BIBLIOGRAPHY OF REFERENCE LITERATURE PROVIDING
A RATIONAL EXAMINATION OF VARIOUS
PSEUDO-SCIENTIFIC CLAIMS – revised September 2007

Note: Publication data in italics refers to paperback editions. An asterisk (*) means I personally
have found the book useful and valuable. When a book appears for the second or subsequent time
in the list it is referred to by title only. Many of these books are available in the Undergraduate
Library and (more likely) the Perry-Castenada Library.

(1) EXPOSURES OF MISINFORMATION, DELUSIONS, FALLACIES,
CONS, ERRORS AND NONSENSE

The earliest published book with detailed explanations of “supernatural” feats.

* EXTRAORDINARY POPULAR DELUSIONS AND THE MADNESS OF CROWDS, by Charles

THE CROWD, by Gustav Le Bon (Paris, 1895), (Macmillan, N.Y., date unknown), (Ballantine,

“attention-focussing mass delusions.”

THE HUMBUGS OF THE WORLD, by P. T. Barnum (Carleton, N.Y., 1866). Bunkum exposed by
the king of bunkum.

MIRACLE MONGERS AND THEIR METHODS, by Houdini (Dutton, N.Y., 1920) (Prometheus,
N.Y., 1981); many “explanations” given in this book of standard sideshow stunts are not correct.
See also THE RIGHT WAY TO DO WRONG, by Houdini (Boston, 1906)— if you can find it!

THE STRAIGHT DOPE, by Cecil Adams (Chicago Review Press, 1984) (Ballantine Books, N.Y.,
1986).

MORE STRAIGHT DOPE, by Cecil Adams (Chicago Review Press, 1988) (Ballantine Books, N.Y.,
1988).

INVESTIGATING THE UNEXPLAINED, by Melvin Harriss (Prometheus, N.Y., 1986).

SECRETS OF THE SUPERNATURAL, by Joe Nickell with John F. Fischer (Prometheus, N.Y.,
1988).

REAL-LIFE X-FILES, by Joe Nickell (Univ. of Kentucky Press, KY, 2001).

LOOKING FOR A MIRACLE, by Joe Nickell (Prometheus, N.Y., 1993). Weeping icons, relics,
stigmata, visions, miracle healing, etc.

examples of the “man in the moon” effect.

ENTITIES: ANGELS, SPIRITS, DEMONS & OTHER ALIEN BEINGS, by Joe Nickell (Prometheus,
N.Y., 1995).

BIZARRE BELIEFS, by Simon Hoggart and Mick Hutchinson (Prometheus, N.Y., 1997).

STING SHIFT - A STREET-SMART COP'S HANDBOOK OF CONS AND SWINDLES, by Lindsay Smith and Bruce A. Walstad (Street Smart Communications, Colorado, 1989). Beware of a crackpot chapter on “Satanist” cults.

SCAMS FROM THE GREAT BEYOND, by Peter Houston (Paladin Press, Boulder, 1997). A pretty good book is a rarity from this publisher, but here one is.

LICENSE TO STEAL: TRAVELLING CON ARTISTS, THEIR GAMES, THEIR RULES - YOUR MONEY, by Dennis Maclock and John Dowling (Paladin Press, Boulder, 1994). Not very reliable, like most of the books from this particular publisher.

HOAX AND REALITY: THE BIZARRE WORLD OF MULTIPLE PERSONALITY DISORDER, by August Piper, Jr., M.D., (Aronson, NJ, 1997). A somewhat inconclusive book on one of the greatest psychiatric hoaxes of the last century, the so-called multiple personality.


SUPERSTITION, by F. E. Planer (Prometheus, N.Y., 1988).


MEDIA HOAXES, by Fred Fedler (Iowa State Univ. Press, Ames, 1989).


“The Media and the Paranormal,” by Eugene Emery, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (see 2)).


IMAGINING MONSTERS, by Dennis Todd (Univ. of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1995). The only book-length study of the legendary 1726 “rabbit-birthing” by Mary Toft, a pattern for all media hoaxes that followed.

A CABINET OF MEDICAL CURIOSITIES, by Jan Bondeson (Norton, N.Y., 1999). Another discussion of Mary Toft, plus spontaneous combustion, bosom serpents, maternal impressions, etc.

NINE CRAZY IDEAS IN SCIENCE, by Robert Ehrlich (Princeton, NJ, 2001). As Niels Bohr once said to Heisenberg, who had just presented a very questionable picture of elementary particles at a conference, “We are all convinced your ideas are crazy, but we think they are not crazy enough to be correct.” This book discusses some “crazy” ideas in physics, biology and sociology.


HIGHER SUPERSTITION: THE ACADEMIC LEFT AND ITS QUARRELS WITH SCIENCE, by Paul Gross and Normal Levitt (Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, 1994). A discussion of “science bashing” by scientifically illiterate ideologues in academia. The science-hating hippies of the 1960’s now are white-haired tenured professors of history or social studies or government... and still hate science. Unfortunately, the book itself is polemical and not very readable.


UNCOMMON SENSE—THE HERETICAL NATURE OF SCIENCE, by Alan Cromer (Oxford, NY, 1993). Discusses the fact that the very existence of science is the result of some incredibly improbable historical and social accidents.

THOMAS KUHN—A PHILOSOPHICAL HISTORY FOR OUR TIMES, by Steve Fuller (Princeton U., NJ, 2000). This book, from a “postmodernist” philosopher, dismisses Kuhn’s contributions to the philosophy of science almost completely. The writer knows little or nothing about science, however.


THE WORST ENEMY OF SCIENCE?, ed. by John Preston, Gonzalo Munivear and David Lamb (Oxford, NY, 2000). A collection of articles and essays devoted to Paul Feyerabend and his “radical epistemological claims” that there is no such thing as science or the scientific method. Feyerabend is the grandfather of all current “postmodernist” (and equally ignorant) critics of science.

THE OCCULT CONCEIT, by Owen S. Rachleff (Cowles-Regnery, Chicago, 1971).

THE TRANSCENDENTAL TEMPTATION, by Paul Kurtz (Prometheus, N.Y., 1986).

STOLEN LIGHTNING: THE SOCIAL THEORY OF MAGIC, by D. L. O’Keefe (Continuum, N.Y., 1982).

MYSTERIOUS REALMS, ed. by Joe Nickell and John F. Fischer (Prometheus, N.Y., 1992).


PARANORMAL CLAIMS: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS, ed. by Bryan Farha (University Press of America, Maryland, 2007).

KOOKS: A GUIDE TO THE OUTER LIMITS OF HUMAN BELIEF, by Donna Kossy (Feral House, Oregon, 1994).


“Big and Bad,” by Malcolm Gladwell, The New Yorker, January 12, 2004, pp. 28–33. The SUV is a nightmare from every standpoint—inhirrently unsafe, gas-guzzling, air-polluting, etc. Yet about half of all vehicles sold in the US are now SUVs. This is an in-depth look at all aspects of this amazing recent example of total irrationality.


THE MARKS OF A CLEAR MIND, OR, YOU’RE WRONG ABOUT IT, by A. E. Wiggam, (Blue Ribbon, N.Y., 1930, 1931).


THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ECCENTRICS, by Augustus De Morgan (Open Court, Ill., 1974.)

AMERICAN ECCENTRICS, by Carl Sifakis (Facts on File, N.Y., 1984).


COMMON FALLACIES, by Philip Ward, 2 volumes (Oleander, 1978); A U. S. edition is published as A DICTIOARY OF COMMON FALLACIES, also in 2 volumes, (Prometheus, N.Y., 1989).

FABULOUS FALLACIES, by Ted Tuleja (Harmony, N.Y., 1982). A specimen of worthless books of this type, containing about as many of its own fallacies as it pretends to expose. The similar works of Charles Panati are even more worthless.

THERE ARE ALLIGATORS IN OUR SEWERS! & OTHER AMERICAN CREDOS, by Paul Dickson and J. C. Goulden (Delacorte, N.Y., 1983).


HOW SUPERSTITION WON AND SCIENCE LOST, by John C. Burnham (Rutgers Univ. Press, N.J., 1987). An unusual book which explores how the journalistic and popular fiction misrepresentations of the nature of science in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries led to the present situation in which science journalism is virtually nonexistent.


PSEUDOSCIENCE & SOCIETY IN 19th CENTURY AMERICA, ed. by Arthur Wrobel (Univ. Press of Kentucky, Kentucky, 1987).

THE HIGHER FOOLISHNESS, by David S. Jordan (Bobbs-Merrill, Indiana, 1927).


“Not-So-Spontaneous Combustion,” by Joe Nickell, Skeptical Inquirer, Vol. 20, No. 6, Nov/Dec 1996, pp. 17 - 20; see also “Spontaneous Human Combustion,” by Joe Nickell, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (see (2)).


“Multiple Personality Disorder: Witchcraft Survives in the Twentieth Century,” by August Piper, Jr., *The Skeptical Inquirer*, Vol. 22, No. 3, May/June 1998. Explores one of the most widespread psychiatric myths, that of the multiple-personality. No single authentic case is known!


“Jung and the Paranormal,” by Ernest Gallo, in *ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL* (see (2)).


(2) SURVEYS OF PSEUDOSCIENCE IN GENERAL

* THE SKEPTIC’S DICTIONARY, by Robert Todd Caroll (John Wiley & Sons, NY, 2003). An up-to-date and accurate survey of pseudoscience, in encyclopedia format (despite the name!), by a philosophy professor. Recommended.


WHY PEOPLE BELIEVE WEIRD THINGS, by Michael Shermer (Freeman, N.Y., 1977). Another very mixed bag, not very useful.


SLEEPING WITH EXTRATERRESTRIALS, by Wendy Kaminer (Pantheon, NY, 1999).


* SCIENCE CONFRONTS THE PARANORMAL, ed. by Kendrick Frazier (Prometheus, N.Y., 1985).


FROM THE WANDERING JEW TO WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY, JR. by Martin Gardner (Prometheus, NY, 2000).


* EXTRASENSORY DECEPTION, by Henry Gordon (Prometheus, N.Y., 1987).


* A PHYSICIST’S GUIDE TO SKEPTICISM, by Milton A. Rothman (Prometheus, N.Y., 1988).


BIZARRE BELIEFS, by Simon Hoggart and Mike Hutchinson (Prometheus, N.Y., 1997).


DEBUNKED! ESP, TELEKINESIS & OTHER PSEUDOSCIENCES, by Georges Charpak and Henri Broch (Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, MD, 2004). A very disorganized and superficial look at a few elements of pseudoscience.

“New Age Thinking,” by Robert C. Basil, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (see (2)).


BROCA’S BRAIN, by Carl Sagan (Random House, N.Y., 1979) (Ballantine, N.Y., 1980), see Section II, “The Paradoxers”.

* SCIENCE AND UNREASON, by D. and M. Radner (Wadsworth, California, 1982).

PSEUDOSCIENCE AND SOCIETY IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICA (see (1)).


INVESTIGATING THE UNEXPLAINED (see (1)).
LYING TRUTHS: A CRITICAL SURVEY OF CURRENT BELIEFS AND CONVENTIONS (See (1)).

THE BETRAYAL OF INTELLIGENCE: A PREFACE TO DEBUNKING, by J. Jastrow (Greenberg, N.Y., 1938).

THE HIGHER FOOLISHNESS (See (1)).

CAN YOU SPEAK VENUSIAN?, by Patrick Moore (Star, London, 1976). This is a revised version of DO YOU SPEAK VENUSIAN? (see (1)), with more coverage of pseudoscience and less of cranks and crackpots.


DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU THINK!, by Thomas Kida (Prometheus, NY, 2006).


“Scrutinizing the Paranormal,” by Ted Schultz, in THE FRINGES OF REASON.


(3a) RELATED TOPICS: PSYCHOLOGY OF IRRATIONALITY
AND SELF-DECEPTION, CON GAMES, ETC.


TRUTH, KNOWLEDGE AND JUST PLAIN BULL, by Bernard M. Patten (Prometheus, NY, 2004).


SCIENCE AND PSEUDOSCIENCE IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY, ed. by Scott Lilienfield, Steven Jay Lynn and Jeffrey M. Lohr (Guilford Press, NY, 2002). Many people think the field of clinical psychology is entirely and inherently pseudoscientific. Here are various viewpoints.


“Blind to Change,” by Laura Spinney, New Scientist, 18 Nov. 2000, #2265, pp. 28–32. Incredible experiments indicate that about half the population cannot distinguish one stranger from another!

* MEMORY, by Elizabeth Loftus (Addison-Wesley, N.Y., 1980).


CREATING HYSTERIA: WOMEN AND MULTIPLE-PERSONALITY DISORDER, by Joan Acocella (Jossey-Bass, SF, 1999). One of the more amazing delusions of the 1950s-1960s psychotherapy community was the completely imaginary multiple personality. This is one of the few books covering the rise and fall of this craze.


“The Mad Gasser of Mattoon,” by Bob Ladesdford and Robert E. Bartholomew, The Skeptical Inquirer, Vol. 26, No. 4, July/August 2002, pp. 50–54, 58. Recent studies of this “classic case” of conversion disorder have tended to reveal the case is in large measure a media hoax; here is a recent summary of the evidence.


* GALILEO’S REVENGE—JUNK SCIENCE IN THE COURTROOM, by P. Huber (Basic/Harper Collins, N.Y., 1991). About the only book to deal with what has become a major threat to justice in America, the use of crackpot “expert testimony” in trials.


JEOPARDY IN THE COURTROOM: A SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS OF CHILDREN’S TESTIMONY, by S. J. Ceci and Maggie Bruck (American Psychological Association, Washington, DC, 1995). It’s been demonstrated many times that small children can be “guided” to testify to literally anything about anybody, yet such testimony is often still accepted in courts. Here’s a detailed study of the crisis.


WINGS OF ILLUSION, by John F. Schumaker (Prometheus, N.Y., 1960).


NONCONSCIOUS MOVEMENTS: FROM MYSTICAL MESSAGES TO FACILITATED COMMUNICATION, by Herman H. Spitz (Erlbaum, NJ, 1997).


TRUE, FALSE OR IN BETWEEN, by D. A. Hight (Ginn, Mass., 1975).


ATTACKING FAULTY REASONING, by T. Edward Damer (Wadsworth, CA, 1987).


CRITICAL THINKING STEP BY STEP, by Robert Cogan (University Press, MD, 1998).


“DUMBTH” AND 78 WAYS TO MAKE AMERICANS SMARTER, by Steve Allen (Prometheus, N.Y., 1989).


* A BEGINNER’S GUIDE TO THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD, by Stephen S. Carey (Wadsworth, California, 1994). Very highly recommended!

* THE UNNATURAL NATURE OF SCIENCE, by Lewis Wolpert (Harvard, Massachusetts, 1993). ditto!


A HISTORY OF THE WARFARE OF SCIENCE WITH THEOLOGY IN CHRISTENDOM, by A. D. White, in 2 volumes (N.Y., 1869) (Dover, N.Y., 1960).


THE TRANSCENDENTAL TEMPTATION, by Paul Kurtz (Prometheus, N.Y., 1986).


A THEORY OF COGNITIVE DISSONANCE, By Leon Festinger (Stanford Univ. Press, California, 1957).


UNAUTHORIZED FREUD: DOUBTERS CONFRONT A LEGEND, ed. by Frederick C. Crews (Viking, NY, 1998).


“Visions and Hallucinations,” by Barry L. Beyerstein, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (see 2)).


BEHAVIOR AND PERCEPTION IN STRANGE ENVIRONMENTS, by Helen E. Ross (Basic Books, N.Y., 1975). Only book discussing so-called “Spook Hill” optical illusions in which water appears to run uphill.


“Witnesses to the Paranormal,” by Richard Wiseman, in *ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL* (see 2).

“Photography (as it applies to the Paranormal),” by Thomas Flynn, in *ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL* (see 2).


**(3b) THE MYTH OF “RECOVERED MEMORIES”**


**THE MYTH OF REPRESSED MEMORY**, by Elizabeth Loftus and Katherine Ketcham (St. Martin’s, N.Y., 1995).


**VICTIMS OF MEMORY**, by Peter Houston (Upper Access, VT, 1996).


**REMEMBERING SATAN**, by Lawrence Wright (Knopf, N.Y., 1994).


CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE & FALSE MEMORY SYNDROME, ed. by Robert A. Baker (Prometheus, N.Y., 1997).

(3c) THE MYTH OF SUBLIMINAL PERCEPTION & INFLUENCE


(4) SURVEYS OF OCCULTISM IN GENERAL


* OCCULT AND SUPERNATURAL PHENOMENA, by D. H. Rawcliffe (Dover, N.Y., 1959).


THE OCCULT IN AMERICA, ed. by Howard Kerr and C. L. Crow (Univ. of Ill., Urbana, 1983).
STOLEN LIGHTNING. (See (1)).

(5) SPIRITUALISM, MAINLY 19TH CENTURY, AND CHANNELING:


“MARGERY” THE MEDIUM EXPOSED, by Harry Houdini (Adams, N.Y., 1924).


* THE ENIGMA OF DANIEL HOME, by Trevor H. Hall (Prometheus, N.Y., 1984). The Uri Geller of the 1850’s.

* THE SORCERER OF KINGS, by Gordon Stein, Ph.D. (Prometheus, N.Y., 1994). A good recent book on Home and Crookes; see also “Daniel Dunglas Home” in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (see (2)).


HEYDAY OF A WIZARD, by Jean Burton (Knopf, N.Y., 1944).

* THE TABLE RAPPERS, by Ronald Pearsall (St. Martin’s, N.Y., 1973).

* BEWARE FAMILIAR SPIRITS, by John Mulholland (Scribner’s, N.Y., 1938) (Scribner’s, N.Y., 1979).


* MADAME BLAVATSKY’S BABOON, by Peter Washington (Schocken, N.Y., 1995).


“Dr. Henry Slade,” by Martin Gardner, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (see 2).

STUDIES IN SPIRITISM, by Amy Tanner (Prometheus, N.Y., 1903) — reprint of a 1909 study of medium Leonora Piper.

“Leonora Piper,” by Martin Gardner, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (see 2).


“Voices from Beyond— the Age-Old Mystery of Channelling,” by Ted Schultz, in THE FRINGES OF REASON, (see (2)).

“Channeling: Brief History and Contemporary Context,” by James E. Alcock, Skeptical Inquirer, Vol. 13, No. 4, Summer 1989, pp. 380–384; an expanded version is in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL, (see (2)).


(6a) ESP, PSYCHIC PHENOMENA, AND 20TH CENTURY SPIRITUALISM


FACT AND FABLE IN PSYCHOLOGY, (see (3)).

THE OTHER WORLD: SPIRITUALISM AND PSYCHICAL RESEARCH IN ENGLAND, 1850–1914, (see (5)).

“Psychical Research,” by James Alcock, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (see (2)).

THE CASE FOR AND AGAINST PSYCHICAL BELIEF, ed. by Carl Murchison (Clark Univ. Press. Worcester, 1927). In this old book, contributions from believers outweigh contributions from the sane by 10 to 4, but there are good chapters by pioneering parapsychologists W. F. Prince and J. E. Coover, psychologist Joseph Jastrow, and magician Harry Houdini.


THE ELUSIVE QUARRY, by Ray Hyman (Prometheus, N.Y., 1989).


HOW NOT TO TEST A PSYCHIC, by Martin Gardner (Prometheus, N.Y., 1989).

DECEPTION AND SELF-DECEPTION, by Richard Wiseman (Prometheus, N.Y., 1997).


GUIDELINES FOR TESTING PSYCHIC CLAIMANTS by Richard Wiseman and Robert L. Morris (Prometheus, N.Y., 1995).

* THE MAGIC OF URI GELLER, by The Amazing Randi (Ballantine, N.Y., 1975); republished as THE TRUTH ABOUT URI GELLER, (Prometheus, N.Y., 1982).

* GELLERISM REVEALED, by Ben Harris (Mickey Hades, Vancouver, 1983). The best readily available, detailed analysis of the slight-of-hand methods actually used by Uri Geller, with sequential photos of the moves.
“Catching Geller in the Act,” by C. Eugene Emery, Jr., The Skeptical Inquirer, Vol. XII, No. 1, pp. 75 - 80 (Fall, 1987). Reveals that the new 1987 model Uri was up to precisely the same old tricks as the old 1967 Uri.


“Psychokinesis,” by Christopher French, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (see (2)).

“Psychokinetic Metal Bending,” by Steve Shaw, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (see (2)).

THE ADVENTURES OF A PARAPSYCHOLOGIST, by Susan Blackmore (Prometheus, N.Y., 1986).


* CONFESSIONS OF A PSYCHIC, by “Uriah Fuller” (Karl Fulves, New Jersey, 1975).

* THE PSYCHIC MAFIA, by M. Lamar Keene (St. Martin’s, N.Y., 1976).

* FURTHER CONFESSIONS OF A PSYCHIC, by “Uriah Fuller” (Karl Fulves, New Jersey, 1980).


* SCARNE ON DICE, by John Scarne, 8th Revised Edition (Crown, N.Y., 1980). (Chapter 3 gives this famous gambling expert’s evaluation of ESP experiments & phenomena.)
* FLIM-FLAM!, (see (2)), Chapters 7, 10, 11, 12, 13.

PARANORMAL BORDERLANDS OF SCIENCE, (see (2)), pp. 3–150.

MYTHS OF THE SPACE AGE, (see (2)), Chapter 3.

SCIENCE AND THE PARANORMAL, (see (2)), Chapter 8.

FADS AND FALLACIES, (see (2)), Chapter 25.

IN SEARCH OF WHITE CROWS, (see (5)).


“Extrasensory Perception,” by James E. Alcock, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (see (2)).


“Confessions of a Parapsychologist,” by Susan Blackmore, in THE FRINGES OF REASON, (see (2)).


The May/June 1977 issue of The Humanist is devoted to “The Psychics Debunked”; the November/December 1977 issue has a defense of parapsychology by D. Scott Rogo and replies by Martin Gardner and Prof. Ray Hyman (see pp. 40–49).

(6b) PSYCHIC “DETECTIVES”

*PSYCHIC SLEUTHS*, ed. by Joe Nickell (Prometheus, N.Y., 1994). Reports of detailed investigations of the actual feats of Peter Hurkos, Dorothy Allison, Gerard Croiset and many others.

* MEDIUMS, MYSTICS AND THE OCCULT (see (6)), pp. 66–76.


“Psychic Detectives,” by Walter Rowe, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (see (2)).


(6c) HOW TO GIVE READINGS, COLD & OTHERWISE


* PSYCHIC CHARACTER ANALYSIS, By Rose Hester and Walt Hudson (Magic Media, Maryland, 1977).
PSYCHOTECHNICS, by Myriam Ruthchild (Lee Jacobs, Ohio, 1981).


ALBRIGHT’S FORBIDDEN WISDOM, by H. Albright (Abbott’s, Michigan, undated).


THE COMPLETE ILLUSTRATED BOOK OF THE PSYCHIC SCIENCES, by Walter B. and Litzka R. Gibson, (Doubleday, N.Y., 1966); note: the above books by Dexter and the Gibsons provide “arbitrary lookup tables” as a basis for formula readings.

CASHING IN ON THE PSYCHIC, by Myriam Ruthchild, (Lee Jacobs, Ohio, 1978).

* THIRTEEN STEPS TO MENTALISM, by Tony Corinda (Louis Taunen, N.Y., 1968), Step 11, “Question and Answer (Readings)”, pp. 339–359. This is generally considered by mentalists to be the best short discussion of cold and formula reading available.

MODERN FORTUNE TELLING, by S. W. Reilly (Mickey Hades, Vancouver, no date).

“Fortunetelling,” by Robert A. Steiner, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (see (2)).


PASSAGES, by Gail Sheehy (Dutton, N.Y., 1976), (Bantam, N.Y., 1977). This is the kind of book cold readers study as a basis for “personalized” readings.

1001 WAYS YOU REVEAL YOUR PERSONALITY, by Elayne Kahn & David Rudnitsky (Signet, N.Y., date unknown). Ditto, if you can find it!

* PARANORMAL BORDERLANDS OF SCIENCE, (see (2)), chapters by Hyman, Schwartz and Randi.

(7) CONJURING AND MENTALISM


* THE WORLD’S GREATEST MAGIC, by Hyla Clark (Tree, N.Y., 1975) (Bonanza, N.Y., 1979).


“Magic and Psi,” by Martin Gardner, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (see (2)).

HOW TO PRODUCE MIRACLES, by Ormond McGill (Signet, N.Y., 1976).

A LIFE AMONG SECRETS, by Stephen Minch (Hermetic Press, Seattle, 1992). A biography of Eddie Fields, one of the great 20th Century semi-con-men, who excelled at magic, gambling, medicine pitches, astrology, psychic feats, etc.
THE RISE OF THE INDIAN ROPE TRICK, by Peter Lamont (Little, Brown, London, 2004). Magician and historian Lamont has finally identified the journalist who created the most familiar version of the myth of the “Indian Rope Trick.” Here’s a full account of how the myth developed and evolved, before and after the journalist’s contribution.

“Tarot,” by Ronald Decker, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (see (2)); one of the few readily-available short histories of playing cards that is accurate.

Note: Books explaining in detail the methods used by mentalists are not available to the general public, as a rule. They are published by magic dealers in editions of a few thousand copies, and often rather highly priced ($50 to $100) to keep them out of the hands of teenage amateur magicians. The two books listed below are among the very few on this topic from mainstream publishers.


SELF-WORKING MENTAL MAGIC, by Karl Fulves (Dover, N.Y., 1979).

Note: The single most valuable work on mentalism ever written, first published in 1944 and reprinted by Louis Tannen in 1963, is now available to the general public in a paperback reprint as

* PRACTICAL MENTAL MAGIC, by Theodore Annemann (Dover, N.Y., 1983).

* MONSTER MIDWAY, by William Lindsay Gresham (Rinehart, N.Y., 1953). Ch. 15 is an excellent biographical sketch of Theodore Annemann, the inventor of modern mentalism.

“Eyeless Vision,” by Martin Gardner, The Skeptical Inquirer, Vol. 18, No. 4, Summer 1994, pp. 356–362; see also the entry by Gardner in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (See (2)).

HOW TO SPIT NICKELS AND 101 OTHER COOL TRICKS YOU NEVER LEARNED TO DO AS A KID, by Jack Mingo (Contemporary Books, Chicago, 1993). Nice collection of stunts including spoon-bending, seance tricks, levitations, “Georgia Magnet,” etc.

(8) BERMUDA AND OTHER TRIANGLES


LOST AT SEA, by Michael Goss and George Behe (Prometheus, N.Y., 1994).

FLIM-FLAM!, (see (2) above), Chapter 3.

SCIENCE AND THE PARANORMAL, (see (2) above), Chapter 17, by Lawrence Kusche.


“The Bermuda Triangle,” by Larry Kusche, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL, ed. by Gordon Stein (see (2)).

“The Great Phonograph in the Sky,” by John A. Keel, in THE FRINGES OF REASON, (see (2)).

(9a) ASTROLOGY


SUN SIGN SUNSET, by Rodger B. Culver (Pachart, Arizona, 1980).

ASTROLOGY DISPROVED, by L. E. Jerome (Prometheus, N.Y., 1979).

FORGET YOUR SUN SIGN, by A. Standen (Legacy, N.Y., 1979).

ASTROLOGY, by J. V. Stewart, M.D. (Prometheus, N.Y., 1997).

MAKING SENSE OF ASTROLOGY, by Ronny Martens and Tim Trachet (Prometheus, N.Y., 1998).

PARANORMAL BORDER LANDS OF SCIENCE, (see (2)), articles by McGervey, Bastedo, Abell, Greenspan, Kurtz, Zelen and Abell.

SCIENCE AND THE PARANORMAL, (see (2)), articles by Abell.


“Astrology,” by Geoffrey Dean, Arthur Mather and Ivan W. Kelley, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL, ed. by Gordon Stein (see (2)). An incredibly complete survey of all aspects of this ancient pseudoscience.


“Astrology, Cosmobiology and Humanistic Astrology,” by I. W. Kelly, in PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE AND THE OCCULT, (See (2)).


BAD ASTRONOMY, by Philip Plait (John Wiley & Sons, NY, 2002).


ORIGINS OF ASTROLOGY, by Jack Lindsey (Barnes & Noble, N.Y., 1971).

The November/December 1977 issue of The Humanist has articles on the so-called “Mars Effect,” an alternate form of astrology invented by French pseudoscientists Michel and Francois Gauquelin, by Paul Kurtz, the Gauquelin, Marvin Zelen and George Abell. See pp. 29-39.
ARACHNE RISING, by “James Vogli” (Granada, London, 1977), (Dial, N.Y., 1977). This apparent work of pseudoscience is actually a devastating deadpan parody of a pseudoscience book, by science fiction writer John Sladek. Sladek manages to include almost every known logical fallacy, misrepresentation, bogus “fact” and bit of jargon used in real pseudoscience books in making a case for a (completely imaginary) 13th Sign of the Zodiac, “Arachne the Spider.”

(9b) GRAPHOLOGY, PALMISTRY, ETC.

THE WRITE STUFF, edited by Barry L. Beyerstein and Dale P. Beyerstein (Prometheus, N.Y., 1990). Good discussions of the pseudoscience of graphology, and its abuses in employee selection, the judicial system, and pseudo-psychology.


“Graphology,” by Barry L. Beyerstein, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (see (2)).


“Palmistry,” by Ray Hyman, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (see (2)).

PHRENOLOGY: FAD AND SCIENCE, by J. D. Davies (Yale Univ., Conn., 1955).

(10) ANCIENT ASTRONAUTS or MYTHS INTO SCIENCE FICTION


SOME TRUST IN CHARIOTS, by Barry Thiering and Edgar Castle (Popular Library, N.Y., 1972).

THE PAST IS HUMAN, by Peter White (Taplinger, N.Y., 1974).


GUARDIANS OF THE UNIVERSE?, by Ronald Story (St. Martin’s, N.Y., 1980). Beware of strong pseudoscience elements in this book; it is not totally reliable.
ARCHAEOLOGY: MYTH & REALITY, ed. by Jeremy A. Sabloff (Freeman, Calif., 1982).


LINES TO THE MOUNTAIN GODS, by Evan Hadingham (Random House, N.Y., 1987).


* CULT ARCHAEOLOGY AND CREATIONISM, by Francis B. Harrold and Raymond A. Eve, (Univ. of Iowa Press, Iowa City, 1987).

EXPLORING THE UNKNOWN, (see (2)), especially Chapters 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 14.

FLIM-FLAM!, (see (2)), Chapter 6.

PARANORMAL BORDERLAND OF SCIENCES, (see (2)), articles by Omohundro, Story, Bainbridge and Ridpath.


“Ancient Astronauts,” by T. E. Bullard, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL, ed. by Gordon Stein (see (2)).

“The Ancient Astronaut Hypothesis: Science or Pseudoscience?” by Mary Vetterling-Braggin, in PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE AND THE OCCULT, (see (2)).


(11a) VELIKOVSKI or MYTHS INTO COSMIC CATACLYSMS


COSMIC CATASTROPHIES, by Clark Chapman and David Morrison (Plenum, N.Y., 1989).

ANCIENT ASTRONAUTS, COSMIC COLLISIONS & OTHER POPULAR THEORIES ABOUT MAN'S PAST, (see (10)).

FADS AND FALLACIES, (see (2)), Chapter 7.

MYTHS OF THE SPACE AGE, (see (2)), Chapter 7.

PARANORMAL BORDERLANDS OF SCIENCE, (see (2)), articles by Abell, Oberg, Bauer, Frazier.

THE RAGGED EDGE OF SCIENCE, (see (10)), pp. 179–183.


"Immanuel Velikovski," by Henry H. Bauer, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (see (2)).


* WATCHERS OF THE SKIES, by Willy Ley (Viking, N.Y., 1963) see “note on astronomical fantasies,” in appendix.

(11b) OTHER ASTRONOMICAL OR COSMIC NONSENSE


(12) TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION

FLIM-FLAM!, (see (2)), Chapter 5.


"An Investigation of Reported Effects of Transcendental Meditation on Weather," by F. D. Trumpy, The Skeptical Inquirer, Winter 1983–84, p. 143. (Deals with one of the typically absurd claims of the modern TM movement and its so-called Maharishi International University.)

(13) FLYING SAUCERS, UFOs & SIMILAR SIGNS IN THE SKIES


FLYING SAUCERS—MAGIC IN THE SKIES, by O. Billig (Schenkman, N.Y., 1982).

* UFOs AND OTHER SPACE MYSTERIES, by James Oberg (Donning, N.Y., 1982).

* UFOs: THE PUBLIC DECEIVED, by Philip J. Klass (Prometheus, N.Y., 1983).

WAR OF THE WORDS: THE STRANGE BUT TRUE STORY OF THE GULF BREEZE UFO, by Craig R. Myers (Xlibris, Pennsylvania, 2000). One of the most famed UFO hoaxes of recent years.

UFOs, A SCIENTIFIC DEBATE, ed. by Carl Sagan and Thornton Page (Cornell, N.Y., 1972) (Norton, N.Y., no date).


* WATCH THE SKIES! by Curtis Peebles (Smithsonian Institute Press, Washington, 1994); contains a brief account of the original Scully-Newton-Gebaur hoax and later variants that grew over 50 years into the familiar myth of crashed flying saucers.


* THE REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS, by Edward J. Ruppelt; “new enlarged edition” of (Doubleday, N.Y., 1956) was issued undated in 1959 with 3 new chapters.


SAUCER ATTACK! by Eric and Leif Nesheim (Kitchen Sink, LA, 1997). Poorly written and haphazardly assembled collection of pop-culture flying saucer images going back to about 1929.

THE INNER LIMITS OF OUTER SPACE, see (10), Chs. 3, 8, 9.

FADS AND FALLACIES, (see (2)), Chapter 5.

MYTHS OF THE SPACE AGE, (see (2)), Chapter 6.

PARANORMAL BORDERLANDS OF SCIENCE, (see (2)), articles by Klass, Oberg, Simpson and Standen.

SCIENCE AND THE PARANORMAL, (see (2)), Chapter 18.

"Unidentified Flying Objects," by Robert Schaeffer, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (see (2)).

"Ghost Lights of Texas," by Herbert Lindes, The Skeptical Inquirer, Vol. 16, No. 4, Summer 1992, pp. 400-406. Poorly written and illustrated but the only readily available article on the Marfa and Saratoga "lights"

"Flying Saucers 30 Years On," by Ian Ridpath, New Scientist, 14 July 1977, pp. 77-79.


“The Man Who Invented Flying Saucers,” by John A. Keel, The Whole Earth Review, Fall 1986, pp. 54–61; also in THE FRINGES OF REASON, (see (2)).


“The Philadelphia Experiment,” by Robert Schaeffer, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (see (2)).

(14a) CONTACTEES


THE GODS HAVE LANDED, edited by James R. Lewis (SUNY, N.Y., 1995). A good account of the various UFO cults, particularly Unaris, the Raelians, and Bo-Peep aka Heaven’s Gate.

* FLYING SAUCERS HERE AND NOW, by Frank Edwards (Lyle Stuart, N.Y., 1967) (Bantam, N.Y., 1968), Chapter 7 only.

* THE WAY OUT WORLD, by Long John Nebel (Prentice-Hall, N.Y., 1961) Chapters 2, 3, and 4 only.

UFO ABDUCTIONS: A DANGEROUS GAME, by Philip J. Klass (Prometheus, N.Y., 1988).

ALIEN ABDUCTIONS: CREATING A MODERN PHENOMENON, by Terry Matheson (Prometheus, N.Y., 1999).


THE ALIEN ABDUCTION PUZZLE: SOLVED! by Kevin D. Randle, Russ Estes, and William P. Cone (Doherty, NY, 1999). Although one of these authors has written a number of worthless UFO books, the present book is actually mainly factual and analytic, an effective demolition of “alien abduction” reports.

CAPTURED BY ALIENS, by Joel Achenbach (Simon & Schuster, NY, 1999).

THE UFO INVASION, ed. by Kendrick Frazier, Barry Karr and Joe Nickell (Prometheus, N.Y., 1997).

THE ROSWELL UFO CRASH, by Kal K. Korff (Prometheus, N.Y., 1997).

THE REAL ROSWELL CRASHED SAUCER COVERUP, by Philip J. Klass (Prometheus, N.Y., 1997).
UFO CRASH AT ROSWELL, by Benson Saler, Charles A. Ziegler and Charles B. Moore (Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, 1997). The first scholarly account of the growth of this most persistent of all UFO myths.

LITTLE GREY MEN, by John D. German III (University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, 2000).


UFOs AND ALIEN CONTACT by Robert E. Bartholomew and George S. Howard (Prometheus, N.Y., 1998).

* THE UFO VERDICT, (see (13), Ch. 5.

* UFOs: THE PUBLIC DECEIVED, (see (13)), Chs. 18-20.


THE CULT OF ALIEN GODS, by Jason Colavito (Prometheus, NY, 2005).

HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF A FLYING SAUCER EXPERIENCE, by “Professor Solomon” (Top Hat Press, Baltimore, 1998).


“Art Bell, Heaven’s Gate and Journalistic Integrity,” by Thomas C. Genoni, Jr., The Skeptical Inquirer, Vol. 21, No. 4, July/August 1997, pp. 22 –23.


“Conflicting Recollections in Witnesses’ Accounts of Roswell ‘UFO’ Crash,” Philip Klass, The Skeptical Inquirer, Vol. 18, No. 5, Fall 1994, pp. 455 - 458. [Secret documents finally released in the fall of 1994 revealed this particular “crashed saucer” to be a Mogul balloon; see the following listing.]


"3.7 Million Americans Kidnapped by Aliens?" by Lloyd Stires and Philip J. Klass, Skeptical Inquirer, Vol. 17, No. 2, pp. 142–146, Winter 1993. Points out that a so-called Roper Poll, if its results were to be taken seriously, indicates that 340 different Americans would have had to be abducted every single day for the past 30 years, by “UFO Aliens”!


(14b) CROP CIRCLES & ETC.


"Crop Circles,” by Joe Nickell, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (see (2)).

(15) LOST CONTINENTS AND RELATED CRACKPOT ARCHAEOLOGY

* LOST CONTINENTS, by L. Sprague de Camp (Gnome, N.Y., 1954); revised edition (Dover, N.Y., 1970).

ATLANTIS: THE MAKING OF A MYTH, by Phyllis Young Forsyth (McGill-Queen’s University Press, Montreal, 1980).

IMAGINING ATLANTIS, by Richard Ellis (Knopf, N.Y., 1998).

THE ATLANTIS SYNDROME, by Paul Jordan (Sutton, UK, 2001).

ATLANTIS—BIOGRAPHY OF A LEGEND, by Marjorie Braymer (McElderry/Atheneum, N.Y., 1983).


* LANDS BEYOND, by L. S. de Camp and Willy Ley (Viking, N.Y., 1952).

THE ANCIENT ENGINEERS, (see (10)).

CITADELS OF MYSTERY, by L. Sprague de Camp and Catherine C. de Camp (Ballantine, N.Y., 1973).

FANTASTIC ARCHAEOLOGY: THE WILD SIDE OF NORTH AMERICAN PREHISTORY, by Stephen Williams (University of Pennsylvania, PA, 19??).


EXPLORING THE UNKNOWN, (see (2)), Chapters 1, 2, 10.

MYTHS OF THE SPACE AGE, (see (2)), Chapter 9.

FADS AND FALLACIES, (see (2)), Chapter 14.

PARANORMAL BORDERLANDS OF SCIENCE, (see (2)), articles by Feder and Cole.

ARCHAEOLOGY: MYTH AND REALITY, (see (10)).

ANCIENT ASTRONAUTS, COSMIC COLLISIONS & OTHER POPULAR THEORIES ABOUT MAN’S PAST, (See (10)).


“Archaeology and the Paranormal,” by Kenneth L. Feder, in *ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL*, ed. by Gordon Stein (see (2)).


(16) BIORHYTHMS AND OTHER NUMEROLOGY

*SCIENCE: GOOD, BAD AND BOGUS*, (see (2)), Chapter 11.

*PARANORMAL BORDERLANDS OF SCIENCE*, (see (2)), articles by Bainbridge and Hines.

*SCIENCE AND THE PARANORMAL*, (see (2)), Chapter 7.

*FLIM-FLAM!*, (see (2)), Chapter 8.


*THE INCREDIBLE DR. MATRIX*, by Martin Gardner (Scribner’s, N.Y., 1976).


*BIOLOGICAL RHYTHMS IN HUMAN AND ANIMAL PHYSIOLOGY*, by Gay Gaer Luce, (Dover, N.Y., 1971).


(17) **MYTHOLOGY OF PYRAMIDS AND CRYSTALS**

"Crystal Power—Welcome to the Stone Age," by Lawrence Jerome, in *FRINGES OF REASON*, (see (2)).


*CRYSTAL POWER*, by Lawrence E. Jerome, (Prometheus, N.Y., 1989).


*FADS AND FALLACIES*, (see (2)), Chapter 15.

*THE INCREDIBLE DR. MATRIX*, (see (16)), Chapter 17.

*EXPLORING THE UNKNOWN*, (see (2)), Chapter 7.

*ANCIENT ASTRONAUTS, COSMIC COLLISIONS & OTHER POPULAR THEORIES ABOUT MAN'S PAST*, (see (10)).


Note: I have never encountered anywhere a detailed rational discussion of "pyramid power". Apparently the claims involved are so preposterous no one thinks debunking is necessary. A not very good discussion will be found in:

*SCIENCE AND THE PARANORMAL*, (see (2)), Ch. 16 by E. C. Krupp.
See also EXPLORING THE UNKNOWN, (see (2)), Ch. 7, p. 134.


However, the best antidote to this nonsense is general knowledge of ancient Egypt and its culture, customs and achievements. There are a large number of semipopular archaeological books devoted to ancient Egypt which may be consulted. An excellent reference on Egyptian burial customs, mummies, embalming, tomb architecture, etc., is

* DEATH IN ANCIENT EGYPT, by A. J. Spencer (Pelican, N.Y., 1982). See also


For a good compact discussion of the construction of the pyramids of Egypt, see

* THE ANCIENT ENGINEERS, (see (10)), Chapter 2. For more details, see:


LIFE IN ANCIENT EGYPT, by Adolf Erman (Dover, N.Y., 1980).


(18a) CREATIONISM AND “RELIGIOUS” GEOLOGY


UNINTELLIGENT DESIGN, by Mark Perakh (Prometheus, NY, 2003).


GOD'S OWN SCIENTISTS, by Christopher P. Towney (Rutgers University Press, NJ, 1994).

TALES OF THE RATIONAL, by Massimo Pigliucci (AFS, Atlanta, 2000).


NO SENSE OF OBLIGATION: SCIENCE AND RELIGION IN AN IMPERSONAL UNIVERSE, by Matt Young (IstBooks Library, IN, 2001).

CREATIONISM'S UPSIDE DOWN PYRAMID, by Lee Tiflin (Prometheus, N.Y., 1994).


* SCIENCE ON TRIAL, by D. J. Futuyma (Pantheon, N.Y., 1983).

* ABUSING SCIENCE, by Philip Kitcher (MIT, Mass., 1982).

THE MONKEY BUSINESS, by N. Eldredge (Washington Square/Pocket, N.Y., 1982).


THE CREATION CONTROVERSY, by Dorothy Nelkin (W. W. Norton, N.Y., 1982).


DARWINISM DEFENDED, by Michael Ruse (Addison Wesley, N.Y., 1982).

THE MYTHMAKER'S MAGIC, by Delos B. McKown (Prometheus, N.Y., 1992).


EVOLUTION FOR EVERYONE, by Paul R. Gastonguay (Pegasus-BooBs-Merrill, N.Y., 1974). The simplest presentation of the ideas of modern biology known to me.


* SCIENCE AND EARTH HISTORY, by Arthur Strahler (Prometheus, N.Y., 1987). One of the most detailed critiques of creationist mythology.


EVOLUTION VERSUS CREATIONISM, ed. by J. Peter Zetterberg (Oryx, Arizona, 1983).

* CULT ARCHAEOLOGY AND CREATIONISM, see (10).

BUT IS IT SCIENCE?, ed. by Micheal Ruse (Prometheus, N.Y., 1988).


"First They Came for Darwin, Then They Came for Copernicus and Galileo..." by Robert Sheaffer, Skeptical Inquirer, Vol. 31, No. 4, July/August 2007, pp. 24 – 25.


“Neither Intelligent Nor Designed,” by Bruce and Frances Martin, The Skeptical Inquirer, Vol. 27, No. 6, November/December 2003, pp. 45–49.


“Some Like it Flat,” by Robert Schadewald, and “Jumping Geography!” by Ted Schultz, in THE FRINGES OF REASON, (see 2)).


"Scientific Creationism," by Eugenie Scott, in *ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL* (see (2)).


The February 1998 issues of Astronomy and Earth are entirely devoted to articles on what is currently known of the “origins” of matter, galaxies, stars, planetary systems and life.


FADS AND FALLACIES, (see (2)), Chapter 11.

EXPLORING THE UNKNOWN, (see (2)), Chapter 14.

PARANORMAL BORDERLANDS OF SCIENCE, (see (2)), article by Laurie Godfrey.

THE RAGGED EDGE OF SCIENCE, (see (15)), pp. 228–239.

(18b) FUNDAMENTALISM:


VISIONS OF REALITY—WHAT FUNDAMENTALIST SCHOOLS TEACH, by Albert J. Menendez (Prometheus, N.Y., 1993).

THE END OF FAITH: RELIGION, TERROR AND THE FUTURE OF REASON, by Sam Harris (W. W. Norton, NY, 2004). An important book which argues that all religions are inherently fanatical, irrational and too dangerous to be tolerated by civilization.


DECONSTRUCTING JESUS, by Robert M. Price (Prometheus, NY, 1999). Price, an expert on comparative religion who is also the foremost authority on the imaginary religions created by novelist H. P. Lovecraft, turns his attention to the possible historical and social origins of conventional Christianity.


“The Stigmata of Lilian Berin,” by Joe Nickell, The Skeptical Inquirer, Vol. 28, No. 2, March/April 2004, pp. 17–19. One of the stranger manifestations of religious hysteria is “stigmata”—a believer mutilates him- or herself in a way suggestive of the “traditional wounds of Christ.” Believers assume it’s a miracle, of course. This is coverage of a recent example... they go back to the Middle Ages.


“Faking Biblical History,” by N. A. Silberberg and Yuval Goren, Archaeology, Sept./Oct. 2003, pp. 20–29. The fact that there is no historical or archaeological basis for the existence of almost all people named and events reported in Old and New Testaments has always been potentially disturbing to Fundamentalists. A whole industry has grown up to fake artifacts supposedly related to Biblical figures, and sell them to wealthy Fundamentalists, after gaining suitable publicity. Here is a report on some of the more recent achievements in fakery.

(19) DEATH, REINCARNATION, THE SOUL, ETC.

SEARCH FOR THE SOUL, by Milbourne Christopher (Crowell, N.Y., 1979).


DYING TO LIVE, by Susan Blackmore (Prometheus, N.Y, 1993)—about so-called “near-death experiences”


PARANORMAL BORDERLANDS OF SCIENCE, (see (2) above), articles by Alcock, Morris and Taves.

SCIENCE AND THE PARANORMAL, (see (2)), Chapter 11.


"Reincarnation," by Paul Edwards, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (see (2)).


"Near-Death Experiences," by Susan J. Blackmore, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (see (2)).

"Past Tongues Remembered?" by Sarah G. Thompson, The Skeptical Inquirer, Vol. XI, No. 4, Summer 1987, pp. 367–375; see also "Xenoglossy," by Sarah G. Thompson, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (see (2)).


"Survival of Death," by Anthony Flew, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (see (2)).

MYTHS OF THE SPACE AGE, (see (2)), Chapter 4.

FADS AND FALLACIES, (see (2)), Chapter 26.

FLIM-FLAM!, (see (2)), pp. 63–68.

(20a) GHOSTS & POLTERGEISTS

47
IN SEARCH OF GHOSTS, by Daniel Cohen (Dodd, Mead, N.Y., 1972).

THE COCK LANE GHOST, by Douglas Grant (St. Martin's, N.Y., 1965).


* ESP, SEERS AND PSYCHICS, (see (6)), Chapters on “Poltergeists” and “Haunted Houses”.


HOW TO MAKE A GHOST WALK, by Joseph Dunninger (Kemp, N.Y., 1936).

BEHAVIOR AND PERCEPTION IN STRANGE ENVIRONMENTS, by Helen E. Ross (see (3a)).


(20b) VAMPIRES, ETC.

* VAMPIRES, BURIAL AND DEATH: FOLKLORE & REALITY, by Paul Barber (Yale Univ. Press, New Haven, 1988). The only known factual book on this most familiar of European myths!

(21) SCIENTOLOGY/DIANETICS, EST, ETC.


L. RON HUBBARD, MESSIAH OR MADMAN?, by Bent Corydon and L. Ron Hubbard Jr. (Lyle Stuart, N.J., 1987). Virtually incoherent, but you can usually figure out what is being talked about if you have first read the book by Miller.


FADS AND FALLACIES, (see (2)), Chapter 22.


* FACT, FRAUD & FANTASY, (see (2)), Ch. 6.


* THE SCANDAL OF SCIENTOLOGY, by Paulette Cooper (Tower, N.Y., 1971). Try to find a copy! Cooper was persecuted and harassed for a decade by Scientologists for this early, clear-eyed history of the cult.


(22) SUPERNATURAL PROPERTIES OF PLANTS AND VEGETABLES

SCIENCE AND THE PARANORMAL, (see (2)), Chapter 3.


(23) DOWSING, AUTOMATIC WRITING, MYSTIC PENDULUM, ETC.


ESP, SEERS AND PSYCHICS, (see (6)), Chapters "Tilting Tables," "The Ouija Board," and "Dowsing Rods and Pendulums".

"Dowsing," by Ray Hyman, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (see (2)).


OCCULT AND SUPERNATURAL PHENOMENA, (see (4)), Chapters 9 and 22.

ERRORS AND ECCENTRICITY, (see (4)), Chapter 11.

FLIM-FLAM!, (see (2)), Chapter 13.

(24) FORTEANISM AND MONSTERS

"Chroniclers of the Unexplained," by Ted Schultz, in FRINGES OF REASON, (see (2)).

"Charles Fort," by Jim Lippard, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (see (2)).


A MODERN LOOK AT MONSTERS, by Daniel Cohen (*Tower, N.Y., 1970*).

FADS AND FALLACIES, (see (2)), Chapter 4.

EXPLORING THE UNKNOWN, (see (2)), Chapter 11.

PARANORMAL BORDERLANDS OF SCIENCE, (see (2)), article by James R. Stewart.

SCIENCE AND THE PARANORMAL, (see (2)), Chapter 2.

MYTHS OF THE SPACE AGE, (see (2)), Chapter 2.

* EXOTIC ZOOLOGY, by Willy Ley (Viking, N.Y., 1959).


LAKE MONSTER MYSTERIES, by Benjamin Radford and Joe Nickell (University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, 2006).

SPIRITS, STARS AND SPELL, (see (4)), pp. 293.

THE FRINGE OF THE UNKNOWN, (see (10)), Section II.


THE LOCH NESS MONSTER, by Steuart Campbell (Sterling, N.Y., 1987); updated as THE LOCH NESS MONSTER (Prometheus, N.Y., 1997).


“Bigfoot,” by Michael R. Dennett, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL, ed. by Gordon Stein (see (2)).


“The Monster Hunters,” by Ted Schultz, in THE FRINGES OF REASON, (see (2)).


(25) MME. BLAVATSKY AND THEOSOPHY


[A ANCIENT WISDOM REVIVED, by B. F. Campbell (Univ. of Calif. Press, Berkeley, 1980).

MADAME BLAVATSKY'S BABOON, by Peter Washington (see (5)).


52
“Deja Vu—the Hidden History of the New Age,” by Jay Kimney, in THE FRINGES OF REASON, (see (2)).

“Theosophy,” by Robert S. Ellwood, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (see (2)).

FAIDS AND FALLACIES, (see (2)), Chapter 14.

* SPIRITS, STARS AND SPELLS, (see (4)), Chapter 13.

* LOST CONTINENTS, (see (15)), mainly chapter 2.

* THE RAGGED EDGE OF SCIENCE, (see (15)), Chapter “A Modern Merlin”.

THE OCCULT UNDERGROUND, (see (4)), Ch. 3.

(26) 19TH CENTURY SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY

Note: Almost all such fiction was written specifically for magazines and never reprinted elsewhere. It is thus difficult at the present time to get an idea of the predominant themes, except where the celebrity of the author (Wells, Doyle) later led to some of the stories being collected in book form. Michael Moorcock had at one time a project to resurrect some of this magazine fiction, now buried away in private collections of these now-rare magazines. The first two books are examples of his “mining” of such collections.


28 SCIENCE FICTION STORIES, by H. G. Wells (Dover, N.Y., 1952).


THE BEST SUPERNATURAL TALES OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, (Dover, N.Y., 1979).


THE DREAMS OUR STUFF IS MADE OF, by Thomas M. Disch (Free Press, NY, 1998). Science fiction writer Disch argues that science fiction, and science fiction writers, have pretty much created all 20th Century pseudoscience, directly or indirectly.

WHAT IF....?, ed. by Robert Cowley (Putnam’s, NY, 1999). Famous historians speculate on how history might have turned out if crucial but minor details had worked out differently; a rich source of “parallel world” ideas.

THE RAGGED EDGE OF SCIENCE, (see (15)), pp. 184–194.
THE FRINGE OF THE UNKNOWN, (see (10)), section III.

(27) HEALERS, QUACKS, CULT-CURES, FAD DIETS, BRAIN BOOSTERS

SCIENCE MEETS ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE, ed. by Wallace Sampson, MD, and Lewis Vaughn (Prometheus, NY, 2000).


THE MYSTIC HEALERS, by Paris Flammonde (Stein & Day, N.Y., 1974).

* THE FAITH HEALERS, by James Randi (Prometheus, N.Y., 1987).


MUSIC: THE NEW AGE ELIXIR, by Lisa and Joseph Summer (Prometheus, N.Y., 1996) — coverage of one of the most bizarre forms of quackery, “music healing.”


CHEMICAL SENSITIVITY, by Stephen J. Barrett, MD & Ronald E. Gots, MD, Ph.D. (Prometheus, NY, 1998). One of the few available books on “environmental illness,” one of the fastest-growing facets of medical quackery.


* HEALTH QUACKERY, by the Editors of Consumer Reports Books (Consumers Union, N.Y., 1980).

* A CONSUMER’S GUIDE TO “ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE” by Kurt Butler (Prometheus, N.Y., 1992).


FOLLIES AND FALLACIES IN MEDICINE by Petr Skrabansk and James McCormick (Prometheus, N.Y., 1990).


* THE HEALTH ROBBERS, ed. by Stephen Barrett, M.D., and Gilda Knight (Stickley, Phil., 1976); a revised edition is published as THE HEALTH ROBBERS, ed. by Stephen Barrett, M.D., and William Jarvis, Ph.D. (Prometheus, N.Y., 1993)


CHIROPRACTIC: THE VICTIM’S PERSPECTIVE, by George Magner with Stephen J. Barrett, M.D. (Prometheus, N.Y., 1995). A study, from a personal perspective, of chiropractic patients who were seriously injured by “manipulation.”


“The Ongoing Problem with the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine,” by Kimball C. Atwood, Jr., The Skeptical Inquirer, Vol. 27, No. 5, September/October 2003, pp. 23–29. A good discussion of one of the most remarkable examples of political support of medical quackery.


**HEALTH OR HOAX?**, by Arnold E. Bender (Prometheus, N.Y., 1986).

* EXAMINING HOLISTIC MEDICINE, ed. by Douglas Stalker and Clark Glymour (Prometheus, N.Y., 1985); (Prometheus, N.Y., 1989) Good chapters on Iridology, Acupuncture, Chiropractic, Homeopathy, Therapeutic Touch, Vitamin C as a cureall, Herbal medicine, biofeedback, and the effects of mental attitude on disease.

FROM PARALYSIS TO FATIGUE, by Edward Shorter (Free Press, N.Y., 1991); a summary of what's known about psychosomatic illnesses, the illnesses most beloved of quacks.


**VITAMIN POLITICS**, by John Fried (Prometheus, N.Y., 1984).


"‘Alternative’ Health Practices and Quackery," by Stephen Barrett, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL, ed. by Gordon Stein (see (2)).


"Brain Boosters— Road Testing the New Mind Machines," by Joshua Hammer, in THE FRINGES OF REASON, (see (2)).

"Neural Organization Technique — Treatment or Torture," Russell S. Worrall, The Skeptical Inquirer, Vol. 15, No. 1, Fall 1990, pp. 40-50. Terrifying account of a California school system which hired quacks to "treat" children who were poor learners.


*SCIENCE AND THE PARANORMAL*, (see (2)), Chapter 12.

*FLIM-FLAM!,* (see (2)), Chapter 9.

*CULTS OF UNREASON*, (see (21)), section III.

*FADS AND FALLACIES*, (see (2)), Chapters 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21.

*SPIRITS, STARS AND SPELLS*, (see (4)), Chapter 11.


“Psychic Healing,” by Christopher French, in *ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL* (see (2)).

(28) *THE MYSTIC EAST/ORIENT AND MIRACLES*


YOGA: A SCIENTIFIC EVALUATION, (see (12)).


SAI BABA’S MIRACLES: AN OVERVIEW, by Dale Beyerstein (Vancouver Community College, Canada, 1991.) See also “Sai Baba,” by Dale Beyerstein, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (see (2)).


“Miracles,” by Anthony Flew, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (see (2)).

“Miraculous Phenomena,” by Joe Nickell, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (see (2)).

* CULTS OF UNREASON, (see (21)), Section IV.

* ESP, SEERS & PSYCHICS, (see (5)), see “Buried Alive” and “Fire Walking”.

* MEDIUMS, MYSTICS AND THE OCCULT, (see (6)), see “Mystics from the East”.

* SPIRITS, STARS AND SPELLS, (see (4)), Chapter 13.

CRAZY FOR GOD, by Christopher Edwards (Prentice-Hall, N.J., 1979). (This and the next book are about the infamous Moon cult.)


* GOD IS A MILLIONAIRE, by Richard Mathison (Charter, N.Y., 1962), also published as FAITHS, CULTS ANDSECTS OF AMERICA, (Bobbs-Merrill, N.Y., 1960), Part IV.


FLIM-FLAM!, (see (2)), Chapter 5.

(20) THE HUMAN “AURA”

SUPERNATURAL AND OCCULT PHENOMENA, (see (4)), Chapter 7.

ERROR AND ECCENTRICITY IN HUMAN BELIEF, (see (4)), Chapter 27.


(30) **ELECTRICAL CORONA AS MISTAKEN FOR “AURA” (“KIRLIAN” PHOTOGRAPHY)**


(31) **THE MYTH OF HYPNOSIS**


**HYPNOSIS AND MEMORY**, ed. by H. M. Pettinati (Guilford, N.Y., 1988).


**MESMERISED: POWERS OF MIND IN VICTORIAN BRITAIN**, by Alison Winter (Univ. of Chicago, Ill., 1998).


“Hypnosis,” by Robert A. Baker, in *ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL* (see (2)).


(32) **PROPHETS, PROPHECY, FORETELLING THE FUTURE, ETC.**


DOOMSDAY PROPHECIES, by James R. Lewis (Prometheus, N.Y., 1999).


APOCALYPSE PRETTY SOON, by Alex Heard (Norton, NY, 1999). A study of eight contemporary apocalyptic cults.

“Prophetic Dreams,” by Robert Baker, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (see (2)).


“Countdown to the Millenium,” by Stanley Young, in THE FRINGES OF REASON, (see (2)).

WHEN PROPHECY FAILS, (see (3)).

DOOMSDAY CULT, (see (3)).


* THE RAGGED EDGE OF SCIENCE, (see (15)), pp. 169–176.
* SPIRITS, STARS AND SPELLS, (see (4)), Chapter 4.
* MYTHS OF THE SPACE AGE, (see (2)), Chapter 5.
* ESP, SEERS AND PSYCHICS, (see (6)), pp. 78–100.

(33) EDGAR CAYCE


* FLIM-FLAM!, (see (2)), Chapter 9.
* THE NEW APOCRYPHA, (see (2)), Chapter 9.
* FADS AND FALLACIES, (see (2)), Chapter 17.

(34) MYSTICAL PHYSICS AND RELATED NONSENSE

THE UNCONSCIOUS QUANTUM, by Victor J. Stenger (Prometheus, N.Y., 1995). [Beware that not all the physics here is sound!]

PARADOX LOST, by P. R. Wallace (Springer Verlag, N.Y., 1996).


SCIENCE AND THE PARANORMAL, (See (2)), Ch. 4, “Parapsychology and Quantum Mechanics,” by Martin Gardner (not highly recommended because Gardner doesn’t know much more about quantum physics than the crackpots whose ideas he summarizes).

SCIENCE OBSERVED, by Jeremy Bernstein (Basic, N.Y., 1982), Ch. 16, “A Cosmic Flow”.

(35) FRINGE & MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS

(A) SHROUD PSEUDOSCIENCE


INQUEST ON THE SHROUD OF TURIN, by Joe Nickell (Prometheus, N.Y., 1984). A rare good book on this topic. See also “The Shroud of Turin,” by Nickell, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (see (2)).

RELI, ICON OR HOAX? by H. E. Gove (Institute of Physics, NY, 1996); a famous nuclear physicist looks at this incredible intersection of fraud and faith.

JUDGEMENT DAY FOR THE SHROUD OF TURIN, by Walter McCrone (Prometheus, NY, 1999). Detailed account of the scientific study of this medieval hoax by the expert who led the study.


(B) CULTISM


THE CULT EXPERIENCE, by A. J. Pavlos (Greenwood, Conn., 1982).


PRISON OR PARADISE, by A. J. Rudin & M. R. Rudin (Fortress, Phil., 1980).

AMAZING CONVERSIONS, by Bob Altemeyer and Bruce Hunsberger (Prometheus, N.Y., 1997).

THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOONIES, (See (28)).

STRANGE GODS, (See (28)).

DOOMSDAY CULT, (See (3)).

THE ROAD TO TOTAL FREEDOM, (See (21)).

THE SCANDAL OF SCIENTOLOGY, (See (21)).

THE GOSPEL TIME BOMB, (See (18)).

SALVATION FOR SALE, by Gerard Thomas Straub (Prometheus, N.Y., 1986).

DON'T CALL ME BROTHER, by Austin Miles (Prometheus, N.Y., 1989).

BLOOD SECRETS, by Isaiah Oke (Prometheus, N.Y., 1989). A discussion of the blood sacrifice cults such as voodoo, santeria, Palo Mayombe, etc., by a former Juju high priest.

IN PURSUIT OF SATAN, by Robert D. Hicks (Prometheus, N.Y., 1990).


THE SATANISM SCARE, ed. by James T. Richardson, Joel Best and David G. Bromley (de Gruyter, N.Y., 1991); a full-length scholarly study of the spread of rumors of a “Satanic Conspiracy.”


SELLING SATAN, by Mike Hertenstein and Jon Trott (Cornerstone, Chicago, 1993). An detailed investigation of Mike Warnke, who claimed to be leader of a Satanist cult which in fact did not exist.

THE ABUSE OF INNOCENCE: by Paul & Shirley Eberle (Prometheus, N.Y., 1993); an account of one of the most incredible trials in American legal history (7 years, 16 million dollars of taxpayers’ money) in which day care school owners were accused of involving children under their care in “Satanic” rituals. In the final analysis, there was no evidence and no case. A similar case here in Austin a couple of years ago had a totally different outcome, although most of the “evidence” was equally bogus.


“Remembering Satan, Parts I and II," by Lawrence Wright, New Yorker, May 17, 1993, pp. 60 - 81 and May 24, 1993, pp. 54 - 76. More staggering information on the increasingly popular modern version of a witch-hunt, the coercion by crackpot “experts” of entirely bogus testimony from children regarding child abuse as part of Satanic rituals! (See also (3b)).


WITCH-CHILDREN, by Hans Sebald, Ph.D. (Prometheus, N.Y., 1995).

THE SPIRIT IN THE GENE, by Reg Morrison (Comstock, N.Y., 1999).

(C) CARNIVAL & SIDESHOW STUNTS (GLASS EATING, FIREWALKING, ETC.)


MONSTER MIDWAY, by William Lindsay Gresham (Rinehart, N.Y., 1953).


THE IMPOSSIBLE, (See (1)).

MIRACLE MONGERS & THEIR METHODS, (See (1)).

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF TRANSCENDENCE, (See (2)).

ESP, SEERS & PSYCHICS, (See (6)), chapters “Buried Alive” & “Fire Walking”.

66
(D) DESTRUCTION OF THE SCIENCE OF GENETICS IN STALINIST RUSSIA


(E) THE CASTANEDA/DON JUAN HOAX


THE DON JUAN PAPERS—FURTHER CASTANEDA CONTROVERSIES, ed. by Richard de Mille, (Ross-Erikson, Santa Barbara, 1983).


“Carlos Castaneda and Don Juan,” by Jay C. Fikes, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL, ed. by Gordon Stein (see (2)).


(F) THE PILTDOWN HOAX & OTHERS


THE PILTDOWN FORGERY, by J. S. Weiner (Dover, N.Y., 1980).


1998. Two articles reveal that accusations about a hoax perpetrated on Mead in Samoa are not founded on fact.


(G) THE HUNDREDTH MONKEY HOAX

“The Hundredth Monkey Debunked,” by Ron Amundson, The Whole Earth Review, Winter 1986, #52, pp. 19-24. See also, “The Misunderstood Monkey,” by Michael Huffman (pp. 27-29) and “Of Myths and Monkeys,” by Maureen O’Hara (pp. 30-34) in the same issue; see reprints in THE FRINGES OF REASON, (see (2)).


(H) THE URANTIA CULT


(36) SOCIETY’S VIEW OF SCIENCE VS THE IRRATIONAL


THE NEW NONSENSE, by Charles Fair (Simon & Schuster, N.Y., 1974).


* PARAPSYCHOLOGY: SCIENCE OR MAGIC? (see (6a)).


THE FRINGE OF THE UNKNOWN, by L. Sprague de Camp (Prometheus, N.Y., 1983), Section III.

* ANTI-INTELLECTUALISM IN AMERICAN LIFE, by Richard Hofstadter (Knopf, N.Y., 1963).


HOW WE BELIEVE, by Michael Shermer (Freeman, N.Y., 1999).

IN SEARCH OF WHITE CROWS, (see (5)).

THE OCCULT UNDERGROUND, (see (4)).


(37) ESTIMATING AND CALCULATING PROBABILITIES


PRACTICAL STATISTICS SIMPLY EXPLAINED, by Russell Langley (Dover, N.Y., 1971).


CHANCE RULES, by Brian S. Everitt (Springer, NY, 1999).


HOW TO Figure It, by Darrell Huff (Norton, NY, 1999). Ch. W discusses “chance and statistics,” and covers many familiar probability questions. The book itself is somewhat pseudoscientific, however.

THINK OF A NUMBER, by M. E. Lines (Institute of Physics, NY, 1990).

STATISTICAL TRICKS AND TRAPS, by Mark Durm (Pryczak, Los Angeles, 2000).


THE SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN BOOK OF MATHEMATICAL PUZZLES AND DIVERSIONS, by Martin Gardner (Simon & Schuster, N.Y., 1959), Chapter 5. Many of the later books in this series also include discussions of puzzles and “paradoxes” involving probability theory.

MORE DAMNED LIES AND STATISTICS, by Joel Best (University of California Press, 2004).

SUBJECTIVE PROBABILITY, edited by George Wright and Peter Ayton (John Wiley & Sons, N.Y., 1994).


“Coincidences,” by Persi Diaconis and Frederick Mosteller, in ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE PARANORMAL (see (2)).


LADY LUCK, by Warren Weaver (Anchor Press, N.Y., 1963); (Dover, N.Y., 1982); see especially Ch. XIII, “Rare Events, Coincidences and Surprising Occurrences”.


“Coincidences,” by Martin Gardner, Ch. 1 of Knotted Doughnuts and Other Mathematical Entertainments (W. H. Freeman, N.Y., 1986).


“Coincidence and Explanation,” by Galen K. Pletcher, in PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE AND THE OCCULT, (see (2)).

The works in this bibliography are intended for your use as reference material when you undertake to write a review of a pseudoscience book. Many of the books above are available in the various U. T. libraries. To obtain a pseudoscience book for review, look at any drugstore or supermarket paperback rack, or go to any of the many good used book stores in town, where a used pseudoscience paperback can be picked up for $1.50 or thereabouts. GET AFTER IT!!!!!!

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