

Rev. J. F. Pastor
Nily Dale 11/24

THE MARGERY MEDIUMSHIP

THE "WALTER" THUMBPRINTS

A letter from the President.

AND

An experiment apparently exhibiting (a) clairvoyance; (b) the apport of a solid from place to place; and (c) the passage of solid matter through solid matter.

by

L. R. G. CRANDON

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THE "WALTER" THUMBPRINTS

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

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American Society for Psychical Research, Inc.

Fifteen Lexington Avenue
New York

WILLIAM H. BUTTON

President

27 Cedar Street, New York, N. Y.

January 22, 1935.

Mr. F. Bligh Bond, Editor,

15 Lexington Avenue New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Bond:

Will you please print the following as a matter of record of two misstatements of fact that have appeared in reference to the Walter-Kerwin thumbprint discussion. I do not wish to imply that these are the only two.

One. By Mr. Arthur Goadby. In Bulletin XXII of the Boston S.P.R., page 71, April, 1934, referring to the thumbprint obtained by the writer at a solus sitting occurring on March 13, 1931, Mr. Goadby said,

"With its date and identifying marks still clearly recognized upon it, Button immediately brought it to New York where it was photographed and published in the Journal and an enlarged photograph made which was hung on the wall in the Board room of Hyslop House, where for a year it was exhibited as the picture of a particularly fine "Walter" print. When, however, Dudley's discovery was reported it was removed from the wall and disappeared."

The above statement is untrue. The fact is that no enlarged photograph of the print obtained at the solus sitting referred to was ever made and no such photograph was ever exhibited at Hyslop House. There was an enlarged photograph of some thumbprint exhibited there.* It was there at least a year before the sitting in question took place. I have no knowledge as to who took it there or as to what became of it.

Two. By Doctor Harold Cummins, a professor at Tulane University.

In the Journal of the A.S.P.R. of January, 1934, I had reproduced two microphotographs of the deltas of the respective right thumbprints of Walter and of Doctor Kerwin, with the statement that the illustrations were reproduced because a casual inspection of them would convince anyone that the two prints were not the same.

In Bulletin XXII, Boston S.P.R., page 12, April 1934, Doctor Cummins remarks that a casual inspection by one who is not expert would give that impression but that under analysis these differences are harmonized.

Doctor Cummins, however, was confronted by a troublesome hurdle which he had to get over in order to substantiate his contention.

In this regard he states,

"One of the most deceptive features of the comparative photographs is that the two areas are shown at different magnifications."

*The print in question was that obtained at the 24th sitting which took place on August 30th, 1927 in the presence of Mr. & Mrs. Carl Litzelmann, Dr. & Mrs. Whittemore, Mr. E. E. Dudley, and Dr. Crandon. It is referred to in the Journal for February 1928 (p. 112) and again in the August issue; and is illustrated on p. 467, as No. 41 of the series. Ed.

This conclusion was necessitated, among other things, by the fact that the illustrations plainly show that the ridges are further apart in one illustration than in the other, a condition that had to be reconciled.

As a matter of fact, the two photographs were taken at exactly the same magnification and, among other things, they bring out the difference in distance between the respective ridges, a circumstance alone sufficient to differentiate the two prints. There is no basis whatsoever for the above statement by Doctor Cummins.

I reiterate what I said in January 1934, to the effect that a casual examination of these illustrations demonstrates the difference between these prints, and I add to that statement that an analytical examination of them leads to the same conclusion.

Very truly yours,

WHB.:OW

WM. H. BUTTON.

THE MARGERY MEDIUMSHIP

An experiment exhibiting (a) clairvoyance; (b) the apport of a solid from place to place; and (c) the passage of solid matter through solid matter.

By L. R. G. CRANDON

* * * * *

SUMMARY

A plaster of Paris cake was prepared by a perfect stranger, Mr. W. B. Minthorn, Druggist of Petoskey, Michigan, U. S. A. and was received in New York by Mr. F. Bligh Bond about September 1, 1932, and Mr. Bond referred it to the Margery circle in Boston. In this cake were imbedded several articles known only to Mr. Minthorn. As a result of two years' observation of this cake by Walter, the Margery control, the following results have been obtained.

(1) Walter described accurately the articles imbedded in the cake;— (a) a small corked glass vial; (b) a druggist label with W. B. MINTHORN printed upon it; and (c) a small chain of 7 links.

(2) Then with no break in the cake Walter extracted from it the corked vial containing a label with W. B. MINTHORN printed on it, but not the chain. When, however, the cake was shaken there could be heard a sound as of a small chain in the cavity previously occupied by the vial.

(3) The cake and vial, side by side, were photographed in Boston.

(4) The cake and vial were wrapped separately in cotton, were packed in a single wooden box and were mailed to Mr. Minthorn in Petoskey, Michigan.

(5) As received by Mr. Minthorn the box contained apparently only the plaster of Paris cake. The vial had disappeared, but x-ray by Mr. Minthorn indicated the vial within the cake. Walter evidently had put it back in to the cake en route.

(6) The unbroken cake was then opened by Mr. Minthorn and the vial with the enclosed printed label was found intact, firmly imbedded in the plaster.

(7) The 7-linked chain, however, was missing.

(8) In Boston on November 17, 1934, Walter dangled against the hands of three sitters in the Margery circle (in the dark) an object which was apparently a small piece of metal chain.

(9) On November 21, 1934, there was presented to Mr. Thorogood, by Walter, a piece of a small more or less rusty chain containing 7 links.

(10) This 7-linked chain was sent to Mr. Minthorn who certified to the fact that this was the chain placed in the glass vial and subsequently imbedded in the original plaster of Paris cake.

EXTRACTS FROM SITTINGS AND COPIES OF CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO
THE ABOVE PHENOMENA

The following are extracts from sittings all held at 10 Lime Street, Boston, Massachusetts, and copies of correspondence pertinent to the experiment together with comments thereon.

About September 1, 1932, Mr. W. B. Minthorn, of Petoskey, Michigan, sent to Mr. F. Bligh Bond, Editor of the Journal, A.S.P.R., a solid cake of plaster of Paris with a statement that it contained several articles and with the request that it be sent to Lime Street for experiment. The cake was approximately of the dimensions of three by two by one inches.

On September 10, 1932, this plaster of Paris block was put on the table in the seance room and Walter was told that there were three things in it and was requested to state what they were. At the end of the sitting the block had disappeared, Walter saying that the block had gone.

On September 23, 1932, the following conversation occurred.

Walter: "Who sent that plaster of Paris cake?"

Mr. Button: "A man out West."

Walter: "I will tell you what is in it. There is a small bottle, a little bottle like a Carter Liver Pill bottle and a small metal chain with seven links. There is a cork in the bottle. As far as I can see that is all there is in that thing."

Mr. Button: "Shall we send it back to him with that information?"

Walter: "I will verify it and send it back perfect."

On October 13, 1932, Walter said, "Plaster of Paris will be returned. Contents noted. Small bottle name Codine. Metal chain of seven links."

October 31, 1932, the plaster of Paris block appeared on the table in the seance room and the following occurred. Something could be heard rattling and Walter said, "Hear the little chain in the bottle."

Mrs. Richardson: "That didn't rattle when we received it."

Walter: "That's right. When you received it the chain didn't rattle. I loosened it in the bottle. There is a piece of paper curled up inside the bottle. He wrinkled it all up in a knot. It is a terrible thing to read. Did you say this is plaster of Paris?"

Dr. Crandon: "Yes, it is."

Walter: "I wouldn't say it was. It seems like soap-stone to me."

Thereupon Dr. Crandon wrote the following letter to Mr. Minthorn,

October 31, 1932.

Dear Mr. Minthorn:

Walter has been investigating your cake of plaster of Paris and he bids me to write to you a preliminary report.

As a preliminary report he wishes us to tell you that the plaster of Paris cake contains a bottle, something like a Carter's little liver pill bottle, with a cork, and also says there is a fine chain containing seven links.

Walter begs your comment on this preliminary report.

L. R. G. Crandon.

On November 2, 1932, Mr. Minthorn replied as follows.

Dear Doctor,

Your letter just received, I can't tell you how much pleased I am at the report Walter has made. Congratulations. He is 100% correct in so far as he has gone. The cake of plaster contains a small Homeo. Vial 2 drachm. About the size of a "Carter's Pill" bottle. And a piece of chain—consisting of seven links. It also has a piece of paper with a name on it. Still this is a very wonderful test. I sure do want to thank you and Walter also. * * * *

I was hoping Walter might be able to get these articles out of the plaster block without injuring it in any way. Maybe I don't fully realize what passing matter thru matter means: I have supposed it means to disintegrate the atoms of one article and after bringing them thru the container to assemble them again.

I will appreciate it very much if you will send me the plaster block when you have finished any further experiments with it. We have an organization here and I know my friends will be glad to hear what I have learned from this test.

It was in the Aug., 1932 *Psychic Research Journal* that I saw the account of Walter bringing the articles thru the sealed box. Maybe the plaster block was too severe a test: still I consider it a very great test.

The finger print test was almost past belief. I have seen some spirit phenomena but never anything to compare with this.

Well, doctor, I want to thank you again. It is fine of you to go to all the trouble to put this test over to a stranger.

I will be very glad to hear from you further.

Yours truly

(Signed) W. B. Minthorn

Doctor Crandon's letter of Oct. 31 did not mention the paper label in the bottle. His letter was written before the sitting of that evening, at which sitting, Walter first mentioned the label which is referred to in Mr. Minthorn's reply, dated two days later.

On October 31, 1932, the plaster of Paris block was left on the table in the seance room, but the next evening, November 1, 1932, upon examination it had disappeared. During the course of this sitting, the following occurred. Walter: "The plaster of Paris block is in Dr. Richardson's hand." Doctor Richardson admitted that the block was then put in his hand. Bright light was turned on, and all the sitters saw it. It was taken from his hand and Walter said, "It's now in Mr. Jones' right hand." The light was put on and it was so observed. Walter then directed the stenographer to take this down. "Word Codeine. Small bottle with a cork with chain inside the bottle. So is the name Codeine.

There is an extra 'e' in Codeine. This is an extraordinary experiment. One side of block a little wider than the other. First base wide. Second base narrow. Third base wide. Fourth base narrow."

At the end of this sitting, the plaster of Paris block had again disappeared.

November 2, 1932, the block was not on table. Walter shortly announced that it was on the table. This was confirmed by Mr. Button and Miss May Walker, who felt it on the table. The light was put on and all the sitters announced that they saw what appeared to be a hand. Walter said it was his hand picking up the plaster of Paris and taking it away. Something was put into Doctor Richardson's hand and he was told to give it to Mr. Button. This was done and it was identified as the plaster of Paris block which was put on the table.

The block then remained there for sometime but on December 21, 1932, Walter announced that he was taking the block away and when he brought it back the insides would be outside. He said he had it in the fourth dimension.

On June 10, 1933, there were present only Margery, Mr. and Mrs. Bigelow, Doctor Crandon and Mr. Jones. The medium was searched and in a few minutes Walter came through and there was handed to Mrs. Bigelow, the plaster of Paris block. Walter said he had taken out the pill bottle with the label inside and these articles were also put into Mrs. Bigelow's hand. Walter then said, "The chain of seven links I have left in the cake. You can hear it if you shake it. It is free within the space formerly occupied by the bottle or vial."

The next night, June 11, 1933, the plaster of Paris block was handed to Mr. Bigelow and then to Mr. Button, with the bottle outside of the cake. Walter then ordered the cake to be shaken and a noise could be heard as of the chain rattling inside of it.

On June 21, 1933, Walter gave Doctor Richardson the plaster of Paris block which he handed to Mr. Button. The bottle was then handed to Doctor Richardson and they were instructed to put the block and the bottle in a drawer in a bureau in the bedroom on the bookroom floor. This was done. They remained there for a long period. Walter instructed the sitters not to write Minthorn about it until he gave permission, giving as reasons, among other things, that he was trying to separate these articles from the medium and he did not think any report on it should be published until Thorogood's report was out.

On tacit permission from Walter, however, Doctor Crandon wrote Mr. Minthorn as follows.

July 6, 1933

Dear Mr. Minthorn:—

Walter has extracted a glass vial with its contents from the solid cake of plaster of Paris. We have not taken out the paper in the bottle. Walter now says that the seven link chain is in the cavity made by the little bottle, and sure enough on shaking you can hear it. There are no apparent signs of a break, old or new, in the plaster of Paris cake. * * * *

L. R. G. Crandon

On July 8, 1933, Mr. Minthorn replied as follows.

Dear Doctor,

I can hardly tell you how pleased I am to get your letter. That surely is good work.

* * * * *

Now doctor here is what I would like to do. If you will send the plaster block back, together with bottle containing paper, I will—I am the only one that would be competent to identify it—take it to a Dr. Burns—prominent doctor here—and Mr. Chamberlain he is a scientist, also two other reliable witnesses. We will examine carefully and, also carefully cut block in two pieces.

I am very enthusiastic about this test, I think that would be fair to everyone concerned. We would make affidavit,—all of us—and I will send you copy of findings, also a copy to Frederick Bligh Bond, Editor, *Psychic Research Journal*.

I want you to have—you, Margery, and Walter—the honor and any publicity that may come of the test. To me it is a very great test. I am sure I appreciate the way you have taken me up on the entire test.

If you have any other plan in mind I will be glad to cooperate. I think it would be essential to a perfect test that I should identify the block before anything is done as to opening it.

These two men above mentioned are interested in *Psychic Phenomena* and are well qualified on any test.

We have a fairly well organized society of spiritualists in this city: if I can put this test over here it will help us a lot.

Anyway I will be pleased to hear of any plan you desire.

Yours truly

W. B. Minthorn

On January 16, 1934, Walter requested the plaster of Paris block be put on the table again. In the meantime, a large number of people had heard the noise inside of the block as if the chain was loose in the cavity.

On January 19, 1934, the following occurred. Doctor Crandon: "What about the plaster of Paris block? When we shake it now we can't hear the chain." Walter: "The chain is stuck."

For many months nothing happened except that Mr. Minthorn wrote several letters exhibiting some impatience that the block was not sent back to him, but Walter had not yet released it. Various schemes of sending it to Petoskey by Mr. Thorogood or others had been discussed but none of them had been adopted.

On October 12, 1934, Walter said he would shortly release the plaster of Paris block and directed that it be photographed.

On October 15, 1934, Walter directed that the block be mailed to Minthorn. The plaster of Paris block with the bottle outside was brought to the seance room and at Walter's suggestion the red light was put on and all the sitters were able to see both the block and the bottle in which there was a piece of paper curled up like a label. The bottle was not opened at any time at Lime Street. At this time the rattling inside the plaster block could again be heard. At Walter's suggestion, Mr. Kenney went down stairs and secured a wooden box in which to pack these articles and which had been specially constructed for the purpose. He brought it into the seance room and Doctor Crandon placed the paste-board box con-

taining the plaster of Paris block, and the bottle, inside the wooden box. After this sitting, downstairs in the book room, box was repacked and cover screwed by Mr. Kenney and Dr. Theodore Hyde of Pierre, S. Dakota, and addressed to Mr. Minthorn in Michigan.

At this sitting of October 15, there were present: Dr. Richardson, Mr. O'Neill, Miss Lord, Mrs. Richardson, Doctor Crandon and the Medium. Miss Barry, the stenographer, outside the circle. Doctor Hyde mailed the box to Minthorn and Doctor Crandon wrote him as follows.

Oct. 15, 1934.

Dear Mr. Minthorn:—

Greetings!

Walter has authorized us to send you the plaster of Paris cake Tuesday or Wednesday of this week. We will depend on you to photograph it, name your Committee, and open up the box for further description of box and contents.

Faithfully yours,

L. R. G. Crandon

The following certificate was executed.

October 15, 1934

We saw the plaster of Paris cake in the paper candy box with the little vial alongside it. A curled up piece of paper could be seen inside the glass vial. Mr. Paul F. Kenney and Dr. Theodore Hyde then took the paper candy box containing the loose glass vial and the plaster cake (each object being wrapped separately in cotton wool) and put it into a wooden box, protected on all sides by more cotton wool, and then screwed on the lid.

We were told that this wooden box would be mailed next day first class to Mr. W. B. Minthorn, Petoskey, Michigan.

(Signed) Nonie B. Kenney
Josephine L. Richardson
Paul F. Kenney

Doctor Hyde is also able to certify to this but he is in the West and his certification will be procured later.

Doctor Crandon also wrote Mr. Minthorn as follows.

October 15, 1934

My dear Minthorn:—

- (1) Walter released your plaster of Paris cake tonight.
- (2) Then and there in the dark seance room your plaster of Paris cake was packed for mail.
- (3) The mailing package consisted of a white pine box with the cover screwed on. In this box was a paper candy box protected on all sides with cotton wool. The paper candy box contained your plaster cake entirely intact so far as we can tell. It also contained a small glass vial in which was apparently a curled up piece of paper like a label. This vial was not opened by us.
- (4) You undoubtedly have the date when we reported to you that the vial had been taken out of the plaster cake.

(5) The night that this vial came out of the plaster cake we were told by Walter that the cake now contained only a piece of fine chain with six links, and that if we shook the plaster cake we would be able to hear the bit of chain rattling about in the space formerly occupied by the glass vial.

(6) And, so, indeed, scores of people have heard the chain-like sound on shaking the plaster cake.

(7) The packing was done by Mr. Paul Kenney of Boston, and Dr. Theodore Hyde of Pierre, So. Dakota. The cover was screwed down by him and the box was addressed first-class to you and mailed October 16, 1934.

(8) Please let us know your results. Have your Committee big enough so that a sufficient number of them may be willing to sign the apparent facts.

L. R. G. Crandon

There is reproduced here as figure 1, a photograph of the plaster of Paris block and the bottle outside, as they appeared immediately before being mailed.

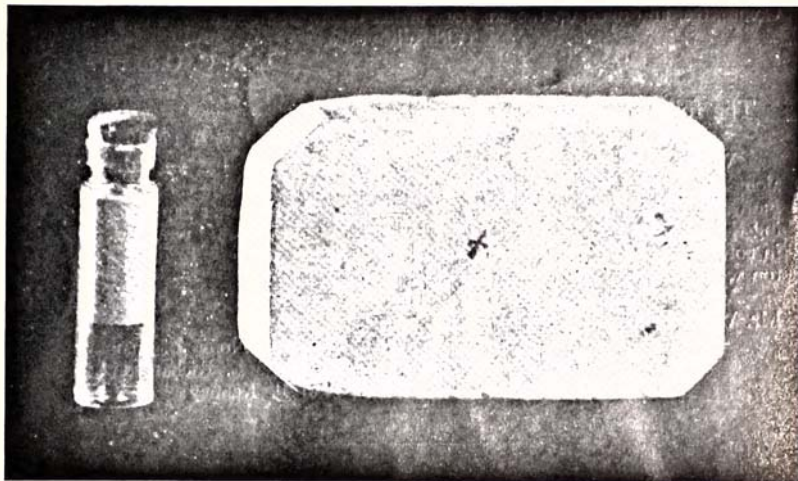


Fig. 1

(1) Plaster of Paris cake made by W. B. Minthorn of Petoskey, Michigan.

(2) The small vial, with label inside, imbedded in the fluent plaster of Paris, at the time of the making of the cake.

On October 18, 1934, Mr. Minthorn wrote as follows.

My dear Doctor:—

The box reached me this morning, containing the "plaster block," packed as your letter described. The block is the one I made and sent in. It has not been tampered with.

But your letter says (3)—describes box, etc. says the paper candy box contains, block and bottle in which was curled up a piece of paper, like a label.

I unpacked the box very carefully: there is no bottle in package. Just the plaster block.

I have not called my committee in yet. I don't know just what to do. I wanted to have the block photographed with bottle beside it.

I think I will wait until I hear from you.

Faithfully yours,

(signed) W. B. Minthorn

Mr. Minthorn then sent the following statement, dated October 20, 1934.

STATEMENT OF W. B. MINTHORN, REGARDING "PLASTER BLOCK" SENT TO
DR. C. FOR TEST

In September 1932, I constructed this plaster block: size about three inches long, one and three fourths inches wide, and one inch thick, made by pouring plaster paris mortar into a box. In center of box I placed a small bottle—known as homeo vial, two drachm—containing a piece of chain, consisting of seven links, also a label with my name on. When the plaster had hardened I cut the box away leaving a block of plaster with bottle imbedded in center.

I sent this block to Mr. Frederick B. Bond, who in turn sent it to Dr. Crandon, neither party knowing what it contained.

In Jan. 1933, Dr. C. reported to me that Walter had given a preliminary of its contents. Walter said "the block contains a small bottle, about size of a Carter's Liver Pill bottle, and a piece of chain consisting of seven links". Which is correct in detail except stating that it also contained a label.

Some few weeks later Dr. C. reported that the test was completed. The bottle had been removed from the plaster block, and the chain was still inside of block in cavity where bottle had been.

I have been asking that the block be sent to me, which it was, reaching me Oct. 18, 1934.

The block has not been tampered with in any way, I will make affidavit that it is the block I sent in about two years ago.

W. B. Minthorn.

Mr. Minthorn also wrote as follows.

October 20, 1934

Dear Doctor:—

My letter of Oct. 18, will have reached you by this time, still I wanted to tell you of my further investigations.

I did not want to call my witnesses in until I heard from you.

Here is the case so far. I am absolutely sure that the block is the one that I sent. Will be willing to swear to it. Some of my friends think there is a chance for substitution. That's because they are human.

Next: It has not been tampered with. Next I did not have any trouble telling them which end of the block was the cork end and which was butt of bottle.

We took it to a doctor P. an expert X-ray man. We marked the end of block that I claimed was cork end, also marked film, so there would be no mistake. I went in the dark room and witnessed developing.

Result: Got a very fine, plain picture. Shows outline of bottle and cork very plain. We are unable to say if picture is of bottle, or cavity. It sure is a fine picture.

Now the mystery: You folks say the chain is still in the bottle. None of us could hear it rattle, and x-ray showed that it is not in it.

The x-ray is so plain it would show the chain very plain if it was there. For instance, an x-ray of a filled tooth shows the filling a white spot very plain. We will hold the block until I hear from you. I was surprised at the bottle not being in the package when I opened it.

And it is a mystery as to where the chain has gone to. I am positive it is not in the bottle.

Well my good friend, I sure thank you for the part I have been allowed to have in this great test. It is all very wonderful to me. If you would like to see this x-ray picture I will be glad to send it to you.

Faithfully yours,

W. B. Minthorn

Upon receipt of the above letter a sitting was held on October 22nd, 1934, at which the following occurred;—

Walter: "All I ask Minthorn to do is to find the chain. I want to change my statement about the label that is in the bottle. On the paper in little writing is the word "codeine" and the additional information I am giving you is that the name MINTHORN is printed on it. It looks like a letterhead paper, or something like that. Tell him to keep x-raying the cake. Maybe the chain will appear!"

Mr. Litzelmann: "Why not show us the chain here?"

Walter: "Not here. I am going to show it out there. Don't get excited over Minthorn, because you haven't seen anything yet!! Tell Minthorn to play with the plaster cake for awhile. He might find great developments. Let him split it when he wants to. Maybe chain appears; maybe bottle appears; maybe nothing appears! You can't depend on Walter! Tell Minthorn he can do what he pleases with the cake. Especially watch for little chain, and especially note his name in little bottle.

Doctor Crandon wrote Mr. Minthorn as follows.

October 24, 1934.

Dear Mr. Minthorn:

This little experiment of yours bids fair to be much more complex and valuable than we expected.

October 15, 1934, in the seance room, Walter announced that he would release the plaster of Paris cake, which had come originally from Mr. Minthorn. He then instructed me to get the cake down stairs and pack it securely in a candy box lined with cotton.

Mr. Paul Kenney (a sitter), went to a bureau drawer in the back room and from there brought a candy box, into the dark seance room. On handling the cake several of us thought we heard a sound like a bit of chain within the cake. Dr. Richardson could not hear it.

Mrs. Richardson and I took the cake from the box in the dark and wrapped it securely with cotton wool. We then took the unopened glass vial, which scores of people have seen, out of the candy box and wrapped it securely and put it back into the candy box. The candy box now then contained the cake and the glass vial (containing a label), each wrapped separately, and the cover put on.

Walter then said concerning the glass vial that the paper it contained had the name "Minthorn" on it.

The packed box at the end of the seance was taken down stairs and there was shown to Mr. Paul Kenney, Dr. Theodore Hyde (of Pierre, S. D.) and Miss Barry, stenographer, all of whom saw the cake and the vial separately wrapped and en-

closed in the candy box. Dr. Hyde and Mr. Kenney then put the candy box into a white pine specially made box and the cover was fastened on with eight screws (brass).

Next morning this package was to be sent to Mr. Minthorn, first class mail.

Faithfully yours,

L. R. G. Crandon

and he supplemented his letter as follows.

October 24, 1934

On receiving your letter noting the absence of the phial, we suspected at once tricks of Walter. At a sitting held Oct. 22nd Walter, in a jocose mood, confirmed this suspicion. He said he had phial and chain in his possession, but would not say where.

We also inferred that you might, in some unusual fashion, find these articles in Petoskey. In any event, Walter made the suggestion that you have the block x-rayed every week, before opening, for several weeks.

L. R. G. Crandon

Mr. Minthorn replied as follows.

Oct. 26, 1934.

My dear doctor,

Just received your two letters a few minutes ago. I am getting more interested in this test all the time.

I haven't anything new to report: have been waiting to hear from you. I think as Walter suggests, that it would be the thing to do to defer opening the block. We may get something bigger than we expect, yet from the test.

We cannot hear anything like a chain rattling in the cake. I am sure it is not in the cake.

* * * * *

If anything new turns up write or wire me.

Wish Walter would give us more definite instructions. I sure feel much pleased to be in on this.

Will hold Plaster Block until next week anyway.

I think it would be wise to hold until we hear from you again.

Faternally Yours

W. B. Minthorn

Mr. Minthorn wrote again as follows.

November 2, 1934

Dear Doctor.

Here is my last report. I am pretty well pleased. I had X-Ray taken of the "plaster block" last Monday. No difference in picture except these last two are much better, taken on large film, and are very plain. Showed bottle but not chain. Well that's that.

Here is the rest. Last night we cut the block open. I had my committee—consisting of eight good and reliable people—examine the block very carefully; they are unanimous in stating that the block had not been tampered with. Dr. Harold Tillotson is Chief Engineer at a local plant. Mr. P. M. Fetting is Chief Electrician for the city. Both fine intelligent men. Both were sceptical on the start.

Here is what we found. The bottle was in the block intact.—cracked a little in cutting. It is still imbedded in one side of one half of block, but could be removed easily.

There is no chain in bottle. There is the label, on which is printed; W. B. Minthorn. This can be read easily.

I don't think there is any writing on it. I can't remember whether I wrote anything on it or not. The bottom does not show. And I did not want to pry the bottle out.

Well I am much pleased. My committee is much mystified. Where did the chain go to?

Now you folks saw the bottle out of the block. Here is the mystery to me. Was the bottle a small 2 drachm Homeo-Vial with cork cut off quite close to bottle? Was it entirely clean? Was the label plainly visible?

Here are the names of the Committee.

H. A. Tillotson

P. M. Fettig

A. Rasmussen

A. Osborn

Mrs. Russell Johnson

Mrs. Wm. Osborn

Mrs. W. B. Minthorn

All of these people signed statement.

I am inclosing statement of myself made before block was cut, and of course I am signing the one made by committee.

I will be glad to cooperate with you in any way that you may suggest. To repeat I am much pleased. Please thank Walter for me. This is very wonderful.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) W. B. Minthorn.

On November 21, 1934, Mr. Minthorn wrote as follows and there is reproduced herewith, as figure 2, the X-ray picture taken in Petoskey.

Nov. 21, 1934.

Dear Doctor,

I sent you another X-Ray yesterday. It is much better than the first.

This last one was taken Oct. 31. The day before our committee cut the block open.

I am wondering if Walter will ever bring the piece of chain out. It would be very wonderful if he did.

Best wishes to you all.

As ever

W. B. Minthorn

Fig. 2 herewith shows the X-ray of the block as received by Mr. Minthorn. Walter in a seance held on November 16, 1934 dragged a chain across Doctor Richardson's hand also Mr. Button's hand and that of Mr. Thorogood. Walter also stated that he put the bottle back in the plaster of Paris cake in a little different position. He agreed to give back the chain with a little of the plaster of Paris that was displaced. He said he would have both the mediums draw a picture of the chain. After the sitting, Margery drew a picture of a chain consisting of seven links, five in one group and two in another. Sary drew a chain consisting of seven continuous links.

On November 19, 1934, a chain was produced and dropped on the table in the seance room. All the sitters saw it in red light. Mr. Thorogood reported it to be a silver-like chain of seven links. When the red-light was put on at the end of the sitting, the chain was missing. Walter said it was on the floor near Button's left foot. It was there found. Mr. Button put it on the table. The chain was then exhibited in red light and all the sitters saw it. Walter said that Minthorn had the rest of the chain and could identify it. At this sitting there were present: Doctor Richardson, Doctor Crandon, Mrs. Richardson, Doctor Nichols, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Litzelman, Sary and the medium. Mr. Kenney, Mr. Adams and Miss Barry were outside the circle.



Fig. 2

X-ray picture of the whole and unbroken cake, with the vial imbedded in it. Taken in Petoskey.

The chain was sent by Mr. Thorogood to Mr. Minthorn, Doctor Crandon wrote Mr. Minthorn as follows.

November 26, 1934

Dear Mr. Minthorn:—

Thanks for notes of November 20th and 21st.

(1) You undoubtedly now have the released 7-link chain which was mailed to you November 23rd by Mr. Thorogood.

(2) We shall be glad to get a photograph of the cake as it looks now—cut and opened.

(3) Please send me a copy of my letter to you where Walter described the contents of cake.

(4) Tell us how you identified the cake of plaster of Paris as being your own cake.

(5) Did any one know of contents at time of sending, September 25, 1932? If so, a letter from him to you would help the story.

(6) We shall, I believe, publish within a week or two. Then, you will get all the data.

Faithfully yours,

L. R. G. Crandon

Mr. Minthorn wrote Mr. Thorogood as follows.

Nov. 30, 1934

Mr. B. K. Thorogood

Boston

My dear Mr. Thorogood

I received the box with chain inclosed this noon. Believe me I am very much pleased. The chain is the one I placed in the bottle in the "plaster block" test. I hereby attest to the above. It sure is a very wonderful test.

I opened the box in the presence of Mr. Paul Fettig—one of the witnesses of the cutting of block. Also Mrs. Minthorn, my wife witnessed both the cutting and the opening of this block. I wanted these witnesses to protect myself from charges that I might have made false statement as to having received the chain.

I am getting a photo made today of the block containing the little bottle still embedded in one half of block. Dr. Crandon wanted Photo, will forward it as soon as finished.

Just a word as to my identification of block when received by me. I had no difficulty in the identification. We examined it very carefully with a fairly good glass. I have a scar on front of my left thumb; this shows on block fairly well. I worked block while it was still wet.

If you use this test in the Journal, Am. Society Research. I would appreciate it very much if I could have two copies.

Congratulations to you, and many thanks, also the rest of the group, including Walter.

Sincerely yours

W. B. Minthorn

The following two letters also were received from Mr. Minthorn.

W. B. MINTHORN

Pharmacist

524 Liberty Street

Petoskey, Michigan

Dr. L. R. G. Crandon

Boston

Dear Doctor,

Dec. 3, 1934

I am sending the Phot. of the block, I received the chain alright. Thanks very much. I get more enthusiastic over this work as I see more of it. Wish with all my heart that I might be in Boston and meet you all and see some of the work at close hand.

It would be hard to describe just how I knew the block, firstly one end of block was a little thinner top sloped, the sloped end is the end with cork in. I mean holding block flat or smothe side down—smothe side is bottom—Holding so brings cork end in left hand.

I told my witnesses very easily which end had cork in. We marked that end and X-Ray showed I was correct.

There is also mark on cork end of block which three of witnesses pronounced my thumb mark. I told you of the scar on my left thumb front, Scar is visible with glass. Evidently left by my work before block was dry.

I showed it to our State Police, finger print man. He thought because of so many people handling the block, it would be very difficult to find mine, and I presume he is right.

Well it don't need any proving of my finger marks to make it a very great test. The skeptic may claim the block to be a duplicate, I know it is not. I KNOW IT IS THE ONE I MADE.

Sincerely yours

W. B. Minthorn

Dec. 11, 1934

Dear Doctor:—

Replying to your last letter: the bottle was in the block exactly as I placed it. Some of my friends thought that my memory could not be relied on, because of the time elapsed, nearly two years. But, I had no difficulty in telling them which end of the block held the cork end of bottle.

The bottom of block, as you will remember, is very smooth. The top I worked before it was completely dry. One end was a little thinner, the end the cork of bottle was in. I told my witnesses that, before we took the X-ray. We marked the end that I claimed was the cork end, and the X-ray showed that I was right.

The bottle is still embedded in one half of block, and label is in plain view. I did not want to dig the bottle out and remove cork, and take label out as I was afraid of breaking the bottle. However, the label is in plain view. There is nothing written on it. At least, nothing that can be seen without taking it out. I took a common shop label and trimmed it so it appears like this

W. B. MINTHORN

Druggist

524 Liberty St., Petoskey, Mich.

Date

This is an exact duplicate of the label, and as you can see, there is no room for any writing on it. It is curled a little, but all of face is visible.

As ever yours,

(signed) W. B. Minthorn

There are reproduced herewith, as figure 3, which is a photograph of the plaster of Paris cake after having been cut open by Mr. Minthorn and his committee and, figure 4, a photograph of the chain.

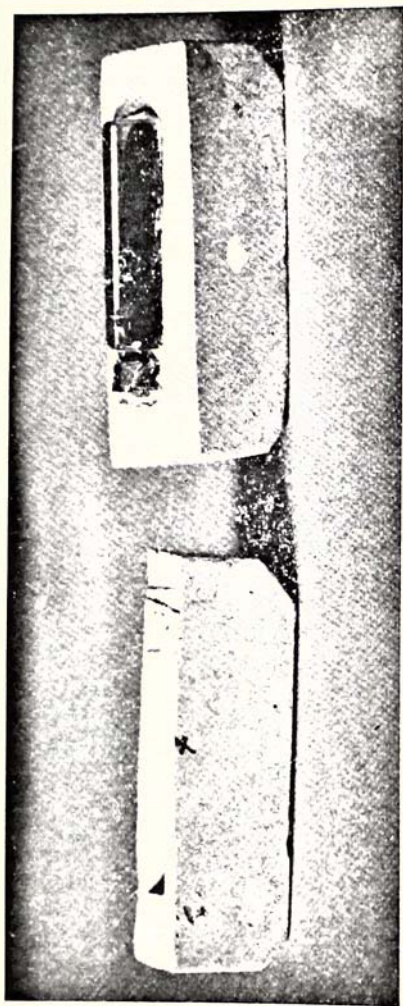


Fig. 3
Cake sawed open and the vial firmly imbedded in one half of the cake. The other half shows the imprint of half the vial.

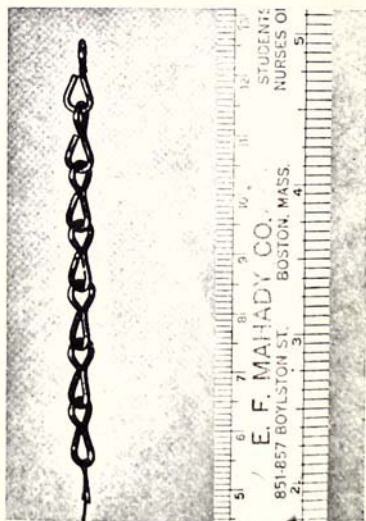


Fig. 4
Chain first left in cavity in block, having been removed from bottle. Then removed from block, taken away by Walter; later returned and sent to Mr. Minthorn.