

**Survival After Death - Some Classic Texts from the RRC Library**  
**A presentation by RRC librarians, Peggie Feddersen and Barbara Ensrud**

Although after-life research has not been attempted at the RRC, JB Rhine is quoted in *The Reach of the Mind* as saying that "Any sort of survival, of any portion of the personality for any length of time, holds such significance for human thinking and feeling as to dwarf almost all other scientific discoveries--". There have been periodic surges in public interest in this question, usually following major wars; and currently there seems to be a resurgence of this interest as witnessed by current TV shows and publications.

Today the presenters sample from a range of early to modern books on survival: (1) *War Letters from a Living Dead Man (1913)* describes precognitive material obtained by Elsa Barker by automatic writing ostensibly from former Californian judge David Patterson Hatch, (2) *Seven Purposes*, a similar early book channeled by Margaret Cameron, also with many World War I predictions, (3) a book by Dressler about predictions by soldiers on the battlefield, (4) James Hyslop, once President of the SPR, in a difficult-to-read book with apparent messages from deceased relatives, pleads for open-mindedness about spirit survival and maintaining the proof of this was irrefutable.. (5) a book by "a highly admirable man," editor and writer, wrote about afterlife communications he seems to have obtained from a deceased friend Julia suggesting a common pool of connection throughout the universe, (6) *The Unobstructed Universe* contains accounts from Betty White obtained through a medium, (7) a book by Neva Walker of verbatim records of sittings at Sir Oliver Lodge's home by Ms. Leonard, with quotes about the reality of survival, (8) *Where Two World Meet* by Arthur Findlay.(1951) presents a record of several years' sittings with John Campbell Sloan, with meticulous recordings by all present seemingly carefully checked.. (9) *Life After Death* edited by Arnold Toynbee & Arthur Koestler reviews various religious views on the survival topic, (10) *Many Mansions* about Edgar Cayce concludes that there are laws that physics is beginning to prove relating to other planes beyond our sensory ones., (11) *Reincarnation in World Thought* by Head and Cranston is a survey of reincarnation through the ages of organized religion and indigenous through, whose introduction asks the question, "are we bodies with souls or souls with bodies?", (12) *Other Lives, Other Selves* by a Jungian therapist looks at how reincarnation can be helpful in a therapeutic context to be helpful regardless of veracity, which is a position in opposition to the view that mental illness may be a form of possession, (12) books by Susy Smith in the 1970's introduces use of codes in helping validate survival and later appears in apparent spirit communication in the work of Gary Schwartz, and (13) F.W.H. Myers books that are also credited as classics on this topic. The presenters are impressed by the general feeling that these spirit communications suggest that the world we live in is a moral universe. (Editor's summary)