

pioneers of Spiritualism

by Kyle Pedley

Many talented mediums, teachers & philosophers throughout the decades have contributed to spreading the ideas, philosophy and gifts of Spiritualism all over the globe. Over the next couple of pages we take a look at some of the most important and iconic...



Emma Hardinge Britten (1823 - 1899)

After developing a reputation for her abilities as a spiritual medium during her early years, Britten would become a prolific advocate for the early Modern Spiritualist Movement, and, in her later life, something of a Spiritualist historian, with her books *Modern American Spiritualism* (1870) and *Nineteenth Century Miracles* (1884) giving detailed accounts of the history of early Modern Spiritualism.

She is credited with laying the foundations of the Seven Principles of spiritualism which are still used by the Spiritualists' National Union today.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859 - 1930)

The beloved *Sherlock Holmes* author first became interested in Spiritualism as early as 1886.

Despite the risks this potentially presented to his public image at the time, he went on to become one of the most vocal and public supporters of his religion, giving talks, lectures and writing a series of books and articles to present the facts of Spiritualism for what he saw as the benefit of mankind.



Arthur Findlay MBE (1883 - 1964)

A familiar and beloved name to most British Spiritualists, Arthur Findlay was a successful writer, stockbroker and magistrate who went on to become a co-founder of the likes of the International Institute for Psychical Research in London, and the still-published *Psychic News*.

Arthur is remembered and honoured to this day in the form of the Arthur Findlay College of Spiritualism and Psychic Sciences at his former home at Stansted Hall, which he generously left to the Spiritualists' National Union in his will.

further pioneering...
Interest in learning more about
the pioneers of Spiritualism?
Be sure to attend
'Talking Heads: The Great
Pioneers of Spiritualism'
with Ministers Simon James,
Janet Parker & Brian Robertson
on the main stage at 3:15pm

Estelle Roberts (1889 - 1970)

Widely considered one of the great British Spiritualist exponents of the 20th Century, Roberts toured the Nation (and beyond) giving demonstrations of both physical and mental mediumship, where she would famously channel an Indian spirit guide named 'Red Cloud'.

Her writings *Red Cloud Speaks* (1938), *Forty Years a Medium* (1959) and *Fifty Years a Medium* (published posthumously in 1972) are still considered seminal titles and must-reads in the Spiritualism community.



Gordon Higginson (1918 - 1993)

Renowned for the accuracy of his platform mediumship and evidence, as well as the enduring legacy of his teachings, Gordon Higginson was also the longest ever serving President of the Spiritualists' National Union, having served for 23 years.

He remains beloved by many Spiritualists for his selfless devotion to the religion; such as not charging fees for his spiritual work and sometimes actively taking part in over 300 large-scale Spiritualist meetings and events in a single year.



Coral Polge (1924 - 2001)

Arguably the world's most famous and celebrated psychic artist of the 20th Century, Coral Polge rose to international fame with her at times stunningly-accurate psychic artwork, depicting those who had passed into Spirit, in order to give evidence to the loved ones they had left behind.

Her celebrated book, *Living Images: The Story of a Psychic Artist* (1997), is still on sale today, and full of startling examples of her work.



Eric Hatton (1926 - 2015)

Casually known by many as 'Mr Spiritualism', Eric Hatton was a hugely influential and beloved figure in the world of Spiritualism, particularly in his native home of Stourbridge in the West Midlands.

Holding the highest possible positions in the Spiritualists' National Union - President and, later, Honorary President - Eric first became interested in Spiritualism following the death of his brother Bert in a plane crash in 1964.

A close friend of Gordon Higginson, Eric also enjoyed a happy marriage of 52 years to his beloved wife Heather, a popular and respected medium in her own right.



This article was originally produced for the 'One World, One Spirit' Souvenir Programme as part of the World Congress of Spiritualism 2018.

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