

PSYCHICAL RESEARCH: A GUIDE TO ITS HISTORY, PRINCIPLES, AND PRACTICES, by Ivor Grattan-Guinness (Editor). The Aquarian Press, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, England, 1982, pp. 424. (No price on jacket.)

This excellent book was prepared as part of the centenary celebration of the Society for Psychical Research, and the Editor (I. Grattan-Guinness), the contributors, and the Society should be proud of it. Intended as a compact and comprehensive introduction to psychical research, I recommend it especially to newcomers to the field and also to experienced professionals.

For newcomers it is indeed a comprehensive introduction to the many facets of psychical research. Although some might question whether the objective of a "compact" guide was reached at a bulk of 424 pages, I do not find this at all excessive when we consider the range of phenomena covered. Coverage includes the history of the subject (separately reviewed for Britain, Europe, Russia and the Soviet Union, and the United States), mediumship, out-of-the-body experiences, apparitions, clairvoyance and telepathy, survival, poltergeists, precognition, psychokinesis, psychic photography, and Kirlian photography. There are numerous chapters about the methodology of psychic research and introductions to laboratory and statistical procedures, plus chapters relating psychic research to psychology, psychiatry, brain research, physics, other established sciences, and such fringe area studies as astrology, dowsing, and UFOs. A short glossary of common terms and a guide to organizations and educational opportunities in psychical research further orients the new reader to this field.

Knowledgeable readers will probably not want to read the book cover to cover, but will find it very useful for both reference and browsing. As we become immersed in our specialties it is easy to lose sight of psychical research as a whole, so I found it quite fascinating to dip into chapters as my fancy directed: I was almost always rewarded by an interesting

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idea or lead. I shall certainly use it as a reference book to the original literature.

I found the most charming part of the book to be the "Index of persons and entities"! The "entities" are famous mediumistic control personalities, carefully distinguished (by being in double quotation marks) from ordinary people (no quotation marks) and pseudonyms (single quotation marks). All in all, a fine book.

Charles T. Tart