

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Apport Phenomena of Medium Herbert Baumann (1911–1998): Report on Personal Experiences

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Abstract—Among the many phenomena reported from physical mediumship, apport phenomena—i.e. the inexplicable appearance of solid objects—rank among the most curious occurrences. In the present paper, we describe a selection of seeming apport phenomena that were observed around a German medium, Herbert Baumann (1911–1998). Baumann was a close friend of the first author, who thus had the opportunity to receive more than one hundred examples of what he considers to be genuine apports, both during séances and in everyday private life. A peculiarity of numerous seemingly apported precious and semi-precious gems was their being pervaded with a net of tiny cracks that would often render these stones so unstable that they fell apart after being apported. We present considerations regarding these cracks, describe attempts to replicate them, and conclude with a short section about explanatory approaches for apport phenomena.

Introduction

Since the heyday of spiritualism in the 19th century, macrophysical anomalies belonged to the phenomena typically reported from the practice of physical mediumship. However, the history of physical mediumship is loaded with fraud and trickery (for a recent example, see Braude 2016, Nahm 2014, 2016), and often it remains difficult to establish whether certain phenomena were genuine or not.

This is especially valid for so-called apports, i.e. physical objects or even living organisms, which appear in an inexplicable manner, often inside a room or in a closed space. It is very difficult to definitively rule out the possibility that these objects were not smuggled into, for example, a darkened and closed séance room. Nevertheless, several studies concluded that apport phenomena do indeed occur sometimes. Among the most

extensive studies into apport phenomena are the “apport observations” and the “apport studies” by Karl Blacher, a professor for Technical Chemistry at the University of Riga, Latvia (Blacher 1926, 1931–1932, 1933), and those of Elemér Pap of Chengery, a retired chief Chemist of the Hungarian government, who summarized his 10-year-long studies into apport and other macro-PK phenomena in a monumental treatise (Pap 1938). Other noteworthy sources on apport phenomena in the context of mediumship include Bozzano (1930), Button (1932), Haraldsson & Gissurarson (2015:75, 184), Kindborg (1930), McKenzie (1929), Schwab (1923), Simsa (1931, 1934), Wassilko-Serecki (1927), Weaver, (2015:46, 76), X (1904), and Zöllner (1922); more examples can be found in Fodor (1934). Apport phenomena, however, are reported not only in physical mediumship, but also in related contexts such as poltergeists and purported demonic possession, as well as around spiritual leaders and “ordinary” psychics (Blumhardt 1970, Gauld & Cornell 1979, Haraldsson 2013, Hasted (1981:165–187), Koch 1981, Krippner et al. 1996, Lin et al. 1981, Naegeli-Osjord 1988, Ringger 1953, Sutter 1975).¹

The present report focuses on apport phenomena of a largely unknown German physical medium, Herbert Baumann (1911–1998). As a medium, he worked under the pseudonym “Jons Dave.” One of us, Illobrand von Ludwiger (IvL), was a close friend of Baumann for many years, and spent considerable amounts of time with him. Baumann was a frequent guest at IvL’s private home, and both spent much time together with their wives between 1965 and 1985. During this span of time, IvL witnessed numerous sudden appearances of objects he considers to be genuine apports. Most of them appeared spontaneously, and stringent controls during these occurrences were not employed. On many occasions, nevertheless, IvL had the opportunity to witness the arrival of supposed apports under circumstances that seem to exclude fraud.²

The aim of the present report is to review the most impressive apport occurrences witnessed by IvL to make the phenomena that happened around Baumann known to a wider audience, and thus to contribute to enriching the literature on physical mediumship by highlighting aspects of it that have rarely been reported in the more recent literature. After the following section, which contains background information on Herbert Baumann, we describe peculiar characteristics of apported objects, such as physical anomalies of cut gems for which we were unable to find a normal explanation, and apports that were received after a respective wish to receive them was advanced. Finally, we will sketch possible explanatory approaches for the generation of apports.

Background Information on Herbert Baumann

Because the subsequent text focuses on experiences and observations of the first author of the present article, IvL, we will shift to using the first person singular in the following.

I first learned of Herbert Baumann when I read an article about him in early 1965 that was written by Eberhard Körner (1965; see also W. 1965). Körner described numerous apport phenomena of Baumann and declared on oath that everything he wrote was nothing but the truth. He claimed that he witnessed in person how semi-precious gems “grew” out of Baumann’s hair, ears, and mouth. Often, apports that appeared from outside of his body were hot (as has already earlier been reported in cases of apports; e.g., Schwab 1923, Simsa 1934, Gauld & Cornell 1979, Hasted 1981, Zöllner 1922). Flowers would typically show signs of singeing, and on rare occasions even stones looked singed. In addition, the semi-precious gems would often be pervaded with numerous tiny cracks, and gems of a hardness of up to 7–8 would break into pieces when they appeared. Being impressed by what I read, I contacted Körner, who in turn put me in contact with Baumann.

I visited him for the first time in November 1965 in his rented apartment in Hamburg where he lived with his wife, Else Baumann. When we talked together, he imperceptively slipped into trance, which I noticed only because he versified his questions and answered my questions in rhymes—although we discussed complex astrophysical and cosmological problems. While we talked in his living room in normal daylight, I noted—just as Körner (1965) had reported—raps on the walls and furniture inside the room. This visit was the beginning of a long friendship with the Baumanns that lasted until his death in 1998.

Baumann’s father was Jewish and owned three drugstores in Berlin. During World War II, he was deported to a concentration camp where he died. His son Herbert had begun to study medicine, but he was forced to terminate his studies after two and a half years and had to join a ‘bataillon for probation.’ In Italy, Herbert Baumann suffered a severe head injury



Figure 1. Herbert Baumann (left) and first author Illobrand von Ludwiger in Baumann’s living room in Hamburg in 1980. There are several of Baumann’s paintings on the wall.

during an attack of Italian partisans. Not long thereafter, he was deported to the concentration camps in Auschwitz-Birkenau, Bergen-Belsen, and Sangerhausen—he survived torture, but not without severe chronic injuries that resulted from frequent physical abuse. After the war, he first lived in Leipzig, in Esslingen, and from 1962 in Hamburg. He worked as a sales representative, but also received financial compensation for his time in the concentration camps, and for the three dispossessed drugstores of his father.

Baumann told me that he received his first apport on the evening of November 6, 1963, when he spontaneously retched a number of violets that were knitted together into a chain. Earlier that year, he had visited Danish physical medium Ejnar Nielsen in Copenhagen several times. Baumann was very impressed because he was convinced that he had met his deceased father through the mediumship of Nielsen (for information about Nielsen, see, e.g., Gerloff 1955, 1958, Grunewald 1922).

According to Körner (1965) and Baumann himself, he produced several thousand apports between 1963 and 1965. Predominantly they appeared during the weekly séances that were held at his home with about 10 sitters. Participation in the sittings was free, but Mrs. Baumann put a plate in the corridor for donations. Before the sittings, Baumann always asked somebody to search the pockets in his trousers for hidden objects, and I have once patted down his entire body. But a thorough search of all his clothes, body, and living room that would satisfy skeptics was not performed. Given the tiny nature of most of his apports, this would also not have been easy in the informal atmosphere of his home. During the sittings, Mr. Baumann would lie on a couch in his living room, which was 4×6 m. Then, he would fall into a semi-trance or a full trance. During states of full trance, supposed spirit communicators would communicate with the sitters, speaking in rhymes. But also in light trance, Baumann often spoke in rhymes when he was “overshadowed” by his spirit guides. This manner of speech seemed to surpass Baumann’s ordinary poetic and lyrical abilities considerably. In the history of mediumship, there are several examples of such behavior, thus suggesting the genuineness of the trance. A noted example is represented by the trance performances of Pearl Curran, when “Patience Worth” communicated through her (for a discussion of this case, see, e.g., Braude 2003). But even in waking consciousness, Baumann claimed to hear his guides regularly via an ‘inner voice’ when they conveyed information to him, e.g., about when and how an apport was to be expected. Typically, his séances were held in the dark to enable the sitters to see luminous phenomena. Often, the apports were simply heard falling down on the floor—but on numerous occasions their appearance was preceded by a loud bang somewhere in midair, after which the apports seemed to

drop on the floor. This is particularly audible on audio recordings played at slowed speed (the recordings still exist on audiotape). Most of the apports consisted of semi-precious gems that were either uncut or cut, or of stone fragments. But in rare incidents, valuable jewels such as ruby, tourmaline, topaz, and even diamonds were found. For example, on August 28, 1969, I received a topaz apport for my friend, the theoretical physicist Burkhard Heim (Ludwiger 2010, 2016), the value of which was at that time estimated to be about \$1,000 by two jewelers in Göttingen and Bremen.

On occasion, apported stones and splinters were agglutinated with a strange organic mass that was said to be ectoplasm (we will describe an example later in the text). Sometimes, flowers were found in the séance room. Apart from the apport phenomena to be described in the next section of this paper, Baumann also exhibited telepathic or clairvoyant abilities on occasion. An impressive example occurred at Rabeneck Castle, where I lived on weekends at that time. Baumann and his wife frequently visited me there. On one occasion when they visited me, a neighbor who looked after my apartment near Munich when I was absent called me at the Castle. She informed me that I had received a registered letter there, but she forgot who the sender was. Baumann, however, spontaneously and speaking in verses, related the sender's probable identity and the content of this letter to me—correctly, as it turned out later.

Toward the end of the 1960s, Baumann began to paint while he was in trance, and sometimes he painted with closed eyes. After some time, he developed a specific style of painting that was playful, surreal, and rich in colors, geometric patterns, and ornaments. From then on, he called himself 'Jons Dave.' In 1971, at the age of 60, he finished training as an acupuncturist and worked in medical practices. In 1972, he stopped giving séances at home. He divorced his wife, moved from his home in Hamburg to live with a new partner, and increased his painting activities. Eventually, his paintings were exhibited in Stockholm, London, Paris, Boston, New York, Edinburgh, and Milan. Throughout these years, I remained in contact with Baumann, and we continued to visit one another. In his private life, apports still appeared frequently. I received the last apports when he visited my home near Munich in December 1985; among them was a beautifully and unusually cut brown quartz. During his last years, Baumann had to spend a lot of time in hospitals. In the early 1990s, failed eye operations led to increasing blindness, and he needed to be cared for by his wife. Baumann died on October 23, 1998. His widow bequeathed me several of his most precious apports. Since July 2015, the remaining paintings of Baumann have been exhibited in the Art Gallery in Murnau, Germany.

Overview on Personally Witnessed Apport Phenomena

Preliminary Note

At the end of my first visit in Hamburg, Baumann agreed that I would be allowed to control him during one of the next sittings in any way I deemed appropriate to exclude the possibility of fraud. Yet, our working relationship developed differently—although he always allowed me to record the séances on tape, or to film luminous phenomena (one time, I succeeded in catching two colored lights that appeared to possess features of human faces during a séance in Hamburg). One method of controls aims at stringently excluding the possibility of fraud—and if possible, appropriate measures should be undertaken in a laboratory under lighted conditions or infra-red. Ideally, the support of professional magicians should also be obtained. Pursuing this method should always be included in these types of scientific investigations. Yet, since it was not my aim to perform a scientific investigation, but to better understand Baumann's mediumistic phenomena on a personal level, I chose a different approach. I intended to permit him complete freedom of action to let the phenomena develop as freely and intensely as possible, and to observe everything that happened as closely as possible. Admittedly, the latter method will hardly convince skeptics—at least not if the results obtained can be explained away easily in normal terms. Yet, I knew that Baumann's phenomena were said to be special, and I hoped to observe phenomena or to receive objects that bore the sign of genuineness in themselves.

Before I describe some of these remarkable apport features in more detail, let me first affirm that I have witnessed numerous spontaneous phenomena that I can only regard as genuine apports. The following four examples occurred on September 28, 1969, when Baumann and his wife visited me and my wife for several days at the aforementioned Castle in which I occasionally lived at that time.

1) During breakfast, we discovered a fraction of a stone inside a full water bottle that was still sealed with a strip of paper.³ It turned out to be a sapphire 5 mm long.

2) After we took a long walk in the surroundings of the Castle, we went into my room. It was illuminated with several strong electric lamps. Baumann stood behind me, when surprisingly I saw in close vicinity of my desk at a height of about 40 cm, pieces of green glass appearing in the air. They gently floated down to the floor like large snowflakes. For 20 to 30 seconds, more and more splinters appeared until about 30 of them lay on the floor. All of them were smaller than 1 cm. Baumann

observed this process together with me, and both of us became very excited. Later, he explained that his spirit guides told him that these belonged to a broken beer bottle that we saw during our previous walk in the afternoon. When we passed it, Baumann didn't touch or pick up any of the splinters. This was the only time with Baumann that I visually observed what seemed to be a direct materialization of physical objects.

3) Thereafter, the Baumann couple and I went to visit a small town in the surrounding area, and we had some ice cream. To my surprise, while eating my ice cream, I suddenly spotted a piece of quartz 5 mm long sticking in it.

4) When we went on another walk in bright daylight, Baumann's wife and my wife walked ahead of Baumann and me. Within a timespan of about 45 minutes, I discovered three or four little pieces of blue sapphire that were stuck in my wife's long hair. We were unable to figure out how these stones appeared in my wife's hair.

These are typical examples of spontaneous apports that anybody who spent private time with Baumann was able to experience. In general, a good and jolly atmosphere seemed to stimulate the appearance of apports. During my wedding feast, for example, Baumann gave my stepmother so many gems while he frolicsomenly danced with her that Baumann's wife, who observed him, became annoyed and told him to stop producing apports. Sometimes, small crystals even seemed to originate from the inside of his body, penetrating the skin, leaving a small mark that immediately closed. No scars were left (see also Körner 1965). In total, I received more than 100 apports from Baumann. Now, I will turn to describing some of the peculiar features of these objects.

Unusual Cracks within Stones Apported by Baumann

In the cases involving Baumann, most of the apports looked like ordinary objects, and it is impossible to detect anything unusual in them. However, a large number of objects also display characteristics that seem inexplicable by normal means. This is especially valid for many of the cut (semi-precious) gems that appeared around him as ostensible apports. First of all, the apported stones were hot to touch when they appeared in our surroundings—much hotter than body or air temperature. I have personally felt this heat on several occasions, especially when I picked up larger stones right after they appeared. According to Baumann, his wife, and a friend, one particularly large, irregular crystal, $5 \times 4 \times 3$ cm, appeared spontaneously under his shirt on his back when they were shopping in a large mall. Baumann was struck with pain and screamed, and, not knowing what was going on,

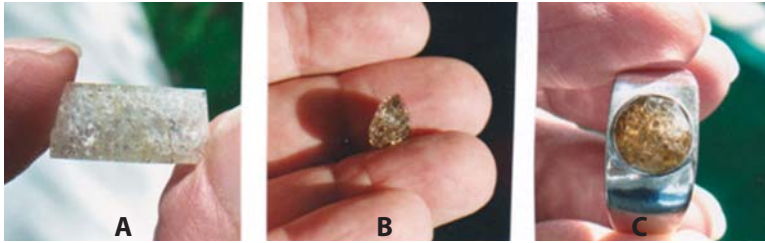


Figure 2. Stones that were apported during a séance in Hamburg on May 15, 1970. They display numerous cracks that rendered them so unstable that they might break; the mountain crystal (A) broke twice and was glued together again. (B) shows a topaz as I received it, and later enclosed into a ring (C).

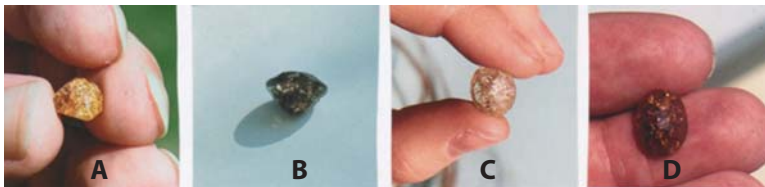


Figure 3. Further examples of cut gems with numerous cracks.

supposing that perhaps a bird had flown into his clothes, they immediately tore his clothes off. Shop assistants and bystanders came running, and all were perplexed when suddenly this crystal was found. It was thought that it might have fallen from the ceiling, although this was obviously impossible. The crystal was so hot that nobody could touch it, so Baumann wrapped it in a handkerchief and put it into a bag. A peculiar warmth of apported objects, especially of stones and metallic objects, has been reported before in the contexts of mediumship and poltergeist cases (e.g., Schwab 1923, Simsa 1934, Gauld & Cornell 1979, Hasted 1981, Zöllner 1922).

Second, many of the stones apported by Baumann display peculiar networks of cracks and fissures that can reach such a density that formerly clear and transparent gems become completely opaque (Figures 2, 3, 4). Sometimes, these cracks are concentrated in the center of the stones and don't reach the gem surface.

When I showed gems with these “Baumann-cracks” to jewelers, they were not able to explain how these cracks might have developed. They said that if a gem were to crack only once during the cutting process, they would normally stop cutting it because the stone would have become practically worthless, and would also be likely to break entirely.

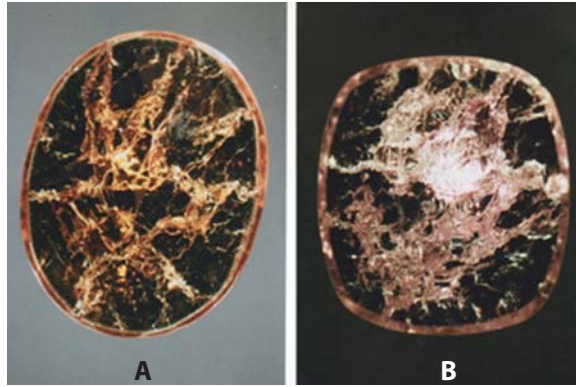


Figure 4. Inner structures of a topaz (A) with a maximum diameter of 13 mm, and of an amethyst (B) with a diameter of 11 mm.

By now we have shown cut gems with the typical Baumann-cracks to four jewelers, and none of them was able to give a possible explanation of their formation. The perplexity of these jewelers is mirrored by the appraisals of relevant scientists of the field. In 1980, some of the stones with Baumann-cracks were handed via the former president of the *Schweizer Vereinigung für Parapsychologie* [Swiss Association for Parapsychology] Dr. Theo Locher to scientists of the university in Bern, Switzerland, for analyses.

An honorary professor at this university, and the then director of the Geological Department of the Natural Historical Museum in Bern, Dr. Hans Anton Stalder, came to the conclusion that these cracks and fissures would not occur in nature. Similarly, gemologist Jean-Bernard Ryser held the opinion that the defects in the stones would be quite unusual, and would not occur naturally. Also, he confirmed that the cracked stones were completely valueless.

Indeed, some of these cut gems are very fragile. I saw one apported gem break shortly *after* it had appeared in the room as a whole piece. Some also broke during analyses of jewelers, and some simply fell apart months or years after the séance in which they were received. On one occasion, for example, a quartz received by the wife of my friend Burkhard Heim (Ludwiger 2010, 2016) seemed to disintegrate into numerous small splinters at home by itself—curiously, this happened after she had expressed her disappointment that she didn't receive an equally valuable stone like the topaz that her husband had received earlier.

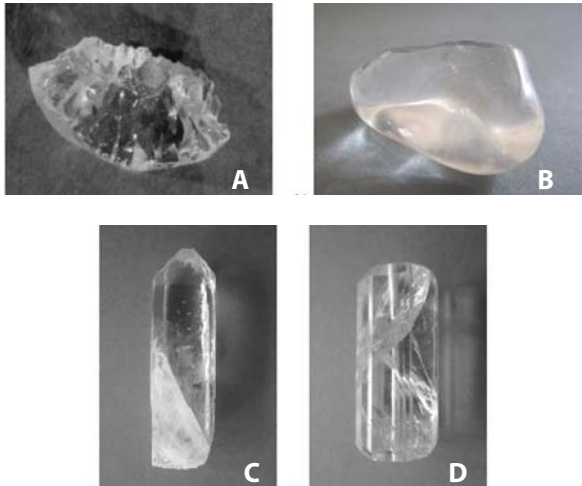


Figure 5. (A) A part of a cut quartz of diameter 1 cm with Baumann-cracks that broke into two pieces when it fell once after it had appeared whole some years before. Note the rugged breaking edge. (B) A piece of round-cut quartz with a maximum diameter of 2.5 cm; the upper part spalled after repeated immersion in boiling water. (C) A natural quartz crystal 4 cm long that showed a singular diagonal planar crack after removed from a freezer and put into boiling water. (D) A cut quartz crystal with a length of 2.7 cm (with a drilled hole in the middle) that showed two planar diagonal cracks after being immersed into boiling water twice.

I told Baumann that I was fascinated by these cracks, and he replied that I might receive an apport that was entirely permeated by them one day. This seemed to occur on May 15, 1970, during a séance in Hamburg. On the audio recording, played in slow speed, one can clearly hear a loud bang (which occurred at about 1.5 m high in the middle of the room), that is followed by two sounds of objects falling on the floor. When we turned the light on, we found two pieces of an oblong crystal that was so full of cracks that it had become entirely opaque (Figure 2A). Later, I also received the topaz shown in Figure 2B. At home, I glued the two pieces of the crystal together, but when a jeweler handled it later during an analysis, it broke again at a different location. Given the utter fragility of stones with Baumann-cracks, it is obvious that these cracks must have formed *after* the stones had been cut (see also Figures 3, 4, 5).

Moreover, my wife and I received several pieces of gems that fit together perfectly after being collected when Baumann and his wife visited

Figure 6. Two pieces of a cut gem that appeared on two subsequent days on the floor of the first author's Castle. Both pieces fit together perfectly, but had different colors.



us at Rabeneck Castle on July 4, 1969. In the evening, he went into trance, lying on a couch in a darkened room. We three sat in a row of chairs about 2 m in front of him. Suddenly, after Baumann had talked in trance for a while, we heard a sound like the crack of a whip about 1.5 to 2 m *behind* us and at about 1 m high, and then several pieces of something rolled toward us on the floor *from behind*. These pieces turned out to belong to a single Madeira-topaz, of which we had received another piece several hours earlier on the same day. The position of the four of us, and the distance of the room wall behind us being about 4 m, appeared to exclude the possibility that somebody had thrown these pieces from behind.

During another visit on July 10, 1971, Baumann gave me a piece of a cut amethyst that he claimed he found on the floor. It showed typical Baumann-cracks. The next day, I found another piece of cut gem at the same spot on the floor. We noticed that it perfectly fit into the piece that was found the day before. Curiously, however, it had a different color. Hence, one of the pieces must have changed its color, presumably after breaking apart. How this might have happened, we cannot tell. It is known that the color of amethysts can be changed by exposing them to temperatures of 300 to 560 °C, but this will usually result in a yellowish color, not in the white color as is the case with this piece. Later, I glued the two pieces together (Figure 6).

Among known causes that may cause cracks in gems are sonication (exposure to ultra-sound) and rapid heating, and thus we tried to artificially create cracks in quartz pieces to compare them with Baumann-cracks. One of us (MN) has subjected 11 quartz pieces of different treatment (natural, cut, and uncut) and size (four pieces with a maximum diameter of more than 2 cm and seven pieces of about 1 cm maximum diameter) to sudden temperature changes by repeatedly transferring them from a freezer into boiling water. Most of these crystals developed cracks sooner or later, especially the larger ones. In two of them, the cracks didn't pervade the

entire stone at the beginning, but the cracks appeared close to the surface at first. In one case, the crack increased in size by itself over the following days, in the other case it reached the stone center after repeated temperature treatment. Moreover, the cracks are typically quite straight, planar, and they show little branching and no net-like structures (Figure 5B,C,D). All this is in contrast with typical Baumann-cracks.

MN has also immersed these 11 pieces of quartz into an ultrasonic bath after performing the temperature experiments (Type: EMAG Technologies, Emmi-16). In addition to these pieces, MN added 3 further crystals that had not been temperature-treated before (natural, cut, round cut; minimum diameter/length: 2.5 cm). All 14 crystals were jointly sonicated for two, then three, and then nine minutes in immediate succession—in total for 14 minutes. None of the 14 quartz pieces showed noteworthy changes thereafter—apart, perhaps, from a slight elongation of one crack in one of the temperature-treated crystals.

Finally, MN simply heated 5 small crystals and the 3 larger crystals that showed no cracks after sonication in a metal pot on the stove, turning the cooking plate on to maximum heat. This treatment caused the development of typically straight and planar cracks—one of the larger quartz pieces even sprang apart forcefully with a snapping noise (perhaps, resembling some of the noises Baumann's apports seemed to appear with?)—but it also caused a few locally confined net-like cracks close to the crystals' surface at areas that were in direct contact with the bottom of the pot. There were no netlike cracks in the interior of the crystals, or net-like cracks that pervaded the entire crystals.

In sum, we were not able to generate cracks in mountain crystals that resemble the Baumann-cracks in mountain crystals, using means that somebody might have used in privacy in the 1960s to prepare the crystals in this way. Nevertheless, the origin of the Baumann-cracks might well be related to the unusual heat that the stones bore shortly after appearing—perhaps, the heat being strongest in their center. However, in the literature known to us, comparable cracks have not been reported from apports, although the heat of apports was often ascertained. Yet, a fragmentation of apports has been reported on occasion, and this was then attributed to failures on the energetic level by the responsible trance controls. A well-known example was described by Bozzano (1930). On that occasion, Bozzano asked the trance control of a medium he sat with to bring a piece of pyrite from his home into the séance room. This attempt failed, however, but everything in the séance room was covered with a golden dust that seemed to be pyrite. When Bozzano returned home, he found that a notable piece of his pyrite chunk was missing. A similar incident was reported by

Figure 7. An apported cut gem with distinct traces of physical abrasion.



Civitelli (1928). In this case, the sitters expected a silver thimble to be apported by Eusapia Palladino from a closed cupboard in another house, but the experiment failed. Still, when the owner of the thimble looked for it at home, all that she found on the spot where it had rested was a metallic powder that appeared to be silver. Hasted (1981:173ff) reported an example of what he considered a genuine partial deport of a target object, and Playfair (1980) described how three parts of a single stone were seemingly apported within a timespan of several hours.

Finally, I should mention that I once even received a citrine out of which a strange organic-looking substance protruded from inside a Baumann-crack, presumably the ‘ectoplasm’ to be described later. Unfortunately, this stone was not returned to me after I showed my apport collection to the audience of a talk I gave in Berlin in 1984.

According to Baumann’s trance personalities, the gems were apported from places where they were not missed or needed. They would be leftovers and fragments from jewelers, or lost and forgotten gems. Indeed, some of them show distinct signs of abrasion on their cut surfaces and corners, as if they had been exposed to physical attrition, e.g., by lying in a riverbed for some time (Figure 7).

Wish-Apports

Another peculiar feature of Baumann’s apports was that he sometimes apported objects that a guest had wished for just before. If performed in an appropriate context, apports that correspond to spontaneous wishes (“apports-on-demand”) rank among the incidents that render the genuineness of apports most likely. Consequently, researchers have often asked for apports on demand—the cases of the failed pyrite and thimble apports already mentioned belong to this category. Other researchers have apparently been more successful and received the demanded objects intact (see, e.g., Bozzano 1930, Haraldsson & Gissurarson 2015, Simsa 1931).



Figure 8. The garnet apported as a wish-apport on March 27, 1970, in the gold ring I later had it enclosed in.



Figure 9. A little posy that appeared with small pearls on their stalks on August 28, 1969, after the first author wished for it.

Here I will describe examples of wish-apports that I received in person. During a séance on March 27, 1970, the entranced Baumann asked me what I would like to receive. I voted for a red gemstone that I could embed into a gold ring for my partner. After about 30 to 40 minutes, I felt something fall on my left thigh and then on the floor. After the light was switched on, this object turned out to be a red garnet with numerous Baumann-cracks (Figure 8).

The following incidents were even more intriguing. At a séance in Hamburg on August 28, 1969, four men and four women were present apart from me. The room was darkened, and Baumann spoke in verses to several of the sitters. Occasionally, we would hear objects fall to the floor, and eventually I was asked if I had a wish. Being prepared for such an opportunity, I wished for a posy that contained flowers with pearls around their stalks between their blossoms and some leaves. Baumann complained that I should not wish for such a stupid thing, and he suggested that I'd better wish that my diseased mother would become healthy again. I agreed. After about one hour, the séance was terminated, the light was turned on, and all sitters found the apports they had wished for on the floor. To my surprise, we also found a posy of little flowers that had little coral pearls around their stalks. The stalks and some blossoms were black from singeing. Later, I embedded them in synthetic resin (Figure 9).

During another visit by Herbert and Else Baumann to my Castle, on September 29, 1969, I asked him to try to apport a very special object such as a stone from the moon. Yet, he stated that this would not be possible because his trance communicators would not know how such a stone should

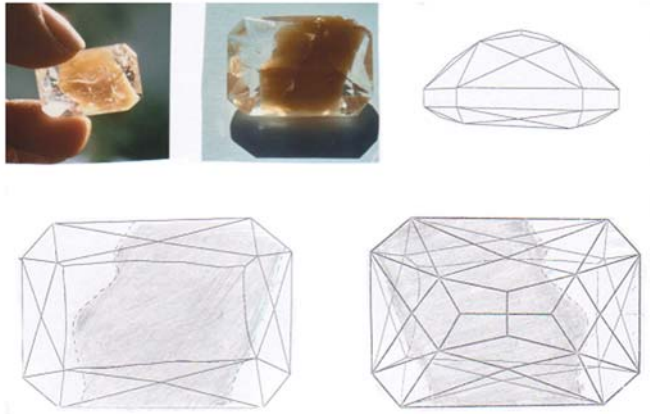


Figure 10. A cut gem apported in the first author's Castle on September 29, 1969. It appears to show a "stone inside a stone." Curiously, some of the cut surfaces seem deformed and cambered (see pencil sketch).

look. Then, I asked him to put a contemporary object such as a coin into a piece of amber. He agreed to that.

Later on the evening of the same day, Baumann lay on the couch where he fell into trance. Else and I sat about 2 m in front of him in the dark. He spoke about the events of that day. Suddenly an object fell in front of my feet. It turned out to be an oblong cut mountain crystal 3 cm long that contained, curiously, a layer of another material embedded in it (Figure 10). This layer of about 1 mm thickness consists of chert, as a jeweler later determined. Apart from a quite unusual combination of different siliceous rock, the gem itself displays peculiar features. Some of the cut surfaces are not flat but cambered to the outside, as if the stone had been soft when the layer of chert was inserted into it. The quartz also shows several fissures and cracks in its inside, but which don't reach to the stone surface. It appears very unlikely that a jeweler cut this quartz and its intrusion in such a strange manner. Hence, although I didn't receive a coin in amber, I received something else that might well have been an attempt to fulfill my wish.

One year later, Baumann and his wife were my guests at the Castle again. During supper on September 29, 1970, he said he heard a voice and he fell into semi-trance. I fetched my audio-recording device and recorded the verses he related to us. In very ornate rhymes, the meaning of which was difficult to understand, he seemed to say that something was inside a wall, that spirit existed before matter, and that it rules over matter. Frankly, I didn't pay much attention to this strange poem and didn't expect anything to happen that related to it. The next day was sunny and we went on a beautiful trip into the surrounding area. Again and again, we found stone

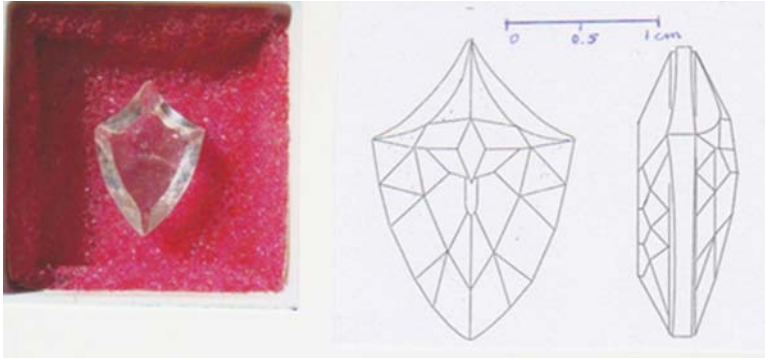


Figure 11. A cut gem that was retrieved with a pick from a small hole inside the cornerstone of a wall of the first author's castle.

fragments that appeared to be apports. At 6 p.m., we returned to the Castle, and Else went for a nap. Baumann claimed he heard his inner voice telling him that we could expect an apport in a large cornerstone of the main Castle wall. Of course, we immediately went to this cornerstone. The wall was built from Jurassic stones, and it contained numerous holes. We carefully examined the cornerstone and its surroundings, looking into these holes, but we couldn't find anything. Baumann suggested we fetch a pick from the cellar to remove parts of the cornerstone, and off he went. Standing alone in front of the wall, I suddenly saw something twinkle inside one of the holes of the cornerstone in the evening sun. The hole had a diameter of 6 mm and was right in front of my eyes. I hoped that this would be the promised apport, and I strongly wished that it would have an extraordinary form such as a coat of arms and not one of the usual gem shapes. Then, I called for Baumann, who came running with the pick. Indeed, it was impossible to retrieve this cut object from this cavity. So we took the pick and carefully widened the aperture in the wall. To my utter astonishment, when we held the gem in our hands, it proved to have the shape of a coat of arms (Figure 11). It was not possible to adumbrate its shape from the outside. The quartz was 18 mm long and 13 mm wide, and therefore it could not have been put into the hole from the outside. The stone material around the hole was natural and undisturbed, there were no signs of fraction and gluing. Moreover, I strongly assume that the gem appeared in the hole only after Baumann went to fetch the pick, because, as mentioned, this hole was right in front of my eyes and I am convinced that I would have spotted the twinkling earlier when I carefully searched this area before he went away. Yet, I cannot explain why the apport had the shape I wished it to have—but I have the impression that this was part of an experiment that, as I realized

Figure 12. A part of the 'plasm ball' with a cut quartz.



later, had apparently been announced in the verses of the previous evening. Unfortunately, however, I didn't possess a camcorder at that time, so we were not able to document this episode on video. But, for what it is worth, I confirm on oath that everything happened just as I have described it.

Other Remarkable Apports

On occasion, and as mentioned already, apports appeared inside of other objects such as closed bottles, but also in ice cream and fruits. In addition, on the evening of September 19, 1970, Baumann told me there was a stone inside the locked box of my audio recorder, which I always carried around with me. Indeed, I found an uncut amethyst of about 2 cm length in it.

On the evening of September 20, 1970, Baumann slipped and fell just outside my Castle, injuring his head slightly. He lay down on the sofa in the living room with his head bandaged. After a while, he said that we should look under a bench that was also in this room, where we were supposed to find a 'plasm ball.' Indeed, we found a strange mass with a diameter of about 4 cm. It appeared as if it were formed out of moist sand. On closer inspection, we found that this mass consisted of small fragments of quartz, sapphire, and topaz, but it also contained a larger cut quartz with a diameter of 1 cm. We cut the plasm ball in two to share the pieces between Else and me (Figure 12). Although it seemed moist, it was not sticky and we couldn't detect a specific odor. After three days, it had dried and was hard as stone.

We found a similar mass of plasm on the evening of September 23, 1970, inside a water bottle that was still closed. It had a diameter of about 9 mm and contained numerous blue splinters of sapphire. In addition, there were three small quartz crystals inside the bottle.

In late 1981, Swiss chemist Dr. E. Wälti analyzed these conglomerates. The mineral fraction of the 'plasm ball' consisted of different kinds of crystalline fragments that ranked from mere microscopic powder to pieces of a few millimeters. The binding agent was of organic origin consisting of

polysaccharides that seemed to resemble those used in glue. When water was added, it assumed a gel-like consistency. It contained no amino groups and thus no proteins. Yet, it contained fibers of seeming vegetable origin, and also microscopic fibers of unexplained, but most likely animal origin. The latter had a diameter of about 0.4 μm , and some of them were agglomerated into small bundles. They consisted of proteins. The binding material of the second mass seemed to consist of the same polysaccharides as the plasm ball, but it didn't contain protein fibers (Locher 1982, Wälti 1982).

Discussion and Explanatory Models

In the preceding section, I described numerous instances of apports I witnessed in the presence of physical medium Herbert Baumann. Some readers of this report might not be convinced of the paranormal nature of many of the described occurrences—especially because they didn't take place under strict control conditions. Personally, I have no doubt regarding their genuineness. Some of the circumstances of the apport incidents were quite remarkable and practically impossible to fake—after all, and as noted earlier, I once saw splinters of green glass materialize in the air right in front of me. Similarly, numerous other sources have described apport phenomena that they deemed genuine for a variety of reasons (e.g., Blacher 1933, Bozzano 1930, Kindborg 1930, Lin et al. 1981, Pap 1938). Consequently, there must be a physical underpinning that can allow for the occurrence of apport phenomena. Moreover, and similar to other macro-PK phenomena, apport phenomena show a distinct relation to mental processes or states of especially mediums, psychics, supposedly possessed individuals, or 'poltergeist agents.' Hence, it must be possible to relate the physical underpinnings of apport phenomena to these mental or psychic factors.

At present, it remains difficult to imagine how this could be achieved. In earlier times, many of those who studied apport phenomena followed two different lines of thought to explain them. First, there were authors who, in the footsteps of Friedrich Zöllner and the spirit guides of medium Henry Slade (Zöllner 1922), argued that objects are transported from one place to another using properties of a higher dimension in which the mentally driven processes would operate. Second, there were authors who argued that apports are disintegrated into minute particles at their place of origin and reassembled where they appear again, following respective descriptions of trance communicators of mediums (e.g., Bozzano 1930). Apart from these explanatory models that originate from a spiritualistic context, other authors interpreted the apparent ability of gifted human beings in their cultural context. For example, there is a little-known but intriguing Chinese report in which apport phenomena of two young girls are described in a

Chinese mainstream journal (Lin et al. 1981), which we will summarize in more detail.⁴ In a series of different experiments, two girls “moved” objects out of closed (and sometimes sealed) boxes and bags with only mental activity and without touch, into previously assigned target containers (compare Button 1932). The girls were able to tell when the object had left the original container, which was verified each time by the experimenters. Often the girls would state that the test objects would be “in their brain” when the objects had vanished, or were—as the researchers termed it—in “the other state.” When the objects left “their brains” again, they would soon reappear. Sometimes, the objects were missing for about one hour or longer. The Chinese authors concluded that there must be a certain form of energy and information that maintain the test objects when they “disappear” from the world as we perceive it, and it was obvious that this state was related to the girl’s mental activities.⁵ The investigating scientists related the girls’ faculties to the traditional Chinese concept of Chi (energy), and spoke of “extraordinary functions of the human body.” Sometimes, the two girls were also able to perceive a form of “white air” that other persons present were unable to see, and they correctly announced when and where the objects would reappear due to their previous perception of these patches of brightness. Luminous patches or shapes at the location where apported objects were about to appear are also reported in the traditional mediumistic context (e.g., Simsa 1934, Schwab 1923, Bozzano 1930, Zöllner 1922). Still, especially on a physical level, apport phenomena are difficult to understand. To our knowledge, there is only one sufficiently developed physical theory that allows for integrating deport and apport phenomena into our four-dimensional space–time continuum in a plausible manner, while also taking into account the accompanying mental processes. This is the quantum field theory of Burkhard Heim (Heim 1989/1980, 1984, 2008, Lietz 2006, Ludwiger 2012, 2016; see also the full paper published in this journal by Auerbach & Ludwiger 1992). Heim’s theory bears resemblance to other physical theories that can account for the occurrence of psi phenomena due to their comprising more than the “usual” four dimensions of time and space (e.g., for a review of these theories, see Lier 2010, Volume 1:61–264). But in fact, all current physical models including the String theory comprise more than four dimensions of reality. Yet, they are typically thought to be curled up into extremely small magnitudes that are not relevant for structuring the microcosm and the macrocosm. Heim’s basic theory, however, contains two non-compactified time-like imaginary dimensions in addition to the four dimensions of time and space, and they also represent domains that extend into the world as we perceive it (compare also Chen 2005). Nevertheless, it must be admitted that Heim’s quantum field theory is little-

known and controversially discussed. Regarding apport phenomena, it is still of primary importance to find the means to document them properly, and thus contribute to establishing the reality of their existence. They rank among the most peculiar reported parapsychological phenomena, and we thoroughly hope that parapsychologists and other researchers will look for opportunities to seriously study them.

Notes

- ¹ In the context of so-called demonic possession, we consider the numerous kinds of objects that were reported to be expelled from the bodies of the possessed through their skin, body orifices, or via retching and vomiting, as apports. Such occurrences were also observed with Herbert Baumann, as described later in the text.
- ² In 1982 and in 1985, IvL presented his experiences with Baumann at conferences of the *Schweizer Vereinigung für Parapsychologie* in Bern (Switzerland) and the *Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Parapsychologie* in Offenbach (Germany), respectively. After the conference in Switzerland in 1982, a brief overview on IvL's experiences with Baumann was published in a Swiss leaflet of very limited circulation (Ludwiger 1982). A short overview on the life of Herbert Baumann is also contained in an obituary published in 1999 (Ludwiger 1999).
- ³ Critical readers may object that Baumann could have secretly removed the paper around the bottle cap during the night, put a stone into the bottle, and carefully glued the paper around the cap again so that it looked exactly like the original bottles. While I cannot exclude this possibility, I consider it very unlikely from a personal perspective.
- ⁴ This article was published in one of the major monthly scientific journals in China, the *Journal of Nature (Ziran Zazhi)*. One of us (IvL) commissioned a German translation of it many years ago. It seems to be little-known in the West that from March 1979 onward, a massive wave of research into psi-phenomena swept across China. This field of research was designed to address the 'Extraordinary Functions of the Human Body,' and it attracted the interest of dozens of researchers at top universities and other research institutes. By the end of 1982, the Chinese *Journal of Nature* alone had published 53 articles that dealt with a considerable variety of what many Westerners would typically call psi-phenomena (Li & Fu 2015). Predominantly, the scientists worked with children of about 10 years of age, and they worked only with seemingly gifted subjects. In 1980 and 1981, two scientific symposia on Extraordinary Functions of the Human Body were held in Shanghai and Chongqing, respectively (Chen & Mei 1982, Li & Fu 2015). The paper produced herein (Lin et

al. 1981) was authored by 13 persons associated with 1) Beijing College of Education, 2) Beijing Qinghe High School, 3) Research Institute for Chinese Medicine of Xiyuan Hospital, and 4) Commission for Science, Technology and Industry of the National Defense Institution. A lengthy summary of this article was also published in English in *Psi Research* (Lin et al. 1983), and a very short summary in the *European Journal of Parapsychology* (Haft 1982).

- ⁵ Among other items, the authors tested mini-senders, the signal of which faded completely during the times when the senders disappeared; they used photographic plates that were unaffected by light after they were “transported” from one light-proof container into another; they used mechanical and quartz watches, of which the latter showed a time delay after reappearing; and they tested six living flies, all of which seemed healthy after they reappeared.

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