

**RESEARCH
ARTICLE**

A Detailed Phenomenology of Poltergeist Events

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HIGHLIGHTS

A growing database of the key features of 'poltergeist' cases enables researchers to discover important patterns that might hold insights about the nature and dynamics of these events.

ABSTRACT

The objective of this paper is to propose a reference point in the phenomenology of poltergeists either for people who want to know more about these phenomena or for researchers looking for cases and sources associated with some particular phenomenon. In parallel, an ongoing work is conducted aimed at building a global case repository of poltergeist cases with their phenomenological characteristics and their sources, which will be available soon at www.macropk.org. A historical view of the 50+ qualitative and quantitative studies of the poltergeist phenomenon is presented along with the different authors/researchers and the publications associated. The different types of phenomena observed are studied from four angles: the physical impacts on the environment, the interactions with people, other features such as duration, focus effect, and contagion, and how the phenomena ended. Each type of event is illustrated through different cases extracted from our case repository (about 1250), often with a short extract from (one of) the sources describing some key characteristics. A discussion about the validity of these data is then developed, looking in particular at testimonials, fraud detection, legal impacts, and the similarity of description of unconnected people. These elements tend to give a strong plausibility to the diverse phenomena observed, even the more "bizarre" ones. Considering all these cases and the details associated with them could help to build a more global picture of the phenomenon. This could provide more ideas based on facts to develop current and new hypotheses, as well as new psychophysical models, in order to make progress in comprehending the phenomenon. A list of the 105 cases used in the description of the phenomenology is provided along with their sources and their distribution across historical periods and geographical areas.

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KEYWORDS

Ghost, haunted house, hauntings, phenomenology, poltergeist, poltergeist agent, RSPK.



INTRODUCTION

In the history of parapsychology and the field of anomalistics, hauntings/poltergeists, more recently sometimes referred to as "RSPK" (recurrent spontaneous psychokinesis) or ghostly episodes, have played an ongoing role since antiquity in many places (Dullin, 2021). Although sometimes it appears difficult to differentiate hauntings from poltergeists, here the focus will be on cases where some physical phenomena are observed: external phenomena versus internal phenomena, as depicted in Figure 1 presented by Wolfgang Fach (2023) from the IGPP at the Parapsychological Convention in Oslo. All the abbreviations used are defined in Appendix B.

Arthur Conan Doyle, through his character Sherlock Holmes, stated:

It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data. Insensibly, one begins to twist facts to suit theories, instead of theories to suit facts (Doyle, 2013 p. 65).

Many studies and case collections have been conducted concerning these phenomena. In a first step, researchers conducted some case collections and qualitative analyses as follows:

- Jules E. de Mirville, France, six books on spirits and their manifestation (Mirville, 1863).
- Puls (former court assessor in Berlin), Germany 1880, 70 cases (Puls, 1900).
- William Barrett, UK, founder of SPR, study on six cases (Barrett, 1911).
- Camille Flammarion, France, 100 cases (Flammarion, 1923).
- Otto Piper, Germany, poltergeists mixed with different kinds of anomalous events (Piper, 1917).
- Italian study of Ernest Bozzano in 1929: 12 poltergeist case studies in his book (Bozzano, 2000), extract from his collection of 520 cases of hauntings, 158 of poltergeists (not published).
- Albert Baron Schrenck-Notzing, Germany: seven documented cases such as the one of Hopfgarten (Schrenck-Notzing, 1921).
- Harry Price, U.K., The story of the Borley rectory in Price(1940).
- Fanny Moser, Germany, 1950: detailed study of the Stans case which took place in 1860 (Joller,1862) and 29 other cases, study extract of 300 cases she had collected but not published (Moser, 1977).
- Hereward Carrington & Nandor Fodor, UK: index of 375 cases (Carrington & Fodor, 1951).

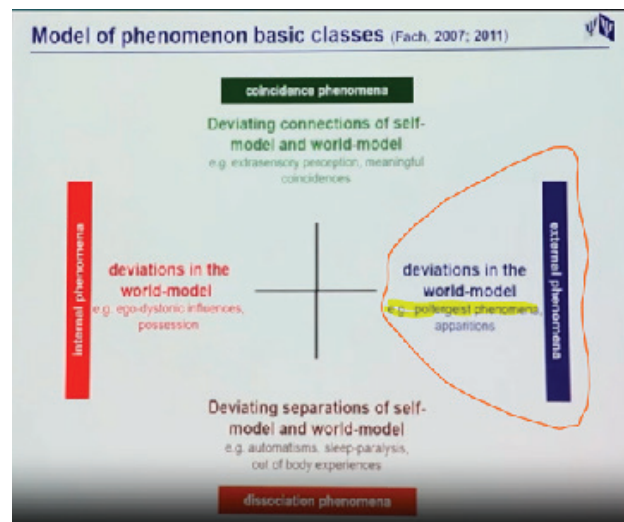


Figure 1. External Phenomena.

- Herbert Thurston, UK, 36 cases (Thurston, 1953).
- Lambert, UK, Geophysical theory (Lambert, 1955).
- William G. Roll, USA, proposition of the RSPK (recurrent spontaneous psychokinesis) theory in the Seaford disturbance report (Roll & Pratt, 1958).
- Sacheverell Sitwell published a study in 1959 with detail on 10 main cases (Sitwell, 1988).
- William E. Cox, 46 cases (30 US/UK) comparative analysis (Cox, 1961).
- The reasoned rejection of Lambert's geophysical theory by Antony D. Cornell and Alan Gauld (Cornell & Gauld, 1961).
- D. Felton book in 1964 focused on ghost stories from antiquity with five cases of poltergeists (Felton, 1999)
- F.A. Volmar, Poltergeist cases and other mysterious phenomena in Switzerland (Volmar, 1969).
- Emile Tizané, France, 1962, 40 new cases in France (Tizané, 1977a).
- Alan R.G. Owen made an open treaty on the poltergeist phenomenon using the Sauchie case and other historical cases (Owen, 1964).
- Raymond Bayless: The enigma of the poltergeist (Bayless, 1967).

Of course, many of the same cases are found in different studies or books. The presidential allocation of Hans Bender at the 12th P.A. convention (1969) presented six cases investigated by the IGPP. This focus on a presidential allocation showed the importance of the topic. Then a second step started with more detailed studies, quantitative studies, and some proposals/hypotheses for explanation, such as:

- Book by William G. Roll, USA: with a review of 47 cases

- (Roll, 2004).
- Roll, USA, The rotating beam theory (Roll et al., 1973)
 - Guy Lyon Playfair, UK: study of six South American cases (Playfair, 1975).
 - Alan R.G. Owen, Canada (with his Toronto group), inspired by the early work of Kenneth J. Batcheldor (1966), presented the results (some raps) of their Philipps experiment (P.K. by Committee) using a fictitious entity (Philipps) as a trigger, feeding in that way the psychokinesis thesis (Owen & Sparrow, 1974).
 - William G. Roll, PRF, USA: study with 116 international cases (31 U.S., 26 United Kingdom, 21 Germany-Austria-Switzerland, nine Italy, seven France) (Roll, 1977a).
 - Theo Locher/Guido Lauper, Switzerland: Cases of poltergeists and psychokinesis in Switzerland (Locher & Lauper, 1977).
 - Alan Gauld and A.D. Cornell, UK: study on 500 cases with a detailed phenomenology and an international view (Gauld & Cornell, 1979).
 - Mickaël Goss (1979): 1100 ref articles, books, newspapers on poltergeists (Goss, 1979).
 - Scott Rogo reviewed 57 cases, including many American cases in his book (Rogo, 1979).
 - Guy Lyon Playfair: book on the Enfield case (Playfair, 2011).
 - Colin Wilson (1981): book including an argumentation around possession and black magic and the study of the Pontefract case (Wilson, 1981).
 - Kenneth Batcheldor confirmed his P.K. hypothesis with his theory of P.K. induction from the Sitter Group (Batcheldor, 1984).
 - Loyd Auerbach, USA: book with, in particular, his proposal to become a good investigator (Auerbach, 1986)
 - Walter von Lucadou, Germany, IGPP, proposed an explanation of the poltergeist psychosocial dynamic using systems theory: The Model of Pragmatic Information (Lucadou, 1987).
 - Monika Huesmann and Friederike Schriever, Germany, IGPP: study of 54 cases (Huesmann & Schriever, 2022) with comparison to the 116 cases of Roll and the 500 of Gauld (Gauld & Cornell, 1979).
 - Massimo Biondi, Italy: study of 260 cases from 1800 to 2000 and their comparison with non-Italian cases (Biondi & Caratelli, 1993).
 - Annekarin Puhle, Germany: study of ghosts, apparitions, and poltergeist incidents in Germany between 1700 and 1900 with a list of 50 cases (Puhle, 1999).
 - Barrie G. Colvin presented a study of the rapping sounds of 10 poltergeist cases, showing some apparently key differences between the sound profile or raps and manual knocks (Colvin, 2010).
- We could also discuss the Ed and Lorraine Warren cases, studies from 1974 to 2000, even if they are a bit controversial, extracting the more documented cases from Brittle (2013).
- Then since 2000, several books have been published:
- either on new specific cases such as Bothell House (Linder, 2018, 2020) or South Shields (Ritson, 2020)
 - or case collections such as in Clarkson (2011), or in Leconteux (2007) with a historical/cultural approach, or in Fraser (2020) with, in particular, the Cage case and a comment by James A. Tacchi on the Barrie G. Colvin study on sounds.
 - or specific geographic areas such as Australia (Healy & Cropper, 2014) or Scotland (Holder, 2013).
 - or some multidisciplinary studies such as Houran and Lange (2001), Catala (2019), and Delaplace (2021).
 - or new identified trends such as the contagion (Ritson, 2021).
 - or some more journalistic approach integrating polemics, such as Clément (2020) and Benoit (2021).
- In parallel, some papers have been published, in particular:
- discussing the connection between psychology and poltergeists such as Ventola et al. (2019), with in particular the concept of transliminality and psychological and neuropsychological tests of poltergeist agents in Williams (2019).
 - looking to the connection between environment and haunting-like experiences, such as in French et al. (2009) and Houran et al. (2023).
 - the elusiveness often attached to these phenomena (Evrard, 2019).
 - and the development of Von Lucadou's vision, looking at the poltergeist as some sort of entanglement phenomenon between psyche and matter (Lucadou et al., 2007; Lucadou, 2011).
- In order to maintain a connection with the concrete events happening in the cases, a repository of more than 1200 cases has been built on which today more than 900 have a detailed phenomenology. The objective of this paper is to describe the detailed phenomenology encountered with the references associated, so researchers can find all the information needed to study a certain aspect of the poltergeist phenomena. A paragraph will complement the credibility of the cases constituting the repository.

METHOD

The astronomer Camille Flammarion said about the scientific approach using a report by Lavoisier to the Academy of Sciences in France:

In the field of scientific study, nothing should be scorned. We must always respect this double principle: do not deny anything a priori, and do not affirm anything without evidence. We imagine that to admit the reality of a fact, we must be able to explain it.

Witnesses saw the stone fall in broad daylight on September 13, 1768, in open country; they picked it up. There she is; it is examined, analyzed, and concluded... that she did not fall from the sky. Preconceptions prevent us from recognizing the truth. The popular opinion associating these stones with thunder was wrong; one does not have the idea to reject the theory and imagine that there can be no other explanation. Human testimony is considered null and void, and even today, a certain school, friend of paradox, continues to teach that witnesses, whoever they are, have no probative value. (Flammarion, 1923, p. 378)

The approach for building this phenomenology study was:

- To identify the main phenomena reported in peer-reviewed articles, books, and possibly journals, both by investigators and by the people living the phenomena.
- To segment the phenomena by categories of events.
- To select cases illustrating the best each category of phenomena, with, if possible, at least one case associated with an investigation and reported in a paper/conference with a lecture committee.

The 105 cases selected from the 1270 cases of the database for illustrating the paper, were also chosen using, the level of testimonial and detail of the case (see below) as a guideline, and their historical position (we have favored the most recent cases). All the cases are referenced by the town where they were located and the year when they started happening, A list of the cases cited is presented in Appendix A at the end of the paper with the reference of the source associated in the standard format (Author(s), date) which are included in the reference part. Their distribution across historical periods and geographical areas is also provided.

For these phenomenology studies, we are sometimes

looking for the detail, the point that the witness reported, which could give some input on the psychophysical phenomenon behind them. Some details reported are also some kind of evidence of authenticity because people building a hoax story would have very little chance to think about this very specific fact.

Some of the cases in our repository have in their description a testimonial level (1 to 10) according to the following features:

- Number of witnesses identified.
- Testimonial first-hand or second-hand.
- Delay between the event and the reporting.
- Existence of recorded audio, photos, videos.

And, a level of detail (1 to 5) according to:

- Citation in a book or on the Internet.
- Full article in a daily newspaper.
- Full article in a spirit magazine or newsletter.
- Full article in a parapsychological/scientific journal with reviewing committee.
- Day-to-day reporting of the events (log of events) by the main witness.

These were used as help to select the case in this study and in some statistical evaluations in the section "levels of evidence and plausibility".

So many phenomena are presented below with a lot of testimonials or references. A lot of effort has been made to present coherent facts confirmed by serious investigations.

However, the reader has to make up their own mind about the evidence of these facts and will have the information source at their disposal in order to study it in more detail.

RESULTS

The phenomena of poltergeists (sometimes called "RSPK," but this will be discussed later) are complex and multifaceted.

Kinds of Events

Table 1 gives an idea of the diversity of the phenomena observed with their frequency of appearance on the basis of 906 cases with a detailed phenomenology from our study base from antiquity to 2020. This database (still under development) currently consists of 500 cases from the study of Alan Gauld (former president of the SPR) and Antony Cornell (former president of the CUSPR) (Gauld & Cornell, 1979), 257 Italian cases from the study of Massimo Biondi and Giulio Caratelli (Biondi & Caratelli, 1993),

Table 1. Types of Events with their Percentage of Occurrences.

Types of Events	% Occurrence in 906 Cases
Moving small objects	60%
Noises other than raps (footsteps, voices, dragged furniture, crash ..)	46%
Raps (beatings in walls, bedpost, ceilings)	43%
High energy (heavy object, structural modification, slamming doors, levitation,..etc.)	39%
Aggression (pulling out of bed, beatings, confinement)	29%
Apparitions, mysterious figures, appearances of hands, feeling presence	28%
Apports/desapports, teleportation, rain of stones, coins apports	24%
Weird trajectories, high-precision shots/throws	23%
Communication/interaction (through rap, writing, object arrangements, sms)	18%
Action on latches, opening/closing doors	14%
Starting fires, spontaneous fires	12%
Spontaneous breakage, candle extinguishing, uprooted plants	11%
Apparent communication with deceased persons or synchronization with death	10%
Light effects, optical phenomena	8%
Electrical, magnetic disturbance, dysfunction of electrical equipment	6%
Ringtones, action on doorbells or entrance bells	5%
Water-related phenomena (appearance of water on the floor/wall/ceiling)	5%
Cold air current	4%
Hot objects on contact	3%
Phenomena suggestive of possession by an evil entity	3%
Smell that spreads or disappears instantly	3%

and around 500 cases identified by the author through direct contacts and bibliographic research with an international perspective.

Each poltergeist case may involve one or more effects that are often repeated many times. For example, in Dortmund in Germany in 1713 (Puhle, 2001), the house of Doctor Barthold Florian Gertsman was bombarded

for 20 days with 760 stones that generated 147 broken windows.

Type of Places Concerned

Poltergeists can appear within a house and a family unit, but also in a shop, such as in the case of Beuvry (8 km from Béthune) in 1907, in a grocery store (furniture danced the saraband, chairs flew from one room to another, breaking against tables or walls) (Flammarion, 1923, p.246), or over the period 1965–66 in a German porcelain shop in Bremen (Bender, 1969). These phenomena can also occur in a workshop like a carpenter’s shop at Swanland in 1849 (Myers, 1891), with pieces of wood that “fly” in the workshop, or a warehouse as in Miami in 1966 (Roll, 1971, 1973), or in a theater like the case followed by Thomas Rabeyron in Lyon in 2007 (Rabeyron, 2010), or finally in monasteries as in Lyon in 1525 (Montalembert, 1580), presbyteries as in Borley in 1927 (Price, 1940; Hastings, 1969), or schools as in Sauchie in 1960 (Gauld & Cornell, 1979, pp. 79–83).

The following paragraphs describe the main types of events observed, with some case references that illustrate them:

Physical Impacts of the Phenomenon

Sound Creation

As its name suggests (Poltergeist: “Noisy Spirit”), the poltergeist phenomenon is often surrounded by many noises. This can be blows hitting in the walls (raps) or the bedposts, as in our personal experience in Savoie at Cessens in 1983 (Dullin & Gaudiez, 2017). In some cases, these knocks have been used to communicate with the phenomenon (see also communication section).

In his book, William F. Barrett, co-founder of the SPR, recounts a case he investigated in Kingstown near Dublin in 1876. In particular, he sought to locate the sounds:

Doubts have been suggested as to the possibility of localizing sounds; with some kinds of sounds, this is difficult, but direct experiments that I made for this purpose showed that when blindfolded, most people can pretty accurately locate the position of sounds, such as I heard on this occasion. Sometimes the raps traveled away and were heard in different parts of the room, out of reach of anyone present. On one occasion, I asked for the raps to come on a small table near me, which Florrie was not touching, they did so; I then placed one of my hands on the upper and the other on the undersurface of the table and in



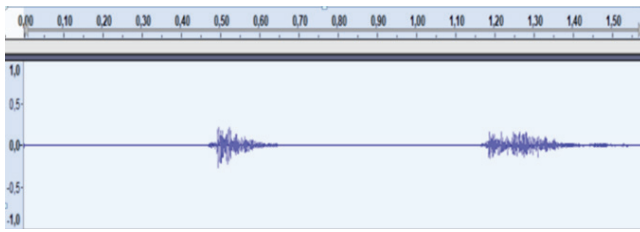


Figure 2. Sound Signature of a Rap in Cessens in 1983.

this position I felt the slight jarring made by the raps on the part of the table enclosed between my hands. It made no difference whether Florrie and I were alone in the room, as was often the case, or other observers were called in. This latter was done occasionally when the raps were going on, to test my hallucination theory, but everyone heard the sounds. (Barrett, 1918, p. 61)

Barrie G. Colvin (2010), in his study of acoustic properties and, in particular, the sound signature of knocking, compared conventional sound signals with sound samples taken from poltergeist cases between 1960 and 2000 (raps, see also paragraph Communication). He found that the sound signatures of raps did not have the rapid initial rise that occurs when a blow is struck manually on metal, wood, rubber, or a wall. The signal recorded by the author at Cessens (Dullin, 2017) with a microphone placed 75 cm from the estimated center of sound emission (so close enough to avoid the signal amortization argued by James A. Tacchi (in Clarkson, 2011)) seems to confirm Barrie G. Colvin's hypothesis, with a weak start to the signal, rather than a brief rise corresponding to a strike.

This is coherent with the fact that Colvin reported that the onset of the vibration appeared to be slightly before the moment when they heard the rapping sound. So the signal seems to emanate from within the wood, like a vibration that builds in strength.

Melchior Joller, in the case of Stans in 1860 (Joller, 1862), in his personal pamphlet published by Fanny Moser (1977), explained that on Wednesday, 20 August 1862, after a pursuit of raps throughout the house, he made this direct observation of raps:

I placed my hand on the door, variously on the inside and outside, and on the upper half around which the blows were perceptible, yet without feeling anything on my hand, not even a draft or disturbance of air. I also held the door half-open, so as to observe it from both sides; the rapping occurred again without me perceiving any cause. (Joller, 1862, Wednesday 20 August)

But often, these noises do not correspond to a physical phenomenon: for example, a great noise as if a piano had fallen by crashing into the next room was heard, while when entering the room in question witnesses did not see anything particular, or noises sounding as if something heavy such as furniture was being dragged upstairs above while in fact the room was empty, or the sound of attic stairs unfolding while there is no staircase attic as in the case of Bothell in 2012 (Linder, 2018).

Sounds such as footsteps, explosions, doors closing, latches, rustling clothes, a mason at work with their tools (hammer, drill, etc.), men fighting, and falling are also reported as in the case of Tackley in 1905 (Gauld & Cornell, 1979, pp. 183–6).

Also, as reported in (Clément, 2020, pp. 54–67), in 2011, in a school in Compiègne, established in a building corresponding to an old sanatorium, more than ten people (general assembly of the school) heard noises corresponding to kids running, laughing, and moving furniture on the floor above, whilst this place (a previous preventorium) had not been in use for a long time, was locked, and had been confirmed as being empty.

In some cases like the previous one, voices of all kinds, usually rather frightening (sighs, screams), are heard. Sometimes, it seems that a voice answers questions, as in the case of Macon in 1612 where, according to Sieur François Perrault, in his pamphlet "The Antidemon of Mascon," (Perrault, 1615) discussions took place for two months between the villagers and an "entity" described by him as a demon. Also, in the province of Quebec, in Clarendon in 1889 (Thurston, 1953, Chapter XV, pp. 162–170), 17 witnesses signed a report on the poltergeist phenomena that happened over two months on the Canadian farm of George Dagg, and in particular on the voice talking to them and answering them.

Another example of imitative voices is given in West Midlands in 1901 (Stratton, 1914), where a family and their house helps (maids and nurses) experienced all kinds of phenomena over 12 years, with imitative voices calling or answering with the same voices as an occupant or a maid, thereby creating confusion.

In addition, there is often a disconnect between the physical event (breakage of an object on the ground, violent smashing of an object against a wall) and the corresponding noise (e.g., a huge noise from a light strike on a wall or, vice versa, a very weak noise from a huge strike against the wall) as in the case in lletsy in 1870 (Leaf, 1897), published in Russian by Alexander Aksakov translated and reviewed by Walter Leaf in the 12th proceeding of the SPR:

But the strangest thing was that when they fell on

the felt-covered floor, they made a sound which did not belong to them; for instance a piece of stuff from the bedclothes fell with a sound like a hard heavy body, whereas hard bodies fell with no sound at all. (Leaf, 1897, p. 324)

Movement of Objects Sometimes with Strange Trajectories

This is one of the typical phenomena of poltergeists: Objects move without any human intervention and without any other apparent physical cause. William E. Cox had looked in detail at these movements during his comparative study in 1961 on 46 cases (Cox, 1961). He had already highlighted many features that we have completed below.

Objects move without human intervention and very often with non-ballistic trajectories showing efforts sometimes to avoid being caught as in Sumatra in 1903 (Grottendieck, 1906). In the English case of Swanland in 1849 (Myers, 1891), the witnesses said: "They deftly evaded all our stratagems to catch them."

Objects are able to bypass obstacles by making 90° turns as in Java in 1950 (Zorab, 1973), or staying suspended in the air as in Portland in 1909 (Gilbert, 1910), or they land lightly like a feather as in Hartville in 1957 (Clarkson, 2011, pp. 202-204), sometimes without noise as in the pre-cited case of Swanland. In the case of Durweston in 1894 (Podmore, 1896), Frank Podmore recounted:

I was looking at the door opening into the garden, it was wide open, leaving a space of 15 inches between it and the inner wall, when I saw coming from behind the door a quantity of little shells. They came round the door from a height of about 5 feet. They came one at a time, at intervals varying from half a minute to a minute. They came very slowly, and when they hit me I could hardly feel them. With the shells came two thimbles. They came so slowly that in the ordinary way they would have dropped long before they reached me. (Podmore, 1896, p. 91)

Very slow movements sometimes presented sudden accelerations as in Hartville aforementioned. According to other cases, some objects that were hurtling at high speed towards a person (with obvious fear of injury) suddenly barely touched that person as in Marcinelle in 1913 (Flammarion, 1923) and fell vertically, sometimes without bouncing as the laws of logistics would have predicted as in Los Angeles in 1974 (Rogo, 1979, pp. 112-123).

In the case of Bristol in 1761 (Gauld & Cornell, 1979, pp. 118-24), Henry Durbin, a direct witness, talked in his

pamphlet "A narrative of extraordinary things," published in Bristol in 1800, about a glass placed on a chest of drawers:

It rose gradually about a foot, perpendicularly from the drawers; then the glass seemed to stand, and thereupon inclined backwards, as if a hand had held it; it was then flung with violence about five feet and struck the nurse on the hip a hard blow. (Gauld & Cornell, 1979, p. 120)

In many cases, bedding is regularly thrown out of bed, as in Amherst in 1878 (Carrington, 1913; Hubbell, 1879, pp. 95-124). Sometimes, the objects are thrown with extreme precision, as in the case of Nottingham in 1990 (Cornell, 2002), where small stones passed at high speed through the same hole drilled by the first in a window (not achievable by manual throws or catapults). Also, they seem to move intelligently, avoiding other objects as in Miami in 1966 (Roll, 1971, 1973), where William G. Roll conducted some experiments and reported:

Susy placed an alligator ashtray as a target object on the second shelf at the north end of Tier3, one of the most active areas in the room. Right in front of it, Julio himself put a cowbell that had been involved in earlier incidents. I was looking at Julio (the supposed agent), who was just about to reply to Miss Rambisz when the alligator ashtray crashed to the floor behind him. The cowbell remained in place, so the ashtray must have moved over or around it. I had Julio and the others under observation and had examined the target area myself. No one had been near it since my last examination. (Roll, 2004, pp. 134-5)

In some cases, objects' movements seem to be directed towards a particular area or person as in Indianapolis in 1962 (Roll, 1970, pp. 85-87; Roll, 2004, pp. 56-69).

Spontaneous Breaking, Cutting, Tearing, Extinguishing

During these events, objects can be broken either because they are thrown and smash into a wall or on the ground, or due to a spontaneous breaking or explosion like the lamp bulbs in a lawyer's office in the city of Rosenheim in 1967 (Bender, 1969). In Baltimore in 1960 (Rogo, 1979, p. 257), a family is reported to have seen bottles burst or watched objects explode.

In some cases, clothes are torn as in Cadouin in 1940 (Zorab, 1964, case 19), as described by Goerges Zorab in

his comparative analysis of cases:

One night all Josiane's clothing was torn to shreds within a few seconds. (Zorab, 1964, p. 122)

It has also happened that plants have been declared uprooted or moved in Bothell in 2012 (Linder, 2018) and candles extinguished as in Folkstone in 1918 (Roll, 2004) or in Tackley in 1905 (Gauld & Cornell, 1979, pp. 183–6), where two candles were extinguished simultaneously by a throw of two clods of earth.

Strong Energy Effects

These phenomena can sometimes develop huge energy, such as moving large pieces of furniture or people, or generating a tremor of the whole house. In the case of Rosenheim aforementioned (Bender, 1969), a 200 kg storage cabinet moved away from the wall. In fact, the cabinet was found placed above the 4 mm of lino that surrounded the cabinet, so there has been also a levitating shift.

In the Sauchie case in 1960 (Gauld & Cornell, 1979, pp. 79–83), some furniture moved both in the family house (such as a heavy sideboard that moved outwards a distance of about 5 inches and returned to its original position, as seen by two witnesses) and at school in the presence of the teacher, Miss Stewart:

Shortly afterwards, Miss Stewart, happening to look up, saw an empty desk behind Virginia, slowly rise bodily upwards about an inch, and settle down again gently a little way from its original position. Miss Stewart went to it immediately, and made sure that no strings, etc., had been attached to it. (Gauld & Cornell, 1979, p. 81)

In 1905, in Tackley aforementioned, two people witnessed the levitation of a bed on which one of them was lying. A dozen cases of the same type are listed in the study of Gauld and Cornell (1979), such as the Sandfeldt one in 1722 (Gauld & Cornell, 1979, Chapter 6), which benefited from 27 visual witnesses of the different phenomena observed and where a bed shook from bottom to top with two teenagers on it while their two mothers tried to hold it in place.

Also, in the Australian case in Adelong in 1889 (Healy & Cropper, 2014), the bed of Nellie, the little girl targeted by the poltergeist phenomena, rose from the floor with Nellie on it.

Sometimes (rarer) people are directly concerned. At Stratford in 1850 (Thuston, 1953, pp. 10–13), H.B. Taylor

reports:

In my presence the eldest son was carried across the room by invisible hands and gently placed on the floor. (Carrington & Fodor, 1951, p. 87)

Finally, it is sometimes the house, the structure itself, that is the target of the phenomenon. For example, in Fougères-sur-Bièvre in 1913 (Flammarion, 1923), the whole village came to listen to the noises caused on the partitions of a house and even on the whole house as reported by the investigator M. Boutin de Blois:

It is now a terrible tremor, which shakes the wall with a force that 10 men could not match. One evening, the noise was such that it was heard distinctly not only from neighboring buildings, but across the street, more than 60 meters away. The house was shaken up and down, the partitions vibrated with intensity.. The noises that accompanied the tremendous vibrations of the house sounded like rumblings of distant thunder. (Flammarion, 1923, pp. 220–221)

The Anglo-Saxons also speak of "house hiving" because the vibrations sometimes resemble the sound of a beehive as in Midlands in 1967 (Stratton, 1914).

In the case of Andover in 1974 (Colvin, 2008), the banging sound could be heard by the investigator Barrie G. Colvin at least 50 yards from the alleyway and vibration was felt by 20 people on the outside surface of the wall, at ground level in the passageway.

Rain of Stones or Other Objects

Until now we have talked about phenomena related to places (houses, workshops, etc.) and objects contained in those places. However, many poltergeist cases present "rain of objects" effects outside, and sometimes even apported inside while the various openings (doors, windows) are closed, as if they were teleported from the outside (see also next paragraph on teleportation). The objects are mostly stones, but all kinds of projectiles have been encountered, including pieces of tiles, rubble, clods of earth, excrement, or bolts that can be found in the environment of the house or the city.

Although in all these cases, the first thing was to test the intervention of pranksters using manual jets or catapults (slingshots), they could not be unmasked, and a number of factors reject this hypothesis because of the effects described previously: bizarre trajectories, extreme precision in some cases, sudden slowdown, and

people affected without being injured. Moreover, in some cases, the projectiles arrived vertically (like rain), which excludes the possibility that they were launched with a classic parabolic trajectory as reported in Roodeport in 1922 (Bayless, 1967). A well-known case in France is that of a house on the rue des Grès in 1849 (Flammarion, 1923), next to the Sorbonne, reported by Camille Flammarion in an extract from the court gazette of Paris of February 2, 1849:

Where did these projectiles come from, consisting of cobblestones, fragments of demolished neighboring walls, even whole rubble stones which, by their weight and the distance from which they came, could not be thrown by the hands of a human being? This is what it was impossible to discover. Day and night surveillance was unsuccessfully carried out under the personal direction of the Commissioner of Police and competent persons. It was in vain that the head of security remained constantly on site. It was in vain that guard dogs were released every night in the nearby pens. Nothing could give the explanation of the phenomenon... (Flammarion, 1923, p. 18)

In the case of Neudorf in 1852 investigated by Professor Hans Bender, the latter reports:

The day before we arrived, seven objects appeared in the kitchen in the space of sixteen minutes. They were observed by five witnesses, some of whom were not part of the household. I had the opportunity to reconstruct this event in great detail according to the descriptions which were collected absolutely independently, and without consultation, from the various witnesses. The objects seemed to shoot out of the wall at high speed. (Bender, 1969)

A more recent case in France in Arcachon in 1963 appraised by Robert Tocquet, IMI investigator, highlights the former Orthopedic Clinic of Arcachon, which from mid-May to early September 1963 was harassed by the projection of pebbles, pieces of rubble, and fragments of bricks whose origin has remained unknown (Tocquet & Cuenot, 1966).

In Lynwood in 1960 in California, in a used car park, 200 stones, some as big as a chicken's egg, followed by nuts and bolts, were thrown over two days; the projectiles arrived horizontally with unpredictable trajectories and sometimes at very high speeds. Thirty police officers

searched for the culprit. A trial took place that eventually concluded that it was a "supernatural cause, a cosmic disturbance." (Rogo, 1979)

The cases of Mayanup, Boyup brook, and Pumphrey in southwestern Australia in 1957 (Healy & Cropper, 2014, Chapter 2) are impressive. Hundreds of people witnessed them. For example, at the Mayanup site, hundreds of stones and other objects (cans, potatoes, onions, pieces of steel) arrived from nowhere. Objects landed with a "plop" like a cork stopper, stopping dead in their tracks (some floated quietly to the ground, others changed direction by 90°, rose, and appeared suddenly in the air). Many stones and objects appeared inside. Outside, a stone the size of a pumpkin (15.9 kg) landed smoothly on a steel water tank. In Narrabri in Northwest Australia in 1900]:

The stone-throwing took place in open daylight, while a party of police and civilians were watching and some mounted men were scouring around to a distance of 200 yards. The most extraordinary thing is that there are no stones in the vicinity, the soil being a level plain, and the nearest neighbor's house is over a mile away, with scrub intervening. To dispel suspicion all the party submitted to a search, and no stones were found on any of them. (Healy & Cropper, 2014, p. 209)

Another example is the case in Tucson, Arizona in 1983 reported by Scott Rogo, where stones rained down outside a house (especially on cars), causing damage of more than \$7,000, and where people went out with helmets and came to greet visitors with shields. Several hunts in the surroundings of the house and three helicopter surveillance could not find any culprit (Rogo, 1987).

In the case of San Remo in 1986, in Australia, pebbles, instead of coming from above, levitated from the ground (Healy & Cropper, 2014, Chapter 6).

Finally, sometimes coins appear in a house. A recent experiment on a site in Mexico City in 2021 carried out by Ramses D'Leon's team made it possible to film the materialization of a coin inside a house thanks to six cameras installed inside the house. Overall, 60 coins seem to have "materialized" in this house, most of them old and no longer in use today (D'Leon, 2021).

In the case of South Shields in 2006, a dozen events concerned pieces that fell to the ground, sometimes hot (Ritson, 2020).

In South Wales in 1989, coins from 1912 disappeared and appeared, and rolled-up five-pound notes appeared in different places (making a total of 70 pounds) :

It seems that these events appeared to be in response to repeated requests to 'Pete' by the four principal witnesses to bring 'some money'. A pen fell beside Jim when he had spoken of writing down the incidents, followed by a piece of headed notepaper, which on investigation turned out to have come, by unknown means, from the office premises on the floor above. Also, coins, most of which appeared to originate from a collection of pennies and halfpennies kept in the office. When Paul asked out loud for a sovereign, a Jubilee crown (which appeared to have come from a drawer in Jim and Ann's house) had dropped beside him. (Fontana, 1991, p. 389)

Teleportation of Objects or People (Children)

During these phenomena, objects seem to be able to pass through walls or roofs (like stones falling into houses), or as in Mayanup in 1957:

Ronald Nicholson watched as stones simply appeared in mid-air, floated down and passed through the table to land on the floor below. (Healy & Cropper, 2014, p. 62)

In a case experienced by the author in France in Cessens in 1983, objects placed in the kitchen landed in the next room (such as a saucer for a coffee cup, an egg cup, a syringe) while the door between the two rooms was closed; stones and a fresh flower from the outside landed on the floor while all the openings to the outside were closed, and the five people present were searched and placed under mutual supervision (Dullin & Gaudiez, 2017).

In the case of Vachendorf in 1948, appraised by the IGPP Institute in Friburg-en-Brisgau, Professor Hans Bender reported his interview with witnesses:

When we questioned her, the old woman was still deeply impressed by these ordeals. She told me that in the morning she had picked up the tools that were scattered throughout the room. She put them back in their box, and then sat down and said, "Now you'll stay here." She assured us that while she was still sitting on the box, the tools had again been scattered, one by one, in the various corners of the room. My colleague photographed her as she recounted this, and her expression seems to reflect consternation and astonishment. It was the first time that a seemingly credible testimony confronted me

with the problem of the penetration of matter through matter, or the sudden appearance of objects from an enclosed place. (Bender, 1969)

In the case of Nickleim in 1968, Professor Bender himself had the following experience:

My own observations also make this penetration of matter through matter likely. I had the whole family under control in the kitchen. My coat was hanging, not far away, in a small wardrobe. The tape recorder was on. At that moment, Brigitte heard the cat meowing outside the front door. His mother went to open it to him. She ran back and said, "Your coat is outside, carefully resting on the snow next to the stairs." It was very cold, and the door had remained continuously closed. We controlled the times, and according to the tape recorder, the mother was absent from the kitchen for exactly eight and a half seconds. We then controlled how long it would take to rush from the kitchen to the wardrobe, take the coat, walk down the stairs and put the garment on the snow. The most efficient person, after several attempts, manages to carry out these operations in twenty-one seconds. So it seemed that the cloak had been teleported (Bender, 1969).

In the case of Neudorf in 1952, nail rains were repeated 16 times in 45 minutes; the nails came from a locked cabinet in the basement (Bender, 1969).

At South Shields in 2006, this time it was a three-year-old child (Robert) who was moved from his upstairs bedroom to a closet in the parents' room (upstairs too), surrounded in a blanket (Ritson, 2020).

In 1919 in Coimbra in Portugal, two parents (Mr. and Mrs. Homem Christo), after attempting to shoot with a revolver at an invisible entity, found the cradle of their child empty. The mother fainted, and the father, after a search of the house, found the baby one floor below, completely stripped of his swaddling clothes, in the middle of a marble table (Lacombe-Frondoni, 1910).

In the Australian case of Tarcutta in 1949, a milking machine belonging to dairy farmer Laurence Wilkinson malfunctioned in a weird and dramatic way: its metal pulsator plates (368 g) repeatedly and inexplicably vanished and landed up to 250 yards from the shed. On landing, they either buried themselves in the ground or tore two-foot-long, one-inch-deep (60 x 2.5 cm) scars in the earth. More than 20 adults were witnesses. A technician from the company examined the milking machine and found it worked perfectly (Healy & Cropper, 2014, Chapter 3).

In the Indian case of Poona in 1920 reported in the form of a diary by Mrs Kohn and published by Harry Price:

I went out, leaving on my table a tightly closed screw-top aluminum "safety" inkpot, containing a glass bottle of "Swan" ink. By this elaborate device I had hoped to surpass the cunning of the malicious "spirits." I returned to the house at precisely five pm. The very instant before I entered the house, there had been a crash. The "Swan" glass bottle had broken into innumerable pieces, which I saw scattered over the floor of my room; and the entire floor was a mass of freshly spilt ink. The aluminum outer inkpot was nowhere to be seen! I involuntarily looked upwards, as so many objects have been seen to descend from above during our experiences of the past few months. I called out jokingly: "I do hope the spirit will throw back the pot, it cost me one rupee eight annas!" No sooner had I finished speaking than I saw the missing inkpot appear in mid-air, at a distance of roughly six inches from the ceiling of my room. It fell on to the bed. I rushed to examine it, and found it as tightly screwed as when I had closed it that afternoon. So the bottle of ink had gone from a closed aluminum container. (Price & Kohn, 1930, p. 182)

In the same case, eggs got out one by one from a closed cupboard, with several witnesses :

Saturday, June 30th. At eight a.m. my sister bought four dozen eggs, which were counted, and put in a basket in the food cupboard in the dining room. Almost immediately one egg shot in our direction from the direction of the (closed) cupboard, and smashed. We took the basket out of the cupboard, and ascertained that one egg was missing. I had no sooner gathered up the eggshell and washed the stain from the floor than a second egg came violently from the opposite direction, i.e. not as if coming from the cupboard, and smashed near the spot where the first egg had smashed. We again counted the remaining eggs, and ascertained that a second egg was missing. My sister D., whom we were closely observing, had not approached the cupboard during this time, and therefore could not possibly have had any hand in the mischief. At eleven a.m., two more eggs were broken in the same manner, and a fifth egg at seven p.m. (Price & Kohn, 1930, p. 182)

Also, three one-rupee pieces fell in rapid succession, apparently from near the ceiling. Mrs. Kohn examined her handbag, from which this amount was missing.

Finally, this case, among other astonishing events, talks about an event looking like a teleportation of Mrs Kohn's little nephew:

He was playing in the compound. He chanced to be alone for a moment. After a few minutes he came into the house to my sister, looking dreadfully pale and frightened, and scarcely able to speak. He reported that he had felt himself lifted from the compound into the motorcar which stands in the shed. His eyes had been closed. When he had opened them, he found himself on the front seat of the car. When he came out of the shed, he had to pull aside the "chick" which forms the door to the shed. Though a few minutes before, he had been in the best of health, he was now very sick. He made 10 movements in an hour and a half. A doctor was called at once, who said that the child was completely physically exhausted. His pulse was almost gone, and his eyes were rolling. He was unable to eat for several days, and was quite thin and weak. As he had not previously eaten any over-ripe fruit, or anything else which, according to the doctor, could have produced the condition he was in, the doctor decided that his condition was due purely to the great fright he had felt (Price & Kohn, 1930 , p. 181).

Materialization of Liquids

In materialization phenomena, liquids are also found, mainly water in the form of small puddles on the ground or on furniture, as in the case of Bothell House in 2012 (Linder, 2018).

Hans Bender also reported a case where several houses were concerned by the same phenomena in Scherfede in 1972 :

Small puddles of water appeared first in the bathroom, then in the kitchen and in other rooms. Mechanics checked the water pipes and the heating tubes but could not find any leakage. Then humid spots showed on the walls, carpets became wet but underlying structures proved to be dry. Pools of water also appeared outside the house and several times the outer walls were wet. (Bender, 1974, p. 138)

But sometimes real rain falls from the ceiling, as with the Gardner family in the Rochdale case in 1995 (Clarkson, 2011), or water jets come out of the walls, as in the case of Laurence and Methuen in 1963 in Massachusetts :

The family noticed a wet spot on the wall of their T.V. room. A few moments later, they heard a pop, like a firecracker, and water squirted from the wall. After several days, there was so much moisture in the house that the family had to abandon it for a night and move to the home of a relative. Five people have seen the strange phenomena. (Bayless, 1967, p. 99)

The entire apartment was checked by the fire department and the infrastructure services of the building without finding a plausible explanation.

Some cases show other liquids as in Ancona in Italy in 1903 in the house of the Attorney General Mr. Marracino, where all kinds of liquids (milk, wine, coffee) were constantly spread on the floor (Rogo, 1979, p. 184).

Paranormal Spontaneous Combustion (PSC)

In the phenomenology of poltergeists, we also find spontaneous fires that can occur alone or with other phenomena already described.

The fire can be restricted to objects such as Bibles that burn from the inside, as in the case of Bothell in Seattle in 2012 :

March 31st 2014: ...When I yanked opened the bedroom door there it was a bright orange light. There on the floor, lying inches from our doorway was a book. It was on fire. The light from the flames had illuminated the hallway, talk about an eerie feeling. Instinct alone forced me to lean down and close the book. That put the fire out. All we have left is a hallway filled with smoke and soot. Pages of ash are floating in the air all around me. Wait a minute? I know this book. This is my book. It's the Bible that went missing on October 10th, 2012. The one I left on the lamp table before going to bed. I leaned down to pick up the Bible, and I'm thinking to myself, oh my God, it's come back. And that's when I felt the bulge. Something was inside. I opened it up, and there within the burnt pages was a wooden cross. I know this cross. This was the cross that I bought from Amazon. I couldn't tell what more was frightening: The Bible returning on fire, or

the cross inside, which was almost unrecognizable. This cross was not resting in the Bible on the night that it went missing. Hell no. I bought this cross online a few weeks ago. We hung it above our bed as a means of protection. (Linder, 2018, Chapter 14, p. 79)

The case of Calvin Truck and his family in the United States in Talladega in 1959 mobilized firefighters and police; 22 fires started in his cottage in a few days. Fires seemed to start from the ceiling, but sometimes flammable objects went up in flames, and even nonflammable objects burned. After the family moved to a new home, five unexplained blazes broke out on the first day of their occupation (Rogo, 1979, pp. 164–168).

In Clarendon in 1889, according to the report of Mr. Woodcock, in one day, eight spontaneous fires occurred, six inside the house, two outside, in broad daylight whilst the family and neighbors were in the house (Thurston, 1953, Chapter XV, pp. 162–170).

In the case of Amherst in 1878, investigated by Walter Hubbel and then Hereward Carrington, all the members of the household saw a lighted match fall from the ceiling to the bed, having come out of air. During the next 10 minutes, eight to 10 lighted matches fell on the bed and about the room, out of the air.

Three weeks later the invisible power took a dress belonging to Esther Cox that was hanging on a nail in the wall near the door and, after rolling it up and placing it under the bed before their eyes (six people), but so quickly they could not prevent the action, set it on fire (Carrington, 1913; Hubbell, 1879, pp. 95–124).

Alexander Aksakov also presented a case showing a strong component around a spontaneous fire:

In the small village of Lipsky in 1853, there were a series of events as seen above; despite police investigation and surveillance and several exorcism rituals, perturbation went on. Then, a bed caught fire in the presence of two people (the captain and his wife), and finally, the roof caught fire. So, the captain and his family moved to another house in the village. But the events went on: pillows were sent out of bed, bottles of water were spilled, and the thatched roof began to burn with a first extinction successful. Then, a mattress was found full of smoking points. Finally, the complete roof caught fire, helped by a strong wind, while under the supervision of firemen. With this house, four other neighboring houses were burned completely. Because the damages concerned government property, there were five

days of investigation, which were transferred to the civil court. Final expertise three years later concluded that there was no explanation (Leaf, 1897).

In Ipiranga, close to Sao Paulo in 1967, a family moved house three times and phenomena were still going on six years later. Any of the three women in the family could be regarded as the epicenter of the phenomena.

In the third house, where the family spent only one month in 1971, loud knocks were heard on the front door that they were sure could not have been made by anybody visible. Nora's husband's pajamas caught fire while he was asleep in them, and finally, the house, which was brand new, set itself on fire when there was nobody at home. Mother and Nora came back from shopping to find the house full of smoke; the fire had started in a bedroom and destroyed two wardrobes and an entire bed, the mattress, wooden frame, sheets, and all.

They remarked that the fire started with burn marks in the shape of small circles, the same as you get when you try to start a fire with a magnifying glass and the sun on a piece of paper. Surprisingly, some highly inflammable objects would not burn themselves out (Playfair, 1975).

This can be compared with the case aforementioned of Talladega in 1959, where, in contrast, nonflammable objects burned.

Guy Lyon Playfair reported on the cases of Enfield (Playfair, 2011) and Holloway (Playfair, 2011, pp. 188–189) in 1977 poltergeists during which, boxes spontaneously combusted inside drawers without igniting the matches, and also spontaneously extinguishing themselves.

Sometimes, a bedspread burns without harming the bedclothes beneath. In the Holloway case:

Maurice Grosse, who did the investigation with Guy Lyon Playfair, examined a large burn mark on the wall of the bathroom, where the heat must have been intense, for a plastic beaker on a nearby shelf had been melted. He commented: They look more like radiation burns. It's as if a powerful heat source had passed by and then gone away. (Playfair, 2011, p. 189)

More recently, in Turkey, in Siirt, in 2012, the Toprak family moved through six residences, experiencing 300 fires (Healy & Cropper, 2014, pp. 269–274).

Self-operating Doors and Locks

A typical phenomenon of poltergeists is the action on doors (doors open or slam violently). An example re-

ported by Ernest Frantz to Camille Flammarion occurred in Strasbourg in 1855:

Ernest Frantz, after hearing footsteps on the stairs over several days, decided to lay black wires across the steps. The following night, a huge oak door with a prison lock with a key weighing at least 250g opened violently while all the locks were closed. No wires were broken. (Flammarion, 1923, p. 226)

The locks (which represent more delicate/precise movements) are also concerned: the key turns itself in the lock, or people are sometimes simply locked outside their house as in the case aforementioned of Mr. Homem Christo in Cimbra in 1909. The door closed behind him with a turn of the key and a huge burst of laughter.

More recently, in 2006, in the case of South Shields already mentioned, one of the witnesses, Marianne, experienced several times a front door being unlocked and opened after being locked. Then another day:

The cupboard door swung open sharply, so the other witness Marc (Marianne's husband) shut it, then it reopened and Marianne shut it and the same sequence repeated a number of times. There was a bolt on the door, but which was rarely used. Marc snapped the bolt shut, hoping that it would prevent the 'polt' playing its trick. No chance. The polt simply slid the bolt out and opened the door again, and continued to do so repeatedly until precisely 9pm. (Ritson, 2020, pp. 289–90)

On another day, in the presence of Marianne, Marc, and Mike (one of the investigators):

As they descended the stairs, the patio doors, which had been locked, suddenly unlocked themselves. The handle arced downwards, as if pushed invisibly, and the right-hand (facing) door flew outwards violently. (Ritson, 2020, p. 327)

In the case of the Château of Calvados in 1875 reported by Camille Flammarion :

Mrs. X, hearing noise in the room of the Reverend, went upstairs, followed by the latter. She heard stirring in the room, she moved forward her right hand to take the handle of the door and opened: before she touched it she saw the key that came off, quickly turning in the lock, and

came to hit her on the left hand. The Reverend was a witness. The blow was strong enough that two days later, the shot was still sensitive and visible (Flammarion, 1923).

In the Enfield case:

There was no wind or rain outside and no traffic to be heard. Then to his amazement Grosse saw the door of the lavatory open and close on its own. This happened three or four times. At the same time he felt a sudden cold breeze around his legs, and then around his head. (Playfair, 2011, p. 24)

Electrical Disturbances, Actions on Doorbells, Phones, Electronic Instruments

The poltergeists of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were particularly fond of doorbells. Camille Flammarion had received 48 testimonials of automatically activated bells. We can mention in particular the case of Douai in 1907, which was the subject of a report to the Universal Society of Psychic Studies by M. Dhuique, a chemist. Overall, 300 witnesses were able to see the doorbell outside shaking, sometimes violently, without anyone around (Flammarion, 1923).

More recently, electrical phenomena have been reported, such as lights that turned off or on, electrical disturbances, and electrical appliances that stopped, or, on the contrary, started to work while they were broken. A very well-documented case already quoted is that of Rosenheim in 1967, followed by Hans Bender, where we have both electrical and phone disturbances:

- Electrical problems: current changes (up to 50 A) that should have blown the fuses; a backup power system to control the electrical flow was set up; the same deviations in amperage were observed.
- Phones: calls are made by themselves and increase the phone bill. Only one phone is left in operation. However, hundreds of calls are recorded, very often to the talking clock. The latter is sometimes called four to five times per minute (40 to 50 times in a row without anyone using the phone in the office).

In addition to Hans Bender of the IGPP, this case was appraised by:

- Herr Bruner, engineer in charge of the electrical energy supplier department in Rosenheim.
- Dr. F. Karger, physicist from the Max Planck Institute

and Dr. G. Zicha from the Technical University of Munich, who performed electrical, magnetic, and sound analyses.

- The Criminal Police Department.
- The Municipal Fire Department.
- The Construction/Infrastructure Services.

Their conclusions were:

- No explanation for the 15 strong current deviations observed, and the sound effects are sometimes associated (bangs such as during flashes of discharges).
- No explanation for the mechanical effects: lamp explosions, blowing fuses (while the current is normal), paintings and lamps turning.
- No explanation for the effects on the phone that seem to be carried out by intelligently controlled forces (dix-it).

In addition, 40 people witnessed these events (Bender, 1969).

Even more recently, phenomena related to electronic instruments and smartphones have been observed, such as televisions sometimes turning themselves off or on or switching channels to a program not listed in the schedule as in the cases aforementioned of Bothell in 2012 and South Shields in 2006. In the latter case, messages appeared on television about haunted house programs that were imminent. However, the television had not been programmed and the program in question was not found in the programming of the channels.

Light Effects, Appearances of People or Hands, Fog Effects, Feeling of Presence

Some cases of poltergeists include incidents of pure hauntings such as appearances of people, shadows, glows, fog effects, or visible hands even in bright light.

For example, in the Lot et Garonne, in Port Sainte Marie, in 1922, a school and the associated house were the seat of many phenomena:

One night, Mrs X, director of the school, had seen the curtains of her bed stirring, and then she thought she saw a hand enlarged, passing over the curtains. Fear seized her, she sat down on her bed, her lamp remaining lit, she still saw this hand, which eventually disappeared; but the curtains continued to shake violently. (Flammarion, 1923, p. 246)

More than 50 cases of hands being seen are reported in our case repository.

W.G. Roll reported a case at a house in Clayton, North Carolina, in 1962, occupied by Mrs. Pearl Howell and her two grown children, France (19) and Robert (22):

Starting from June 1962, the family saw some lights flashing in the house even when all the lights were switched off.

Charles Barden a freelance photographer interested in the case said that he had been at the house the previous evening and seen several flashes. They seemed faster than flashbulbs, he said, having more the speed of electronic flashes. He never saw anything like this before. Nothing had been found which could cause them. He and the police had decided that there would be no further publicity. They would welcome collaboration with parapsychologists.

WG Roll did an investigation with his team, and could not find any explanation except the fact that the phenomenon seems connected to the presence of the daughter France. The family moved from the house by the end of July of the same year (Roll, 2004) Chapter 6 - p 70-87.

In the South Shields case already mentioned, there were several appearances, some of which were visible only to Robert (the three-year-old son of Marianne and Marc) in the form of his invisible companion Sunny. However, Mike and Marianne saw a three-dimensional figure 2 m high, of a rather threatening black color, that crossed the landing. Marianne screamed as soon as she saw it; the apparition continued and stopped at Mike's level and, despite having no eyes, gave the impression of staring at him with an icy look.

In September, Jackie and Mike's father outside the house saw a man trying to chat with Mike, Marc, and Marianne in the dining room. However, when they met, they claimed to have been with no one else.

In the case of South Wales already quoted, a synchronization between an appearance and an external event (throwing of stones) has been observed, the event happening just after the appearance, with one witness (Jim) and one other person present (Paul).

Paul and Jim were working together on a piece of machinery, kneeling on the floor in the middle of the workshop and illuminated by full electric light. Paul once again caught sight of the apparition, and at once called to Jim to "Look behind you", whereupon the apparition vanished, and simultaneously a large stone struck with great force the machinery on which the two men were

working, shaking both of them. (Fontana, 1992, p. 228)

According to the JSPR paper, Paul had two other appearances of the same type with a small boy aged about 12 years, 2.5 feet tall, wearing short trousers and a peaked school cap (with no face under the cap) and no outline hands or bare knees.

The case of Stans in 1860, with a detailed diary by Melchior Joller of his destructive experience, presents no fewer than 19 form appearances with often several witnesses (up to three at the same event): a black shape that flees, a white form, hands, a small grey cloud, a silhouette at the windows, a child, a strong feeling of presence, a touch followed by the vision of a form. Two of them caused a person seeing it alone to faint (his son, the maid) (Joller, 1862).

With regard to the Borley Rectory case in 1927, lights were seen inside the Rectory over several days by villagers and seven identified witnesses even though it was closed and unoccupied. Harry Price, in Appendix D of his book, recapitulating the phenomena (or alleged phenomena) with the names of those who observed them, listed 14 identified people who were witnesses of a nun figure in different forms. (Price, 1940, p. 178).

In the Lletsy case cited above :

On January 8th my wife fainted on seeing a ball of light float from under her bed, small at first, but growing to the size of an India rubber ball as big as a soup plate. (Leaf, 1897, p. 324)

Heat of Objects

"Materialized" objects are sometimes hot or even very hot, as reported by G. Vesan, a priest from Issime in 1909, who witnessed a stones shower with more than 50 other people in a chalet in the Alps:

These 5 fallen stones were hot. I wanted to examine them all: these five, I had trouble holding them in hand and judging by the touch, they could have 45 to 50 degrees of heat. (Lecouteux, 2007, p. 148)

In Humpty Doo in 1998, Brendan Gowdie, a building maintenance expert, performed some interesting experiments. He first showed that if a person picked up and threw an object, his thermal imaging camera revealed warm spots corresponding to fingerprints on its surface. So he looked at some supposed "polt-propelled" objects (pistol cartridges, glass shards) to see if he could find

some kind of hints. But in fact, he found that they were uniformly warm all over (Healy & Cropper, 2014, Chapter 1, pp. 9–55).

Also, in aforementioned case of Sandfeldt in 1722, an iron ring from a plow wheel was flung at the feet of Haenell's two assistants, the gardener, and the watchman. When the gardener tried to pick it up, it burnt his glove. They carried it to Haenell at the manor house 1500 yards away, and it was still quite warm when he felt it (Gauld & Cornell, 1979, Chapter 6).

In some cases, water starting to boil in a container has been observed, as in the already quoted case of Amherst, in 1878.

Odors

They can be perceived by several people and disappear instantly in an entire room or house. They can be unpleasant or pleasant, like in Nanterre in 2015, where, among other phenomena, smells of jasmine and canella were perceived every evening for one week in a high school lodge (Catala, 2019, pp. 160–163).

Anthony D. Cornell personally experienced this phenomenon in Histon in 1954, with 15 witnesses: The smell would move around the room and be localized in a vertical column from the floor to the ceiling, so concentrated that it could not be detected more than 2 feet away. It could also be like a concentrated ball moving between them under their noses (Cornell, 2002, p. 167-175).

Cold Drafts

Cold drafts are perceived. Sometimes it's the whole room that seems cold, as in Aberdeen in 2002, where a bar's owner experienced a plummeting temperature combined with an object crashing and a passport photograph fluttering down from the ceiling (Holder, 2013, pp. 201–204), (case 123).

In some other cases the cold is perceived only in a specific area or on an individual as in Cambridge in 1967 (Rogo, 1979, pp. 261–269), where a matron of the school in which Matthew Manning was residing suddenly felt cold throughout her body and then saw a shower of pebbles falling from the ceiling.

Or as in the West Midlands in 1901 (Stratton, 1914), where the main occupant of a house, who was strongly skeptical at first, reported:

Another night, at about the same spot in the hall, I felt an icy cold wind pass over my face. This was not an ordinary draught or anything like it. Of this, I am convinced. No doors or windows were open. (Stratton, 1914, p. 286)

Interaction with the Phenomena

Religious Symbols as Targets

Many objects moved or burned are related to religious symbols, such as in Sicily in 1890 (Roll, 2004), in Bothell in 2012 (Linder, 2018), or at Thanjavour in India in 1920 (Thurston, 1991), which happened at the center of a conversion from Hinduism to Catholicism.

Communication: Raps, Voices, Object Placements, Graffiti, Magic Slate, Text Messages

Some poltergeists are interactive and appear to communicate with the people concerned. In extreme cases, it is with the voice, as in the case of Macon, where, according to Sieur François Perrault, a Huguenot minister at the time, discussions took place for two months between the villagers and an "entity" described by him as a demon in Macon in 1612 (Perrault, 1615).

Other cases mention the use of a code through knocks on walls or bedposts (e.g., one knock means yes, two shots mean no, or even the number of strokes is used to designate a letter of the alphabet). Some investigators have reported questioning the phenomenon mentally (they knew the answer without pronouncing it, and the answer was right). The physicist William Barrett, co-founder of the SPR and ASPR companies, investigated the Derrygonnelly case in 1877 (Barrett, 1911). First of all, he made sure that no one could be the cause of the beatings, checking that everyone in the room was clearly visible. Then he reported:

Then I mentally asked it, no words being spoken, to knock a certain number of times, and it did so. To avoid any error or delusion on my part, I put my hands in the side pockets of my overcoat and asked it to knock the number of fingers I had open. It correctly did so. Then, with a different number of fingers open each time, the experiment was repeated four times in a row and four times in succession and four times I obtained absolutely the correct number of raps. (Barrett, 1911, p. 393)

In the case of a poltergeist in Fenland at Wisbech in 1957 (Cornell & Gauld, 1960), A.D. Cornell and Alan Gauld reported:

All four witnesses agree that the knocks were responses to questions. The longer series came in a steady and quite rapid rhythm and when the

answer was completed there was a silence until after the next question had been posed. Inspection of the records showed there were at least fifteen series of more than two raps. (Cornell & Gauld, 1960, p. 354)

Also, in Andover in 1974 (Colvin, 2008), Barie G. Colvin used a deck of 40 cards (printed with numbers from one to ten). In the room with him were 3 other people.

He drew cards in 3 scenarios:

- everyone could see the card drawn.
- only he could see the drawn card.
- no one could see the card drawn.

In each scenario, he asked the supposed external agency which named himself Eric Waters, to strike the number of strokes associated with the card. The answers were given by the poltergeist, with a stronger blow at the end, as if to mark the end of the sequence.

The 1st scenario gave five correct results out of 5. The 2nd gave seven correct results out of 7, then 8 out of 10, and 2 results with a deviation of 1 from the number on the card. The 3rd eight results out of 10

However, the information obtained from these communications, specifically concerning the identity of the supposed external intelligent entity, is, in most cases, false or incoherent. In the latter case, despite a very detailed search, no Eric Waters has been found in the area around Andover (even if Eric has announced that his bones were below the house, which was too difficult to check), and no Eric was found in the Waters genealogy back to the 17th century.

A.D. Cornell and Alan Gauld made the following remarks about the case Wisbech cited precedingly :

The raps were ostensibly the work of an intelligence. In general they did not occur whilst we were asking questions; they came in an even tempo, at a rate of one second or somewhat faster and were appropriate in number to the questions asked, for example two for 'no' or eleven for 'November'. The intelligence, however, was crude and a search of local church records failed to confirm any of the information received. (Cornell & Gauld, 1960, p. 347)

In some cases, communication is opened with one person and blocked with another, as in Enfield in 1977 (Playfair, 2011), where communication was possible with Maurice Grosse but not with Guy L. Playfair.

Sometimes, the potential ESP competency of the

phenomena looks quite surprising and is mixed with the anomalous events:

Tracy Farrar experienced something even weirder. In her spare time, she makes jewelry from seashells, and on the day before the Humpty Doo visit, she'd spent hours collecting a particular type of small, brown shell at a Darwin beach. The next morning, while interviewing Kirsty (who she'd never met before), she watched in amazement as an identical shell sailed over her shoulder and landed on the table between them. Rachele entered the room moments later to witness more shells falling, apparently from the ceiling.

During her interview with Kirsty, Tracy received several electric shocks from her microphone – something that had never happened before and also saw the much-travelled TV remote lift off a table just a couple of feet to her right and fly up into the air.

Before joining ABC, she was a science technician. Yet, as she told Frank Robson later, "I can't explain it in scientific or any other terms. But I know what I saw ... and it wasn't a hoax." (Healy & Cropper, 2014, p. 45)

With regard to writings, in the case of Stratford in 1850 :

Dr. Phelps in fact averred that, when writing alone in his study he had for a minute turned his back to the table, and on resuming his task found written in large letters, the ink still wet, upon the sheet before him: 'Very nice paper and very nice ink for the devil.' (Thurston, 1953, p. 12)

Esther Cox in the case of Amherst in 1878 (Carrington, 1913; Hubbell, 1879, pp. 95–124) was the target of aggression with an inscription on a plaster wall (as performed with a big steel point) that was realized under the eyes of several witnesses: "Esther Cox, you are mine to kill." As reported by Hereward Carrington, at another moment with six people in the room, someone asked the polt, "How many people are in the room? Give a knock for each person in the room." Six distinct knocking sounds were instantly made by the power.

In the case of Borley rectory in 1927 (Price, 1940; Hastings, 1969), there were 19 witnesses of the writings globally. Mr. Glanville and his brother-in-law were also fortunate enough to witness the appearance of those famous wall markings:

Mr Glanville and his brother in law, in August 1937, photographed one of the ‘Marianne’ messages. Although the house was locked and sealed, another mark appeared by the side of the message an hour or so later. The message was again photographed, and the new mark can be seen in one photograph but not in the other. (Price, 1940, p. 110)

In the case of Bothell House in 2012 (Linder, 2018), reported by its tenant Keith Linder, the walls are marked with the words “DIE KL” (Death to Keith Linder) with a drawing representing a man upside down and a pair of scissors planted at the level of the head and the number 666 (the symbol of the devil in some beliefs).

New technologies are widely used in the case of South Shields in 2006 (Ritson, 2020). In particular, messages such as “JUST GO NOW” are written on a Doodle tablet (graphic slate). These messages then sometimes erase themselves. A study of the writing using graphology and QDE (questioned document examination) has been conducted by different experts. Results pointed out some resemblance with the potential agent’s writing (Marc), but no evidence of any hoax has been established (Hou-ran et al., 2022).

At the same time, aggressive messages) were received via SMS both inside and outside the house. Marianne and Marc (the two main witnesses) were sitting in the kitchen. Then:

At 6:05 pm, Marianne’s mobile phone beeped, indicating that she had a text message waiting to be received. This message had ostensibly been sent from Marc’s phone, which was sitting – switched off – on the table between them. Marc’s mobile phone showed no sign of life, and the screen was not illuminated. With great apprehension, Marianne opened the message. The words on the screen simply said, “Get you bitch”.

Marc, desperate to stop whatever was transpiring, opened the battery case on his phone and took the battery out. He then placed the battery, battery cover and phone back down on the table. Two minutes after the first text message, another one arrived. This one was far more sinister and, incredibly, it was being sent from Marc’s mobile phone even though he’d removed the battery. Marianne opened the message, which said, “You’re dead” (Ritson, 2020, p. 224).

Some messages took into account what had just

been said by those present. Some calls were sent from the landline while the latter was only entitled to incoming calls because the bill had not been paid correctly to the operator, and the latter had blocked the line for outgoing calls.

In the Scottish case of Dundee in 2008 (Holder, 2013, case No. 131), the phrase “You must go” was scrawled on the wall, and “Gonna hurt you” appeared on a notepad.

Finally, in the context of communication, arrangements of objects to convey a message can be observed (in fact, more than 10% of cases present some arrangement of objects with or without a clear message, some looking simply neatly arranged).

In the case of Humpty Doo in 1998 (Healy & Cropper, 2014, Chapter 1, pp. 9–55), for example, small pebbles were used to form letters, the latter arranged in words

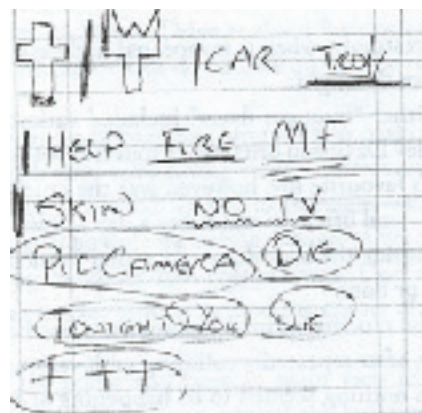


Figure 3. Small Pebbles Arrangement to Build Words in the Humpty Doo Case.

with a particular meaning or message (Figure 3). In the photo, we see the word “car,” which echoed a car accident that had taken place. In the second photo, we see the different words that appeared: for example, PIG CAMERA when cameras had been installed everywhere by a television crew in the hope of recording some live events.

In the suburbs of Buenos Aires, in Villa Devoto in 1903 (Flammarion, 1923), a zoologist at the Natural History Museum reported a poltergeist case that included an arrangement of three flower vases and a lamp delicately turned upside down and all placed in a cross in a locked room.

Eventually, in the case of Stratford in 1850 (Thuston, 1953, pp. 10–13), a scene with 11 characters built from clothes (obviously recovered from all over the house) constituting a kind of painting describing a scene of everyday life was built in a short time while no one had been able to enter the room concerned. The figures were arranged in a posture of devotion, and several Bibles were opened before them.

Poltergeist Agent

The phenomena are often related to the presence of a particular person. Here are the facts concerning the human influence on poltergeists with some numbers extracted from our repository of 906 cases with detailed phenomenology:

- One agent can be clearly identified with local influence (when they are outside the place, nothing happens) (38% identified in our case repository)
- In many cases, there is a combination of the agent and the place (when the agent moved out of the place, nothing happened in their new place, and nothing had happened to them before in their previous place)
- However, sometimes the phenomenon follows them to new places, as in Bremen in 1965 (Bender, 1969)
- Following breaking events in a porcelain shop in Bremen, Hans Bender detected that Heiner, a 15-year-old apprentice, was the poltergeist agent. He helped him to find another job in Freiburg as an apprentice with an electrician. In March 1966, cables had to be installed in the basement of a new school. A large number of hooks had to be attached to concrete walls. For each hook, two 8 mm holes were drilled in the wall, and then the hook was secured with two screws in plastic dowels. The foreman noticed that the screws were taking play as soon as the hooks had just been installed. So Hans Bender organized an experiment with the staff of the Freiburg Institute and several workers. They installed two hooks in the concrete wall and made sure they were securely attached. They placed the boy one meter away from the wall, while observing the screws closely. Within two minutes, they were loose. None of them had seen them unscrew.
- In some rare cases, the identified agent displayed a capacity for extended influence, such as Matthew Manning, who reported that when he was in trouble in school, some poltergeist manifestations were triggered in his parents’ home at a distance of several km (Manning, 1975). Also reported by Hans Bender in the Rosenheim case :

Phenomena happened in the lawyer’s office when Annemarie Sch., the supposed agent, was 1500 yards away (Bender, 1974, p. 128).

And in the Scherfede case in 1972 (Bender, 1974, pp. 138–141), in which eventually a little girl was identified as a water poltergeist agent for several houses, the last house was about 300 meters away from her residence.

In the Turkish case of Siirt in 2012 (Healy & Cropper, 2014, pp. 269–274), experienced by the Toprak family, fire is reported to have broken out when the supposed poltergeist agent (a young girl, 11 years old) was away from the house.

In the Miami case in 1966 (Roll, 1971, 1973), Jerome Eden, a TV reporter, despite the fact that Julio, the poltergeist agent, and all the other employees had left for the day, and so he was alone in the warehouse, experienced the crash of a bottle 36 feet from the place where he stood.
- 73% of the identified agents are aged less than 20, with historically more females (in our global case repository twice the number of males), but this difference has decreased recently.
- In other rare cases, some events happened in a place without any people in it and without a clearly identified agent, as in the case in New Jersey South in 1973 (Osis & McCormick, 1982), which concerned 24 witnesses, where, among other typical poltergeist phenomena, an alarm system, even after having been replaced three times, continued to be triggered regularly without any people inside or infraction detected.
- The group/family system (emotional) sometimes seems to be an agent: The poltergeist releases when some internal/underground problem is resolved or at least becomes explicit. In the Indianapolis case in 1962 (Roll, 1970, pp. 85-87; Roll, 2004, pp. 56–69), mother and grandmother seem to both be agents (but not the 12-year-old daughter who was often absent when

phenomena occurred). The phenomena were said to have stopped when the grandmother returned to her original country (Germany). The conclusion of William G. Roll on this case was that at the heart of the case was an interpersonal relationship characterized by frustration and anger that could not be adequately expressed within the relationship.

- In some cases, several agents are candidates, and it's difficult to draw a conclusion, as in the Turin case investigated by Dr. Lombroso in Turin in 1900 (Bozzano, 2000, pp. 206–209)
- It appears that some people are more inclined to experience them or trigger them.
- In many cases from our case repository, there was not enough information to identify an agent clearly (if we look at cases with a level of testimonial of five or higher on a scale of 10 we got 50% of agents identified instead of 40% with a level of four or less).
- Often, investigators inhibit the phenomena, but not always.
- Also, some people seem to be able to predict that some poltergeist event is on its way or be physically influenced by it.

For example, in the Enfield case aforementioned, Mrs. Harper (the main agent's mother) was able to predict some future act of the poltergeist or feel that something was on its way:

Mrs Harper mentioned the strange headache she always felt just before something is going to happen. It varies, she told me. If the thing is hanging out I get a slight throbbing sensation, and if it is going too bad there's a short bright band across the front of my head. And then it'll sort of go. (Playfair, 2011, p. 72)

Mrs Harper: It looks like it's using all our energy. First girls, then me. (Playfair, 2011, p. 81)

As Janet (main agent) bent a spoon without touching it with a hand on her eyes, Mrs. Harper reported that she saw it and felt that headache come and go just as it bent.

- In Malaysia at Kota Bahru in 2010 (Healy & Cropper, 2014, p. 261-266), 13-year-old Nurfatifa seemed to know when fires were starting and was usually the first to find and extinguish them. She said she "smelled them."
- In a Vietnam case in Ho Chi Minh in 2012 (Healy & Cropper, 2014, pp. 266-268), the poltergeist girl told Paul Cropper that she never sensed beforehand that

the fires were about to occur; she said that she sometimes "felt electricity" when they were happening and felt quite tired afterward.

Some poltergeist agents also mentioned a kind of release after the polt events happened, as in Miami, in 1966, precedently cited, where, after a series of anomalous events, W.G. Roll asked Julio, the supposed agent, how he felt:

"I feel good, I really miss the ghost..." -, he caught himself, "I mean... not the ghost, but I miss it when something doesn't happen." (Roll, 2004, p. 167)

The main current interpretation of this connection between poltergeist events and human, proposed initially by Willam G. Roll (Roll & Pratt, 1958), is that the subconscious part of the agent triggered by some mental state (such as frustration, anger, stress, etc.) would be able to produce all the phenomena described above and is connected to psychokinesis (PK). As there are multiple spontaneous events, it is called "RSPK" (recurrent spontaneous psychokinesis). The energy required would be provided either by the agent body or by some mechanism using, for example, the thermic energy of the room (Mattuck, 1977).

Another approach is the one proposed by Walter von Lucadou with :

- his Model of Pragmatic Information (MPI) (Lucadou, 1987) using systems theory to explain the process of development and extinction of the poltergeist phenomenon with elusiveness and a declining effect.
- and the generalized quantum theory (GQT) (Lucadou & Römer & Walach, 2007), using a metaphor of quantum mechanics theory to explain some kind of entanglement between the psyche of one person or a group of people and the matter.

This will not be developed further in this paper in order to maintain the focus on phenomenology.

External Agency

In other cases, the place looks to be the only trigger (15% identified in our case repository).

For example, in Humpty Doo in 1998 (Healy & Cropper, 2014, pp. 9–55), Brendan Gowdie, a building maintenance expert who was called to do some thermal imaging on flying objects (see also "Heat of Objects" section), reported that anomalous things were happening even when he was alone in the house (no housemate, no other crew).

Different occupants experienced poltergeist phenomena and only in this place. It could be a public place like a bar such as in the case of Croydon in 1960 (Wilson, 1981, pp. 326–332), where three successive managers of the King’s Cellar experienced the same poltergeist manifestations (glasses vibrating on the bar or shelves, bottles of wine sailing across the room to shatter against the wall, water springing from the toilet, cold drafts or rooms, spontaneous combustion, noises, apparitions, tills jammed).

In these latter cases, people (witnesses, investigators) experienced things that seemed to have been controlled by an external intelligence agency that was interacting, taking into account things that people in the place were saying or doing to make them afraid, playing tricks, or sending messages.

In some cases, there are apparitions of some kind combined with a strong feeling of presence, as in the case of Pittsburgh in 1971 (Pierce, 1973; Gauld & Cornell, 1979, pp. 356–9), where several witnesses saw a “white, misty figure” combined with a dog barking or a child laughing or giggling, and later seeing and experiencing a rocking chair moving by itself.

The current interpretations of this external agency, which will not be developed here neither, are:

- Elemental entity (such as “little people”) typical in the Middle Age tradition (trickster), Djinn in some Middle Eastern folklore or Muslim tradition.
- Death people because some cases seem to be related to some dead people in a place (10% of our case repository of 906 cases), like in Pontefract in 1966 (Wilson, 1981). An excellent discussion can be found in Gauld and Cornell (1979, Chapter 8): Poltergeists and the dead, showing the difficulty of a definitive answer on this topic.
- Evil spirits (3% of our cases) as in Earling in 1928 (Rogo, 1979, pp. 205–209) (see also next section).
- Black magic (3% of our cases) as if people cast spells as in Tidworth in 1662 (Gauld & Cornell, 1979, pp. 43–64), or in some South American cases reported by Guy L. Playfair in Playfair (1975), or in some Australian cases (Healy & Cropper, 2014).

Aggression, Stigmata, “Possession”

Although most poltergeists seem simply to try to scare people by, for example, throwing objects with relatively harmless impacts, some are more virulent and do not hesitate to conduct some real aggression. Many cases report people thrown out of their bed, such as, for example, children in the case aforementioned of Tidworth and Enfield. They give “violent slaps of wind” or real slaps,

leaving fingerprints as in the case of Coimbra in 1919 (Lacombe-Fronconi, 1910), punches in the face as the case in Dundee in 2008 (Holder, 2013, case No. 131), and throw objects that sometimes cause injuries as in Issime in 1909 (Lecouteux, 2007, pp. 141–156).

They can injure or cause stigmata on the body. In the case of South Shields, nine people witnessed scratches/cuts appearing “live” on Marc’s torso and back (he had had them several times, and each time, they disappeared a few hours later).

In regard to stigmata, we should mention the case of Eleanore Zugun in Bucharest in 1925 (Mulacz, 1998), who, after repeated poltergeist episodes, had regular stigmata (180 validated) attributed to a demon. They were appraised by Harry Price in his laboratory in London (Price, 1945).

Also, in the case of Montfort-sur-Meu in 1938 (Tizané, 1977a, p. 153), reported by Police Commissioner Tizané, there is an extract from the PV 209 of April 26, 1938, by the gendarmerie brigade of Monfort-sur-Meu:

On April 8, 1938, between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., we had adjutant B., Constables M., J., H., and B. found that a few pins, about 8, had sunk into the black blouse worn by Mr. H. at Mrs. widow P’s., without our knowledge, despite close and continuous surveillance, four times, and after serious control of the clothes capable of preventing any trickery. The pins appeared to us only when they were already stung in the clothes when M.H. had uttered a cry accusing the sting.

Other cases of pins are cited by Eleanore Zugun in the case of Bucarest in 1925 (Mulacz, 1998) and Esther Cox in the case of Amherst in 1898 (Carrington, 1913; Hubbell, 1879, pp. 95–124). Esther Cox also experienced some swelling of her body associated with periods of poltergeist activity (which returned to normal after).

In the Bristol case in 1761 (Gauld & Cornell, 1979, pp. 118–24), Henry Durbin conducted a scrutiny study and also carried out some experiments. Two girls were the target of assaults, such as stinging with a pin or biting: Dobby (eight) and Molly (13). Here is one of his experiments conducted on 15th February:

I made Molly sit down in a chair in the middle of the parlour: I took a large pin, and marked it at the top with a pair of scissors. I put her hand across, and bid her not to move. I desired the above Gentlemen to watch her narrowly; none were in the room besides ourselves; I then put the marked pin in her pincushion in which the other pin was;

I put the pincushion that hung at her side into her pocket hole, and pulled her clothes over it. As I moved one hand (my watch being in the other to see the time), she cried out she felt somewhat at her pincushion, and directly was pricked in the neck (her hands being still across). The identical pin that I marked was run through the neck of her shift, and stuck in her skin, crooked very curiously. It was not a minute from the time I put the pin in, to her being pricked in the neck: those two Gentlemen were witnesses of the Fact. We then marked four other pins, and I put them in her pincushion singly, as before; and all of them were crooked, and stuck in her neck. (Gauld & Cornell, 1979, p. 122)

In terms of assaults, here is another one:

Jan 2, 1762, I went and met there Mr.-, and several other gentlemen. We went into a room called the George, and saw the children pinched with impressions of nails, and the children said they saw the hand that did it Dobby cried, the hand was about her sister's throat, and I saw the flesh at the side of her throat pushed in, whitish, as if done with fingers, though I saw none. Her face grew red and blackish presently, as if she was strangled; but without convulsion or contraction of the muscles. (Gauld & Cornell, 1979, p. 123)

In terms of biting:

I saw Dobby wiping her hand in a towel, while I was talking to her, she cried out she was bitten in the neck. I looked and saw the mark of teeth, about eighteen, and wet with spittle? It was on the top part of the shoulder, close by the neck; therefore it was impossible for her to do it herself, as I was looking on all the time, and nobody was near her but myself. (Gauld & Cornell, 1979, p. 122)

As for cuts, here is Durbin's description of the sort of cuts that were inflicted:

She (Molly) had above forty cuts on her arms, face and neck, with the blood dried on them, and very sore. They looked very black, and were all about two and a half inches long, and about the thickness of a shilling deep; the skin not jagged, but smooth, as if cut with a penknife. (Gauld & Cornell, 1979, p. 123)

In the case of Indianapolis in 1962 (Roll, 2004, pp. 85-87; Roll, 1972, pp. 56-69), William G. Roll did the investigation and was present for some of the 14 occasions of biting (five to six punctures in a 2.5 cm skin area) that concerned a mother (one occurrence) and a grandmother (13 occurrences) among 110 incidents of poltergeist phenomena (such as knocks, noises, movement of objects, and dragging of furniture).

In the case of Seyssuel in 1930, reported by René Sudre (Sudre, 1931), babies were injured (foreheads swollen and bleeding, faces scratched). No one was seen close to them capable of doing that.

However, to the best of our knowledge, there are no recorded cases of fatal injuries directly caused by a poltergeist (two cases of poisoning are mentioned: in the American Bell Witch case with the assassination of John Bell which was reported in Adams County in 1817 (Carrington & Fodor, 1951) and in the Brazilian case of Jaboticabal in 1965 (Linder, 2020) with the suicide of Maria at the center of events, without being certain in these two cases that the action was carried out directly by the poltergeist).

Cases resembling possessions are reported with the intervention of exorcists, who often have little impact or just a temporary one as in Ooty in 1897 (Flammarión, 1923, p.348), or who, on the contrary, reinforce the phenomenon.

When a poltergeist seems connected with "possession phenomena," the physical effects reported are often very strong. In the case of Earling in Iowa in 1928 (Rogo, 1979, pp. 205-209), the chief witnesses were Theophilus Riesinger, a highly regarded priest and exorcist, and Father Steiger, in whose church the rites were performed.

The victim was a 42-year-old woman who had suffered from symptoms of demonic possession since the age of 14, with an abhorrence of religious objects and blessed items. She was psychologically normal between the periods of the attacks. She presented multi-language understanding in front of several witnesses, used ESP-like competencies in discriminating between blessed and unblessed food, and finally took the personality of a demon that spoke through her in parallel with very strong physical effects, such as:

With lightning speed the possessed dislodged herself from the bed and from the hands of her guards; and her body, carried through the air, landed high above the door of the room and clung to the wall with a tenacious grip. All present were struck with a trembling fear. Father Theophilus alone kept his peace. "Pull her down.

She must be brought back to her place upon the bed.”

Real force had to be applied to her feet to bring her down from her high position on the wall. The mystery was that she could cling to the wall at all.

Fearsome noises, howling, and voices broke out of the rectory when the exorcism was resumed. (Rogo, 1979, p. 207)

Scott Rogo pointed out that in some cases a conventional poltergeist outbreak gradually leads to the victim becoming, or at least believing themselves to be, possessed. In these cases there is no doubt that a more conventional poltergeist was active long before the probable agent began to exhibit possession symptoms. A good example is given by the case in Georgetown in 1949 (Rogo, 1979, pp. 210–214) at the origin of the movie *The Exorcist*.

For this theme of possessions and hauntings, different complementary information and approaches can be found in Brittle (2013), Catala (2017), Rogo (1974), Oesterreich (1930), and Thurston (1953).

Response to the Challenge

Sometimes, people become targets as a result of a form of challenge to the phenomenon (they insult it, claim that they are not afraid, or try to stop it in its way by trying to immobilize an object that has moved previously). For example, in Sicily in 1890 (Roll, 2004), a 25-year-old woman clasped a fan in her hands, which were themselves wedged between her knees, and challenged the “spirits” to take it. In a flash, the fan was twisted and smashed on her head.

In the south of England at Durweston in 1894 (Podmore, 1896), a dirty boot from a garden was the subject of many movements, including in the house. Mr. Newman reports:

After the boot was thrown out into the garden, I went out and put my foot on it and said, ‘I defy anything to move this boot.’ Just as I stepped off, it rose up behind me and knocked my hat off. There was no one behind me. The boot and the hat fell down together. (Podmore, 1896, p. 91)

In the case of Issime precedingly cited, within a group of 20 people, three young people were caught in the line of fire because they defied the phenomenon (rockfalls inside a chalet) and, despite their youthful ardor and self-esteem, they had to abandon this living room and take refuge in a nearby cottage (stones still reached them,

however, and injured one of them with totally improbable zigzag trajectories).

In the case of South Wales in 1989 (Fontana, 1991; Fontana, 1992, pp. 225–231), one of the witnesses Ann, talking about “Pete,” the surname they gave to the supposed polt entity, said “I got more active response from ‘Pete’ if I called out insults to him.”

Marking and Returns

Some have experimented with taking the stones that were sent to the house, marking them, and returning them in the same direction, e.g., in Tucson in 1983 (Rogo, 1987) and in Sumatra in 1903 (Grottendieck, 1906). A number of stones returned, while finding them in the surrounding wilderness around the house seemed very complex.

At Keninup in the case of Mayanup in 1957 (Healy & Cropper, 2014, Chapter 2) :

..the Hacks selected exactly 100 stones, coated them with silver paint, and scattered them widely over the general area. After just a few days they had all been pitched back into the Smith’s camp. (Healy & Cropper, 2014, p. 86)

In another example in Italy at Boccioletto in 1908 :

Stones regularly fall inside a closed room, each weighing in general 200 to 300 g, some more than 500 g and one 2 kg; each person was touched but without harm; one evening they marked the stones with coal and threw them away; some have returned (Bozzano, 2000, p. 204).

In some cases, stones are reported to have been launched and come back directly in a reciprocal way. A good example is given by the aforementioned case of South Wales in 1989 reported by the investigator David Fontana:

The poltergeist appeared able to throw stones back when Jim threw them into the corner (which was at approximately 20 feet). On a number of occasions, I was present when this happened, the stones being thrown by Jim or Ann. In each case, I watched the flight of the stone thrown by the individual concerned, witnessed it land, then a moment later (with the stone thrower in my full view) heard the familiar clatter as it was ‘returned’ against the wall on either side of the workshop. Perhaps more significantly still, I found I was able to reproduce this phenomenon

Table 2. Effects of Outside Witnesses on Number or Severity of Occurrences (From Roll, 1977b, p. 54).

Period	Total Number (N)	Uncertain (N)	Uncertain (%)	Enhances (N)	Enhances (%)	No Effect (N)	No Effect (%)	Total Enhance & No Effect (N)	Total Enhance & No effect (%)	Inhibits (N)	Inhibits (%)
1612-1849	16	1	6	7	44	8	50	15	94	0	0
1850-1899	24	2	8	3	12.5	17	71	20	83	2	8
1900-1949	34	4	12	9	26	26	76	31	91	3	9
1950-1974	31	3	10	8	26	16	52	24	77	4	13
Totals	105	9	9	23	22	67	64	90	86	6	6

myself, and did so on a number of separate occasions. (Fontana, 1991, p. 395)

Tendency of the Phenomenon to Hide Itself from Human Observers or a specific Human Observer

Does the observer have an impact on the phenomena? Generally speaking, people see the result but not necessarily the start of the movement. Very often the phenomena occur at the moment when the people present turn their backs. However, even if very often witnesses reported that they didn't see the objects start moving, there are a number of cases where investigators/witnesses were able to do so.

In the case of Olive Hill in Kentucky in 1969, two parapsychologists (William G. Roll and John P. Stump, research associate at the PRF) saw several objects starting to move (Roll, 2004, pp. 148-157).

In the case of Neudorf in 1852, followed by Hans Bender, "the objects seemed to spring from the wall at high speed" (Bender, 1969). Also, in some cases with apport of water or spontaneous combustion, as seen above, people have seen the start of phenomena. Maybe we can say that, in many cases, people didn't see the start because they were not looking at that spot at that moment. In fact, William. G. Roll conducted an analysis of 105 cases and found that there was very low inhibition by the witnesses in the global number of events: 6% on average, 13% in the last period (1950-1974) (Table 2).

But if there was a very detailed observation trying to see the beginning of movements of objects, then, in 45%

of the cases, some inhibition was observed (Table 3).

In many cases studied since these first results, it is reported that the phenomenon tends to hide, not be exposed, especially vis-à-vis the cameras. Several cases report the fact that camera batteries are sometimes drained. In the case of Mexico city in 2021 (D'Leon, 2021), the following events were noted by Ramses D'Leon's team:

- five of the six memory cards were unusable after installation during the first experiment.
- one of the cameras changed its angle without any intervention.
- another camera had a recording problem for 50 minutes.

Similar events are reported in the case of aforementioned of Bothell in 2012.

In the case of Neusatz in 1951 (Bender, 1969), on a German farm where phenomena of curtain theft occurred, Hans Bender's team set up a motion-triggered camera in the room where the curtains were theft and asked the police to seal the room. No new occurrence of the phenomenon was observed.

In Australia in the case of Mayanup precedingly cited, two film attempts (at the Boyup Brook and Pumphrey sites) by television crews failed (Tony Healy and Paul Cropper used the expression "Camera-shy spooks"): at Boyup Brook as soon as they arrived the phenomena stopped, only to resume after their departure, and at Pumphrey, the cameramen from the *Sunday Times* saw the stones but could not catch them on their film.

Table 3. Effect of Visual Observation by Outside Witnesses on Beginning of Movements of Objects (From Roll, 1997 May, p. 54).

Period	Total Number (N)	Uncertain (N)	Uncertain (%)	No Effect (N)	No Effect (%)	Inhibits (N)	Inhibits (%)
1612-1849	13	2	15	5	38	6	46
1850-1899	23	2	9	9	39	12	52
1900-1949	32	7	22	13	41	12	37.5
1950-1974	26	2	8	12	46	12	46
Totals	94	13	14	39	41	42	45

But filming does not appear to have been totally excluded since, in the case mentioned above in Mexico city, Ramses D'León seems to have managed to film in 2022 the apport of a coin, thanks to six cameras installed in the house 24 hours a day, seven days a week for 18 months (60 pieces apported globally).

Also, Hans Bender reported that the IGGP team succeeded in videotaping the sudden rotation of a painting in the Rosenheim case, and in the Pursruck case in 1970 (Bender, 1974, pp. 135-38), they succeeded in videotaping while the girls concerned were in their beds and the knockings were appearing in different intensities...

However, in some cases, it appears that there is inhibition of the phenomena by a specific observer (by example in the case of Enfield already mentioned, there was some inhibition of the phenomena when Guy L. Playfair was present and not with the presence of Maurice Grosse).

Other Features Observed

Diurnal or Nocturnal

Events can take place at night but also in broad daylight depending on the case.

Duration

The duration of the phenomena can range from one day to some years. Sometimes it stops to restart again later as in Calvados, in 1875 (Flammarion, 1923). In our case repository (674 with a duration):

- 18% 1 month and less
- 39% 6 months and less
- 17.5% above 2 years

Focusing Effect

Certain objects or areas are particularly affected. In his paper "Experimenting with poltergeists," William G. Roll highlighted that 66% of the 116 cases studied pre-

sented some focus objects (repeated incidents with the same or similar objects), 15.5% some focus areas (repeated incidents taking place in the same area such as a room or a shelf), and 10% both (Roll, 1977 b). Detailed results are presented in Table 4.

A detailed study using this focus feature can be found in the case of Miami precedingly cited, where beer mugs were regularly thrown from some specific shelves in a Florida novelty wholesale store (Roll & Pratt, 1971).

Tony Healer and Paul Cropper, in their Australian study, talk about "frequent flyers" as in the aforementioned case of Humpty Doo, where among other focus objects were a homemade bottle opener and a crucifix. The latter, almost every day, sometimes several times a day, disappeared from the top of a small bureau and, either immediately or somewhat later, dropped or crashed into a wall or the floor.

In the case of Holloway in 1977 (Playfair, 2011) pp. 188-9), a cooking book sailed regularly out of the shelf and lay open on the floor, always opened at the same page, this page containing a couple of recipes for luscious-looking cakes. One of these was "American Devil's Food" (which, according to the owners, was never used).

In the Charlottenburg case in 1929 (Gauld & Cornell, 1979, pp. 148-157), a furry ape doll hanging from a bar was regularly agitated (making dancing movements, all its limbs moving vigorously, and sometimes nodding its head) without any explanation.

Animal Impact

Animals often behave strangely in the presence of the phenomenon. Either they demonstrate terror, like the horse terrified in its box and dogs avoiding some rooms in the case of West Midlands in 1901 (Stratton, 1914), or, on the contrary, they are completely indifferent, as in aforementioned case of South Wales in 1989. Sometimes, this second behavior follows the first, as in Mayanup in 1957 (cited earlier), where a kangaroo dog was terrified, howled, broke its chain, and ran away, and then for the two years that the events lasted, did not react at all.

Table 4. Objects and Areas Focusing Effects (Roll, 1977 b, p. 59).

Period	Total number (N)	No Focus. (N)	No Focus. (%)	Object Focus. (N)	Object Focus. (%)	Area Focus. (N)	Area Focus. (%)	Object & Area Focus. (N)	Object & Area Focus. (%)	Total Cases With Focusing (N)	Total Cases With Focusing (%)
1612-1849	19	2	10.5	11	58	4	21	2	10.5	17	89
1850-1899	25	4	16	16	72	3	12	2	8	21	84
1900-1949	38	2	5	26	68	6	16	4	11	36	100
1950-1974	34	3	9	22	65	8	23.5	1	3	31	91
Totals	116	9	8	77	66	18	15.5	10	10	107	92



Performing Complex Tasks, Starting Complex Devices (Requiring Multiple Steps)

The phenomenon can show structured intelligence (as previously presented in the object arrangement events), managing processes with multiple steps, including technical knowledge: for example, in the South Wales case, which occurred in a small mechanical engineering repair workshop with a related adjoined retail shop situated in a suburban shopping street in South Wales:

The engine of a powerful commercial petrol mower was found running in a fume-filled workshop on Paul's opening up the premises on a Monday morning. I later checked that this mower required no less than three separate operations in order to start it, the final one involving a pull-start achievable only by repeated brute physical force. The loudness of the engine ruled out the possibility of it having been accidentally left running, and the petrol in a full tank would have been insufficient to keep the motor operating for 36 hours from Saturday evening to Monday morning.

A Rubik's cube, placed on a shelf in the workshop, was found regularly 'rearranged' overnight, and once moved to a different shelf. (Fontana, 1992, , p. 226)

In the case of New Jersey South in 1973, analyzed by Karlis Osis and Donna McCormick, where many electrical apparatus were triggered (alarm, light, music box), Mrs. Marge Byron and her daughter Denise Howards were alone in the shop at about 7 pm:

They heard a loud noise in the workroom, and when they entered the room to check it out, they found the sewing machine operating by itself. Going over to turn it off, they discovered that the switch was already in the "off" position; yet the machine continued to operate. They had to pull out the plug to stop it. Mrs Byron told us that "it was very strange" – we left right away. We inspected the sewing machine, which has a triple switching safety mechanism: before it will operate, it has first to be switched on, then the appropriate button pushed for stitch density, and finally, the foot pedal depressed. The machine will not function if any one of these three switches is not activated. We were told that the machine had not been in use just prior to the incident, and no customer has ever been known to enter the

workroom. Denise remarked: "Even if someone did go in there, how would they start [the machine] without using the switches?" There have been no reports of the machine malfunctioning since this incident. (Osis & McCormick, 1982, pp. 30–31)

Contagion

The phenomenon sometimes seems to be given characteristics of contagion by people (Ritson, 2021) or supposed haunted objects, as in the case of the Annabelle doll (Brittle, 2013). It seems that the poltergeist cited precedingly of South Shields, which occurred in 2006, was able to temporarily infect some people who, directly or indirectly, had been in contact with the family at the center of the disorders. Keith Linder, at the center of the case of Bothell in 2012 (cited earlier), reports the same type of experiments. In the Australian case of Mayanup in 1957, already mentioned, two houses 700 m apart, belonging to two brothers, used by two families of employees with a family connection, experienced poltergeist phenomena one after the other. Then, another connection was reported as follows:

On thing that makes the case uniquely interesting is the way the polt didn't simply focus on one particular family or residence, as is usually the case. At one stage it was pestering, simultaneously, the Smiths at 'Keninup', the Krakouers at 'Lynford Hill' and the Pennys 150 km away at 'Carabin'. Later, when Cyril Penny was again targeted at Borden, the Jannick was still operating at Mayanup, 160 km to the west. Later, as we have seen, it took a shine to young Harvey Dickson and moved to Boyup Brook. (Healy & Cropper, 2014, p. 83)

In the case of South Wales, where no agent could be established, Jim and Ann, and Paul and Yvonne experienced events outside the shops or in their home:

Frequent telephone calls to Jim and Ann's house during the day and night (on one occasion every few minutes throughout an entire afternoon), but the line dead on answering. British telecoms engineers had been asked to check but had found no fault to account for this. (Fontana, 1991, p. 391)

And for Paul:

On two occasions, however, the money arrived in a different manner, once when a 10-pound note was found pasted on the wet windscreen of Paul's car at the end of the afternoon, and once when five one-pound coins violently struck the front door of his house while he was crossing the darkened hallway. (In his account he reported the impression that they flung 'through' the door from outside, rather than simply rebounding from inside). (Fontana, 1992, p. 227)

A.D. Cornell reported in the case that he investigated in Histon in 1954, close to Cambridge, on an odor appearing in the rear part of his parents' house, which also appeared in one of the cars he and his friends used on their way back to Cambridge. The smell also materialized in the bedroom of his friend Betty, lodging in Southend, 70 miles away (Cornell, 2002, pp. 167-175).

Also, Guy L. Playfair produced a hypothesis about possible contagion between the Holloway case and Enfield case (similarity of events as the book opened at a page, and closeness in time) and also with Maurice Grosse, who experienced different typical poltergeist events in his own house and was investigating both cases.

There was also some form of contagion in the aforementioned case of Earling, as Father Steiger and some other priests, after having participated in the exorcism ritual, experienced in their homes gnawing sounds, pounding on the walls, eerie noises, and rooms shaking.

Further information on this subject can be found in Ritson (2021) and McCue (2022).

End of a Poltergeist

Very often, a poltergeist seems to end itself (for no apparent reason). However, the departure of the identified "poltergeist agent" triggers the ending, at least in that place.

Example: In the case of Fougères-sur-Bièvre in 1913 (Flammarion, 1923), the departure of the grandson stops all phenomena.

Or the stopping may be thanks to the support of an organization that accompanies the agent or the "agent group", as in the advisory approaches of the CIRCEE in France or the IGPP in Germany. Typically, the approach is centered around the following:

- acceptance of the phenomena.
- the knowledge that these phenomena happen to other people, other groups.
- the acceptance that these phenomena may be related to a person's or group's own emotional context (they are

- no longer completely external to them).
- taking into account the poltergeist as a message in the life of the person or group.
- the verbalization of possible emotions (fear, frustration, guilt) not said until now.

Sometimes this verbalization/sharing is enough to reduce the phenomena, or even to stop them. The stopping can be done following a change in the family (indeed some poltergeists seem to be linked to a particular family situation and the departure of one of the members stops the phenomena). Sometimes the phenomena stop when the investigation begins. Sometimes it is a ritual that triggers the cessation of phenomena (at least temporarily).

Finally, the hypothesis of Darren Ritson in his books on the South Shields case (Ritson, 2020) and on contagions (Ritson, 2021) would be a possible "feeding" of the phenomenon by electrical/electronic systems (especially those left on standby at night). By stopping these systems, the poltergeist would have ceased its activity.

DISCUSSION: LEVEL OF EVIDENCE AND PLAUSIBILITY

Investigations and Testimonials

One could say that all these stories are myths, or legends. However, in the cases cited above, it can be seen that most were based on numerous simultaneous testimonies, had been the subject of a detailed investigation by different agencies (police, firefighters, infrastructure,..), and for some had been the subject of a detailed analysis by a parapsychologist with the publication of an article in a peer-reviewed journal (globally, 309 out of our 1250 cases have benefited from an investigation).

To give an example of investigation, close to Wisbech in Fenland, in 1957, Alan Gauld and A.D. Cornell conducted a scrutinized investigation on the Hannath Hall case with 12 visits, sometimes accompanied by other members of the SPR and CUSRP (Table 5). Raps were coming from the floor and walls without any explanation (Cornell & Gauld, 1960).

Some cases benefit from a large number of witnesses who have declared on their honor by notarial act the veracity of their testimony: for example the Sandfledt case in 1722 with 27 witnesses (Gauld & Cornell, 1979, Chapter 6).

Levels of Testimonials and Details Increase over Time

Some cases were scored with a level of testimonies from 1 to 10 (which is based on answers to questions such

Table 5. Investigations Done for the Hannath Hall Case. ATTRIBUTION NEEDED

Date of Visit	Investigators
1957 Nov. 16-17th	A. D. Cornell, A. O. Gauld, J. M. Brotherton, D. J. Murray.
1957 Nov. 21-22nd	A.D.C., A.O.G., D.J.M., I. Hacking, A. Hickling.
1958 Feb. 6-7th	A.D.C., A.O.G.
1958 Aug. 30th	A.D.C., A.O.G., Mrs T. Turner
1958 Oct. 17-18th	A.D.C., A.O.G., Dr I. Fletcher.
1958 Nov. 15-16th	A.D.C., A.O.G., J.M.B., D.J.M.
1959 Apr. 24th	A.D.C., A.O.G., Hon. A. P. Leith.
1959 Apr. 25-26th	A.D.C., A.O.G., Hon. A. P. Leith, Mr and Mrs R. Copley.
1959 June 15th	A.D.C.
1959 June 25th	A.D.C.
1959 Sept. 24th	A.D.C., A.O.G.
1960 Jan. 26th	A.D.C., A.O.G.

as: Do we just have a second-hand testimony or direct experience? How many simultaneous witnesses of the events are there?) and a level of detail from 1 to 5 (from a low level of detail to a written day-to-day follow-up of all events).

These levels of testimony and detail have progressed over the different historical periods as investigations have developed further, as can be seen in the attached graph, which used the 608 cases about which we currently have information regarding testimonials and details (Figure 4). In recent periods, some cases have been the subject of an entire book (e.g., Enfield, Borley rectory, South Shields, Bothell house).

G.W. Roll, in his study based on 116 cases, had evaluated that 105 cases involved witnesses outside the family, including 73 with professional training (parapsychologists, police, government officials, doctors, scientists, lawyers, psychologists, clergy, teachers, naval officers, firefighters).

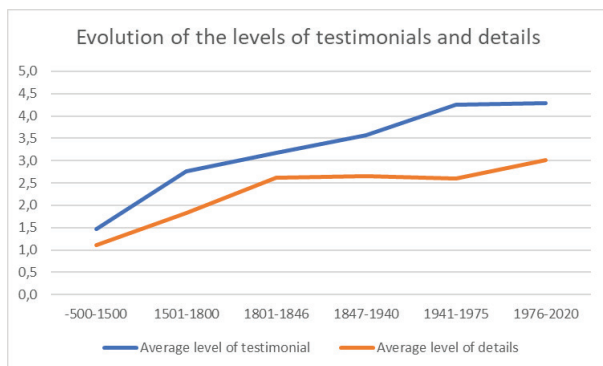


Figure 4. Evolution of the Levels of Testimonials and Details.

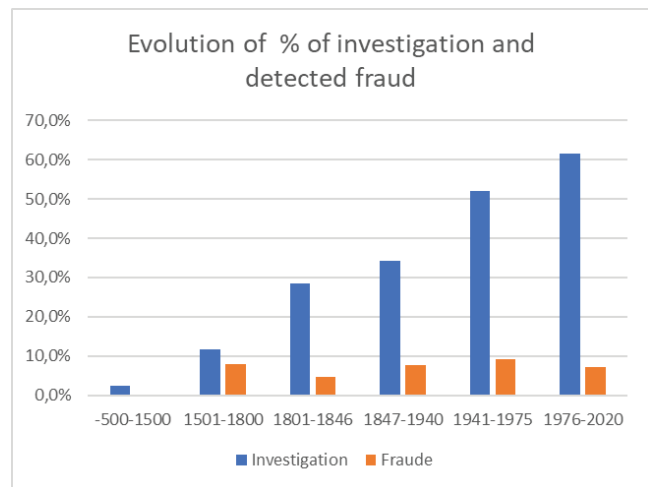


Figure 5. Evolution of Percentage of Investigation and Detected Fraud.

Percentage of Fraud Detected and Level of Investigation

If a majority of cases had been fraudulent, further investigation should have highlighted more and more cases of fraud. This is not what is found in the graph in Figure 5. Indeed, the analysis highlights that the level of investigation of cases, which increased sharply between the 1500s and 2000s, had little impact on the level of fraud detected, which remains at 10% or less.

Lawsuits, Insurance Reimbursements, and Property Tax Credits Induced by Poltergeists

Many cases have given rise to lawsuits such as that of Lynwood in 1960 (Rogo, 1979), cancellations of lease agreements such as that of Grès in 1849 (Flammarion, 1923), or at least gendarmerie minutes such as those published by Commissioner Tizané (Tizané, 1977b).

There is also a case of compensation for English army officer R.W. Jelf by his insurance following seven spontaneous fire starts in his house in the county of Sussex, which was unsuccessfully appraised by the fire brigade, the police, and the laboratories of Scotland Yard (Mail London Office, 1952).

A \$4,000 property tax was apparently granted to an American citizen in the 1910s on the basis that his house was haunted, and therefore, drove away his successive tenants (Journal of the debates, politics, and litterers of 19th August 1912 in France).

All these elements contribute to giving some credibility to the existence of the phenomenon.

At All Times, Distant, Unconnected People Have

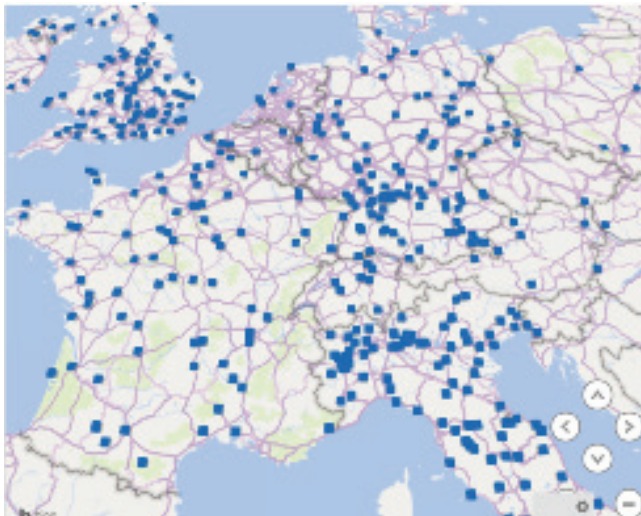


Figure 6. Map of Europe with the Distribution of the Cases Listed.

Described the Same Phenomena

As presented in Dullin (2021) and Dullin (2022), there is similarity in the components of the poltergeist phenomena in different countries. Also, these events are reported in a wide distribution over the territories as shown in this map of Europe (Figure 6) with the distribution of the cases listed.

In the nineteenth century, for example, the means of communication were not those of today. Many cases are described in isolated dwellings, at a time when the inhabitants could not have known about the phenomena observed in other cases of poltergeists. So the similarity of description of the latter is an element of plausibility of the statements.

Strong Validation of Bizarre Effects

One could say, “Very well, in regard to poltergeists, I am willing to give credit to types of events such as raps, objects moved or broken, and strange noises, but on the other hand, events such as movements of heavy cabinets, non-ballistic trajectories, and teleportation/apports do

not seem credible to me.”

To test this argument, an analysis of cases taking into account those with a level of testimony higher than four compared to those with four and below was conducted. If these “exotic” phenomena were chimeras, their percentage of citations in well-documented cases with strong testimonies should have decreased. In fact, the opposite is the case, as can be seen in the table below (Table 6).

For example, the phenomena of apports/materializations are cited in 31% of cases with the best testimonies, compared to 23% for those with a lower level of testimony. It’s the same for the movement of large objects and non-ballistic trajectories (29% instead of 14%).

William G. Roll also produced an interesting argument pointing out that if you perform a fraud or trick (like a magician), you avoid doing the same trick twice, which is exactly the opposite of what happens in the focusing effect described previously.

IMPLICATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

The repository of cases supporting this study is an ongoing project. So the few statistics presented could evolve to some extent. However, the main kind of events will stay the same.

Also, the multiple testimonies on strong cases (with a high level of testimonies) open the door to considering cases with a lower level of testimonies with the same kind of events. This could provide some details on the phenomenology, details that haven’t appeared in the strong cases. The fact that some exotic features (such as teleportation and non-ballistic trajectories) are more reported in strong cases (with high testimonies) than weaker ones is good evidence of their importance.

Some reported details look so “authentic” (if people were making a story, how could they think to put this in their report or testimonial?) that they induce a degree of evidence on the whole case, even if the level of testimonial is low.

So, considering all these cases and the details could help to build a more global picture of the phenomenon.

Table 6. Percentage of Occurrences of the Different Categories of Poltergeist Events Compared to the Level of Testimonial of the Case.

	No Cases	Raps %	Small Objects %	Large Objects %	Nonballistic Trajectory %	Apports %	Communication %
Level of Testimonial > 4	221	54	69	51	29	31	19
Level of Testimonial < = 4	386	40	56	26	14	23	13



For example, we can foster events around the teleportation features, the non-ballistic trajectories, the spontaneous fires, or spontaneous water apparitions through multiple cases. This could provide more ideas based on facts to develop current and new hypotheses and new psychophysical models in order to make progress in the comprehension of this phenomenon.

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- Folkstone, 1918: (Roll, 1972)
- Fougères-sur-Bièvre, 1913: (Flammarion, 1923)
- Georgetown, 1949: (Rogo, 1979, pp. 210–214)
- Grès, 1849: (Flammarion, 1923)
- Hartville, 1957: (Clarkson, 2011, pp. 202-204)
- Histon, 1954: (Cornell, 2002, p. 167-175)
- Ho Chi Minh, 2012 : (Healy & Cropper, 2014, pp. 266-268)
- Holloway, 1977 : (Playfair, 1980, pp. 188–9)
- Humpty Doo, 1998: (Healy & Cropper, 2014, pp. 9–55)
- Indianapolis, 1962: (Roll, 2004, pp. 85-87; Roll, 1972, pp. 56–69)
- Ipiranga, 1967: (Playfair, 1975)
- Issime, 1909: (Lecouteux, 2007, pp. 141–156)
- Jaboticabal, 1965: (Linder, 2020)
- Java, 1950: (Zorab, 1973)
- Kingstown, 1876: (Barrett, 1918)
- Kota Bahru in 2010 (Healy & Cropper, 2014, p. 261-266), Laurence and Methuen, 1963: (Bayless, 1967, pp. 99–107)
- Lipsky, 1853: (Leaf, 1897)
- Lletsy, 1870: (Leaf, 1897)
- Los Angeles, 1974: (Rogo, 1979, pp. 112–123)
- Lynwood, 1960: (Rogo, 1979)
- Lyon, 2007: (Rabeyron, 2010)
- Lyon, 1525: (Montalembert, 1580)
- Macon, 1612: (Perrault, 1615)
- Marcinelle, 1913: (Flammarion, 1923)
- Mayanup, 1957: (Healy & Cropper, 2014, Chapter 2)
- Mexico City, 2021: (D'Leon, 2021)
- Miami 1966: (Roll, 1971, 1973)
- Midlands, 1967: (Stratton, 1914)
- Montfort, 1938: (Tizané, 1977a, pp. 51–52)
- Nanterre, 2015: (Catala, 2019, pp. 160–163)
- Narrabri, 1900: (Healy & Cropper, 2014, case 21)
- Neusatz, 1951: (Bender, 1969)
- Neudorf, 1952: (Bender, 1969)
- New Jersey South, 1973: (Osis & McCormick, 1982))
- Nickleim, 1968: (Bender, 1969)
- Nottingham, 1990: (Cornell, 2002)
- Olive Hill, 1969: (Roll, 1972, pp. 148–157)
- Ooty, 1897: (Flammarion, 1923, p.348)
- Pittsburgh, 1971: (Pierce, 1973; Gauld & Cornell, 1979, pp. 356–9)
- Pontrefact, 1966: (Wilson, 1981)
- Poona, 1920: (Price, H., & Kohn, H., 1930).
- Port Sainte Marie, 1922: (Flammarion, 1923)
- Portland, 1909: (Gilbert, 1910)
- Pursruck, 1970: (Bender, 1974, pp. 135–38)
- Rochdale, 1995: (Clarkson, 2011)
- Roodeport, 1922: (Bayless, 1967)
- Rosenheim, 1967: (Bender, 1969)
- Sandfeldt, 1722: (Gauld & Cornell, 1979, Chapter 6)
- San Remo, 1986: (Healy & Cropper, 2014, Chapter 6)
- Sauchie, 1960: (Gauld & Cornell, 1979, pp. 79–83)
- Scherfede, 1972: (Bender, 1974, pp. 138–141)

APPENDIX A

List of the 105 Cases Cited and Their Sources

- Aberdeen, 2002: (Holder, 2013) case 123, pp. 201–204
- Adams County, 1817: (Carrington & Fodor, 1951)
- Adelong, 1889: (Healy & Cropper, 2014)
- Amherst, 1878: (Carrington, 1913; Hubbell, 1879, pp. 95–124)
- Ancona, 1903: (Rogo, 1979, p. 184)
- Andover, 1974 : (Colvin, 2008).
- Arcachon, 1963: (Tocquet & Cuenot, 1966)
- Baltimore, 1960: (Rogo, 1979, p. 257)
- Beuvry, 1907: (Flammarion, 1923, p. 246)
- Boccioletto, 1908: (Bozzano, 2000, p. 204)
- Borley, 1927: (Price, 1940; Hastings, 1969)
- Bothell 2012: (Linder, 2018)
- Bremen, 1965: (Bender, 1969)
- Bristol, 1761: (Gauld & Cornell, 1979, pp. 118–24)
- Bucarest, 1925: (Mulacz, 1998)
- Cadouin, 1940: (Zorab, 1964, case 19)
- Calvados, 1875: (Flammarion, 1923)
- Cambridge, 1967: (Rogo, 1979, pp. 261–269)
- Cessens, 1983: (Dullin & Cuenot, 2017)
- Charlottenburg, 1929: (Gauld & Cornell, 1979, pp. 148–157)
- Clayton, 1962 : (Roll, 2004, pp. 70-87)
- Clarendon, 1889: (Thurston, 1953, Chapter XV, pp. 162–170)
- Coimbra, 1919: (Lacombe-Frondoni, 1910)
- Compiègne, 2011: (Clément, 2020, pp. 54–67)
- Croydon, 1960: (Wilson, 1981, pp. 326–332)
- Derrigonnely, 1877: (Barrett, 1911)
- Dortmund, 1713: (Puhle, 2001)
- Douai, 1907: (Flammarion, 1923)
- Dundee, 2008: (Holder, 2013, case No. 131)
- Durweston, 1894: (Podmore, 1896)
- Earling, 1928: (Rogo, 1979, pp. 205–209)
- Enfield, 1977: (Playfair, 2011)

Seaford, 1958: (Roll & Pratt, 1958)
 Seyssuel, 1930: (Sudre, 1931)
 Sicily, 1890: (Roll, 1972)
 Siirt, 2012: (Healy & Cropper, 2014, Appendix A, pp. 269–274)
 South Shields, 2006: (Ritson, 2020)
 South Wales, 1989: (Fontana, 1991) & (Fontana, 1992, pp. 225–231)
 Stans, 1860: (Joller, 1862)
 Strasbourg, 1855: (Flammarion, 1923)
 Stratford, 1850: (Thuston, 1953, pp. 10–13)
 Sumatra, 1903: (Grottendieck, 1906)
 Swanland, 1849: (Myers, 1891)
 Tackley, 1905: (Gauld & Cornell, 1979, pp. 183–6)
 Talladega, 1959: (Rogo, 1979, pp. 164–68)
 Tanjore district, 1920: (Thurston, 1991)
 Tarcutta, 1949: (Healy & Cropper, 2014, Chapter 3)
 Tidworth, 1662: (Gauld & Cornell, 1979, pp. 43–64)
 Tucson, 1983: (Rogo, 1987)
 Turin, 1900: (Bozzano, 2000, Cas XXII, pp. 206–209)
 Vachendorf, 1948: (Bender, 1969)
 Villa Devoto, 1903: (Flammarion, 1923)
 West Midlands, 1901: (Stratton, 1914)
 Wisbech, 1957: (Cornell & Gauld, 1960)

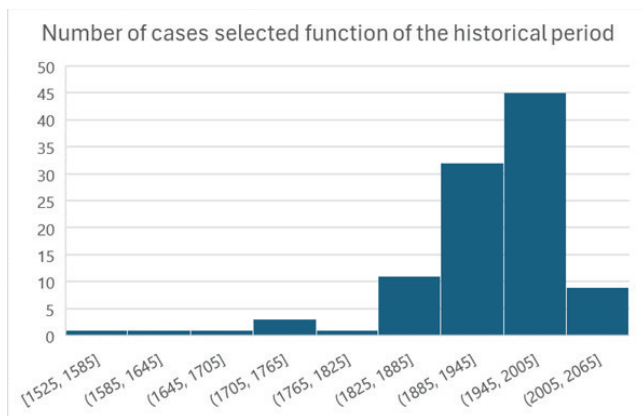


Figure 7. Number of Cases Selected as a Function of the Historical Period.



Figure 8. Countries Containing at Least One Selected Case.

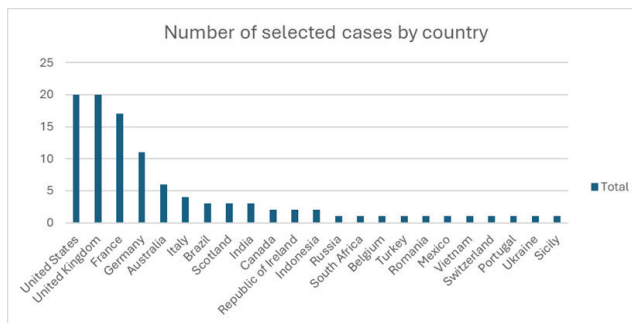


Figure 9. Number of Selected Cases by Country.

APPENDIX B: SUPPORTING FIGURES

60 % of the cases selected for this study are less than a century old compared to 43 % in our global database (Figure 7). About the geographics, Figure 8 presents the countries concerned by the cases selected. and Figure 9 gives a graphic representation for each country of the number of selected cases.

APPENDIX C: ABBREVIATIONS USED

- ASPR: American Society for Psychical Research
- CIRCEE: Center for Information, Research and Consultation on Exceptional Experiences
- CUSPR: Cambridge University Society for Psychical Research
- AI: Artificial intelligence
- IGP: General Institute of Psychology (1900–1933)
- IGPP: Institut für Grenzgebiete der Psychologie und Psychohygiene (parapsychology research center in Freiburg-en-Grisbau, Germany)
- IMI: International Metapsychic Institute
- JSPR: Journal of the SPR
- JASPR: Journal of the ASPR
- OBE: Out-of-body experience
- PA: Parapsychological Association
- PPA: Proceedings of Parapsychological Association annual convention
- PRF: Psychical Research Foundation
- PSPR: Proceeding of Society for Psychical Research annual convention
- RNG: Random numbers generator used in micro-PK experiments
- RSPK: Recurrent spontaneous psychokinesis
- SPR: Society for Psychical Research
- SSE: Society for Scientific Exploration