

A RESUME OF WORLD PRESS AND EXPERT OPINION

on Adlai Waterman's *Obituary: The Hodgson Report on Madame Blavatsky*

"I must say that I read your attack on Mr. Hodgson with very much interest, and I hope that the SPR will make some attempt to reply to it."¹

"Mr. Waterman writes with passion and devotion....many students will find his intensity stimulating and will perhaps go to study again the age of miracles in which Madame Blavatsky lived, the age when spiritualism, hypnosis and psychic phenomena attracted so many followers and made so many converts."

—A.A., *The International Journal of Parapsychology*

"I for one welcome this well-documented destruction of the infamous attack made on Mme. Blavatsky....the now discredited 'Hodgson Report'....In this most careful pamphlet the lies are exposed and destroyed."

—Christmas Humphreys, QC, Commissioner of the Central Criminal Court, London;
Ed., *The Middle Way*

"Mr. Waterman endeavours to show in the present publication that Dr. Hodgson's report was a highly prejudiced one, that this can be demonstrated by an examination of the testimony not of H.P.B. and her witnesses but of the principal prosecutor (Hodgson) and his chief witnesses

¹ As if in failure to face up to the unwelcome facts and momentous implications of this irrefutable indictment of a Member of Council and (later) Officer of the S.P.R. (as well as of the A.S.P.R.), the Editors of both the British and American Societies for Psychical Research—together with other equally timid editors to whom Dr. Hodgson is likewise a great hero—have avoided even reviewing this book in their *Journals* (in the former case, at least, despite interest shown by certain Members of Council in seeing some such possible review). These same Editors, however, displayed no such reluctance when Sir. Wm. Crookes and F.W.H. Myers came under recent public attack, for then the S.P.R. and A.S.P.R. *Journals* soon appeared with defences of one or the other or both of these former Officers of the S.P.R.

(the Coulombs)...Mr. Waterman has taken enormous pains to study this case, and...is still continuing with the research of which the present booklet is only the first product.”

—T.M.P.M., *Journal of Indian History* – vol.xlii, University of Kerala, Trivandrum, India.

“It is the considered opinion of this reviewer, an opinion based upon a careful study of the various publications dealing with the Hodgson Report, that this present book does prove, to any unbiased person, the unreliability of Dr. Hodgson’s ‘report’.”

—W.E. Butler, *New Dimensions*, London.

“...in spite of the flimsy character of the Hodgson Report, the Society for Psychical Research has refused to withdraw it. This new book, *Obituary*, is not likely to make the Society admits its error....but the figures prove beyond doubt the Report is a sheer fabrication.”

—J.R., *The Golden Lotus*, Philadelphia, U.S.A.

“Mr. Waterman’s book...lists the inconsistencies and inaccuracies which make what is commonly supposed to be a scientific report a monstrous work of fiction....At last the exposé has been exposed. This little book is unquestionably of the greatest importance...and the wider its circulation the better.”

—T.G.D., *The Canadian Theosophist*, Toronto.

“...very interesting and provocative reading.”

—Prof. C.J. Ducasse, M.A., Ph.D., D. Litt., 2nd Vice-Pres., American Society for Psychical Research.

“This book describes in minute detail the deliberate falsehoods in Hodgson’s report...this book is a welcome effort to ensure that justice should be done to a very great personage.”

—Lord Dowding, Air Chief Marshal, R.A.F., author of *Many Mansions*, etc. *From Two Worlds*, London.

“Obviously this book will be of interest to students of this particular case and may open a new line of thinking on an intriguing piece of psychical history.”

—John Young, M.I.M.C., Hon.Ed., *The Magic Circular*, journal of England’s leading association of conjurors and stage magicians.

“Mr. Waterman has done a masterful job....It is high time that such a book as this should be made available and it ought to be in every library...”

—Max Freedom Long, Editor, *Huna Vistas*.

“...meticulous....with such illuminating results.”

—M.C. Debenham, Editor, *The Speculative Mason*.

“*Famous Medium Rehabilitated.... ‘Obituary. The “Hodgson Report” on Madame Blavatsky ...completely answers the traducers of this famous medium and Theosophist....In this most careful booklet the lies are exposed.*”

—*Psychic News*, London.

“It is a remarkable book...and should do much in establishing the truth concerning the great psychic and spiritual powers of the founder of Theosophy.”

—The Editors, *La Pensee Bouddhique*, Paris.

“Mr. Waterman’s study...amply clears Madame’s good name and encourages one to trust in her claims.”

—B.D., *The Hindusthan Standard*, Calcutta, India.

“*Madame Blavatsky Vindicated.*”

—A de S., *World Buddhism*, Ceylon.

“...an unanswerable array of facts and arguments, a damaging re-examination...and a final verdict which no amount of double-talk...can possibly alter. Though small in size, *this book is epoch-making.*”

—Boris de Zirkoff, Ed., *Theosophia*, Los Angeles.

“This is an extremely important book...a very small sum² for the amount of information contained...Mr. Waterman’s amassment of evidence...and many of his findings and conclusions...are great...”³

—Victor A. Endersby, R.C.E., Editor of *Theosophical Notes*, Napa, California.

² Copies of the book under review (xx+92, w. 2 Plts.) may be ordered from: The Theosophical Publishing House, Adyar, Madras 20, India (at 4Rs., cloth; 2.50 Rs., paper); from The Theosophical Bookshop, 68 Great Russell St., London, W.C.1 (7s. 6d.); and from The Theosophical Information Center, 551 So. Oxford Ave., Los Angeles, California 90005, U.S.A. (at \$1.25 pp.)

³ As one consequence of the appearance of this book, Mr. Endersby, a Registered Civil Engineer and technical investigator of international repute, has obtained from Dr. Paul L. Kirk, Professor of Criminology at the University of California at Berkeley—perhaps America’s best-known criminologist—a report which in effect shows among other things that, after ample professional comparison of certain photographic specimens of handwriting illustrated in the “Hodgson Report” (and said by Hodgson to be by Mme. Blavatsky in both her undoubted script and in “a feigned hand” meant to be taken for “Mahatma” writing), Prof. Kirk reached an opinion which overturns Hodgson’s amateur theory that these specimens of disputed Mahatma writing and undisputed Blavatsky writing were by the same hand.

For more information on Mr. Endersby’s contributions to this case, inquire re: *MADAME BLAVATSKY—a defence and its critics, with a Reply to the Editors of “Fate” Magazine; and an examination of new evidence from the archives of the Society for Psychical Research.* Address Alai E. Waterman, P.O. Box 1543, Fresno, California 93716, U.S.A.