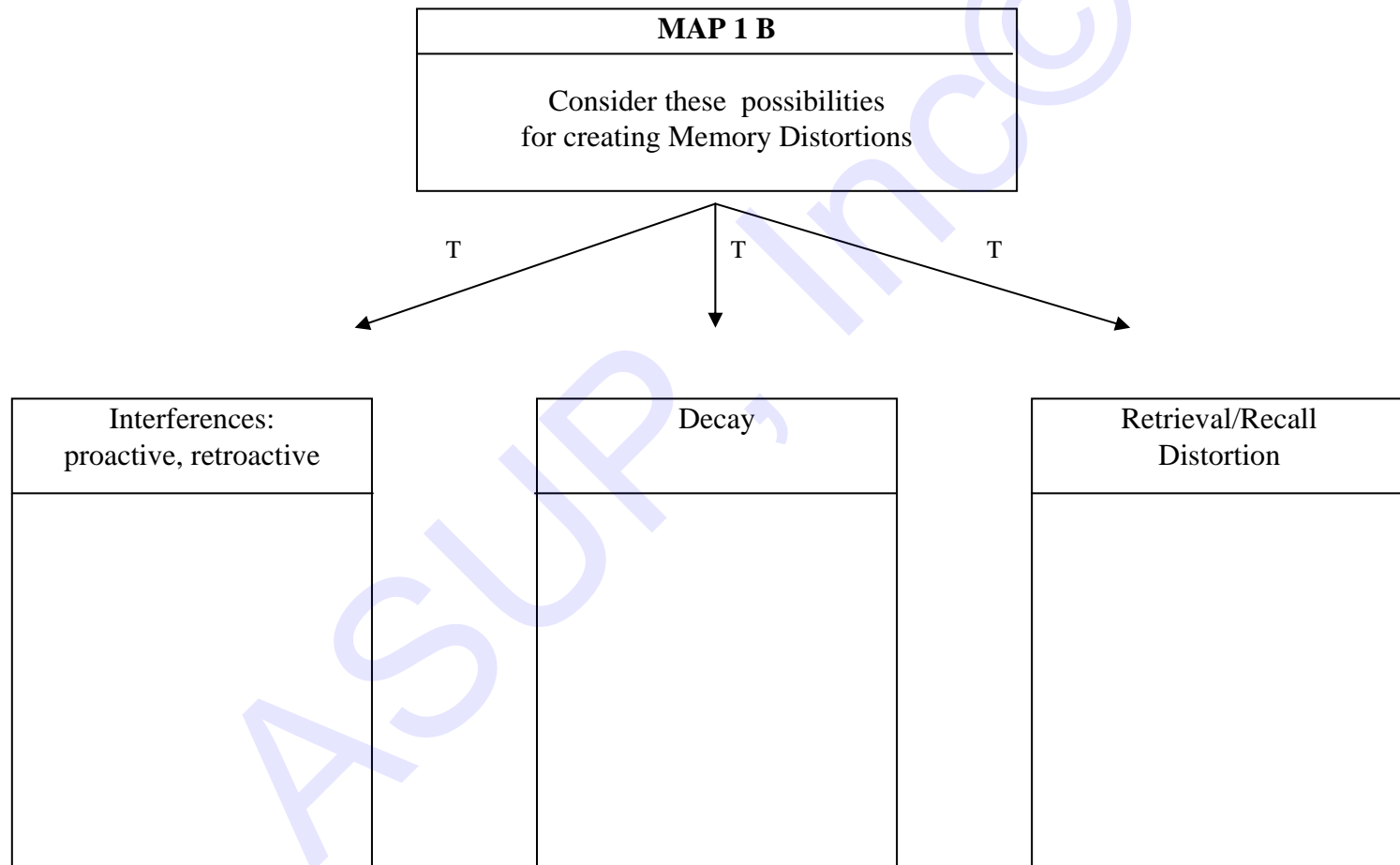
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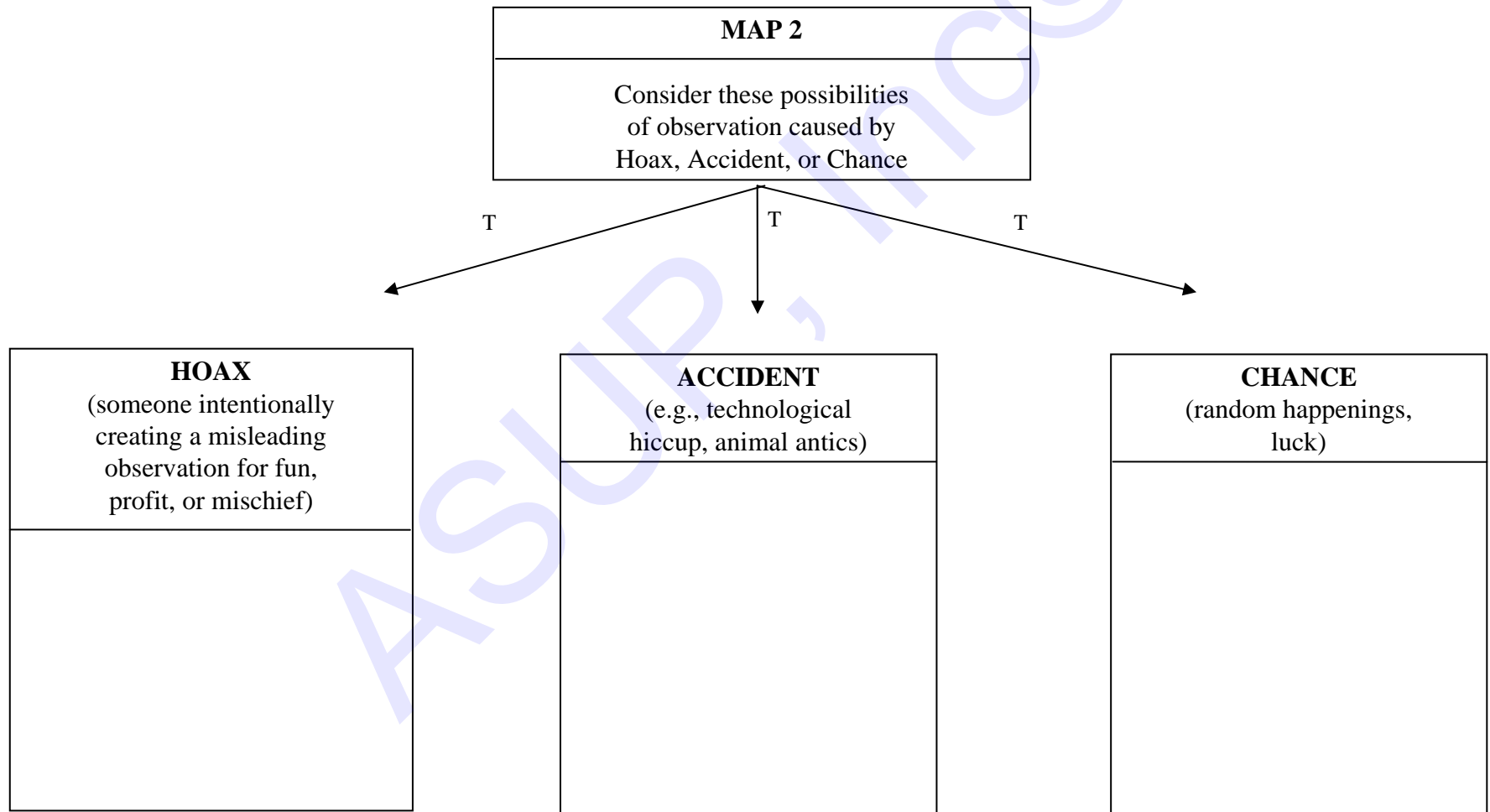
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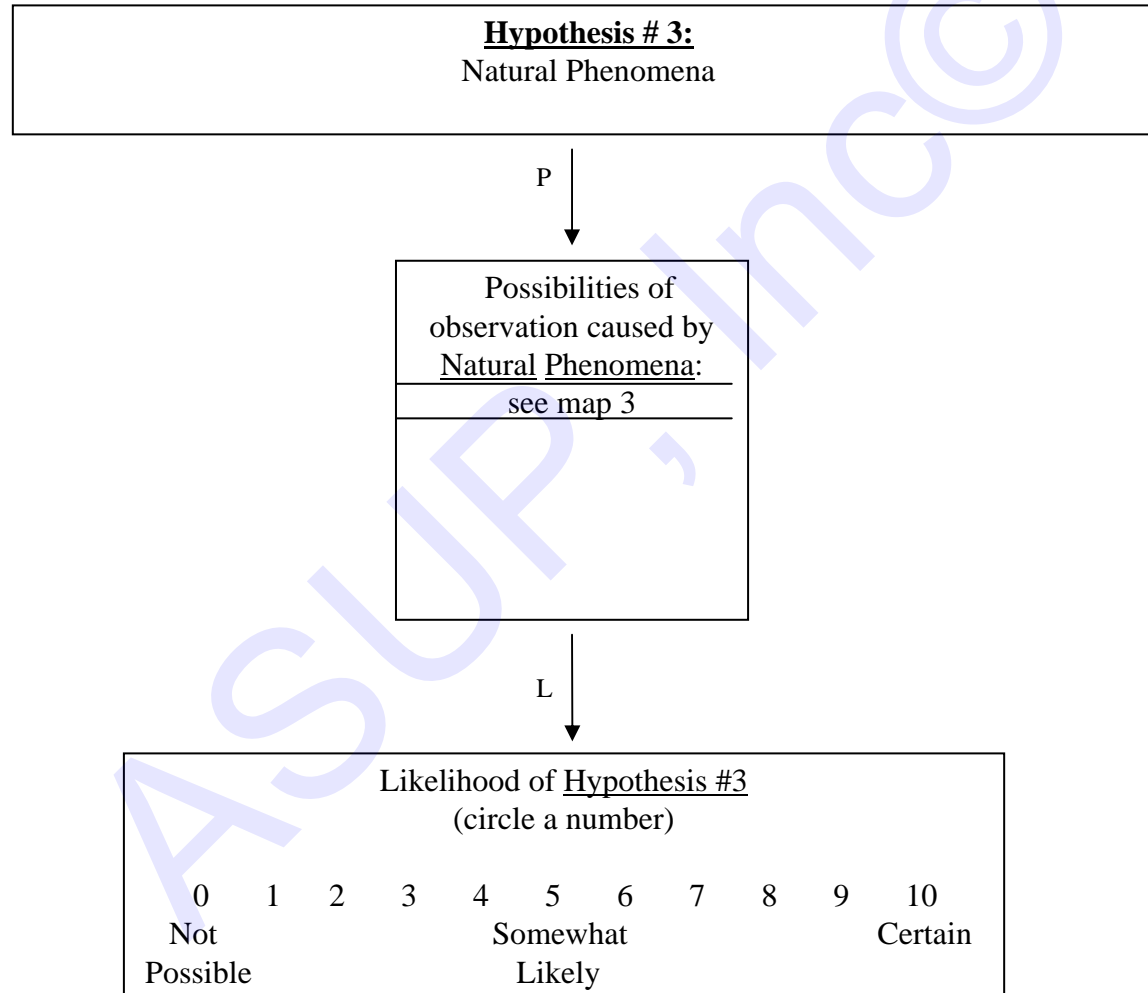
The Fourth Hypothesis: A Paranormal Guide Map

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| <u>Hypothesis # 2:</u> Hoax, Accident, or Chance | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80%;"><p>Possibilities of a <u>Hoax, Accident</u> or <u>Chance:</u></p><hr/><p>see map 2</p></div> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"><p>Likelihood of <u>Hypothesis #2</u> (circle a number)</p><table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td style="width: 10%;">0</td><td style="width: 10%;">1</td><td style="width: 10%;">2</td><td style="width: 10%;">3</td><td style="width: 10%;">4</td><td style="width: 10%;">5</td><td style="width: 10%;">6</td><td style="width: 10%;">7</td><td style="width: 10%;">8</td><td style="width: 10%;">9</td><td style="width: 10%;">10</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Not Possible</td><td colspan="6">Somewhat Likely</td><td colspan="3">Certain</td></tr></table></div> | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | Not Possible | | Somewhat Likely | | | | | | Certain | | |
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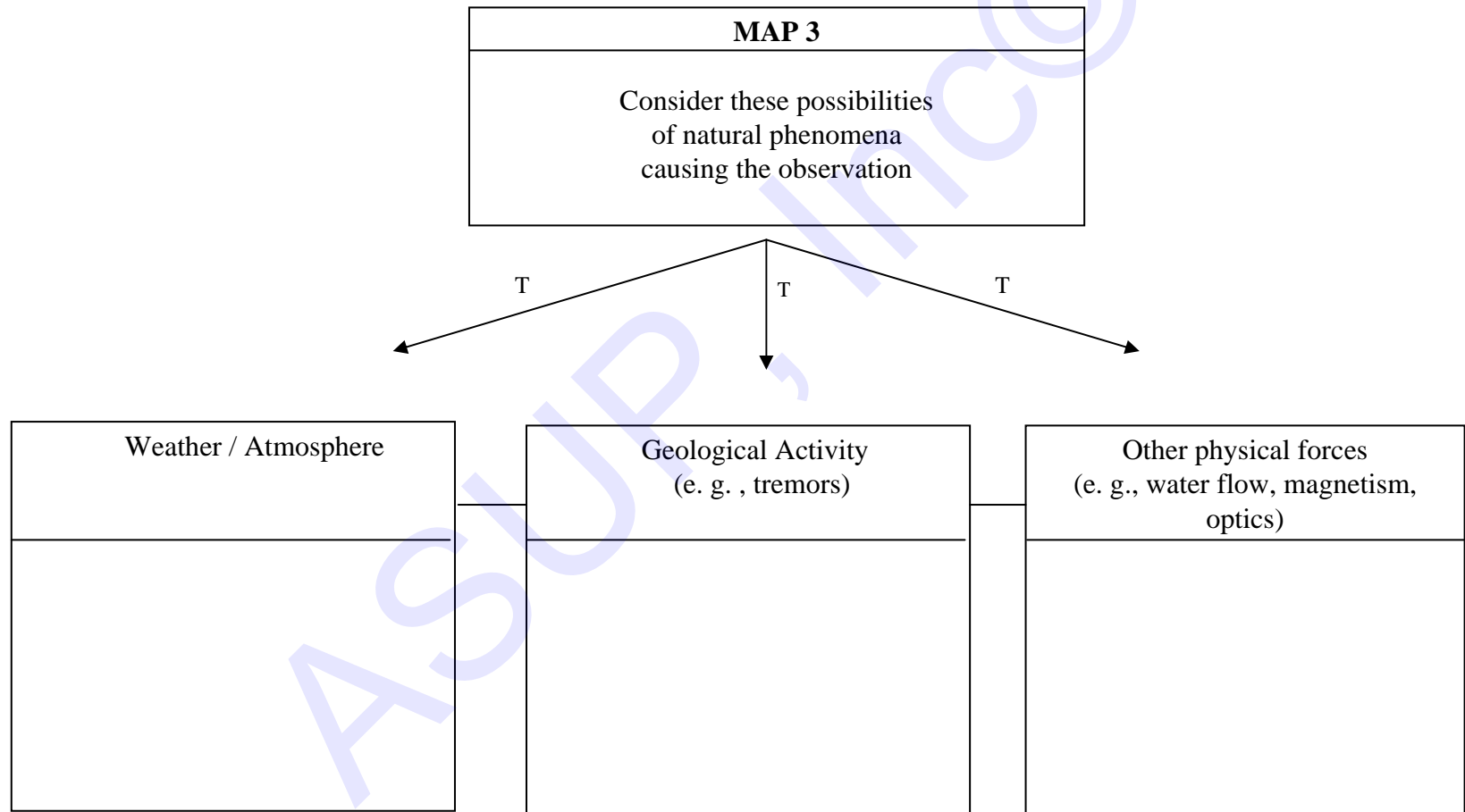
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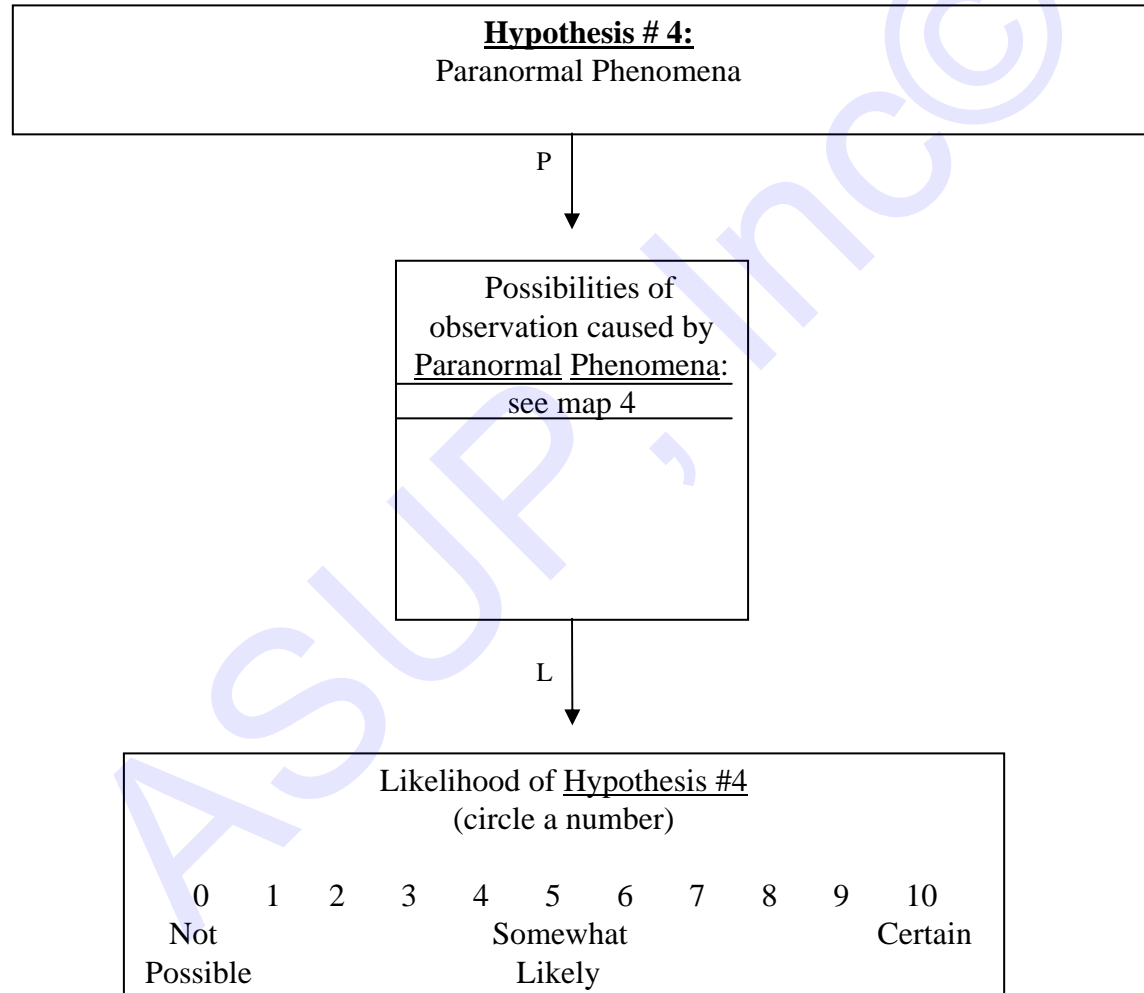
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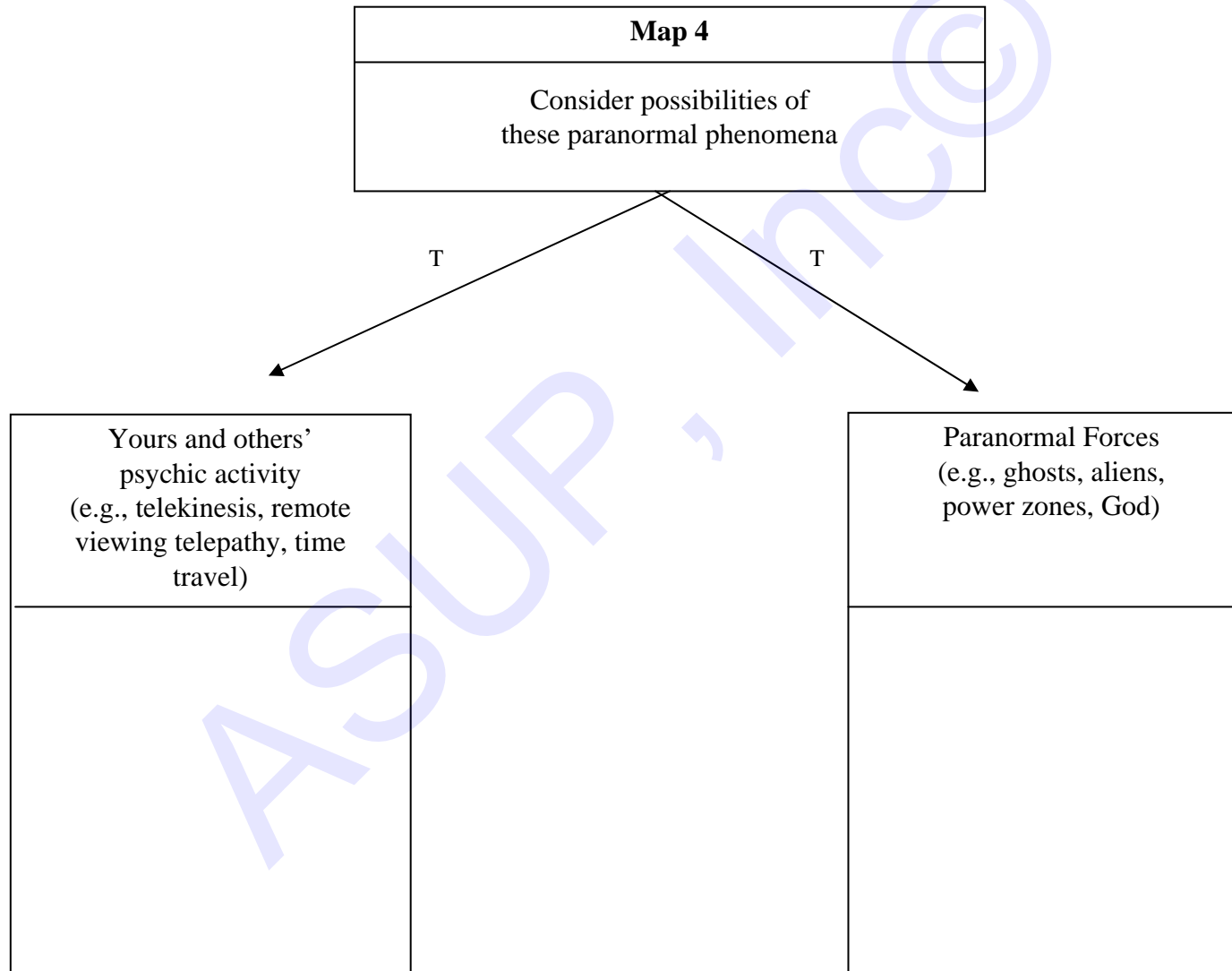
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The Fourth Hypothesis: A Paranormal Guide Map

Hypothesis Combo.

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Possibilities of a combo. of the above:

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Likelihood of Hypothesis (circle a number)

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L

Summary, Conclusions, and Recommendations

Many years ago, I was tagged to create a fictitious dialogue that would pass for the writings of a shop owner in turn of the century New York City's Five Points district, who was describing life in his neighborhood. The assignment fell to a committee of three, including myself, an urban archeologist and a historical anthropologist. The final product was no longer than this article and took several months to create. The problem, as we were about to learn, was with the Lexicon. Even the span of 100 years greatly changes the words and phrases we use, so much so that if the truth were to be known it becomes yet another foreign language.

This is not the only example of lexiconic landmines; I learned a long time ago that it is often more simple to interpret an old foreign tongue than to understand the written word from just a few years ago in your own. When reading Caesar's war chronicles, the phrase "Gallia Est Omnis Divisa in Partes Tres," is easily understood by any scholar with a terms worth of Latin language training; "All Gaul (France) is divided into three parts..." The only word that might need research to the untrained is Gallia. Those words were spoken over 2000 years ago, but a much later writer, Geoffrey Chaucer, who was writing in Middle English 1400 years later may be more familiar in sound, but non-the-less more difficult to translate into modern prose. For example, "Whanne that April with his shoures sote The droughte of March hath perced to the rote." (*Canterbury Tales. Prologue. Line 1.*); roughly translated this is the forefather of "April Showers Bring May Flowers." But it is certainly not English prose as we know it today.

Possibly the best "modern" translation of common 19th century American English into 21st century writing concerns a little ghost story we fell upon recently, not too far from Jefferson, TX. A little girl was with her extended family, picnicking near an antebellum cemetery, on what had once been the front lawn of family's ancestral plantation. The child delivered a message, as if in trance, saying, "I am Octoroon!" Here is a word not likely to be found in Webster's and certainly not in common usage today! An Octoroon is a person of one-eighth black blood, the offspring of a quadroon and a white; the term was in common usage only in Southern States in and around 1850, certainly not a word known by a preschooler!

This, of course, brings us to the topic of the week, our lexicons and the ability to communicate and interpret others' research. A hundred years ago Catherine Crowe wrote at length about the ghostly research of her day, yet every chapter is accentuate with terminology in common use in her generation and often lost to our own. Techniques and devices used by researchers simply no longer exist.

In order to level the playing field, the ASUP attempted years ago to create a lexicon of their own, but it is totally inadequate and would need to be updated regularly, simply because a week does not pass that we don't encounter a new word or phrase. This creates a quandary; if we do not learn from our history, we are ever bound to have to relive it, but that history might well have been written in an ancient form of Farsi for most of us.

Even when working on my historic project in New York City, which was centered on a little plot of excavated crossroads at the Five Points, the pottery and silverware found at the site were more telling than some of the paper records uncovered. In one case there was a sort of order book found, but half the items listed no longer could be found in our reference works. There were, I might add suggestions that the residents of that little dig area were superstitious and sought ways to ward off evil, but exactly of what nature is still a bit of a mystery.

The key to being concise in an investigation of an older site lays with the interpretation and many times we "Assume" too much for our own good. An excellent example of this can be found among modern biblical scholars who run into a problem when reading the New Testament. Throughout those books, Jesus is often quoted objecting to hypocrites.

One example states, *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense, make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves."* — Matthew 23: 14-15 .

So, what's the problem? Jesus lived and died in the first century of what is called the Common Era or 1st Century A.D. (Anno Domini). Hypocrites lived 500 years before Jesus, and was a physician born in 460 BCE (Before the Common Era) on the island of Cos, Greece. He became known as the founder of medicine and was regarded as the greatest physician of his time. He based his medical practice on observations and on the study of the human body. He held the belief that illness had a physical and a rational explanation. He rejected the views of his time that considered illness to be caused by superstitions and by possession of evil spirits and disfavor of the gods and formulated what is now called the Hippocratic Oath of the Physician, which in part states that the physician shall do no harm to his patients. Simply put, how did the name of a healer and ethical advocate become part of a negative use of his name.

By definition, **hyp-o-crite** 🗨️ (hip-Œ krit), *n.*

1. a person who pretends to have virtues, moral or religious beliefs, principles, etc., that he or she does not actually possess, esp. a person whose actions belie stated beliefs.

Historians now question how a Jew from Palestine came to know of Hypocrites in the first place, never mind create a negative connotation about his beliefs. While this obviously falls far from our own field of reference, the problem faced here is universal. Did later writers of the New Testament, some of whom travelled widely, adopt the term and incorporate it into their telling of the story of Jesus? Probably, but we will never know. What we do know is that Hypocrites stood for many of the same ideals as the later Jesus and there would be no reason for the Messiah to denigrate the memory of a man who was in his grave five centuries before.

So, what am I trying to tell you? Basically that the paranormal researcher is hindered by the same roadblocks as any historian; first to understand the lexicon of the period in context and then translate it to a workable form, without losing its overall meaning in the process, while being aware of the possibility of misleading data in the process. For example, if you find a reference at a research site that is about music of the 19th century and within the text you see the word “jazz” you would immediately call the provenance of the text, simply because jazz did not exist in that period. That is an oversimplification, of course, but you get the idea.

Most of the documents you will come across will not be a problem as far as provenance, but the lexicon used will most likely not be familiar to you or easily misconstrued. An example of this would be a 20th century text that might say, “He was a gay lad...” which is different than the modern interpretation in the use of the word “Gay.” Know your period of research and be prepared to decipher it in context for that time.; words grow, morph, and change definition routinely, even over the shortest periods of time, so be prepared to work within those parameters.

You might also find the use of period dictionaries, as well as standalone references created to define archaic language useful. Major public libraries and many university libraries will have these reference works and some are still available for sale through used book sellers. There was a series of lexicons created for fiction writers that covered several periods in American history, from pre-revolutionary colonial speak through Civil War and 19th century words and phrases, as well as one that covered 20th century common phrases and words prior to the Second World War. These were indispensable tools, which are now unfortunately out of print.

The greatest temptation is of course to skip over a word or phrase that you do not understand or take a guess at its meaning. That is a big mistake. Crowe for example uses several phrases that I still have not deciphered and mentions devices that I have not been able to locate in our research, but I

nevertheless continue to search for them. While they probably have no consequence or earth shattering significance in our work, one can only really know once we understand them.

Possibly one of the greatest strengths to be found in the membership of the ASUP is our diversity; our members come from a wide variety of personalities and educational backgrounds, which taken as the sum of its parts, is much greater than the whole, therefore communications between the membership is all important and the give and take of information is the key to overall success. You don't need a Ph.D. in linguistics to unravel some of the language we encounter. Camolagize is a common 19th century word, most probably born in Great Britain and widely found in old personal letters and texts of that day, but you will have a hard time finding it in the dictionary today. Anyone have a guess?

Well, if you break the word down you have "Camo" (probably of French derivation) from camouflage and "-gize," as in words like the modern energize. The word as it relates to paranormal investigations is seen in Alsop's volumes on "modern" hauntings (1889), "His intention was to camolagize the spirit..." he reported in reference to a ghost hunters intentions at a castle haunt at which Conan Doyle was also present. Unless you have an 19th century sense of humor and a vocabulary to match, you might go off looking for some unique method of dealing with ghosts, but that is not the case.

In this instance, we found the definition purely by luck; an octogenarian relative who almost matter-of-factly informed me that it was a common term, the modern equivalent of pulverize or rip limb from limb, with a slight sense of humor in its common use. "I'll camolagize ya!" It is slang and therefore not in a dictionary, yet widely accepted in its day.

If the truth were to be told, researching by way of reading old texts is one of our greatest, yet least tapped resources in paranormal investigation, but to do it right, you need your text in one hand and a good, old dictionary in the other, with ready access to a computer terminal so you can seek a definition not in the dictionary as will. The reference to books with strong bibliography and reference pages is also suggested and when all else fails, ask another researcher for assistance; one man's arcane language is another man's pleasure! But by all means, start to read the old books, often there are hidden clues that will make your present day research easier... remember the objective is not to reinvent the wheel but to improve upon it!

A

Afreet: In Arabic lore, the vengeful spirit of a murdered person which arises from the victim's shed blood.

Afterlife: Life after our physical bodies die. Common other names for the afterlife are the great beyond, heaven, and hell. Every culture in the world has its own beliefs and ideas of what the afterlife consists of.

Agent: The ghost or spirit seen by someone. Also used to describe the cause of the haunting. For example, in the case of a poltergeist, popular beliefs are that a child at the age of puberty usually is the cause of the disturbances through some form of telekinetic projection. In a case like this, the child is the agent.

Akashic Records: Originally a Hindu concept of vast, and ever increasing, psychic repository of every thought and emotion, human or otherwise, which has ever been, and into which some individuals seem able to tap.

Alchemy: The exploration and application of the sciences, particularly chemistry and the pseudo science of astrology, such as they were understood during the middle ages and early Renaissance period. Alchemists were chiefly dedicated to the worthy pursuit of producing gold from baser metals and various materials.

Alma: Russian wildmen encountered in Siberia and northern China. They are generally described as being covered in hair and powerfully built, though shorter in stature and more human appearing than the Yeti. Some researchers have suggested that Alma's may be descended from Neanderthals (*Homo-Neandertalensis*).

Ambient Temperature: The normal surrounding air temperature.

Amorphous: Having no definite form or shape, spirits and ghosts often appears in mist-like forms or shapes.

Amulet: A symbol with magical significance, which is worn as a pendant or ring.

Angel: "Messenger of God", a celestial being, benevolent in nature and if visible, appearing in human form, and possessing miraculous abilities such as teleporting, healing powers and knowledge of future events. There have been accounts of angels aiding people in times of crisis throughout the ages, albeit with no real consistency to their "*modus operandi*".

Animal Spirit: The visible, audible, olfactory, or tactile electrostatic energies of once living animals.

Anniversary Imprint: A spirit or haunting that seems most active during a specific calendar period (day, week, month, etc.). This date may coincide with known dates of a death or other eventful emotional discharges associated with dead entities during their human lifetimes.

Anomaly: Any paranormal experience or event documented through photography that

once captured on film cannot be explained by normal means or standards; an occurrence or condition removed from ordinary understanding.

Anthropomorphize: The central human tendency of imposing human perceptions and priorities upon spirits and other worldly creatures or force, assuming that all consciousnesses must be akin to ours on some basic levels.

Apparition: The phenomenon where the ghost, or any visible, manifested spirit takes on a physical form that can be seen. These often appear to be transparent, normally faint and disfigured as in being incomplete. Their appearance is normally for a very short period of time. Apparitions of animals, humans, and even inanimate objects have been seen. The rarest form is a full body apparition.

Apport: The arrival of object during a séance or a haunting, these can be animate or inanimate.

Asport: The disappearance of objects that reappear elsewhere or not at all.
(Dematerialization)

Astral Body: The ethereal duplicate of the physical body.

Astral Plane: The Earth's body double which vibrates faster than the physical planet and penetrates to its core.

Astral Projection: When the spirit travels outside the body to either the astral plane or another location on this plane. This is also referred to as an Out Of Body Experience (OBE/OOBE) or remote viewing; the ability of the astral body to separate from the physical body and to act independently of it.

Astral Travel: Belief or theory that a person's spiritual awareness can temporarily detach itself from the physical body, remaining connected by what is called the "silver cord", and experience things in other locations, time frames, or dimensional planes. Some refer to this as "Astral Projection", or "Mind Projection".

Atavism: Reversion to an earlier, ancestral time.

Auditory: Of or relating to the sense, organs, or experience of hearing.

Aura: The emanation of invisible and colorful energy that surrounds all living things. It is believed that our physical health and our emotional state is reflected in our auras. For example, if someone is ill, happy, or sad it will be reflected in their aura. Those with psychic abilities are able to see and interpret this energy. Two Russian scientists by the names of Semyon and Valentina developed Kirlian Photography. Through the use of this photography one's aura can be photographed. Some believe that the color of orbs is similar to that of one's aura.

Aura Cleansing: A metaphysical ritual that clears an aura of all negative energies which may attract negative spirits.

Aura-world: A reflection of our own sphere of existence, composed of the electromagnetic emanations of physical matter, and probably influenced by thought and emotion. It is another dimensional plane processed from one in which we exist.

Automatic Writing: Unconscious writing, usually with a pencil or typewriter, produced by a person channeling spirit energies and allowing them to possess their body for a brief period of time in order to communicate.

Automatism: The theory in which the subconscious communicates with the conscious by means of a vehicle such as a Ouija Board, automatic writing or pendulum swinging.

Avatar: A Hindu belief in divine incarnation, where a person who "descends" into human form from above as a manifestation of divinity and who reveals divine truth to people. Such a one has supposedly progressed beyond the need to be reincarnated in another body (i.e., there is no further "bad karma" to work off).

B

Baphomet: Demon character supposedly worshiped by the "Knights Templar" in 14th century France. Some present day practitioners of the black arts regard Baphomet as a "god" of lust and regeneration, or as symbolic of the Devil.

Banishing: Formal, ceremonial procedure affected to cast an invisible presence or influence out from an area. The term can refer either to a spiritual cleansing or the closing of a magical rite when invoked powers are dismissed.

Banshee: A death omen or elemental in Irish folklore that manifests to herald an upcoming death. Often heard singing and wailing mournfully.

Battlefield Ghosts: These are places with great violence, trauma and intense emotion, and are typically subject to hauntings. There are no places more violent than battlefields, and it is rare to hear of a battlefield that isn't haunted. Most battlefield hauntings are residual hauntings where fragments of the battle are replayed over and over again. Other hauntings are from spirits who have not crossed over, most likely because they feel they can't due to the nature of their death. Some believe retrocognition is also an element in battlefield hauntings.

Benign Spirit: A spirit that is not harmful or evil to man. Spirit guides and angles fall into this category, also the spirits of loved ones that have come back to communicate something to us. Elementals are sometimes considered benign spirits, however, they can also be evil.

Bigfoot: A bulky, hair covered, bipedal humanoid which appears to possess both human and ape-like characteristics, also known as "Sasquatch" and "Yeti" depending on locale. Sightings of these creatures have been widely reported for centuries.

Bilocation: When a person or an object is seen in two locations at the same time.

Bogey(-Man): A grim spectral figure who delights in menacing mortals with rather gruesome pranks and abductions. Although the lore of this character has degenerated into a familiar device used to threaten rambunctious children, the 'Bogey' was formerly soundly dreaded in Celtic regions, and was said to prowl the stretches of fields, marshes, and moors looking for hikers and travelers who had strayed from their paths. Also Boogymen, Bogymen, Boogeymen, among others.

C

Calling Ghosts: These are ghosts that call out the name of the living in order to get their attention and lure them to their death.

Canwl Corfe: Welsh term for mysterious flame-like lights bobbing over the ground or above houses. A harbinger of death.

Carcosa: A mysterious nether region or outer-world containing the mythical lake called "Hali", which appears in the fiction of authors *Ambrose G. Bierce* ("An Inhabitant of Carcosa") and *Robert W. Chambers* ("The King of Yellow": "Cassilda's Song"). There are students of arcane, mystical lore who believe that Carcosa may truly exist, which is why it is included with this roster of terms.

Chakra: In Yoga, this is one of the seven spiritual energy centers in the human body.

Channeler: A person who "channels" spirit energy through themselves in an attempt to communicate with the dead; a medium.

Channeling: A popular tool of mediums and psychics for communication with the dead. The medium will summon ghosts or spirits and allow the entity to possess that person's body to communicate through. The entity can either possess the medium or communicate directly through them. A New Age form of mediumship or spiritism.

Chi: Asian term for "Life Force".

Chupacabra: Spanish for "goat sucker". In Puerto Rico, for twenty some years, numerous livestock and stray pets have been found with throats torn out, drained of blood, and bearing mysterious puncture wounds. On the scene, sightings of the creature supposedly responsible are exceedingly rare and descriptions always include "glowing red eyes". Locale and the absence of distinct tracks rule out either wolverines or monitor lizards, both of which always drag off their prey. The most feasible suggestion is a coyote or feral dog, but again, the behavior doesn't match. Whatever is the true culprit, Chupacabra has become a popular sensation on the island.

Circumambulation: Ceremonially surrounding a person or an object for the purpose of protection.

Clairaudient: The psychic ability to hear voices and sounds that are inaudible to the normal human ear.

Clairsentient: The psychic ability to feel things that are not normally felt by most people.

Clairvoyant: Someone with the psychic ability to see people or events which have not occurred yet, beyond ordinary time and space limits; also called "Second Sight."

Clanogrian: An English spirit in the form of a glowing light which indicates the coming of a death.

Cleansing (Psychic): A less ritualized form of exorcism where-in a dwelling or site is purified and malevolent influences are banished through prayers spoken as the petitioner moved through the area.

Cold Spot: An unexplainable, cold area in an environment with an otherwise warm, stable, and natural temperature gradient and associated with other paranormal phenomena. Cold spots are believed to be created when a ghost is present within that area.

Collective Apparition: An apparition seen by more than one person.

Consciousness Revolution: New Age advocates call for a "consciousness revolution", a new way of looking at and experiencing life. The primary focus of the new consciousness is oneness with God, all mankind, the earth, and with the entire universe.

Construt, Psychic: It has been theorized and experimentation has been conducted to support the premise that through directed psychic energies a responsive spirit-like entity can be created, continuing for a time to exist independently.

Continuance: Commonly referred to as "life after death", survival of the psyche post cessation of the biological organism which had generated it.

Control: The Spirit that sends messages through a medium in trance.

Corposant: A Corpse Light.

Corpse Candles: Welsh glowing balls of light.

Corpse Light: A white, red, or blue phosphorescent ball of light which is a harbinger of death seen over bogs and marshes. Blue indicates the death of an infant. Large lights mean the death of an adult.

Crop Circles: During the past three centuries, throughout the British isles but with a particular concentration in the southern region of England, circular impressions spanning sometimes several hundred feet in diameter and often quite intricate in design, have frequently and inexplicably been appearing overnight in wheat and grain fields. Sometimes the source can be traced to hoaxers; sometimes the details do not allow for any satisfactory, mundane explanation. Much documentation, as well as speculation, regarding this topic is available.

Crossroads: The meeting and parting of ways has always been considered magical. In addition, crossroads are said to be haunted by various entities who lead confused travelers astray. It is also said that on All Hollow's Eve (Halloween), spirits of the dead appear at a crossroad.

Crowley, Aleister (Edward Alexander): (b. 1875, d. 1947) Scottish-born occultist, metaphysician, sorcerer, adventurer, poet, and author of many occult treatises and manuals, including *'Magick in Theory and Practice'*. Crowley once dubbed himself "The Great Beast 666", one of the few of his many monikers which stayed with him, and the press referred to him as "The Wickedest Man in the World". Although in some respects, brilliant, Crowley gave himself over to excess, amorality and eventual dissipation. His writings are still studied and analyzed by many present day, serious students of the magical arts.

Crypto-zoology: The branch of paranormal research which deals with the exploration of legendary creatures such as Bigfoot, lake and sea monsters, thunderbirds, etc. It should be noted that the Giant Squid (the "Kraken"), orangutans (the "Red Men of the Forest"), Komodo Dragons, and gigantic Nepalese elephants all were formerly included in the roster of fabled creatures!

Crystal Skulls: Five human skull models, exquisitely crafted in antiquity from solid quartz crystal, have been found in various locations throughout Latin America, the best known of these being the 'Mitchell-Hedges Skull', discovered in 1924 in the Balese jungle of Labuton by Anna Mitchell-Hedges while on an expedition with her father, and still in her possession in Canada. The others are kept in collections in Guatemala, Texas, the Smithsonian, and the British Museum. Mayan legend tells that eight more crystal skull remain, and that by the time all thirteen are united, mankind will have learned how to extract and decipher the vital information, history and revelations which they contain.

C'thulu: A creature of author H.P. Lovecraft and a favorite of horror/Sci-Fi enthusiasts, C'thulu (pronunciation is interpretive) is described as a kind of demon-god from another world, a monstrosity resembling a gigantic squid or octopus who "sleeps and dreams" in his lair at the bottom of the Arctic ocean, biding the time until some foolhardy "disciples" find means to call him to rise and reclaim dominion of the earth. Doubtlessly, some are actually trying!

D

Dee, Doctor John: (b. 1527, d. 1608) Alchemist, astrologer, seer and advisor to Queen Elizabeth I of England, who, along with his somewhat unscrupulous associate Edward Kelly, supposedly devised a method of deciphering an angelic language known as the "Enochian Calls".

Deep Trance Medium: A psychic who allows a spirit to enter her/his body so that the spirit can communicate through them.

Déjà vu: The feeling of having already experienced an event or place that is being encountered for the very first time.

Demon: Hostile and resentful entity, supposedly of non-human origin, which some believe to be fallen (from grace) angels.

Dimensional Discontinuity: A parallel universe out-of-phase with the one we live in. When this universe aligns with ours, gateways may form which could be portals for spirits.

Discarnate: The soul or personality, with no physical body, of a living creature who has died.

Discernment: The ability to feel or perceive something with the use of the mind and the senses.

Disembodied: A spirit that is functioning without a body.

Disembodied Voice: A voice that is heard that comes from no physical body, also known as EVP.

Divination: The obtaining of future events and/or the unknown by the use of outside forces, usually spiritual in nature.

Doppelganger: German for "Double-goer". A person's duplicate or identical counterpart, seen as a result of bi-location or astra travel. This phenomenon has been overshadowed by the more modern (and viable) concept of cloning, with its speculative ramifications.

Dowser: A sensitive who uses a forked stick that points to hidden water, oil, buried money, lost articles, or people. Also uses rods, pendulums, etc. and allegedly finds spirits energies.

Dream Communication: A method by which recently passed spirits may communicate with their surviving loved ones. Through such dreams, spirits relay their goodbyes, important messages, or other concerns.

Druid: A Celtic priest of the Bronze or Iron Age, trained in healing, divination, and astronomy, whose tradition was passed on to successors by oral tradition.

Dybbuk: A Jewish ghost that maliciously takes possession of people.

E

Earthbound Souls: Human spirits that chose to remain on an earthly plain rather than move forward into the Light or other dimensions. No one really knows for sure why, but here are some speculations. Sometimes this may be because of a sudden death and they are confused, either not knowing or not accepting they died. Others may stay because of unfinished business or feelings of guilt about contributing to their own death. Still others may be held here by loved ones who have not come to terms with the loss, often going beyond grief to obsession with the deceased person. The spirit may stay many times because it does not want their loved one to feel that way or to be upset.

Ecto: Short name for ectoplasm.

Ectoplasm: Spirit energy appearing in the form of a wispy white vapor, fog or mist containing swirls, contrails, or streaks. This may manifest as cloud-like masses, contrails left behind from fast-moving orbs, vortices, and as apparitions. Sometimes also as a white, filmy substance pouring from a medium's bodily openings during trance states, supposedly denoting the presence of a disembodied spirit. It appears to the naked eye or later on developed film. In photographs, this phenomenon seems to resemble soaked muslin fabric. Whether or not it has ever been genuine, curiously, virtually no ectoplasm has been reported in the past fifty years.

Electromagnetic Field (EMF): The field of force associated with electric charge in motion. Both electric and magnetic components are contained within this field by a combination of electric and magnetic energy that radiates from radio and light waves to gamma and cosmic rays. It is believed spirit energies generate electrostatic fields contained in the electromagnetic spectrum of energies, and it is believed that a spirit can manipulate these fields or create their own.

Electromagnetism: Magnetism arising from electric charge in motion.

Electronic Voice Phenomenon (EVP): The use of audio equipment to capture voices and sounds of the dead where there are no physical presences in the area where the recordings are being taken. This occurs when an originally inaudible spirit voice communicating with humans is recorded and becomes audible when played back on an audio recorder.

Electrostatic Energy: Of or relating to stationary electric charges. A component of spirit energies.

Elementals: Some writers describe them as evil, others as evil or just mischievous. Those that describe them as both good and bad derived that description from the Greek term "daimone". They have also been classed somewhere between angels and men, and can materialize in animal or human form. There is far from a consensus about what type of spirits they are. However, care needs to be taken when calling the aid of elementals. They are not always the helpful little creatures we would like them to be. They can be mischievous, bad tempered little devils if allowed to get out of control.

Elf Lights: Corpse Lights.

EMF Detector: A device that measures and detects changes in the electromagnetic field. A common device used by ghost hunters. A reading between 3-7 milligauss is a good sign of paranormal activity, but higher readings have been recorded by spirits that have been present. A complete scan of the area should be done first to detect natural sources. The EMF detector is also known as a Gauss Meter or a magnetometer.

Empath: An individual who is particularly sensitive to the psychic emanations of his or her surroundings, even to a degree of telepathically receiving and experiencing the emotions of the others in their proximity. Obviously, psychic empathy can be regarded as a mixed blessing, and the empath must learn to gain a measure of control over this ability.

Enochian: A magical, "angelic" language first translated by Dr. John Dee, and used in the rituals of both the "Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn" in the 19th century and the "First Church of Satan" in the 20th century.

Entity: A disembodied "consciousness" of a human, animal or nonhuman commonly referred to as ghost, spirit, or, if of an apparently malicious or resentful nature, demon.

Entropy: The observation that everything in the material universe will eventually, inevitably wind-down, burn-out, fall apart... well I'm sure you get the (dismal) picture.

Epicenter: A focal point or origin of activity. Used in relation to poltergeist phenomena where a single person, unconsciously projecting strong, negative energies, may be creating the poltergeist activity through psycho kinesis.

Esalen Institute: A "growth center" that offers a wide variety of workshops for mind, body, and spirit. It is located in Big Sur, California.

Esoteric: A word used to describe knowledge that is possessed or understood only by a few.

ESP: Extrasensory perception encompassing paranormal abilities such as telepathy, precognition, and clairvoyance.

ESP Cards: A pack of twenty-five cards bearing five symbols, including stars, squares, circles, crosses, and waves.

Etheric Body: The elastic and massless electromagnetic body double; energy of a living thing.

Evocation: The summoning of demons or spirits by usage of ritual, gesture or verse of incantation.

EVP: See also **Electronic Voice Phenomenon**. Disembodied "voices" and sounds imprinted on audio recording devices.

Exorcism: The religious ceremony used for expulsion of ghosts, demons, spirits or other entities that are believed to be disturbing or possessing a person or a place. Exorcism can range from a friendly conversation to rituals demanding the entity to leave, and is present in virtually every worldly culture. The Jewish and Catholic Christian faiths each have a formal 'Rite of Exorcism' to be conducted by the respective Rabbi or Priest.

Exorcist: A person who expels an evil spirit or demon.

Exoteric Christianity: A form of Christianity identified with historic or orthodox Christianity that New Agers would describe as being devoid of all spiritual authenticity.

Extra: A face, shape, or object that appears in a photograph supernaturally and can not be explained by a natural source, faulty film, developing errors or fraud.

Extra-terrestrials: Life forms originating on planets other than our own. This term usually refers to highly advanced visitors from other worlds, who journey to our sphere in spacecrafts with the probable intention of observing and studying our species.

Extra Sensory Perception (also Extrasensory Perception or ESP): The ability to receive information about past, present or future events that can not be obtained through the normal senses, and originates by supernatural means. These include telepathy, clairvoyance and precognition. It is believed that everyone has some level of ESP ability, but some individuals possess a heightened ability.

F

False Anomalies: Any unexplained phenomena captured by instrumentation or film that appears to be a true paranormal manifestation but which, in fact, can be readily explained by natural, environmental conditions.

Faustus, Doctor Johann: (b. circa 1455, d. 1540) Scholar, physician, and alchemist from Wittenberg, Germany, who was renown for his proficiency in treating victims of the plague contagion (to which the Doctor seemed strangely resistant), and the basis for the stories by Johann Wolfgang Goethe and Christopher Marlowe about a learning man who sold his soul to the devil through his inferal agent Mephistopheles in exchange for "four and twenty years" of knowledge, youth, and power.

Fetch: A spectral double of a living person.

Fetch Candles: Glowing flames or balls of light over houses or marsh lands and foretelling of a death.

Fetch Lights: Corpse Lights.

Fetich: Aside from the modern sexual connotation, a fetich is a shamanistic tool in the form of a figurine, animal part or a pouch containing items with magical associations.

Floating Orb: A spherical image, usually translucent white, though sometimes of a reddish or bluish hue, which inexplicably registers on photographic film and videotape.

Fool's Fire: Ball-shaped lights seen over bogs and water meadows.

Fox Fire: Corpse Light. The scientific explanation of this phenomenon is a luminescent glow produced by some fungi when in contact with rotting wood.

Frames: Individual photos on a film negative strip.

G

Gaia: A Greek name for the goddess of the earth. It also refers to a scientific hypothesis formulated by James Lovelock whereby all living matter on the earth is believed to be a single living organism. In such a scheme, humanity is considered the nervous system of the living earth.

Gauss: A scientific measurement denoting magnetic energy strength.

Gauss Meter: A device that is used to measure the electromagnetic field, also referred to as EMF detectors or magnetometers.

Ghost: A ghost is believed to be the soul or the life force of a person. This image of a person witnessed after his/her death, reflects the appearance of the living, physical body, yet less substantial. These forms often seem to exist in a dream-like state of semi-awareness, at times though not always cognizant of their human observers. When someone dies, this energy is released from the physical body and is believed to do one of two things: either it goes on to a higher spiritual place or plane, or it stays behind and lingers on for an unspecified time. Why it stays behind, no one knows for sure. Many of the famous "psychics" differ on their explanations. Some of the more popular theories are as follows: unfinished business, strong emotional ties to someone or something, saying goodbye, wrongful death or perhaps to pass on a warning. Originally derived from the Flemish "gheest" this is a human, animal, or nonhuman essence, soul, or spirit which survives after death. Even inanimate objects, such as buildings, cars, ships trains, etc. have been reported as ghosts.

Ghost Lights (Spook Lights): White, blue or yellow glowing spheres closely resembling orbs, but are much larger and brighter in appearance. These are mostly seen near woods and waterways and in remote places, and have been seen changing colors, directions and sometimes heard making a buzzing sound. When these lights are confronted by approaching people, lights or noises they will quickly disappear. These lights will "haunt" a particular location for anywhere from days to years.

Ghost Ship: The appearance of a ship that has been know to have wrecked or disappeared years or centuries before to fore warn of a pending disaster. This term has also been used to refer to ships that have been found to be empty where the crew and passages had mysteriously disappeared, but the ship shows no signs of distress.

Ghost Vehicle: A land vehicle that suddenly appears then suddenly disappears in the blink of an eye. Ghost cars and ghost trains are often seen and heard speeding past before evaporating into thin air.

Ghoul: An Arabic demon that haunts burial grounds.

Globes: Orbs.

Globule (Orb): An anomaly where-in floating, circular forms appear on photographs or videotape, which seem indicative of spirit activity and electromagnetic energy. Globes are a natural containment formation of the meniscus of liquid, as a gas containing bubbles; perhaps the interaction of energy and a quasi-physical substance produced by spiritual manifestations results in a similar effect, the globules begin an initial containment of energy. Presently, all we know is that they continue to appear, and extraneous possible causes such as moisture, light refractions or emulsion seepage, etc., have been considered and ruled out. These are not always perfect circles, and they come in a large variety of colors.

Gnosticism: A tradition going back to the second century which holds that salvation comes through intuitive "gnosis" or knowledge of one's supposed divinity.

Goblin: A malevolent trickster spirit.

Golam: Jewish entity, raised from a mud form to protect people at risk.

Golden-rod: A rare anomaly seen in videotape recordings at the site of suspected hauntings, appearing as bright white or yellowish lines rapidly moving across a room.

Graphology: Character analysis and foretelling based on handwriting.

Gray: The most frequently reported visitor from an alien world, described as having grayish skin, a bulbous cranium, tapered chin, straight, unmoving, horizontal line for a mouth, slits substituting for a nose, slanted eyes, and a slight body. In some accounts, it has three fingers plus an opposable thumb on each hand. Supposedly, such beings were encountered by Betty and (the late) Barney Hill during their abduction in New Hampshire in September of 1961.

Gray Ladies: The ghosts of women who died violently for the sake of love or pined away from loss of love. The name gray lady comes from the frequent appearance of these ladies who are dressed in gray.

Guardian: Spirits who return to warn family members of imminent danger. These may be deceased relatives who offer messages or aid during moments of distress to their loved ones.

Guru: Teacher or master.

H

Halloween: 'The Eve of All Hallows', also known by Pagan Celts and Wiccans as 'Samhain' (pronounced, 'Sow'-an'), October 31, the night proceeding the Catholic Church's 'All Saints Day'. For a millennium, in much of Europe and the British Isles, this was held to be the night when departed relatives were especially remembered, and the veil separating the realms of the living and the dead was rendered thinner than usual. Jack-o'-lanterns were placed on stoops and window-sills to frighten off malicious spirits. Halloween is presently celebrated as a night of revels and masquerading, and in Mexico it is part of a traditional annual festival known as 'El Dia De Los Muertos' ('The Day of the Dead').

Harmonic Convergence: The assembly of New Age meditators gathered at the same propitious astrological time in different locations to usher in peace on earth and one-world government.

Haunting: A phenomena where the spirit or the ghost of a deceased person or animal attaches itself to a certain location, object, or person and continues to remain or revisit them causing paranormal activities such as apparitions, strange sounds, inducing smells, electrical disturbances, etc. A haunting is often repeated and experienced by

those who enter the area or come in contact with the person or object that is the object of the haunting for days or years. Hauntings can be categorized into four (usually) distinct types, these being *Intelligent* (responsive), *Poltergeist* (likely initiated by pent-up stress on a subconscious level), *Residual* (replay) and *Demonic* (non-human origin).

Hex: A magical working, or "spell", cast to influence a person's will or fate, most often referring to a curse rather than a blessing or healing.

Hobgoblin: Mischievous sprite (fairy, spirit) that delights in perpetrating pranks upon hapless humans. Once widely believed in and dreaded throughout Europe and Celtic regions. (Caution: It is theorized that these diminutive denizens of the netherworld will, upon occasion, interfere in psychic investigations by devices such as *misplacing* directions and telephone numbers, draining flashlight and camera batteries, and even pulling keys right out of investigators' pockets!) I assume that anyone who reads the preceeding caution will realize it is farcical!

Holistic Health: Holistic health sees the body as an inter-related organism. Its goal is to treat the whole person (body, mind, and spirit) as opposed to merely treating a particular sickness.

Hologram: A three-dimensional projection resulting from the interaction of laser beams. Scientists have discovered that the image of an entire hologram can be reproduced from any one of its many component parts. New Agers use this to illustrate the oneness of all reality.

Homeopathy: A system of medicine rooted in occult ideas that was developed by Samuel Hahnemann. It claims to manipulate the "vital force" of the human body by transferring the power of homeopathic medicines that have been potentized by a process of dilutions and succession (vigorous shaking with impact). An avatar who attained a high level of attunement to the Cosmic Christ enabled him to become a bodily vehicle for the Christ for a period of three years. (See: Avatar)

Homunculus: A form of miniature human supposedly produced (for purposes unknown) in the laboratories of medieval alchemists.

Hypnosis: A state of profound mental focus, usually self-induced although an external agent - a "hypnotist" - often acts as the catalyst, or director, for the subject entering this state. Also known as "Mesmerism" after Franz Anton Mesmer who first popularized this practice (utilizing magnets as his props) during the last two decades of the 18th century. As concerns paranormal investigations, hypnosis is sometimes used as a vehicle for "past life regressions" and memory restoration in suspected (alien?) abduction cases.

!

Icon: A rendering or image of a particular (often religious) significance.

Ignis fatuus: Latin for "Fool's Fire".

Imbolc: In the Wiccan calendar, February 2nd is celebrated as the day when winter's end is in sight, and the return of the sun's warmth is anticipated. It is also known as 'Candelmas', and the familiar "Ground Hog Day".

Infrared: Of or relating to invisible, electromagnetic radiation with wavelengths greater than visible light and shorter than microwaves.

Instrumental Transcommunication (ITC): Communication from the dead via a device such as a phone, radio, television, walkie-talkie, etc.

Intelligent Haunting: Paranormal activity that takes place around a person or location that is caused by an intelligent or conscious spirit. Best described as the spirit of an individual who has passed away but not crossed over. The spirit interacts with people trying to make its presence known through repeated sights, sounds, smells, and the manipulation of objects.

K

Kabala (Caballa, Qaballah): Hebrew mystery lore based on mystical interpretation of the Bible; magical, occult practices stemming largely from the Middle Ages.

Karma: Refers to the "debt" accumulated against a soul as a result of good or bad actions committed during one's life (or lives). If one accumulates good karma, he will supposedly be reincarnated in a desirable state. If one accumulates bad karma, he will be reincarnated in a less desirable state.

Kirlian Photography: A photographic process that measures living auras.

Kobald: A German malicious spirit who haunted metal-bearing mines.

L

Lemures: A ghost who returns to haunt its living relatives. This spirit was so named by ancient Romans.

Levitation: The raising of a person or object into the air without any visible means. Levitation is a popular event during hauntings, meditative trances, séances and possessions. Levitation is a major part of Poltergeist activity with objects being moved and thrown around.

Light Rod: A light rod appears as a bar or stick like shape. When a light rod sometimes takes a bend, it is then called a swirling light rod.

Light Trance Medium: A person whom spirits can communicate through. In contrast to deep trance mediums, the spirits wishing to communicate through the medium does not possess them.

M

Manifestation: The appearance of a spirit energy, ghost, or apparition visible to the naked eye or caught on film.

Mantra: A word or phrase that is to be chanted repetitively in an effort to empty the mind and attain "cosmic consciousness" (oneness with God and the universe).

Marion Apparition: Materializations of what is believed to be the Virgin Mary.

Meditation: A spiritual or devotional exercise of contemplation usually concerning a philosophical or religious subject. A planning or intending of the mind to fill oneself with positive energies.

Medium: A psychic or sensitive living person whose body is used as a vehicle for communicating with spirits.

Metaphysics: The study of events beyond or outside of man's understanding of classical physics; the science of the supernatural.

Malevolent: A malevolent spirit is one that wishes to do harm.

Malicious: A spirit that is spiteful and/or evil. These spirits will destroy or damage things of a personal or financial value for the sake of hurting others.

Manifestation: The appearance or taking of form of an entity. This can also mean the outbreak of paranormal activity.

Materialization: The formation of a visible and/or the physical form of a spirit. These are usually brief in appearance and often just a face or hand and are not a full formation of a spirit.

Medium: A person that acts as a bridge between the living and the dead. They receive and relay information through a "sixth sense" for the spirit whom is communicating through them. The common name used today for mediums is psychic. There are two types of mediums: light and deep trance.

Metaphysics: The term metaphysics is derived from the Latin word "meta" which means "beyond", and the word physics which means the study of psychical research. Essentially the word metaphysics literally means the study of that which is beyond the laws of physics.

Microwave Radiation: Invisible electromagnetic waves in the region between infrared and short-wave radio wavelengths. Gives false anomaly readings to EMF devices.

N

NDE: Near death experience.

Night Shades: Same as Shadows.

Necromancy: The practice of communicating with the dead to obtain knowledge of the future, others' secrets, etc. An archaic term, the necromancer was said to employ magic spells and conjuration to summon, then banish, the spirits of the dead.

Necronomicon: A grimoire (that is, collection) of ancient sigils and incantations of nebulous origins, discovered in the 8th century by the "Mad Arab," Abdul Alhazred, said to be capable of opening a chasm to the "Dread Dimension" and unleashing the wrathful power of the timeless "Elder Gods."

Necromancer: A person who holds abilities or knowledge to draw power and skills from the dead along with summoning and controlling ghosts, spirits, demons, zombies, etc. It is believed that through this ancient practice, the one who practices necromancy can use the summoned spirit to find hidden treasures, cast spells on others, learn about the future and even hurt other living beings.

New Age Movement: A loose organization of people, many of them "Yuppies," who believe the world has entered the Aquarian Age when peace on earth and one-world government will rule. They see themselves as advanced in consciousness, rejecting Judeo-Christian values and the Bible in favor of Oriental philosophies and religion. Among them may be found environmentalists, nuclear-freeze proponents, Marxist-socialist utopians, mind-control advocates, ESP cultists, spiritists, witchcraft practitioners, and others using magical rites.

Nirvana: Liberation from earthly things; paradise.

NOAA: National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration.

Numerology: The analysis of hidden or prophetic meanings of numbers.

O

OBE: Out-of-body Experience.

Occultism: Belief in supernatural forces and beings.

Orb: A spherical shaped, translucent mass of energy resembling a ball or globe of light. This is the most photographed and most basic form of a spirit. These balls of energy have been recorded on film, digital cameras, infrared monitors, and videotape. Orbs usually appear in most haunted places. Orbs can also be caused by moisture (rain, snow, fog), bugs, insects, dust and pollen.

Ouija Board: A game board containing all the letters of the alphabet plus numbers from 0 to 9 and "Yes/No", which is used to communicate with spirits. A sliding pointer (planchette) spells out words in answer to questions asked by players.

Outward Manifestation: Any type of paranormal activity. These may include, but are not limited to, disembodied voices, odors, movement of objects, manipulation of temperatures, electrical disturbances, etc.

P

Pantheism: Doctrine that identifies God with the whole universe, every particle, tree, table, animal, and person being part of Him.

Paradigm Shift: Refers to a shift in world views. The so-called "new paradigm" (new model or form) is pantheistic (all is God) and monistic (all is one).

Paranormal: Anything that does not take place in the natural order or in a normal way of things that take place in the realm of the world. This term is used to refer to unexplainable events. These would include, but are not limited to, ghosts, ESP, telepathy, UFO's, Bigfoot, and the Loch Ness monster.

Parapsychologist: Someone who studies parapsychology.

Parapsychology: The scientific and scholarly study of certain unusual events associated with human experience, such as ghosts, UFOS, ESP, Bigfoot, etc. It is generally defined as the scientific study of paranormal phenomena. Parapsychology is not a recognized science by many within the scientific community. The word parapsychology is derived from the Latin word "para", which means "beyond"; parapsychology literally means beyond psychology.

Pendulum: A small dowsing tool composed of a crystal or heavy object dangling from a string, which is used to answer questions or find things through psychic energies.

Pentagram: Five-pointed star used in magical ceremonies. A satanic symbol.

Percipient: Person who receives telepathic messages or is believed to cause a spirit manifestation.

Perennial Philosophy: A term coined by Aldous Huxley that sees all religious truth or experience as one and the same. This philosophy proposes that even though the externals of the various religions may differ, the essence or core truth is the same in each.

Phantasm: A French derivation of a phantom.

Phantom: An apparition or specter existing only as an energy form. The term is derived from French cultures.

Phantom Traveler: A human or animal spirit that haunts a particular road or highway. Often this is a hitchhiker who rides with living people, then inexplicably disappears.

Phantomia: Paralysis that occurs when someone is under attack from supernatural or preternatural forces; also known as psychic paralysis.

PK: Psycho kinetic.

Planchette: The triangular instrument used as a pointer to answer questions on a Ouija board.

Poltergeist: A German word that means "noisy or mischievous ghost"; a demon. A destructive spirit that has the ability to move objects by solidifying the ambient air which results in the movement and/or teleportation of objects. This phenomena is also associated with noises, rapping, levitating and throwing of objects, as well as other physical manifestations. These events usually come on suddenly and end just as fast. They can last for days, months or a few years. The longer lasting ones seem to occur for a few days each year. Many of these cases have been attributed to a specific person in the household. In most cases, this specific person, known as an agent, is a young child entering the puberty stage of life. It is believed that the agent causes an involuntary type of psycho kineses, causing the disturbances.

Portal: A multi-dimensional gateway which spirits of the dead may enter or exit from their world into ours. This may be accomplished via a vortex.

Possession: The act of a malevolent spirit or demon taking over the body of a human or animal, manipulating it, and using it for its own purposes. There are several different types of possession. Mediums will allow a spirit to enter their body for the purpose of communication. During partial possession, the host (person) remains in the body. In full or perfect possession, the spirit of the host is displaced from the physical body. In cases of demonic possession, the entity enters the body without permission and will not leave on its own will. An exorcism is necessary to expel the possessing entity.

Precognition: Advanced knowledge of pending future events; clairvoyant.

Premonition: Feeling or psychic warning about future events. This can be vague or it can be very specific.

Preternatural: Diverging from or exceeding the common order of nature, but are not outside the natural order as distinguished from the supernatural.

Primary Readings: The first in a series, list, or sequence of paranormal documentations. Also instrument readings of the best degree, quality, or importance.

PSI: Term used in place of psychic or parapsychical; ESP.

Psychic: A person with the ability to see, hear and feel by the use of senses other than the natural senses, also referred to as a "sixth sense", mental telepathy or ESP; a classification of unusual happenings.

Psychic Attack: An attack that can either be physical or mental by a spirit. The spirit may be visible or invisible during the attack. There is evidence that people are also capable of psychically attacking others.

Psychic Birth: A quickening of spiritual or cosmic consciousness and power. This new consciousness is one that recognizes oneness with God and the universe. Psychic birth is an occult counterpart to the Christian new birth.

Psychic Energy: Extrasensory energy that enables people to do miracles.

Psychic Healer: A person who cures mental or physical illness from the cosmic energy emanating through the healer's hands.

Psychic Impressions: Intuitive knowledge gained through psychic abilities.

Psychic Imprint: Believed by some to be a replayed psychic event which is "recorded" in space and time, and continues to loop the same scene over and over again in a particular location. This view portrays the repeating events of a residual haunting as mindless, soulless imprints of past lives, not as the active, intelligent movements of spirit energies.

Psychic Photography: Another word for spirit photography.

Psychic Protection: Any deliberate metaphysical method by which a person attempts to ward off spirits.

Psycho kinesis (PK): Using the mind to produce motion of inanimate and remote objects.

Psychoanalysis: Tracing mental and physical ills back to hurtful childhood experiences; based on Sigmund Freud's theories.

Psychometry: The ability to perceive information about people, places, things or events involving the person by touching objects associated with them.

Psychotechnologies: Refers to the various approaches or systems aimed at deliberately altering one's consciousness.

R

RVP: Radio voice phenomena.

Rappings: Loud knocks or hits against surfaces, often produced by spirits. They may be associated with boisterous energies seeking attention or recognition by humans. Also may occur during poltergeist phenomena.

Reincarnation: Refers to the cyclical evolution of a person's soul as it repeatedly passes from one body to another at death. This process continues until the soul reaches a state of perfection.

Residual Haunting: Any haunting where spirits are seen repeating the same actions, behaviors, or movements over and over again in the exact same way.

Retrocognition: Occurs when a person (percipient) is transported through time and experiences past surroundings, feelings and events. This is reported in some paranormal phenomena.

Revenant: A recently departed spirit who returns very briefly to make contact with loved ones. This may serve as an act of closure before going on to the Afterlife.

Right Brain Learning: The right hemisphere of the brain is believed to be the center of intuitive and creative thought (as opposed to the rational nature of the left hemisphere). New Agers have seized on this as a justification to bring "right brain learning techniques" into the classroom. These techniques include meditation, yoga, and guided imagery.

S

Séance: A metaphysical ritual performed by a Medium with a gathering of people to make contact with the dead.

Sensitive: A person who can feel the presence of spirit energy through any of the five senses (sight, smell, touch, hearing and taste), telepathy or precognition.

Shadows: An apparition appearing as a flickering black or smoky gray mass of any size or shape. Often seen out of the corner of the eye before disappearing completely or may be caught on film.

Shaman: A medicine man/woman or witch doctor.

Sleep Paralysis (SP): A sleep disorder (apnea) where a person half-awakens during the night feeling they are being watched or being choked, pressed upon the chest, or otherwise paralyzed by an evil, invisible force attacking them. A ghost may be falsely accused of trying to harm them.

Smudging: An ancient spiritual cleansing ceremony using natural herbs and spices to ward off negative spirit energies. A smoky fire is produced in a smudge pot and distributed throughout an area and over people.

Soul: The continuing electromagnetic energy field of a human or animal retaining all the characteristics of the once living soul, body, and mind.

Soul Rescue: An act of metaphysical intervention between a living person and a spirit whereby the earthbound energy is advised and instructed on how to leave the earthly plane and go into the Light to begin it's new afterlife existence. Often a Channeler or psychic will act as the human agent for this event.

SP: Sleep Paralysis.

Space-Time Anomaly (STA): A residual haunting caused by strong emotional feelings embedded within a departed spirit. Negative emotions developed during life become a force holding a spirit earthbound to perform repetitious behavior. This view holds that residual hauntings are caused by active, intelligent spirits consciously repeating their actions while trying to resolve past emotional issues.

Sparklies: Small glowing dots (not dust, pollen or pollutants) seen through a camera viewfinder during the flash mode which may indicate the presence of spirit energies.

Sprites: Small glowing orbs, usually found outdoors and in cemeteries that are visible to the naked eye and photographable, believed to be related to earthbound spirits. Also the

term NASA uses for earth related energy discharges, similar to lightning, in the atmosphere.

Spirit: The electromagnetic and electrostatic energies containing the soul, personality, and intelligence which survives after the death of a human or animal. Spirits are believed to exist in an invisible realm that can only be seen under certain circumstances or by people with special abilities. Unlike ghosts, the term "spirit" is used for demons, angels, fairies, elves and even places. Mountains, woods, lakes, trees and sacred sites are all said to possess a spirit...and in many ancient and Indian cultures, this is a living spirit.

Spirit Control: A disembodied spirit who relays messages from dead people to the living through a trance medium.

Spirit Detector: In essence, a compass.

Spirit Guide: A spiritual entity who provides information of "guidance," often through a medium or channeled. The spirit provides guidance only after the channeled relinquishes his perceptual and cognitive capacities into its control.

Spirit Photography: Capturing the images of paranormal anomalies or spirits on film. Also called psychic photography.

Spirit Voices: Capturing the voices of spirits on audio tape. EVPs.

Spiritual Hierarchy of Masters: New Age advocates believe these spiritual "masters" are highly evolved men who, having already perfected themselves, are now guiding the rest of humanity to this same end.

Spiritualism: The belief that the dead communicate with the living, usually through a medium, emphasizing the spiritual over the material.

Spiritualist or Spiritist: A person with the philosophy, doctrine, or belief that the dead communicate with the living, usually through a medium.

Spook: A ghost who haunts a particular place. The word's origins are Dutch.

STA: Space-Time Anomaly.

Subject: Person used for experiments in ESP studies.

Sufism: Persian mystical religion based on Islam.

Synchronicity: The state of being synchronous. A chronological series of events that indicates parallel existences and occurrences. A coincidence in time or rate, for example, suddenly awakening at 2:22 a.m. each morning.

Syncretism: The attempt to combine or unify differing religious systems. New Age gurus often claim that all the world religions teach the same core truth: all people possess an inner divinity.

Synergy: A principle which states that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

I

Table-tipping: A method of communication by spirits where people sit or stand around a table, touch fingertips upon its top, and then invite spirits to come forth. Yes and no questions are asked and floor taps generated by the bouncing table legs indicate the answers. One tap for "yes", two taps for "no". This may invite malevolent spirits into your home.

Taoism: A Chinese religion and philosophy that sees the universe as engaged in ceaseless motion and activity. All is considered to be in continual flux. The universe is intrinsically dynamic. This continual cosmic process is called the "Tao" by the Chinese. The process is described in terms of Yin and Yang. (See: Yin/Yang.)

Tarot Cards: Deck of seventy-eight cards that supposedly reveal the secrets of man and the universe.

Telekinesis: The unexplained, supernatural movement of objects by the use of psychic powers; the ability to move physical objects by force of will or mental energy alone; also called psycho kineses.

Telekinetic: A person with the ability to move objects with their mind.

Telepathic: A person who uses telepathy.

Telepathy: Communication between minds by exercising psychic powers and without the use of the normal five senses.

Tetragram: A magic diagram shaped as a four-pointed star.

Thanatology: The study of Near-Death Experiences.

The Light: A portal or entranceway into the afterlife or another dimension and is used by spirits to leave an earthbound existence, most related to tunnels in the near death experience.

Theosophy: A school of thought founded by Helena P. Blavatsky. The term literally means "divine wisdom." The goals of Theosophy are to (1) form a universal brotherhood; (2) do comparative study of world religions, science, and philosophy; and (3) investigate the psychic and spiritual powers latent in man. Theosophy is the forerunner of much New Age thought.

Third Eye: An imaginary eye in the forehead believed to be the center of psychic vision.

Thermal Radiometry: The use of a device to detect and measure radiation fluctuations related to temperature variations in the environment.

TK: Telekinetic.

Trance: A mental state resembling sleep during which the conscious mind rests while the spirit entity takes over the medium's body.

Trance Channeler: The newest term for "trance medium." (See: Medium.)

Transformation: New Age advocates promote both personal and planetary transformation. Personal transformation involves the changes wrought in one's life by increasing Self-realization. As more and more people are personally transformed, the planet too will be transformed into a global brotherhood.

U

UFO: Unidentified flying object; flying saucer.

V

Vapor Apparition: A misty, white ghost.

Veda: The most ancient of the Hindu scriptures.

Visualization: Also known as "guided imagery," visualization basically refers to "mind over matter." It involves the attempt to bring about change in the material realm by the power of the mind.

Vortex: A white tornado-shaped, ectoplasmic form that usually appears during family gatherings or celebrations. They may also be the transport mechanisms through which orbs travel in and out of our dimension. Similar to the Swirling Light Rod, the vast majority of vortexes that are photographed are nothing more than a camera strap in front of the lens.

W

Warlock: A wizard or sorcerer; a male witch.

Will-o'-the-Wisp: Faint green and red lights seen at night above, bogs, marshes, and swamps.

Wraith: A legendary ghost that brings misfortune or death to anyone who sees it. Sometimes a cloak-hooded figure with glowing red eyes.

X

X-Rays: Relatively high-energy photons within the approximate range of 0.05 angstroms to 100 angstroms. A stream of these photons has a very effective penetrating power. Solar x-rays create geomagnetic storms.

Y

Yin/Yang: Chinese names referring to the active and passive principles of the universe. Yin refers to the female or (inactive) negative force; Yang to the male or (active) positive

force. These two polar forces continually interplay with each other. The words are used to describe the constant motion and change in the universe (i.e., the "Tao").

Yoga: A means of becoming united with the supreme being, or with the universal soul.

Yogi: Someone who practices yoga.

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