

Chapter 1

A Brief Presentation of Instrumental Transcommunication (ITC)

Since the time of the great pioneers and heralds of the electronic voices, Friedrich Jürgenson and Dr Konstantin Raudive, many works have been published on the matter, my own included. However, for readers not familiar with the subject, I offer below a succinct account of this relatively new method, currently called ITC, which seeks the electronic contact with hidden dimensions of life.

Life continues and the deceased go on living in another level that we may call 'dimension' or 'world'. This is what the electronic voices tell us: "everybody, all beings, survive physical death and transit into another world" (Cardoso 2010, Locher and Harsch, 1989). Under certain circumstances, not yet properly defined, the deceased (and also higher level, supra-human beings) can be contacted through Instrumental Transcommunication.

The basic evidence provided by ITC, which supports the survival of consciousness hypothesis, takes the form of voices, images and texts produced on electronic media by methods still inexplicable by modern science. I will deal mainly with the voices because my own research focuses on those.

There are two types of anomalous electronic voices: the ones usually called EVP (Electronic Voice Phenomenon), which most of the time sound to the ear like human voices and appear recorded on magnetic tapes or digital devices, generally in reply to the operator's questions or comments. They can only be heard when the recording is played back. They may vary greatly in amplitude and intelligibility.

The other is known as DRV (Direct Radio Voices). These voices are much rarer and come directly into the air from the loudspeaker of a radio, usually also in response to questions or comments by the human operator. They may sound robotic and are often distorted. But when they are clear, they may allow for a dialogue and the reception of amazing information about "the other world", from where the voices proper state they have come.

Both EVP and DRV are apparently produced by invisible communicators who, for the most part, identify themselves as deceased humans. The messages received by both means, but mainly through the DRV, in some cases allow for lengthy conversations and cover a large spectrum of information – some of which may be previously unknown to the experimenter; from the identification of the communicator and other deceased personalities to descriptions of the next world or high ethical teachings.

Historically, the origin of audio ITC in its popular form, the well-known EVP, appears to go back to an American ethnographer, Waldemar Borogas, who in 1901 reported having accomplished the first registration of voices of unexplained origin during an expedition to Siberia, when recording the invocations of the shamans Chukchees. The ethnographer himself reported on the occurrence in *The Chukchee Jesup North Pacific Expedition*, Vol. 7, II, p. 435 (Grandsire 1998).

EVP voices, as we record them today, arose spontaneously and almost simultaneously in the 1950s in Italy, Sweden and the USA. Father Dr François Brune, a French

theologian and renowned psychical researcher, reports in his best-seller *Les Morts Nous Parlent* (1988) that on the 17th of September 1952, two very eminent Catholic priests and academics, Fathers Drs Agostino Gemelli (a medical doctor and nuclear physicist) and Pellegrino Ernetti (a Benedictine from the famous Abbey of Saint Giorgio Maggiore in Venice) while working with Gregorian chants at the Experimental Laboratory of Physics of the Catholic University of Milan, recognized in one of the recordings the voice of Gemelli's father who reportedly addressed his son personally.

Taken aback by the occurrence, the two priests decided to bring the matter to the attention of Pope Pius XII. Amazingly, the Pope had a very positive reaction and reassured them on the nature of the occurrence, declaring, for the peace of mind of the two highly bewildered and concerned priests: "Do not worry Fathers! Your experience has nothing to do with Spiritism, for tape recorders cannot be influenced. It can even mark the beginning of a new scientific study to confirm the faith in the Afterlife" (Brune, 1993).

But it was the celebrated Swedish artist, opera singer and filmmaker Friedrich Jürgenson who is rightly called the great pioneer of the electronic voices. Not only did Jürgenson record several thousands of such communications commencing in 1959, but he also made his discovery famous in Europe and brought it to the attention of the world. A prominent figure in the European cultural circles of the mid-20th century, Jürgenson set aside his highly successful career and personal life to devote himself fully to the extraordinary discovery that totally changed his life (Jürgenson, 2004).

Although in 1956 EVP voices had already been recorded in the USA by Attila von Szalay in collaboration with Raymond Bayless (Rogo and Bayless, 1979), the Swedish artist knew nothing about the novel phenomenon and the American experimenters' results. With great intelligence, generosity and wisdom Friedrich Jürgenson, affectionately called Friedel by the voices, placed the phenomenon in the international arena, sparing no effort to achieve its recognition. He rightly deserves to be called 'the father of the electronic voices'.

One of the academics who read about his experiences was Dr Konstantin Raudive, a well-known Latvian philosopher with published work to his credit. Raudive started experimenting with Jürgenson and, although their ways parted a few years later, Raudive became a highly successful experimenter of his own right, being responsible for the rigorous, scientific approach that ITC phenomena earned in his time (see Raudive's excellent work *Breakthrough*, 1971).

Since its initial stage in the 1960s, a large amount of extraordinary material, which includes clear photos of deceased personalities, as well as long, direct dialogues and complex computer texts, was received by several researchers, particularly in continental Europe (Brune, 1993, 2005; Locher & Harsch 1989; Senkowski, 1995; Cardoso, 2010). It appears that some of the information regarding deceased individuals was unknown to anybody present during the experiments and its validity discovered by chance some time later. A number of ITC contacts of unprecedented significance were achieved mainly in Luxembourg by the couple Maggy and Jules Harsch-Fischbach and in Germany by Adolf Homes.

The communicators insisted on the objective nature of ITC and declared that their goal was to achieve direct contact with the operators, free from the interference of the minds

of human mediums, with the aim of transmitting accurate information about their world and the purpose of life, to humans.

In my opinion, methods used in the past by communicators who affirm that they are from "the other world" have been fitting for the era concerned, and the same is now true of ITC. From the early part of the 20th century our civilization has quickly evolved into a technological society, based principally on electronics; ITC communications are mediated by electronic devices.

ITC contacts rapidly became well established and currently are producing an extensive range of what appears to be impressive evidence of survival of physical death. Furthermore, they provide us with objective phenomena of great value and significance in their own right, quite apart from their relevance to the survival hypothesis.