

# Clement Mundle

Clement Mundle (1916-1989) was a Scottish philosophy professor who participated in telepathy experiments and published commentary on psychical research.

## Life and Career

Clement Williams Kennedy Mundle was born in Dysart, Fife in 1916. He attended the Glasgow Academy, then studied at St Andrews University where in 1939 he acquired a first-class degree in philosophy. During World War II he served in the RAF, reaching the rank of squadron leader. He then attended Queen's College, Oxford where he studied philosophy, politics and economics. He returned to Scotland as the head of the philosophy department at University College, Dundee. He held both the Ferguson Scholarship and the Shaw Fellowship in Philosophy at Edinburgh.

In 1955 he was appointed a Chair at the University of North Wales, Bangor where he remained for 21 years.

## Psychical Research

Mundle joined the Society for Psychical Research in 1948, having been inspired by CD Broad's *Mind and its Place in Nature* and JB Rhine's *Extra-Sensory Perception*.<sup>[1]</sup> He served as the Society's president between 1971 and 1974. He wrote numerous papers on both philosophical as well as parapsychological subjects. In his presidential address<sup>[2]</sup> he 'recognised that acceptance of the phenomena does not solve the problem of identifying and classifying them, and warned against the dangers of premature theorising, either on dualist or materialist lines.'<sup>[3]</sup>

## Experiments with SG Soal

Mundle supervised some of the telepathy card-guessing experiments carried out by SG Soal with two Welsh schoolboys. On occasion, the pair were caught trying to communicate by means of a clumsy code (sniffing, coughing, chair creaking and the like). Mundle rates as unlikely the possibility that these accounted for the successful results, but also considers claims by CEM Hansel and others that they might have escaped detection using dog whistles to communicate.<sup>[4]</sup>

## Selected Works

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## Literature

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Rhine, J.B. (1934). *Extra-Sensory Perception*. Boston: Bruce Humphries.

## Endnotes

### Footnotes

1. ^ Broad (1925). Rhine (1934).
2. ^ Mundle (1973), 1-20.
3. ^ Heath (1990), 112.
4. ^ Mundle (1959).