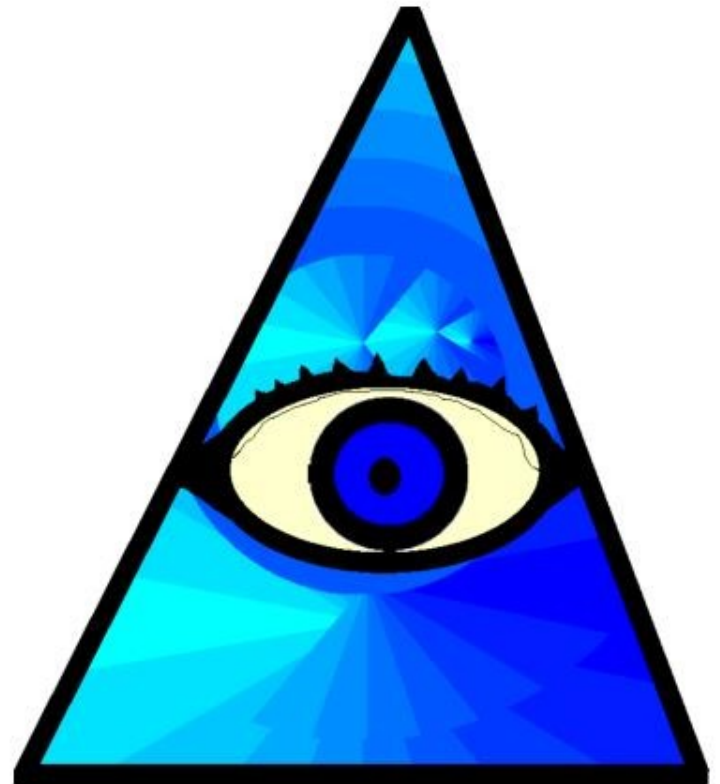


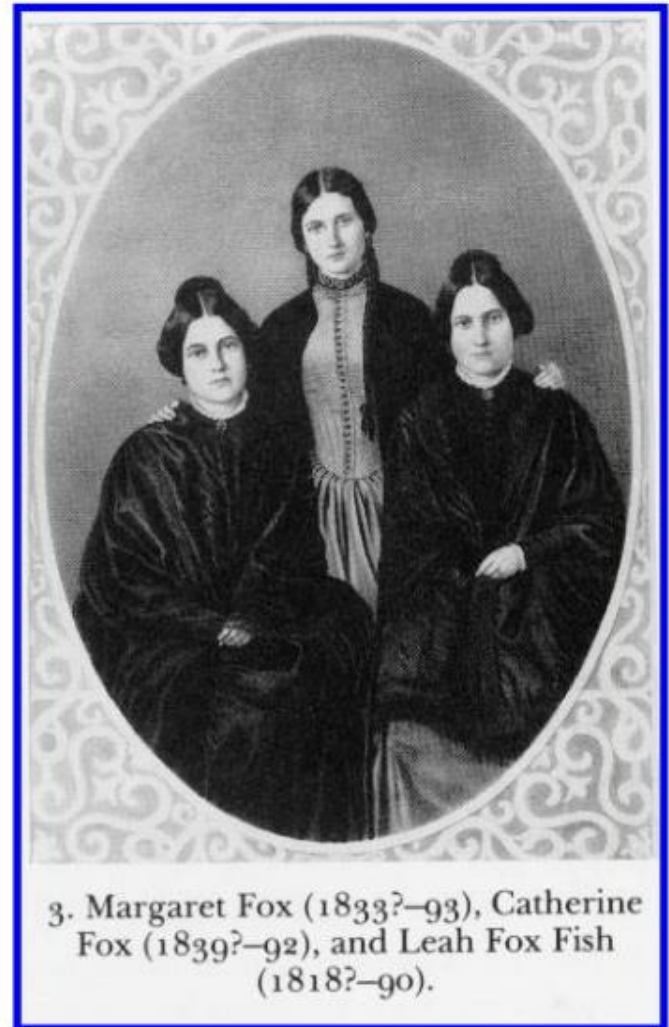
The New Age Movement

- Very broad social/spiritual movement
- Very individualistic
- Some recent avoidance of “new age” label
- Major spiritual movement – much larger than pagan movement



Historical Precursors: Spiritualism

- Kate, Margaret (& Leah) Fox
- March 31, 1848
- “Mr Splitfoot, do as I do”
- Charles Rosna
- Sir Arthur Conan Doyle



Spiritualism

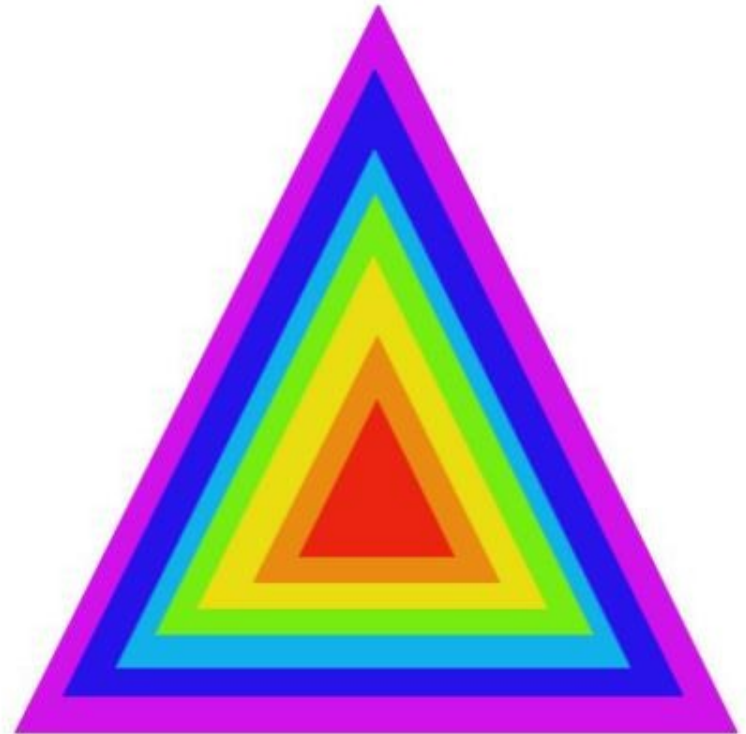
- Mediumship
- 2 kinds:
 - Physical Mediumship: apports, automatic writing, spirit photography, electrical phenomena, fire immunity, levitation, magnetic phenomena, materialization, psycho-physiological phenomena (shrinking/elongation of body, stigmata, trance, ectoplasm), telekinesis
 - Mental Mediumship: clairvoyance, clairaudience, healing, premonition, psychometry, telepathy, glossolalia



Spirit photo from former student in this course

Spiritualism

- 7 key principles:
 - The father/motherhood of God
 - Brother/sisterhood of mankind
 - Communion of spirits and ministry of angels (spirit communication, spirit guides)
 - Continuous existence of human soul
 - Personal responsibility
 - Compensation and retribution hereafter for all good and evil deeds done on earth (karmic law, 'as you sow, so shall you reap')
 - Path of eternal progress open to every soul



Spiritualism

- Impact on New Age:
 - God as creative force, but not Christian God
 - Optimistic doctrine of spiritual progress (progress continues after death; no hell)
 - No original sin (optimistic doctrine of human nature)
 - No external (substitutionary) salvation – you are responsible for your own spiritual state



Theosophy

- Helena Petrovna Blavatsky
- Theosophical Society (1875)
- Mahatmas (highly elevated souls)
- Reincarnation
- Human souls “sparks” of God



Theosophy

- Three Objectives:
 - To form a nucleus of the Universal Brotherhood of Humanity without distinction of race, creed, sex, caste, or colour
 - To encourage the study of comparative religion, philosophy and science
 - To investigate the unexplained laws of nature and the powers latent in man



Master Morya, one of Blavatsky's "mahatma" spirit guides

Theosophy

- Impact on New Age
 - All world's religions have part of spiritual truth: all are fair game to draw upon to create individual spirituality
 - Universe, humans just manifestations of God
 - Enlightened spiritual masters who “channel” spiritual wisdom to people on earth
 - Existence & need to explore “latent” powers of humans



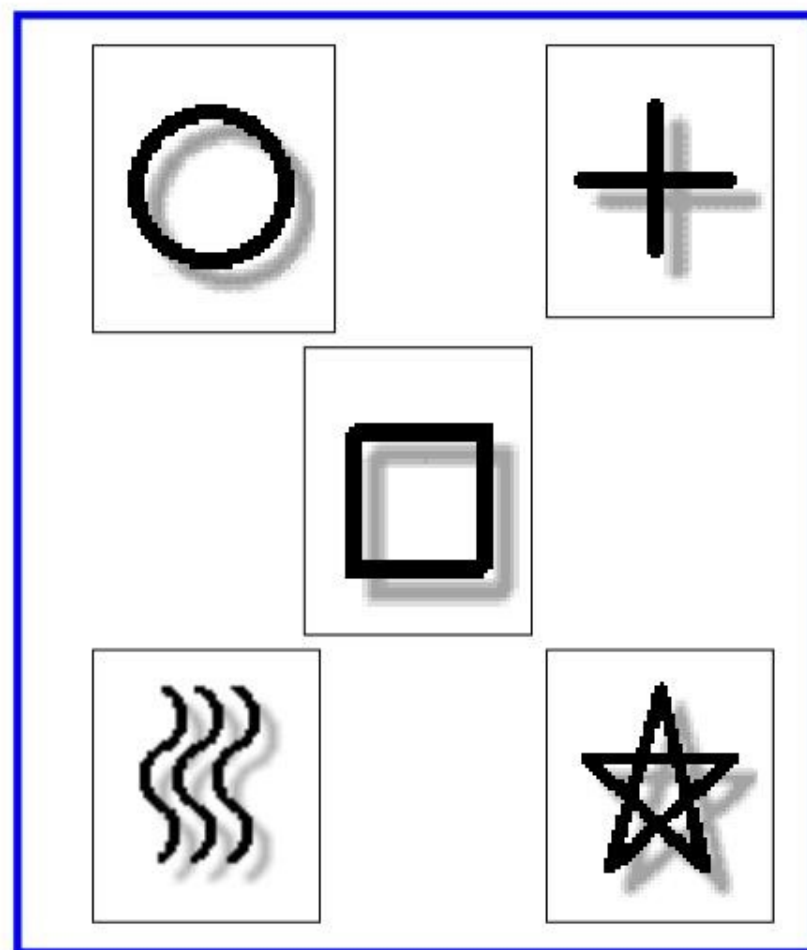
Parapsychology

- Society of Psychical Research (SPR) – early research into paranormal)
- William McDougall @ Duke University – first “parapsychology” department
- J.B. & Louisa Rhine – standardized field of parapsychology
 - Classified two fields of study
 - ESP (Extrasensory Perception)
 - PK (Psychokinesis)
 - Standardized testing equipment
 - Zener Cards
 - Automatic dice throwers
 - Universal applicability: anyone can be tested



Parapsychology

- J.B. Rhine's Extrasensory Perception (1934)
- Zener Cards (5 Suits, 25 cards)
- Agent, percipient
- PK experiments
- Psi Phenomenon



Parapsychology

- Impact on New Age
 - Single unified spiritual force
 - Scientific legitimacy for New Age phenomena
 - Wholism – spiritual phenomena part of same whole system as scientific phenomena

