



Paranormal
Musings
Newsletter



**by Christine B.*

<http://edparanormal.com>

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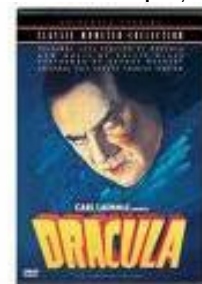
Myth Buster- Count Dracula

British novelist, Bram Stoker wrote a book entitled, Dracula in 1897. The main character was based on a real person, Vlad the Impaler, who lived from 1431 until 1476. Count Vlad III might have been even more frightening than the character in the original novel.



Vlad the Impaler is known for the exceedingly cruel punishments that he imposed during his reign. (1448-1476) Vlad III Țepeș has been characterized as an exceedingly cruel madman. The number of his victims ranges from 40,000 to 100,000. But how did the character of this maniac go from an impaler to a night roaming, blood thirsty zombie? Since medicine was not up to the standards it is today, it was believed that since the flow of excess blood caused death, the ingesting of blood would bring about a longer life. There is also a rare disease called Porphyria, which is also linked with the myth that drinking blood would bring about good health. The disease can eventually make a person go mad and induce severe

famous people who is believed to have contracted this disease was Vincent Van Gogh, the Dutch post-impressionist painter. He developed a striking yellow vision in his later years, which was typified by everything in his house being yellow, and his house was even painted yellow. Many of his figures were yellow and in fact his self portraits, he looked like he was jaundiced he was so yellow. This is also a symptom of Porphyria. Henry the VIII was also believed to have this disease. One of the remedies was for the affected person to drink blood. However, modern science has finally discovered, (as late as the 1980s) that giving the victim glucose will relieve or eradicate the symptoms completely. So if a vampire comes after you, throw away the garlic and hand him a donut! It could work!



*Christine B. writes about subjects most people don't normally enjoy thinking about, yet ponder, just the same. Presenting a "what if" slant in her poetry and novels, her works suggest alternative answers to some of life's most intriguing questions, while guiding readers off the beaten path into paranormally "Dangerous Terrain." Christine owns El Dorado Paranormal Investigations. She creates a monthly newsletter, "Paranormal Musings," which delves into paranormal subjects and educates the public that "Paranormal is Normal." KFOK LP FM sponsors Christine with her program, "World of the Paranormal." The show has guests and takes phone calls and airs on Saturdays from 1 pm to 2 pm PST. Her novels include: The Afterlife of Charlotte Browning (won Best General Fiction and Best Media Package of 2008 from the Northern California Publishers and Authors) and From The Stones, plus The Coming 12/21/2010". She has also written a collection of her poetry and photographs, Through My Eyes. Christine can be reached via her web site: <http://edparanormal.com> which has been named one of the most informative paranormal sites on the web.

FAMOUS HAUNTED PLACES



Hampton Court Palace, Herefordshire England is a former royal palace in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, south west London, England. Along with St. James' Palace, it is one of only two surviving palaces out of the many built by Henry VIII.

Queen Jane Seymour gave birth to Prince Edward, the future King Edward VI at Hampton Court in 1537. She died there twelve days later, and her ghost is said to haunt the staircase in the Palace to this day. Queen Catherine Howard was arrested there in 1542 and is said to have run along the Long Gallery screaming for King Henry VIII to save her, before his guards caught her and dragged her away. A ghost is said to haunt the palace, sometimes screaming in the same hallway. Others report seeing the notorious King Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn.



In October 2003, a closed-circuit security camera at Hampton Court recorded an "indistinct image of a mysterious figure in a long coat closing the fire doors." According to one report, "a ghostly-looking figure in period dress suddenly appeared on the screen and closed the doors." A female palace visitor wrote in the visitor book that she may have seen a ghost in that area during this time, too. "We're baffled too -- it's not a joke, we haven't manufactured it," said Vikki Wood, a Hampton Court spokeswoman. "We genuinely don't know who it is or what it is." Explanations for the phenomena have ranged from a psychology researcher's suggestions that it could have been a member of the public thinking they were being helpful by shutting the doors, to others' suggestion of thermal effects. If this were the case, this "helpful" person would have been dressed in a long, flowing custom, and would have been noticed by others in the castle. No other definitive explanation has been reported, although these photos have been studied by many experts. Oh, and since the doors are always kept

Email me with good luck stories of August 8, 2008, which is purportedly the Chinese luckiest day of the century. (The word for "eight" in Chinese (Pinyin: bā) sounds similar to the word which means "prosper" or "wealth") edparanormal@comcast.net.

What are “Shadow People?”



This is a photograph supposedly of a shadow person. Could this have been created in Photoshop or another modern photo editing program? Sure. If it is not real, it still depicts what a shadow person looks like, although they are rarely seen head on. They are mostly seen in our peripheral vision and leave the person who sees them unnerved. Shadow People usually move very quickly and are seen for only a split second, unless they are captured by a camera.

From Wikipedia

Shadow people (also known as **shadow men**, **shadow folk**, or **shadow beings**) are supernatural shadow-like creatures of both modern folklore and traditional native American beliefs. According to folklore, they appear as dark forms in the peripheries of people's vision and disintegrate, or move between walls, when noticed.

Reports of shadow people occupy a similar position in the popular consciousness to ghost sightings, but differ in that shadow people are not reported as having human features, wearing modern/period clothing, or attempting to communicate. Witnesses also do not report the same feelings of being in the presence of something that 'was once human'. Some individuals have described being menaced, chased, or in some rare instance, attacked by shadow people. There have also been reports of shadow people appearing in front of witnesses who report that the Shadow People linger for several seconds before disappearing. Witnesses report that encounters are typically accompanied by a feeling of dread.

I have personally seen a shadow person and it was indeed unnerving, but I did not feel that I was threatened in any way. One not-so-true-to-life depiction of Shadow People was in the movie *Ghost*. In that screenplay, shadow people came to claim the souls of the people who the viewers assumed were going to “hell.” It’s an interesting concept, but not a proven one. No one has been able to explain what they really are, as Shadow People don’t seem to be able to communicate even to a Medium.



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Ouija Board



Ouija (pronounced wee-juh or wee-jee) refers to the belief that one can communicate with spirits by the use of a Ouija board (also called a talking board or spirit board) and planchette. The fingers of the participants are placed on the planchette which then moves about a board covered with numbers, letters and symbols so as to spell out messages.

Ouija is a trademark for a board game currently sold by Parker Brothers. While the word is not a trademark, it has become a term used generically

to refer to any talking board. I doubt that I could find anyone who hasn't tired using it, or at the very least, has been present when one has been used. It's not the board itself that has the power to communicate, but the people who operate it. Does it really work? That remains to be seen.

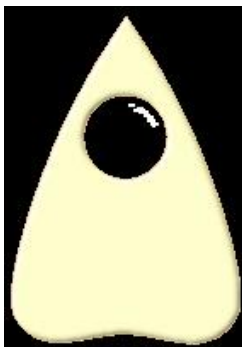
History

The use of Ouija boards has roots in the modern Spiritualism movement that began in The United States and Europe in the mid-19th century. People claiming to communicate with the spirits by use of one device or another was a common occurrence, including the use of swinging a pendulum over a plate that had letters around the edge or using an entire table to indicate letters drawn on the floor. Often used was a small wooden tablet supported on casters. This tablet, called a planchette, was affixed with a pencil that would write out messages in a fashion similar to automatic writing. These methods may even predate the modern Spiritualism movement.



The board pictured here belonged to the offspring of Clarence Pennock, Wichita. The children's names are inscribed on the back. This 1902 design was the first produced after Fuld's takeover of the Ouija company. Fuld's descendents eventually sold the rights to Parker Brothers in 1966.

During the late 1800s, planchettes were widely sold as a novelty. In 1890, businessmen Elijah Bond and Charles Kennard had the idea to patent a planchette sold with a board on which the alphabet was printed, and thus had invented the first Ouija board. An employee of Kennard, William Fuld took over the talking board production and in 1901, he started production of his own boards under the name "Ouija".



The Fuld name would become synonymous with the Ouija board, as Fuld reinvented its history, claiming that he himself had invented it and convinced the public that he was Ouija's original inventor. In addition to operating the novelty company, Fuld also worked as a customs inspector and served in the Baltimore General Assembly. He credited his success to reading the Ouija board.

Countless talking boards from Fuld's competitors flooded the market and all these boards enjoyed success from the 1920s through the 1960s. Fuld sued many companies over the "Ouija" name and concept right up until his death in 1927. In 1966, Fuld's estate sold the entire business to Parker Brothers, who continues to hold all trademarks and patents.

Fuld's death in 1927 occurred under curious circumstances. While supervising the installation of a flagpole on the roof of his building, Fuld fell for no apparent reason. He caught himself briefly on a window, but the window slammed shut and Fuld continued to fall. Though he had suffered only broken bones and a concussion, a fatal injury was delivered during transportation when a broken rib pierced Fuld's heart. Sounds as though it was his day to die, no matter how much he fought against it happening.

How is it done?



An Ouija board is operated by one or more users. The board is usually placed on the laps of two people sitting facing each other and touching their knees together. The operators place the planchette on the board and then rest their fingers on the planchette. The users start speaking to any spirit they wish to summon and ask questions of it. Eventually the planchette will come to rest on one letter after another, spelling out a message. Often an additional participant records the

messages on paper. As with automatic writing, the messages are often vague and open to interpretation, but most are complete gibberish. The problem with using an Ouija board is that real people (live) have to put their fingers on the planchette in order for it to move. The process would be much more impressive if the planchette moved by itself without anyone touching it, as the operator's subconscious could be moving the board without the operator realizing that he/she is doing it.

In the book and movie, [The Exorcist](#), (supposedly based on a true story) a young girl plays with the board by herself in her basement and ends up being possessed by the spirit she summoned (Captain Howdy?) This movie brought about unrealistic fears for the use of the board, but the board remains a constant seller for Parker Brothers.

I have had several experiences using an Ouija board in my youth. I have little faith in the idea that one can communicate with spirits using this board game. However, one of the times that I used the board with a group of friends at a friend's apartment we had a very strange experience. Six of us met at our friend's apartment one evening because my friend, "E" claimed that mysterious things were happening there. (Strange noises in the middle of the night, cupboards opening and closing by themselves, among other things). When "E" and I put our hands on the planchette and began asking the board questions, the planchette would not move—I mean, at one point we both actually tried pushing the planchette using all of our strength, and it would not move! We both had the feeling that someone or something was "sitting" on the planchette. One more recent attempt at another friend's Halloween party proved to be problematical. Although while using the board we did not communicate with any spirits, after the guests of the party left

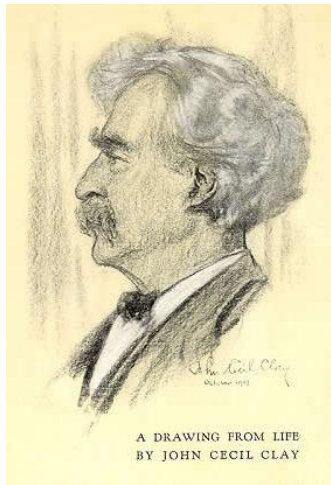
for the night several strange things happened in my friend's house. A heavy clock that had been hanging on the wall suddenly fell to the floor, and the nail that held it to the wall was still secured in the drywall! Also, my friend reported that while she was cleaning up she witnessed a dish move across her kitchen counter of its accord. Weeks later, another clock jumped off the wall in another area of the house, flew across the room about 15 feet, and then crashed to the floor. Once again, the nail that held the clock to the wall was still in place. Coincidence? You all know that I do not believe in coincidence!

Skeptical view

Few people who have investigated Ouija boards from a skeptical viewpoint accept that a piece of cardboard sold as a game can conjure spirits, evil or benevolent. The accepted theory among psychologists and skeptics is that the participants are subconsciously making small, involuntary, physical movements using a well-known, and well-understood, phenomenon called the Ideomotor* effect. Experiments consistently suggest that, at best, the messages are received involuntarily from the participants themselves, either consciously or unconsciously moving the planchette in the direction they believe it should be moving. However, if the participants are subconsciously moving the planchette, isn't it possible that a spirit is telling the participant where to move it? Anything is possible.



MARK TWAIN AND THE OUIJA BOARD LAWSUIT



Emily Grant Hutchings, born in Hannibal, MO. who claimed to have written a book dictated by Mark Twain via the ouija board.

Did Mark Twain dictate a book via the Ouija board seven years after his death?

That was the claim put forth by Missouri writer Emily Grant Hutchings who, along with spiritualist Lola Hays, claimed to have communicated with the spirit of Mark Twain via the Ouija board in the composition of an "after death" manuscript titled *JAP HERRON*. Hutchings, like Sam Clemens, was a native of Hannibal, Missouri. She was the daughter of

Carl H. Schmidt, an official of the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railway Company and his wife Margaret, who held the reputation of being one of the first female physicians in the Mississippi Valley. Emily attended the public schools in Hannibal. She later taught Latin, Greek and German, in the Hannibal high school. After leaving Hannibal, she relocated to St. Louis and worked as a feature writer on the *St. Louis Republic* and contributed to such magazines as *Cosmopolitan* and *Atlantic Monthly*. She married Charles Edwin Hutchings in 1897. Twain corresponded with both Emily and her husband Edwin Hutchings in 1902 after visiting St. Louis and advised her on her writing.

JAP HERRON was published during a time when the Ouija board communications of ****"Patience Worth"** via St. Louis writer Pearl Curran, a friend of Hutchings, was also capturing national attention. Prior to the book's release, the *Literary Digest* of October 14, 1916 reprinted the rumor which has circulated in the Newark *Star-Eagle*:

Nearly everybody in St. Louis is monkeying with "weejie-boards" and talking to dead novelists!

The call for the little heart-shaped things on wheels, known as ouija-boards by the elect, has sent prices shooting skyward, and shipments of them are coming to St. Louis from all over the country.

Mark Twain is the latest author said to speak to those on earth by this unearthly means, and it is whispered there is discord among those spooks who are seeking possession of the mental pipe-lines to the mystic pointers. (*Literary Digest*, October 14, 1916, p. 960.)

Hutchings's *JAP HERRON* was published in the fall of 1917 by renowned book dealer Mitchell Kennerley and contained a frontispiece portrait of Mark Twain drawn by artist John Cecil Clay. A lengthy introduction to the book by Emily Grant Hutchings detailed how she and Lola Hays began receiving messages from Twain in 1915 using the Ouija board.

On September 9, 1917 *The New York Times* published a less than flattering review of *JAP HERRON*. Shortly thereafter, Twain's surviving daughter Clara Clemens and Harper and Brothers publishers, who for seventeen years had owned the sole rights to Mark Twain's works, went to court to halt the publication.

The newspapers followed the story for several weeks and expected a Supreme Court legal showdown. However, the case never went to trial. Mitchell Kennerley, who had taken on a position with the prestigious Anderson Galleries, Incorporated art auctioneers had no time or taste for a lawsuit and he and Hutchings agreed to halt the distribution of the book. Hutchings and Kennerley agreed to quietly withdraw the book from publication and most of the copies were destroyed. Copies are rare and those with the original dust jacket are even more so. Take a look in your attic or your grandmother's attic and see if you can find one... and then book a trip to Europe on what you will be able to sell it for on EBay!

* **Ideomotor Effect** refers to the influence of suggestion or expectation on involuntary and unconscious motor behavior. The term "Ideomotor action" was coined by William B. Carpenter in 1852 in his explanation for the movements of rods and pendulums by dowzers, and some table turning or lifting by spirit mediums (the ones that weren't accomplished by cheating). Carpenter argued that muscular movement can be initiated by the mind independently of volition or emotions. We may not be aware of it, but suggestions can be made to the mind by others or by observations. Those suggestions can influence the mind and affect motor behavior. <http://skepdic.com/ideomotor.html>

****Patience Worth** was allegedly a spirit contacted by **Pearl Lenore Curran** (February 15, 1883–1937). This symbiotic relationship produced several novels, poetry and prose which Pearl Curran claimed were delivered to her through channeling the spirit, Patience Worth. In August 1912 one of Pearl's neighbors showed her an Ouija board, and persuaded her to place her hands on it, despite Pearl's complete disbelief in anything connected with spiritualism. Although the results were as negative as Pearl had suspected the ladies continued their experiments, occasionally receiving vague 'communications' through the board, but nothing intelligible. Then on July 8, 1913, a message began to come through, it read - 'Many moons ago I lived. Again I come. Patience Worth my name. If thou shalt live, so shall I.' But who was Patience Worth? No one has come up with the answer to that question. No proof was ever produced that a girl named Patience Worth actually lived in 17th century, as she claimed.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



World of the Paranormal with Christine B.

KFOK LP FM at 95.1 or go to the KFOK web site and stream the show via the Internet at: <http://www.kfok.org/> and click on “Click here to listen” at 1 pm.

August Show Schedule: (1:00 – 2 Pm)

August 2nd : Larry Grosjean, former member of the US Air Force will be discussing his experiences with UFOs and his studies of the phenomena.

August 16th : Soul Matters -- Body, Soul, Mind Healing and Past Life Regressions with author and Depth Psychotherapist, Dr. Connie Rodrigues. We will be taking your calls and email questions.



Send your emails to edparanormal@comcast.net and don't forget to type in “KFOK” in the subject line so we don't miss you email.

WHAT'S HAPPENING??

**Meet the Author, Christine B.
At a book signing event at
Moonshadows
4131 S Shingle Rd, #14,
Shingle Springs, CA
on Saturday, September 13th from 1
pm until 5 pm.**



In the 1800s people would cover all the mirrors in the home of a person who had passed away, for fear if the soul of the dead should come back to the house their spirit would be trapped in a mirror.

And why do I look better in my mirror than I do in a Photograph? Very Mysterious!

Isn't it interesting that such an everyday object can be the source of so much mystery and folklore? Think about it the next time you look into a mirror.



What's so Mysterious about Mirrors?

Mirrors and the reflections seen in them, or not seen in them, have always fascinated humans. When we gaze into a mirror what do we see? Do we see ourselves as others see us, or is there more to what is looking back than merely our own image?

It is said that a vampire doesn't have a reflection because it no longer has a soul. So is it our soul that reflects back at us as we stand in front of a mirror?

Sometimes, a spirit can be seen in a mirror, but not when one turns to see it head on. And often a medium or psychic will use a mirror, or other shiny surface (like a crystal ball) to see your future. (This is called Scrying.)

It has also been suggested that if you stare into a mirror long enough you will be able to see yourself as you looked in another lifetime. (I've personally tried this when I was a teen and saw myself with auburn hair in a page boy cut... funny, huh?)

And why would it be bad luck to break a mirror? How come the bad luck lasts only for seven years? Why not 2 years or 10 years? Why isn't it good luck to break a mirror? What exactly do you see when two mirrors are pointed toward each other?

