

THE PROTOCOL OF THE PROSOPOPOEIA OR ACTION OF VENTRILOQUY

Select an object and invite it, physically or mentally, to visit your parlor (or “safe house”), allowing for a session of at least fifteen minutes in duration. Protect yourself and the object from distractions for the entirety of the Protocol.

GREETING & PARLEY

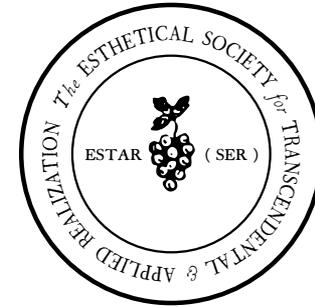
Welcome the object with small talk and make it comfortable; offer assistance with its needs. As you are conversing, observe the object closely, reading its body language. Listen for clues to its biography and its desires. Let the object believe it is in control.

HYPNOTIC INTERVAL

When you have put the object at ease, cleanse auras by circling your fingers against each palm. Begin hypnosis, using any familiar technique, for instance a rhythmic movement of the finger or head. Let the hypnosis become mutual; continue until you achieve full rapport. Tune in.

CHANNELING

Close your outward eyes and reach towards the object with your fingertips. Personate the object: know what it knows, see what it sees, feel what it feels. You are the object and it is you. Allow it to speak with your voice. Do not neglect to record the object’s words, either with a listening device, in writing, or by reporting to a fellow researcher.



THE HALE TRANSCRIPTS:

OBJECT-ORIENTED VENTRILOQUY IN THE COLD WAR

Readers of the PROCEEDINGS OF ESTAR(SER) will already be aware of the considerable efforts made by various scholars, collectors, bibliophiles, and editors to sift the historicity of that peculiar body known as THE ORDER OF THE THIRD BIRD. Despite these labors, a great deal of uncertainty (and even some genuine confusion) persists concerning the nature and workings of this self-sequestering community—which would seem, at least in its modern incarnation, to function as a semi-clandestine association of attention artists who convene to perform public and private rites of sustained attention to made things (often paintings and sculptures). New documents bearing on the origins and activities of THE ORDER are continually coming to light, and we are pleased here to offer a brief, preliminary discussion of a striking body of sources from the early 1960s, a recent supplement to the larger archive known as “The ‘W’ Cache.”

TEXT AND CONTEXT

The Editorial Committee of ESTAR(SER) recently acquired what has come to be known as the “K-File,” a folio of facsimiled documents bearing on what would seem to be efforts undertaken in the early 1960s to draft Bird-like practices into the service of US clandestine operations. A series of surprising sallies in this direction appears to have been made in early 1961 as part of a broad program of researches into the potential intelligence applications of various psychically disrupted conditions, investigations outlined in a (redacted) fourteen-page proposal which has come to light in the K-File (R. Shor, J. M. Schneck, C. Monroe, and L.J. West, “Induced Objective Dissociative States,” dated September 1960). This document includes an elliptical account of a set of experiments to be conducted on/with members of an elusive community whose “adepts claim to be able to achieve states of psychic conciliation with particular classes of objects, notably works of art.” Tellingly, the text alludes to the use of techniques of “temporary metempsychosis” (which the researchers call “psi-apportation”) to achieve, “without the use of psycho-active agents, collective consonant dissociative states of remarkable intensity.” Other documents in the K-File—including transcripts of recorded observations of members actually engaging in efforts to “channel” or ventriloquize inanimate objects (the so-called “Hale Transcripts”)—strongly suggest that the proposed investigations did indeed occur, and did so under the auspices of the “Human Ecology Fund,” well known for its close association with the CIA. Most remarkable, it would seem that a Protocol not otherwise known in the literature of the Order—the “Protocol of the Prosopopoeia”—was used on some of these occasions. Publication of all of these documents, particularly those that indicate links between all this work and the larger program of MKULTRA, is a pressing desideratum. At present, however, we will limit ourselves to the conveyance of but a single, telling sheet from the rich trove of the K-File. The page opposite represents a detail from a photocopied article found therein. Under close scrutiny, the circled marginalia overleaf are legible, and we scan them to read: “Parley / hypnotic interval / Channel” (in list); and (oriented perpendicularly to this triad) “greeting?” Making use of contextual material in the K-File, we assess these ephemeral annotations as *nothing less than the basic architecture of the Protocol utilized during the Hale experiments.*

NATURALLY OCCURRING 'HYPNOTIC-LIKE' EXPERIENCES 157

HYPNOTIC-LIKE

that it became almost real for you? Or actually seemed to become real for you?

	+	-	?	%
B.U.	36	62	0	1
Br.	78	20	0	2

22.) Have you ever had the experience of reading a novel (or watching a play), and while doing so actually forget yourself, your surroundings, and even the fact that you are reading (or watching) and begin to actually live the story with such great reality and vividness that it becomes temporarily almost reality for you? Or actually seemed to become reality for you?

	+	-	?	%
B.U.	64	34	0	2
Br.	85	15	0	0

23.) Have you ever had the experience of being caught up by music or dancing so that you became enraptured by it and had it live and express itself through you so that you as yourself seemed to cease to be during it?

	+	-	?	%
B.U.	16	81	0	2
Br.	40	55	3	0

24.) Have you ever stared at a performer, lecturer, or television screen and

L.J. annotations around it come to be labeled and for some

Parley / hypnotic interval / Channel

FIGURE: A detail from page 157 of “The frequency of naturally occurring ‘hypnoticlike’ experiences in the normal college population” (International Journal of Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis 8, no. 3 [1960]:151–63) authored by Ronald E. Shor, one of the principle investigators on “Induced Objective States,” cited opposite. The indicated pencil annotations would seem to permit us to reconstruct the “Protocol of the Prosopopoeia” or “Action of Ventriloquy” (see overleaf).