

I SAW SPIRIT FORM AND MEDIUM AT SAME TIME

by: Maurice Barbanell

When I was lecturing at Camp Silver Belle in 1937 I was invited to attend one of Ethel Post-Parrish's materialisation séances.

I saw a materialisation of her guide, Silver Belle, and the medium at the same time. I proved I was not hallucinating by touching them.

The medium invited me beforehand to search the room and the cabinet, a curtained-off enclosure. To please Ethel I made my scrutiny, though I knew the evidence of genuineness would be in the results.

The séance was held in a room about 40ft. long, illumined by a good red light. Several forms materialised. Silver Belle was the outstanding figure to appear. She proudly displayed a gleaming star on her forehead and drew my attention to her two long dark plaits. Her hair was entirely different in colour and texture to that of the medium.

Silver Belle came to me though I was seated at the end of the room, at the greatest distance from the cabinet. Taking my arm, she asked me to leave my seat and to accompany her across the room until we reached the cabinet. Then she invited me to go inside and make sure that the medium was there. Not only did I see Ethel, I was told to touch her hair and to feel all down one side.

All the time Silver Belle remained outside the cabinet. I was thus in the position to say that I stood between the medium and the materialised form, seeing them both and touching them both at the same time.

When I announced this fact, Silver Belle took my arm again and walked back with me to my original seat.

Note:

The seven 'Silver Belle' pictures showing the remarkable growth of a materialisation were taken by a commercial photographer, Jack Edwards, with infra-red equipment.

There were 81 witnesses to this séance. A committee examined cabinet, walls, curtain and platform before the séance.

Edwards allowed fifty to sixty seconds between each exposure.

The committee accompanied Edwards into the dark room and watched as the startling results developed.

The whole sequence of photographs can be seen in "This is Spiritualism" by Maurice Barbanell or viewed on <http://survivablebooks.org/>.