

# Quair Books

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## Spiritualist and Theosophical List May 2019

### RARE FAN COPY OF MRS ST. CLAIR STOBART'S SPIRITUALIST POLEMIC

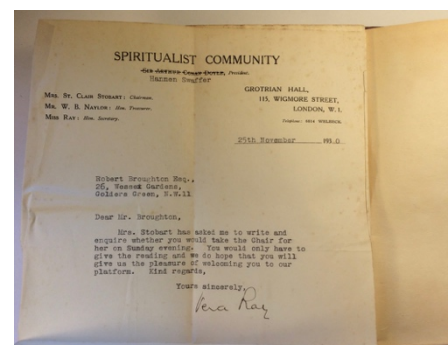
I. St. CLAIR STOBART, Mrs. *The Either – Or of Spiritualism*. London: Rider & Co., n.d. [1928].



FIRST EDITION with TYPED LETTER FROM SPIRITUALIST COMMUNITY. 8vo, pp. [214], [2]. Purple cloth, blind lettering and ruling to upper board. Shabby, spine sunned, wear and nicks to spine ends, corners bruised. Black pen mark to bottom edge. Endpapers tanned. POI to ffep: "R. G. Broughton/ London /1931," striking photographic portrait of Mrs St. Clair Stobart pasted to half-title. Typed letter (25th November 1930) to Robert Broughton from The Spiritual Community, signed by Vera Ray, Hon. Secretary pasted to rear free page: some creasing, a few light spots, else, pleasingly clean. The letter invites Broughton to 'take the Chair for [Mrs Stobart] on Sunday evening'. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's name is crossed out as President (following his death earlier in the year), with 'Hannen Swaffer' typed below. Shaken, else, clean: a good only copy of a scarce title, especially with Broughton's unique

additions.

'Spiritualism's greatest woman,' Mabel Annie St. Clair Stobart (1862-1954) first gained distinction as an aid-worker. In 1912 she founded the Women's Sick and Wounded Convoy Corps (WSWCC) and the Women's Imperial Service League two years later. With the advent of WWI, she set up a field hospital in Belgium, and subsequently, with a commissioned rank of major (a first for a woman), served on the Balkan Front where she commanded the Serbian Relief Fund's field hospital, run by her all-female staff (ODNB and Crawford, Woman and Sphere). Following the deaths of her sons and husband, Stobart turned to Spiritualism during the interwar period. Author of *Ancient Lights* (1923) and *Torchbearers of Spiritualism* (1925), she was Chairman of the Spiritualist Community, which she had founded in 1924. Meetings took place at Grotian Hall, London; her friend, Conan Doyle, served as President until his death in July 1930. Like Annie Besant (see item 3) and many other prominent women in the occult movements of spiritualism and theosophy, Stobart was a feminist and supporter of suffrage.



[ref: 1297] £140

**2. ANDREA, Raymund. *The Mystic Way*.** London: King, Littlewood & King Limited, 1938.

*FIRST EDITION. 8vo, pp. 142. Orange paper over card, black lettering, adverts to rear cover. Grubby boards, creasing to spine, spine ends nicked. Edges toned, with a few fox spots and stains. Else, clean and tidy. A good copy.*

The Modern Mystic's Library, No. 2. Andrea was Grand Master of the British Rosicrucian Order from 1921 to 1946.

[ref: 1298] **SOLD**

**3. BESANT, Annie and LEADBEATER, C. W. *The Noble Eightfold Path*.** Adyar, Madras, India: The Theosophical Publishing House, 1955.

*FIRST EDITION. 18.3 x 12.2cm, pp. [40] + b/w frontis. Textured orange paper wrappers, lettering in black. A few spots, else clean and tidy. Very good.*

Published posthumously, the pamphlet comprises Besant's 'lecture delivered at the Ananda College, Colombo, Ceylon in 1907' and Leadbeater's 'lecture delivered through the medium of an interpreter to the Burmese Ladies at Moulmein, Burma, in March 1914.' Printed by D. V. Syamala, at the Vasanta Press.

[ref: 1307] **SOLD**

**4. BRANDON, Wilfred (spirit); ELLIS, Edith (transcriber). *We Knew These Men*.** London: Psychic Book Club, Ltd, n.d. [1941].

*FIRST EDITION. 8vo, pp. 140. Grey paper boards, black lettering. Unevenly toned, extremities bruised. Scantest spotting to edges, POI to front pastedown. Else, pleasingly clean and tight for a war economy publication. Very good.*

'Dedicated to The Fallen of the First World War'. Comprises Wilfred Brandon's account of the experiences of a unit of American soldiers on the front in WWI. Spoken from the spirit plane, and transcribed via automatic writing by Ellis with the intention of sending 'through to the people of the United States a warning of the danger of another World War' (p.7). The Brandon-Ellis collaboration also produced *Open the Door!* (Knopf, 1935). Only one copy listed on COPAC, held by BL.

[ref: 1295] **£25**

**5. BRITTAİN, Annie; LODGE, Sir Oliver (Foreword). *'Twixt Earth and Heaven: A psychic's experiences*.** London: Rider & Co., n.d. [1935].

*FIRST EDITION. 8vo, pp. [192], 8 catalogue + b/w photographic frontis and one plate. Yellow cloth, blue lettering (faded), single blind ruled border to upper board. Rubbed and lightly soiled, extremities bruised. Edges tanned and faintly spotted. Flamboyant POIs in pencil to endpapers. Tanned, shaken, a few spots. A good+ copy.*

Annie Brittain was a popular British trance medium, with a child familiar called Belle. Based in Stoke-on-Trent, sitters included Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Sir Oliver Lodge.

[ref: 1305] **SOLD**

**6. "Dr LASCELLES" [SIMPSON, C. A. (medium)]. *The Magic of Angels: Talks by "Dr Lascelles"*.** London: Rider & Co., 1932.

*FIRST EDITION. 8vo, pp. 286, [2] + b/w spirit portrait frontis, and one plate. Blue cloth. Boards grubby, spine darkened. Edges tanned and spotted. 'With the publisher's compliments' stamp to title page, spotted and toned. A good copy of a variant blue cloth binding.*

This collection comprises 44 'spirit talks' by "Dr Lascelles" and received through his medium Mr. C. A. Simpson.

[ref: 1259] **£25**

**7. GORDON, Elsie Mary. *The "Greater Works": A handbook of divine healing.*** London: Lund, Humphries & Co. Limited Published for The Order of the Cross, 1922. *FIRST EDITION. Slim 8vo, pp. 56 [incl. 4 adverts] + fold-out chart. Purple cloth, gilt lettering and decoration to upper board. Spine sunned, head of spine and bottom corners bruised. Full closed tear to chart, repaired with amateur taping. Else, clean and tidy. Very Good.*

[ref: 1303] **SOLD**

**8. HODSON, Geoffrey. *The Pathway to Perfection: A treatise on the path of swift unfoldment.*** Adyar, Madras, India: The Theosophical Publishing House, 1960. *Revised edition (from original 1954 edition). 8vo, pp. [xiv], [80]. Pale blue paper wrappers, blue lettering. Closed tear to heel of spin, band of bleaching to front panel. Good.*

A prolific author, Geoffrey Hodson (1886-1983) was a leading light in the Theosophical Society for seventy years.

[ref: 1299] **£18**

**9. HODSON, Geoffrey. *The Supreme Splendour: A study of universal creative processes, of the deity as emanator, of archangelic intelligences who make manifest the divine "idea", and of man as a creator in-the-becoming.*** Adyar, Madras, India: The Theosophical Publishing House, 1969.

*FIRST EDITION. 8vo, pp. [xvi], [112] + colour frontis. Pale blue paper wrappers, navy lettering. Unevenly sunned, spine cocked, rubbed, losses to spine ends, pen scribble to front panel. Corners bruised. Untidy POI to half-title. Else, clean and tidy. Good.*

[ref: 1300] **SOLD**

#### ‘THE LAURIE ANDERSON OF HER DAY’

**10. IRWIN, Beatrice. *The Pagan Trinity.*** London and New York: John Lane The Bodley Head, 1912.

*FIRST EDITION. 8vo, pp. [xii], 144, [2], [4 catalogue]. Vellum spine, gilt lettering, marbled boards. Top edge gilt. Rough trimmed fore- and bottom edges. Spine ends pushed, vellum a touch grubby, nicks to spine. Boards rubbed, corners worn. Else, pleasingly clean and bright.*

Beatrice Irwin – the stage name of Alice Beatrice Simpson (1888-1956) – was rather extraordinary: a stage actor, ‘chromatologist,’ pioneer in lighting design and Baha’i missionary. Her oeuvre includes poetry, theosophical colour theory, as well as an exposition on colour, light and electricity (see item 11). Briefly a member of Golden Dawn, she was long embedded in the Theosophical movement: this collection of poems, dedicated to, Auguste Rodin, draws upon Eduard Schuré’s ideas. She gave theatrical performances of her poetry in both the US and UK. Of her 1912 Crosby Hall performance, a review noted: ‘Reclining upon the stage, Miss Irwin recited a poem on the subject, for example of “Earth-Worship,” the stage meanwhile being illuminated by a sequence of delicate tints. By the simultaneous expression of the corresponding vibrations of form, colour, and sound, the artist endeavoured to create symbols upon the elastic membrane of the atmosphere, and to react with these symbols upon the audience, producing a sensation of aesthetic pleasure.’ (*The Academy*, p. 689).

[ref: 1234] **SOLD**

**11. IRWIN, Beatrice. *The Gates of Light: A record of progress in the engineering of colour and light.*** London: Rider & Co., n.d. [1930].

*FIRST EDITION. 8vo, pp. 160 + colour frontis and b/w plates. Purple cloth, gilt single ruled border to upper board. Sunned spine, grubby boards with ink spots, pushing to spine ends, corners bumped. Tanned edges. First gathering foxed, else, clean and tidy, especially the plates. PO gift letter laid-in.*

As well as being a stage actor and poet, Beatrice Irwin A.A., E.A.W was an entrepreneur, patenting a line of electric lamps with coloured shades: the Irwin Colour Filter Illumination System, which was particularly successful in California (see Appendix). She was a founder-member of the UK's Electrical Association for Women (EAW, founded 1924).

[ref: 1251] **SOLD**

**12. MILLER, Paul. *Science in the Seance Room. Volume II.*** London: The Psychic Book Club, 1945.

*Special edition for the Psychic Book Club, Volume II only. 16mo, pp. [6], 89-180, [2 catalogue].*

*Buff paper wrappers, lettered in navy. Lightly toned, nicking to head of spine. Edges spotted. Foxing to front and rear, creeping into margins, else, tight and tidy. Good+.* [ref: 1304] **SOLD**

**13. PAYNE, Phoebe D. & BENDIT, Laurence J. *The Psychic Sense.*** London: Faber and Faber Limited, 1943.

*FIRST EDITION. 8vo, pp. 198. Black cloth, gilt lettering to spine. Rubbed and soiled, extremities bruised. Occasional fox spots, else, pleasingly clean and tidy for the war economy paper. A good+ copy.*

With a foreword by L.A.G. Strong. Payne was a clairvoyant and Bendit a psychiatrist, who were married. Their collaboration proved popular, and various reprints followed.

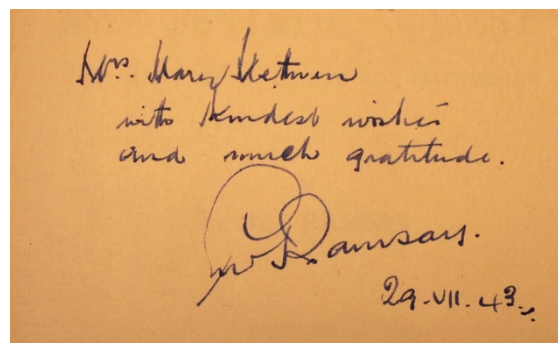
[ref: 1302] **£20**

#### SIGNED COPIES

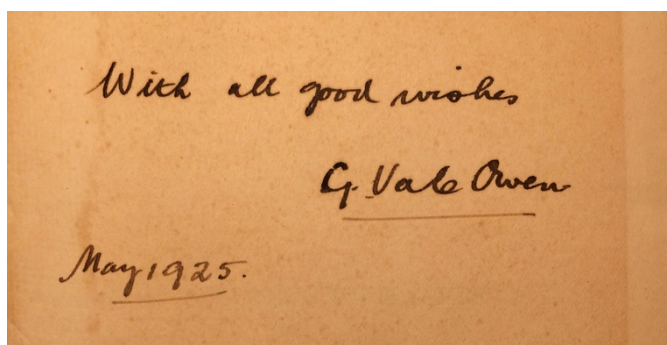
**14. RAMSAY, E. W. *My Psychic Quest: The story of a search in spiritualism.*** London: Rider & Company, n.d. [1943].

*FIRST EDITION with AUTHOR'S DEDICATION.*

*8vo, pp. 96. Blue cloth, red lettering. Lightly rubbed, some soiling. POI to front pastedown, author's dedication in blue pen to ffeop: "Mrs. Mary Methuen[?]/ with kindest wishes/ and much gratitude/ E. W. Ramsay/ 29.VII.43." Pleasingly clean and tidy for a war economy publication. COPAC lists three copies (BL, Oxford and NLS).* [ref: 1296] **£45**



**15. VALE OWEN, Rev. G. *The Outlands of Heaven: Of the series "The Life Beyond the Veil" [Volume 5].*** London: Hutchinson & Co., n.d. [1923].



*FIRST EDITION INSCRIBED BY*

*AUTHOR. 8vo, pp. 200. Navy cloth, gilt lettering and ruling to spine, double blind-ruled border to upper board. Spine faded, rubbed, wear and bruising to extremities. Edges tanned and spotted. POI, and brief inscription in pen from author to ffeop: "With all good wishes/ G. Vale Owen". Shaken, front tanned and spotted,*

occasional foxing, off-setting pp. 70-1. A good only copy of a scarce title, especially signed. A British Anglican clergyman, Reverend George Vale Owen (1869-1931) became interested in 'the ministry of angels' after his mother's death in 1909, and went on to practice automatic writing, led by a range of spirits. Vale Owen's conversion to Spiritualism was controversial and eventually he was forced to leave the church. His spirit communications first appeared in Lord Northcliffe's *The Weekly Dispatch*, and were later collected in the five-volume series, *The Life Beyond the Veil* (1920-1923). In 1919 Sir Arthur Conan Doyle called Vale Owen 'the greatest writing medium in England today' (cited in ODNB). This is the final volume in *The Life Beyond the Veil*, comprising Book 5 'The Children of Heaven' and Book 6 'The Outlands of Heaven'. Prefaced by Rev. G. Eustace Owen, rather than Conan Doyle. Four copies listed on COPAC (BL, Cambridge, Oxford and NLS).

[ref: 1306] £125



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