

J.B. Rhine Address

2018 American Parapsychological Association convention
IONS in Petaluma, California -- Saturday, August 4th 2018

THE SOFTWARE OF CONSCIOUSNESS

*Intriguing Lessons and LingerinPuzzles
on the far side of StarGate*

Jacques Vallee

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Why « Intriguing Lessons » ?

MANY THINGS NOT KNOWN BEFORE:

Nearly 50 years after the start of the extraordinary STARGATE project there are still many things the public and scientists don't know about it: New books by Russell Targ, Ed May and others.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES:

Technology has evolved to provide stimulating, controversial new tools for the exploration of consciousness.

Three Conclusions:

1. New digital media such as « social networking » exhibit spontaneous psi phenomena. This has been known for 40 years.
 - Frequent synchronicities
 - Answers typed before unexpected questions

Three Conclusions:

1. New digital media such as « social networking » exhibit and augment spontaneous psi phenomena. This has been known for 40 years.
 - Frequent synchronicities
 - Answers typed before unexpected questions

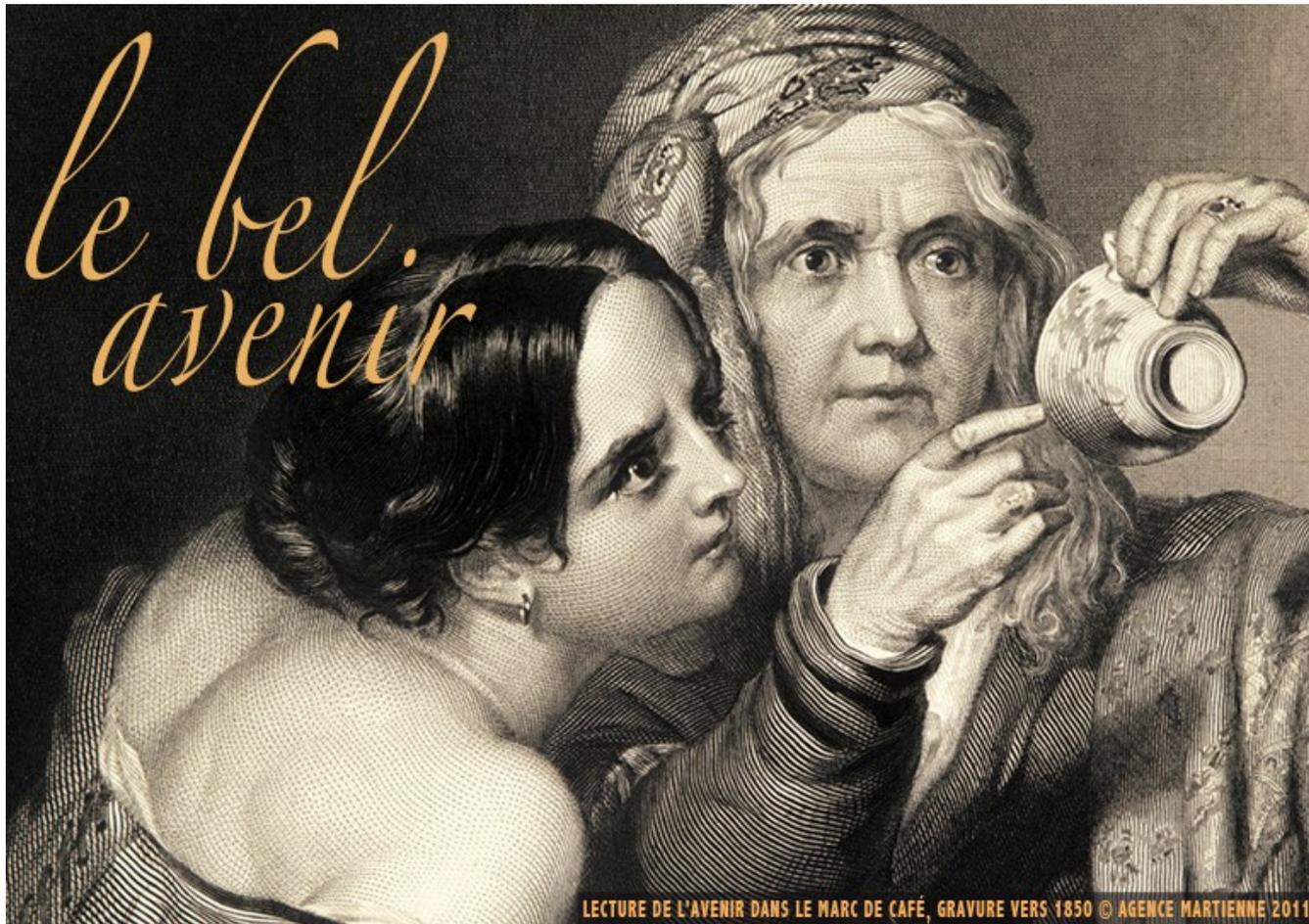
2. They offer psychical research ...
 - a ready, economical opportunity for direct experiments
 - independent of space and time,
 - with good control of external conditions

Three Conclusions:

1. New digital media such as « social networking » exhibit spontaneous psi phenomena. This has been known for 40 years.
 - Frequent synchronicities
 - Answers typed before unexpected questions
2. They offer psychical research ...
 - a ready, economical opportunity for direct experiments
 - independent of space and time,
 - with good control of external conditions
3. MODELS of psychic functioning (not restricted to RV) can benefit from insights in physics (quanta, entanglement, non-locality) but they don't HAVE to be restricted to them:

PSI RESEARCH SHOULD LEAD, NOT FOLLOW

A look towards the Future



Reviewing some expert opinions

« ESP is real, as the anecdotal evidence suggests, but cannot be tested with the clumsy tools of science. »

Physicist Freeman Dyson
Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton

Reviewing some expert opinions

We already know some basic forms of psi can happen; we should be working on finding out how to help them happen more reliably and strongly, which would then let us fruitfully study the « mechanisms » by which they happen,

All of which has great applications not only for science but for ideas of what « spirituality » may be...

Charles Tart – online discussion, 5 July 2018

Beyond StarGate: The Challenge of Remote Viewing

« If you want to imagine the world 10 years into the future, you should first look 50 years in the past... »

(Roy Amara, President, Institute for the Future,
Former SRI vice-president)

-- BECAUSE :

Many important IDEAS or TRENDS have probably been forgotten, neglected or pushed aside for economic or political convenience.

-- EXAMPLES: Scooters, Trips to the Moon ...

It all started in 1971....

- The Palo Alto Research Group in Portola Valley
- Harold Puthoff and Russell Targ approach SRI
- Early experiments with private funding
- « Psychic teaching machines » ...

- Psychic Ingo Swann available as a consultant

Ca.1971: Two Programs at SRI...

1. **ARPANET** (SRI had Engine number 2!)

Prototype for the Internet (1980s) and the Web (1995),
« Augmentation » research -- as prototype of social
networking continued as « Conferencing » at IFTF in 72-76

2. **STARGATE** « Grill Flame », « Scanate » etc.

Demonstrated the reality and usefulness of Remote Viewing.
-- Continued at SAIC under Ed May

Also at SRI... The ARPANET

Dr. Doug Engelbart, Jake Feinler and the « NLS » staff :
The first Arpanet public Demo took place in 1972.



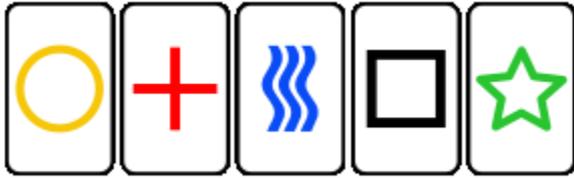
CONVERGING INTERESTS

- SRI culture bridged High Tech and New Age
- The NLS project aimed at « Augmenting Human Intellect... »
- Prominent Psi « subjects » recalled UFO incidents, including Ingo
- My background covered French psychical research (Rémy Chauvin, Costa de Beauregard) and UFO research (Aimé Michel, Allen Hynek)

At SRI... STARGATE

- Hal Puthoff, Russell Targ and Ingo Swann
- My Memo to the Director





Ingo's Concerns

- Historical psi tests *extinguish* psychic performance instead of enhancing it.
- Best work: uses fully natural « targets, » not contrived abstractions.
- The purpose of the project was high technology.
- Silicon Valley is not Greenwich Village!

Conversations with Ingo

about remote access to information

1. Immediate addressing:

« Pi = 3.14159265358979
3238462643383279502884197
1693993751058209749445923
07816406286 »



Conversations with Ingo

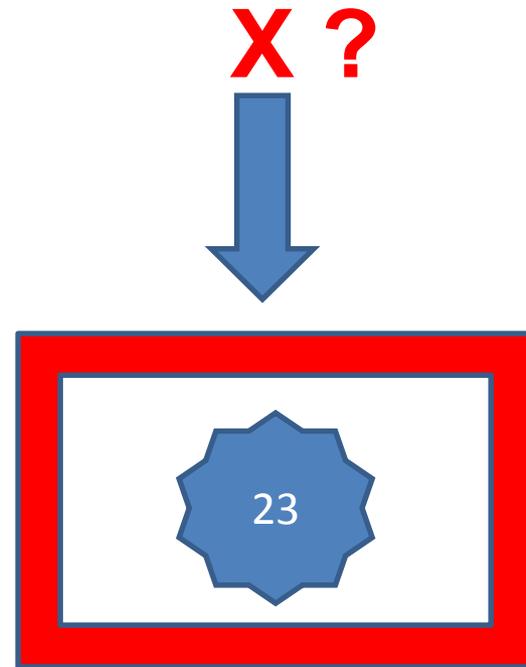
about remote access to information

2. Direct addressing:

« Fetch X, which is the
contents of memory cell 567 »

Answer: « X=23 »

Cell no.567:



Conversations with Ingo

about remote access to information

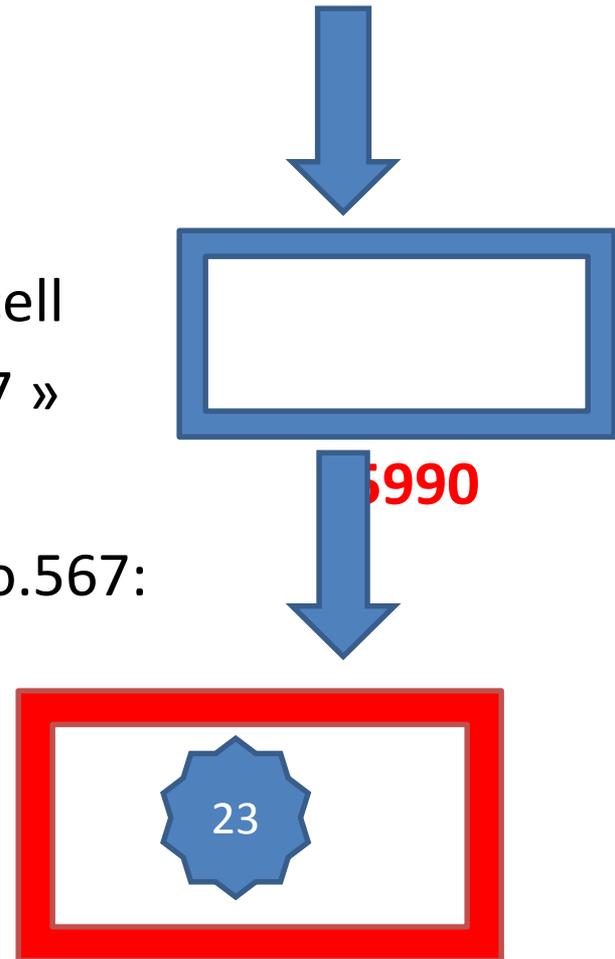
3. Indirect addressing:

X ?

« Fetch X, the contents of the memory cell whose *address is inside memory cell 567* »

Answer: « X=23 »

Cell no.567:



Cell no 5990:

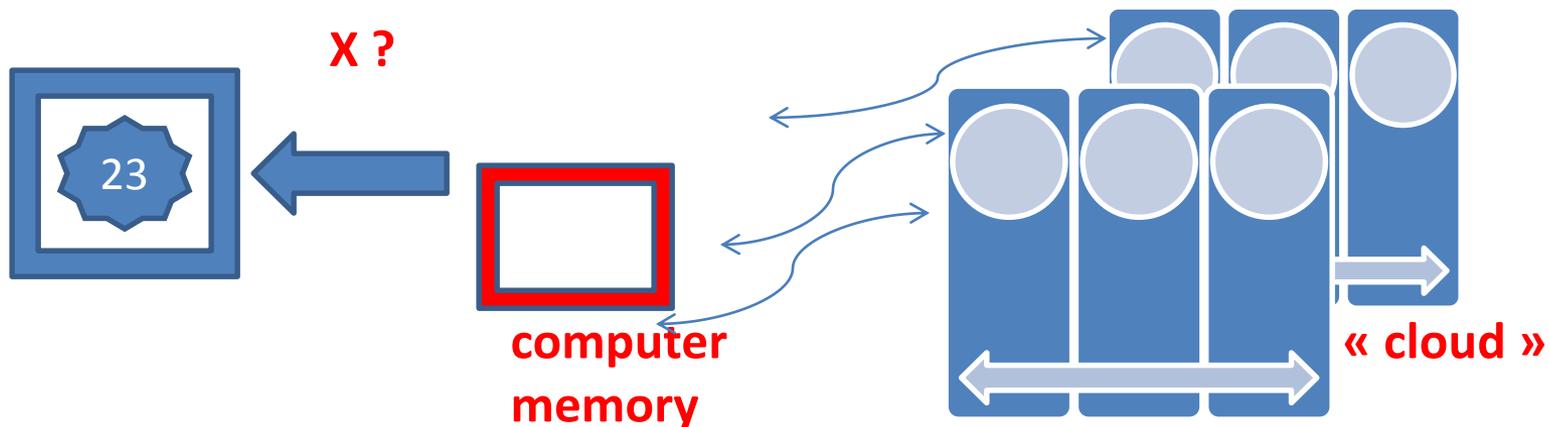
Conversations with Ingo

4. Virtual addressing:

«Fetch X, which is not in this computer.»

Example: « find X among 10 billion items although memory only contains ten million physical locations. »

The system needs to generate a formula that approximates the location of the item on an external storage media (generally a disk) and then swap the relevant pages into memory. Then it needs to *statistically approximate* the actual address where the item is stored, until it finds it



Coordinate Remote Viewing

Ingo Swann wrote:

- *“I consulted a number of scientists outside of the SRI orbit, but not far away, in Silicon Valley. No one could recommend anything. But Dr. Jacques Vallee recognized the problem as one of ‘addresses.’ He said that you need an address that gets the perceptual channel to the right place, exactly as one needs a street address to find a house, or an address menu code in a computer to find and call up the desired information.”*
- This notion led Ingo to use coordinates and became a basis of the remote viewing program.
- ***Ref: Report on Project SCANATE, 29 Dec. 1995***

1973-76: Dawn of Social Networking

The Forum program at Institute for the Future was built with funding from ARPA and NSF. It was a 4-year computer science project to investigate the software challenges and social dynamics of group interaction over networks.



1975: Dawn of Social Networking

- User behavior was a major unknown because the network erased the sense of locality and time.
- As an engineer I wanted to break our prototype in order to improve it, pushing users into intense situations
- An experiment in psychic functioning would bring our technology to its limits... but the standard parapsychology tests (Zener cards etc.) were incredibly boring.
- ***SO WE TRIED SOMETHING ELSE, with INGO's help.***

The 1975 Computer Conference

- Ran from 14 June to 8 July, over TYMNET commercial network.
- 12 participants in California, New York (Ingo Swann), Florida (Richard Bach) and Montréal. Potentially all online at the same time.
- USGS scientists, SRI, Inst. For the Future
- Private funding for « *experiments NSF and ARPA would never finance!* »
- Official Topic: « Current issues in psychic research »
- **Two hypotheses to be tested:**
 1. Can the network serve as a tool for accurate and unobtrusive recording of events while preventing collusion or subliminal cueing ?
 2. Does the network create an « altered state » of communication that could enhance extrasensory abilities ? (Arthur Hastings)

(Ref: *People's Computers*, Sep-Oct.1977. « The Computer Conference: An Altered State of Communication? »

Of Psychics... and Rabbit Ears

- Terminals were shipped to remote participants:



Formal Experiments: Design

- The conference lasted from 28 May to 8 July 1975
- Five days of formal experiments
- We selected 10 mineral samples from the finest USGS collections
- Separately Labelled and sealed (by non-participants) in opaque envelopes
- 5 of these were enclosed in larger envelopes and labelled « Sunday » through « Thursday », randomized, double-blind
- **EACH DAY (at 7:30 AM and at 7:30 PM)** a USGS geologist at his home terminal took one of the envelopes from the open pool and held the sample in his hand. Participants could then log on and write a description.
- **EACH MORNING** the envelope for that day was placed at a designated location but unopened. **It was available for 8 hours.**
- Volunteers produced 33 descriptions of the 10 samples, both in real time and at people's leisure.

Participants

- Ingo Swann (in Greenwich Village)
- Richard Bach in Florida
- Arthur Hastings (Facilitator) at home in Mountain View, CA
- Gerald Askevold (USGS monitor) in Menlo Park
- Hal Puthoff at SRI
- Russell Targ at SRI
- Brendan o'Regan (Noetics Institute)
- Gertrude Schmeidler
- Alan Vaughan in San Francisco
- Jean Baudot at Université de Montréal
- Thad Wilson (IFTF staff)
- Andy Hardy (IFTF staff)
- Aaron Katz (Sponsor)
- Jacques Vallee (organizer, IFTF)

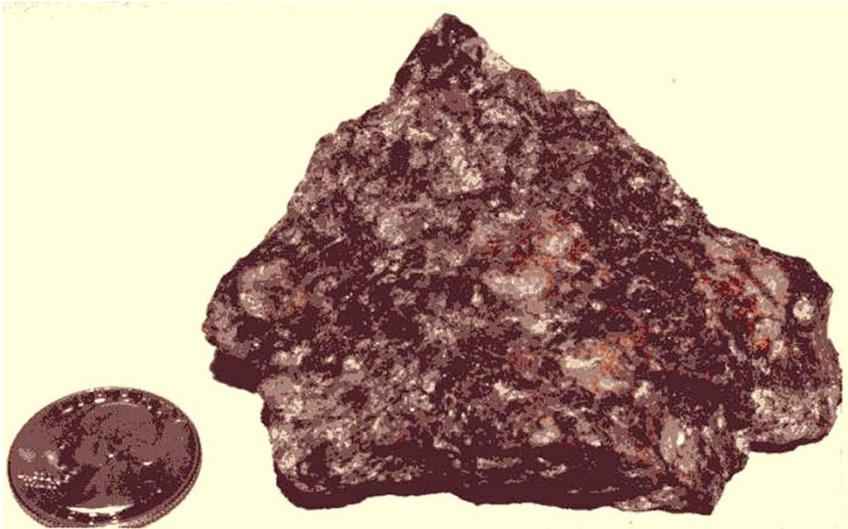
Others, in casual conversation

Targets

- Selected along economic, physical and esthetic dimensions:
 - Beauty, complexity, color
 - Financial value
 - Weight
 - Color
 - Formation
 - Geographic origin
 - Magnetism
 - Smell
 - Crystals
 - Metals
- Specialists were asked to type short descriptions, ahead of the tests

Conference Targets

- Rare earth
- Bastnosite and europium
- Death Valley, California
- « A somewhat flat, angular fragment that is pale red, moderate pink, and light brownish gray in color. It is composed of several non-metallic minerals. It comes from a unique mineral occurrence at Mountain Pass, Ca., a mine with the potential to corner the world's rare earth market. »



Conference Targets

- Cinnabar (mercury mineral)
- Taylor Mt. quad, Alaska



- « The specimen is relatively large and somewhat tabular although overall it is irregular and angular in form. One side is composed of fine-grained, medium dark gray rock. The rest is a fine grained aggregate of a metallic, silvery gray mineral (stibnite) and one that is bright red. It is quite heavy. »

Conference Targets



- Magnetite
- Craigmont, British Columbia
- Strongly magnetic
- « Irregular, rectangular, dense, massive aggregate of metallic minerals including a brassy yellow mineral with some good crystal faces that intersect at right angles. The minerals are magnetite, pyrite and chalcopyrite. Quite heavy. »

Conference Targets

- Cobaltite (cobalt ore)
- Nabesna quadrangle, Alaska
- « A somewhat blocky fragment. Most of it coated with a pinkish, light to moderate, red earthy material. Most of the rest is light brown. It is a fine grained aggregate of two minerals. The specimen is heavy. »



Conference Targets

- Realgar
- aggregated with orpiment
- Bingham district, Utah
- « The specimen is an altered, earthy light gray rock that is impregnated with small red crystals and lesser amounts of yellow-orange material. A small amount of metallic gray sulfide is present on one surface. Smells sulphurous. »



Conference Targets

- Precious opal
- Virginia Valley, Nevada



- « A small and irregularly angular fragment that is roughly pyramidal in shape. Most of the specimen is a pale brown, aphanitic, siliceous rock with a conchoidal fracture. It is transected by thin discontinuous veinlets that are translucent and have a play of delicate colors, deep green blue and milky white. »

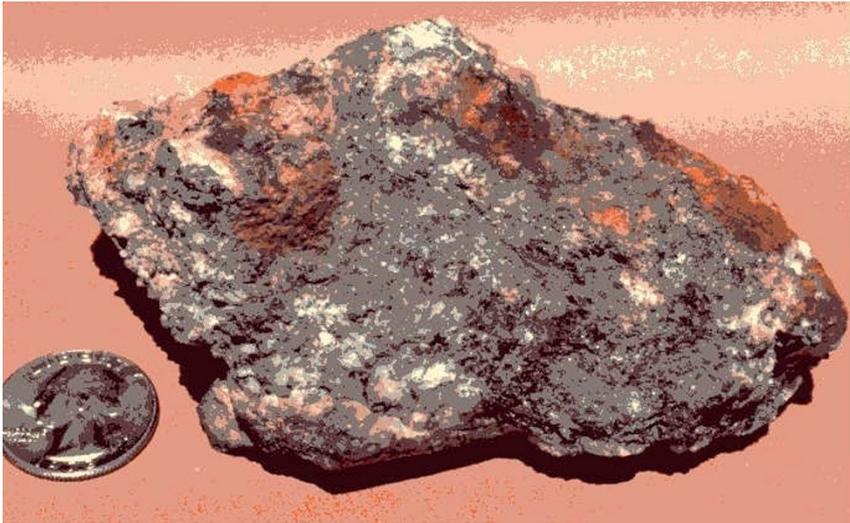
Conference Targets

- Halite (salt crystal)
- Extreme SE corner, Nevada
- « Beautiful specimen of crystalline halite, which is salt, and in this almost pure form is practically transparent (looks very much like quartz). Halite is formed from sedimentary evaporative beds. »



Conference Targets

- Galena (silver ore)
- Vein filling with quartz
- Central Nevada
- « An aggregate of a light gray nonmetallic mineral (quartz), a shiny metallic gray mineral (galena) and earthy, yellow and orange-brown surface coatings. The light gray mineral has good crystal forms and lines the walls of cavities. The specimen is heavy. »



Conference Targets

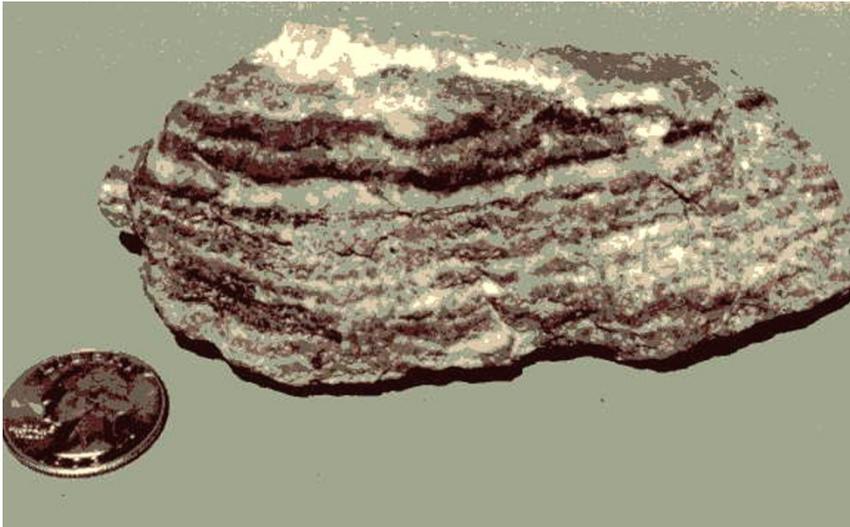
- Gold ore in quartz vein
- Mother Lode country, Calif.



- « The specimen is approximately rectangular with two semi-parallel larger surfaces and edges that are irregular. It is dominantly very light gray in color but small gold colored grains are disseminated through it. The opposite surface is coated with medium dark gray earthy material. »

Conference Targets

- Barite
- Dugway Proving Grounds
- Western central Utah
- « Conspicuously layered. Color banding alternates from pale brown to very light gray. The light gray layers are coarser-grained and composed of well-formed crystals with good cleavage. The pale brown layers are much finer grained. The specimen is heavy. »



JUDGING

- Transcripts were extracted from conference text and retyped uniformly.
- They were given to five independent judges (senior managers) who were asked to match every transcript to the 10 targets, providing probabilities.
- The judges had access to (1) the samples and (2) the detailed geological descriptions written independently before the conference.

Results: Examples of transcripts



« A small donut of quartz crystals, like a keyring had fallen into a supersaturated salt solution overnight. » (Richard Bach)

« I have the impression I could look right through it. Damn, I wish it would keep still. Crystal, crystal, crystal ball, glass, crystal, clear crystal. » (Ingo Swann)

The target was salt crystal

Results: Example of transcripts



« Why do I keep getting greens? I see a medium size green wedge. I don't see a pure emerald crystal, much as I would like to. It is flecked, and connected to a coarse rock edging. It looks to me like it was poured, a heavy liquid green plastic, the green becoming blue-green at the edges of the sample, and if fractured it would be in one clean smooth break of glassine purity. » (Richard Bach)

The target was Opal

Analysis (1)

- The actual target was assigned the highest score (i.e., « correctly identified ») in 8 out of 33 cases. By chance this would happen once out of 100 trials.
- The overall statistical test gave $p=.08$ of achieving the observed distribution by chance.
- However, two participants (Swann and Bach) accounted for the group's results. Their transcripts gave $p=.04$.
- By themselves, the other participants were at the level of a random distribution.
- **SURPRISE:** The double-blind tests and the open experiments provided comparable results.

Analysis (2)

Caveat: This was only a Proof-of-Concept test

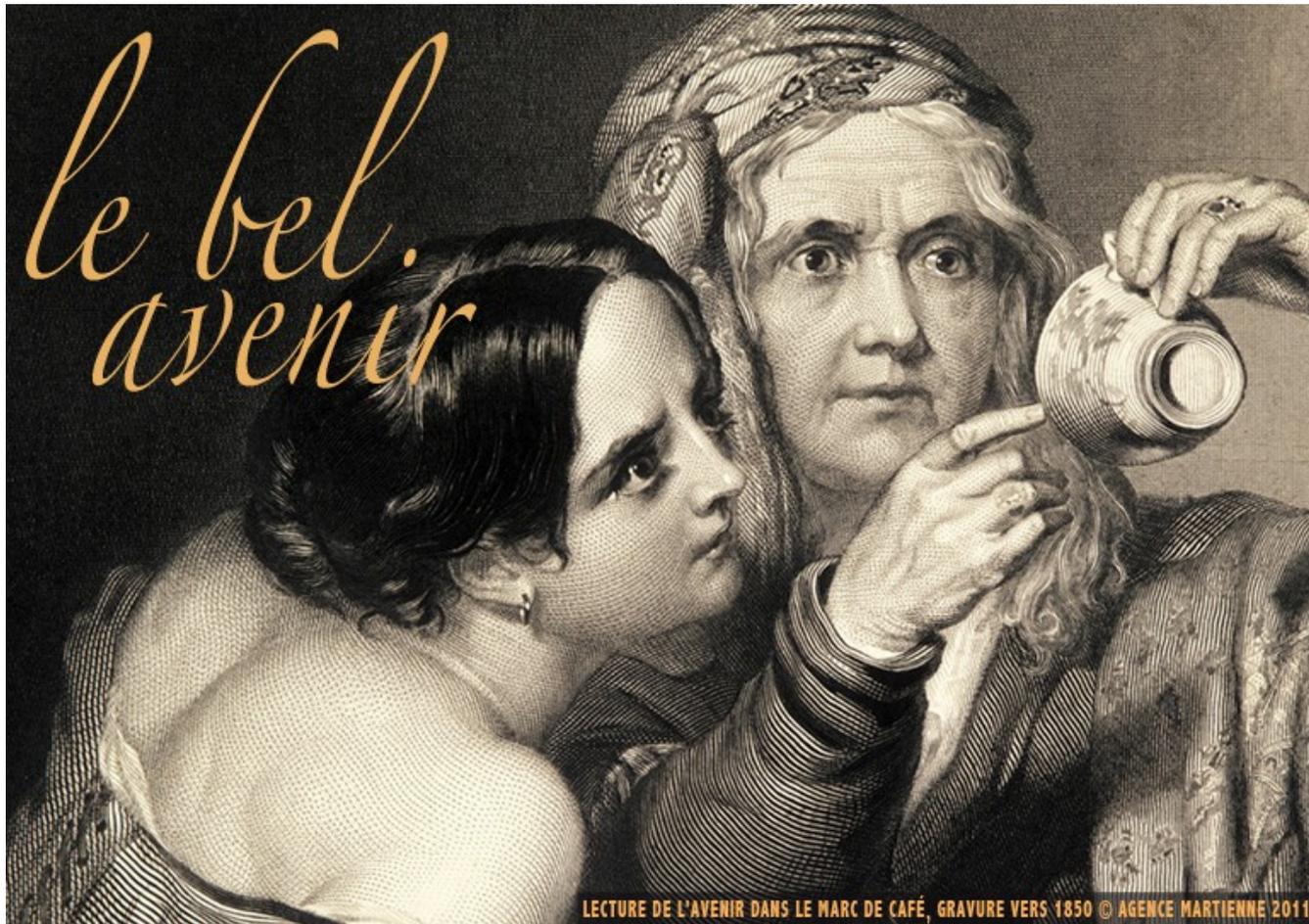
Features best identified were:

- color
- shape
- relative weight
- presence of crystals
- type of material (e.g., « metallic »)
- geological process (e.g., « volcanic »)

Most common errors: location, electromagnetic properties

- The europium sample could only come from one place on Earth (missed)
- The magnetite sample: strongly magnetic (missed)

A look towards the Future



THE NEXT 10 YEARS

- 1. New digital media offer psychical research a ready, economical opportunity for direct experimentation independent of space and time, with good control of external conditions.

(Hint: You can guard against cheating)

This was an experiment in computer science *using parapsychology*, not a parapsychology experiment *per se*. However, the results were intriguing and they introduced a new methodology for Psi research.

- Debra Katz (Intern'l School for Clairvoyance) is now using similar methods.

THE NEXT 10 YEARS

- 1. New digital media offer psychical research a ready, economical opportunity for direct experimentation independent of space and time, with good control of external conditions. (Hint: no cheating)
- 2. The phenomena often noticed by software developers and computer users (and treated by them as anecdotes of Synchronicity) can be a useful base of study, especially in « synchronous » group interaction where coincidences can be documented.

(Hint: Hire some good hackers, forget the statistics)

- Note: Rupert Sheldrake is now doing telephone telepathy tests, using text messages.

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- 1. New digital media offer psychical research a ready, economical opportunity for direct experimentation independent of space and time, with good control of external conditions. (Hint: no cheating)
- 2. The phenomena often noticed by software developers and computer users (and treated by them as anecdotes) can be a useful base of study, especially in « synchronous » group interaction where coincidences can be documented.
(Hint: Hire some good hackers, forget the statistics)
- 3. « Training » is a major challenge (and failure):
Two people accounted for our results.

(Hint: I can get notes from a piano, but not the « Rach2 ».

However, after training with Ingo, I could understand how social networking could enhance psi functioning)

Two more Conclusions

- 4. Some fundamental avenues of research have never been explored in parapsychology: Why not?

(Hint: The government has other fish to fry: They rushed into applications prematurely, triggering disasters)

- 5. A unique breakthrough opportunity exists by working in **the information domain** rather than the traditional physical domain.

(Hint: This doesn't necessarily have anything to do with quantum physics, relativity ... as currently understood)

Ref: Vallee TEDx Brussels 2014 lecture on « A Theory of Everything.. Else »

As a rich source of observations
involving unique phenomena,

Psi Research has a unique place in science:
It should not beg for recognition from physics

In Astrophysics you don't try to reduce or deny « impossible »
observations by the so-called «laws» of lab physics on Earth...
that cannot reproduce the observed phenomena.

Psi research should lead, not follow.

Thank you