



Paranormal Phenomenon:  
Ghosts, Spirits & Hauntings

LIBERTY-ACADEMY.ORG



Episode 23:

Paranormal Investigations

Course URL: [liberty-academy.org/teens-adults/paranormal\\_phenomenon/paranormal\\_phenomenon.html](http://liberty-academy.org/teens-adults/paranormal_phenomenon/paranormal_phenomenon.html)

# Paranormal Investigations

- In recent decades, modern-day **paranormal investigators** and '**ghost-hunters**' have emerged along with an heightened interest in the paranormal; and many television shows have sprung up to satisfy the demand for better explanations of such phenomena.
- Such investigative work into the paranormal, however, dates back millennia; and that, across many different cultures.
- In the **Bible**, for instance, we have an interesting passage in which **Saul** – the first king of the Kingdom of Israel and Judah – asks to **consult with a medium**. The passage (*1 Samuel 28:7*) reads:
  - “Then Saul said to his servants, “Seek out for me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and inquire of her.” And his servants said to him, “Behold, there is a medium at En-dor.”

# Paranormal Investigations

- In his meeting with the medium, he asks to speak with the departed prophet Samuel.
- She channels Samuel before Saul and the king is able to consult with him.
- Mediums and spiritualists had previously been outcast from his kingdom.
- But this account from the Bible clearly confirms the presence, recognition, and recruitment of mediums in ancient times.
- While a medium is not necessarily an investigator, the objective is the same; namely, to find answers from beyond.



# Paranormal Investigations

As previously mentioned, the UK is one of the regions of the world with a notable history of hauntings; thus it is no surprise that some of the earliest organizations to study and document paranormal happenings started there.

- The **Royal Society** (established in 1660 in London) was one of the earliest organizations to **study psychic functions in a scientific manner**.
- Also in the U.K., **The Ghost Club** was founded in 1862 as the oldest organization in the world associated with **psychical research** with their prime interest being that of **paranormal phenomena** associated with **ghosts** and **hauntings**.
  - To this day, this non-profit outfit still conducts investigations and research in the field, sharing findings with their members.



# Paranormal Investigations

- On the heels of the Age of Enlightenment in the 17–18<sup>th</sup> centuries another organization that began to study and investigate claims of psychic and paranormal phenomena was the **Society for Psychical Research** which began its activities around 1882 in the U.K.
- They created a methodological and administrative framework to carry out scientific research into paranormal events such as apparitions, clairvoyant visions, precognitive dreams, to name a few.
- They have published numerous findings in *The Journal of the Society for Psychical Research (JSPR)* since 1884 and also in *The Magazine of the Society for Psychical Research* (previously, *Paranormal Review*) available to their members.



# Paranormal Investigations

- The Psi Encyclopedia (<https://psi-encyclopedia.spr.ac.uk/>) also offers a hefty (and free) collection of articles and biographies accessible to all.
- Many talks and lectures still take place to this day.
- Two of the most **famous cases** investigated by the Society for Psychical Research, better known as The SPR, include:
  - The **Borley Rectory** hauntings;  
<https://psi-encyclopedia.spr.ac.uk/articles/borley-rectory>
  - The **Enfield Poltergeist**.  
<https://psi-encyclopedia.spr.ac.uk/articles/enfield-poltergeist>
- These were some of the most documented and studied cases of the paranormal in history.
- Though not without their fair share of controversy and skepticism, the cases provide rather compelling evidence.



# Paranormal Investigations

## Pioneers in the field:

- While there have been numerous **renowned investigators** in the field, the following stand out as pioneers who have gained notable reputes and have laid solid foundations for future generations wishing to pursue investigations into the paranormal.

### 1. **Harry Price (UK)**

- Paranormal investigator
- Early member (1920) of the Society for Psychic Research (SPR).
- He attended thousands of **séances** and worked on hundreds of **haunting cases**, including the famous **Borley Rectory** – one for which he spent an entire year on-site meticulously researching and documenting events.
- <http://www.harrypricewebsite.co.uk/>



# Pioneers in the field:

## 1. Harry Price (UK)

- From the mid-nineteenth century to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, **Spiritualism** – a belief that spirits of the dead communicate with the living through a medium – proliferated amongst the middle- and upper-classes of society in Britain and the United States.
- With this came countless fraudsters claiming to be genuine mediums.
- Apart from investigating haunting cases, Price was particularly **adept in exposing such fraudster mediums**.
- He did so with the use of many **scientific instruments** (electroscopes, barographs, thermographs, etc.) Having also set up **The National Laboratory of Psychical Research** and **The Séance Room**, Price was able to test the genuineness and claims of mediums and psychics – many turning out to be fakes while some others genuine.



# Pioneers in the field:

## 1. Harry Price (UK)

1936 photograph.

Harry Price's **ghost-hunting kit**, which amongst other things contained both reflex & cinematograph cameras, tools for sealing doors & windows, apparatus for secret electrical controls, steel tape, drawing instruments, torch, bottle of mercury and powdered graphite for developing finger-prints.



# Paranormal Investigations

Pioneers in the field:

## 2. Ed & Lorraine Warren (USA)

- Ed Warren – Demonologist, author & Paranormal investigator
- Lorraine Warren – Clairvoyant / Psychic medium & Paranormal investigator
- They founded the **New England Society for Psychic Research (NESPR)** in **1952**.
- They have investigated **thousands of cases over their careers**, never charging clients for their services.
- <http://warrens.net> (now [tonyspera.com](http://tonyspera.com))



# Pioneers in the field:



## 2. Ed & Lorraine Warren (USA)

- **Ed Warren** was a self-taught **demonologist** (one who studies demons and evil spirits). He read everything he could on the **demonic** which helped him to deal with such entities in his case work.
- He grew up in a house in Bridgeport, Connecticut which he claimed to be haunted.
- Ed wrote many **books** on the subject and also (along with Lorraine) **lectured** on the subject of the paranormal across the US and also abroad.
- He and Lorraine regularly collaborated with members of the Church on numerous cases – many of which entailed **exorcisms**.

# Pioneers in the field:

## 2. Ed & Lorraine Warren (USA)

- **Lorraine Warren** started out as a skeptic even though she was gifted from an early age with a clairvoyance ability and sensibility to see and interact with spirits.
- She met Ed Warren at 16 and they married just a few years later.
- Lorraine partnered with Ed to investigate paranormal cases across the US and also abroad.
- She was able to use her special abilities to help identify and communicate with specific spirits or entities to help solve cases of hauntings and other paranormal phenomenon.
- He career in the field spanned no less than 65 years.



# Notable Cases of Ed & Lorraine Warren

- Though the pair investigators worked thousands of cases over their lengthy career, here are some of the **most notable ones** – all of which, by the way, have been made into movies.
  - 1970: Anabelle doll
  - 1971: The Perron Family Haunting
  - 1975: The Amityville & Lutz family tragedy
  - 1981: Demon Murder Trial



# Pioneers in the field:

## 2. Ed & Lorraine Warren (USA)

### The Warren Occult Museum

- In their illustrious careers in investigating thousands of cases of the paranormal around the world, Ed & Lorraine have collected an incomparable collection of artifacts related to hauntings, the demonic, and the occult.
- The objects were collected and held in the Warren's home as early as 1952.
- It's most famous artifact is the **Annabelle doll**.
- Though it has been a popular attraction over the years, the museum, however, appears to be closed since 2019.
- A **video** is still available (from their YouTube channel) in which Ed Warren gives a **tour of the museum** and many of its notable artifacts: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iBTaY-hsRLI>

