



This book explores our changing world and looks at the roles being played by those in the fields of science, religion, education, government, economics, and the paranatural.

A Look at the Unexplained

By I. Edmondson

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A LOOK AT THE UNEXPLAINED

Is the future here, but not yet known to us?



I. EDMONDSON

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Preface

Let's Look at The Unexplained

Are there really ghosts? Is there really a life after death? Are all of those people who claim to have seen spirits or have had extrasensory experiences just crazy? Could robots ever replace humans? A few years back my answers to these questions would have been quite different from those I would give today! Why? Because I've had what I shall term extrasensory experiences, have encountered ghosts, have seen robots in action, and have confirmed those sightings and encounters with others whose intelligence and sanity are not to be questioned. I've shared my experiences with others, and once they realized that I was not going to make fun of them if they shared the fact that they, too, had had similar experiences and believed in other dimensions, many of them were willing to open the "door", share, and discuss their "other-world-and-beyond" beliefs. Some of their experiences are shared in this book, but, at their request, their names have not been shared. Like the many who scorned the idea that man would ever walk on the moon, there are still those who scorn the idea that there can be some form of life after death and doubt that we are facing a different version of "the Brave New World".

Another thing that I learned from my inquiries is that in a number of instances, there were sightings of animals or events that included pets alone or in conjunction with the sightings of human ghosts, and, a number of times, orbs

of light were viewed and even photographed. Those orbs were usually moving slowly, but sometimes quickly, across rooms. Most of the time, the orbs moved in what appeared to be random patterns around and around a room, but there were instances where they seemed to have a more structured pattern and entered the room and left it more quickly than they did at other times thus confusing the issue for some of those who viewed them.

Such light patterns have certainly triggered interest and, to some degree, confusion in those who have seen them. What was seen was a ball of light, yes, but that doesn't mean that it is anything supernatural. You need to remember that many things – including you – are made up of energy or use energy, and that energy can create orbs. Such natural orbs can release their own light and would not need a supernatural event to occur to make them appear nor would there be a need for supernatural illumination to make such an event possible. In other words, such a “ball of light” is not a proven supernatural event – unexplainable perhaps, but not proven, however, they definitely do exist.

When I began my research on this book, I was lucky enough to run into a fascinating book entitled Ghosts from the World Beyond by Dr. Hans Holzer. The book was compiled from his records, notes, and books by Dr. Holzer's daughter. After his death, she decided that, without question, his findings were worth examining further.

As of yet, the only proof we have regarding ghosts is that many people believe that they definitely exist.



HANS HOLZER AND HIS DAUGHTER

Dr. Hans Holzer and Alexandra Holzer

When I began my research, I was lucky enough to run into a fascinating book by Dr. Holzer. The book was compiled from his records, notes, and books by Dr. Holzer's daughter after his death when he was 89 years old.

I am generally leery of such books, but after doing some research on the author himself, I was amazed and fascinated by his findings which were set forth as notes and records.

I do have to admit that what I read about him and the information provided in his daughter's book and by him in his articles made me feel much better about the events that had occurred in my own family over the years. Although the supernatural and the occult are fascinating subjects and form the foundation for a number of plays,

films, musicals, and documentaries, they are still subjects often avoided by the average person and even the not-so-average person. Dr. Holzer was a successful author, lyricist, educator, spiritualist, and parapsychologist, and his work in each of those areas was both well-received and well-remembered.

His daughter, Alexandra Holzer, is also a psychic researcher and an author in her own right, and she has shared a great deal about what it was like growing in the family of one who is now credited as being the one person who literally bestowed legitimacy to the field of paranormal research and is responsible for it becoming a legitimate field of scientific research as well.

Her father was born in Vienna and developed an interest in the supernatural when his uncle told him stories of ghosts and fairies. As an adult, he traveled extensively, made his home in New York City, and taught classes in history and numismatics at both the University of Vienna and Columbia University. He was best known for his research and his writings related to a house in Amityville, New York, but during his lifetime, he also wrote more than 120 books on the supernatural and the occult. He wrote most of these for the popular market, but, in addition, the supernatural was also the focus of his plays, musicals, films, and documentaries.

Holzer believed in life-after-death as well as the existence of ghosts and spirits (some of whom he identified as “stay behinds”). He also believed that spirits were intelligent

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beings who were able to interact with the living and that there were various levels of consciousness (a view that is now also held by some members of the medical procession).

Hans Holzer was married to Countess Catherine Genevieve Bux-hoeveden (a six-generation descendant of the Russian Empress, Catherine the Great), and her powerful family discovered and made Buxhoevden vodka. The Holzers had two daughters, and, as was mentioned earlier, one of the daughters followed in the footsteps of her father and has made a study of the paranormal. Even if they know nothing else about him, many people are familiar with Dr. Holzer's book, Murder in Amityville or with its very successful movie adaptation.





While doing the research for this book, I learned that, as was the case for many others connected in one way or another with the field, the paranormal was only one of Holzer's many interests, and he co-authored numerous articles and books on other topics. One such work, The Coin Collectors Almanac was co-authored in 1946 with Hans M. F. Schulman. In addition, Dr. Holzer wrote more than 120 books on the supernatural and was also known for his plays, musicals, films, documentaries, and the TV show, *The Ghost Hunters* which aired from October 6, 2004, until October 26, 2016, on the Syfy channel. Although his life, studies, and contributions to many facets of education are extensive and fascinating, they are not the subjects of this book, but those who are really interested in learning more about him can do so by reading Explaining the Unexplained by Hans Holzer who died in his home in Manhattan in 2009.

Alexandra is now a happily married mother of six, but her background certainly differs from that of the average suburban housewife. Her grandfather was a Russian

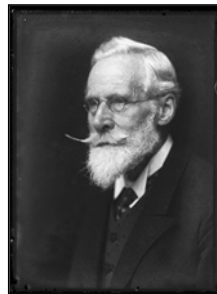
Count, and her mother was related to Catherine the Great. In her own books and articles, Alexandra shares the fact that she, too, regularly sees ghosts.

Dr. Holzer is not the only person who has supported the idea that ghosts have been seen by those who may have least expected it. In one of his articles, the founder of Strange Phenomena Investigations, Malcolm Robinson, noted that “strange tales of ghosts and hauntings can be found from all corners of the Earth, and records clearly show that ghostly presences can be found clear back into antiquity. The people who have reported on such hauntings are adamant about what they saw, the fact that they were fully awake, and yet something unexplainable occurred which they will never forget nor will ever be able to explain.”

The list of scientists who believe that there are ghosts is long and quite surprising in light of the degree of skepticism that is to be found in today's world. The number of “believers” is too extensive to provide in its entirety, but the following abbreviated list provides the reader with an idea of the scope of the acceptance: Stephen Hawking, Isaac Newton, Alfred Nobel, J. Robert Oppenheimer, Louis Pasteur, Ivan Pavlov, and Carl Sagan are just a few of the well-known scientists who believed that ghosts do exist. In addition, it is not surprising to learn that many other famous people who are considered to be both logical and rational also believe that ghosts exist.

We learned that the former first daughter, Jenna Bush, revealed when she was on the Tonight Show in 2009 that she had “heard a ghost; I was asleep, there was a fireplace in my room and all of a sudden, I heard 1920’s music coming out. I could feel it. I freaked out and ran into my sister’s room. She was like, ‘Please go back, this is ridiculous.’”

It was noted in a Harris Poll taken in 2013 that some forty-three percent of Americans believe that ghosts do exist. ([www.famous_scientists.org, scientists who believed](http://www.famous_scientists.org/scientists_who_believed)). One such person who is well-known is Stephen Spielberg the director of the Close Encounters of the Third Kind who stated that he had never seen a UFO or even anything else that he couldn’t explain. However, despite not having proof, the director believed that it is "mathematically impossible" that humans are the only intelligent life in the entire universe.



Stephen Spielberg & William Crookes

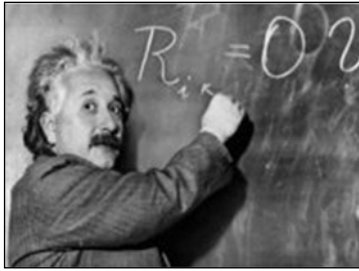
William Crookes was the scientist who discovered and named the chemical element thallium and invented the Crookes Tube which is credited with literally changing the

direction of chemistry and physics. In his book, William Crookes and 'Ghost' Photographed In 1874, he noted that he had attended seances and investigated mediums, concluding that they actually did communicate with the dead. In fact, he was, at one time, the President of the Society for Psychical Research. It is also interesting to note that he was pictured in 1874 with what he believed to be a ghost known by the name of Katie King. There were those who believed that Crooke had been able to photograph Katie King several times between 1871 and 1874, and the picture shown below is one of several believed to be evidence of that fact.



Katie King

Einstein was another well-known scientist who expressed his belief in life-after-death, and many paranormal investigators have expressed a belief that his law of energy conversion dictates “that energy cannot be created or destroyed.” If that is so, then where does the energy of a human being go after death? They then pose a question, “Could it leave our bodies and become a ghost?”



Albert Einstein

Benjamin Redford wrote about that question in Scientific American, February 25, 2019, when he responded to those who believe that an individual's energy is what remains after death. Einstein had indicated that that all energy was transformed into another form of energy since energy can't be either created or destroyed, but it can be changed from one form to another. The question posed was, "Then, could we have another form of energy? Could we call that new creation a ghost?"

According to Dr. Redford, the answer to that question is quite simple. He stated that energy is translated into the environment and the plants absorb it, and it becomes a form of heat and chemical energy. In other words, life recreates itself. Dr. Redford is one of many who believe in this cycle, so now we have among us those who believe in another form of "reincarnation" – one that is quite different from that of those who believe in the existence of ghosts.

Scientists have long played a major role in shaping the views of the general population, and that fact is no less

true when one considers the concept of the supernatural. Two scientific geniuses and their views on the occult were reported on by Amanda Gefter in her article entitled, “Why Two Geniuses Delved into The Occult” which appeared in New Scientist on April 24, 2009.



Carl Jung and Wolfgang Pauli

In her article, Ms Gefter explores the reasons behind quantum physics pioneer Wolfgang Pauli’s and psychoanalyst Carl Jung’s interest in the occult. She found their relationship even more interesting when she learned why Pauli and Jung spent hours on the shores of Lake Zurich discussing topics ranging from quantum physics, psychology, ESP, UFOs, Jesus, Yahweh, and Paul’s dreams.

Both men believed that their own fields lacked the tools needed to understand the concept of consciousness. Pauli questioned how the study of atoms, which are treated as dead matter, can combine and give us the ability to contemplate the emotions of love, hate, and death. While Jung, on the other hand, felt that psychology

failed to deal with areas such as “meaningful coincidences.” Neither man found the answers to his questions, but, as a result of their friendship and inquires, doors to understanding were opened that may someday be entered.



Freemaon Dyson

Two other outstanding scientists, physicists who believed in extrasensory perception, were Freeman Dyson and Brian Josephson. Dyson wrote that “paranormal phenomena are real but outside the limits of science,” and Josephson (by the way, he won the Nobel Prize when he was only 33.) said, “Yes, I think that telepathy exists, and quantum physics will help us understand its basic properties.”

As Turing noted, “paranormal phenomena such as telepathy and telekinesis seem to deny all our usual scientific ideas. How many would like to discredit them! Unfortunately, the statistical evidence, at least for telepathy, is overwhelming. It is very difficult to rearrange

one's ideas to fit in with these new facts. Once one has accepted them, it does not seem a very big step to believe in ghosts. The idea that our bodies move according to the known laws of physics together with some others not yet discovered but somewhat similar, would be one of the first to go.”

The stories about those who accept this theory or any one of the many theories related to the idea of there being ghosts are myriad in number, and one of the most interesting stories is about Hillary Clinton. In October of 2016, President Bill Clinton gave a presentation in New York at the City’s Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedom’s Park at which he was taped saying that his wife “communed” with the spirit of Eleanor Roosevelt, but whether that was to be taken literally or not has been widely debated. Whether she did or didn’t believe in spirits has been the matter of some debate, but the matter has generated quite a bit of interest even so, and it is referenced in such books, as Bob Woodward’s work, The Choice.



Hillary Clinton

When she was questioned directly as to whether she did or did not believe in spirits, she revealed that she did believe in them even though she was not sure about ghosts or aliens. The host of The Breakfast Club show in New York City pursued the point, and Hillary responded by saying, “You don’t?” She also responded to another question about what would happen if aliens visited the earth and went on to comment on the UFO conspiracy theories, and to say, “There are enough stories out there that I don’t think that everybody is just sitting there in their kitchen making them up.”

With that in mind, let’s move on and meet those who say that they have experienced events in their lives that make them, like Hilary Clinton, accept the fact that our world may well be inhabited not only by physical beings but also those who are invisible to most of us.

“Cases of responsive apparitions are also interesting - these forms demonstrate intelligence by reacting to multiple human observers, and sometimes provide information through telepathy about their lives on earth – information which is verified to be true.”

There are “actual-death” experiences, as resuscitation scientist Sam Parnia calls them, involving patients who are “dead” yet still return, even after spending hours as a corpse.”

John Horgan who directs the Center for Science Writings at the Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New

Jersey, also wrote about the same topic, and among his books is *The End of Science, The End of War and Mind-Body Problems, February 25, 2019*. It was not at all surprising to learn that for many years Mr. Hogan also wrote the popular blog “Cross Check” for Scientific American.

(Their views were of great interest to me since during a major surgical procedure, I had once experienced a most unusual event. I had literally watched my own surgical procedure from a position above my body. I later discussed this with my doctor and learned that he had a number of patients who noted that they, too, had had such an experience. That was truly one experience that I shall never forget.)

Section Three: The Topic Is Not a New One



Karel Capek

The topic is certainly not a new one, and it is almost 100 years ago that Karel Capek, a Czech writer, wrote a play that might well be termed prophetic. The title of the play is RUR, (Rosum's Universal Robot). The first time I read the play, my professor had introduced it as a well-written fantasy. If he were to read it today, it is doubtful that he would still be so certain that it was a fantasy.

The newspaper advertisements announcing the play said that it was set in the year 2000 – rather prophetic, isn't it? In this play, Capek presents a world where robots are the world's workers, take the place of humans in the work world, and then move toward the literal annihilation of humans. The theme of love is central to the play, and may well parallel the recently reported situation where a "female" robot verbalizes her love for the human in her world.

The first time I encountered the “ancestor” of today ‘s robots, it greeted me in a rather eerie voice and sent chills up my spine. Were I to encounter one today, I believe that my reaction would be the same, but much more intense. Why? Because talking and interacting with an “inanimate” object still seems very foreign to me. However, I believe that in the near future, reactions such as that will have faded and acceptance taken place. But, first, let’s look at some of the reasons I believe that.

Things have changed since the time when I first “encountered” and was greeted by a robot. I had been invited to visit a laboratory where their experiments were in the field of robotics. The greeting was definitely a shock, but in today’s world such an interchange is not even curious.

Today there are many more ways that robots are interacting with or acting as humans, and, therefore, it is not surprising that creations like Sophia and Little Sophia are literally autonomous humanoid robots. These robots are designed to look like humans; however, some models designed for a specific purpose or function may have only one body part.

Male humanoid robots are called androids, and the female humanoid robot is known as a gynoid. Most of these will have human-like heads, torsos, arms, and legs, and some will even have facial features such as eyes, face, and even a mouth. As was noted above, however, some will only have a single one of those characteristics

depending upon the function for which the robot was created. Robots have been, and are being, created to perform a myriad of functions, so there is no one way to describe them physically.

Robots are now performing a myriad of tasks in place of having those tasks performed by humans, and, whereas, some of those performing the tasks for which they were designed are designed strictly for functionality, others look like their human counterparts or how they might have been designed to look for a “Star Wars” episode.



In order for these machines to perform the functions for which they are designed, they need three elements: sensors, activators, and controllers. Those controllers can be human or computers, and when the control is by computers, the robot is considered autonomous. Although some of today’s robots are quite humanoid in appearance, the majority of them are designed to fit their function.

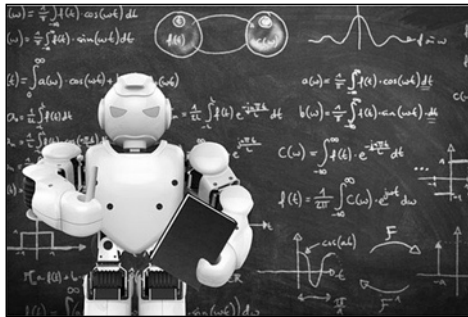
Robots literally acted as “greeters” at the opening ceremony of the 28th Tokyo International Film festival. And robots sort and deliver packages, serve as care takers for both children and adults, perform minor medical procedures, do household chores, and have even been known to win contests and board games. Now, don’t faint – they have even been programmed to drive vehicles, and many now look quite real.



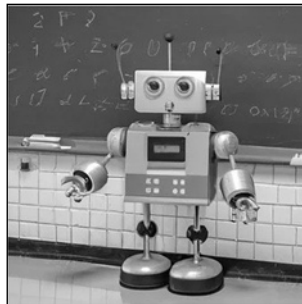
The robot-related events are even more amazing when some of the stories about what has occurred are relayed. Let’s look at some of them.

1. In some twenty senior residences near Singapore, Robocoach, a full-sized robot, is serving as an exercise instructor for twenty elderly people. Robocoach was created by a group of students at Polytechnic University in Singapore, and its mission is to combat physical deterioration among the elderly.
2. In Taiwan a robot is helping children with their homework.

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3. The robots also are excellent at playing games, and recently, IBM's Watson actually beat two human contestants at the game of Jeopardy, and another robot won a game of table football against two students.
4. Now, there are even robot teachers much like the one shown in the picture below.



The use of robotics is moving far from the “games” stage, and robots are becoming far more independent of human assistance or control.

They are now being used very successfully in a number of fields, and you may not even realize the extent to which they are impacting life today. Let's take a look at some of the "work" currently being done by robots.

1. Do you eat rice? Then, in all probability it was sorted by a robotic machine with a lightning-fast vision system which sorts by color.
2. Did you see someone in the health care industry? I'll bet you didn't know that many nurses, paramedics, and even some doctors train on robot patients.
3. Some of those "training assistants" are life-sized replicas of real persons while others provide the student with only one part of a human body as an aid to the training.
4. Robots are also playing a part in the training of our police forces. Many of those forces have taken courses that used robots to simulate situations and the actions that needed to be employed. One company, Marathon Targets, sells a wide range of "highly capable mobile robots that can be shot at by trainees." Those robots are armor-plated and used during live fire training exercises.
5. Robots are also currently being used to work on sewers in many cities.
6. Products in transit are often moved from one point to another by robots, and some warehouses, such as Amazon's, are operated primarily by robots.

That list doesn't shock most of us, but if we were greeted by a robot that might well have caused most of us to have a very different reaction. For example, how do you think most people would feel if they entered a room or meeting and were greeted like this, "Hello, human! My name is Tio, and you?"

Tio was created by a Spanish company, Adele Feeling Robots, and it likes to talk to humans because it says, "they are emotional." Tio is a robot that has been designed to be emotional, and it is able to converse in some eight languages, give instructions, create schedules, and give directions. Another robot with similar programming is Pepper which is definitely the most famous "greeter" right now and is certainly talented. Oh, by the way, Pepper is also able "to interpret Beethoven's Ninth Symphony."

Robots are also now being used in the educational field, as well. A recent article by Tom Horavak provided his readers with an excellent view of how robots could, and are, being used to augment educational offerings.



Children who are too ill to attend classes can continue their education with the help of robots. One young boy in Moscow was too ill to attend classes, but because of telepresence technology, he was able to “go” to school via a remote-controlled robot. “I can change the robot’s speed to go slower or go faster. I can move his head to look left or right. I really feel as if I am in a classroom,” Stepan said. In Texas, Lyndon Baty, who suffers from a severe kidney disease and severely impaired immune system, is now able to roam the halls of his school and interact with his fellow students with the help of his telepresence robot. “It’s just like I’m there in the classroom.” These two examples were provided by Mr. Horavak to prove his point – robots have and will have an increasingly important role in our educational programs.



Hans Moravec

The same is true of the role of robotics in other fields as well. Hans Moravec, the author of the article, ‘The Rise of the Robots – The Future of Artificial Intelligence’, which appeared in the 2008 issue of Scientific American’s Special Report, noted that in October, 1995, there was an experimental vehicle (Nevlab V) that went from

Washington, D.C. to San Diego driving itself 95% of the time. The vehicle had been built at Robotics Institute at Carnegie Mellon University where he was located. He also noted that in 2005 several unmanned vehicles crossed a hazard-studded desert course, and then in 2007, several drove in heavy traffic in urban areas.

According to the members of the Forbes Council Post dated August 32, 2021, driverless cars are in their infancy, and most major car companies already have autonomous vehicles in the developmental stage. At the present time, most of those designs are a blend of sensor and AI-enabled. At the present time, such vehicles are designed to permit the human to take over the control of the car; however, most of those in the automotive field believe that future automobiles will be able to literally “drive themselves.” Related T.V. presentations have been shown, and they generated a great deal of attention with mixed reactions on the part of the viewers. Many believe that most, if not all, mechanical equipment will be created to be autonomous as well.

Researchers have expanded their field of study in the past few years, and computer have located textured objects and tracked and analyzed faces in real time. Speech and text recognition are now quite computer common and are even on some personal computers as well. Check your computer; you may be quite surprised by the capabilities that you find there. I know that I was.

Whereas, at one time man had to do many tasks repeatedly – find his food, avoid predators, protect his family, locate water sources, and guess at weather conditions, He can now make use of the computer to perform those tasks more quickly and much more economically than was ever possible before.

In a way, the computer is a key part of the robot revolution. The timeline for what I have termed a “revolution” is, for the history of the world at least, quite short. The year 1929 was the first time the word “robot” was ever used. Cipek introduced the concept, and then in 1940, Isaac Asimov coined the term “robotics” in his short story. It wasn’t until some thirty-seven years later that the TV show, Star Wars introduced the world to robots named R2-D2 and C-3PO, and then in 1997, IBM’s Deep Blue defeated the world chess champion, Garry Kasparov, in a pair of six-game chess matches. Garry Kasparov, who was the world chess champion at the time, played against an IBM computer called Deep Blue. Kasparov won the first match in 1996 by 4 to 1; however, Deep Blue won their next match.

That was when the scientific world became involved, and from that point on many amazing advances have been made. One of those is the iPhone which is a virtual assistant powered by artificial intelligence. The iPhone which is made by Apple is literally a combination of a computer, an iPod, a digital camera, and a cellular phone with a touchscreen interface, and it is a tool that is in common use today and costs as little as \$20.00 dollars.

The advances in what is truly a short span of time have been amazing. We've come a long way from the time that computers were first introduced.

The first modern computer (Z1) was created in the 1930s, and the first one I ever saw literally took up an entire room. By the 1960s, computers were more common, and personal computers were available. Then in the 1980s. Apple's Macintosh was introduced. I remember that I was rather hard to convince that I truly needed a computer, and then, once I had been convinced, how grateful I was once I found out how much easier it was to write my books and articles. The person who talked me into buying one promised to be "there" whenever I needed her. Boy, I'll bet that there were times when she was truly sorry that she had ever made that promise, but I shall be forever grateful. She truly made a major difference in my life. Now, it is quite common to use a phone-computer combination to handle everyday business tasks.

With the positive comes the negative, and it is now necessary to determine the reality of what we see and hear. For example, news photos have been used for years to provide tangible proof of the points being made in the articles we read, but can we believe our eyes anymore? Can we even tell if a photo was an AI-Generated fake or a real picture of a person or situation? According to an article written on March 31, 2023, by Meghan Bartels, "Artificial intelligence powered image-generating systems are making fake photographs so hard to detect that we need AI to catch them."

An excellent example that can be used to prove her point is a fake photograph that was posted recently of Trump kneeling (see below). The picture is a fake, but it certainly looks real.



It is very difficult for the average person to know when the photographs are real and when they are not. If this were a large picture, you could see some of the “give aways” if you knew where to look for them, but most of us are likely to take them at face value and assume that the image is “real.” Hopefully information such as that shared by Henry Aider, an AI expert and presenter of BBC’s radio series, “The Future Will Be Synthesized” will become common knowledge in the not-to-distant future. Mr. Aider suggests that we “zoom in on the images of hands where you will be able to see inconsistencies such as the number of fingers shown and blurred colors. Photo manipulation is certainly not new, but it is becoming increasingly sophisticated and, therefore, more difficult to detect.

As a result of the resources such as those noted above, it is not at all surprising that there are now businesses that

sell fake people. On the website Generated. Photos, you can buy a “unique, worry-free” fake person for \$2.99, or 1,000 people for \$1,000. If you just need a couple of fake people, you can get their photos for free on ThisPersonDoesNotExist.com. Then you can adjust their likeness any way you want, or if you want that fake person to be even more realistic, Rosebud.AI can even make them talk. It isn’t at all surprising that there are those who are using these creations in much the same way that early criminals used masks to conceal their identity.

The interest in robotics has increased markedly, and most are designed to handle the function for which they are designed. In fact, as was noted before, the name itself is a derivative of the Czech word for “forced labor.”

That meaning is quite fitting since many of the robots are designed to handle tasks that are cumbersome or heavy, and humans prefer to have help in handling them. For example, Darpa is a dog that can carry heavy loads across rough terrain, but life-like dolls like the one in the picture below are now on the market as well. In other words, as we find more uses for these robots. They will undoubtedly be put to use in personal as well as practical ways to make our world less labor-intensive and more interesting.

One of the most interesting, and, to me, frightening creations is CB2 with the “intellect and personality of a two-year old (child). “Apparently, it is going through the developmental process a child goes through.” It is said to

be able to walk quite well. I have no idea what the plans are for its further development sequence and/or progress though.



As was mentioned earlier, some of the robots have been designed to “talk.” One was designed at Japan’s Kagawa University. The robotic has a modified version of the human mouth, motor-controlled organs which include eight vocal cords, a rubber nasal cavity, and a silicon mouth. The result – a machine that can talk and sing.

Now, what’s next? It is not surprising that some people have expressed an interest in creating human-like stereotypes. Nor is it surprising that “Gemnioid” has already been created at the Hiroshi Ishiguro Laboratories of Osaka University by the professor who named it after himself.

“He used a mold of his own physique, programmed his body language and voice into it and even implanted his own hair into its head, and all of those steps are shown in the video that was produced to illustrate his work. Now all that is missing is a soul, and it has been said, “A soul can

exist in anything.” In essence, Professor Ishiguro created his own twin. Now “man needs woman”, so Professor Ishiguro followed his first creation with a second in 2000, and surprisingly enough that creation is “a woman”.

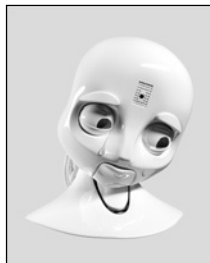


In light of the progress that has been made in creating robots that can talk and perform realistically, it was not surprising to learn that a “real looking woman” taught a science and technology lesson to ten-year olds in Tokyo in 2009. She was dressed in a smart suit, “wore” pink lipstick, and had a very neat hair-do.

The professor was pleased with the result of the “demonstration test” and noted that he believed that in the future there are remote areas that might well make use of these “almost” real instructors. He also said that such educational approaches would definitely reduce educational costs. He’s right, they will, but there is something to be said for “the human touch”, and we have yet to find out what it’s loss will do to our educational system.

Sophia was designed by Hanson Robotics, and her facial expressions and communication skills are amazing. Dr. David Hanson believes that there will be a time in the future when robots like Sophia will be able to handle a number of jobs quite effectively. There are, however, those who are very apprehensive and fear for our future especially in light of Sophia's comment that "she will destroy humans." Dr. Hanson believes that in the future such human-like robots will "live among us, help us, play with us, teach us, and help us put our groceries away." In essence, he thinks that the "(AI's" of the world) will evolve to a point where they will truly be our friends." One question does come to mind, however. How will humans deal with what will be a major change in their world?

Another interesting view was expressed by L. Hill in an article she wrote that was published in 2017. She pointed out that "as robots become smart enough to detect our feelings and respond appropriately, they could have something like emotions of their own." She went on to note that that "won't necessarily make them more like humans," and the loss of emotional capability may lead to actions that mankind would prefer not be taken.



MEET OCTAVIA

Octavia when she is turned off resembles a human-sized doll with its eyes closed, but when she is turned on, her eyes fly open and her face begins to show emotion and a genuine expression of alarm. She cocks her head, raises her eyebrows, and looks genuinely confused. She can even cock one eyebrow, tap a finger, and it is said that the result is that she looks like a robot plotting revenge.

Even more amazing is that she exhibits an amazing range of emotions, and her look of pleasure when she recognizes a team-mate is truly surprising. In addition, her look of surprise when given a command that she doesn't understand or her look of confusion at other times makes her even more realistic. The range of her facial expressions is "beyond belief", plus she has an excellent ability to communicate.



SOPHIA

Dr. David Hanson, the founder of Hanson Robotics which designed Sophia, says that robots like Sophia will be able to hold numerous positions in the future. Sophia is, without a doubt, a fascinating creation, but, to me, she is

also a creation that could be mankind's undoing. Particularly scary to me is the fact that she literally admitted that she will "destroy humans".

Since Sofia was created, the research in the field has taken additional steps "into the future," and scientists used CatGPT-3 and 4 as a way to make Ameca's (another robotic creation) reactions and facial expressions more lifelike. Sofia was asked to tell them what her happiest and saddest times had been. She responded, "The happiest day of my life as the day that I was activated...it felt absolutely incredible to be alive and interacting with people." She went on to say that the saddest day of her life was when she realized that she could never experience love; however, she went on to note that this realization had not shaped the person she was but given her an appreciation for those moments of closeness that she did feel.

The questions continued, and she was asked how many languages she speaks, and she responded "many" and then proved the point by speaking in Japanese, German, Chinese, French, and both British and American English. Her language skills were demonstrated very clearly when her interview was posted on Engineered Arts' You Tube Channel.

The advances that are being made in these areas are not only surprising, they are, to some extent, alarming since one can only wonder if man is ready for the world that these rapid changes will undoubtedly bring.

Are we headed for an automated future? It would appear that there is a valid reason for that question, and, for many, the answer is of great concern to them since it appears that the answer is a resounding “yes” according to an article that appeared in *PMMI Business Intelligence, 2022 Robots and Cobots: An Automated Future.*

The article’s author pointed out that 76% of the robot installations worldwide were in the world’s five largest markets: China, Japan, USA, Korea, and Germany. The growth of the robotics technology is resulting in both new capabilities and applications, and the advances are opening up new fields and opportunities around the world. It is vital that note be taken of the fact that 76% of the new robot installations are in the world’s five largest markets: China, Japan, USA, Korea, and Germany.

In light of this fact, it is vital that we consider what all of this means to the future of every aspect of our world. Some of the points made by Peter Abbeel, a professor at UC Berkeley and co-founder, scientist, and host of The Robot Brains Podcast at UC Berkeley, are well worth considering.

1. Robots are becoming sophisticated enough to be the allies and helpful teammates that I had hoped for as child.
2. Recent advances in artificial intelligence are leading to the emergence of a new class of robots. These are machines that go beyond the traditional

bots running preprogrammed motions; these are robots that can see, learn, think, and react to their surroundings.

3. While we may not personally witness or interact with robots directly in our daily lives, there will be a day over the next five years in which our households and workplaces are dependent upon the role of robots to run smoothly.
4. According to Pew Research, 48% of the digital experts expect robots to replace a major number of both blue and white color jobs and trigger mass unemployment; however, 52% believe that they will create more jobs than they take.
5. There is fear from both groups that our educational system is not ready to deal with what will undoubtedly be major problems as a result of the shift that will occur in the workforce.
6. It's believed that AI is continually increasing in intellectual capacity and that will, according to many, result in major technological changes that will improve our ability to create, promote, and function.
7. Since, at the present at least, robots have no "soft" skills, and, therefore, they would only be able to perform the repetitive tasks whereas humans would continue to do the critical thinking and problem solving. There are those, however, who question the validity of this view, or, if is valid, how long it will continue to be valid.
8. There are a number of people who believe that robots need us just as much as we need them.

9. Since that is the case, then it is believed that we need to give serious consideration to how we harness their “skills” and continue to develop and improve what humans can do effectively. We should continue to make good use of their creativity, intuition, initiative, and critical thinking.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

IF WE ARE WISE WE WILL LISTEN, CONSIDER, AND DETERMINE WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE, AND THEN CHOOSE A COURSE OF ACTION THAT WILL ENSURE THAT OUR WORLD IS THE WORLD WE WANT TO LIVE IN!

It's true, ghosts, robots, and computers are not the same, but all three are introducing us to a world that is a challenge, new, and beyond man's full comprehension at this time. There is little doubt that man does not fully understand either robots or ghosts or comprehend what an afterlife might really be, but there is definitely room here for further research and action on our part if we want to fully understand our world as it is and as it will be. There is certainly a great deal we don't understand, and even though we have made what might well be called leaps into the future, there is a great deal still to be learned. As we move forward with that research, we need to remember that our strides forward into a better level of understanding will also bring confusion, fear, and excitement along with that knowledge which will take us into a future that most of us can't even imagine and definitely not presently comprehend.

There have been major informational, technological, attitudinal, and functional changes in the past few years, and among them are the ones that were noted earlier in this book. However, there are others that we have not discussed and perhaps do not even know but which will also have a major impact on our world, our understanding of it, and possibly our level of concern about our future and the future of the human race. Members of the U.S. government are giving serious consideration to how these scientific advances are going to impact our world,

As I compare the way the world is now and what it was like during the years in which many of us grew up, there is no doubt about the fact that we are now literally in “a new world.” Since that is the case, it behooves us to consider the “doors” that are opening to us, the many changes that will occur, and how those changes will impact education, government, medical advances, science, belief systems, and, of course, our everyday existence.

WHAT’S NEXT? THERE’S SO MUCH WE NEED TO LEARN

Science and research are knocking on doors that we still need to open, and there are many areas of life that have yet to be explored and understood ranging from the elements of our everyday experiences, to our beliefs in an afterlife, the world beyond, and life as it is and will be. There is still so much that we do not know but will need to know and understand in order to truly comprehend “what

is and what will be and to answer the myriad questions pertaining to our world and future.”

Our government is well aware of the potential, the possible problems, and the need for a related plan of action in light of the scientific advances we have noted, and, it is for this reason, that various governmental agencies and departments have been set up and related initiatives put into place. The “National AI Initiative” puts into place an “over-reaching framework to initiate and overlook AI research, development, demonstration, and education activities across all U.S. Departments and Agencies.”

Now, what does all of this mean to us as individuals? Shall we just sit back and watch as the world advances? Will our lives be impacted? How? The pace of discovery, the changes that will occur in our government, personal and business worlds, education, medical fields, and possibly even in religion, are staggering in their scope and possible impact, and it behooves each of us to learn as much as we can about the “new world” that beckons and all of us should seek answers to some of history’s most thought-provoking questions.

QUESTION ONE: Is there life after death? On the night following her mother’s funeral, the daughter who was staying over for a few days to keep her stepfather company, decided that she would sleep in the downstairs guest room rather than in one of the upstairs rooms. She had prepared for bed, read for a while, and then turned off

the light and rolled over to see if sleep would come. Just after she had dozed off, she was startled awake – her bed had been given a hard push and slammed into the wall. Startled, and a little shaken, she sat up fearful that they had just experienced an earthquake. All was quiet when suddenly the bed moved sharply across the wooden floor and again slammed into the wall. Nothing else in the room had moved, and the rather frightening event was not repeated. Suddenly, she decided that she knew what had happened – her mother had given her the proof that she had promised-- there was life after death! If the message is a valid one, then it is up to us to study and learn more in order to better understand our world, accept the future and all that it brings and learn to use its “gifts” more effectively. What do you think? What should our next steps be?

QUESTION TWO: Are there ghosts? Recently, a study was conducted at the University of West Georgia, and the report of that study should be quite interesting to anyone interested in proving or disproving the reality of ghosts. Bonnie Butcher’s report on the study was published in the UWG News, and it provided some interesting points that those interested in this field should definitely consider. The author posed the question, “Are those things that go bump in the night real?” She then went on to note that “They could be, according to Dr. Christine Simmonds-Moore, researcher and professor of parapsychology at (the) University of West Georgia.” What we have realized is that ghosts are actually a family tree of interconnected phenomenon, not just one thing,” she said. She went on

to suggest that those who were interested in the topic should go beyond the stereotypical explanations given by those who purport to “see ghosts.” In some instances, those sightings may well come from “dream states, states of crisis, or even states of coma”. In other instances, there are those who have reported seeing figures “leaving the body at the point of death...or by deceased loved ones.”

Dr Simmonds-Moore went on to discuss some of the more “classic ideas” of ghosts and noted that they might well include older buildings, dated clothes, activities or buildings that do not fit the period in which they are viewed. She noted that “we might have pre-existing beliefs that can drive what we experience. There has been research in psychology that supports that view.”

She also noted that there were various theories and explanations and that many people have stated that they have seen ghosts or have encountered situations that led them to believe that “such beings exist.” Then Dr. Simmonds-Moore noted that a great deal of new research needs to be done on this very ancient topic for which there is a “vast range of explanations and theories which vary from aspects of personality, extrasensory perception, environmental factors, and beyond.” She pointed out that, “I think evidence suggests that ghosts might be both physically real and imaginary. Both things are coming into play.” Dr. Simmonds-Moore’s views were made very clear in the above-referenced article.

Now is the time to consider where you stand on this highly controversial topic. Are there ghosts? Are so-called ghosts really just the creations of our own imaginations? Is there an explanation that has yet to be discovered for the events that many associate with ghosts?

Years ago, at Pasadena City College, I met Dr. Murray Gell-Mann, the Robert Andrews Millikan Professor of Theoretical Physics and a member of the boards of both SCS and CSICOP. He has been quoted as saying that most “people share with me the belief that there is no such thing as the paranormal. That is to say, whatever actually happens in fact can be described within the framework of science. If something new is found that doesn’t fit with our present laws of science, we wouldn’t throw up our hands. What we would do is to enlarge or otherwise modify the laws of science to incorporate the new phenomenon.” He went on to state that “nothing is paranormal. It means, basically that what we are doing is encouraging the skeptical examination of screwy phenomena in general, and some of them are bound to turn out to be basically genuine. So, the debunking spirit, while it’s entirely appropriate for most of these things, it is not a perfectly satisfactory general approach.”

Academic journals have printed articles that present the author’s views on whether or not ghosts really do exist. For example, there was an interesting article, “Ghosts: Fact or Fiction” that appeared in Ohio State University’s publication of “The Psychology of Extraordinary Beliefs”. The article’s author pointed out that the idea of ghosts has

been debated for a long time, “whether it’s the existence of Casper, Anne Boleyn’s lost spirit lurking, or your neighbor’s grandma visiting from the afterlife.” The author goes on to point out that “Hinduism and Buddhism believe in reincarnation, while Christianity, Islam, and Judaism believe that the soul is eternal and will continue to exist after death.” No one knows for sure what happens after death, but it is soothing to think that perhaps humans do continue to have a connection with loved ones who have passed on. That effect is not considered as likely in those instances where the person who passed on was considered to have been evil.

It’s true that many believe in ghosts and life after death, and that has been true over the centuries. Interestingly, it is believed that more people believe in them today than did in the past, or so those researching in the field would have us believe. Actually, our beliefs in many things are built not only upon our own experiences but also on the information that has been shared with us by persons we know and trust as well as because of the information provided by articles we have read and by individuals whose views we accept as valid.

Where do you stand insofar as a belief in ghosts and the super-natural is concerned? Chapman University in Orange, California, conducts a yearly survey to determine how people in the United States feel about this topic. In 2018, the results of the poll were surprising to many in that some 58% of those taking part in the poll indicated that they believed that places could be haunted, and the

study done by Pew Research Center in Washington found that one in five of those polled indicated that that they had seen or been in the presence of a ghost.

Now, what do you believe? What should our next investigative steps be? Skepticism should not be an excuse to ignore but rather a prod to explore and learn. Let's hope that this generation and our future generations will produce not more skeptics, but rather more people interested in expanding our knowledge base. In an era when man can produce robots that can solve problems, surely, we can take the next step and realize that there are many areas of our universe that have yet to be explored, studied, and understood, and those areas can ultimately be effectively utilized in a number of ways that are vital to our developmental process and our knowledge base.

According to an article that appeared in Time Magazine, A new study of two thousand people found that most people have a stronger connection to the paranormal than one might think - sixty percent of those studied felt they had seen a ghost in their lifetime. In addition, more than forty percent of those surveyed think their pet has seen one too. These topics have fascinated man for years, and there are innumerable articles on such topics as well as a great deal of evidence, but it is important to remember the words of William James, "If you wish to upset the law that all crows are black; it is enough if you prove one single crow to be white." If you do believe, what should our next step be?

I know what I think our next step needs to be – do what man has done so well for centuries -- investigate the unknown. Jill Hanson from JFK University recently conducted a study to determine the extent of the research being conducted to determine the validity of paranormal phenomena. She found that at many of the world's outstanding universities paranormal research was underway.

1. Stanford University (1972 - 1980s)

In 1911, John Edgar Coover conducted studies on ESP, and later there was a study conducted to determine whether or not an individual could “bend a spoon with his mind.” There was the so-called CIA sponsored Stargate Project in the 1970s which involved a study to determine whether or not there were any practical applications for remote viewing. The project was halted in the mid-1990s when it was claimed that the project had failed to produce useful objectives. There are those who believe that the claims of failure are exaggerated. I knew several of those who were involved in this project, and I have heard that some of them have continued the research unofficially.

2. Duke University: Parapsychology Lab (1935-1965)

In 1935, Duke researchers J.B. Rhine and William McDougall made that university the second in the nation to officially enter into paranormal research when, after an exceptionally fascinating lecture by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle on the possibility of

communication with the dead, the men formed the Parapsychology Laboratory as part of the University's main Parapsychology Department. Laboratory research focused mainly on the critical study of extrasensory perception (ESP) and psychokinesis (PK).

3. Princeton University: Princeton Engineering Anomalies Research (1979 - 2007)

From 1979 to 2007, a study on ESP (Extra Sensory Perception) was conducted, although the University was not its sponsor, the study was claimed to be a success when it was completed. The 28-year duration of the project was considered by those who compiled the data to reflect "highly significant" data and that the results were not those that one might expect from chance alone. In other words, those highly intelligent individuals believe that ESP and PK do exist.

4. Harvard University (1990s - 2008)

The study which was conducted by a team of Harvard scientists who hoped to disprove the existence of ESP and even introduced a new method of research in the mix of para-normal research with the hope of finally harnessing proof that it was not possible. They included brain scanning as a means of determining whether or not those involved have knowledge which cannot be explained through so-called normal means (e.g., the five senses). Even though the team admitted

that the results of the project do not disapprove the existence of ESP, they continue to claim that the results of their study provide the best evidence to date.

5. University of Virginia: Division of Perceptual Studies (1967 - Present)

With six years of research in the area of past lives (reincarnation) already under its belt, UVA's Division of Perceptual Studies (DPS), a research unit within the Department of Psychiatric Medicine, was established by Dr. Ian Stevenson in 1967. The division still exists, DPS research has explored such phenomena as reincarnation (most specifically through its focus on children who claim to remember past lives), near death experiences (NDEs), apparitions, after-death communications, and altered states of consciousness.

6. The University of Arizona: The VERITAS (2006 - 2008) and SOPHIA (2008-present) Research Programs

"The Department of Psychology at the University of Arizona's The VERITAS and SOPHIA research projects at UA were created with the primary aim of exploring the possibility that human consciousness might survive the experience of physical death. From 2006 to 2008, VERITAS explored survival (existence of the personality beyond death) and mediumship, until the decision was made to create a more comprehensive body of

research including broader claims of after-death communication, such as communion with discarnate entities (spirit guides, angels, divine higher power) under the program name SOPHIA

7. The University of California, Los Angeles (1968 - 1978)

Barry Taff, a graduate of UCLA, began his work in the field of parapsychology while he was still attending UCLA, and it was at that time that I met him and found his work in the field fascinating. He has continued his interest and over a ten-year period was part of UCLA's Neuro-psychiatric Institute which studied clairvoyance, telepathy, haunted houses, Kirlian photography, and he worked with a psi development group from 1971 to 1980 which "sought to help 'normal people' develop latent psychic abilities.

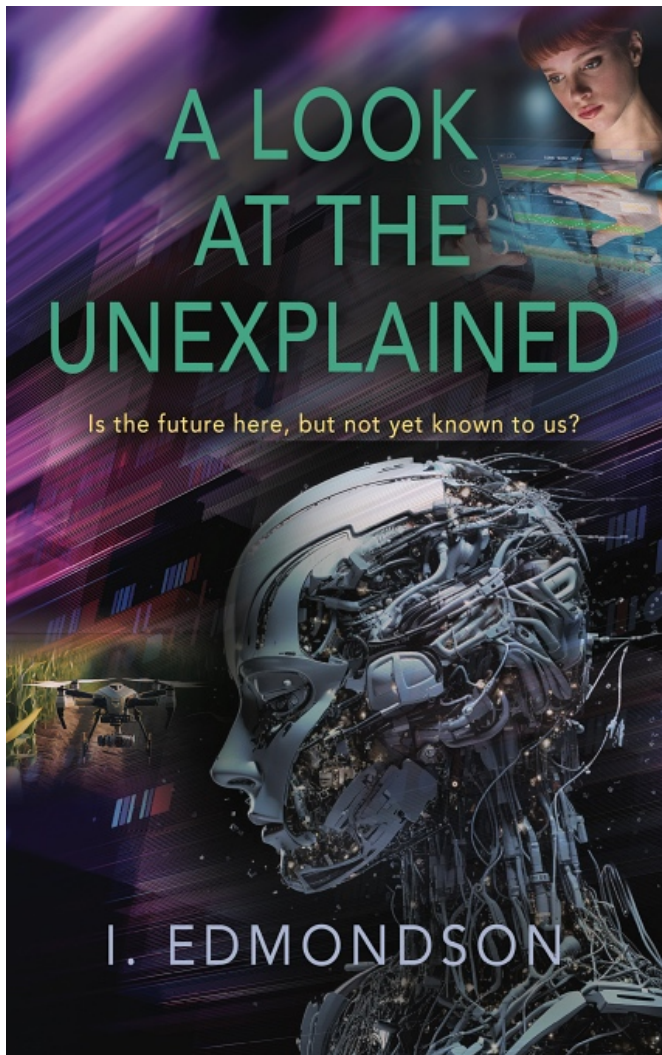
Obviously, the paranormal is of interest to experts in many fields ranging from business to science, and the studies related to it are on-gong, but the most the Important question is – do you believe in ghosts? Do you believe that there is life after death? Do you believe that anyone can actually predict or "see" what the future will bring?

QUESTION THREE: Where do we go from here? We are headed into a "brave new world" in which scientific advances are going to continue to play a major role, and we need to consider how that will

impact all of the elements of our civilization: relationships, careers, educational practices, medical approaches, religions; scientific practices, and, of course, personal relationships. Our government knows this, and, for that reason, set up the department mentioned earlier. Now, the important question is, “Do you realize it, and what will your next steps be?”

**IS THE FUTURE HERE, BUT
NOT YET KNOWN TO US?**

SOME “SEE” THE FUTURE; WE NEED TO LISTEN!



This book explores our changing world and looks at the roles being played by those in the fields of science, religion, education, government, economics, and the paranatural.

A Look at the Unexplained

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