

A Few Words On This Book

This book is dealing with the re-discovery of a nearly forgotten chapter in the history of European psychical research. It consists of a selection of 23 chapters taken from the memoirs of Dr. Angelos Tanagras (1875-1971), a Greek physician and a pioneer of psychical research and parapsychology in his native country.

While there was during the last decades a growing interest of scholars and other scientists into the cultural and social history of research into paranormal or 'occult' phenomena in various European countries like England, France or Germany, the rich history of such researches in Greece remained nearly untouched. It is entirely to the credit of Dr. Fotini Pallikari, retired Associate Professor in Physics, Department of Physics, Section of Solid State Physics of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, that this situation has changed in recent years dramatically (or completely?) and that the international community of psi researchers took notice of what had happened in the 1920s and 1930s in this small country.

Already back in the late 1990s, while being on a leave from Athens University for doing experimental and theoretical research into so-called psychokinetic effects at the Institut für Grenzgebiete der Psychologie und Psychohygiene (IGPP) [Institute for Border Areas of Psychology and Mental Hygiene] in Freiburg i. Br., Germany, Dr. Pallikari got interested in the historical research program that was developed at the IGPP at that time by using the Institute's wonderful library and archival collections. A first result of her historical researches was a paper on "Oesterreich, Tanagras and the Fourth International Conference for Psychical Research in Athens 1930" presented at a "Symposium on Life and Work of T. K. Oesterreich (1880-1949)" organized in September 2001 at the Psychological Institute of Tübingen University in cooperation with the IGPP.

In the following years Dr. Pallikari spoke about her researches into the history of Greek psychical research at international conferences of parapsychology and published several articles about them. Finally she had invested a lot of time and energy to edit and to comment in a cultural historical context Tanagras' autobiography which was published in 2016 in Greek language under the title: "Angelos Tanagras-My Memoirs". The international community of psychical researchers, interested in their historical origins, owes Dr. Fotini Pallikari with the present collection a precious gift.

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