“Prime Motivator: the T.G. Hamilton Family fonds as Stimulus for Acquiring Parapsychological Collections”

PHCP Conference,

Utrecht, the Netherlands

By Dr. Shelley Sweeney,

June 13, 2014

Agenda

- Story of the Hamilton family
- The Hamilton Family fonds
- The University of Manitoba
- Archives & Special Collections
- Promotion of Hamilton collection
- New acquisitions

All begins with Hamilton family

- Hamilton family is made up of Thomas Glendenning Hamilton, a doctor
- His wife Lillian, a graduate in nursing

Hamilton Children

- A son, Glen
- A daughter, Margaret
- And two twin sons:
  - Arthur Lamont
  - James Drummond

Hamilton's lived in Winnipeg

http://mappictures.blogspot.ca/2012/06/canada-map.html#.U4aymstOWUk

Hamilton House

- **They lived in Hamilton House on Henderson Highway in Elmwood District**

Thomas Glendenning Hamilton

Fellow, American College of surgeons (1920)

- **President, Canadian Medical Association (1922)**
- **Elder, King Memorial Church 28 years**
- **Public school board member (1906-15)**
- **Liberal member in Legislative Assembly of Manitoba (1915-20)**

Investigation into parapsychological realm

- In 1918 Hamilton's close friend Prof WT Allison goes to US
- Visits American medium Pearl Curran
- Curran channels

  Patience Worth

http://www.stltoday.com/entertainment/books-and-literature/ouija-poet-patience-worth-years-and-many-moons-later/article_c682c370-bcfb-55e1-8813-a08d2fa1c7b1.html

Start their investigations

- **Allison shares interest with Hamilton**
- **They briefly investigate**
- **TG uses a Ouija board & experiments with mental telepathy with Rev. Daniel Norman McLachlan**

http://www.pinterest.com/pin/516476975821235050/

1918 Influenza Epidemic

Archives of Manitoba, Foote Collection No. 189, N1789

Death of Arthur

- **January 1919 Arthur dies of the flu**
- **Lillian reads FWH Myer's book *Human Personality and Its Survival of Bodily Death* published in 1918**
- **Lillian encourages her husband to begin parapsychological experiments**
- **Margaret attributes this interest to the death of Arthur**

Elizabeth Poole

- **First medium is Scottish nanny Elizabeth Poole (“Elizabeth M”)**

Scientific investigation

- Hamilton wanted investigations to be scientific
- Established room on second floor of house kept locked at all times
- Lillian kept the key around her neck
- Witnesses would sign a register
- Lillian would take careful notes

Photography

- Red bulb in center of the room provided light
- Bank of 11 cameras at back of the room
- Their shutters were open
- Hamilton would set off a flash and they would take photos at the same time

Hamilton's cameras

Ouija & Trance States

- Started with Ouija board
- There were trance states and automatic writing
- Moved into telekinesis

Table tilting

- **Led to investigations into telekinesis**

“Home Circles”

- By 1928, Mrs Poole introduces Hamiltons to two Scottish sisters-in-law
- Mary Ann Marshall (“Dawn”)
- Susan Marshall (“Mercedes”)
- Hamilton’s invite friends & members of the community
- Dr. Bruce Chown, Sir Isaac Pitblado

Home Circles

- Table rappings and table tiltings of Elizabeth M followed by clairvoyance, clairaudience, trance states, wax molds, automatic writing and trance visions, and teleplasmic manifestations or “ectoplasm”

Investigations

- In all the enquiries lasted from 1920 to 1944
- Hamilton died in 1935 at age 61
- His wife continued his investigations

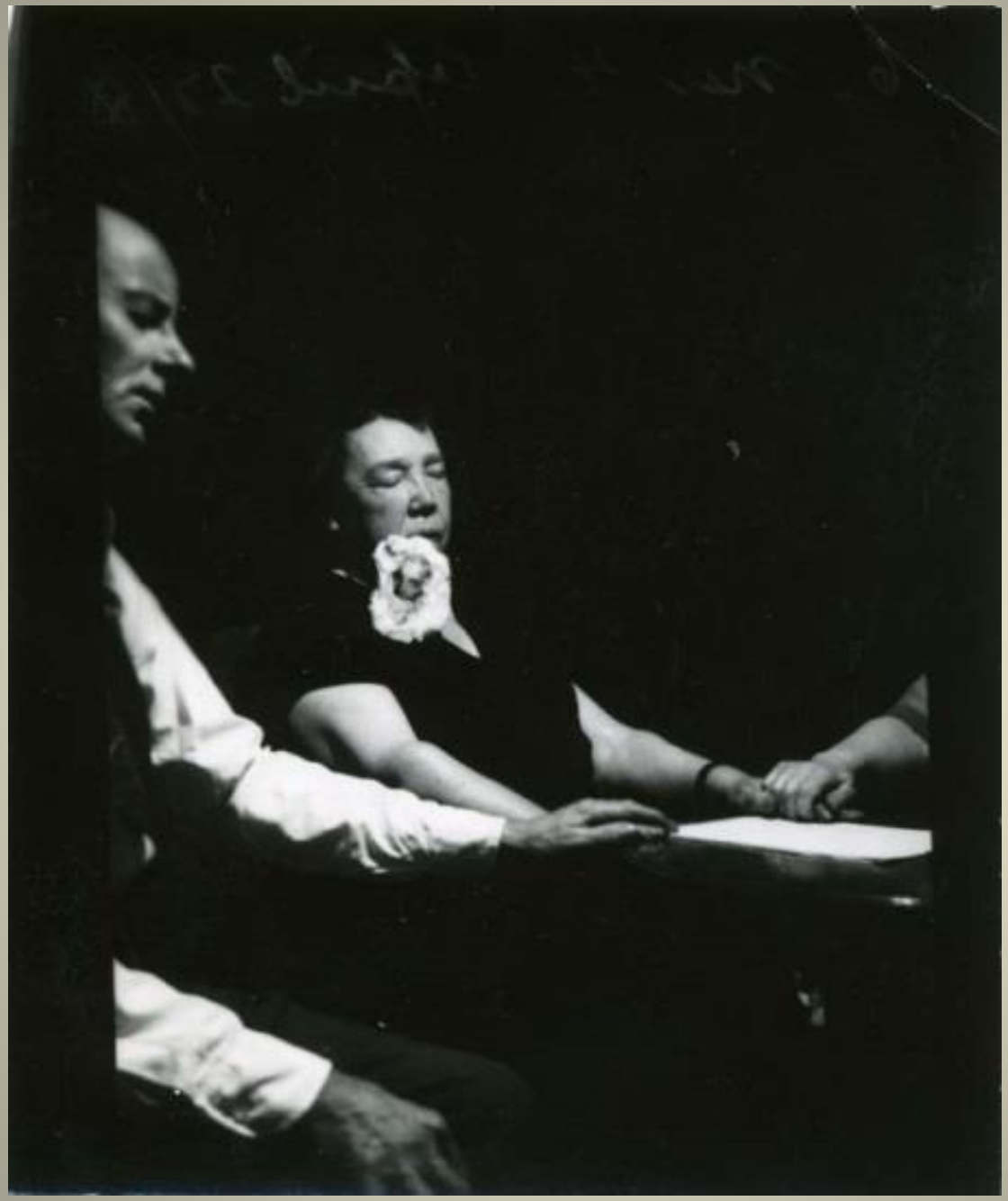
Volume

- **There is 1.44 m of textual material and 2,681 photographic images (approximately 700 unique photographs), among other material.**

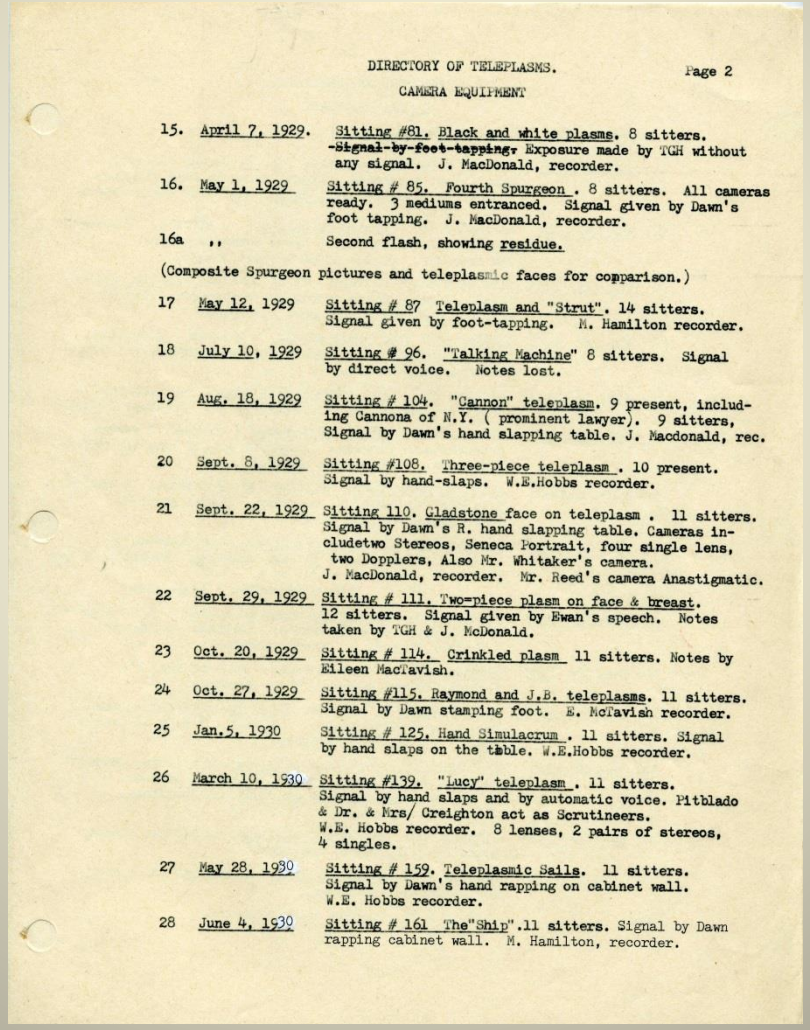
http://www.carrmclean.ca/CategoryGroupBrowser.aspx?CategoryID=137&GroupNo=845

The archives

- **Records include scrapbooks, séance attendance records and registers, affidavits, automatic writings, correspondence, speeches and lectures, newspaper clippings, journal articles, books, photographs, glass plate negatives and positives, prints, slides, tapes, manuscripts, and promotional materials related to major publications**



Not Just Photos



DIRECTORY OF TELEPLASMS. Page 2

CAMERA EQUIPMENT

15. April 7, 1929. Sitting #81. Black and white plasms. 8 sitters. ~~Signal by foot-tapping.~~ Exposure made by TGH without any signal. J. MacDonald, recorder.

16. May 1, 1929 Sitting # 85. Fourth Spurgeon . 8 sitters. All cameras ready. 3 mediums entranced. Signal given by Dawn's foot tapping. J. MacDonald, recorder.

16a ,, Second flash, showing residue.

(Composite Spurgeon pictures and teleplasmic faces for comparison.)

17 May 12, 1929 Sitting # 87 Teleplasm and "Strut". 14 sitters. Signal given by foot-tapping. M. Hamilton recorder.

18 July 10, 1929 Sitting # 96. "Talking Machine" 8 sitters. Signal by direct voice. Notes lost.

19 Aug. 18, 1929 Sitting # 104. "Cannon" teleplasm. 9 present, including Cannona of N.Y. (prominent lawyer). 9 sitters, Signal by Dawn's hand slapping table. J. Macdonald, rec.

20 Sept. 8, 1929 Sitting #108. Three-piece teleplasm . 10 present. Signal by hand-slaps. W.E.Hobbs recorder.

21 Sept. 22, 1929 Sitting 110. Gladstone face on teleplasm . 11 sitters. Signal by Dawn's R. hand slapping table. Cameras includetwo Stereos, Seneca Portrait, four single lens, two Dopplers, Also Mr. Whitaker's camera. J. MacDonald, recorder. Mr. Reed's camera Anastigmatic.

22 Sept. 29, 1929 Sitting # 111. Two-piece plasm on face & breast. 12 sitters. Signal given by Ewan's speech. Notes taken by TGH & J. McDonald.

23 Oct. 20, 1929 Sitting # 114. Crinkled plasm 11 sitters. Notes by Eileen MacTavish.

24 Oct. 27, 1929 Sitting #115. Raymond and J.B. teleplasms. 11 sitters. Signal by Dawn stamping foot. E. McTavish recorder.

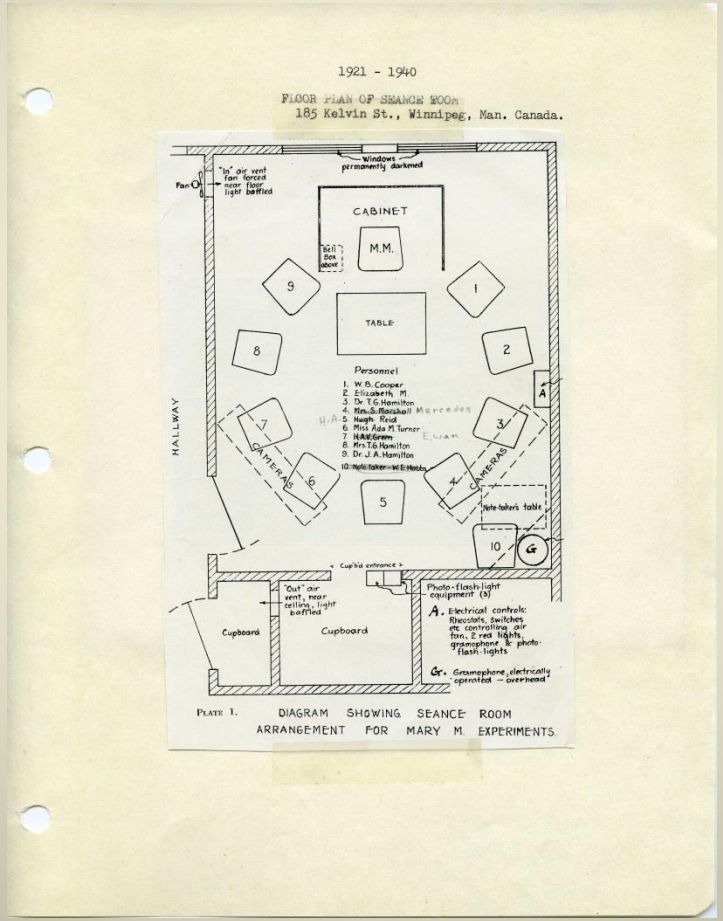
25 Jan.5, 1930 Sitting # 125. Hand Simulacrum . 11 sitters. Signal by hand slaps on the table. W.E.Hobbs recorder.

26 March 10, 1930 Sitting #139. "Lucy" teleplasm . 11 sitters. Signal by hand slaps and by automatic voice. Pitblado & Dr. & Mrs/ Creighton act as Scrutineers. W.E. Hobbs recorder. 8 lenses, 2 pairs of stereos, 4 singles.

27 May 28, 1930 Sitting # 159. Teleplasmic Sails. 11 sitters. Signal by Dawn's hand rapping on cabinet wall. W.E. Hobbs recorder.

28 June 4, 1930 Sitting # 161 The"Ship".11 sitters. Signal by Dawn rapping cabinet wall. M. Hamilton, recorder.

Floor Plan



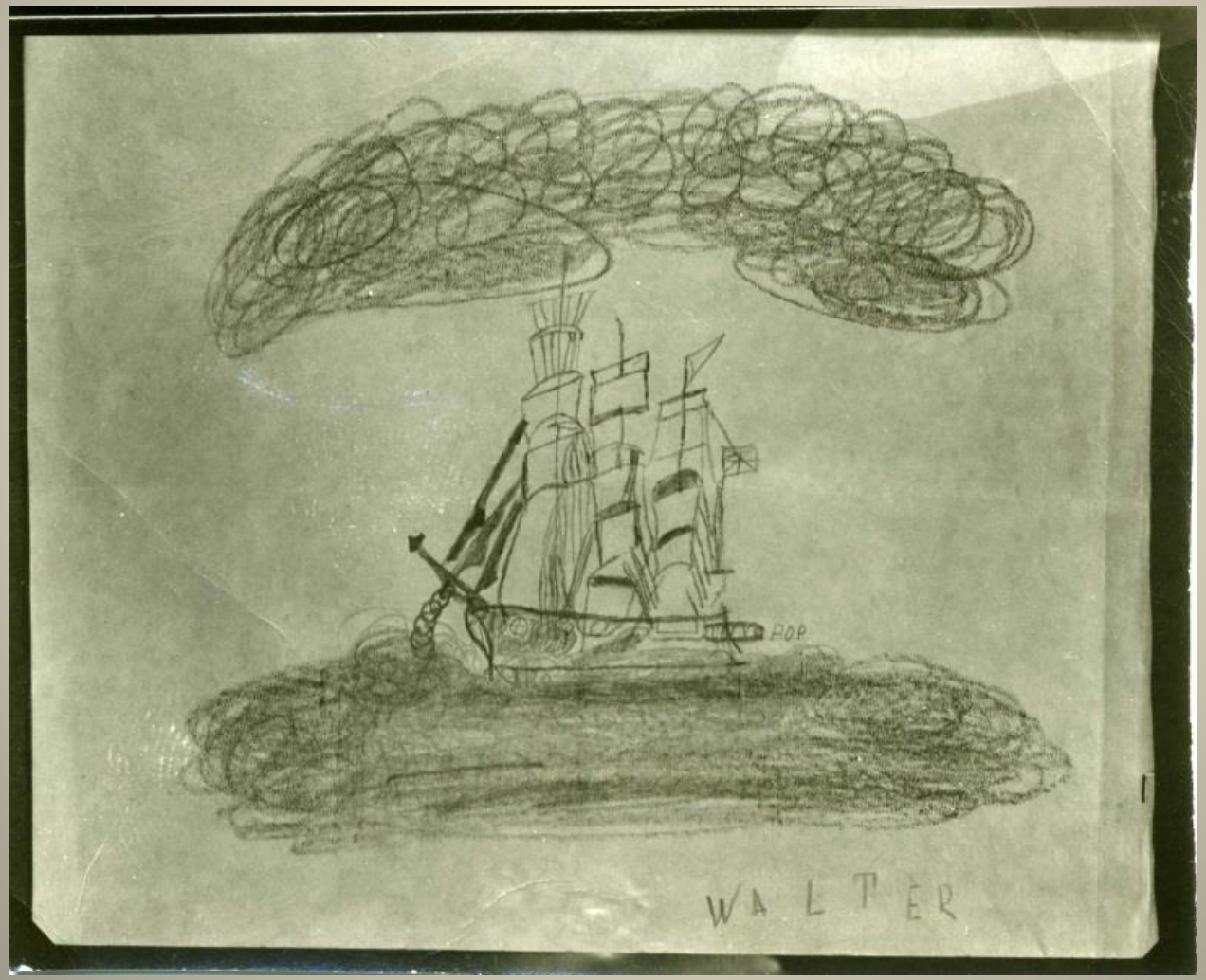
1921 - 1940

FLOOR PLAN OF SEANCE ROOM
185 Kelvin St., Winnipeg, Man. Canada.

Windows permanently darkened
"In" air vent fan forced near floor light baffled
Fan
CABINET
M.M.
Bell Box above
TABLE
Personnel
1. W.B. Cooper
2. Elizabeth M.
3. Dr. T.G. Hamilton
4. Mrs. S. Marshall Mercedes
5. Hugh Reid
6. Miss Ada M. Turner
7. H.A.W. Green
8. Mrs T.G. Hamilton
9. Dr. J.A. Hamilton
10. Note taker — W.E. Hinsley
H.A. Ewan
HALLWAY
CAMERAS
CAMERAS
Note-taker's table
< Cupboard entrance >
"Out" air vent, near ceiling, light baffled
Cupboard
Cupboard
Photo-flash light equipment (3)
A. Electrical controls: Rheostats, switches etc controlling air fan, 2 red lights, gramophone & photo-flash lights
Gr. Gramophone, electrically operated — overhead

PLATE I. DIAGRAM SHOWING SEANCE ROOM ARRANGEMENT FOR MARY M. EXPERIMENTS.

Spirit Drawings



- **How did this collection come to the University of Manitoba?**

A bit about the University

- Largest university in Manitoba
- Oldest university in Western Canada
- 29,000 students
- Department of Psychology, Faculty of Arts
- http://umanitoba.ca/psychology/
- Currently do not have a parapsychological program

Parapsychology

- Although we don't have a program in parapsychology, we had professor interested
- He taught in this subject area for a number of years beginning before Hamilton fonds arrived
- Interviewed Glen Hamilton, wanted to interview Margaret – she died several days before they could meet

The Archives

- Libraries acquired first collection 1963
- Archives founded 1978
- Hamilton collection arrives a year after first archivist is hired
- One of the earliest collections in the Archives

Hamilton Family fonds

- In 1979 Margaret Hamilton Bach offered to donate the first of a series of accessions
- She offered it to president's office
- They called the archives and together the head archivist and a representative of the president went to see her

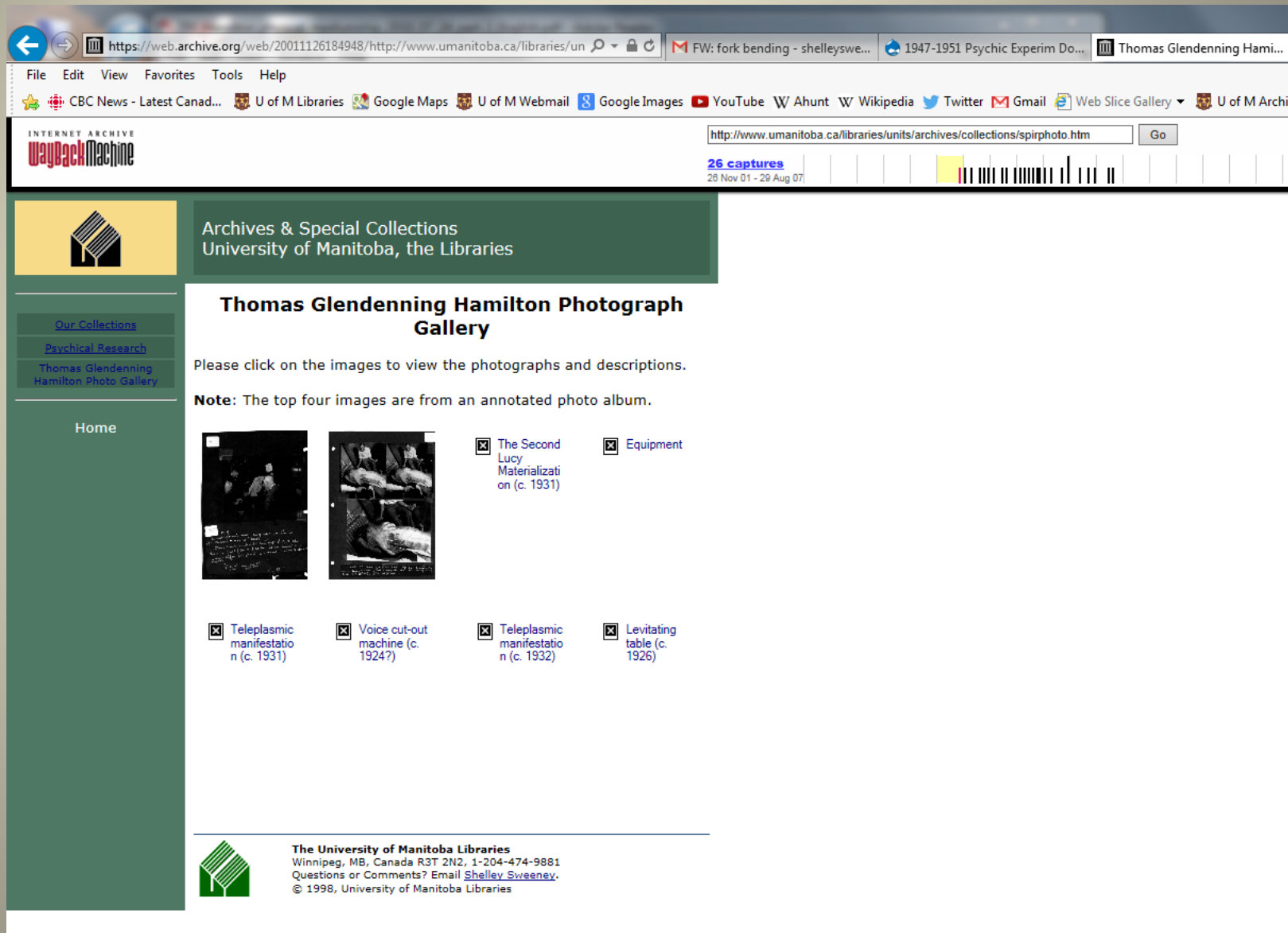
Hamilton family fonds

- they both felt the collection was outstanding
- University acquired it
- Neither were believers or interested in parapsychology particularly
- They felt it was an excellent record of a particular time

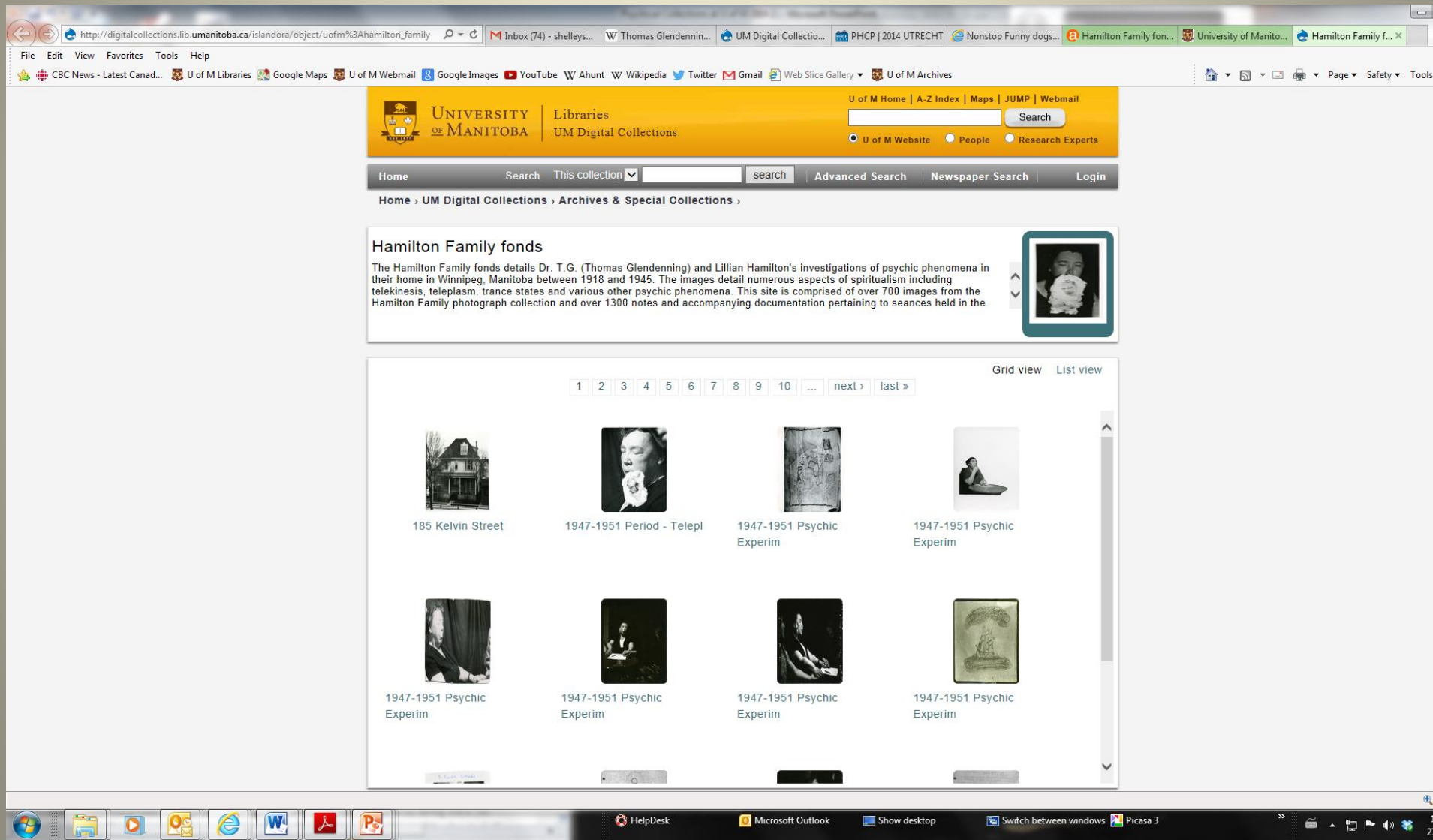
My arrival in 1998

- There had been considerable promotion of the collection when it arrived
- That initial excitement faded
- When I got there I thought it was one of the most outstanding collections I'd ever seen
- Provokes a visceral reaction

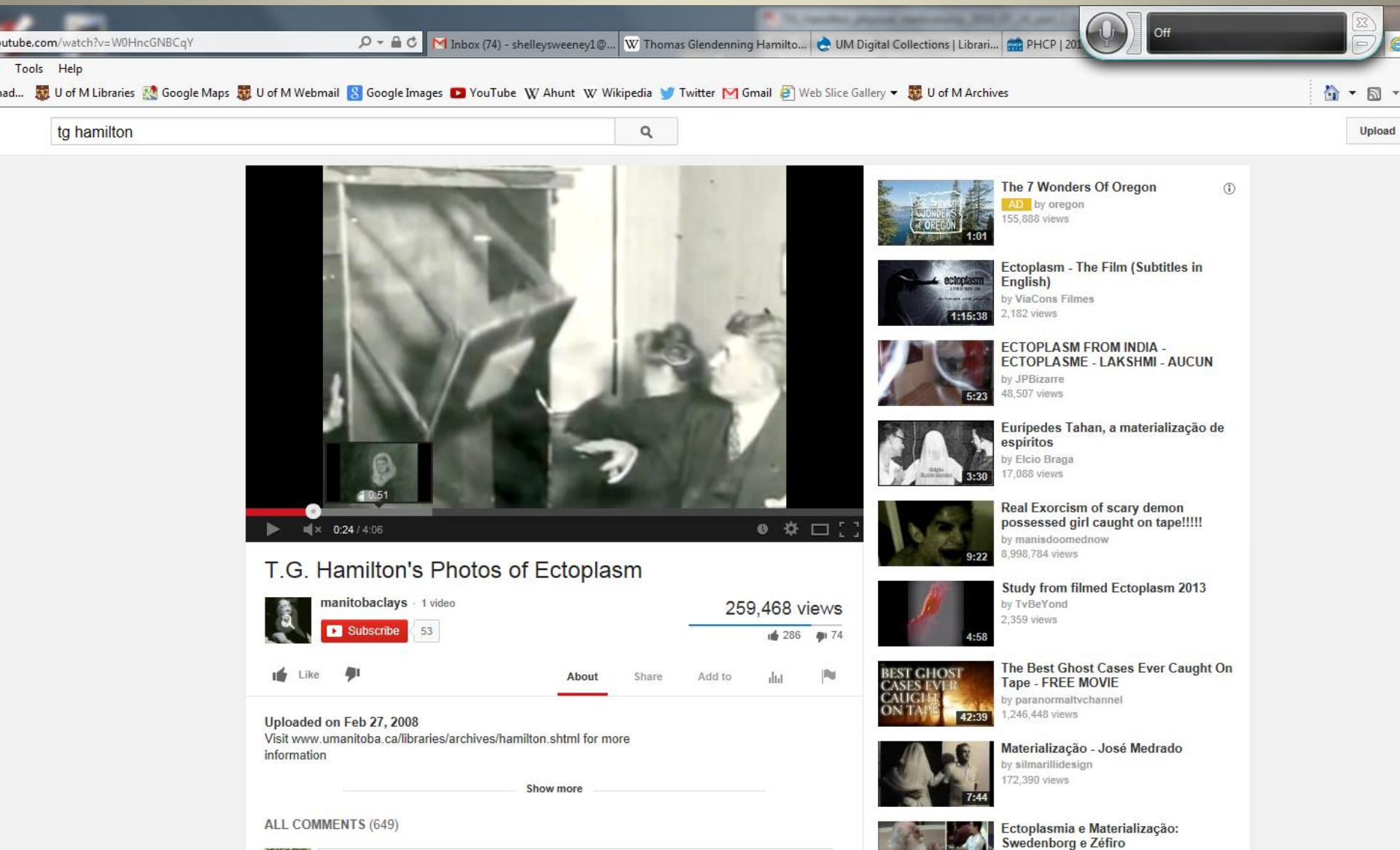
First was virtual exhibit

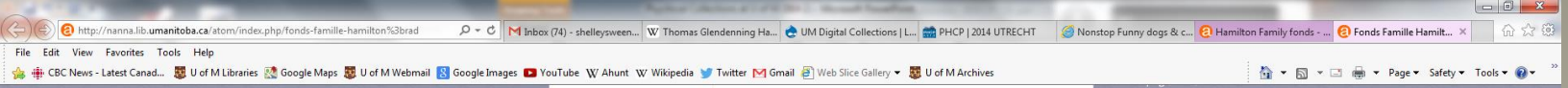


Digitized both photos, text



YouTube Video





Physical description area

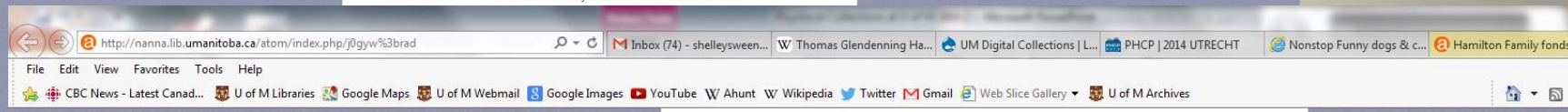
Physical description	Collation: 2,5 m de documents textuels et autres matériaux

Archival description area

Name of creator	Famille Hamilton (1873-)
Biographical history :	Notice biographique : Le Dr T.G. (Thomas Glendenning) Hamilton est né à Agincourt, Ontario en 1873. En 1883, sa famille déménage vers l'ouest en Saskatchewan. Elle fut parmi les premières familles pionnières à s'établir à Saskatoon. Suite à la mort de ... »
Custodial history	Historique de la conservation: Le fonds fut donné aux Archives et collections spéciales, Université du Manitoba, par la fille de T.G. et Lillian Hamilton, Margaret Hamilton Bach, et ses filles, en plusieurs versements entre 1979 et 1986.
Scope and content	Portée et contenu : Le fonds se rapporte principalement aux recherches du Docteur T.G. et Lillian Hamilton sur les phénomènes paranormaux à partir de 1918 jusqu'en 1945. Les sujets traités dans les documents incluent les coups frappés, la clairvoyance, ... »

Notes area

Immediate source of acquisition	Le fonds fut donné par la fille de T.G. et Lillian Hamilton, Margaret Hamilton Bach, et ses filles.
Language of material	English
Restrictions on access	Restrictions : Il n'y aucune restriction sur ce matériel.



Physical description area

Physical description	大きさ：2.5メートルの文字の記録及びその他の資料

Archival description area

Name of creator	ハミルトン家 (1873-)
Biographical history :	経歴概略：T.G. (トーマス グレンデニング) ハミルトン医師はオンタリオ州エージンコートで1873年に誕生。1883年、家族はカナダ西部、サスカッチワンに移り住み最初の開拓移住家族の一員となった。 1891の父の死後、母親は家族とウイニペッグに移り、若いT.G. ハミルトンはマニトバカレッジで学んだ。1903年に医学部を卒業し、1904年にはウイニペッグジェネラル病院でインターンを終え、1905年にウイニペッグ市内エルウッド地区で個人診療を始めた。1915年にはマニトバ州医療協会の会長を務める。ハミルトン医師は公立学校委員会にも９年間仕え、そのうち一年間委員長を務めた。1914-15にはマニトバ州議会のメンバーにも選ばれた。幼少の息子の死後間もなく、1918年には心霊現象の実験を始める。彼の目的は、ラッピングス、念力、エクトプラズム、有形化等の超常現象を科学的な環境で誤りを最小に保ち調査する事だった。彼の研究は英国、ヨーロッパ、アメリカ合衆国で良く知られる様になった。1926年から1936年に於いて、86件の講演で研究を発表し、多くの研究リポートをカナダ、又国外で出版する。彼の死の1935以降、妻のリリアンがハミルトン医師の超常現象の実験を継続した。
Custodial history	資料保管歴史：このコレクションは1979年から1986年までT.G.とリリアンの娘、マーガレット ハミルトン バックとマーガレットの娘達がマニトバ大学貴重書＆資料へ数回に分けて寄贈されたものである。
Scope and content	コレクションの内容：このコレクションは 主にT.G.ハミルトン医師と妻のリリアンが1918年から1945年まで関わった超常現象の研究に関するものである。ラッピング、千里眼、トランス状態そしてトランスチャート、念動力（テレキネシス）、ロウ型、鳴るベル、筆記録、見たものの光景、及び霊媒の物質化現象の記録が収録されている。これらの記録はスクラップブック、交霊会の出席者名と出席登録の記録、宣誓供述書、自動的な書き込み、手紙, スピーチ、講演の数々、新聞の切り抜き、雑誌論文、本、ガラス板ネガ、刷った写真、スライド、録音テープ、手書きの原稿、重要な出版物に関する宣伝文献など、いろんな形で保存されている。ネガから刷ったすべての写真には写された実験内容が記述されている。すべてのガラス版ネガは 保存の為写真に納められ、白黒の光沢のある刷った写真のコレクションも収録されている。コレクションにまつわる本や雑誌の関連文献は 図書目録に記載され、検索可能である。

New Outside Iniatives

- Walter Falk spent 3 years transcribing Hamilton's documents
- A researcher in Spain has translated Walter's work into Spanish
- Walter has also made multiple videos explaining Hamilton's work
- He has also posted photos to Flikr

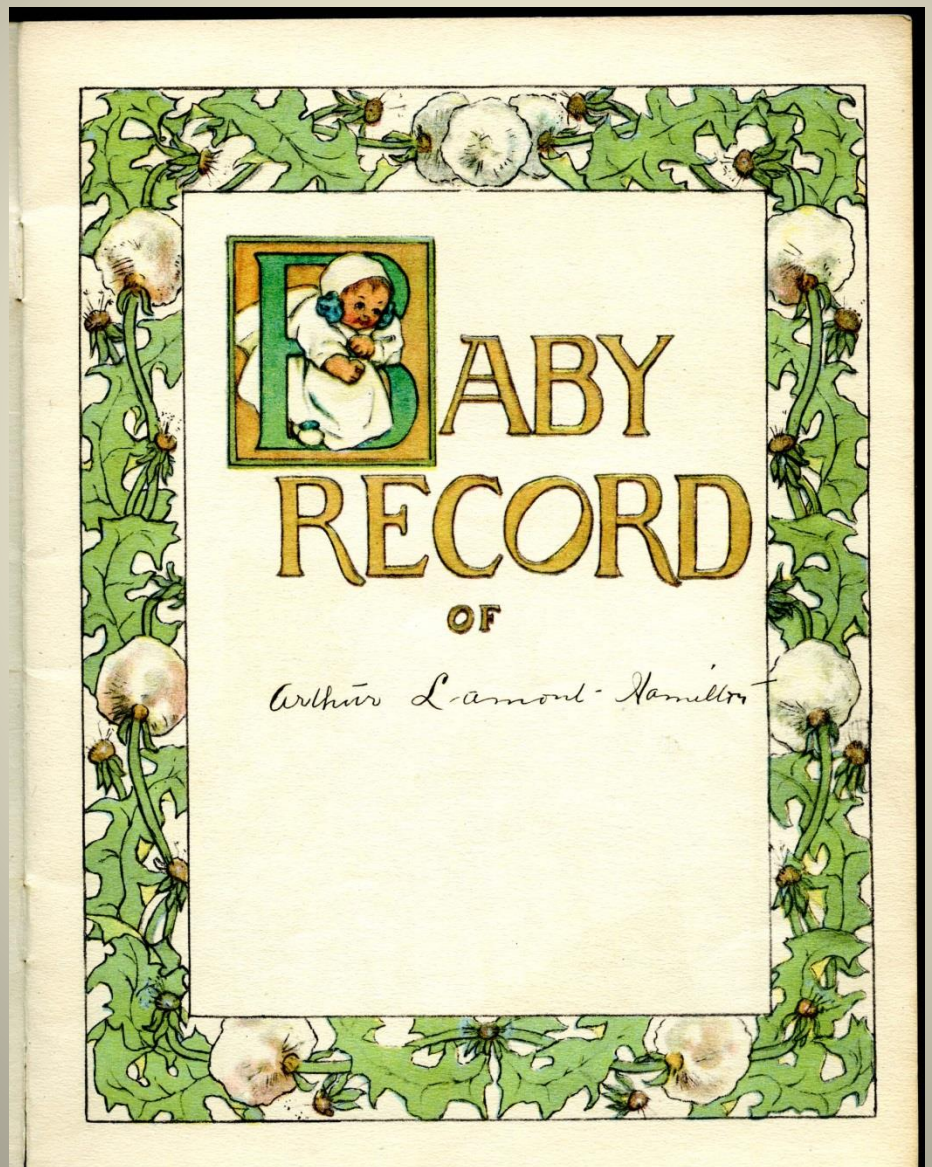
Results of these promotions

- **Explosion of research**
- **Play, novel, multiple television documentaries, films that include images, many international art exhibits, performance art pieces, music, essays, articles, PhD theses, newspaper articles, website articles**

New acquisitions

- Since 1979, the Archives has begun collecting parapsychological archives
- Full Range of Subjects
- Subjects cover life after death, psychokinesis, Spiritualism, reincarnation, water divination, automatic drawing, spiritual healing, and on the far side of this subject area, UFOs, among others

Further Hamilton acquisitions



The night he was taken ill he said the following little rhyme - enjoying the joke and saying it with the most adorable little lisp and chuckle

"They tell me that I lisp but I never could perceive it till I said soft-soap, pea soup and some thing similar".

Aunt Billy "Where the Hamilton lives?"

Arthur - "Them us".

"Mamma I kill Aunt Billy wiff mistletoe"

anitoba.ca/libraries/units/archives/collections/subject/spiritualism/index.html
Inbox (74) - shelleysweeney1@... | Thomas Glendenning Hamilto... | UM Digital Collections | Librari... | PHCP | 201
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Libraries Home

Psychical Research and Spiritualism Collections

The University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections has acquired a number of manuscript collections and rare books related to the study of these disciplines. The collections and books represented on these pages were chosen for the value of their information about matters of the occult and paranormal. Some collections have direct and immediately apparent relevance while others are connected peripherally to psychical research and spiritualism. Also included are links to photograph collections in this area of study.

- Debra Barr and Walter Meyer zu Erpen Research and Publication Collection
- Kenneth J. Batcheldor fonds
- Albert Batten fonds
- Robert Beamish fonds
- Joe Fisher fonds
- Nandor Fodor fonds
- Hamilton Family fonds
- Alexander Imich fonds
- Hannah Mary MacPherson fonds
- William T. Metzger fonds
- Suzanne Muir fonds
- Jenny O'Hara Pincock fonds
- A.R.G (George) and Iris M. Owen fonds
- Mary Olga Park fonds
- Bernard M. Rasch fonds
- Howard Reed fonds
- Spiritualist Hymnals and Manuals Collection
- Survival Research Institute of Canada fonds
- Survival Research Newsletters and Periodicals Collection
- Eileen Sykes fonds
- James and Ljotun Young fonds

Virtual Exhibit

- Hamilton Family fonds

Rare Book Collection

Research Grant

- T. Glendenning Hamilton Research Grant

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Trouble logging in?

Archives & Special Collections
330 Elizabeth Dafoe Library
University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2 Canada

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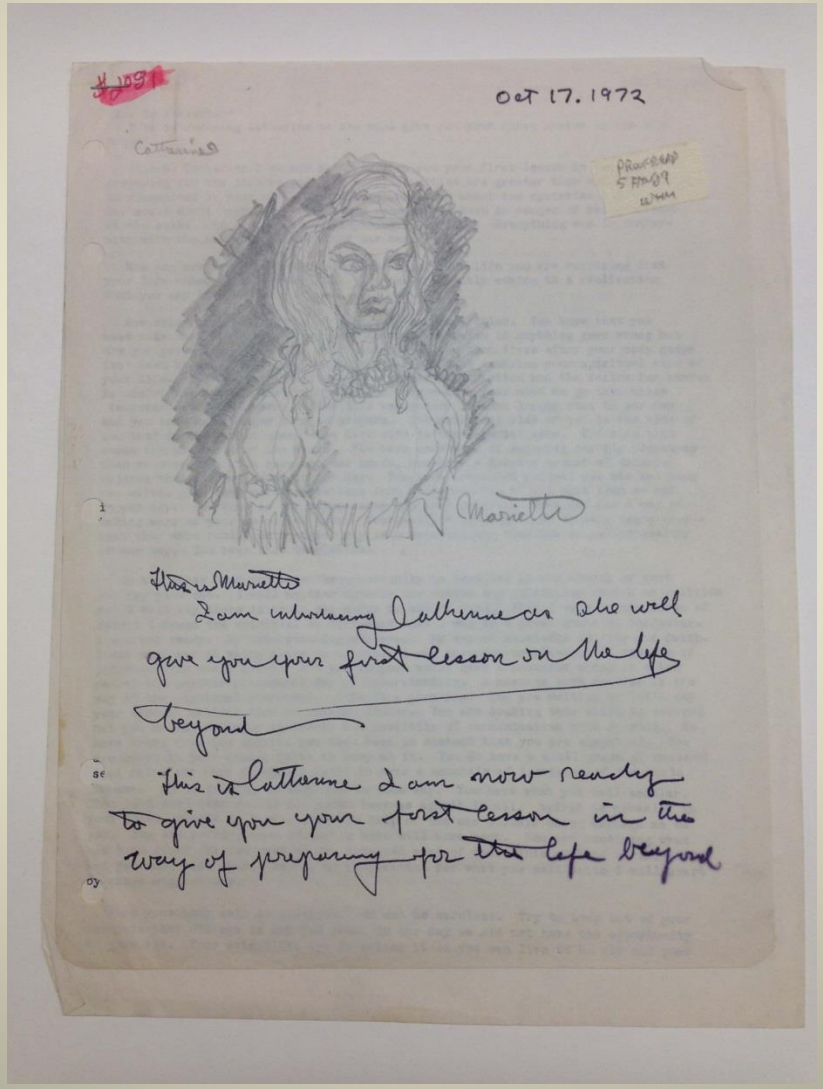
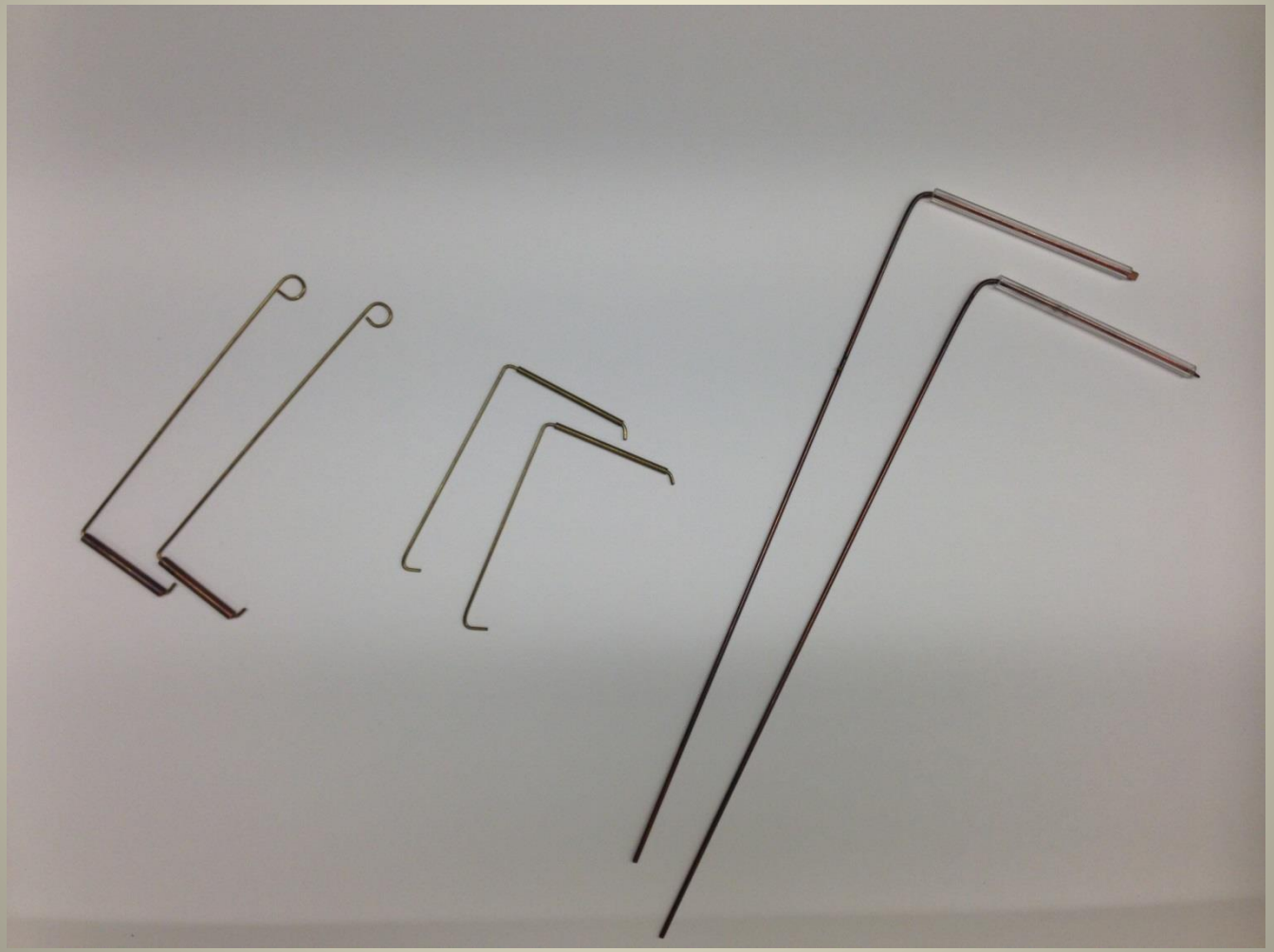
HelpDesk Microsoft Outlook Show desktop Switch between windows Picasa 3

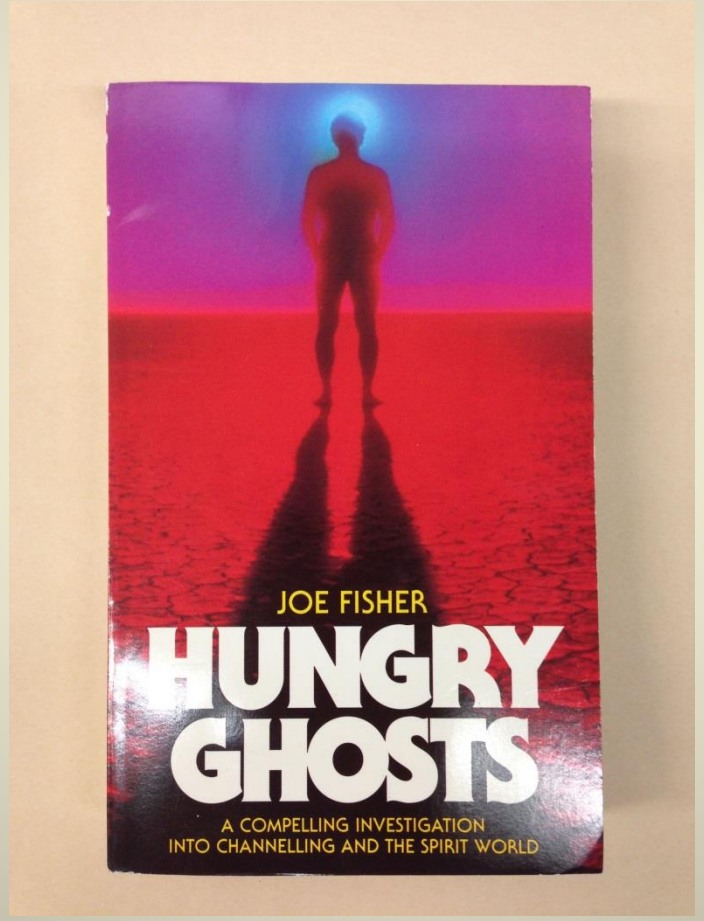
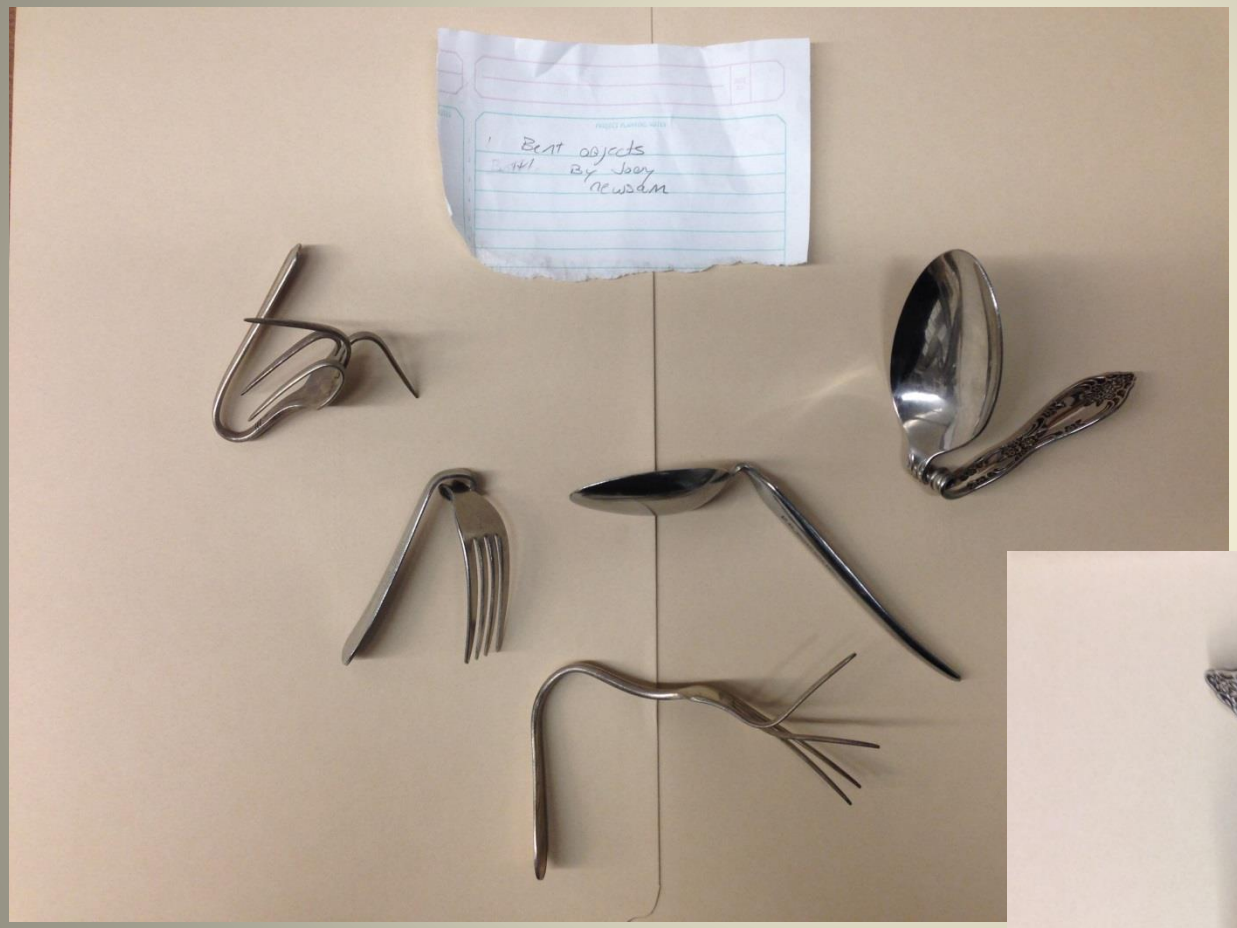
William Metzger



Howard Reed



Joe Fisher


JOE FISHER
HUNGRY GHOSTS
A COMPELLING INVESTIGATION
INTO CHANNELLING AND THE SPIRIT WORLD

Alex Imich