



Preserving the Physical Artifacts of Psychical Research

Brandon Hodge

www.MysteriousPlanchette.com

A faded, historical photograph of a person, likely a woman, wearing a head-mounted device that appears to be a spirit communication apparatus. The person is seated at a table, and the image is overlaid with the title text. The device on the head has a circular component with a dark center and a light-colored band. The person is wearing a light-colored, possibly white, garment. The background is indistinct due to the fading.

A Brief History of Spirit Communication Devices





Transformative Modes of Communication

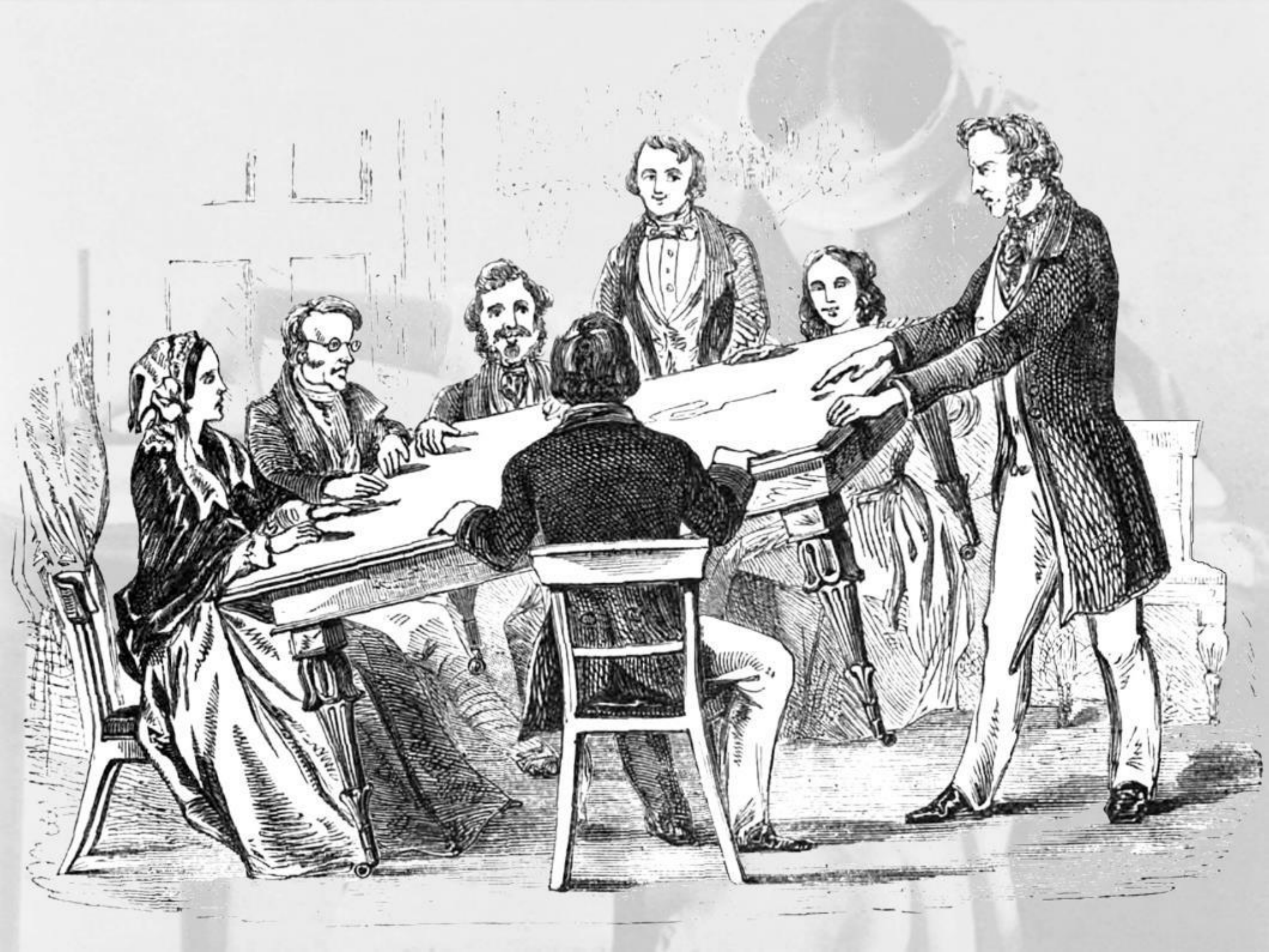
Rapping

Alphabet Calling

Automatic Writing

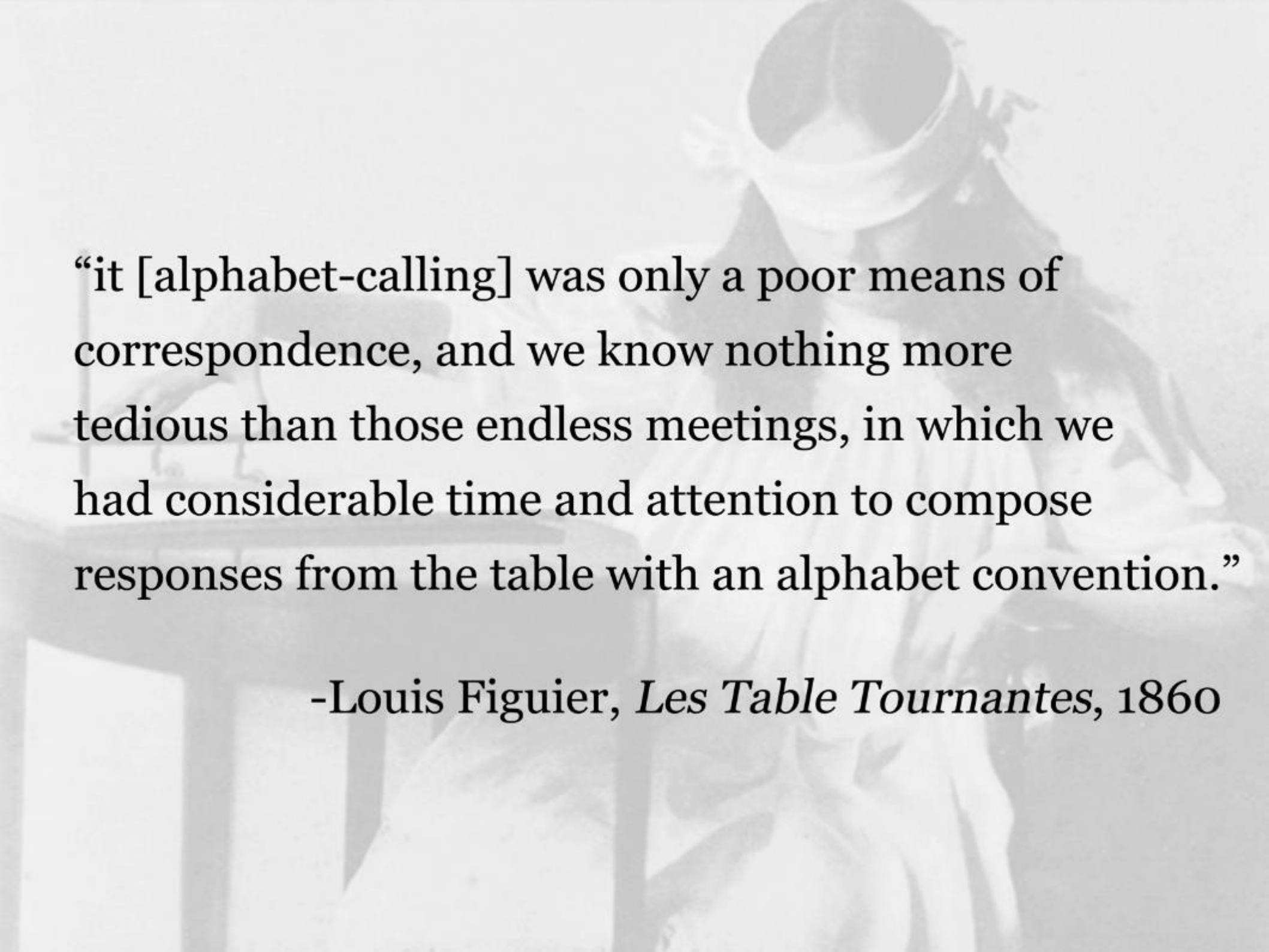
Direct Voice

Table Tipping





Un salon de Paris au mois de mai 1853.

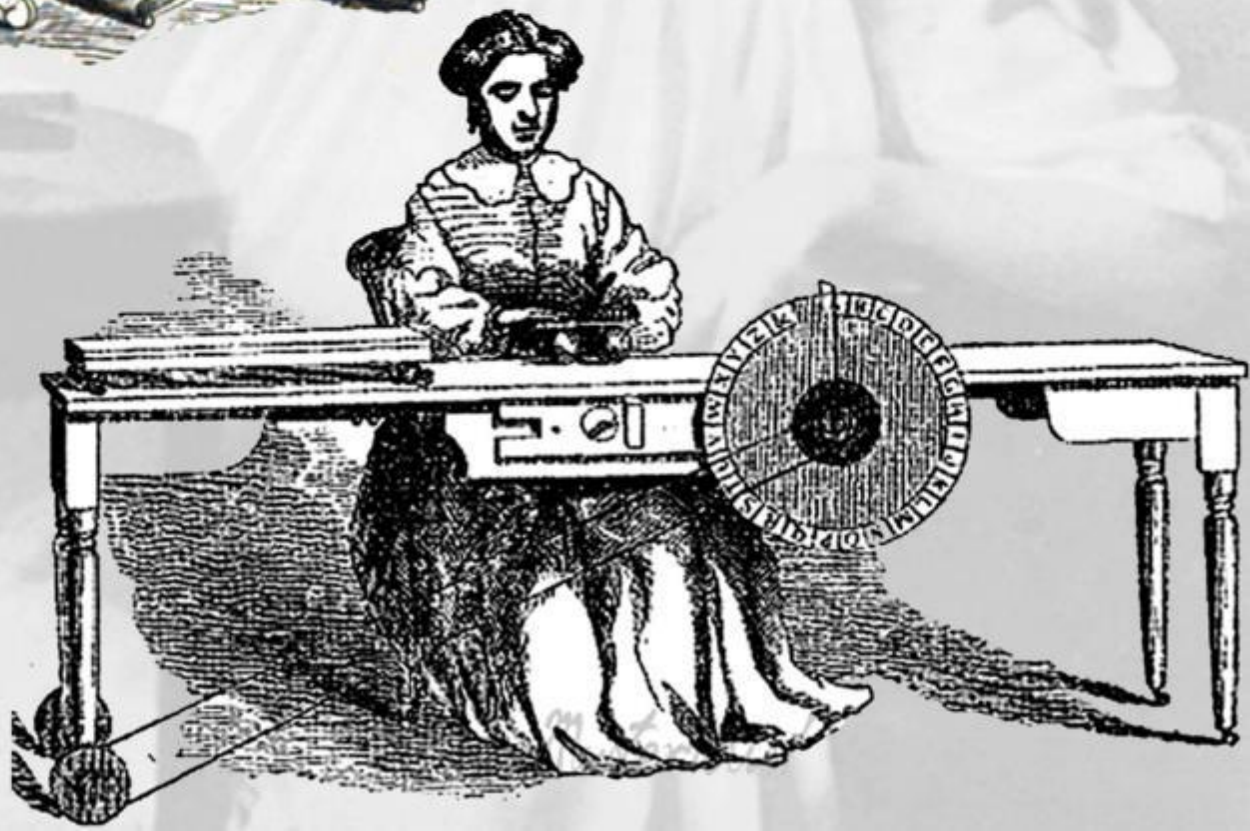
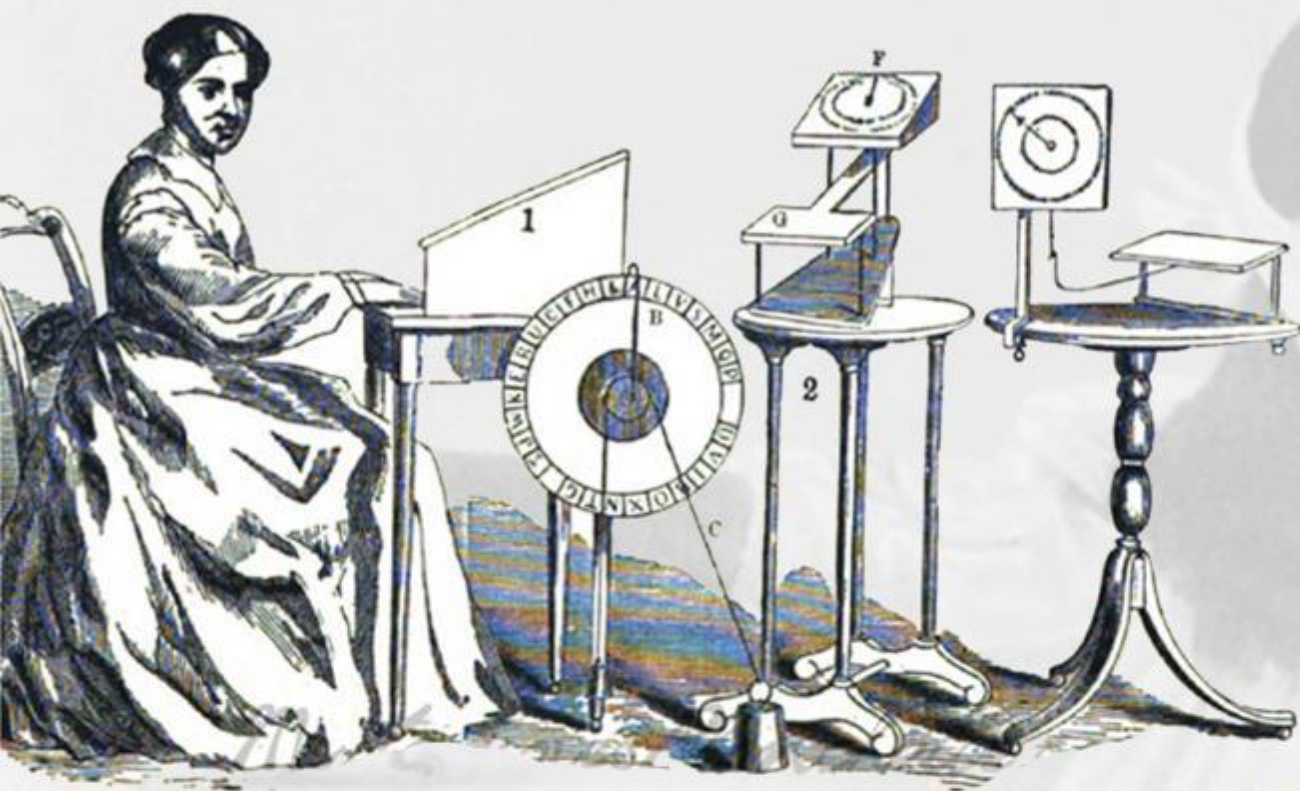


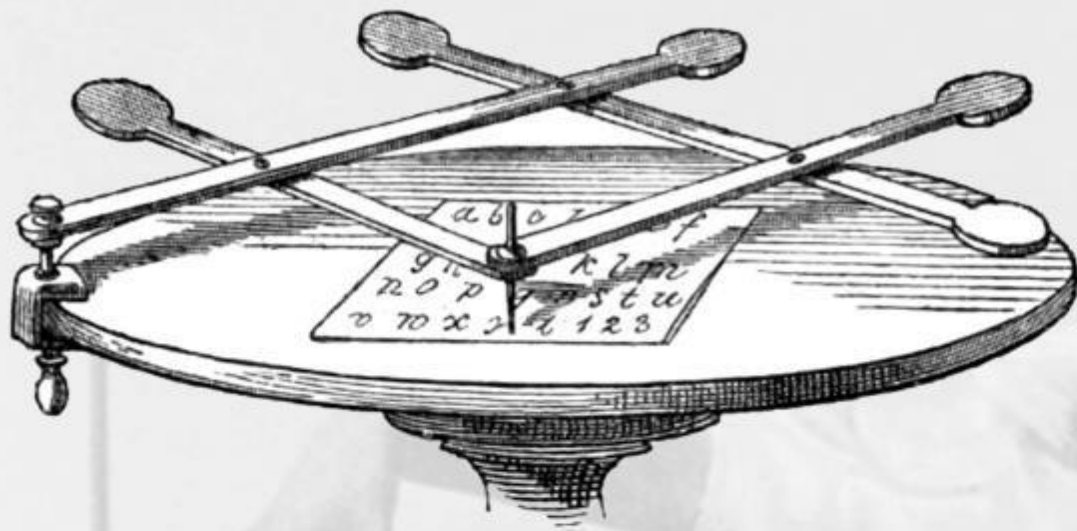
“it [alphabet-calling] was only a poor means of correspondence, and we know nothing more tedious than those endless meetings, in which we had considerable time and attention to compose responses from the table with an alphabet convention.”

-Louis Figuier, *Les Table Tournantes*, 1860



1853

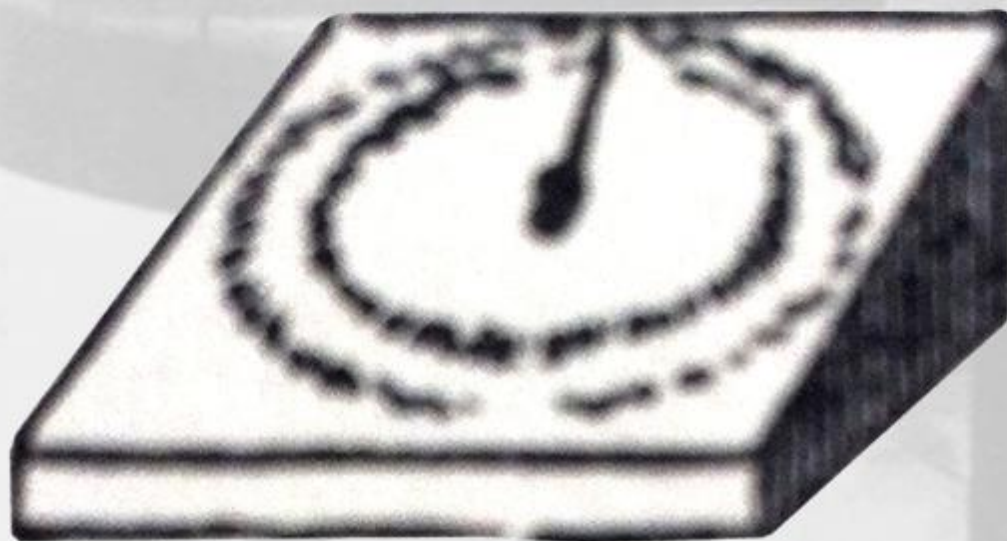




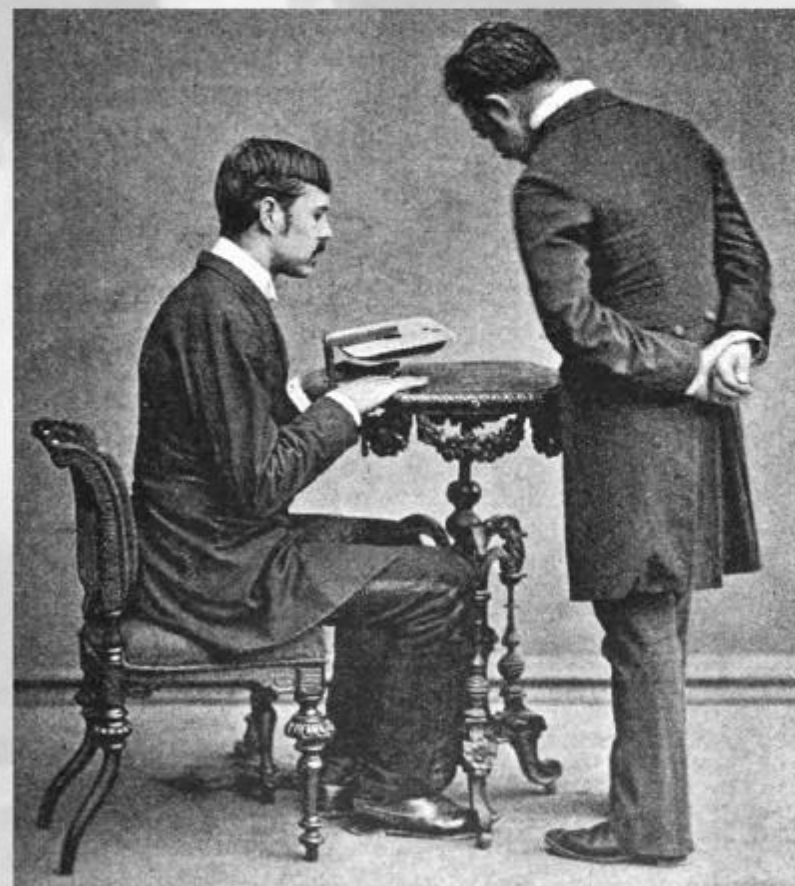
Wagner "Psychograph," 1853



Planchettes, 1853



Pease "Spiritual Telegraph Dial," 1853



Hornung's "Emanulector," 1854



(19th-century speaking trumpet)



(Sectional trumpet: 1909 onward)

**VOICES From the
SPIRIT WORLD**

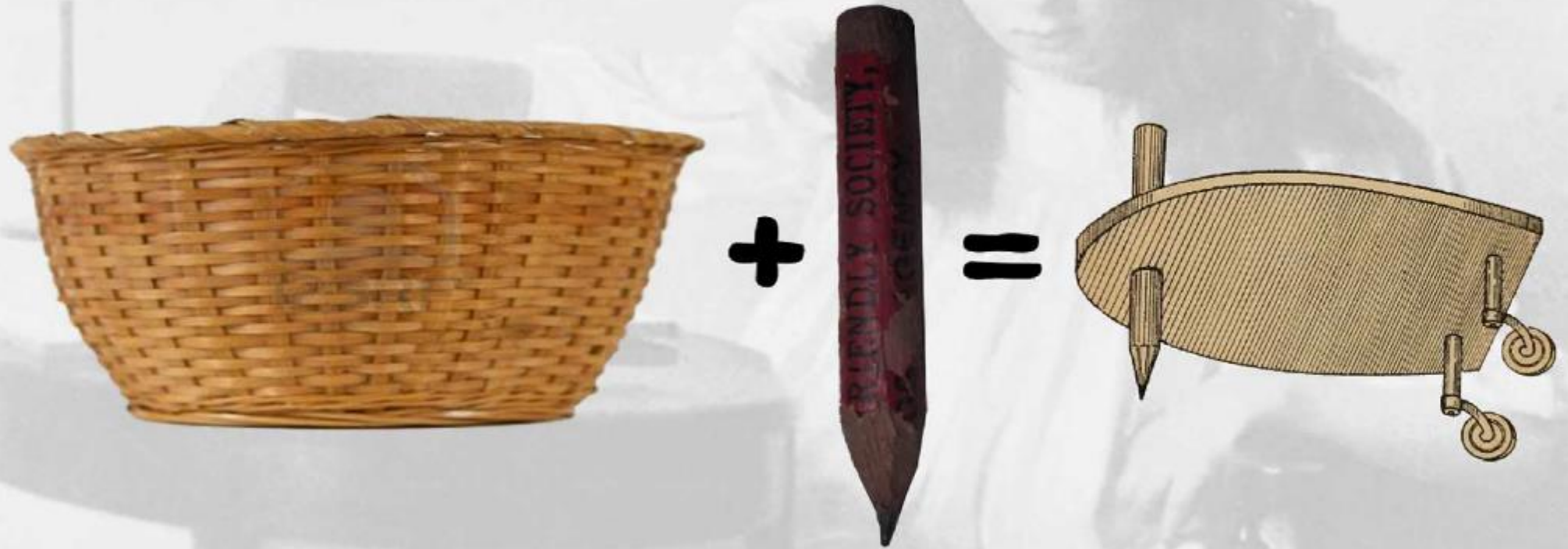


**THROUGH ALUMINUM
TRUMPETS**

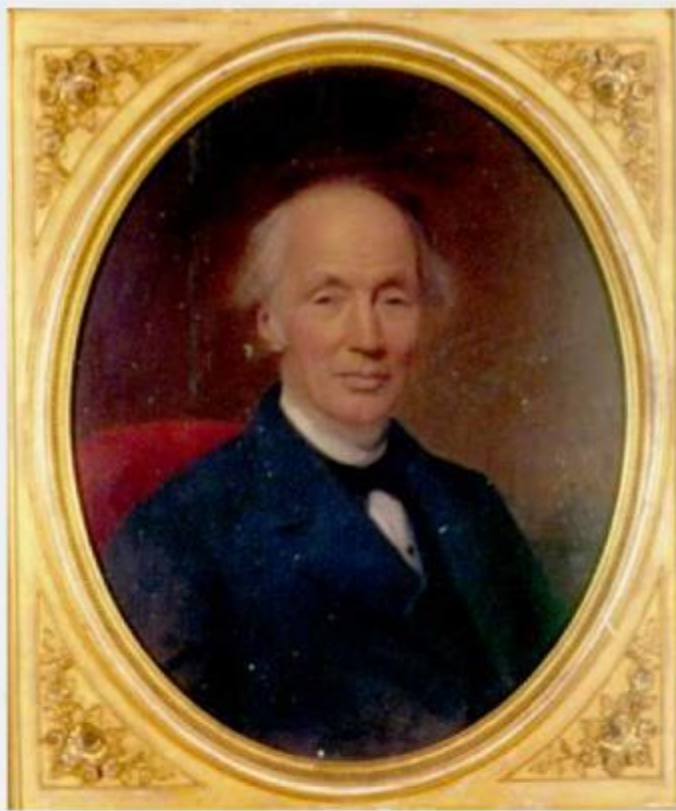
The ideal way to develop trumpet mediumship is through earnest, sincere work. This professional size trumpet comes in four sections, 43 inches long with a five-inch bell opening. Complete with luminous band, only \$8.75, postpaid. Write Venture Bookshop, P.O. Box 671, Evanston, Ill.



Spirit Trumpets



Planchette:
The First Cooperative Automatic Writing Device



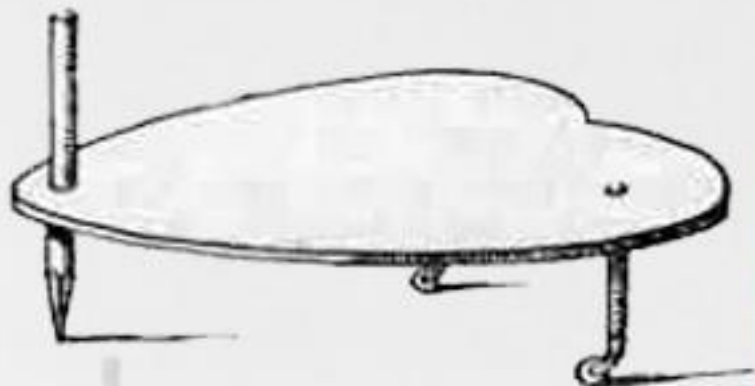
Robert Dale Owen





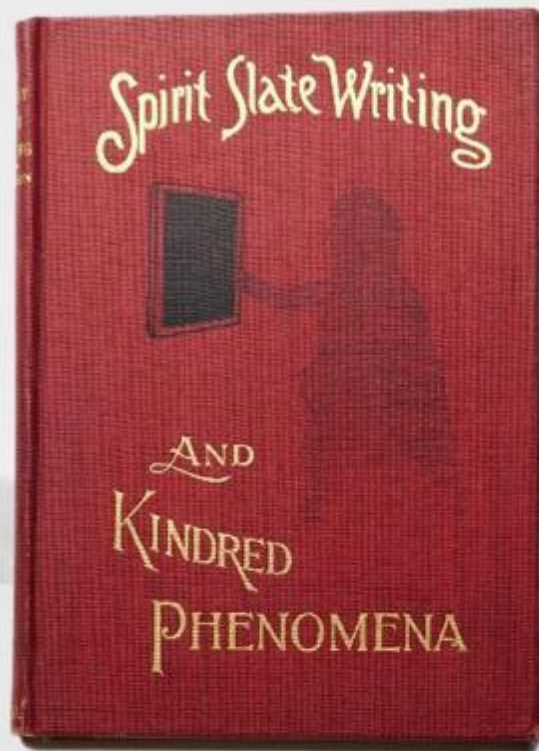
1868



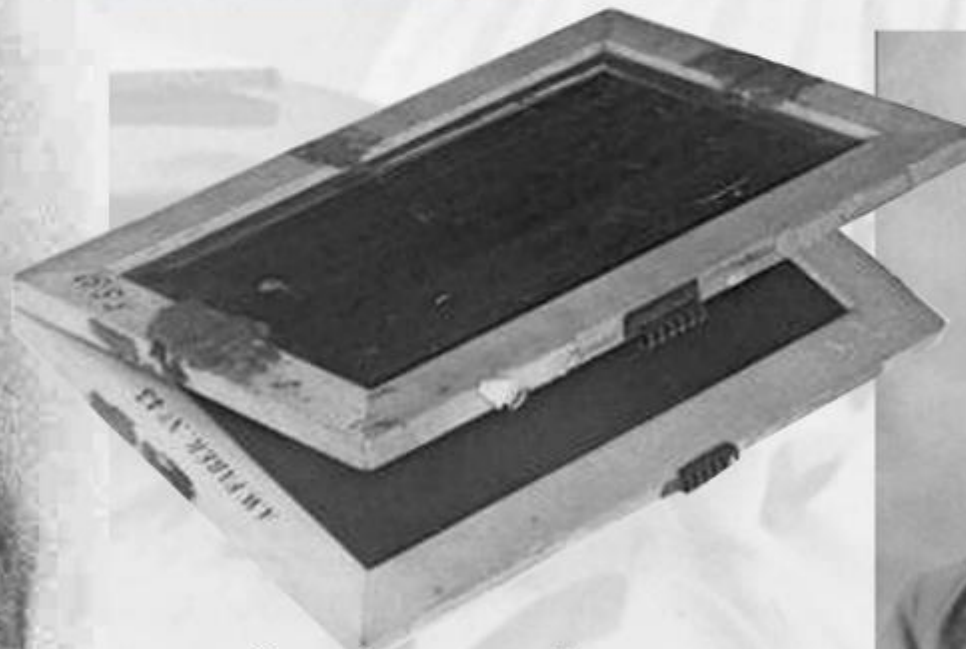








Henry Slade



Pierre L.O.A. Keeler

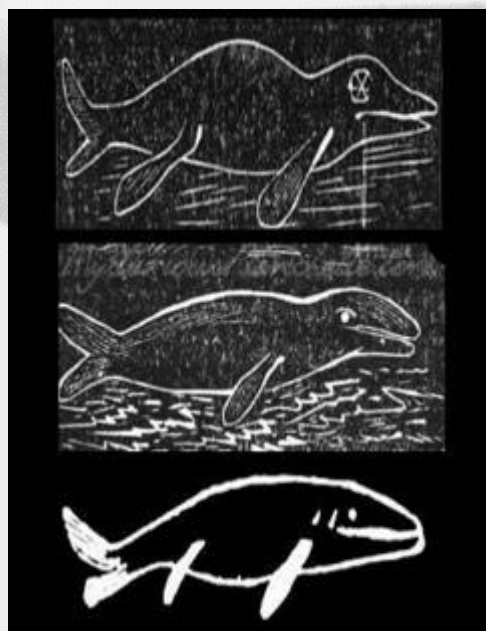
Spirit Slates

The attitude of con-
victed believers in spiritual
life towards the blind
leaders of the blindly
dogmatic in spiritual
matters should be that
of the Deers to those
lost in the dark as
full of lovingness and
tenderness as one

Planchette Writing



Hudson Tuttle



A G
B H
C I
no J
D K
E L
F M

()

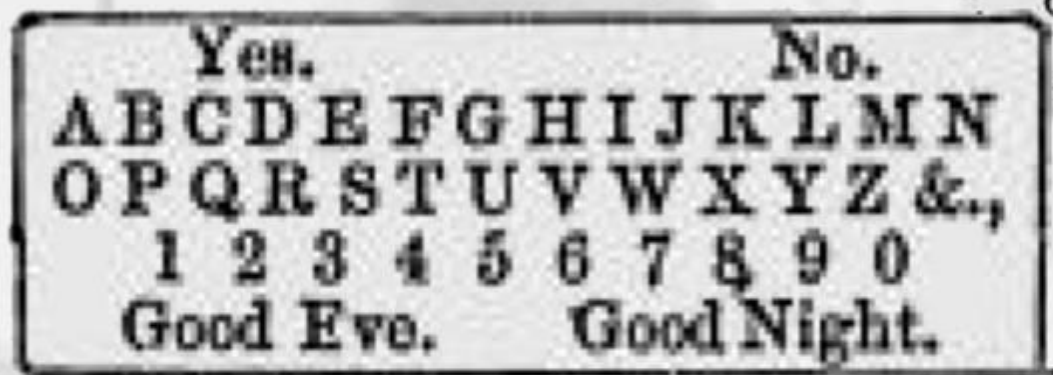
N U
O V
P W
Q yes
R X
S Y
T Z

1876
Savannah, Georgia

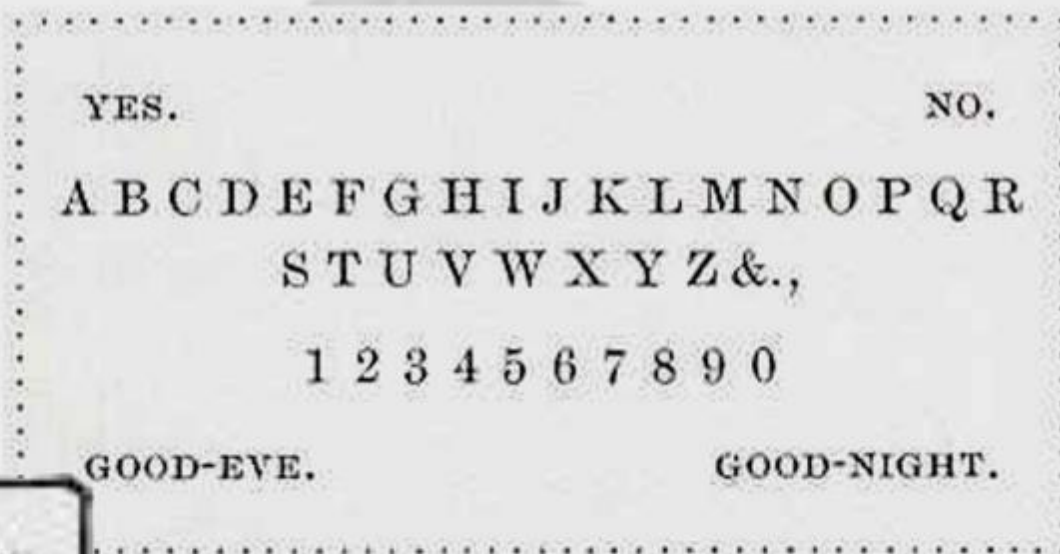


1886

Ohio, 1886



Talking Boards



THE TALKING BOARD.

Patented Feb. 10, 1891.

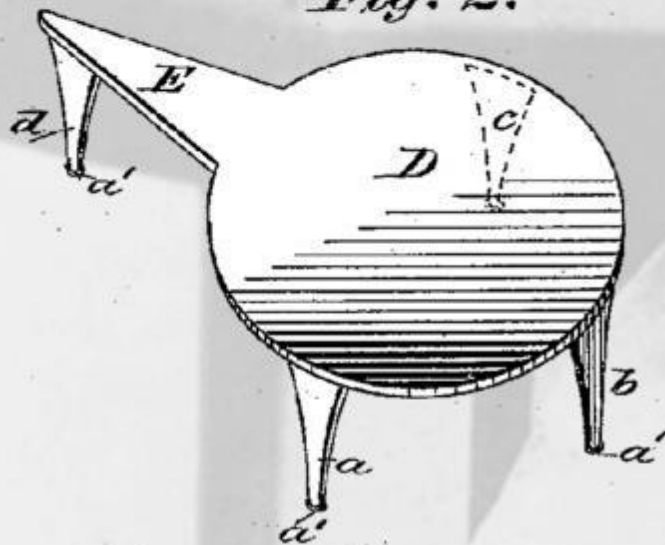
Fig. 1.



Charles V. Kennard

1891

Fig. 2.





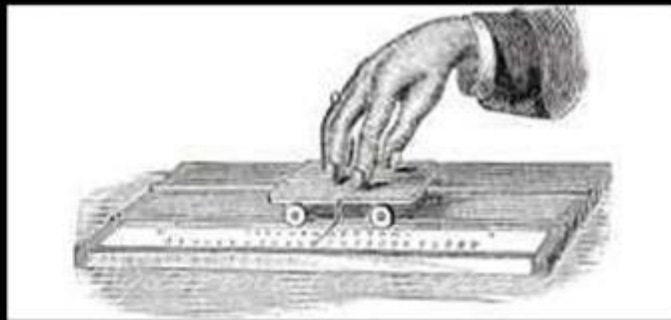


Psychic Sex Board, American Publishing Co., 1979

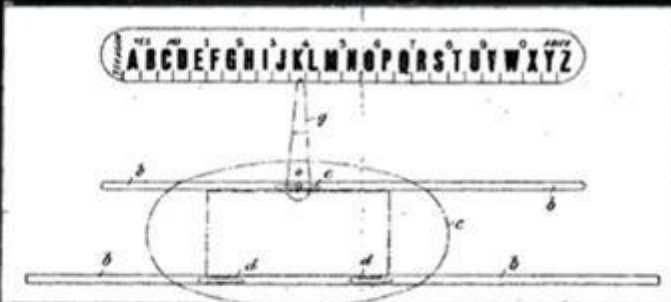




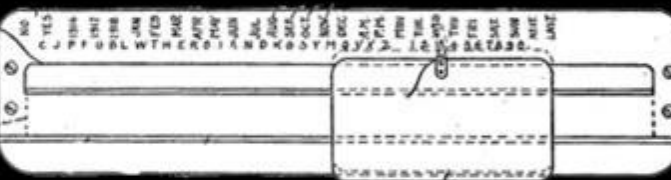
1891



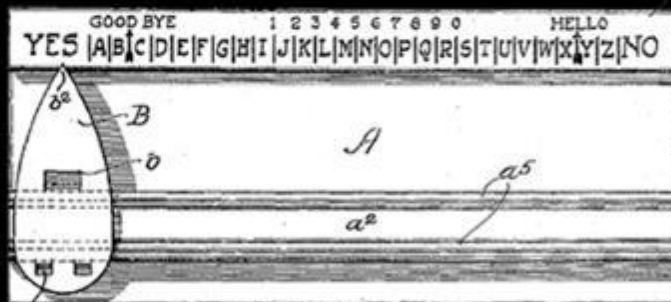
1910



1918



1921



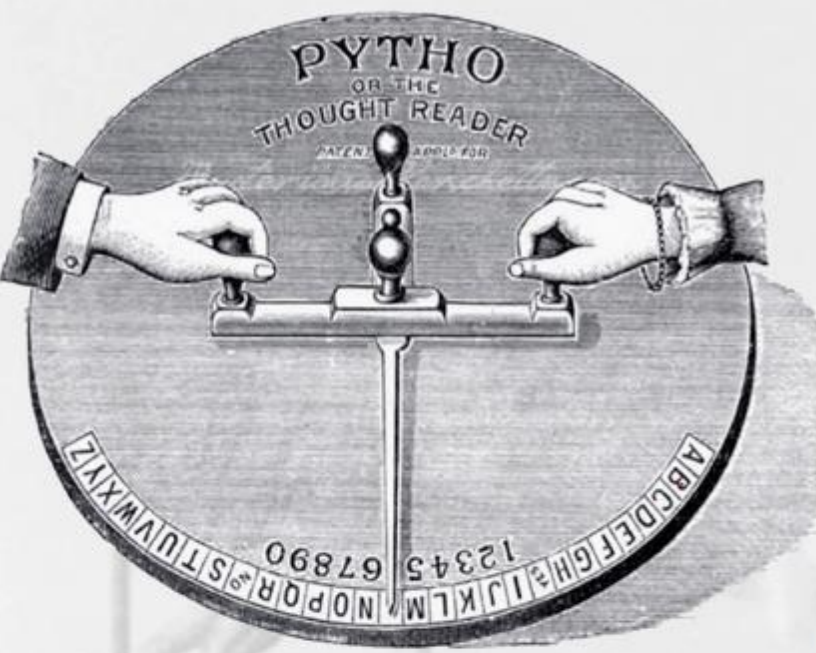
1950



“Slide” Dials



“Dial” Boards





A B C

YES

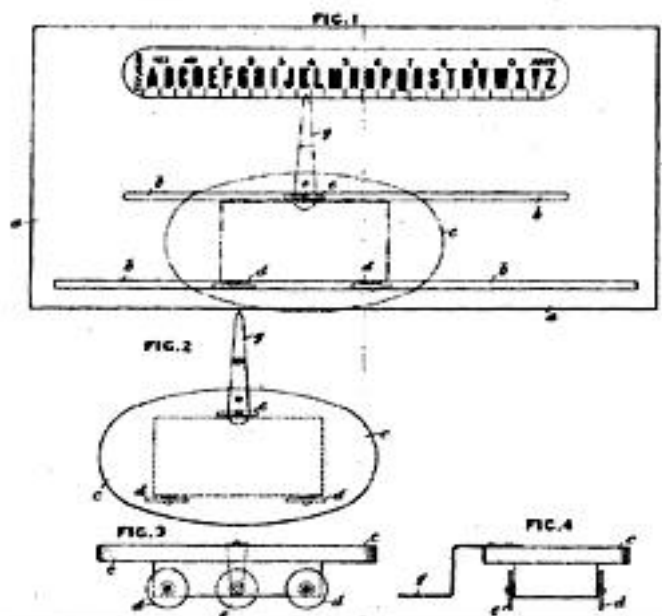
NO



Archeology of Devices



PLANCHETTES ... from 2/- each
With Ball Bearings 2/6
"TWO WORLDS" PLANCHETTE,
with ball bearings and Ouija adaptor
8/6.



(Ad/Patent)



(Actual)

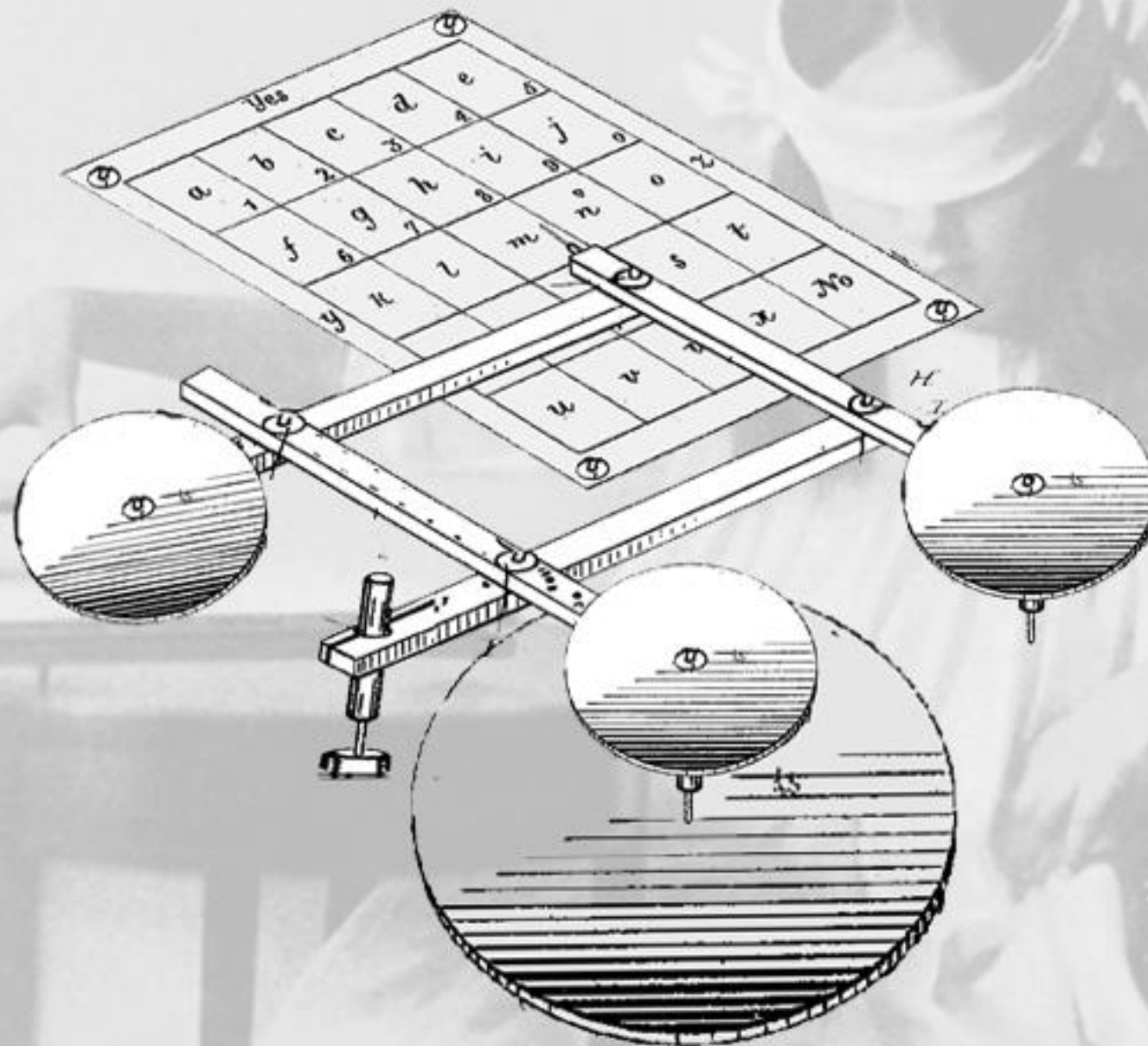




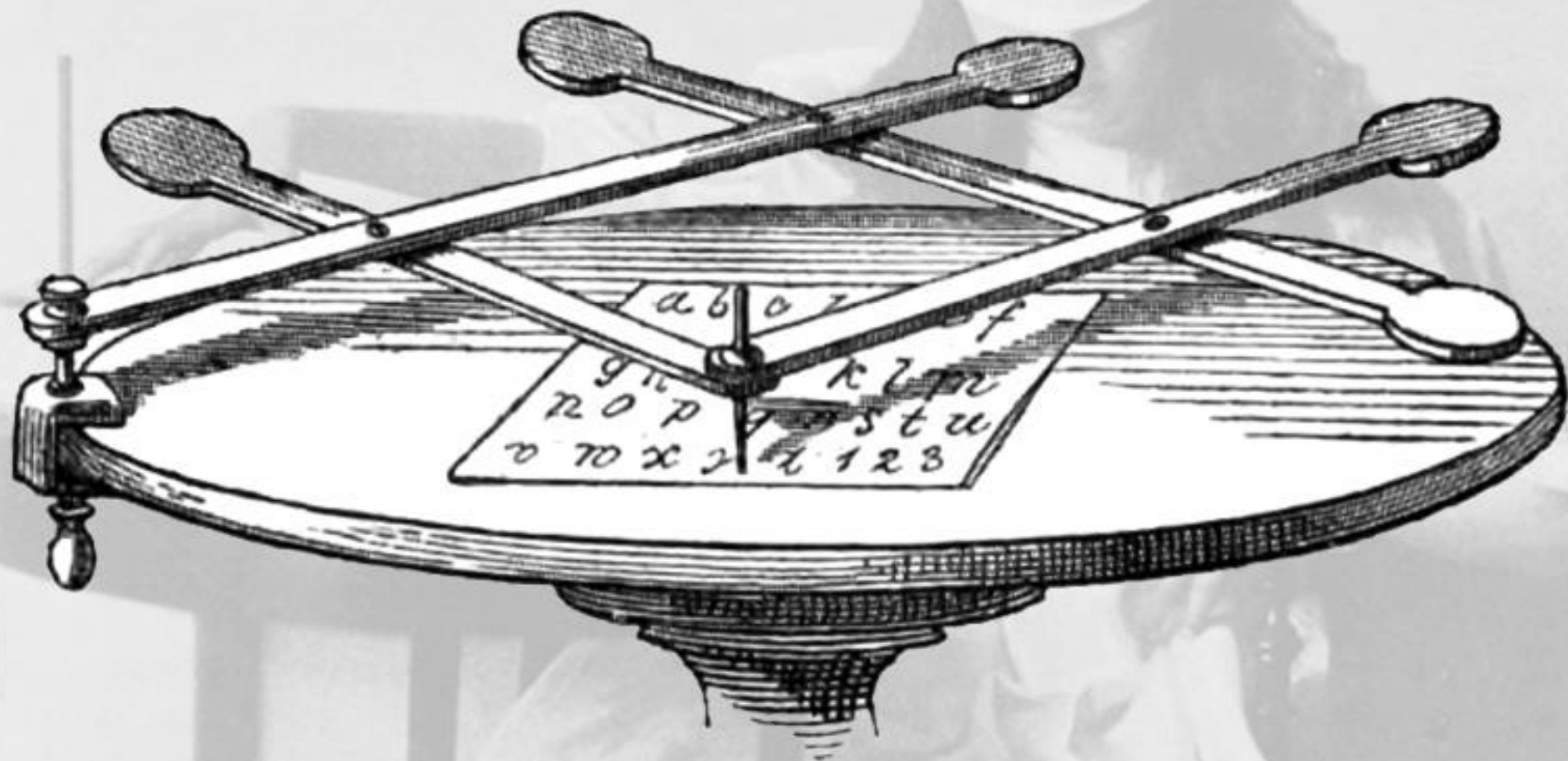
ein jeder Tischler oder Drechler kann es leicht anfertigen; Herr Wagner überließ mir ein zweites Exemplar; es liegt mir zur Seite, ich gebe seine Dimensionen hier beiläufig an, dieselben sind aber unwesentlich. — Das Instrument ist eigentlich nichts anderes, als der in der praktischen Geometrie bekannte Storchschnabel (zur Reduktion von Zeichnungen), mit den nöthigen Veränderungen, ganz von Holz gefertigt. Ein gleichseitiges Viereck, wir wollen es mit A B C D bezeichnen, aus Leisten von etwa 1 Zoll breit und $\frac{1}{4}$ Zoll dick, ist vermittelst Stiften in den Ecken, in sich verschlebbbar; die Seiten sind 8 Zoll lang und jede derselben um einige Zoll verlängert; nur der Endpunkt A hat keine Verlängerung der ihm entsprechenden Seiten, sondern dicht bei ihm ist eine senkrecht nach unten stehende Hülse (Röhre), durch welche man einen Stift steckt; wir wollen diesen Stift den Zeiger nennen. Die verlängerten Eckenel tragen an ihren Enden hölzerne Scheiben von 4 bis 5 Zoll Durchmesser sie dienen zum Auflegen der Hände, um das Instrument durch die Lebenskraft zu laden (nach Herrn Dr. Goltzfeld: zu vitalisiren); *) bei der ungemessenen Gröndlichkeit des Instruments ist eine Hand oft schon hinreichend zur Ladung,

*) Ich halte den Ausdruck laden für unrichtig, zumal er schon in der Physik &c. bei der Elektricität üblich ist.

“An equilateral rectangle, we shall designate it by A B C D, made of moulding some 1 inch wide and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick, slides into itself by means of pins in the corners; the sides are 8 inches long and each of them extends a few inches; only endpoint A has no extension of the sides opposite it, but right alongside it is a socket perpendicular below, through which a pin is stuck; we shall call this pin the pointer. The extended side-pieces have wooden disks 4 to 5 inches in diameter on their ends, they are used to receive the hands in order to charge the instrument with vital energy. At the extended side-piece C B, some 8 inches from B (where one of the disks is also located), a pin is attached downward (as long as the casing mentioned above) which freely moves with the motion of the instrument; in order to reduce the friction of the pin against the surface of the table, a glass disk, of appropriate size, may be placed underneath. The point of rotation [pivot-point] of the entire instrument is located on the extension of side C D, some 10 inches from D (we shall call this point P), this is placed on the table...”



(Wagner Psychograph Facsimile, Brandon Hodge)



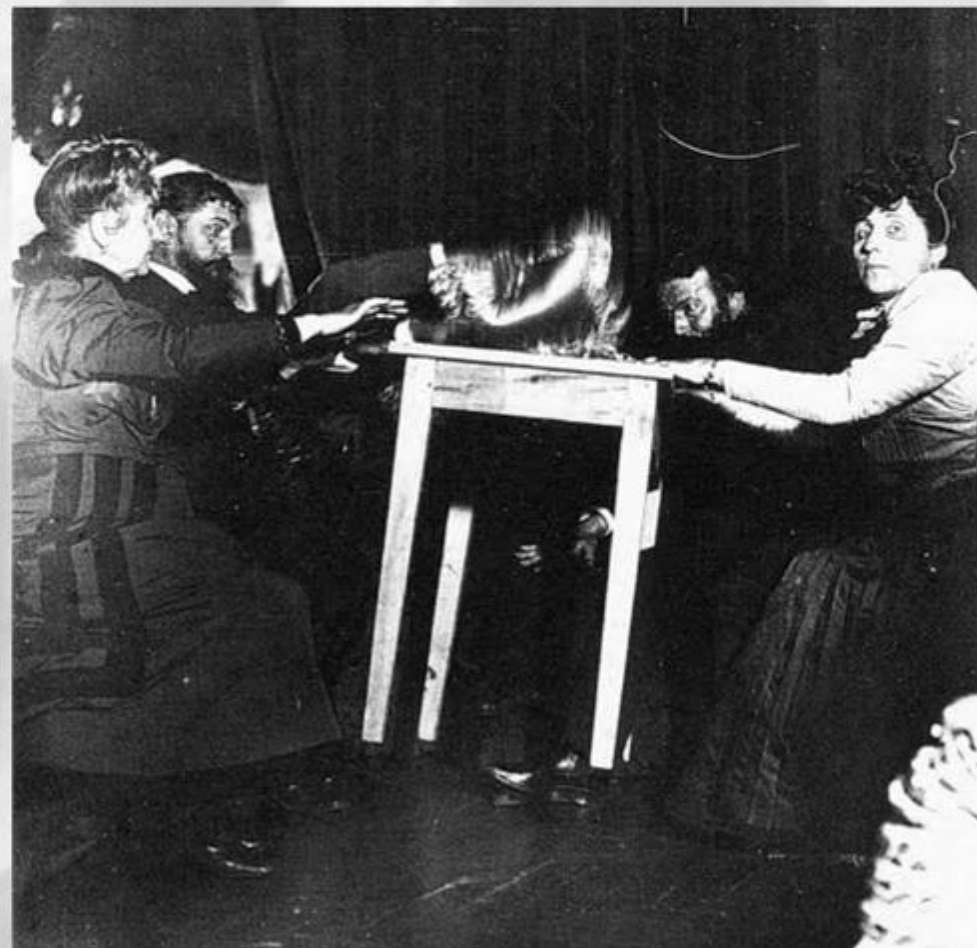
(from *Morgenblatt*, 5 February 1854)



(Facsimile)

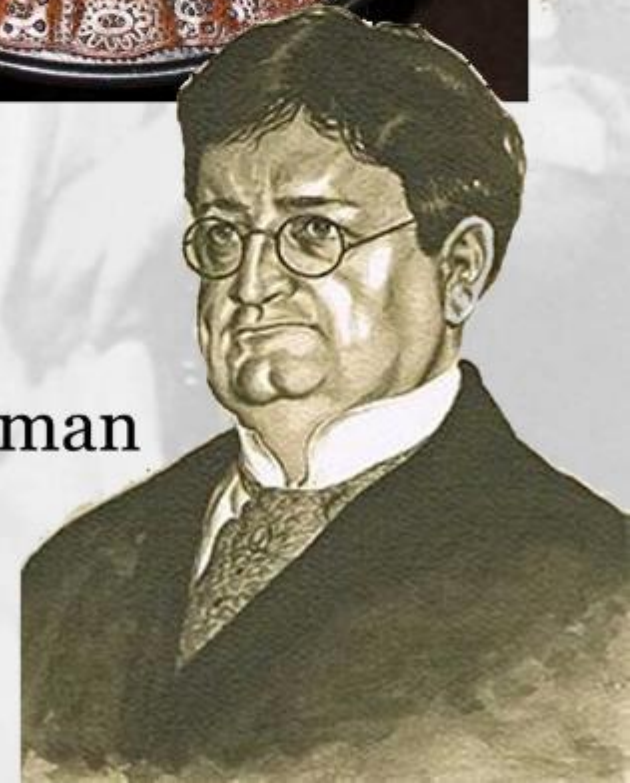


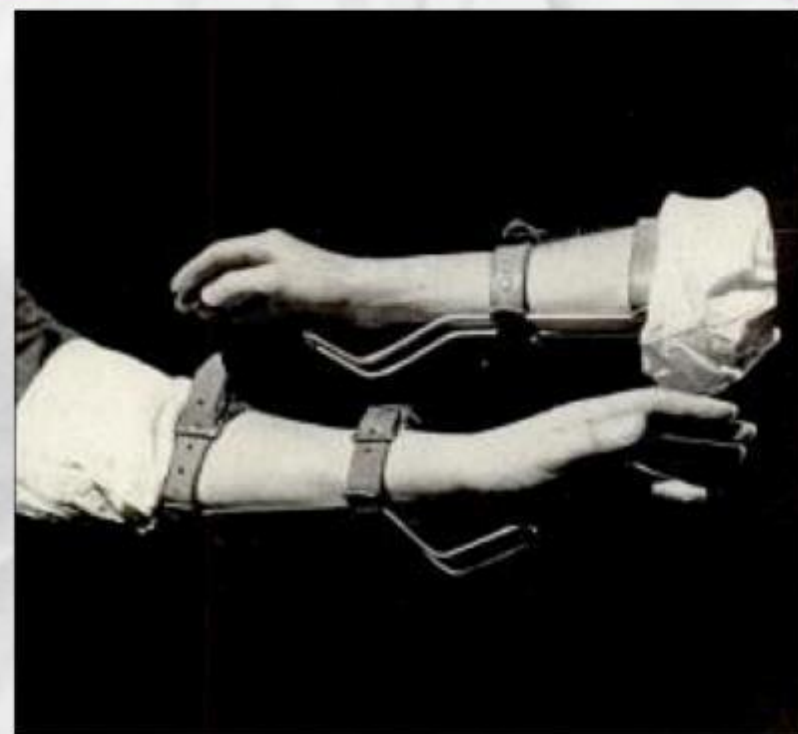
(Actual)





Christian Chelman



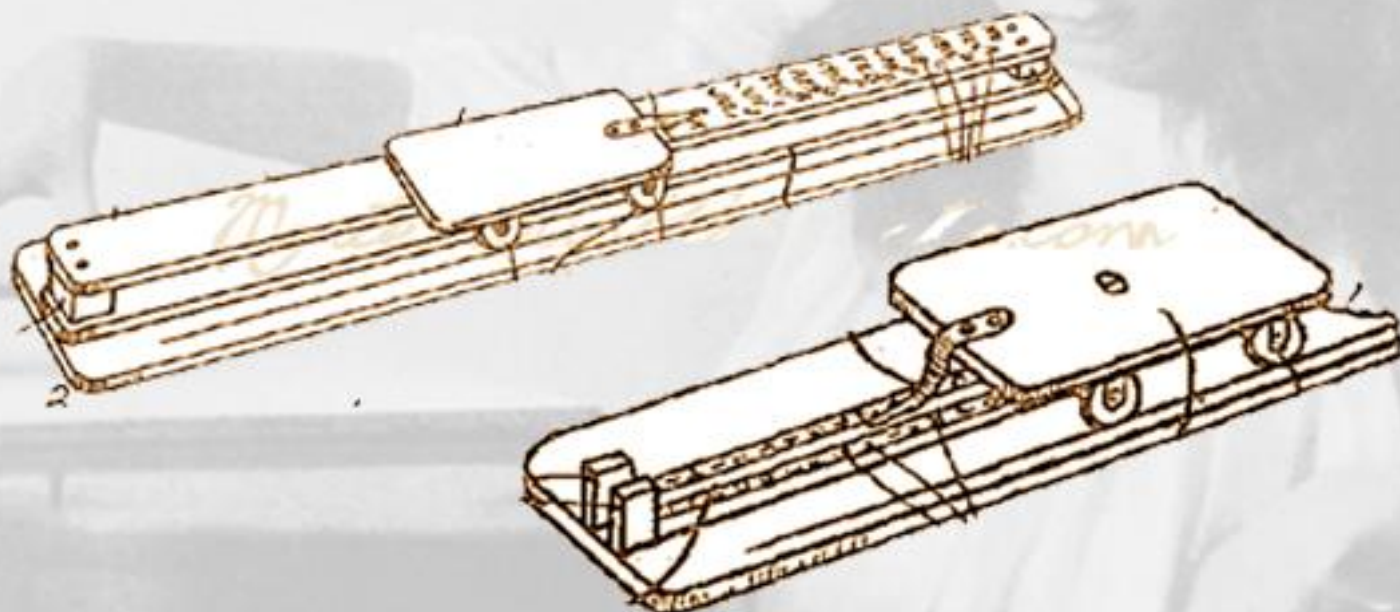
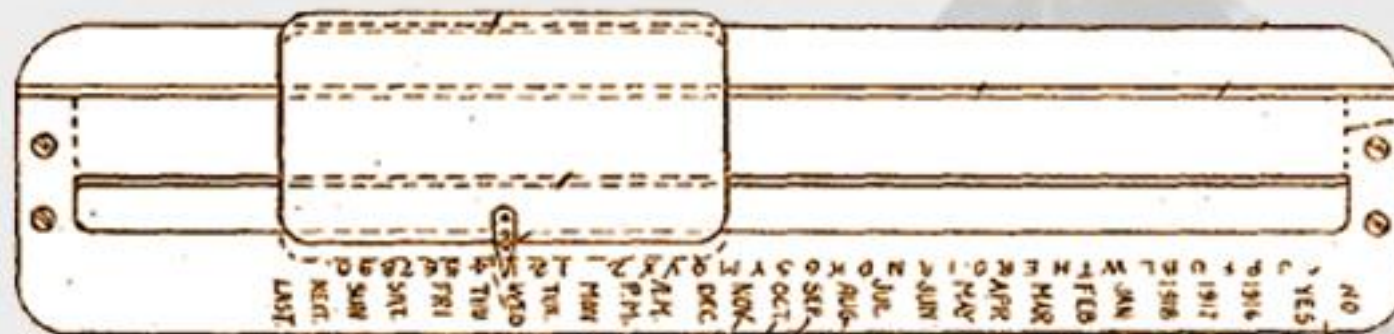




Preservation

Photos First!





Inventor
Albert E. Downe

Albert E. Downe, Patent #1,280,424, October 1, 1918





A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

NO YES \$? . !

LAST SAT. PRI. THU. WED. TUE. MON. SUN. RISKY A.M. P.M. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 JAN. FEB. MAR. APR. MAY JUN. JUL. AUG. SEP. OCT. NOV. DEC.

THE NEW AND IMPROVED
★ OUIJA ★
SNITCH BABY

PATENTED OCT. 1940

Steven e Giraffe: 363-323-3870 (lft. mess)

(50) Rick Jirachi: 563-330-0908 (nope)

Little Hill (Jenik Barts) 563-271-0026 (lft. mess)

Barney's Place
Wiz. For Josh Ford: 309-721-2765 (no answer)
Continue with left mess
Photos by Liz: 563-370-5140

Best Days Avenue People

Siegfried: 563 370-2043 → mark

Imajo Acres: 563.355.6400

Small Windsor 563-324-0238
(lft. message)

Curtis's Digital Arts:
(563) 323-1292

Barney: (563) 388-0099

Wiz. For: (563) 355-1418 - left mess

Boys Days (563) 320-4441 - left mess

NU Side

Marty Bundy

(563) 370-3422

10/11/11
35

David
Camera
Camera

(563) 371-6899
Bona /
SD Bucks

Home Sweet

Ted
Cann Co

Kelly

563 370-3422
(lft. mess)



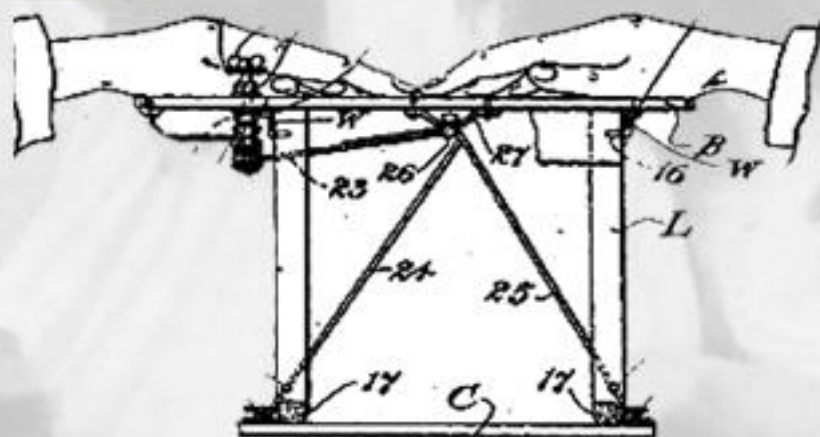
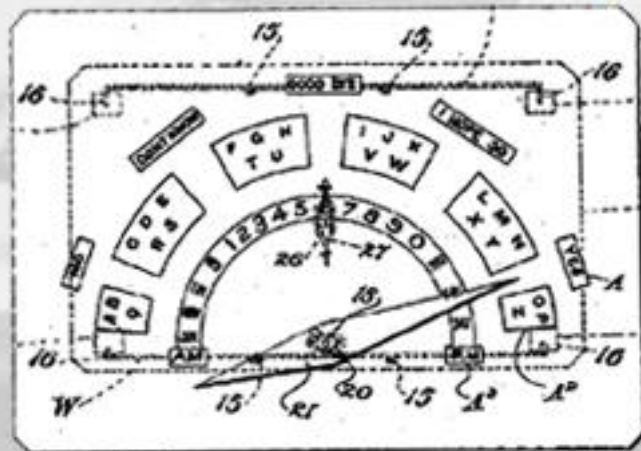


Repair & Restoration



























Care & Feeding of Devices

Wood



Paper

Metal



Too Dry = Splitting



Moisture = Warping



Wood



- Avoid Extreme Temperatures
- Maintain 50-55% Humidity
- Avoid Sunlight & Bright Light
- Avoid Excessive Cleaning
- No Oil-based Polishes on Bare Wood Surfaces
- Oil-and-Citrus-based Polishes Used Sparingly for Light Cleaning of Varnished Surfaces ONLY
- Avoid Wax-based polishes



NO “Bubble Wrap!”



Softens Varnish

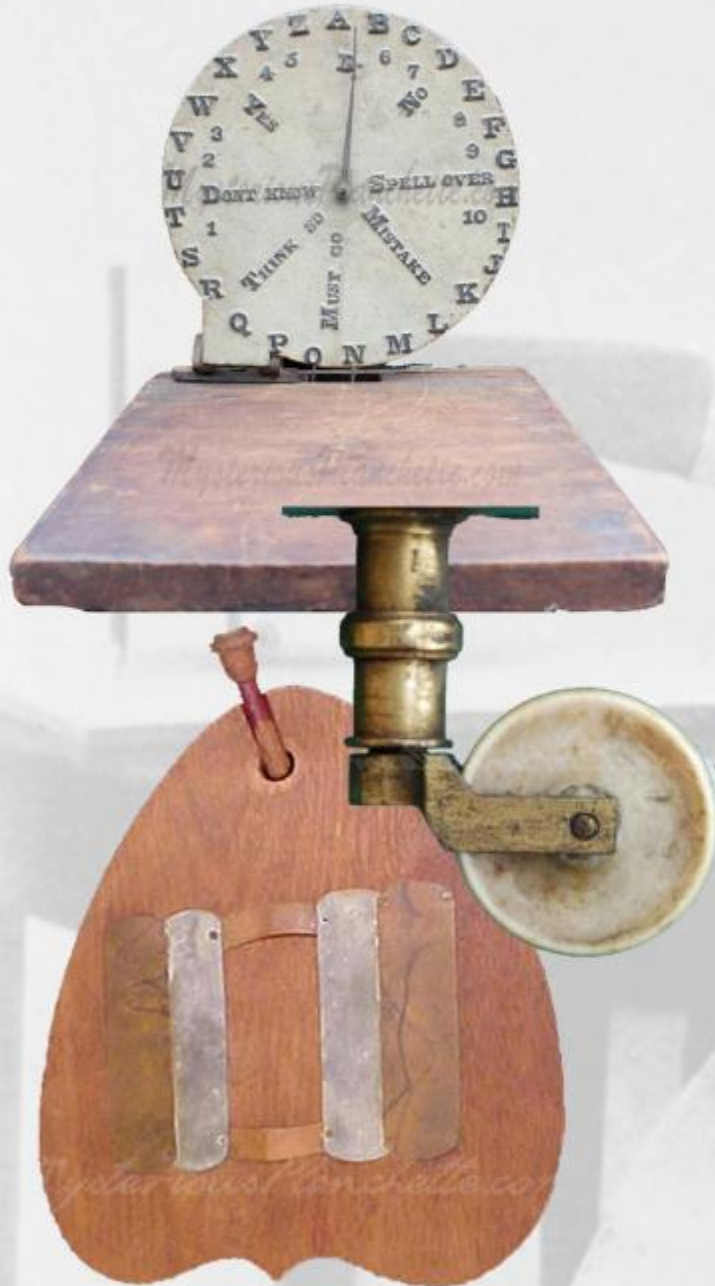
Scars Finish

Paper/Cardboard



- Includes Devices, Paper Coverings, Boxes, and Labels
- Avoid Sunlight, Bright Light, and Florescent Light to Prevent Fading
- Avoid Cleaning
- Ideally Store Below 72 degrees F
- Maintain 50%-55% Humidity
- Avoid Moisture

Metal



- Light, Dry Surface Cleaning Only
- Do Not Use Metal Polish or Tarnish Removers
- Do Not Use Lacquer Coatings
- Avoid Direct Handling
- Lightly Oil Only if Needed
- Avoid Moisture and Excessive Humidity to Prevent Oxidation

Common Factors



- Maintain 50%-55% Humidity
- Avoid Sunlight, Bright Light, and Florescent Lighting
- Avoid Extreme Temperatures. Ideally Store Below 72 Degrees Fahrenheit.
- When in Doubt: Don't Do It!
- Don't Forget Pest Control
- If Archive is Approved for Paper, Likely Ideal for Item Storage



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