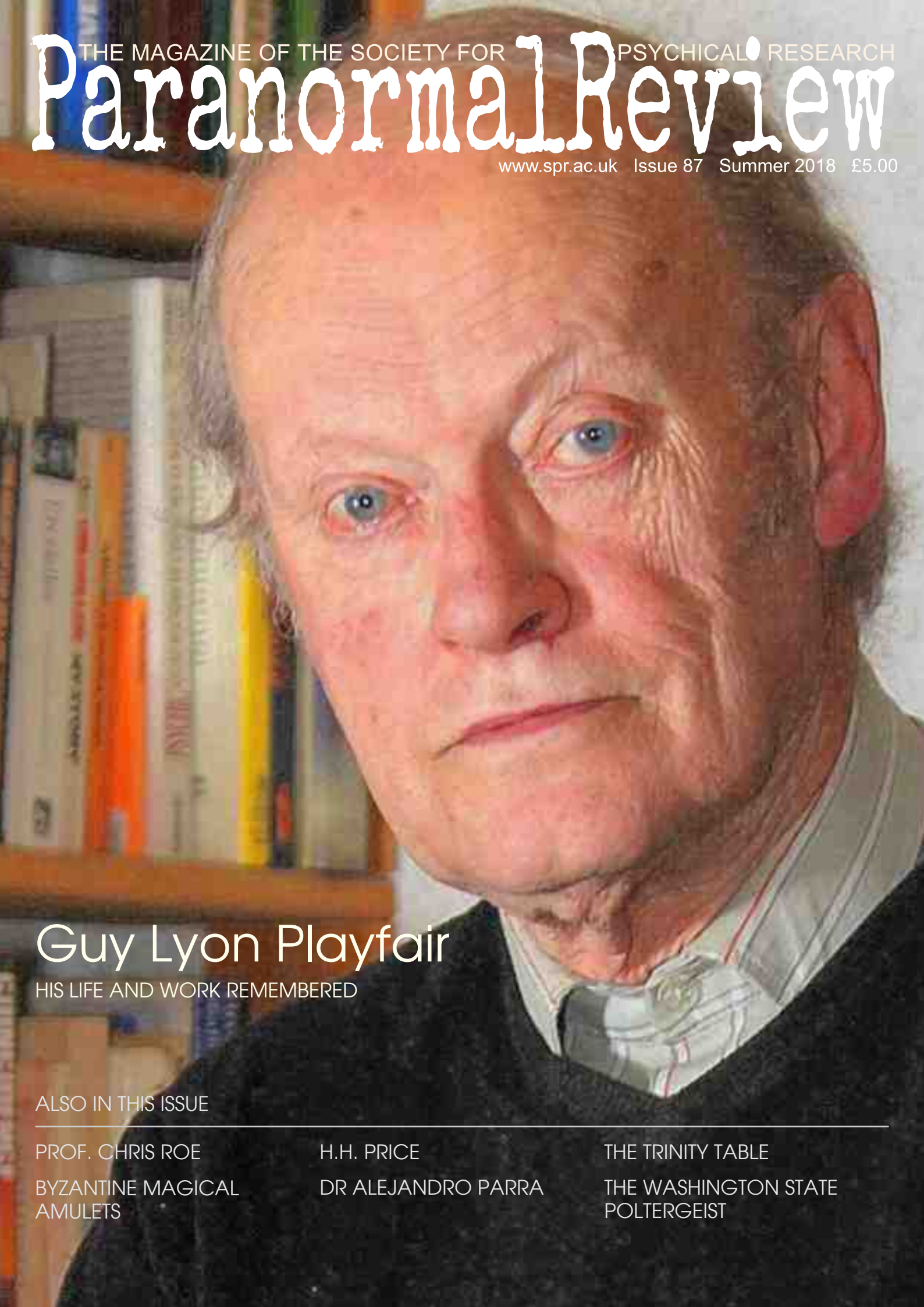


A close-up portrait of an elderly man with light skin and blue eyes, looking slightly to the left. He is wearing a dark sweater over a light-colored collared shirt. The background is a bookshelf filled with books.

THE MAGAZINE OF THE SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

Paranormal Review

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Guy Lyon Playfair

HIS LIFE AND WORK REMEMBERED

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The Society for Psychical Research

The SPR was the first organisation established to examine allegedly paranormal phenomena using scientific principles. Our aim is to learn more about events and abilities commonly described as 'psychic' or 'paranormal' by supporting research, sharing information and encouraging debate. The SPR was established in 1882 and is a Registered Charity.

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editorial

Dr Leo Ruickbie
Editor

It is always satisfying to do a retrospective of a great psychical researcher's life and work, and Guy Lyon Playfair's contributions to the field were many and of lasting importance, but it is a satisfaction tempered by sadness and an awareness of loss. Although I corresponded with Playfair, I never met him and regret not having had the opportunity to do so. This reinforces in me the awareness that the magazine plays such a crucial role in documenting the Society for Psychical Research. Recently, when researching its history for my next book, I found that it was often the marginal things – the minutes of meetings, announcements of events and obituary notices – that gave an insight into the activities of the Society and the lives of its members, more than the theoretical speculations and statistical analyses. Should this be the case? We could do more to record the heartbeat of the Society while it is still beating, for it is this that will engage our members today and inspire our future members tomorrow. We must document or disappear.

Even as some things end, others begin anew and in this issue I am pleased to welcome Prof. Chris Roe as the incoming President of the Society for Psychical Research and thank Prof. John Poynton for his leadership at a time when the Society faces many challenges. Prof. Roe has assured me that he will continue the tradition of writing a President's Letter for the magazine and I am sure that, like me, you are looking forward to reading his thoughts and suggestions for our discipline.

I am also delighted to welcome a new contributor to the magazine, Dr Richard Sugg, thoughtfully introduced to me by Robert Charman. Dr Sugg will begin his new column, 'Paranormal Report', with the first part of an article examining an ongoing poltergeist case. It is a fitting contribution to this issue given the key role of a poltergeist case in another researcher's career.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the extension of the deadline for the *Paranormal Review* Photography Competition to 31 October, appropriately enough. ♀

