

## **Sir Arthur Conan Doyle – His Greatest Mystery**

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was borne in Edinburgh in 1859. He was raised in the Rome Catholic faith. While Doyle was training to become a doctor he started to read Darwin, Spencer and Huxley. Their writings and his own disenchantment with religion caused him to become an agnostic.

In 1887 at the age of 28, Doyle became interested in the possibility of ‘Thought Transference’. Working with a friend who was an architect, he wanted to see if it was possible to transmit diagrams back and forth. Doyle later wrote he had shown beyond any doubt he was able to convey his thoughts without words.

In the late 1800’s ‘Table Turnings’ were very popular and Doyle attended a large number. One of the most remarkable physical mediums of the day was Daniel Douglas Home (another Scotsman) and Doyle managed to sit with him several times. This was the time in Doyle’s life that he became interested in mysticism, which he later replaced with Spiritualist beliefs.

As a member of the Society for Psychical Research he amassed an extensive library of Spiritualist writings along with his own. A few of the books he’s written on Spiritualism are ‘The New Revelation’, ‘The Vital Message’, ‘Wanderings of a Spiritualist’, ‘The Case for Psychic Photography’, ‘Memories and Adventure’, and the list goes on.

It was almost 20 years from the time Doyle first begun his research into Spiritualism until in 1916 he publicly declared that he possessed positive knowledge of life after death.

We all have a turning point in our life and Doyle reached his just after World War I. His youngest son Kingsley died of pneumonia. Doyle’s belief in survival after death became his primary concern. A year after his son’s death he attended a séance held by a Welsh medium where his son spoke to him. He later wrote, “It was His voice and he spoke of concerns unknowns to the medium!” Shortly after that he saw his mother and nephew, in his words, “As plainly as I ever saw them in Life!”

During Doyle’s travels he drew large crowds who were probably first attracted by his name, but stayed to be won over by his sincerity. Doyle illustrated his lectures with slides of Spirit photographs he had taken or developed himself.

He never denied the existence of some fraud among mediums and psychic practitioners, but asserted it was far less common than was supposed. He always felt the issue of fraud was clouded by mediums who were suffering from a temporary failure of real psychic power would cheat a little.

He was opposed to all church dogma, but retained a deep respect for the principals of Christianity as well as Islam and Buddhism.

In a recorded talk shortly before his death, Conan Doyle said: ‘People ask, “What do you get from Spiritualism?”’ The first thing you get is that it absolutely removes all fear of death. Secondly, it bridges death for those dear ones whom we may love. We need to have no fear that we are calling them back, for all we do is to make such conditions as experience has taught us will enable them to come if they wish, and the initiative lies always with them. They have many times told us that they would not come back if it was not God’s will, and that it makes them intensely happy to help and comfort us, to tell us about their happy life in that world to which we are in our turn destined to come.”...