'EDWARD HERON-ALLEN: THE PAST, THE FUTURE AND THE OTHER WORLD'

Edited by
TIMOTHY J. McCANN and JOHN E. WHITTAKER

TALKS DELIVERED AT THE
SIXTEENTH HERON-ALLEN SYMPOSIUM,
THE NOVIUM, CHICHESTER
JUNE 2016

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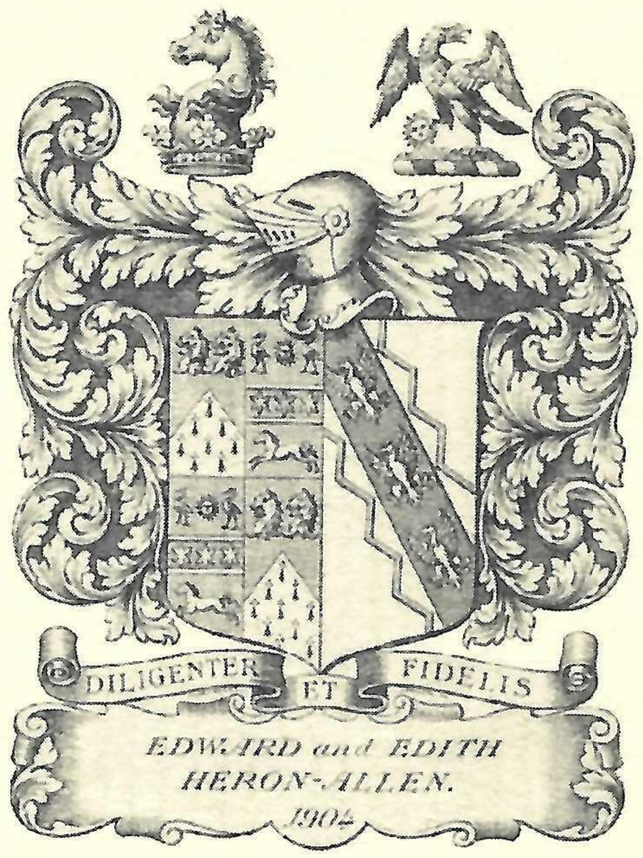

Opusculum XXIII
Heron-Allen Society

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'Edward Heron-Allen: The Past, The Future and the other World'. Proceedings of the 16th Heron-Allen Symposium, 2016: Talks delivered by John P. Mahoney and Barbara P. Mahoney, David Thompson, Timothy J. McCann, and John E. Whittaker at the Sixteenth Annual Heron-Allen Symposium, The Novium, Chichester, June 2016.

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Cover: Heron-Allen's shield of arms as demonstrated on his bookplate of 1904 after his marriage to Edith Emily Pepler, signifying the joining of the Allen and Pepler families.

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THE SIXTEENTH HERON-ALLEN SYMPOSIUM AT THE NOVIUM, CHICHESTER

by TIMOTHY J. McCANN and JOHN E. WHITTAKER

For our sixteenth Annual Symposium, the Society returned to the Novium in Chichester and once again enjoyed the hospitality of the Woolstaplers Conference Room with its spectacular view of the cathedral bell-tower. We entered beside the remains of the old Roman baths and climbed the stairs to be greeted by old friends and a welcome cup of coffee.

After a brief introduction from the Chairman the programme began with another examination of Heron-Allen's American career by John and Barbara Mahoney. This time, in a paper entitled' 'Ship Stink: Immigrants and Hypersomia. A Tale of ex-Palmist Edward Heron-Allen and the Castle Garden Affair' they told the fascinating story of the conditions experienced by immigrants and their reception in New York. With detailed illustrations they described the history of the buildings at Castle Gardens and the use to which they were put, before relating the decline in Heron-Allen's fortunes in the United States after his hugely successful original tour as a lecturer on cheirosophy. As his fortunes declined in the late 1880's he was forced to look for work elsewhere and he even applied to work as an interpreter in Slavonic languages for the arriving immigrants. However once he had seen the facilities and the people he would have to work with, he quickly withdrew his application.

David Thompson then took us through the story of Heron-Allen's bookplates. In a well-illustrated talk he discussed each bookplate in turn, noting the blazons and the crests, and showing the development of the coats of arms first identified on Heron-Allen's pocket-watch bequeathed to him by his father. The story becomes complicated when Heron-Allen added the arms of his first wife Marianna Lehmann and then becomes confusing with the change of name from Herring to Heron,

prompting David to quote a friend of Heron-Allen's who asked: 'have the Herons eaten the Herrings?' Later bookplates incorporating Heron-Allen's adopted arms and incorporating those of his second wife, Edith Pepler, are more straightforward. David's paper provoked a lively discussion which brought forth further information. Subsequent research by David and John Mahoney has uncovered much new material which will be revealed in a paper in next year's symposium.

Edward Heron-Allen was wont to boast that he had never encountered any psychic phenomena that he was not able to reproduce as parlour tricks.. Tim McCann introduced us to the teenage Romanian poltergeist Eleanore Zugun and told us her story. The extraordinary manifestations she exhibited in the countryside in her native Romania led to her being virtually imprisoned before she was rescued by an Austrian Countess – Zoë Wassilko Serecki, who brought her to Vienna. There she was examined by Harry Price, the well-known British ghost hunter, who brought her to London to be examined at his National Laboratory of Psychical Research. A number of scientists observed her at the Laboratory and Heron-Allen, accompanied by Helène Bargmann, examined her in October 1927. He complained that he had not seen enough to come to any conclusion about her. He was subsequently commissioned by *The Evening News* to write about his observations and was obviously expected to expose her, but when his article finally arrived on 15 November, Heron-Allen was unable to come to any firm conclusions about her genuineness.

The programme was rounded off by John Whittaker's detective work on two envelopes posted from the Island of Lundy to Edward Heron-Allen in Pertisau in the Austrian Tyrol in 1930. John first introduced us to the history, geology, flora and fauna of the island, and showed us why it had become a conservation site and place of great scientific interest. He then described the postal history of the island before moving on to discuss the envelopes. He told us how they had been put up for sale at two stamp auctions, without the letters and how, from an examination of the handwriting on the addresses, he had

proved that the letters were written by Heron-Allen's friend and scientific assistant Helène Bargmann; he concluded that they were probably letters of condolence written when Helène was on a research trip to Lundy, after the death of Heron-Allen's daughter, Armorel in a motor accident.

The talks were followed by the Society's Annual General Meeting at which the committee were re-elected and reports on the work and activities during the year were presented. After admiring the spectacular view of the Cathedral and the Bell Tower from the Woolstapler's Room and a quick look at the items exhibited in the Museum, the Members walked to the Northgate Roundabout and enjoyed a splendid lunch at the Crate and Apple.

Finally, we are most grateful to The Novium, Chichester for facilitating our meeting once again, at such a wonderful place. Robin and Gregory Whittaker are thanked for their work marshalling the illustrations, as are Selsey Press for finalising the layout of this *Opusculum* and printing it.

'SHIP STINK. IMMIGRANTS AND HYPERSOMIA. A TALE OF EX-PALMIST EDWARD HERON-ALLEN AND THE CASTLE GARDEN AFFAIR'

by JOHN P. MAHONEY and BARBARA P. MAHONEY

Edward Heron-Allen, a 26 year-old well published Palmist, was contracted with entrepreneur James B. Pond for a national lecture tour of major American cultural city centers promoting the latest high society fad, Cheirosophy, to the rich, famous and willing in 1886. At the same time the Palmist also experienced the major transformation that was occurring in American immigration, and, for a brief moment, was a public figure in New York's first immigration center, a pre-Ellis Island facility, known as Castle Garden. This article explores the events of Brother Necromancer's grand American tour related to Immigration. Organized immigration to America began centuries before the era of the formalized Castle Gardens immigration center in the 1850's (1, 2, 3, 4). All voluntary immigrants coming had similar reasons: fleeing enemies, starvation, religious and financial oppression, seeking family re-unification, and a better life. Involuntary slave immigrants also played a major role in American settlements in the 18th and 19th centuries. By the late 18th century, there was room in America for every willing emigrant including convicts, orphans, paupers and even French aristocrats. After the Revolutionary War, immigration rapidly accelerated to over 2,500,000 in the 1850's. Prior to the opening of Castle Garden, these immigrants risked sufferings and unbelievable dangers, even risking death to flee the lands of their birth. Danger continued from the hour of their departure from the great ports of emigrant embarkments at Liverpool, Limerick, Glasgow, Belfast, Bremen, Amsterdam and Le Havre to the hour when they final settled in their new accommodations. Liverpool was the worst offender of organized crime activities directed at emigrants. With profitable businesses generating tax revenues, the state turned

a blind eye allowing rich merchants to systematically swindle emigrants. Their travels by ship, at least 33 days at sea, exposed them to severe storms, sea-sickness, starvation, foul water, contaminated rotten food, dysentery, communicable diseases, ship fires and sinkings, thievery, illegal overcrowding, murder, rape and at least a 10% chance of death.

Some English ships transporting Irish peasants had mortality rates in excess of 25%. When they landed, often destitute, with their meager possessions in bags or stuffed in their clothing, immigrants experienced a very stark un-European alien America: unpaved roads, no public transportation, starvation, little work, storms, accidents, thieves, con men, and well-organized crime syndicates. Crimes such as indentured servitude which could extend for a lifetime and opportunistic criminal boarding houses completed the abject horror facing immigrants. New York State acquired a centralized receiving station where all immigrants could be inspected for health safety, protected from thieves, counseled, met with labor representatives and received directions for their safe passage to a new life in America.

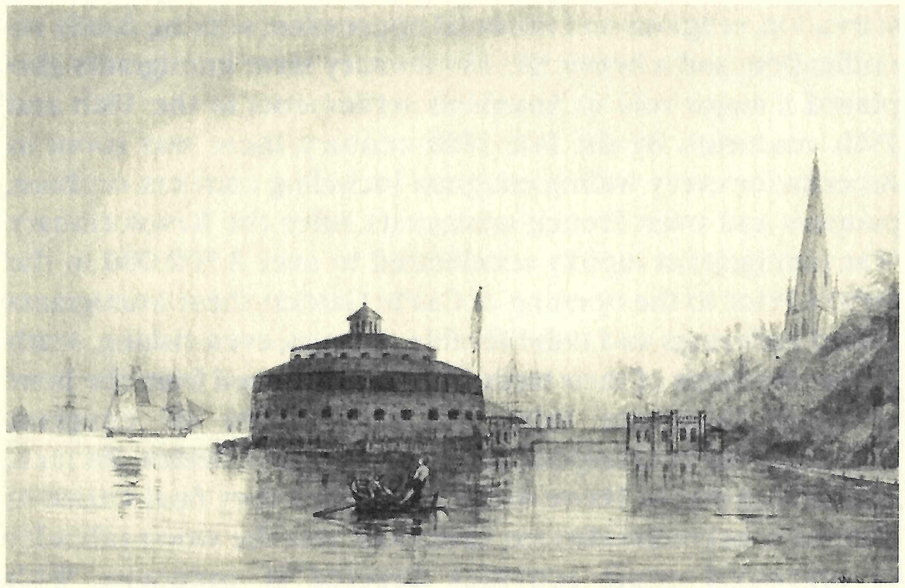

Fig. 1. Painting of early Castle Garden © 1840s.

Located in lower Manhattan, Castle Garden was the building chosen to facilitate the rapid amelioration of the deplorable conditions that immigrants suffered on entering America. Built as a circular military fort known as Castle Clinton in 1807, the fort was decommissioned and sold to New York City in 1822 and re-named Castle Garden. In 1824, Lafayette landed there on his first visit to the city (Fig. 1).

On festive occasions, the drawbridge was lighted by colored lamps with flags, bird cages and hanging baskets adorning former cannon casements. Groves of trees were planted in the park which was brilliantly illuminated at night. The wealthiest and most respected New Yorkers strolled the park to visit Castle Garden. President Andrew Jackson visited in 1832; President John Tyler in 1843. The building was expanded with a ring, stage, a high roof and seating for 6,000 to 15,000. Castle Garden subsequently became New York's most elegant and beautiful resort with major events such as: theatre, an Italian Opera Company, the American debut of the Swedish Nightingale, Jenny Lind and ballet dancing (Fig. 2).

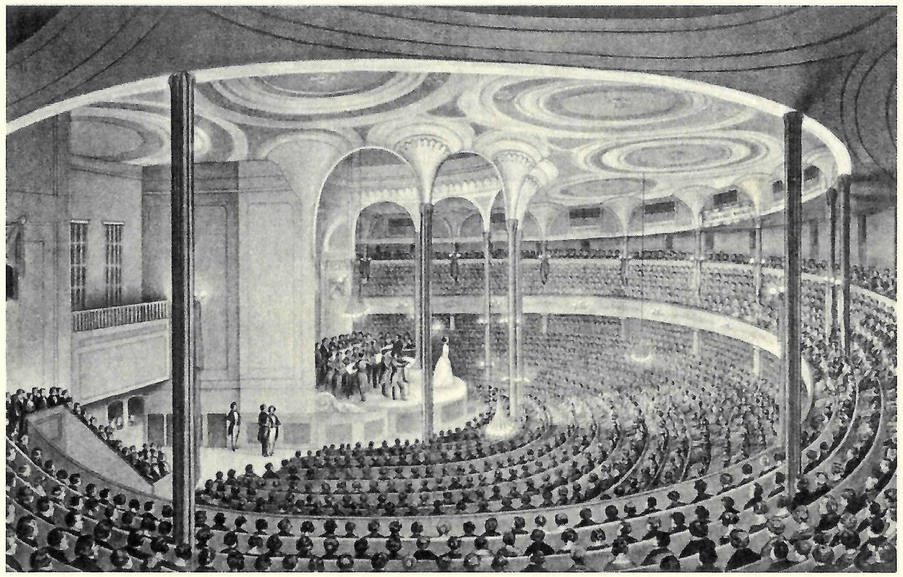

Fig. 2. The American debut of Swedish singer, Jenny Lind, at Castle Garden.

American showman P.T. Barnum engineered America's first large grand concert and social event in 1850 with the Swedish prima donna and was the pinnacle event at Castle Garden. Over 5,000 tickets were sold for this concert, the highest for $225. The building was also leased for band concerts, fireworks, scientific exhibitions, a beer garden/restaurant, entertainment and public wrestling matches. But the Castle's days as a theatre were numbered because of its size, age and waterfront location.

On May 5th, 1855, the Immigration Commission leased the old fort for the growing need of safely processing new immigrants to America, but not without much controversy. The real complainers to this new center were the notorious boarding house "runners" who could no longer lure immigrants to decrepit lodgings run by thieving countrymen. Many local stakeholders were horrified at the loss of their cultural center. They worried that an influx of baggage-laden foreigners would be disruptive to dignified local business. Home owners feared that the warm summer weather would swamp them with foul and disagreeable human odors leading to urban flight and property devaluations (Fig. 3).

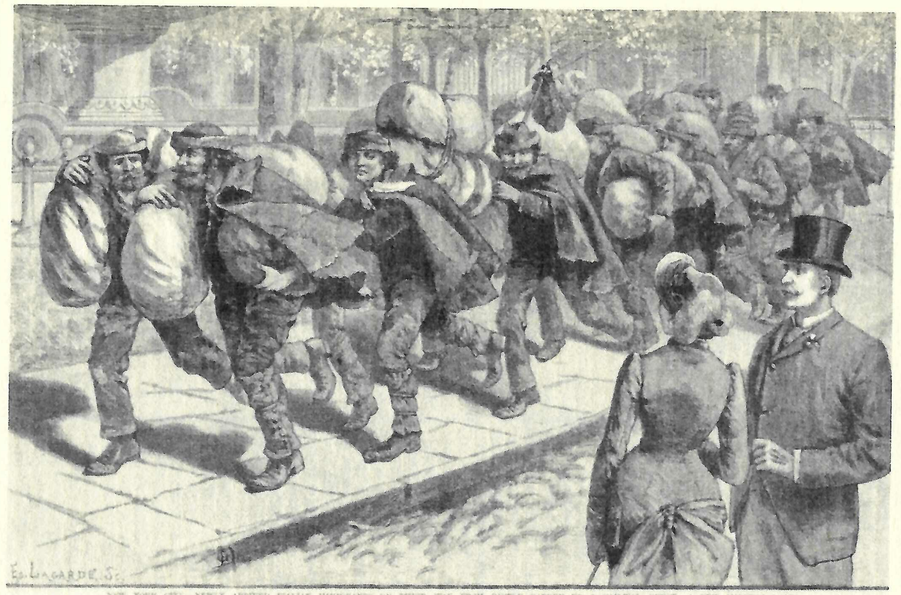

Fig. 3. Just arriving immigrants with "Home Owners".

There was a real olfactory phenomenon known to all "steerage passengers" as the smell of ship or "ship stink", an insidious odor that combined bilge and impressive putrescenes on skin, clothing and personal possessions. This odor was said to survive changes of living conditions, clothing and known cleaners available to the poor.

Fortunately, the immigration commission won the public battle for a closed safe immigration center and the first immigrants entered on Aug. 3rd 1855. Between 1855 and 1890, over eight million immigrants entered Castle Garden and found clean facilities, protective high fences, health professionals, bathrooms and showers, state-run money exchanges, short-term sleeping quarters, and rapid safe dispersal to their future homes outside the city.

When Edward Heron-Allen visited America as a tourist in 1886 aboard an expensive non-immigrant-bearing ship, these cabin-class passengers were inspected while their ship was sailing up the bay from quarantine, so that the posh well-to-do avoided detailed questions and physical examinations. The European upper crust never passed through Castle Garden. But by that time, Castle Garden was hopelessly inadequate for processing the high volume of immigrants. Such inadequacies lead to neglect, greed, fraud, deteriorating facilities and dangerous conditions. On April 18, 1890, Castle Garden was closed. Heron-Allen had fled America to England twelve months previously, never to return.

James B. Pond (Fig. 4), a U.S. Civil War recipient of the Medal of Honor, left Liverpool on Saturday, October 23, 1886 with his new lecture associate, Edward Heron-Allen. Although he found his profession most peculiar, Pond was impressed with Heron-Allen's great assurance in his subject which seem to inspire interest and confidence from his audience (5). They set sail on the Cunard Line, *RMS Etruria* for New York, commanded by Captain Cook (6). One of the notable Saloon passengers included Mr. Bram Stoker. The British-American Cunard cruise line, which is still in operation today, owned the newly built (1885) *RMS Etruria* which was one of the last two of their

Fig. 4. Major James B. Pond.

steamer ships fitted with auxiliary sails. The ship had two impressive smoke stack funnels, three large steel masts and was equipped with refrigeration machinery.

The separate Saloon rooms in First Class were decorated with ornate furniture, velvet curtains and most amenities of one's heart's desire for a price. There was a Music Room, Smoke Room for gentlemen and private dining rooms. The ship had 550 First Class and 800 Second Class passenger capacity. It was not registered for "steerage" passengers (lowest rate rooms with a similar status as livestock transportation). A First Class one-way ticket cost $175 US in 1895. Pond wrote that Heron-Allen was the most popular man on the ship, spontaneously arranging impromptu and highly successful social affairs to the delight of the voyagers (7).

On November 1, 1886, the *RMS Etruria* arrived at Pier 40, North River, at the foot of Clarkson Street, New York City (8). The Palmist immediately rented an impressive suite of parlors

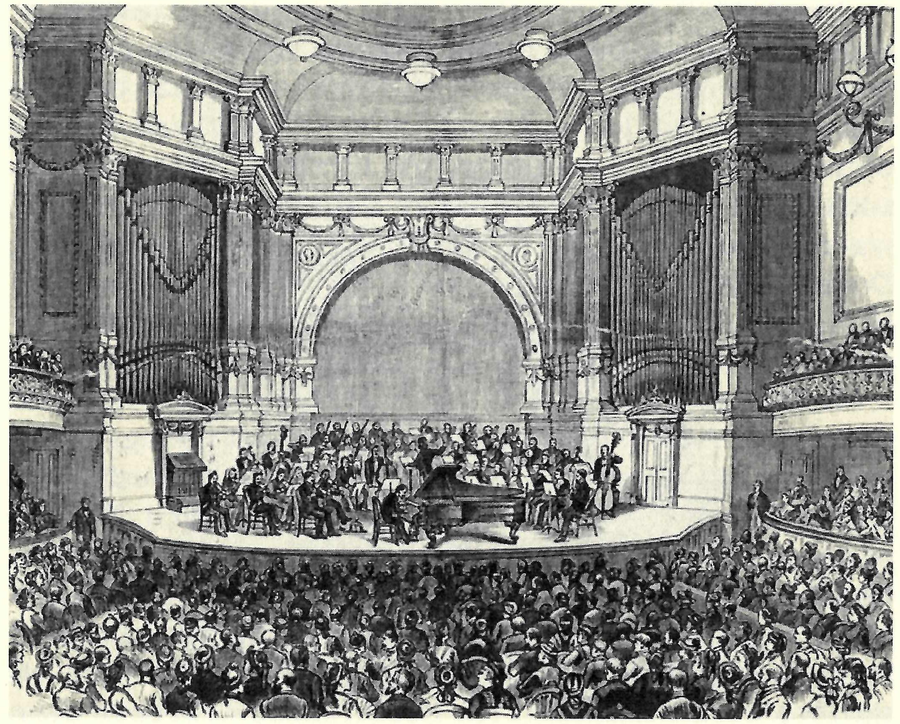

Fig. 5. Stage of Chickering Hall.

at the Everett House and invited the Press and all of their friends to a reception examining their palms and transcribing his detailed descriptions, charts and findings to the examined admirers (9). Within a span of 2 months, Heron-Allen was a favorite among the affable press and New York's most fashionable society. His financial managers were very impressed. He announced the four-part Chickering Hall lecture series which was eagerly publicized by the national press, most often under the *New York Tribune's* front page Current Events (10, 11) (Fig. 5). The Palmist was suddenly a very busy man, sought after by socialites, women's clubs, the press, for lectures, and private profitable palmistry séances. Single young eligible, socially-prominent local men were not impressed with the cute English dude bewitching their belles. His manager reported daily incomes of $150. Major Pond arranged similar public tours and lectures in Boston, Chicago, and Philadelphia.

By mid-1887, the uniqueness of the palmistry fad became an annoyance to the press, public officials, and to the rich and famous. His manager claimed that Cheirosophy had become "irksome" to Ed. Heron-Allen in a short time, and he had decided to turn his attention to literature (12). There is additional evidence that the desire to become an "ex-Palmist" was not solely the elective choice of Heron-Allen. In April 1887, Doctor William A. Hammond of the U.S. Army publicly called Heron-Allen a fraud and suggested he be arrested as a disorderly person (13).

In February 16, 1888, *The Boston Daily Globe* reported there were rumors of unpaid bills and social outings in the company of burlesque stars. Where he had previously been welcomed in high social circles, he was now shunned. "The loss of prestige meant loss of credit and bills began to pour in on him. Finally he had to leave his fashionable hotel and go in a cheap boarding-house" (14). His visit to Boston was a financial failure and Major Pond reportedly dismissed him from his traveling lecture series (15). The Boston article went on to claim "he spent most of his time dodging his creditors. His choice keepsakes went to the pawnshops, his fine friends fell away, and, moving down the scale by slow degrees, he soon found himself penniless". The paper editorialized that with the Castle Garden job, he would cease to be an imposter and put himself in training to become an honest man and gain entrance to a far better society than he had ever known.

For on February 15, 1888, Heron-Allen announced to the press that he had applied for a position as an interpreter at the Castle Garden immigration center (16). The Emigration Commissioner, Charles F. Ulrich offered him the position.

Some members of Commissioner Ulrich's club had called his attention to Heron-Allen having been fascinated by his manner and fluent speech as the apostle of palmistry (17) (Fig. 6). The following exchange was reported in *The New York Tribune* (18):

"Yesterday there appeared at Castle Garden a smooth-shaven, innocent looking, ardent and enthusiastic young man,

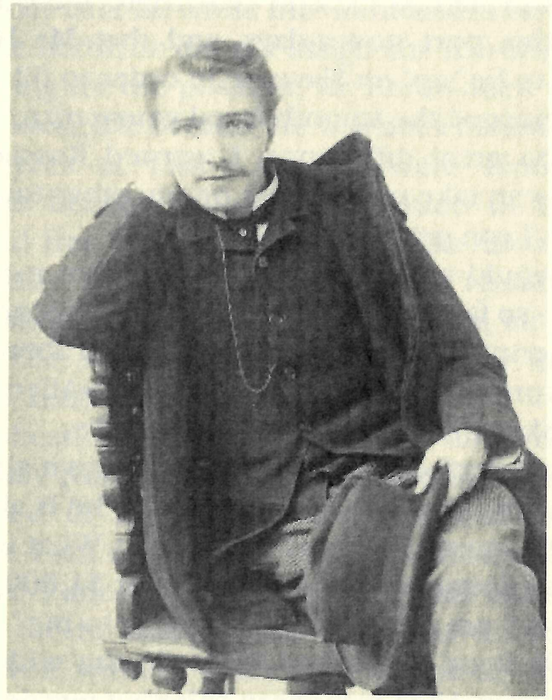

Fig. 6. Edward Heron-Allen, circa 1888.

clad in a Newmarket coat of pronounced English cut. He made himself known to Superintendent Jackson by presenting a card bearing the name 'E. Heron-Allen.' "I have come to see you, sir, relative to my appointment as interpreter at Castle Garden"

Superintendent Jackson thought deeply for a moment, and then he remembered that on the day before, at the nomination of Commissioner of Emigration Ulrich, one E. Heron-Allen had been made interpreter at Castle Garden at a salary of $1,000, the duties of which required the incumbent to be on hand from 8 am until 5 pm daily.

"Ah" said Mr. Jackson, "I understand that you speak seventeen languages."

"I believe I do," was the answer.

"I suppose you are proficient in Slavonic," continued the superintendent.

"The Slavonic? What is that?" was the naïve answer.

Mr. Jackson had to explain that there were many Slavs landing at this port now-a-days, and that Mr. Heron-Allen would have to be "up" on Slavonic in order to fill the bill.

"Well," returned the smooth-faced young man, "I think that will make no great difference. I learned Russian in three weeks and I can take up Slavonic or any other tongue in that time. I guess I can get along."

It thus would appear that E. Heron-Allen made his first appearance - so far as recorded in authentic history - at Castle Garden. Superintendent Jackson was puzzled about the young man and expressed doubt as to Mr. Heron-Allen's ability to master the Slavonic language in three weeks.

"He seems perfectly satisfied as to his own abilities," said Mr. Jackson, "and perhaps he knows what he is about; yet he seems to be a most audacious young man. What in the world he should be doing here as interpreter at $1,000 a year, and, from 8 am to 5 pm daily, seems a wonder to me."

Major J.B. Pond was asked "What in the wide world" he thought E. Heron-Allen was about. "That's a puzzle to me," said the genial manager. "The only theory on which I can account for this freak is that Mr. Heron-Allen is seeking for some novelty to satisfy his uneasy nature, or rather to afford him a field of study. He is a great student. He is constantly seeking new fields. This is a peculiar proceeding indeed. There is no doubt that he was exceedingly popular when he first appeared here, he was a great favorite in society; he was lionized and the amount of jealousy which he aroused among the young men was phenomenal".

"There is a fascination," said Heron-Allen, "in meeting these poor immigrants as they come in from a foreign shore and in interpreting their expressions on the points nearest their hearts on arriving in a strange land. Shall I examine their hands and elucidate new facts on the subject of Cheiromancy? I hope to. I think this will be a rich field for the purpose. Call down in March and see what you will see. I am deeply interested in languages and hope to turn my knowledge to good account".

But one day later he wrote the Commission on Immigration declining the berth; he did not assign any reasons in the note. While applying for the position, Mr. Heron-Allen was notified that he was ineligible because he was not a naturalized citizen. The employees at Castle Garden were reportedly very disappointed because of the expectation of having their fortunes told free of cost (19). But, Heron-Allen claimed he never formally accepted the job. In a remarkably frank discussion about his declining the position, he laid out his reasons in *The Sun*, a New York newspaper interview on February 16, 1888 (20):

"My application for the situation was not prompted by a desire to study palmistry. That is still a pleasant study of mine, but it ceased to be a profession with the close of my engagement. I am no longer a Cheirosophist, and will never again lecture. I am now a literary man, pure and simple. Nor was it solely for the salary, I would rather have taken the place, if I had taken it, without salary than with it. My idea was this: there is in England an office known as a 'student interpretership'. [The authors have been unable to identify such a position or office in England in the 1880s].

To hold it, one must speak modern Greek, Turkish, Persian, Arabic and Chaldean. But one must have influence to get it, and be under 24 years of age. The salary is nothing, but the direct promotion from that is to the position of dragoman of a legation. This is worth having. One ranks as a First Secretary socially, has plenty of spare time, draws a salary highly respectable, and isn't subject to transfer from post to post".

"I have fallen in love with the country and have taken steps to become naturalized. Lately I have thought why couldn't I go to Turkey, the goal of my ambition as dragoman of the American Legation? I decided to take the first step, and that I naturally thought was the same here as in England. I pictured myself (the interpreter in Castle Garden) as sitting in a pleasant office, working with officials of high rank, consuls, vice-consuls and diplomats of all countries. I imagined myself making valuable acquaintances, political as well as social, working several hours

each day, and finding plenty of leisure to follow out the lines of my ambition and to devote to my literary pursuits. But when I go to Castle Garden with Commissioner Ulrich's card, I find a great vile smelling place filled with all sorts of dirty people. I find my work is not with gentlemen and officials in an office, but down among the scum of all nations. Nor do I even save time to devote a few hours a day to literary efforts. Practically I find my work is for twelve hours a day. I didn't want the place when I saw it".

"Mr. Jackson said I was to begin on Finnish and Turkish, and get up the Slavonic as soon as possible. I couldn't tell him my real thoughts then, so I assented for the moment, and immediately after getting home wrote Mr. Ulrich that I couldn't take the place".

When the reporter asked him how many languages he knew, he replied, "I know English, French, Italian and Turkish equally well. Then there are a half a dozen others I can speak very readily. Beyond that I have the groundwork and some knowledge of a number of others. It is really a very easy thing to master a language. One only wants 250 words, a conjunction, and a model sentence; a little practice does the rest".

The Authors, somewhat biased by today's standards of political sensitivities, found three examples of subsequent newspaper headlines and comments that seemed unflattering:

"Mr. Heron-Allen Won't Interpret. He seeks Advancement and Not Money and Finds that Castle Garden is Foul Smelling."

"Heron-Allen paid Castle Garden a visit yesterday afternoon, and mixed with the Slavonian emigrants. He got one whiff of odor that arises from their sheepskin coats which curled his patrician nose all out of shape, and now he has decided that somebody else can have the job"(21).

"Ed. Heron-Allen, the palmist, applied for a place here. Why, I don't know, but he never took it. After looking over the garden he gave up the job in disgust. It was too rough for him. I think if a young man wanted to study languages, here would be the best place for him to get work".

Major Pond nicely summed up Heron-Allen's remaining venture in America (22): "He was going to try living the life of a Bohemian litterateur for two years depending for his living entirely upon what he could make with his pen. He withdrew from society, took apartments in some obscure place in New York. He did keep it up for two years, but come near starving to death".

His life of a Bohemian litterateur was a financial disaster. Selina Dolaro, the burlesque actress and his *inamorata*, had died. His attorney brother, George, was seriously ill in London. Heron-Allen claimed that he was needed home to assist his father in his legal practice. He arrived back in London just in time for the April 5th, 1889 Sette of Odd Volumes meeting. He never returned to America.

The Authors found no evidence that Heron-Allen suffered from hypersomia (abnormal chronic heightened sense of smell). He, like other people who have the social and financial advantage of clean clothes, soaps, access to baths and showers, can become acutely sensitized to pungent foul human body odors.

However, calling people so affected "the scum of the earth", although particularly offensive today, was a common response of people of all walks of life in the 19th century, including newspaper reporters.

In January 1892, the Federal Government took over control of immigration processing and opened the larger and more isolated Ellis Island facility for that purpose. Most of Castle Clinton's immigrant passenger records were destroyed in a fire that consumed buildings on Ellis Island in 1897. In 1896 until 1941, Castle Garden became the site of the New York City Aquarium. The Castle was saved by its designation as a Federal National Monument (Fig. 7).

A major rehabilitation took place in the 1970's. Today it is administered by the National Park Service. The remains of the fort is the departure point for visitors to the Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. The fort appears much as it did in its earliest days and was renamed Castle Clinton (23).

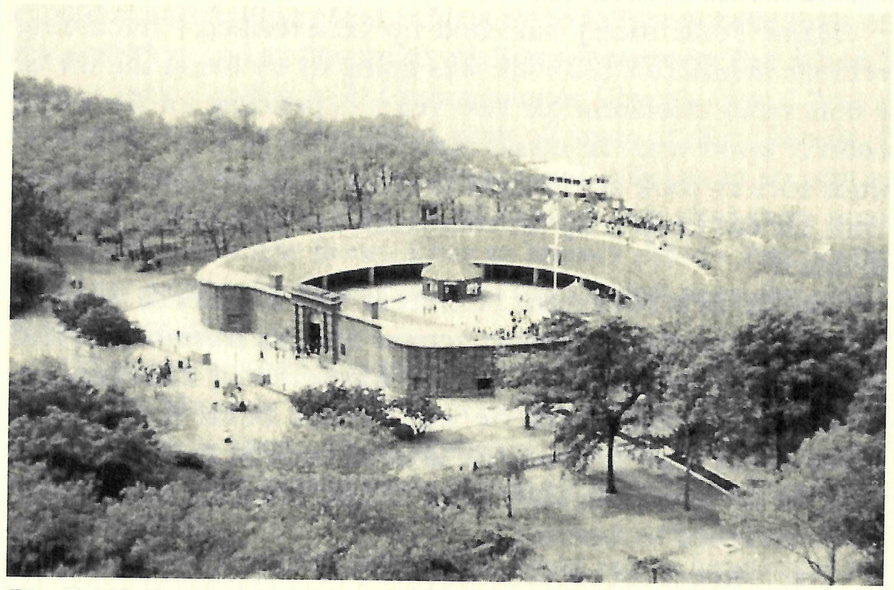

Fig. 7. Today, restored Castle Clinton is now the entrance for the Ellis Island Ferry.

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THE ARMORIAL PROGRESS OF EDWARD HERON-ALLEN

by DAVID THOMPSON

The Allen shield of arms can be emblazoned as, *per chevron gules and ermine, in chief two lions' heads erased or* – crest, *out of a ducal coronet or, a horse's head argent. Burke's General Armory of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales*, one of the standard references for heraldic shields granted to noble families associates this shield with the Allens of Derbyshire, London and Staffordshire. It is also this shield which was used by Edward Heron-Allen's father George Allen.

A further reference to the Allen family can be found in *Fairbairn's Crests of the Families of Great Britain and Ireland*, originally published in 1860 and subsequently reprinted certainly until the 1980's. It gives - Allen of Derbyshire, London and Staffordshire and plate 50, no. 13 shows the crest described above echoing what is to be found in *Burke's General Armory*.

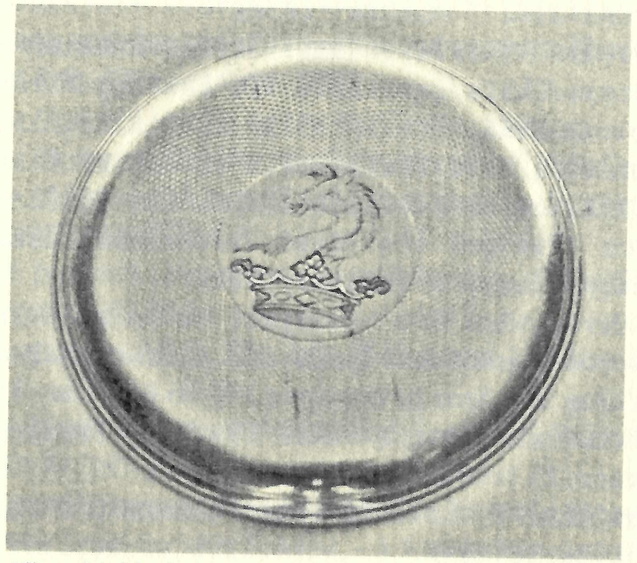

Fig. 1. The Allen shield of arms as engraved on the reverse of George Allen's (and afterwards, Edward Heron-Allen's) watch.

Evidence of George Allen's use of these arms exists in the engraving on the back of the Allen watch (Fig. 1). This watch was thought to have been Edward Heron-Allen's own from new. However, it is clear that being made in 1852, the case properly hallmarked by the London Assay Office for that year, it must have belonged to George Allen and then passed to his son either as a gift or a bequest.

Figure 2 shows an example of an Edward Heron-Allen bookplate using, quite properly, the Allen arms in the first and fourth quarter. However, here a slight mystery begins. There seems to be no references to anything resembling the shield used in the second and third quarters.

Edward's father, George, was married to Catherine Herring. The arms of the Herring/Heron side of the shield could be described as, *Gules, on a fesse azure, three etoiles argent, in chief a sun in splendour or between two herons proper argent, and in base a horse passant or* crest- *an eagle displayed, a sun in splendour or in its dexter claw.* The colours are derived from the engraved hatchments which are properly executed on the Heron-Allen arms as they appear in the bookplates.

As one might expect, the Herring family arms have charges of fish as demonstrated in known examples. It is possible, of course that the shield, *gules on a fess azure...* refers to the Heron family. Here, the Heron families have herons as charges on their shields and of course, herons as crests - typically *gules three herons argent* - crest, *a heron's head or.*

The date of Edward Heron Allen's first bookplate cannot be firmly established, but it is probable that it was devised following the marriage of Edward to Henrietta Marianna Frederika Lehmann in 1891(Fig. 2). If that were the case, then it might suggest that the second and third quarters of the shield relate to the arms of the Lehmann family, those of her father the portrait artist, Wilhelm August Rudolf Lehmann.

In the standard form of marshalling arms the following should apply. We know that the Allen arms were used by his father and not impaled side by side with the arms of Catherine

Herring. This would suggests that she did not have right to arms. In the usual way of marshalling arms, the Allen arms would be impaled with Allen to the left and Herring arms to the right, if Catherine had been an heiress. If Catherine had not been an heiress, but had right to arms then her arms would have been placed on the shield in pretence - a smaller shield in front of the main Allen arms. In this case, Edward Heron-Allen would then have properly used a shield with Allen and Herring arms quartered.

Nothing has so far emerged which explains the quarterings shown on the Heron-Allen bookplates. We know that Edward Heron-Allen was given the second Christian name Heron - the information gathered from *England Births London and Baptisms, 1813 – 1906*. The registration of his birth gives a date of 26th February 1862 at which time his parents were living at 3 Brunswick Villas, Hill Road in the parish of All Saints, St John's Wood, Middlesex.

Fig. 2. Heron-Allen's first bookplate devised after his marriage to Marianna Lehmann, 1891.

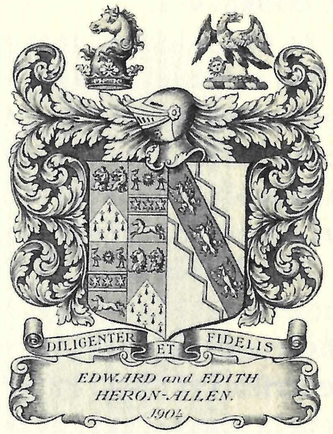

Fig. 3. Bookplate evidencing the joining of the Heron-Allen and Pepler families. This bookplate was in use from 1904 until well into the 1920's.

The question then arises, could the second and third quarters on the shield relate to Lehmann? Because of the way the shield is arranged with Allen and what might be Herring or Heron, it rules out the possibility that the second and third quarterings relate to Henrietta Marianna Frederika Lehmann whom Edward married on July 1st 1891. The shield is not arranged Allen and another per pale, but is simply quartered meaning that both the shields relate to Edward's parents and not to his marriage to someone with right to arms. In any event, I have been unable to find any Lehmann shields which in any way resemble the second and third quartering on this shield. Added to that, it would be an enormous coincidence if the Lehmann arms had charges of herons.

The mixture of charges on the second and third quarters of the shield are somewhat unconventional in the English tradition. My conclusion therefore, based on the research done so far is that Edward Heron-Allen created something fanciful to give the impression of a Heron family maternal ancestry. Having said that, this conclusion may be wrong. The fact that nothing has so far come to light does not mean that it doesn't exist. There is more research to do which might well throw more light on the subject and produce a perfectly logical explanation.

EDWARD HERON-ALLEN AND EDITH PEPLER

The next episode in the story is straight-forward. Marianna died in 1902 and, just a short time later, Edward met and married Edith Emily Pepler, the daughter of William Brown Pepler of Edington, Tinhead and Market Lavington in Wiltshire. At this point Edward then added per pale, that is side by side, his quartered arms to those of the Pepler family. This is demonstrated by a book plate printed in 1904, just a year after the joining of the Allen and Pepler families. *Burke's General Armory* gives these arms as '*Argent on a bend sable between two bendlets dancettée gules, three eagles displayed of the first*' as shown in Fig. 3.

Edward Heron-Allen continued to use this shield for a very well executed book plate produced in 1925.

As a final thought, it is very interesting to read the submission made by John and Barbara Mahoney in 2015 on the evidence surrounding Edward Heron-Allen's creation of the double-barrelled name with a hyphen, from 1883 onwards. They subtitled their piece in Newsletter no.27, pp.11-12, '*Oh What a Mess You Have Created! Why Oh Why? You hyphenator You*'. There is an abundance of material listed showing how things progressed to the final hyphenated version of the name. It seems that along with this story is a parallel one surrounding the creation of the Heron-Allen shield of arms. I suppose it could be subtitled '*Herons above where have all the fish gone*'.

[Since this paper was given, significant further research has been done by John and Barbara Mahoney and Ivor and Venetia Jones, which I have undertaken to present in full at the 2017 Heron-Allen Symposium].

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EDWARD HERON-ALLEN AND ELEANORE ZUGUN, THE ROMANIAN POLTERGEIST

by TIMOTHY J. McCANN

Although it was one of his many interests, little notice has been taken hitherto of Edward Heron-Allen's study of psychic phenomena. In his *Notes upon the Literary, Scientific, and Artistic Activities of Edward Heron-Allen FRS*, writing as Christopher Blayre, he stated that: 'being regarded (now rather against his will) as an authority on Palmistry, he was frequently invited to attend Spiritualist Seances. He exposed the blind medium Husk, and the popular medium 'Miro'. He was one of the earliest members of the Society for Psychical Research and although all his life he attended adult séances at intervals, he never witnessed any phenomena that he could not himself reproduce as "parlour tricks"' (1). However, the case of Eleanore Zugun the Romanian medium, poltergeist and stigmata sufferer, who visited England for a few weeks in 1926, severely taxed his self-confidence.

Eleanore Zugun was born on 24 May 1913 into a peasant family in the village of Talpa, in the commune of Candesti in Botosani County in the northern part of Romania. Nothing is known of her early life until she went to stay with her grandmother in the nearby village of Buhai where paranormal activity was first associated with her. This took the form of stones crashing against her grandmother's house and items near to Eleanore jumping up and flying about. Thoroughly alarmed and fearing that she was possessed by Dracul - the devil - her grandmother and her neighbours sent her back home, where the paranormal activities continued with renewed vigour. For her own safety, Eleanore found refuge in the monastery at Gorovei, but when the manifestations continued she was locked in a local asylum. These remarkable occurrences soon reached the newspapers and, alerted by their reports Fritz Grunewald, an Austrian psychical researcher and

Kubi Klein, a journalist, rescued Eleanore from the asylum and returned her to the monastery where they were able to observe her. Grunewald's notes on his observations were later published (2). Unfortunately Grunewald died in 1925 leaving Eleanore in the care of her family.

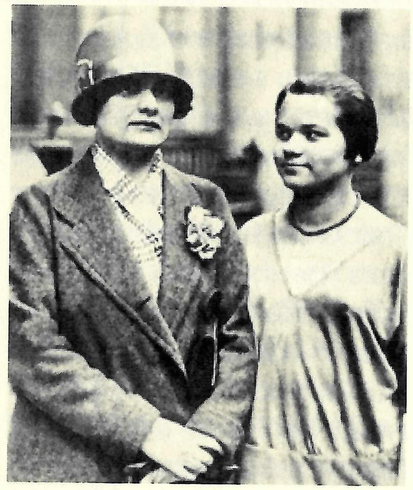

Fig. 1. Elenore Zugun with Countess Zoë Wassilko Serecki.

Fig. 2. Eleanore Zugun.

Happily a new protector - Countess Zoë Wassilko Serecki, an Austrian astrologer and parapsychologist and the founder of the Austrian Society for Psychic Research - having found her in filthy conditions and in great distress in the monastery, arranged for her to be moved to her own lodgings in Vienna, where she arrived in January 1926 (Fig. 1). There the paranormal activities continued - the Countess is said to have recorded over a thousand manifestations - and she observed them and published a book about Eleanore - *Das Spuk von Talbo* in 1926 (3). Under the guidance of the Countess, Eleanore's health improved and she even began training as a hairdresser but the phenomena continued as before. In addition to the movement of objects, regular knocking was recorded and Eleanore suffered from physical assaults of her body. She was slapped, forced to the ground, tossed out of bed, had her hair yanked out of her head and had her hands and fingers regularly pricked by needles. On 30 April 1926 Harry Price the notorious and

controversial psychical researcher travelled to Vienna and observed Eleanore on several occasions. He described Eleanore as: 'an intelligent, well-developed, bright girl with a sunny disposition. She was then nearly thirteen years old. Though physically strong and healthy, she was 'young' mentally. In many ways she was more like a girl of eight: her shyness; her extreme fondness for simple toys; her simple games and childish ways (Fig. 2). But she could read and write well and was even something of an artist. She was five feet tall and weighed 123 pounds' (4). He was sufficiently impressed by the manifestations that he witnessed there to invite Eleanore and the Countess to come to London to his National Laboratory of Psychical Research, and they duly arrived in London on 20 September 1926.

They remained in London until 14 October and attracted considerable interest in the English press..Typical is the report in the *Dundee Courier*:

'A 13 year old girl is to arrive in London next week so that British Scientists may investigate her case. She is Eleanore Zugun, who has a reputation as a poltergeist - a merry ghost-medium. Here are a few of the strange happenings which are to be investigated.

1. Raps on furniture
2. The disappearance and reappearance of objects which are sometimes 'lost' for weeks.
3. The sudden displacement of pins and needles which are found buried in Eleanore's hands or arms' (5).

The strange happenings were recorded soon after her arrival.

'Eleanore Zugun, the 13 year old Romanian peasant girl, whose abnormal psychical powers have attracted the attention of leading scientists, had an alarming introduction to London yesterday. When she and the Countess Wassilko Szerecki, an Australian [*sic*] noblewoman with whom she had been living for eight months, were drawing they were suddenly disturbed by a weird tinkling noise. It was then found that one of the young medium's rings, which has rested on the dressing table

overnight, had disappeared and a careful search of the bedroom failed to throw any light on the mystery. Eleanore has been brought over from Vienna, and during her five week stay in London is to be kept under close observation of the National Laboratory of Psychical Research, Kensington. She is an exponent of 'psychic phenomena' and since the end of January has had 1,700 manifestations. These strange happenings occur at any moment of the day but never when she is asleep' (6).

According to contemporary press reports the conclusions reached by the investigators were that stigmata markings appeared spontaneously on her hands as well as lacerations on various parts of Eleanora's body (Figs. 3-5). She was not consciously responsible for the production of the marks, and that according to the report under scientific test conditions movements of small objects without physical contact undoubtedly took place in the girl's presence and that the coins which moved were attracted towards the medium and that neither movement was due to magnetism (7).

Edward Heron-Allen was already in touch with Harry Price and had originally approached him about the medium Stella C. She was Dorothy Stella Cranshaw, who was born at Woolwich in 1900 and whom Harry Price was investigating as part of his drive to discover a genuine medium. Although an ordinary middle-class woman and a reluctant witness, at the Laboratory in 1923 and 1926 she had exhibited some of the phenomena attributed to Eleanore Zugun. On 1 September 1926, Heron-Allen wrote to Price from Large Acres:

'I am referred to you by my friend Prof Tillyard F.R.S. - as regards myself I refer you to the pages of 'Who's Who?'.

I am very anxious to assist at a really genuine spiritualist's séance, as I feel that there must be phenomena such as I have never witnessed, to convince men of science so eminent as those who are numbered among the "spiritualists". In this desire I am joined by Miss Bargmann B. Science, Ph.D. who has an equally open mind upon the subject. Dr. Tillyard mentions in particular the mediumship of one "Stella C" & I should be very much obliged if you could arrange for us to attend one of her

séances. It would have to be on a Tuesday or Wednesday as these are the only days that I can conveniently come to London.

Hoping to hear from you ere long
I am faithfully yours,
Edward Heron Allen F.R.S.' (8).

Heron-Allen received positive responses from Harry Price on 5 and 6 September and on 8 September followed it up by saying that: 'we shall look forward to the Séance you propose with Miss Stella C. I may say that if there is any question of "expenses" I shall be glad to meet them. In the meanwhile I shall be very glad to see the manifestations of Eleanore Zugun when she comes in October' and adding: '...I think I should join your society, & shall be glad to have the Journal as it appears' (9). For a while nothing seemed to happen, because on 2 October Heron-Allen wrote again to Harry Price: 'I have not received the other two Journals which have interested me much. I shall be glad to hear when Dr. Helène Bargmann & I can attend a séance with Eleanore Zugun' and added a postscript on 9 October: 'This has been returned to me by the post, in consequence of mis-direction. I have seen a statement in the Press to the effect that I am to see the Mediums, but I have had no intimation to that effect from you' (10).

Finally, a meeting was arranged and Heron-Allen came face to face with Eleanore Zugun at the Laboratory on 12 October. He was by no means the only Fellow of the Royal Society who was interested in the case. Eleanore was observed by fellows including W.R. Bousfield, Professor William McDougall, Professor A.J. Rankine and Professor R.J. Tillyard while she was at the laboratory. Indeed the Fellows got together in an organised way to observe Eleanore. The *Dundee Evening Telegraph* reported that: 'If there is any demonstrable secret underlying the strange powers of Eleanore Zugun the 13 year old Romanian peasant girl, medical men and members of the Royal Society are out to find it. Four of these experts have formed themselves into a committee to investigate Eleanore's baffling wizardry. They are Dr. R.J. Tillyard, Mr. Edward Heron-

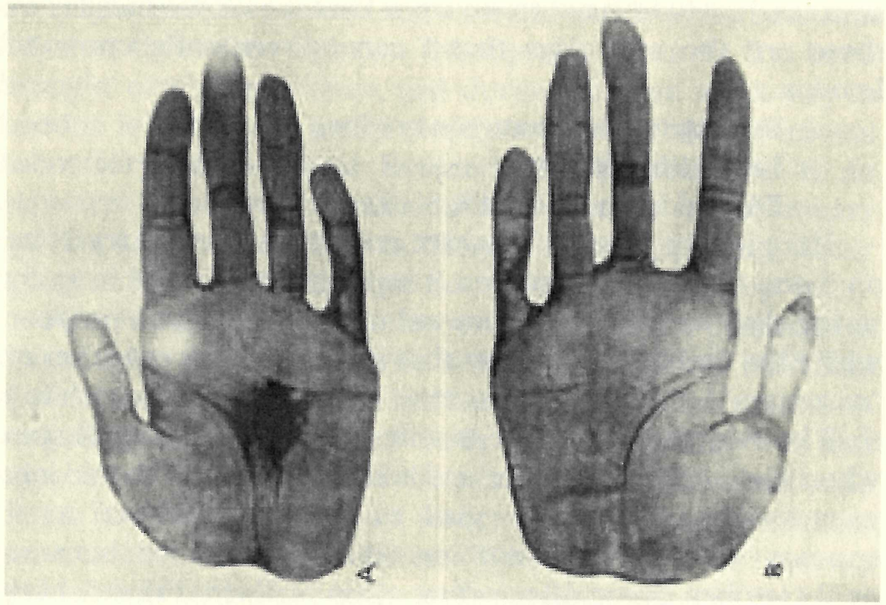

Fig. 3 Eleanore Zugun's hands, showing the stigmata on the left.

Fig. 4. Eleanore Zugun showing neck wounds.

Fig. 5. Eleanore Zugun showing scratches on her face.

Allen, Dr. A.L. Urquhart (of St. Thomas's Hospital.) and Dr. F. Fielding Ould.

They have two branches of phenomena to fathom - poltergeists (or noisy devils) in which articles fly about the room in which Eleanore happens to be, and disappear and reappear in bewildering fashion and stigmatic in which great weals, bruises and scratches appear on her skin without apparent cause' (Figs. 4, 5) (11).

Not content with reporting these dramatic phenomena, under the heading, 'to tease the devil', a newspaper recorded that Eleanore 'not only claims to have seen the devil on many occasions but draws pictures of him and believes that he has accompanied her to London. Before going to bed she often

leaves a saucer of nasty food 'to tease Dracul' into a violent temper' (12). Some of Eleanore's drawings of the devil are still advertised on the internet.

A final report on the observations of Eleanore stated that: 'Leading medical men associated with the National Laboratory of Psychical Research are forming a plan for keeping continuous observation on Eleanore Zugun, a Romanian girl, said to be the victim of a poltergeist, on whose face and arms mysterious marks like scratches and bites appear suddenly without any apparent cause (Figs. 4, 5).

According to ancient belief a poltergeist is a mischievous spirit which attaches itself to a human being or place, and plays all manner of tricks, in some cases throwing down crockery and ornaments, and moving furniture. Accounts of similar cases of persons being mysteriously marked have been handed down. Yesterday all traces of markings which mysteriously appeared on Eleanore Zugun's face and arms the previous afternoon had disappeared.

Mr. Harry Price, honorary Director of the Laboratory is striving to discover some 'law' to account for the phenomenon. He is convinced that trickery plays no part in the mysterious happenings which he is inclined to attribute to auto-suggestion and the activities of complicated mental processes upon the body.

It has been definitely established that the markings, which apparently cause the girl pain, occur wherever she may be. She has the same experiences whether in the Laboratory at South Kensington or at home in Romania. The only time she appears to be immune is when asleep'. (13).

After his meeting with Eleanore Zugun on 12 September, Heron-Allen reported his observations to Harry Price: 'I have allowed ten days to elapse before writing you my impressions of Eleonore Zugun, as I wished to consider the matter carefully, & also to make some "check experiments". I have refused absolutely to be interviewed by any papers, merely replying that my experiences were too slight for me to form an opinion for publication.

Nothing is further from my mind than to suggest any trickery or bad faith to anyone, but I feel that such phenomena as have been described, and seen by me, ought to be - to be evidential - such as cannot be produced by natural or artificial means.

E.Z. is, obviously, to a physiologist, a lymphatico-hysterical girl, developed to womanhood extremely early - she clearly wanted to produce phenomena, though she pretended she did not want to sit.

I saw the 'stigmata' on her neck, & there I was on familiar ground, having known two very pronounced cases of Dermograthism (sometimes known as "Dermotitis artefacta" - or "ficta"). When this is present a slight scratch along the skin produces - after about two minutes - "weals" exactly like E.Z.'s stigmata. I am quite sure that is how her "stigmata" are produced: it may be quite unconsciously. For instance, if a point on her skin were suddenly to itch (& such skins are very sensitive) she would naturally scratch, and the result follows, in anything from two to three minutes. When you had left & I held her left hand in my right, I put my right hand under her fore-arm & elbow, as I said to her, to protect her arm from the sharp edge of the table. Once or twice she put her head down on to that arm, but I pushed it gently away. I am almost sorry I did so, for we might have got teeth marks or other "stigmata". As it was, nothing whatever happened.

The "levitation" of the coin may have been affected by metaphysical means, but in reconstructing the scene I did it as follows. A similarly light thin coin was placed on the edge of a table, & as I went to change the gramophone record (as E.Z. did once or twice) I picked it up and put it in my mouth. When we "sat" again & the examination was in full blast, I put it between my lips & blew it over the heads of the sitter, & it fell on the parquet causing a lively sensation. Like E.Z. it was I who found & picked up the coin & dried it before letting go of it.

This was all I saw at our séance, & I confess I should have liked to have seen something that I could not reproduce quite simply.

SPIRIT SEANCES—WHY I DOUBT.

By

EDWARD HERON-ALLEN, F.R.S., F.L.S.

Fig 6. Edward Heron-Allen's article: 'Spirit Seances - Why I doubt' in *The Evening News*.

This is for your private information only. I have not communicated my views - nor shall I - to any one - I do not think I have seen enough to entitle me to a definite pronouncement. And I look forward very much to "sitting" with Stella C'.(14)

Harry Price's response to Heron-Allen's letter was obviously one of disappointment, and Heron-Allen was quick to reply: 'I note the contents of your letter. All I wished to do was to lay stress upon the fact that having seen little or nothing, I am not in a position to express any opinion whatever. My mind is still open, & I look forward to your getting me notice of a further opportunity of assisting at what may be super-physical phenomena'. (15) Unfortunately further opportunities were not forthcoming and Heron-Allen was soon on his travels again. In May 1927, on his return from Italy he wrote again to Harry Price expressing the hope that he might observe a session with Stella C., (16) but once again he was disappointed. On 24 July 1927 he wrote again: 'Is there any chance of any séances coming off before long. I have been bombarded by the *Evening News* for some articles on the work of the Laboratory for over a year, & they continue to press. I refused to write about Eleonore Zugun, not considering that I had seen enough, & I have been waiting for Stella C. Since then apparently nothing at all has happened. But I must write something' (17).

Eventually the pressure on Heron-Allen proved too much and he finally submitted an article to the *Evening News*. (18). The article was published in the edition of 15 November and was headed: 'Spirit Seances - Why I doubt' (Fig. 6), not quite the dismissive exposure that his readers probably expected. It appeared under the by-line of Edward Heron-Allen, F.R.S. F.L.S., and the introduction stated that 'Mr. Heron-Allen is a leading authority among scientists, upon the minute forms of marine life: he was for two years President of the Royal Microscopical Society. A man of letters also, he is President-elect of that informal society of interesting men of the day, the "Sette of Odd Volumes". Investigation of so-called psychic phenomena at spiritualist séances has been a hobby of his, and here, at the

request of "*The Evening News*" he sets down what he thinks of those phenomena'.

Heron-Allen began his article: 'In a recently published novel I find this statement, which seems to apply to the case of the majority of recorded spiritualist manifestations. "If ever anybody believes anything, however ridiculous, with all his heart and soul, and starts shouting it, and keeps on shouting it, sooner or later a lot of people will kick reason into the ditch and begin believing the same thing". Then after a side-swipe at the faith of Muslims and Fundamentalist Christians, he went on: 'for a period now closely approaching half a century, I have attended at intervals so-called spiritualist séances, and during that time it is to be observed that telekinesis (the movement of bodies apparently without cause) has kept pace with the evolution and improvement of frankly advertised conjuring and the phenomenal development of the wireless transmission of force. The telekinetic phenomena of Sarah Guppy (circa 1875) were pusillanimous compared with the more delicately conceived performances of, say, Eleanora Zugun'.

He continued: 'when I look round upon the wireless dirigibility of inanimate objects and the uncanny developments of the printing press I am bound to ask for something more convincing in telekinesis than the levitation of small and portable articles. I am neither disputing nor denying, nor am I accusing anyone of fraud, but I do ask to be allowed to see something done which I cannot do myself in a properly subdued light. I can make and project a rainbow in my study, but that is not a proof that the rainbow we see in the sky under correct conditions is a fraud and a trick'.

He then went on to suggest ways and means of putting the mediums off their stride by means of the questions he habitually posed at séances, such as 'how can a spirit speak?' and asking the apparition where he gets his clothes? He concluded by suggesting that 'freedom of thought and enquiry are "taboo", and as long as they remain so, so long must the spiritualists contend with reasonable doubt'. He did not discuss his examination of Eleanore Zugun or attempt to debunk her

experiences, but nevertheless Harry Price was obviously upset by his article, just as he had been by Heron-Allen's letter written after his observation of Eleanore.

After a further exchange with Price, he wrote to him again on 25 November: 'Thanks for your letter. I am sorry I missed the Stella C. séances. I was only waiting for them before writing my article, the intent of which they destroyed by their silly title. My title was - "A plea for Free Thought in Spiritualism", which really explains my attitude. I am now deluged with invitations to séances!

I am afraid I must not accept the honour of a seat on the Council, I would never come. I am only in town from Tuesday afternoon to Thursday morning and my every moment is generally engaged weeks ahead.

But if ever you have a chance to invite me to a genuine "séance" I should make a great effort to attend it. The reason I laid stress upon Stella C was that I had read about her, & had something to go upon'(19).

It seems that Heron-Allen was fated not to observe Stella C, and indeed she stopped coming to the Laboratory in London in 1927. Furthermore there is no further correspondence with Harry Price. Heron-Allen, however, did not abandon the quest. A letter survives written by him to Lucie Kaye, Price's secretary and second in command dated 12 November 1929 in which he wrote: 'I very greatly regret that it is impossible. Tuesdays & Wednesdays are the only days I am in Town. I should so much like to have attended a materialization séance - & incidentally to have the pleasure of meeting you again' (20). There remains one further surviving letter from Heron-Allen to Lucie Kaye, written on 31 December 1929: 'Unfortunately both Dr. Bargmann & myself will be engaged in Council matters on Jan. 14. We shall be glad of another opportunity & would like to know what is the fee charged. I presume I am still a member of the Society though I have heard nothing of it for a long while'(21).

There is no evidence that Heron-Allen attended any more séances. Certainly he was not able to observe Stella C or

Eleanore Zugun again. There is no further mention of psychic phenomena in his surviving correspondence and we have no record of Helène Bargmann's views. But what of Eleanore Zugun? In October 1926 she left London for Berlin accompanied by the Countess and the manifestations slowly began to fade but the bitings and scratchings continued, except that the appearance of such markings on her skin were now accompanied by large amounts of saliva. After examination it was shown that this saliva did not come from Eleanore.

In January 1927 Eleanore and the Countess journeyed to Munich, where they were examined by a number of distinguished scientists. Dr. Hans Rosenbusch, who examined them in his home, claimed to have detected them in cheating. The claim was never proved. The Countess sued Dr Rosenbach but the case was never decided. Harry Price pointed out that the Countess was not present at any of his tests at the laboratory in London where still unexplained phenomena occurred, but the claims of cheating and Eleanore's association with Harry Price, whose reputation was somewhat controversial cast some doubt on her genuineness. However, in a recent re-evaluation of the available data Dr. Peter Malacz effectively dismissed Dr. Rosenbach's claims(22). In the early summer of 1927 Eleanore attained her fourteenth birthday and when she began menstruating the phenomena ceased for good. She returned home in 1928 and when last heard of, in the 1930s, the girl who had confounded Edward Heron-Allen was living quietly at Czernowitz in Romania and working as a hairdresser.

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13. *Hartlepool Mail*. 7 October 1926.
14. Edward Heron-Allen to Harry Price, 22 October 1926. Harry Price Collection, University of London, Senate House Library, HPC/4B/7.
15. Edward Heron-Allen to Harry Price. 29 October 1926. Harry Price Collection, University of London, Senate House Library, HPC/4B/7.
16 Edward Heron-Allen to Harry Price, 6 May 1927. Harry Price Collection, University of London, Senate House Library, HPC/4A/7.
17. Edward Heron-Allen to Harry Price, 24 July 1927. Harry Price Collection, University of London, Senate House Library, HPC/4A/7.
18. Edward Heron-Allen, 'Spirit Seances - Why I doubt' in The *Evening News*, 1927. Copy in the Harry Price Collection, University of London, Senate House Library. HPF/3A/5.
19. Edward Heron-Allen to Harry Price, 25 November 1927. Harry Price Collection, University of London, Senate House Library, HPC/4A/7.

20. Edward Heron-Allen to Lucie Kaye, 12 November 1928. Harry Price Collection, University of London, Senate House Library, HPC.4C/11.
21. Edward Heron-Allen to Lucie Kaye, 31 December 1928. Harry Price Collection, University of London, Senate House Library, HPC/4C/11.
22. Peter Malacz, 'The Re-evaluation of an historic RSPK Case', in the *Journal of Parapsychology,* 63/1 (March 1999), 15-45.

LETTERS FROM LUNDY

by JOHN E. WHITTAKER

In the Heron-Allen Society Newsletter no. 21 (of Autumn 2012) I illustrated an envelope of a letter that had been sent to Heron-Allen from the Island of Lundy in the Bristol Channel. It had been posted in August 1930 to Pertisau in the Austrian Tyrol where the Heron-Allens were on "holiday" (Fig. 1). It was also interesting to philatelists as it was an unusual early use of a Lundy stamp to Europe - Lundy "local" stamps were (and still are) used to pay postage between the island and the mainland, for forwarding through the British postal system.

Fig. 1. Letter from Lundy to Edward Heron-Allen in Pertisau, Austria, dated 21 August 1930; returned to him in Selsey unopened, having been unclaimed.

The envelope was addressed thus: E. Heron-Allen Esq F.R.S., Poste Restante, Pertisau, Achensee, Tirol, Austria. The stamps and postmarks are interesting (Fig. 1). The envelope bears a "By Air Mail" label, a Great Britain 4d stamp (postmarked Instow, 21 August 1930, both on the front and back of the envelope; Instow in Devon being the then port of call for the Lundy mailboat) and a Lundy 6 Puffin stamp cancelled with a boxed Lundy datestamp. It was then evidently flown via Paris (dated 22nd August; on rear of envelope) and Vienna (dated 23rd August), but was unclaimed at Pertisau and returned to Sussex (someone had written in violet ink "Selsey Bill, Sussex" and "Par Avion" on the front), and flown back via Zurich (the two Zurich Flugpost transits are dated 26th August). There is also a violet cachet on the envelope front which states "Nach Abgang des Fluges eingelangt/Arrive après le départ d' ..." ["Arrived after departure of flight"].

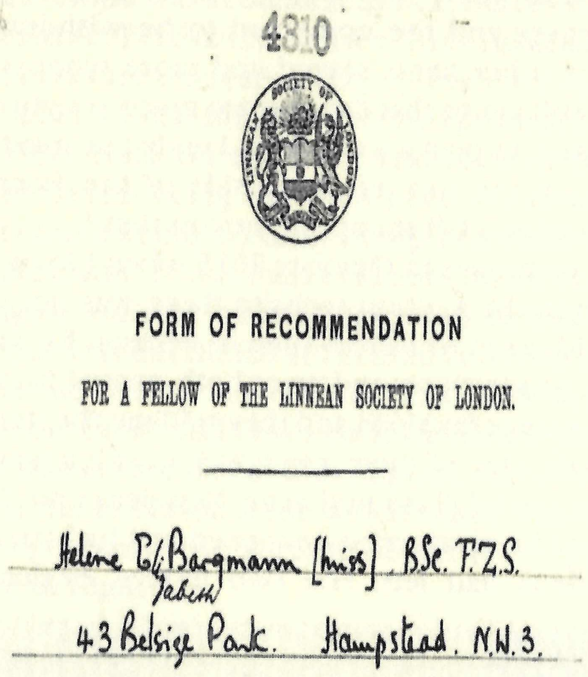
Now, Heron-Allen's youngest daughter Armorel had been tragically killed in a car accident at Winterslow, near Salisbury, Wiltshire on 30th July 1930 and the Heron-Allens had probably gone to Pertisau, a picturesque town by the Achensee Lake, to get away from it all and to hide their grief, before returning home on the 23rd. The sender was a mystery as there was no letter inside the envelope when the e-Bay seller put it on the market and sold it for £245; I did ask. Personally, I couldn't afford it.

As a digression, it may now be worth saying something more about Lundy stamps. Lundy Island means Puffin Island, as explained below. In 1927 it had lost its General Post Office. Martin Coles Harman, who had bought the island in 1924, at first handled the mail without charge but on 1st November 1929 he introduced his own stamps (aptly in puffin denominations, 1 puffin = 1 penny). "King" Harman even issued his own coins also in 1929. These carried his own portrait and were of half puffin and one puffin value, equivalent to the British halfpenny and penny in value and of the same size. In a celebrated case at the time, this resulted in his prosecution under the United Kingdom's Coinage Act of 1870. The House of

Lords found him guilty and he was fined £5 with fifteen Guineas expenses and the coins had to be withdrawn. The stamps, on the other hand, stayed and more were issued in 1930, as they still are to this day and are much sought after by collectors. In fact, to post a letter from Lundy one must place a Lundy stamp on the top left hand side of the front of the envelope as well as a GB stamp on the top right!.

The story continues in October 2015 when I found on the Grosvenor Philatelic Auction website there was not one, but two letters addressed to Heron-Allen in Pertisau for sale. They had the same handwriting and were both posted from Lundy. I phoned Grosvenor Auctions and they told me the items were from an old sale. One of them, moreover, wasn't a new find at all but was the one I'd illustrated in my Newsletter no. 21 article (Fig. 1), that had been returned unopened as it had arrived after the Heron-Allens had left. The two letters, evidently, had

Fig. 2. Letter from Lundy to Heron-Allen in Pertisau, Austria, dated 19 August 1930. The writers of the two letters are the same.



4310

FORM OF RECOMMENDATION

FOR A FELLOW OF THE LINNEAN SOCIETY OF LONDON.

Helene E. Bargmann [Miss] B.Sc. F.Z.S.
Jabez
43 Belsize Park. Hampstead. N.W.3.

Fig. 3. Part of Helène Bargmann's Form of Recommendation for a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London, 1926. The forming of some letters, especially the upper-case E and H show she was clearly the writer of the Lundy letters.

originally been sold in the Grosvenor Auction for a mere £90, and one had clearly been purchased and then sold later on e-Bay for a handsome profit. Sadly, I've never seen the second one for re-sale. However, here is an illustration of it (Fig. 2). It had been sent two days earlier than the other one, on 19th August 1930 and contained the same 4d British stamp, together, this time with a 9 puffin Lundy stamp. Again, it also went by airmail with the same Zurich Flugplatz transit (dated 20th August), together with a 10 groschen Austrian stamp which the Pertisau post office had affixed (probably as Postage Due). This time, clearly, Heron-Allen had received it as it wasn't returned unopened. It was from the same person who'd sent the previous letter. But who was the sender? It was, at least for the moment, a mystery.

Tim McCann kindly looked through Heron-Allen's Pertisau Holiday Journal in the hope EH-A would mention the letter from Lundy. Unfortunately, Tim reports... "so close to Armorel's death his handwriting is even worse and more cramped than usual and I found it very hard to read. He mentions the post every day just to say 'no letters' or just 'post' but I did not see the word Lundy anywhere".

The handwriting on both covers is identical and looks like a lady's to me. But who of his acquaintances was on Lundy in August 1930? It's a curious place to holiday, especially in those days. Also how did the envelopes get on the market? I suspect they may have been sold off with lots of other things at one of the "Large Acres" house auctions in the 1940's after the Heron-Allens' deaths, to raise some money for poor Itha and her family.

Tim McCann and I checked the handwriting of various ladies. It did somehow look familiar and then suddenly, rummaging through *Opusculum XIX*: "Edward Heron-Allen and some Women of his Acquaintance" I found the answer. It was his "charming friend" Helène Bargmann (see pp 36-45 of *Opusculum XIX*) who in the 1930's was close to him both scientifically and in other ways. The clue lies in the copy of her Form of Recommendation for a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London in 1926, which she had completed in part in her own hand and which is illustrated on p. 39 of the same *Opusculum*. The peculiar uppercase "E" is a give-away (see Fig. 3), as are other aspects of her writing identical in both the Linnean Society document and the Lundy letters. I suppose one should not seek to read other people's intimate correspondence, and the letters are missing from the envelopes anyway, but I strongly suspect they were letters of condolence.

Finally, what was Helène Bargmann doing on Lundy in August 1930? Being a scientist and curator attached to Zoology Department of the Natural History Museum in London at the time, I suspect she may have been assisting in a survey or on her own collecting trip. Even in the 1930's it was much visited for its unique flora and fauna and its surrounding waters were already seen as a very important place for naturalists.

LUNDY - SOME BACKGROUND

The island (Fig. 4) lies in the Bristol Channel about 12 miles off the coast of NW Devon. It is 3 miles long and just over half a mile wide. The highest point is Beacon Hill at 469'.

It means "puffin island" in Norse.

In 2005 it was named in an opinion poll as Britain's 10th greatest natural wonder. It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), England's first statutory Marine Nature Reserve and the first Marine Conservation Zone, on account of its unique flora and fauna. It is managed by the Landmark Trust on behalf of the National Trust.

The island is comprised primarily of granite, but at *c*.50 million years old (Myrs), earliest Eocene it is much younger than nearby Cornish granite (240 Myrs), but of similar age to the volcanics of NW Scotland; these being Britain's youngest volcanic rocks. There is some older slate in the south of the island and also many igneous dykes cutting through the granite.

There is one endemic plant - the Lundy cabbage, a primitive brassica and two invertebrates are also endemic, both feeding on the cabbage, the Lundy cabbage flea beetle and the Lundy cabbage weevil. It also has a very rare purse-web spider.

The iconic bird is the puffin - much in decline until very recently, due to depredation by black rats (now eliminated). There are lots of other birds which attract bird watchers (so-called "twitchers").

Mammals - there is a distinct breed of wild pony. The rabbits for the most part are melanistic (the opposite of albinistic), in other words, dark coloured; these are now much reduced due to myxomatosis.

Lundy has an outstanding variety of marine habitats and wildlife, often rare (seaweeds, sponges, sea-fans and cup corals), which has led to the granting of its conservation status.

It has a resident population of about 30, and has over 20 holiday properties and a campsite. It receives over 20,000 day-trippers a year. It has a two lighthouses, a castle, a victorian mansion, a pub and a church, all constructed of granite.

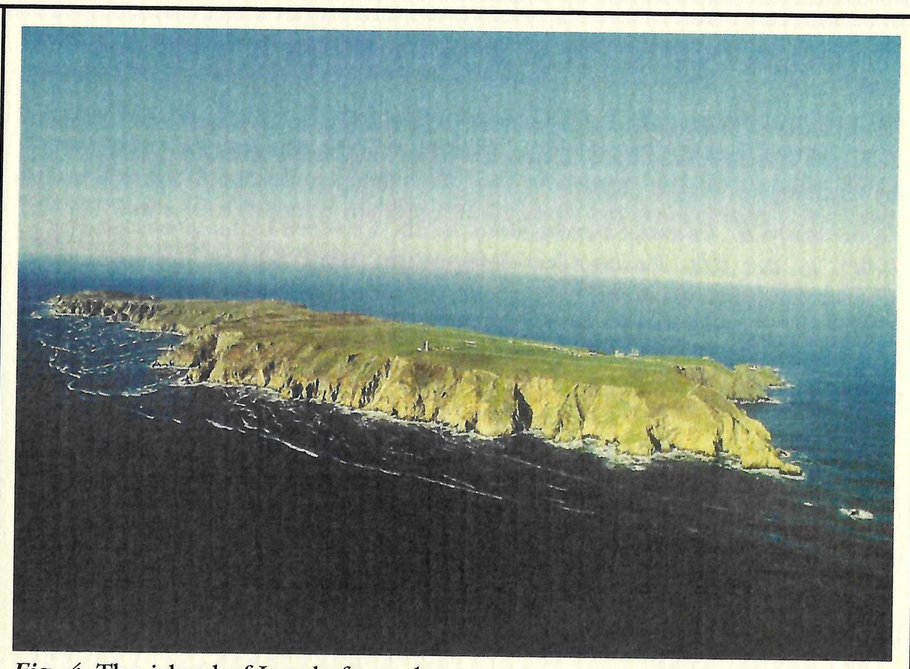


Fig. 4. The island of Lundy from the west.

To get there today for day-trippers, the main way is via the MS "Oldenburg" which sails 3 times per week, either from Bideford or Ilfracombe in Devon. It takes 2 hours each way which allows 4-6 hours stay on the island. It is a possible venue for a future visit of members of the Heron-Allen Society.

HERON-ALLEN SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Opusculum I Notes upon the Literary, Scientific, and Artistic Activities of Edward Heron-Allen, F.R.S. Extracted from his Diaries and other Documents by Christopher Blayre (2000).

Opusculum II Edward Heron-Allen. A Talk delivered by his grandson Ivor E. Jones at the first Heron-Allen Symposium, West Sussex Record Office, Chichester, July 2001 (2001).

Opusculum III The Quest for the Heron-Allen Society. A Talk delivered at the first Heron-Allen Symposium, West Sussex Record Office, Chichester, July 2001, by Timothy J. McCann (2002).

Opusculum IV "The Beauty and Mystery of the Foraminifera". The Foraminiferal research of Edward Heron-Allen FRS, with an assessment of his scientific career. Based on a talk delivered on the beach at West Street, Selsey, to members of the Heron-Allen Society and guests of the West Sussex County Council, following the unveiling of a plaque in honour of Edward Heron-Allen by Ivor Jones, 15 July 2002, by Richard L. Hodgkinson and John E. Whittaker (2003). [Reprinted 2012]

Opusculum V Reflections on Heron-Allen's War Journal. Talks delivered at the second Heron-Allen Symposium, West Sussex Record Office, Chichester, July 2002, by Brian W. Harvey and Carol Fitzgerald (2003).

Opusculum VI 'Portraits and Persia: Bookplates and Bognor': Proceedings of the 3rd Heron-Allen Symposium, 2003, edited by Timothy J. McCann. Talks delivered at the third Heron-Allen Symposium, The Allen Room, Dean Street, London, July 2003 by Bryan Burrough, Claire Powell, Peter Allpress and Timothy J. McCann. (2004).

Opusculum VII 'Edward Heron-Allen FRS: Scientist': Proceedings of the 4th Heron-Allen Symposium, 2004, edited by John E. Whitaker. Talks delivered at the fourth Heron-Allen Symposium, The Natural History Museum, London, July 2004, by Richard L. Hodgkinson, Michael A. Kaminski, Clive Jones and Andrew S. Henderson & John E. Whittaker (2005).

Opusculum VIII 'Edward Heron-Allen and Friends': Proceedings of the 5th Heron-Allen Symposium, 2005, edited by Timothy J. McCann. Talks delivered at the fifth Heron-Allen Symposium, The Allen Room, Dean Street, London, July 2005, by Timothy J. McCann, Joann Fletcher and Richard L. Hodgkinson (2005).

Opusculum IX 'Edward Heron-Allen and Music': Proceedings of the 6th Heron-Allen Symposium, 2006, edited by Peter Horton. Talks delivered at the sixth Heron-Allen Symposium, The Royal College of Music, London, July 2006, by Brian Harvey, Pamela Thompson, Peter Horton, Joan Navarre and Garry Garrard (2007)

Opusculum X 'The Purple Sapphire', by Edward Heron-Allen. First published under the pseudonym Christopher Blayre in 1921 and republished with additional material by Timothy J. McCann and Steve Farrer, to celebrate the Natural History Museum's exhibition 'The Vault', 2007 (2008).

Opusculum XI 'Armorel Heron-Allen and Oxford': Proceedings of the 7th Heron-Allen Symposium, 2007, edited by Timothy J. McCann. Talks delivered at the seventh Heron-Allen Symposium, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, July 2007, by Ivor Jones, Joan Navarre, Alethea Pitt, Brian Hulan and Timothy J. McCann. (2008).

Opusculum XII 'Treasures: Decorative, Egyptian and Musical: More from Heron-Allen's Collections': Proceedings of the 8th Heron-Allen Symposium, 2008, edited by Timothy J. McCann. Talks delivered at the eighth Heron-Allen Symposium, the Natural History Museum, London, July 2008, by Lucy Wood, Pamela Thompson, Joann Fletcher and Peter T. Scott. (2009)

Opusculum XIII 'Edward Heron-Allen and Literature and Leisure', Proceedings of the 9th Heron-Allen Symposium, 2009, edited by Timothy J. McCann and John E. Whittaker. Talks delivered at the ninth Heron-Allen Symposium, the Natural History Museum, London, July 2009, by Timothy J. McCann, Joan Navarre, Garry Garrard, John P. Mahoney and Barbara P. Mahoney and John E. Whittaker. (2009)

Opusculum XIV Edward Heron-Allen and the Clare Island Survey, 1909-1911, Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy Symposium, 2009, edited by Timothy J. McCann and John E. Whittaker. Talks delivered at the Symposium, The Royal Irish Academy, Dublin, October 2009, by Timothy Collins, Timothy J. McCann and John E. Whittaker. (2010)

Opusculum XV 'The Man in White': Edward Heron-Allen and the Thames, by Richard Bossons. (2010)

Opusculum XVI 'Edward Heron-Allen and Local History and Archaeology'. Proceedings of the 10th. Heron-Allen Symposium, 2010, edited by Timothy J. McCann and John E. Whittaker. Talks delivered at the tenth Heron-Allen Symposium, West Sussex Record Office, Chichester, July 2010, by David Bone, Martin Bates and Timothy J. McCann. (2011)

Opusculum XVII The Le Gallienne versus Heron-Allen Incident, by John P. Mahoney and Barbara P. Mahoney. Talks delivered at the ninth Heron-Allen Symposium, Natural History Museum, London, July 2009 and the tenth Heron-Allen Symposium, West Sussex Record Office, Chichester, July 2010. (2011)

Opusculum XVIII 'Edward Heron-Allen and the Violin'. Proceedings of the 11th Heron-Allen Symposium, 2011, edited by Peter Horton. Talks delivered at the eleventh Heron-Allen Symposium, the Royal College of Music, London, June 2011, by Timothy J. McCann, Peter Horton and John P. and Barbara P. Mahoney (2012).

Opusculum XIX 'Edward Heron-Allen and Some Women of his Acquaintance'. Proceedings of the 12th Heron-Allen Symposium, 2012, edited by Timothy J. McCann and John E. Whittaker. Talks delivered at the twelfth Heron-Allen Symposium, The Allen Room, Dean Street, London, June 2012, by

Timothy J. McCann, John P. Mahoney and Barbara P. Mahoney, John E. Whittaker, and Jan Bargmann (2013).

Opusculum XX. Edward Heron-Allen and his Collections. Proceedings of the 13th Heron-Allen Symposium, 2013, edited by Timothy J. McCann and John E. Whittaker. Talks delivered at the thirteenth Heron-Allen Symposium, the British Museum, London, June 2013, by John P. Mahoney and Barbara P. Mahoney, Simon Parfitt, Thomas Hockenhull, Pamela Thompson and David Thompson (2014).

Opusculum XXI Edward Heron-Allen: Selsey and Beyond. Proceedings of the 14th Heron-Allen Symposium, 2014, edited by Timothy J. McCann and John E. Whittaker. Talks delivered at the fourteenth Heron-Allen Symposium, The Novium, Chichester, June 2014, by John P. Mahoney and Barbara P. Mahoney, Timothy J. McCann, David Bone and John E. Whittaker. (2014).

*Opusculum XXII. Edward Heron-Allen: Research in Egypt, La Rochelle and Sussex. Proceedings of the 15th Heron-Allen Symposium, 2015, e*dited by Timothy J. McCann and John E. Whittaker. Talks delivered at the fifteenth Heron-Allen Symposium, the Natural History Museum, London, June 2015, by David Bone, John P. Mahoney and Barbara P. Mahoney, Timothy J. McCann and John E. Whittaker. (2015)

Opusulum XXIII. Edward Heron-Allen. The Past, The Future and the Other World. Proceedings of the 16th Heron-Allen Symposium 2016, edited by Timothy J. McCann and John E. Whittaker. Talks delivered at the sixteenth Heron-Allen Symposium, The Novium, Chichester, June 2016 by John P. Mahoney and Barbara P. Mahoney, David Thompson, Timothy J. McCann and John E. Whittaker. (2016).

Copies of these Opuscula cost either £5 (*Opuscula 1-VI and VIII*). £10 (*Opuscula VII and IX-XX*) or £15 (*Opuscula XXI-XXIII*) each, from Timothy J. McCann, Chairman of the Heron-Allen Society, 18 Oaklands Road, Havant, Hants. PO9 2RN.

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