

# Andrew MacKenzie

Andrew MacKenzie (1911–2001) was a journalist and novelist who also wrote books about psychical research. He was a prolific writer of reviews of books on paranormal topics, listed below.

## Early Life and Career

Andrew Carr MacKenzie was born near Dunedin, New Zealand. He worked in Wellington as a journalist until 1938 when he moved to England. He fought in Asia during the Second World War, rising to the rank of captain and distinguishing himself in guerrilla warfare. He then returned to journalism in London, writing for newspapers on the visual arts. He published numerous detective and police thrillers in the 1950s.

## Psychical Research

MacKenzie became interested in paranormal phenomena while researching articles for a popular magazine in 1961. He joined the [Society for Psychical Research](#) and was elected to its governing council, later becoming a vice president.

MacKenzie regularly participated in fact-finding investigations, for instance visiting the Suffolk village Kersey in 1990 with William Laing, who believed he had earlier experienced a time-slip there.<sup>1</sup> Other topics he researched included the [Cheltenham haunting](#) and the [Edgar Vandy](#) and Palm Sunday [mediumship](#) cases.

His chief contribution was books exploring such subjects as ghosts and apparitions, the Belmez faces and time-slips, and numerous book reviews in the Society's journal. He was particularly intrigued by [Moberly and Jourdain's experiences at Versailles](#), and explored alleged folkloric stories of the paranormal in Romania, which he visited frequently.<sup>2</sup>

A reviewer praised the unbiased way in which MacKenzie presented cases in his books.

He tries and succeeds in being very fair in his assessment of the relevance of the many different suggestions that have been offered to account for the phenomena. The very title he has chosen for his book, *The Unexplained*, shows that he has no cut and dried thesis to advance. But though unexplained, and apparently unexplainable for the present, he is not willing to cast them aside as mere frivolities with no significance'.<sup>3</sup>

His unpublished work, comprising thirty files of articles and correspondence, has been catalogued and is housed at Cambridge University Library.

## Works

### Books

*The Unexplained: Some Strange Cases of Psychical Research* (1966). London: Arthur Barker Ltd.

*Frontiers of the Unknown* (1968). London: Arthur Barker Ltd.

*Apparitions and Ghosts: A Modern Study* (1971). London: Arthur Barker Ltd.

*A Gallery of Ghosts: An Anthology of Reported Experience and Introductory Dialogue with Rosalind Heywood* (1972). London: Arthur Barker Ltd.

*The Riddle of the Future. A Modern Study of Precognition* (1974). London: Arthur Barker Ltd.

*Dracula Country: Travel and Folk Beliefs in Romania* (1977). London: Arthur Barker Ltd.

*The Prophecies of the Brahan Seer* (1977). London: Constable.

*Hauntings and Apparitions* (1982). London: Heinemann.

*The Seen and the Unseen* (1987). London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson.

*Adventures in Time: Encounters with the Past* (1997). London: The Athlone Press.

## **Articles**

A case of haunting in Kent (1967). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 44, 131-49.

What happened in Versailles (1967). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 44, 210-11.

Ostensible mother-child ESP (1969). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 45, 165-67.

Two experiences of an apparition (1970, with K.M. Goldney). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 45, 381-91.

An Edgar Vandy proxy sitting (1971). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 46, 166-73.

Obituary: George Vandy (1977). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 49, 659.

A modern haunting (1980, with G. Zorab). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 50, 284-93.

Talks with Rosalind Heywood (1980). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 50, 523-26.

Obituary: G.W. Lambert (1984). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 52, 343-44.

Obituary: J.B. Priestley (1985). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 53, 63-64.

Obituary: J.P. Dewsbery (1986). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 53, 482-83.

Obituary: E.J. Dingwall (1987). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 54, 166.

Obituary: Zoe Richmond (1987). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 54, 166-67.

Continuation of the 'Record of a haunted house' (1988). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 55, 25-32.

Correspondence [a reply to P. Underwood] (1988). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 55, 171-74 and (1989) 55, 303-4.

Obituary: Brian Inglis (1993). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 59, 157-59.

Correspondence [the Belmez faces] (1993). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 59, 317-18.

Visit to a haunted house (1994). *Psi Researcher* 13, 8-9.

Precognition of a fatal fire (1995). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 60, 258-60.

Correspondence [fraud] (1995). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 60, 347-48.

A woman in black (1997). *Paranormal Review* 1, 9-10.

Strange happenings at the estuary (1997). *Paranormal Review* 2, 13.

At the moment of death (1998). *Paranormal Review* 5, 12.

Correspondence (1999). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 63, 179; 191-92.

A case of precognition (2001). *Paranormal Review* 19, 33-34.

## **Book Chapters**

Apparitions and encounters (2005, with J. Henry). In *Parapsychology: Research on Exceptional Experiences* ed. by J. Henry. East Sussex, UK: Routledge.

## **Book Reviews**

*The Big Grey Man of Ben Macdhair*, by A. Gray (1971). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 46, 144-45.

*Science and the Spook*, by G. Owen & V. Sims (1972). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 46, 95-96.

*Beyond the Senses: A Report in Psychical Research in the Sixties*, by P. Tabori & P. Raphael (1972). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 46, 193-95.

*Gazeteer of British Ghosts. Illustrated Guide to 236 Haunted Sites*, by P. Underwood (1972). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 46, 193-95.

*Premonitions: A Leap into the Future*, by H.B. Greenhouse (1973). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 47, 58-59.

*Phantoms, Legends, Customs and Superstitions of the Sea*, by R.L. Brown (1973). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 47, 58-59.

*A Dictionary of Psychic Terms*, by L. Keating (1973). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 47, 113-14.

*Ena Twigg Medium*, by E. Twigg & R.H. Brod (1973). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 47, 114-15.

*The Book of Psychic Knowledge*, by H.B. Greenhouse (1973). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 47, 203-4.

*The Ghosts, Spirits and Spectres of Scotland*, by F. Thompson (1973). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 47, 204-5.

*Ghosts and Legends*, by R. Christian (1973). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 47, 204-5.

*The Welcoming Silence*, by D. Scott Rogo (1974). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 47, 334-37.

*The James and John Experiment*, by P. Beard (1974). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 47, 334-37.

*Margery*, by T.R. Tietze (1974). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 47, 375-78.

*Psychics* by *Psychic Magazine* (1974). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 47, 387-88.

*Life is Forever. Evidence for Survival After Death*, by S. Smith (1974). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 47, 388-89.

*Encyclopedia of the Unexplained. Magic, Occultism and Parapsychology*, ed. by R. Cavendish (1974). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 47, 450-52.

*Uri*, by A. Puharich (1974). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 47, 512-15.

*Beyond Belief*, by B. Branston (1975). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 48, 51-52.

*A Casebook of Military Mystery*, by R. Lamont Brown (1975). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 48, 52-53.

*Life Without Death? On Parapsychology, Mysticism and the Question of Survival* (1975). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 48, 115-17.

*The Flying Cow*, by G. Lyon Playfair (1975). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 48, 174-75.

*Psi. What is it?*, by L.E. Rhine (1975). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 48, 238-39.

*Second Time Round: Total Recall of a Seventeenth-Century Life*, by E.W. Ryall (1975). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 48, 241-42.

*The Power of the Mind*, by S. Smith (1976). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 48, 281.

*The Indefinite Boundary: An Investigation into the Relationship between Matter and Spirit*, by G. Lyon Playfair (1976). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 48, 315-16.

*The Psychic Realm: What Can You Believe?*, by N.A. Hintze & J.G. Pratt (1976). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 48, 316-17.

*Parapsychology: A Century of Inquiry*, by D.S. Rogo (1976). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 48, 349-50.

*My Story*, by U. Geller (1976). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 48, 352-53.

*Exploring ESP and PK. Selections from the American Society for Psychical Research Newsletters and Other Material* (1976). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 48, 404-7.

*Extra Sensory Powers. A Century of Psychical Research*, by A. Douglas (1977). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 49, 453-55.

*Phantoms*, by D.S. Rogo (1977). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 49, 453-55.

*The Language of Smell*, by R. Burton (1977). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 49, 548-50.

*The Probability of the Impossible. Scientific Discoveries and Explorations in the Psychic World*, by T. Moss (1977). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 49, 615-17.

*In the Minds of Millions*, by M. Manning (1977). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 49, 665.

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*The Mask of Time*, by J. Forman (1978). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 49, 956-58.

*August 1999*, by F.H. Stuckert (1978). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 49, 956-58.

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*The World Atlas of Mysteries*, by F. Hitching (1979). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 50, 123-25.

*Les Phantomes de Trianon*, by C.A.E. Moberly, E.F. Jourdain, & R. Amadou (1979). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 50, 187-89.

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*The Secret Life of Humans*, by S. Gooch (1981). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 51, 177-78.

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*The Ghosts of the Trianon. The Complete 'An Adventure'*, by C.A.E. Moberly, E.F. Jourdain, ed. by M.H. Coleman (1989). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 56, 46-49.

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*A Sense of Something Strange*, by A. Roy (1991). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 58, 45-47.

*The Encyclopedia of Ghosts and Spirits*, by R. E. Guiley (1995). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 60, 270.

*Ghosts, ESP and Psychology. My True Experiences in the UK, New Zealand and Australia*, by S.R. Rolls (1996). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 61, 55.

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## Endnotes

### Footnotes

- [1.](#) MacKenzie (1997), xiii.
- [2.](#) Farge (2002), 127.
- [3.](#) Fisk (1967), 40.