

Grenzwissenschaften” (i. e. Basic Experiments in Psychic Scientific Fringe Areas) in 1924. In 1937, the quarterly changed its name to “Die Unsichtbare Wirklichkeit” (abbr. U.W., The Invisible Reality).

Schröder, not tremendously important a parapsychological researcher as such, was nonetheless pivotal in parapsychological networking due to the fact that in the journals he edited (regardless of their confusing and often changing names) many noted parapsychologists of that time found a forum to publish their papers, e. g. Grunewald, Mattiesen, the Austrian Kasnacich and some others. It needs to be particularly emphasized that his periodicals were published until 1941, i. e. even during the first years of the war. In contrast, the (admittedly more important) *Zeitschrift für Parapsychologie* (i.e. *Journal for Parapsychology*) terminated its appearance by mid-1934 when Gabriele, Baroness Schrenck-Notzing, Albert’s widow, resolved to withdraw her financial support, leaving Schröder’s journals the sole surviving ones in Germany.

“BIOLOGY WITHOUT METAPSYCHICS, A BIRD WITHOUT WINGS”: ORLANDO CANAVESIO’S CONTRIBUTIONS TO PARAPSYCHOLOGY

ALEJANDRO PARRA

*INSTITUTO DE PSICOLOGÍA PARANORMAL
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA*

Surgeon and neurologist Orlando Canavesio, one of the pioneers of parapsychology in Argentina, was born in Buenos Aires in 1915. He focused on medical and biological aspects of psychic phenomena, and also he was one of the few Argentinean experts in the advance of scientific diagnosis in mental disease. He founded the Asociación Médica de Metapsíquica Argentina, AMMA (Argentinean Medical Association of Metapsychics) in 1946. The Association published the journal *Revista Médica de Metapsíquica*, of which AMMA issued only three copies.

He was interested in using EEG in psychical research to study brain activity associated with ESP performance, what he referred to as the “metapsychic state.” He studied self-claimed psychics such as the dowsers Enrique Marchessini, and Luis Acquavella, Eric Couternay Luck, Federico Poletti, and Conrado Castiglione, who worked as psychics.

Some of Canavesio’s main studies included an early EEG study, and many comprehensive case studies of a single psychic, such as Eric C. Luck one of his “star” psychic. In a paper published in 1947, he said that states conducive to ESP ranged “from deep-sleep, normal or somnambolic, to an apparent wakefulness characterized by an expectant attention, concentration or isolation”. In a study with psychic Eric Courtenay Luck, Canavesio took EEG measures while Luck went into trance and reported that the “alpha rhythm disappears, becomes more or less regular, and the potential diminishes by 60%”. Canavesio thought that dowsing performances were better suited for EGG testing. Canavesio’s medical dissertation was entitled *Electroencefalografía en los Estados Metapsíquicos* (Electroencephalography in Metapsychic States). It was the first dissertation in Latin America based on a parapsychological topic, and it was granted by the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Córdoba.

Canavesio attempted to place parapsychology within government institutions and universities. Canavesio was appointed head of the Instituto de Psicopatología Aplicada (Institute of Applied Psychopathology), which was established in 1948 to determine whether the spiritualist movement could represent a public mental health concern. Canavesio also was a strong defender of the incorporation of parapsychology (or metapsychics) in the chairs of psychology medicine at the faculties of medicine in Argentina.

In addition, Canavesio participated in numerous public events. He gave a number of lectures in scholarly forums, as well as in radio programs, and in newspapers. Argentina was represented for the first time in one of the most important international parapsychological events when Canavesio participated in the First International Conference of Parapsychological Studies held at in Utrecht in 1953. He presented

some of the work he reported in his dissertation. He also participated in a psychical research conference on parapsychology in Bologna.

Unfortunately, most of Canavesio's efforts did not have much impact. One aspect possibly leading to the neglect of his work was that the psychological movement displaced the medical approach to parapsychology, so that psychologists, and not physicians, were usually the professionals that were the most interested in and involved in parapsychology. Some felt that Canavesio's work had several pitfalls, and that it lacked an adequate methodology. Canavesio's approach was mainly qualitative, instead of the quantitative approach used by some European psychical researchers.

Canavesio was interested in other topics, such as dowsing, psychology, medicine, experimental psychopathology, and Jung's theories. He also participated in PK experiments conducted by parapsychologist José María Feola who directed the "Grupo La Plata". This group was a home-circle formed by non-spiritualists interested in the physical phenomena of Spiritualism, who carried out a series of experimental sessions of table-tipping, table levitations, raps, and other phenomena between 1950 and 1955.

On December 14, 1957, travelling to Mar del Plata city in his car, Orlando Canavesio had an accident, as a consequence of which his left leg had to be amputated. He died soon after. Canavesio was only thirty-eight years old, and was starting a new parapsychological society at Rafaela. Its guiding principle was expressed in a motto printed on the cover of the journal: "Biology without metapsychics, a bird without wings."

CHARLES EDWARD STUART (1907-1947) AND EXPERIMENTAL ESP RESEARCH

NANCY L. ZINGRONE

PARAPSYCHOLOGY FOUNDATION

NEW YORK, NY, USA

Charles Stuart was an important member of the ESP research team at Duke University from 1931 until his death in 1947 at the age of 39. Born in 1907 in Pennsylvania, Stuart obtained a BA in mathematics with a minor in philosophy from Duke University in 1932. While an undergraduate he volunteered to be tested for ESP and produced an endless stream of card-guessing results, which, among other findings, contributed to the establishment of the decline effect. In Rhine's monograph, *Extra-sensory Perception*, published in 1934, Stuart's photograph appeared on the frontispiece as one of the Laboratory's high-scoring "star" subjects. Stuart was also featured in the text as one of Rhine's principal assistants, along with J. Gaither Pratt.

Moving into the Duke Ph.D. program in psychology after his graduation, Stuart became a formal member of the Rhine group. His Ph.D. was awarded in 1941, only the second time Duke University had conferred the degree for a dissertation devoted to psychical research. Titled "An Analysis to Determine a Test Predictive of Extrachance Scoring in Card-Guessing Tests," it highlighted both Stuart's methodological and his mathematical expertise. Like Pratt, Stuart spent two years working away from the Laboratory. In Stuart's case, he was the fourth Thomas Welton Stanford Fellow in Psychical Research at Stanford University, serving in that capacity from 1942 to 1944, following John L. Coover (1912-1937), John L. Kennedy (1937-1939), and Douglas G. Ellson (1939-1942).

Stuart suffered from heart disease throughout his adult life and, consequently, was not among the group of young men who left Duke in 1941 to serve in World War II. Although his illness sometimes kept him from the Laboratory, he was one of the most prolific members of his cohort. Not only was Stuart a contributor to the debate over statistical methods then being developed in psychology and parapsychology, not only did he take the lead in the Laboratory's interaction with its critics, not only did he co-author an early testing manual with Pratt as well as provide a key contribution to the Laboratory's magnum opus, *Extrasensory Perception after Sixty Years*, but Stuart also conducted and published a wide variety of