

Why Are These Files Classified?

A Secret Kept by the British Government



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This will be a relatively short piece, dear reader, for what follows needs no extrapolation.

Having set myself down to browse the archives once again, I have found myself looking upon some rather revealing references.

Not revealing due to their contents, but due to the startling administrative barriers attached to them.

And given the subject matter they discuss, this forced distance makes the silence all the more poignant.

Onward, curious mind.

Notes on Clairvoyance 

ITEM

**[Notes on
clairvoyance and
hypnotism
comprising
accounts of
experiments with
clairvoyance...**

Catalogue reference:

DEP/AWP/5/7/8

What's it about?

**This record is about the
[Notes on clairvoyance
and hypnotism
comprising accounts of
experiments with
clairvoyance... dating
from 1820s.**

Title

The name of the record

**[Notes on clairvoyance and
hypnotism comprising
accounts of experiments
with clairvoyance by
Monsieur Dupotet]**

Date

When the record was created

1820s

Description

What the record is about

From the collection of

William Pulteney Alison.

Access conditions

Information on conditions that restrict or affect access to the record

Access is by appointment.

Certain records may be confidential and access is restricted according to relevant legislation.

In the archives of William Pulteney Alison sits a file cataloged as *DEP/AWP/5/7/8*:

Notes on clairvoyance and hypnotism comprising accounts of experiments with clairvoyance by Monsieur Dupotet

You would expect a two-hundred-year-old account of early experiments to be open to any researcher.

Instead, you are met with a wall.

Access is by appointment only, and the record is shielded by the cold language of the state:

Certain records may be confidential and access is restricted according to relevant legislation

They have placed a gatekeeping mechanism around these accounts, branding them with a modern bureaucratic warning.

One has to ask:

are they protecting the public from these ideas, or are they protecting the state from the implications of what these experiments actually proved?

The restriction itself is more revealing than anything Monsieur Dupotet could have written on those pages.

Notes on Psychotherapy 

FILE

**Notes on
'Psychotherapy'
by Sir David
Kennedy
Henderson**

Catalogue reference:

DEP/HDK/1/2

What's it about?

**This record is a file about
the Notes on
'Psychotherapy' by Sir
David Kennedy
Henderson dating from
1930s.**

Description

What the record is about

A typed paper with sections titled Religious Miracles, Animal Magnetism, Hypnotism and Suggestion and Rest Treatment.

Possibly notes taken from works by Janet. Minor handwritten amendments. Undated.

Access conditions

Information on conditions that restrict or affect access to the record

Access is by appointment.

Certain records may be confidential and access is restricted according to relevant legislation.

Then there is *DEP/HDK/1/2*:

Notes on 'Psychotherapy' by Sir David Henderson

This 1930s file is a cocktail of subjects the establishment prefers to leave unexamined:

Religious Miracles, Animal Magnetism, Hypnotism, and Suggestion

It reads like a syllabus for a history they've spent a century trying to sanitise.

Once again, the shutters are drawn.

The same ***confidential*** restrictions apply, the same appointments must be booked, and the same legislation is invoked to keep these notes from your eyes.

Why categorise a set of observational notes from the 1820's & 1930s as sensitive enough to warrant such barriers?

They are clearly concerned about something within these documents.

Rosenthal to Hogarth Press 

ITEM

**Letter from
Raymond
Rosenthal to The
Hogarth Press
(03/09/1947)**

Catalogue reference:

MS 2750/111/27

What's it about?

This record is about the
**Letter from Raymond
Rosenthal to The
Hogarth Press**

**(03/09/1947) dating from
1947.**

Description

What the record is about

Rosenthal writes to request permission to quote from Sigmund Freud's book in his book on hypnotism.

Typescript letter signed by Rosenthal

Regarding : Freud, Sigmund.

Group psychology and the analysis of the Ego (The International

Psychoanalytical Library, no. 6)

Catalogued to item level as

part of the Modernist
Archives Publishing Project
(MAPP)

Access conditions

Information on conditions
that restrict or affect
access to the record

**Prior permission from
Random House is required.
Please contact Special
Collections for further
information.**

MS 2750/111/27 is a 1947 letter from Raymond Rosenthal to The Hogarth Press.

Rosenthal requested permission to quote Sigmund Freud's ***Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego*** for his own work on hypnotism.

Freud was the man whose theories on the subconscious became the foundation of modern psychological control.

The restriction here takes a different, equally insidious shape.

You cannot view the letter; you are tethered to the whims of a corporate entity:

Prior permission from Random House is required

It is a subtle shift in the architecture of censorship.

In the earlier files, the state hides behind the heavy curtain of legislation, here, the wall is private property.

It serves the same purpose:

ensuring the history of how these psychological tools were disseminated, and who was permitted to discuss them, remains buried under a layer of copyright and corporate gatekeeping

They are not censoring ideas; they are asserting ownership over the discourse itself.

Photograph of Four People 📷

SUB-ITEM

**Photograph of
four people in
front of a
blackboard
during a
hypnotism class
at the...**

Catalogue reference:

OBJ/PH0/4/51/4/160

What's it about?

This record is about the
**Photograph of four
people in front of a
blackboard during a
hypnotism class at the...
dating from c1963.**

Description

What the record is about

From the collection of John Guy, titled 'photographs of medical students at the University of Edinburgh'.

Images are digital only, hard copy photographs are not held.

Access conditions

Information on conditions that restrict or affect access to the record

**Access is by appointment.
Certain records may be confidential and access is restricted according to relevant legislation.**

Now we get to *OBJ/PHO/4/51/4/160*:

a photograph from the John Guy collection, capturing a hypnotism class at the University of Edinburgh, circa 1963

Four people stand before a blackboard, captured in a moment of practical, academic study.

This is not some dusty relic from the 1800s; this is the mid-20th century.

By 1963, these techniques were moving from the fringes into the lecture halls of elite institutions, yet the state still treats the documentation of this education as a liability.

The same ***confidential*** warning follows it, the same legislative barrier stands in the way of a simple photograph.

It begs the question:

if the academic study of hypnotism was standard medical curriculum, why the continued need to obscure the record?

They are policing not just the content, but the visibility of the instruction itself.

Even in the modern era, they treat the teaching of these techniques as something that needs to remain behind closed doors.

Closed Extracts ?

Closed extracts: 2 pages

Home Office: Entertainments (ENT Symbol Series) Files.

Entertainments: dangerous performances; hypnotists; review of Hypnotism Act 1952. Closed extracts: 2 pages.

Held by:	The National Archives, Kew - Home Office
Date:	1994 - 1995
Reference:	HO 300/378/2

Closed extracts: 2 pages

Catalogue reference:

H0 300/378/2

What's it about?

This record is about the
Closed extracts: 2 pages
dating from **1994 Jan 1 -**
1995 Dec 31 in the series

Home Office:

Entertainments (ENT

Symbol Series) Files. It is

Symbol Series) files. It is held at The National Archives, Kew.

Is it available online?

No, this record is closed and not available online.

[Find out more about how you might access this record.](#)

Description

What the record is about

Closed extracts: 2 pages

Access conditions

Information on conditions that restrict or affect access to the record

Closed For 82 years

Closure status

Whether the record is 'open' (available to the public) or 'closed' (not available due to a legal exemption)

Closed Or Retained

MS 2750/111/57 is the most telling piece of the puzzle, dear reader.

It presents a paradox:

the initial search yields a fleeting promise of content, yet the moment you bridge the gap and tap the link, the metadata evaporates into the ether

You are left staring at a blank, sanitised void where the history should be.

This is not an accident of archiving; it is a feature of concealment.

To offer a fragment of insight in a summary only to scrub that record clean upon closer inspection is a calculated act of erasure.

It is a ghost in the system, kept under seal not because of what it contains, but because of the questions they refuse to let you formulate.

They want to ensure you cannot even hypothesise what lies behind the curtain.

When you pair this systematic silence with the decades of active restriction surrounding the rest of the collection, the pattern becomes undeniable.

They are not protecting sensitive information; they are curating a void.

They have engineered a digital and physical black hole where the history of our own consciousness is concerned, ensuring that what was once documented as science is rendered invisible by design.

The **absence of information** is the most potent tool in their arsenal, and here, the empty page is the loudest evidence of all.

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And so, dear reader, we shall now reflect on what this lack of transparency shows us.

What we have unearthed is not just a collection of dusty files and bureaucratic red tape, but a deliberate architecture of forgetting.

We have wandered through the archives and found that the past is not a story told in ink, but a landscape guarded by ghosts who insist on silence.

Every *confidential* stamp, every demand for an appointment, and every void where a description should be is a brick in a wall built to keep the present from recognising its own shadow.

They have treated the history of our own consciousness, our capacity for clairvoyance, the strange pull of the magnetic, and the mechanics of the mind, as a contagion that must be quarantined.

They fear that if you were to see these documents, to hold them up against the sterile, sanitised light of the modern age, you would realise that the boundaries of reality are far more porous than they have ever let on.

The gatekeeping is not for our protection; it is for the preservation of their monopoly on truth.

They have turned the act of discovery into an act of defiance, forcing us to peel back layers of state-sanctioned amnesia just to glimpse the mechanics of our own potential.

But there is a beauty in this struggle, for the effort of the concealment only proves the power of the hidden.

If these ideas were truly inert, if they were just the quaint superstitions of a bygone century, they would have left them to rot in the open air of the public domain.

Instead, they keep them under lock and key, and in doing so, they have accidentally illuminated the very things they sought to extinguish.

The void is not empty; it is pregnant with everything they refuse to let us become.

The final secret is not written in these files, but in the shivering awareness that we are being managed, directed, and denied, and that, in that very denial, lies the key to our own unlocking.

Your presence here, your willingness to look where they have told you not to, is valued above all else, curious mind.

However, should you choose to contribute, know that every resource goes directly toward the labor of this search, the access required to roam certain archives, and the procurement of rare books.

Your support sustains the inquiry, but your witness is the true fuel.

Thank you, *dear reader*.

[BUY ME COFFEE !\[\]\(60e47655fb197d54441c05dfe4d601ea_img.jpg\)](#)

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