

Editorial

With certain frequency, the principles and theories defended by Spiritism as: communication with spirits, mediumship, reincarnation, life after death, among others, appear in literature, in cinema, in novels and television series or in articles in the most varied media. This exhibition, frequently, comes with a potential to reach a good audience at the same time that it awakens the interest of many people towards Spiritist ideas, because such topics are related to the meaning of life and the condition of human existence.

At times like these, publications aimed at spreading Spiritism must present conditions to satisfy the curiosity of the public and clarify their doubts. This was one of the concerns of Allan Kardec, who saw in the process of dissemination a tool for the development of the principles of Spiritist philosophy and to project that knowledge to the masses, and to academic circles.

In this sense, CEPA and the Spiritist Research and Documentation Center (CPDoc) are launching the Free Thinking collection - Spiritism for the 21st century, with the aim of gathering texts that address the central themes of the Spiritist Doctrine through a secular and freethinking perspective, allowing such ideas to be used today, in an integrated way, towards the solution of contemporary problems and challenges. More details about the objectives and the structure of the collection can be seen in Arthur Chioro's article, in this edition, in the column "A Word of CEPA".

The column "CEPA's Memoirs" contains a brief historical account of the Mocidade Espírita Estudantes de la Verdad (MEEV), the youth group that

recently completed 70 years of existence and contributed to the formation of great Brazilian Spiritist thinkers.

You can also get information about the programming of the III Ibero-American Spiritist Encounter and the Spiritist Day of Barcelona, as well as the election of the new Board of the Spiritist Research and Documentation Center.

A Word from CEPA



Ademar Arthur Chioro dos Reis

AN AMBITIOUS PROJECT: FREE THINKING - SPIRITISM FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Ademar Arthur Chioro dos Reis

Special Adviser to the Presidency of CEPA

The changes CEPA has undergone over recent years go far beyond those that refer to changes in names, scope and organizational character. The currently named CEPA - International Spiritist Association, went to gather spiritists from all over the world, including Europeans in its executive council, and will hold its next Congress in Spain, in 2020. It definitively ceased to be a confederative entity to become an entity -movement of people and organizations, united around bonds of affection and Spiritism understood as a Kardecist, humanist, progressive, secular and free-thinking doctrine.

Such changes, meanwhile, although extremely relevant, are not enough to contribute to the project of strengthening a secular and free-thinking view of Spiritism and connect it to the demands that arise in the 21st century.

One of the main objectives contained in the "Strategic Guidelines for the Management of CEPA 2016/2020" is to develop and spread the kardecist, progressive, secular and free-thinker perspective on Spiritism. To achieve this, one of the proposed strategies, which now strives, is to produce educational and literary materials, which will be disseminated by all

available audiovisual media, allowing the development of a spiritist free-thinking.

It is in this sense that the Executive Council of CEPA, in association with the Center for Research and Spiritist Documentation (CPDoc), an institution formed by spiritist thinkers from various parts of Brazil and Argentina, developed an ambitious project that begins to take shape as of this year: the collection “Free Thinking - Spiritism for the 21st century”.

This collection aims to present, in a synthetic way, but without prejudice to the conceptual precision, the theoretical positions of a secular and free-thinking perspective of Spiritism, which have been developed in Brazil, in the Americas and in Europe in recent years. This is characterized by a different contemporary view, on the Spiritism founded by Allan Kardec in 1857, from the publication of his masterpiece: *The Book of Spirits*, and its institutionalization and popularization in various corners of the planet.

As it spread, Spiritism underwent processes of absorption and miscegenation with different interpretations, religious, and social practices of the cultural context of each society and each era. In the case of Brazil, for example, the historical process found by Spiritism resulted in the formation of a more Christian-like religion, to the detriment of the principles of rationality and free thought proposed by Allan Kardec at the beginnings of Spiritism. Spiritism, in fact, became a minor religion, marginalized before the hegemonic Christian religions.

Hence the need, for the spiritists gathered around CEPA, for a reinterpretation of the Spiritist thought, in an attempt to rescue the generous and powerful proposal of Allan Kardec, who sought to build a spiritualist, secular, free-thinking, progressive, and humanist philosophy, fundamental characteristics that need to be taken up so that Spiritism can accompany the progress of knowledge, ethics and spirituality in the contemporary world.

With this collection, the CEPA intends to present some fundamental themes of Spiritism on the perspective of this rereading.

It seeks, with this project, the clarification of the Spiritist public in general and of those who are interested in Spiritist themes, regarding this

proposal of Spiritism that, on occasions, has been very poorly understood by the spiritists themselves, generating divergences and controversies, not always based on fraternal and otherness dialogue.

In the collection a set of basic introductory topics on doctrine and the spiritist movement will be presented, in a clear, concise and accurate way, which will allow the reader a comprehensive understanding of this anti-hegemonic view of spiritist thinking.

The first series of the collection will deal, on the secular and free-thinking spiritist perspective, on topics such as God, immortality of the soul, mediumship, reincarnation, evolution of spirits, of matter and worlds, ethics and morals and, naturally, about Allan Kardec, the founder of Spiritism. Other series are being planned by the Editorial Board of the Collection.

It is intended, based on the prioritized topics that will constitute the collection and the didactic and concise nature of the publication, to offer both scholars and disseminators of Spiritism, as well as those who are dedicated to the organization of lectures, conferences, and group coordination of studies, an important material of reference and support to the didactic activities.

The authors, intellectuals and spiritist thinkers linked to CEPA, who live in different parts of the world, will be invited so that, individually or in duos, they will present their ideas on the proposed topics.

This initiative will help contribute to the healthy debate and reflection on important issues of Spiritism, being one of the most important achievements of the Executive Council of the CEPA under the leadership of our colleague Jacira Jacinto da Silva. But we understand it will take shape over a series of years, with the efforts of many comrades, who are committed to a Spiritist thinking and with CEPA.

CEPA's Memory: Mocidade Espírita Estudiantes de la Verdad (MEEV)

A brief history about the origins of the MEEV

By Herivelto Carvalho

In the history of Latin American Spiritism the performance of youth spiritist movements has always been very prominent. In their youth, important personalities of the CEPA such as Jon Aizpúrua and Luis Postiglioni participated in these groups, a fact that contributed significantly to their formations as Spiritist thinkers.

The importance of youth movements was recognized in the 8th Pan-American Spiritist Congress, held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in 1969, so that it was decided to encourage the member institutions of the CEPA to promote the creation of youth groups for the study of Spiritism.

In Brazil, the concern for the spiritist development of young people and the recognition of its importance in the revitalization of Spiritism as a social movement began in the 1940s, when a campaign to encourage the creation of spiritist youth movements was made by the writer and Bahian Spiritist leader, Leopoldo Machado. In the state of São Paulo, that campaign was very successful, so several groups known as "spiritist youths" were founded. Following this trend, the Spiritist Center Manoel Gonçalves founded, in 1947, the Spiritist Youth of Santos.

Shortly after, the group was renamed Mocidade Espírita Estudiantes de la Verdad (MEEV), the new name being a suggestion by Jaci Regis. In 1949, the MEEV was transferred to another institution in Santos, the Evangelical Beneficence Center, currently called Allan Kardec Spiritist Center (CEAK), an entity affiliated to CEPA. On this occasion, Jaci Regis, at age 17, assumed his presidency.

From its origin, the group established a structure that promoted systematized studies of the basic works of Allan Kardec, proposing a

secular and freethinking vision of Spiritism. This characteristic formed a team of great Spiritist leaders who later helped to articulate the "Grupo de Santos", a movement that set a new standard in Brazil, by spreading a renewed and dynamic vision of Spiritism.

The example of the MEEV shows us that developing actions of spiritist formation aimed at young people, revitalizes the movement and contributes to the deepening of Spiritist knowledge. These actions also provide young people with experiences such as the exercise of creativity, volunteering, fraternity and the development of virtues and ethical values.

MEEV celebrates seven decades of existence

By Rafael Reis*



The party of the 70 years of the MEEV was organized by the Rafael Reis, Julia Mattos, Leonardo Regis, Gabriela Regis, Felipe Regis, Saulo Montani and Clara Chioro, with the special help of the president of CEAK Roseli Regis and the collaboration of Vilma Assunção.

The celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Mocidade Espírita Estudantes de la Verdad (MEEV) was marked as an affectionate meeting of generations. On October 7, more than 110 people filled the CEAK to relive together historical moments of the seven decades of the MEEV. There, with the active participation of the public, the production of a

documentary was started with the aim of recovering the affective memory of the traditional group from Santos.

Throughout the event, 12 "Meevians" (members of the MEEV) from different eras were called to the stage to be asked before the audience and the cameras that were recording everything. The current group of the MEEV, traditionally known for including artistic manifestations in its festivals, used audiovisual resources to lead the audience to an immersion in each decade, with videos that made a retrospective with a sense of humor of the main events in Brazil and the world in each period. The idea was to highlight the context in which the MEEV was developed, as well as to understand the different roles that the spiritist youth had for each generation.

Ivon Regis, a member since the foundation, recalled details of the group's appearance in 1947, under the nickname of Santos Spiritist Youth, a name that would later be changed to MEEV at the suggestion of her brother Jaci Regis. The testimonies of the "Meevians" of the 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s portrayed the golden age of the group, which reached 80 members as they stated. In addition to the intensive study of the basic works of Allan Kardec, in this period, this group is configured as one of the main circles of friendship and identity of the young people who frequented it, marked by an intense social life and lasting friendly relations. During this period, the relationship with other youth from the State of São Paulo and the commitment to the Auta de Souza Fraternity Campaign, a street campaign that sought to collect donations to supply food and clothing to low-income families, was also noteworthy. The participation of women as monitors and teachers in spiritist childhood is notorious, which helped to train the new generations.

In tune with the events of the world and committed to the Spiritist movement, the "Meevians" produced their own Spiritist newspaper in the 70s and 80s: the Young Ideal. In the MEEV, Spiritist thinkers such as Jaci

Regis, José Rodrigues, Ademar Arthur Chioro dos Reis, Reinaldo Di Lucia and many other young people who later assumed the leadership of the CEAK were developed. It is not surprising that the group was always at the forefront of discussions about the updating of Brazilian Spiritism, proposing a secular and freethinking vision based on the works of Allan Kardec. Over time, this positioning led to an isolation of the main spiritist institutions of the region and the country, a process that was only softened with the approach of the CEPA.

From the second half of the 1980s onward, the oscillations in the number of MEEV participants became more frequent, as mentioned by Paulo Muniz, who entered a group of almost 30 people, and visited for a whole year, while gaining only two more members. Despite these oscillations, which have been repeated since then, the MEEV always maintained its weekly activities on a regular basis, focused on the study of Spiritism, giving its members total freedom to present their ideas, embark on deep debates and adopt a critical stance and questioning in the search for knowledge. All the interviewees unanimously highlighted the importance of the MEEV in the process of forming the thoughts of those who frequented it. All reported that the experience in their youth was a kind of laboratory to put into practice the teachings of Spiritism, as well as fundamental to learn to live with diversity and understand the other. A space with many possibilities and opportunities.

The party of the 70 years of the MEEV, characterized by the reunion of friends and brothers, was important to remember the origins of the group, understand where we came from and how we got here. In the end, it was certain that this story continues.

** Rafael Reis is the current president of the MEEV.*

Video reveals adulteration of 'The Genesis' by Kardec.



Simoni Privato Goidanich

A video has just been released with the testimony of Brazilian researcher and diplomat Simoni Privato (photo), author of the book 'Allan Kardec's Legacy', with scenes of her research in documents that appear in the National Library of France, which prove definitively that the most widespread version of the work The Genesis by Allan Kardec was adulterated in a perverse way, depriving spiritists of knowing the original message of the Spiritist Doctrine.

Everything happened when the responsible of giving continuity to the publication and dissemination of Spiritism, Pierre Leymarie, published in 1872, the fifth edition of the aforementioned work. Leymarie offered Spiritist readers, without granting any review in the Spiritist Magazine, a version of The Genesis, revised, corrected and expanded by the author. The eighteen chapters were modified in dozens of articles. But they were not just grammatical changes, there was a whole turn in terms of doctrinal concepts.

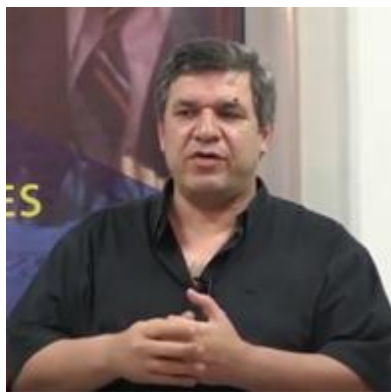
Due to the dedication of Leymarie, the authorized translations, the new editions, all the continuity of the dissemination of La Genesis, came to be made from the corrected and expanded edition, only three years after the discarnation of Allan Kardec.

Questioned by the president of the Argentine Spiritist Confederation, Gustavo Martínez, translator into Spanish of Kardec's works, Simoni Privato began to investigate the facts, looking for evidence, analyzing the arguments, with impartiality, without establishing any initial hypothesis. She found legal evidence, documents registered in the National Library of France that

demonstrate the adulteration in the fifth edition. Only the first four are legitimate and identical, published exactly as the author conceived the work.

Paulo Henrique de Figueiredo

THE VIDEO



Paulo Henrique de Figueiredo

With the previous article, on his website – <http://revolucaoespírita.com.br> –, the writer Paulo Henrique de Figueiredo went on to broadcast a video, with scenes filmed in Paris, on the subject of the final content of The Genesis. With a duration of 15 minutes, and therefore quite brief, taking into account the

relevance of the event and the importance of the investigation, the documentary, inserted in YouTube, is in Spanish, with subtitles in Portuguese. In the video, Simoni narrates her research in France and her exciting contact with the original copy of The Genesis, deposited by Kardec in the National Library of France. The document was held with restrictions to public access, for it being a judicial piece. The researcher, according to Figueiredo, “overcame the barriers, having historically opened a way to restore the truth, and put in place the original words published by Allan Kardec, precisely 150 years later.” And the author of the Spiritist Revolution adds: “It is clear that it is not a fortuity or coincidence.”

You can access the video at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7xEgZYqqlNQ>

The book ‘The Legacy of Allan Kardec’, by Simoni Privato, will be released in Portuguese during the first semester of 2018.

(Publication of CCEPA, OPINIÃO - Year XXIV - No. 259 - January / February 2018)

III Ibero-American Spiritist Meeting - Vigo 2018

CEPA-International Spiritist Association and AIPE (International Association for the Advancement of Spiritism) are working on the organization of the III Ibero-American Spiritist Meeting, which will be held on 28, 29 and 30 March, under the motto "Spiritist Culture - A Contribution to the Progress of Humanity". April 2018, in the city of Vigo (Pontevedra - Galicia).

The price of the registration, only for the Meeting, is €30 per participant until 28/02/2018, and €40 per person as of 01/03/2018, excluding food. These amounts are intended solely to cover organizational costs.

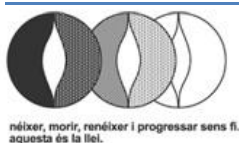


The event will take place at the Hotel Tryp Los Galeones ****, Av. De Madrid, 21, in the city of Vigo. Tel. 986 480405 - www.hoteltrypvigogaleones.com

Lodging for 3 nights, full board (starts on 04/28 with lunch - ends on 01/05 with breakfast, drinks included), plus registration for the Meeting: Double / triple / quadruple apartments: 275 euros. Single room: €385, VAT included.

Registration and reservations: maxi@viajescalifal.com/ Information: 3encuentrovigo@gmail.com // www.cbce.info // Tel. 647748414 Juan Antonio Torrijo.

XVI SPIRITIST DAY OF BARCELONA



FLAMA ESPIRITA

The Spiritist Center Amàlia Domingo Soler announces the celebration of its 16th Spiritist Day on Saturday, April 28, 2018,

at its headquarters on Calle Ventura Plaja, 15 - bajo, in Barcelona. The theme for this year is: "The spiritual evolution of the Self". Soon the program of conferences and activities will be announced. Information at: www.ceads.es // ceads@ono.com // Tel. 665 312 687

Free admission!

(Publication of Flama Espirita No. 167)

CPDoc appoints new directive



From left to right: Magda Selvera Zago, Ricardo de Moraes Nunes and Luciana Balbino da Cruz Nunes.

The CPDoc – Centro de Pesquisa y Documentación Espírita - , elected, in March 2018, the new board for the 2018/2019 biennium, thus being constituted: President Ricardo de Moraes Nunes, Secretary Luciana Balbino da Cruz Nunes, Treasurer Magda Selvera Zago, Fiscal Council, Saulo de Meira Albach, Alcione Moreno, and Jailson Lima de Mendonça.

Ricardo, having been re-elected for the second consecutive term, stressed that "it is an honor to be re-elected for the presidency of CPDoc, a group that has made an important contribution to the development of spiritist thinking through the publication of books, articles, in addition to the realization of several events of reflection and study of Spiritism, always under the perspective of a Kardecist, progressive, secular and free-thinking Spiritist ideal.

CEPA Newsletter Information Bulletin

Official organ of the Communication Directorate of CEPA - International Spiritist Association

Editorial Board

Néventon Vargas, Milton Medran, Jon Aizpúrua, Dante López, Arthur Chioro, Jacira Jacinto da Silva, Mauro Spínola and Herivelto Carvalho

<http://cepainternacional.org>