

**OPUS BOOK TEST
THIS MONTH INSIDE**

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INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE FOR MENTALISTS & MAGICIANS

**HOW TO
STUDY
MENTALISM ?**

SCOPE OF STUDYING MENTALISM

Mentalism article

SUPERNATURAL ABILITIES

Exclusive Discussion

PSYCHOLOGY SCOPE IN INDIA

Truth about mentalism

SANISM VS MENTALISM

Mental Illness

DISCIPLINE OF MENTALISM

Telekinetics & Mechanism

THE PIDDINGTONS

RADIO TELEPATHY COUPLES.....

STUFFTRICK OF THE MONTH

CHINESE TOWN- MENU MENTALISM

BOOK SEANCE

OPUS BOOK TEST

CONTENTS

Inside this
edition 15

EDITOR'S
NOTE >

Hi everyone,

I'd just like to say a big thank you to everyone who has commented and the fact that this digital VOODOO magazine is still getting some fairly high visitor stats I'm incredibly thank you!

In the meantime, there are plenty of articles on this VOODOO magazine that you can read to hopefully improve or at least understand Mentalism in a little more detail! Again, a huge thank you to everyone!.

saji vijayan

—Saji Vijayan, on behalf of the team Voodoo
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (MASTHEAD)

MAGAZINE

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WHAT IS THE SCOPE OF STUDYING MENTALISM?

This is almost impossible to answer in a meaningful way. Like the umbrella Magic, of which Mentalism is considered a sub genre, Mentalism has many sub divisions.

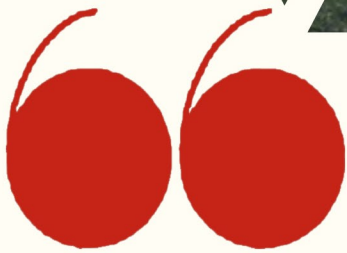
Performers can seem to read minds, predict the future, move objects with the power of the mind. A potential performer may wish to dabble in all of the various branches, or specialize in one or two.

There are literally hundreds of books dedicated to Mentalism, and mental effects are scattered throughout literature dedicated to performing magic. *Self-Working Mental Magic* by Karl Fulves is published by Dover Press. *Thirteen Steps to Mentalism* by Tony Corinda is also readily available.

The Magic shelf at your local library may even have a book or two dedicated to the subject.

Mentalists are people who have an impressive talent for mind reading. It's so impressive, in fact, that they use it on stage, making their living as "Mental Magicians" who entertain audiences with performances that include breathtaking psychic demonstrations.

When people get in trouble with their spouses, many of them fall back on the same excuse: "I'm sorry, honey; I'm not a mind reader." When you're a Mentalist, however, you unfortunately can't use that excuse, because a mind reader is exactly what you are.



HOW TO STUDY MENTALISM

Well, sort of. Although as a Mentalist, you can't literally read minds — after all, it's impossible for one mind to communicate directly and privately with another — you can read people, which often gives the impression and illusion of mind reading.

During your mind-reading demonstrations, you appear to practice such mental magic tricks as precognition, telepathy, clairvoyance, psychokinesis, mediumship, and mind control. Of course, you're not really telepathic, psychic, or clairvoyant. Instead, you're a well-practiced performer who's been trained in mentalism. Mentalism teaches you how to read body language and facial expressions, do hypnosis, do "cold/hot" readings, use mnemonics, and do tricks like the so-called "swami gimmick," where you use a small piece of lead embedded in your fingernail to write a word on a piece of paper while it's behind your back, giving the illusion that you had actually written that word down before the demonstration as an act of precognition.

Although you don't have real psychic powers, you do have a keen ability to read between the lines, which gives you all the benefits of mind reading — without the burden of knowing why your significant other is in a bad mood today!

HOW TO STUDY

MENTALISM AND BE

ONE OF THE MOST

STUNNING MIND

BENDERS AROUND

How to study mentalism has never been easier. With mentalism books available on Amazon. Plus a very special mentalism course to download from the internet. Begin by reading blogs on mentalism like this and watch YouTube videos too. But at some point you'll need to invest in training too. If you're looking to master mentalism to become a professional mentalist, I suggest at least one course, plus read at least 2-3 mentalism books on the subject.

HOW TO STUDY MENTALISM

& BECOME A PROFESSIONAL MENTALIST

As with any learning or studying process, studying mentalism is no different.

Many would like to learn mentalism online for free. However, there's only a certain amount of information you'll be able to get online. At some point, if you want to become a master of mentalism, you will need to invest in courses and books too.

That is of course if you want to become a professional mentalist at some point. However, if you simply want to impress a few friends at parties, you'll probably be able to pick up enough information and tricks to learn 'party mentalism' online for free.

Studying mentalism has never been easier. There are plenty of mentalism books to read on the subject. As there are courses to help you master mentalism too.

You will also learn from blogs like mine and of course YouTube videos like the ones included in this article.

Another approach would be to find someone else who is also a mentalist. Ask them to coach you with your skills. However, this can be an expensive route to take and can cost upwards of \$300-500 per hour.

Or if you go to the likes of Mr. X on the master mentalism course, this would cost around \$1,500 for the very same information.

There are many skills you need to master to become a mentalist. For each of these skills you'll be able to study the subject matter around the skill. But then as with all studying, where there's theory, there's always practical too.

With mentalism, and magic for that matter, many times the effect or trick is actually quite simple once the method is revealed. However, the skills and techniques required to perform the effect or trick may take many hours of practice.

The types of skills you should learn and study include the following:

SUPERNATURAL ABILITIES AND THE SKILL TO READ MINDS

One of the most impressive skills to learn and master in mentalism is mind reading.

Actually, mentalists cannot mind read, they only simulate it.

Mind reading and supernatural abilities needed to look like a psychic include learning about cold reading and the Barnum effect.

For both of these skills you can learn them through reading books or on the Master Mentalism course explained in more :

LEARNING HOW TO READ BODY LANGUAGE

Learning to read body language is a great life skill to have. But it's also an essential skill to study and learn for mentalists too. Spotting nonverbal language is a real skill to learn. Derren Brown talks about this in his book *Tricks of the Mind*, one of the reading musts for becoming a mentalist.

When you consider we speak to one another more in body language than we do using the spoken word, you'll realise how important it is to learn. Ex-FBI agent Joe Navarro's book *'What Every BODY Is Saying,'* is also a must read.

STUDYING EMBEDDED SUGGESTION TECHNIQUES AND HYPNOSIS

In addition to tricks around cold reading and learning the art of understanding nonverbal language, there's NLP suggestion techniques too.

The embedded suggestion technique is extremely powerful. Not only can it be used in mentalism, but it can also be used to influence people in every day life too.

The trick with this technique is in disguising the 'suggestions' that are hidden within what you say. You need to be able to master this technique and practice 'hiding' the suggestions you wish to embed.

What's amazing about this effect is your subject will be convinced the idea you 'planted' was their idea. This is demonstrated in the above video with Simon Pegg.

If you are also interesting in performing stage hypnotism like Derren Brown, which I consider a mentalism skill, you may be interested to watch the video below for some ideas.



PRACTICE, PRACTICE & PRACTICE

One you begin to study mentalism you may get overwhelmed. If this happens choose perhaps three effects and master these.

Any professional mentalist will probably only have maybe three effects to begin with. But with each effect there are many methods for each.

Hone these effects to perfection by practicing over and again.

As with any new learning, the only way to truly learn something new is do go out and do it. If you fail, try again. Stick at it and don't give up.

If you are studying mentalism at the same time as keeping your job, observe people. Watch their body language and see what you are able to pick up.

In your lunch break test out what you've already learned. If you go out for a drink after work with colleagues, tryout your new mentalism effects on your work-friends down the pub

MENTALISM MAGIC AND SLIGHT OF HAND TRICKS

Mentalism isn't only about 'mind control' or reading body language and using cold reading. There are many mentalism magic tricks you can learn too. I suggest studying these first and begin to perform these to build your confidence.

There are many card tricks you can do that cross over from magic to mentalism magic. There are also tricks that don't involve playing cards too.

An example of a mental magic trick that doesn't involve playing cards can be done using a Nomad Pad. This is a pad that was invented by Mathieu Bich. He's one of the magicians to fool Penn and Teller on a UK show on ITV.

MASTER MENTALISM COURSE

As already mentioned earlier in this article there are courses to learn mentalism. But there are not many to choose from. One such course is Master Mentalism, which is co-authored by Ryan Clark and Mr. X Las Vegas.

Whilst books are good, you cannot beat a course. Some are dated, like the 13 Steps to Mentalism. Plus whats even better is you also get over 500 card tricks you can study and learn too.

In addition to the above bonus, you'll also get 'David Blaine Brutally Exposed.' Plus 30 days free access to Mesmerize Monthly.

Int this monthly magazine you get access to magic, mentalism and hypnosis videos. Monthly full-length conversational hypnosis audios and much much more. They have a special offer on at the moment too. Well worth a look.

I HOPE YOU ENJOYED THIS ARTICLE ABOUT HOW TO STUDY MENTALISM...

I'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR JOURNEY TO BECOME A PERFORMING MENTALIST OR MAGICIAN (OR BOTH). PLEASE COMMENT BELOW. PLEASE ALSO SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES, BOTH GOOD AND BAD! IF THIS ARTICLE HASN'T ANSWERED ALL OF YOUR QUESTIONS.

IF YOU HAVE MORE QUESTIONS EITHER ABOUT MENTALISM OR MAGIC, I WILL TRY TO ANSWER THEM (OR SPECIFICALLY ABOUT HOW TO STUDY MENTALISM),

PLEASE COMMENT BELOW WITH YOUR QUESTIONS.

THERE WILL ALSO BE MANY MORE ARTICLES ABOUT MENTALISM FOR YOU TO READ AND LEARN ABOUT THIS FANTASTIC SKILL.

Have fun and ENJOY YOUR JOURNEY!

INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE FOR MENTALISTS & MAGICIANS

MENTALISM

THE TRUTH ABOUT MENTALISM MAGIC



DOES PSYCHOLOGY HAVE SCOPE IN INDIA?

In psychology, mentalism refers to those branches of study that concentrate on perception and thought processes: for example, mental imagery, consciousness and cognition, as in cognitive psychology. The term mentalism has been used primarily by behaviorists who believe that scientific psychology should focus on the structure of causal relationships to conditioned responses, or on the functions of behavior.

Neither mentalism nor behaviorism are mutually exclusive fields; elements of one can be seen in the other, perhaps more so in modern times compared to the advent of psychology over a century ago

Psychologist Allan Paivio used the term classical mentalism to refer to the introspective psychologies of Edward Titchener and William James. Despite Titchener being concerned with structure and James with function, both agreed that consciousness was the subject matter of psychology, making psychology an inherently subjective field.

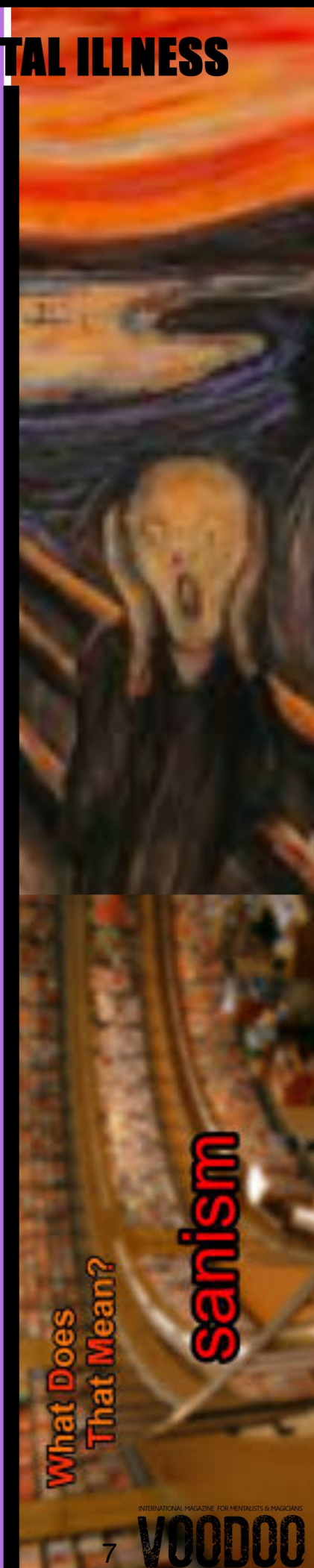
SANISM AND THE LANGUAGE OF MENTAL ILLNESS

As I was reading about the stigma of mental illness, I was struck by the lack of a mainstream term to describe the discrimination that arises from that stigma. This void in our everyday terminology is telling: it implies that the oppression people with mental illness face is so commonplace and routine that it doesn't merit its own label. I submit that until we name it, we can't effectively discuss it, and the absence of this name makes it easy for many of us to ignore it or deny its existence.

Advocacy and research organizations such as the Mental Health Commission of Canada tend to use the term "mental health stigma," but I'd argue that finding a single word to describe discrimination against people with mental illness helps put it on par with similar forms of bigotry, including racism and sexism.

SANISM VERSUS MENTALISM

Two terms that have been proposed to label the discrimination against people with mental illness are sanism and mentalism, which have appeared in legal and social science research circles but haven't caught on with the public or with mass media. Sanism was coined by attorney Morton Birnbaum in the 1960s, when he was representing Edward Stephens, a patient with mental illness who claimed he was receiving inadequate treatment. Law professor and mental health advocate Michael L. Perlin has perpetuated the term in legal literature, writing extensively about it since the 1980s. American activist and educator in the psychiatric survivor movement Judi Chamberlin coined the term mentalism in her book *On Our Own: Patient Controlled Alternatives to the Mental Health System*, published in 1978.



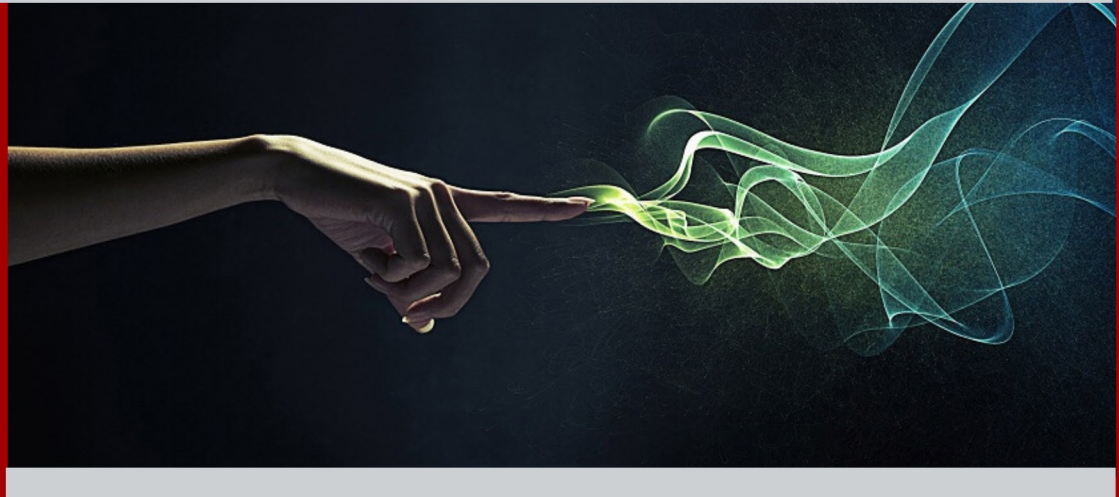
Mentalism

A MENTALISM IS A DISCIPLINE OF THE SCHOOL OF THAUMATURGY.

Mentalists are capable of creating physical barriers out of thin air, emitting

telekinetic

shockwaves, and manipulating objects with the power of their minds.



**You can have results,
or you can have excuses.
You can't have both.**

Reputation

Even though Mentalism is a fairly unknown discipline throughout most countries within the civilized — and uncivilized — world, the Arazealean high priests are widely familiar with Mentalism. Almost every Mentalist who has reached a high level of proficiency in this discipline has studied the work of Arazealean Mentalist Asha He Tis or visited Silvercity personally to study there.

Mechanics

Similar to the the mages of the school of Elementalism, Mentalists focus their spells on their surroundings, and so their usage is relatively free from dangers. If a Mentalist, for instance, wants to push an object from ten feet away, they manifest the truth of an eventuality in which the object is hit and pushed by a random physical impulse. Protective spells — which one may simply refer to as “magical shields” — work in a similar manner. The arcanist channels an eventuality for either a brief moment or an extended period of time in which the air “hardens” around him in a spherical shape.

Mentalism becomes more complicated than Elementalism in the fact that the changes made in the world by the arcanist are not visible to the naked eye and are not permanent — unlike a fire spell's physical impact which remains even when the mage stops focusing on the possible eventualities. This is why the number of truly ca-



THE PIDDINGTONS—
AMAZING PIDDINGTONS —

THE PIDDINGTONS HAVE BAFFLED THE WORLD WITH THEIR THOUGHT TRANSFERENCE ACT. HOW DID SYDNEY PIDDINGTON APPEAR TO SEND THOUGHTS TO HIS WIFE WITHOUT USING SOME TYPE OF CODE?

PIDDINGTONS



Sydney Piddington

Lesley Piddington

Sydney Piddington (1918 – 29 January 1991) and Lesley Piddington (born 1925 – 2 August 2016) were an Australian husband and wife mentalism team who performed as The Piddingtons and gave one of the most famous stage and radio telepathy acts of modern times. The Piddingtons never revealed their methods but did not claim to possess paranormal powers. There has been speculation from magicians about how they may have utilized codes, confederates or mechanical aids

Piddingtons seemed to have the ability to communicate using telepathy. The secret as to how they did this would be kept for nearly 70 years. Magicians and researchers alike could not figure out their methods although theories were rife... until now that is... After making an astonishing discovery, the theories ended and the astonishing facts became known!



Sydney Piddington spent time in Changi Prisoner of War camp during World War II. He discovered that maintaining the morale of prisoners in the camp was essential, and worked with fellow prisoner of war Russell Braddon to develop a mentalism act as entertainment for the troops. During this time, Sydney developed many unique and innovative techniques to give the appearance of mind-reading. Other fellow prisoners at Changi included Ronald Searle, who made sketches of life in the POW camp, and actor John Wood, with whom Piddington travelled home to Australia

Following the war, Sydney married Lesley Pope, to whom John Wood introduced him at a homecoming party given for Wood by the Minerva Theatre. Pope was the leading lady in the theatre's current production. Sydney taught Lesley many of the tricks that he had developed. Together they designed a stage act, and found success on Australian stages. Soon after, the Piddingtons moved to London, and in time they were signed to present a series of live radio broadcasts for the BBC. Seeking ever-impressive stunts, Sydney masterminded specialized tests to demonstrate Lesley's alleged ability to receive thoughts over a great distance.

It has been believed for many decades that Telepathist Sydney Piddington took his secrets to the grave.

PIDDINGTON'S SECRETS

The methods behind creating the illusion he could transmit his thoughts to his wife Lesley, (in complete silence, thus kicking-to-one-side any notion a spoken code was in use, and while she was somewhere else in the country, squashing any idea that a visual code was at work), were gone forever, leaving future generations of magicians, from all genres of the craft, baffled and disappointed. This is not true! Sydney Piddington's amazing methods are indeed known - and for the very first time – they are detailed in a long awaited book titled "**Piddington's Secrets**". Sydney Piddington did share his secrets with others under the condition they did not share them forward. At the time of his act this was essential for obvious reasons. The BBC producers who worked on his broadcasts knew of his methods.

Meanwhile, away from the media engine and more secreted in his private life were those others who also knew of his methods, obviously his wife Lesley but also there was another family of folks called the Harts who were 'privileged' to knowledge of Piddington's secrets. And there are more people who hid his secrets too, related to the Harts, the Daye family - all of whom were nothing to do with 'show business', in fact here were a family of hard working London taxi drivers.

Far away from London, England, in an Australian city called Sydney, a little off to the side in the suburb of Randwick in New South Wales, Sydney Piddington was born a boy on Tuesday the 14 May 1918. On this day, somewhere in the world, the German and Lithuanian governments signed a Treaty of Alliance, which effectively placed Lithuania under German control.

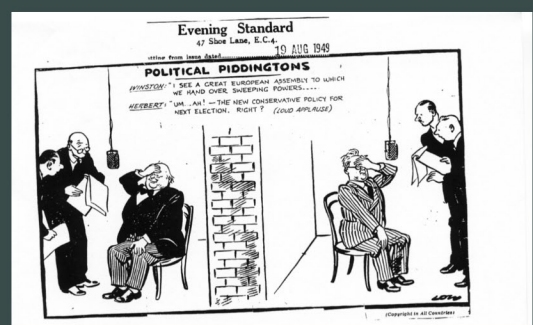
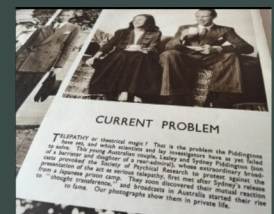
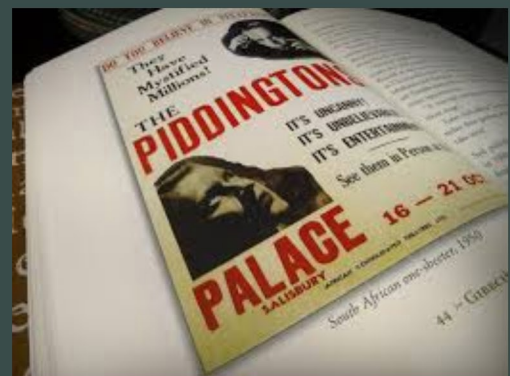
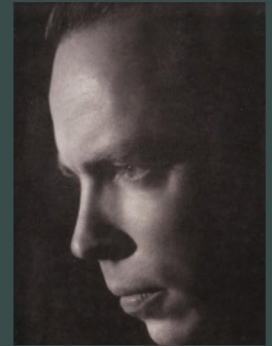
Sydney Piddington began his career in magic and mentalism in 1935 when, as a 17 year old amateur hobbyist, he joined the Independent Magical Performers of Sydney, the IMPS.



In those, his nursery years of magic, Sydney performed off-the-shelf magic tricks, usually with cards, he had not yet invented any methods of his own. And on the 1st of August 1936 his first real audience was seated at 'A Night Of Magic' at the St James Hall in Sydney. He performed the sleight of hand classic Cards To Pocket, brilliantly demonstrated by American conjurer Pop Hydn on his 'You Tube' channel.

Sydney also demonstrated the wonders of the Silk Jap Box, an empty wooden hand-held box where silks would appear inside of it, and vanish from within its timbers. He performed a variety of classic magician's effects that he had learned from books and magazines and of course the inserted instruction sheets that came with each purchase.

Sydney Piddington had a fascination with 'mind-magic' and the art of mind reading effects, mind control methods and, in particular, thought transference. Studying the work of American magician and inventor of mental and psychic conjurers' effects, Theodore Annemann, who had the real name of Theordore John Squires but liked to be called Ted, Piddington found his magical calling. This branch of magic had already been around for a long time in the 1930s. Among magicians, the mentalism performance that was cited as one of the earliest on record, was by diplomat and pioneering, sleight-of-hand magician, Girolamo Scotto back in 1572.



Fame and fortune

wasn't ready for Piddington just yet. His skills were still in the development stages and the world was heading towards the most famous war in the history of mankind. World war II.



Sydney served in an artillery regiment in Singapore. After the fall of Singapore he was imprisoned for over 3 years in the Changi POW Camp. Changi was one of the more notorious Japanese prisoner of war camps and was used to imprison Malayan civilians and Allied soldiers.

The treatment of POW's at Changi was harsh but fitted in with the belief held by the Japanese Imperial Army that those who had surrendered to it were guilty of dishonoring their country and their families and, as such, deserved to be treated in no other way.

Entertainment in the camp came in the form of concerts put on by the prisoners themselves. Some of the prisoners were former actors, singers and musicians. It was relief from the harsh regime of forced labour and the onset of malnutrition, disease and fear of death.

There was a theatre built at one time but later closed when the Japanese guards took it away as a punishment. Piddington would perform his magic tricks for the men, but as time ventured on and 3 years had crawled by, the tricks were all but dry and so was much of the conversation as the men had told their life stories, of their plans and dreams, apart from covert chat about what Piddington had heard on the BBC news, via a secret radio they had set up, there was little to say. Moral was running as low as the rations, boredom was peeking high and Piddington was soon reduced to merely surviving. Fellow prisoners Russell Braddon, who would later become an author and write works such as 'The Naked Island' (1952), and sketch artist Ronald Searle, who drew illustrations of life in the Changi camp, and regiment major Osmond Daltry, known as Ossie, were all close buddies in the camp and their relationship had a future they could not have imagined. One day Piddington stumbled across an article by Dr. J. B. Rhine on parapsychology. It was published in a stray copy of the Reader's Digest magazine he found in the dirt.

With a stored, and by now, dusty interest in mind magic, this article opened the doors to a flood of fresh stimulation. It was the most fulfilling read he had had in years and the dust cloths of his mind began to polish his interest to a gleam that was last seen in 1937.

J B Rhine (Joseph Banks Rhine) is widely considered to be the "Father of Modern Parapsychology." Along with his wife Dr Louisa E. Rhine, Dr J B Rhine studied the phenomena now known as parapsychology at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. J B Rhine collaborated with Professor William McDougall who served as the Chairman of the Department of Psychology. Dr. J B Rhine coined the term "extrasensory perception" (ESP) to describe the apparent ability of some people to acquire information without the use of the known (five) senses). He also adopted the term "parapsychology" to distinguish his interests from mainstream psychology.

The Duke experiments on telepathy, clairvoyance and precognition used specially designed cards called Zener cards. About the size of regular playing cards, these cards were composed of decks of 25 cards, with each card having one of five symbols on one side: a cross, star, wavy lines, circle and square. Under various experimental conditions, subjects would attempt to guess these cards. Out of each deck of 25 cards, 5 correct guesses were expected by chance. Using exact binomial probability calculations, it is possible to determine how "improbable" it would be to guess an excess number of cards correctly. In one set of experiments, 2400 total guesses were made and an excess of 489 hits (correct guesses) were noted. The statistical probability of this outcome is equivalent to odds of 1,000,000 to 1 (against chance) and thus show significant evidence that "something occurred." Skeptics will argue that factors other than ESP account for the deviations (some claim cheating by the subjects, sloppiness by the experimenters, etc.) J B Rhine's work was summarized in a now-famous book *Extra-Sensory Perception After Sixty Years* (Rhine, J.B., Pratt, J.G.; Smith, Burke M; Stuart, Charles E; and Greenwood, Joseph A. *Extra-Sensory Perception After Sixty Years*, Holt: New York, 1940; Humphries: Boston, 1966)

What conclusions can we draw about Rhine's overall research program? By 1940, 33 experiments had accumulated, involving almost a million trials, with protocols which rigorously excluded possible sensory clues (e.g., by introducing distance and/or barriers between sender and receiver, or by employing precognition protocols (i.e., where the target has not yet been selected at the time subjects make their responses). Twenty seven (27) of the 33 studies produced statistically significant results -- an exceptional record, even today. Furthermore, positive results were not restricted to Rhine's lab. In the five years following Rhine's first publication of his results, 33 independent replication experiments were conducted at different laboratories. Twenty (20) of these (or 61%) were statistically significant (where 5% would be expected by chance alone).



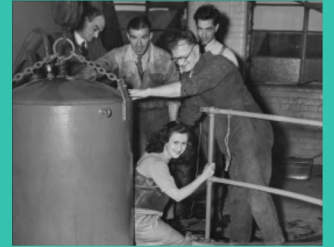
THE INSPIRATION BEHIND HOLMES' DEDUCTION



David Berglas welcomes Lesley Piddington to The Magic Circle in 1998 - then based at The Victory Services Club

The Rhine Research Centre in Durham still continues to be a thriving centre for Para-psychological research. (www.rhine.org). The good doctor also asked the question 'Do Dreams Come True?' in a 1955 issue of the magazine.

A stimulated Piddington and Russell Braddon decided to experiment with telepathy for themselves. At first it was a serious set of experiments to see how much they could correctly get right using thoughts alone. The results would improve the more they tested one another but in all honesty, it was clearly no proof that their efforts were based upon anything-more than chance alone. Major Osmond Dalrymple was the one who suggested they should devise an act based on the art of telepathy and entertain the other prisoners with it, thus helping to inject some lost stimulation into the population, and it soon became a notable feature of the prison camp entertainments regime. In fact it became the most controversial demonstration of telepathy ever witnessed, because Sydney, with all of his conjuring skills demonstrated thought transference and telepathy testing in complete silence, thus no spoken code could be blamed. He also introduced a blindfold thus no visual code could be accused. Without the need for sound nor sight, Sydney Piddington could transfer randomly acquired information from his mind to Russell Braddon's mind. It was miraculous to-say-the-least. It seemed that no one quite knew whether to call it a trick or a gift. All Piddington would say is, "you be the judge".



A meta-analysis was done specifically for precognition experiments conducted between the years 1935 - 1987. (Honorton, C., & Ferrari, D. [1989]. Meta-analysis of forced-choice precognition experiments 1935 - 1987. *Journal of Parapsychology*, vol 53, 281 - 308). This included 309 studies, conducted by 62 experimenters. The cumulative probability associated with the overall results was $p = 10^{-24}$ (that is equivalent to .000000000000000000000001 where .05 is considered statistically significant).

The scientific evidence for precognition, the most provocative of all para - psychological phenomena, stands on firm statistical grounds.

The day finally came for liberation to begin. One night, around midnight, came the news that Emperor Tenno Heika of Japan had surrendered unconditionally. I can only imagine the wide-eye smile on Piddington's face as his secret radio ended this destroying chapter in his life.

'Rehabilitation of Allied Prisoners of War and Internees'

When Lord Mountbatten arrived in Singapore, he was joined by RAPWI – 'REHABILITATION OF ALLIED PRISONERS OF WAR AND INTERNEES'. The Americans were the first to leave Changi. Those remaining christened RAPWI 'Retain all Prisoners of War Indefinitely'. When men were repatriated they went to either Sri Lanka or Australia to convalesce. Piddington was released on-or-about the 14th of September 1945. Today there stands the Changi Museum. 1000 Upper Changi Rd North Singapore 507707. With the 'man-changing' experiences of the second world war behind him, Piddington returned to Australia, where he recovered physically. The war had installed some characteristics not before present. One of these was the ability to keep secrets, the importance of this would become active in his next endeavors. Another was an accrued talent for manipulating his environment, making things seem one way when really they were another, this was essential when keeping the Changi prison guards unaware of many of the goings-on in the camp, especially the secret radio.



Piddintons with Crompton MacKenzie (writer of fiction, biography, histories and memoir) in London.

Piddington had also returned home having created his own methods in show-biz telepathy. Methods that would remain undiscovered for nearly seven decades and cause many to believe that there was definitely something in the idea that a person could really possess the gift of extra sensory perception. (ESP).

At this time in Piddington's life, fate was active in causing his encounter with stage actress Lesley Pope, who would later become Mrs Piddington, and the other half of the most controversial telepathy act the world has ever known.

Prison comrade Ossie Daltry, had once managed a west End theatre called the Westminster. In management with him was Miss Kathleen Robinson. Ossie wrote to her by airmail that should she ever need a stage director, Piddington is highly recommended for his reliability and efficiency.

Sydney Piddington silently transmitting to Lesley, watched by Gladys Young, Stratocruiser Broadcast 1950.



On Piddington's ship back to Australia was actor John Wood who was one of the Changi actors, he often played the sexy female in many of the early Changi performances. John was given a welcome-home party by the Minerva Theatre Players, of whom he was apart before the war. Many were invited, including the cast of the current production. Miss Kathleen Robinson, having just received the recommendation from Ossie Daltry, asked John if he knew Sydney Piddington. He replied with enthusiasm exclaiming he certainly did and Kathleen suggested he was also invited to the party. It was at that party that John Wood introduced the leading actress of the show to Piddington. "Sydney" he said, "I would like you to meet Lesley Pope".

John had spoken of Lesley back in the Changi camp. He remembered a conversation with him about this attractive actress who had a good memory. Lesley was very quick at learning her lines.

The newly sparked relationship between Sydney and Lesley began with much talking. Learning about one another and exchanging stories of life before and during the war years. Lesley was all that John had said of her. She was gentle, young, softly spoken and possessed a stubborn streak that helped launch her career as a radio actress before she was 21.

Love grabbed them both and Lesley Elizabeth Pope said 'yes' when Piddington asked for her hand in marriage in 1946. They married in Woollahra, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, and the combination of a talented actress and master Manipulatist morphed into 'The Amazing Piddingtons,' a telepathy act second to none, baffling to all and credited to one man whose secret methods shook the conjuring world into submission, to this day. The couple created a telepathy act based on Sydney's experience in Changi prison, and the Piddingtons became a successful show on Australia's 2UE in Sydney and 3K2 in Melbourne, followed by live stage shows. By 1949 the couple had saved enough money to take their act to England, where, after a struggle to be noticed by the BBC, they signed an eight weeks contract with BBC national radio, followed by a further 3 additional shows.

The broadcasts were separated into 3 series and were a sensational success, so much so, that experts have been trying to uncover their secret methods ever since. In one remarkable program, twenty million listeners waited with bated breath while Lesley Piddington, sequestered in the Tower of London, correctly stated the difficult test sentence "Be abandoned as the electricians said that they would have no current" relayed by Sydney telepathically from a BBC studio in Piccadilly, several miles away.

The text had been chosen independently of the Piddingtons, and it was only revealed to Sydney when he was asked to concentrate upon it in the studio. Throughout the BBC radio shows, the tests were rigorously controlled, and if there was a code (as so many theorists suggested) it would have to have been independent of oral and visual signals and able to operate at an obstacle infested distance. The possibility of concealed electronic devices (in a period long before micro transistor techniques) was also ruled out by searching the Piddingtons. One by one each ingenious "explanation" of trickery was eliminated under conditions that precluded codes and confederates.

Everyone had a theory about how they might have achieved their effects, and part of the controversy, and the success of the shows, was the call to the public, by the Piddingtons, asking them to make their own minds up about whether or not the act was a real demonstration of telepathy or just trickery. At the end of every show they would just say "you are the judge". Some para-normal investigators of the subject (including Dr. S. G. Soal) objected to the shows on the grounds that the Piddingtons were getting the attention his research deserved more-so, and that telepathy should be restricted to laboratory investigation. Furthermore, the use of the word 'test' to describe the tricks was misleading.

Dr. Soal was partly moved to make his first para psychological studies following the death of one of his brothers in the First World War. Like many of the bereaved at the time, he made inquiries of mediums concerning communication with the departed; but conducted his observations with a scientific approach. His observations surprised conventional understanding even within psychical research. Most especially, he reported a case of apparently precognitive telepathy of a situation yet to occur for a long-forgotten, but still living, friend of his, Gordon Davis. This suggested, in line with earlier speculations, that the statements of mediums had nothing to do with "spirits of the departed," but only knowledge gained - by telepathy, if need be - from the sitters themselves. What was particularly surprising was that this information was yet to be learned by Soal himself.

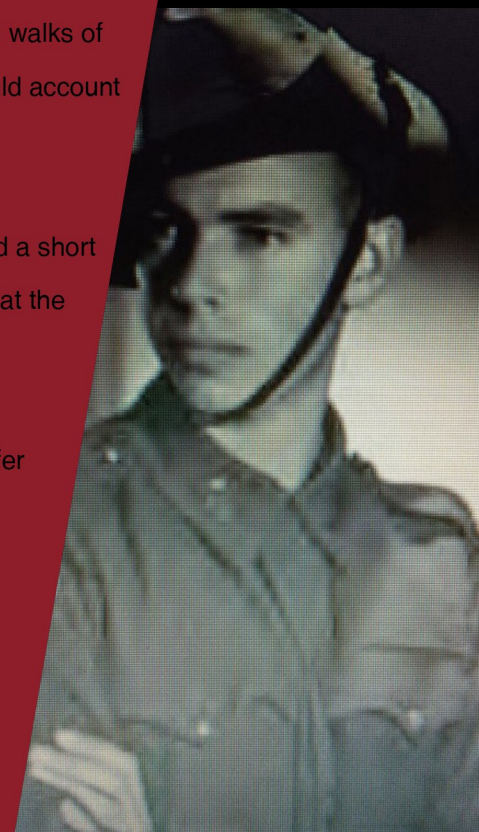
However, the Piddingtons made telepathy a topic of conversation throughout Britain, and years later there has been no discovery that any part of their act was conceived by trickery. Skeptics from all walks of life have never offered a viable explanation, other than it was all a hoax by the BBC that could account for the Piddington's performance.

So, the journey to stardom was long but fascinating for the Piddingtons. The act however had a short career. They decided to move back to Australia and start a family. Sydney was offered a job at the Digest magazine heading up the advertising department.

Between 1953 and 1959 they had three children; Mark Sydney John Piddington, Kaye Jennifer Piddington and Anthony James Piddington.

The marriage eventually ended and the Piddingtons went their separate ways.

SYDNEY PIDDINGTON ARMY PHOTO



In 1972 Sydney met Robyn Delca Anne Greig and resurrected his famous act in Australia, teaching his methods to Robyn who he later married. They toured the show with the same success and still there was no sign of how it was done. The new Piddingtons had a child, Edwin Sydney Piddington.

The act soon came to an end, the secrets of its success remaining undiscovered, and on 29 January 1991, in Leura, Blue Mountains, New South Wales, Australia, at the age of 72, Sydney Piddington died after losing his battle with Throat Cancer. It was believed that his secrets died with him. Lesley Pope later suffered dementia and lost all memory of the Piddington years, it was believed she had also taken the secrets with her.

The good news is, the secrets of how Sydney and Lesley Piddington achieved their telepathy tests is not lost. Martin T Hart sought permission to write his book "Piddington's Secrets" and finally reveal their actual methods. This will help the mind-magic industry to keep their systems and strategies on-going to entertain our new generations, those fresh audiences and perhaps fuel a second round of interest from the institutes who are still studying the phenomenon we call ESP.

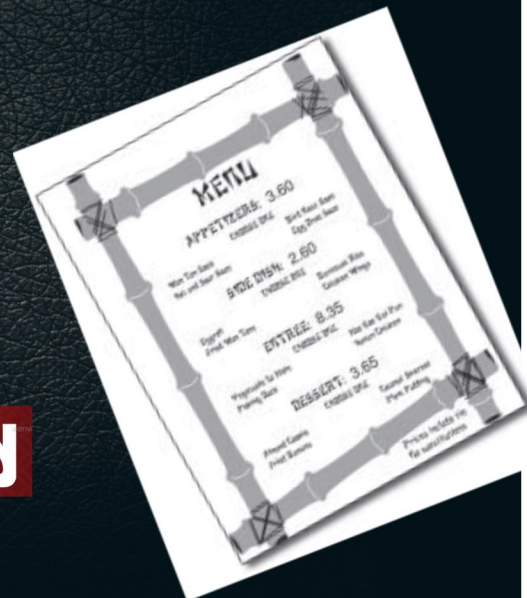
Sydney in the Piccadilly Studios transmits a line from a book to Lesley in the Tower of London.



Fred acknowledges
Larry Becker's
"Game Show" as the
inspiration for this
presentation.

TRICK OR TREAT

CHINA TOWN



"People who dine at Chinese restaurants," informs the Mentalist, "sometimes order a variety of selections, with everyone at the table sharing a portion of each dish. Often they will take turns ordering, one from column 'A', one from column 'B', and so forth." Inserting a folded piece of paper into his breast pocket where it remains visible, the performer continues, "For our imaginary meal, I have a gift certificate, valid for a four-course dinner for two couples." "A few of you will be partaking of our fanciful cuisine," he says, picking up four 'menus' and handing them to someone close by, "so please take one of these and pass the remainder along to someone else. As you can see, each menu a selection of items, all at different prices. Keep any one you wish, then please stand."

With the four participants are standing, the Mentalist instructs, "To avoid duplication, one of you will order the appetizer, another will choose the side dish. Someone else selects the entree and one lucky person gets to pick dessert. You needn't select the courses in sequence. If a course hasn't been ordered, it's yours to choose."

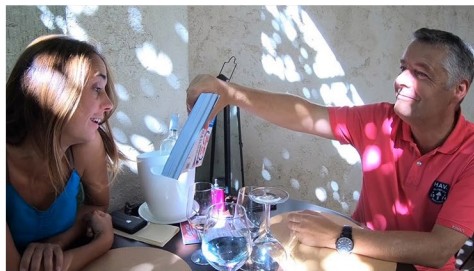
Draping a towel over his forearm, the performer takes pen and pad in hand and asks of the first participant, "Which course to you wish to order? The dessert? Splendid. And what would you like for that course? Almond cookies? Delicious. What's the price of that item? Two-eighty? I'll write that down." The Mentalist notes the selection on his pad and repeats the process for each course of the meal. With all four dishes and their prices on the pad, he openly adds the figures and circles the total on the pad. "Would each of you confirm that, had you chosen an alternate course, a totally different set of prices would have been listed?" The four participants agree.

"The face value of the gift certificate," says the Mentalist, displaying the writing on the paper, "is an odd amount..." The certificate's value matches the cost of the meal, exactly! Presentation is everything with this piece, because the working is automatic. Each menu has four sections, one for every course. There are a number of items listed in each course, but only one price for the course itself. It doesn't matter which items the participants choose because it is the price of each course which is important. As long as each course comes from a different menu, the total will always be the same, \$14.35. If you figure out why this works, don't tell me. I prefer being mystified.

Item	Menu A	Menu B	Menu C	Menu D
Appetizer	1.95	2.25	2.75	3.60
Side Dish	.95	1.25	1.75	2.60
Entree	6.70	7.00	7.50	8.35
Dessert	2.00	2.30	2.80	3.65

OPUS BOOK TEST

TRICK BY DENIS MARC PARET



THE OPUS BOOK TEST INTRODUCES A BRAND NEW METHOD FOR BOOK TESTS. IT ALLOWS FOR A COMPLETELY HANDS OFF PRESENTATION, NO FISHING AND NO FORCING.

DENIS MARC PARET HAS CREATED AN INGENUOUS WAY OF DIVINING WHICH WORD THE SPECTATOR IS THINKING OF. IT USES AN "INTELLIGENT MARKER". WITH THIS INCREDIBLE PIECE OF TECHNOLOGY, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO PERFORM MIRACLES.

YOU OFFER THE SPECTATOR A CHOICE OF TWO BOOKS. A DICTIONARY WITH OVER 1000 PAGES AND A WELL KNOWN NOVEL WITH APPROXIMATELY 300 PAGES. THEY NAME A PAGE NUMBER AND TURN TO THAT PAGE.

WITH NO FISHING YOU CAN IMMEDIATELY REVEAL THE FIRST WORD ON THE PAGE. YOU CAN EVEN DIVINE OTHER WORDS ON THE PAGE WHICH CAN BE BURIED DEEP IN THE TEXT. THEY CAN EVEN GO TO THE PAGE BEFORE AND THE PAGE AFTER - YOU CAN TELL THEM THE SAME INFORMATION ON THOSE PAGES TOO! THEY CAN EVEN CHECK THE SAME PAGE IN THE OTHER BOOK IF THEY WANT - YOU CAN STILL TELL THEM THE WORD THEY ARE THINKING OF!

IT GETS EVEN BETTER...

THERE ARE TWO MAIN RISKS INVOLVED PERFORMING A BOOK TEST. 1) THE SPECTATOR MAY END UP ON A BLANK PAGE. 2) THE SPECTATOR TELLS YOU A PAGE NUMBER THAT IS NOT IN THE BOOK.

WITH THE "INTELLIGENT MARKER" METHOD, YOU'LL KNOW THIS AHEAD OF TIME SO THERE IS NO RISK OF YOU BEING CAUGHT OUT.



WHAT IS AN "INTELLIGENT MARKER"?

THE MARKER HAS A DIGITAL DEVICE BUILT INTO IT WHICH SECRETLY TRANSMITS THE INFORMATION TO YOU.

IT CAN BE OPERATED IN ONE HAND AND THE PAGE NUMBER CAN BE EASILY CHANGED.

THE SECRET DEVICE IS CONCEALED INSIDE A GENUINE MARKER SO IT CAN BE USED IN ANY ENVIRONMENT - EVEN CLOSE-UP!

IT IS A FUNCTIONING MARKER THAT YOU CAN REFILL.

USB CHARGEABLE (THE PLUG SOCKET SUPPLIED IS EUROPEAN)