

## **Dr. Samuel A. Aykroyd's Journalism, 1895-1929** – compiled by Anton Wagner

Samuel A. Aykroyd (1855-1933) was a doctor of dental surgery in Kingston, Ontario. In local newspapers, his letters and articles about politics, economics, and dentistry were published under his own name (1895-1928).

Long interested in Spiritualism, from 1900 until his death, Dr. Aykroyd and his wife Ellen Jane (Wemp) Aykroyd hosted a Spiritualist home circle of six to ten persons. To safeguard his professional status, most of his letters about Spiritualism and psychical research were published anonymously, as "A Student of Psychic Phenomena" (1899-1929), abbreviated SPP. For instance, in an article in the *Kingston Whig-Standard*, SPP acknowledged Dr. T. Glen Hamilton's psychic science (20 November 1928, p. 4).

Though the Aykroyds did not observe ectoplasm in their séances, their great-grandson, actor and screenwriter Dan Aykroyd, popularized the term ectoplasm through the green slimy substance portrayed in the movie *Ghostbusters* (1984).

Based upon extensive research in Newspapers.com, historian Anton Wagner has compiled this list that demonstrates the extent of Dr. Aykroyd's published writings, including his three known pseudonyms, and that confirms that S.A. Aykroyd was "Student of Psychic Phenomena." Aykroyd's writings are listed in four categories:

- A Student of Psychic Phenomena (SPP)
- Kingstonian
- Member of the American Society for Psychical Research (A.S.P.R.)
- S.A. Aykroyd

The comprehensiveness of those lists is dependent upon how complete the microfilmed newspapers were and the accuracy of the Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software used in the microfilm digitization process.

### **S.A. AYKROYD WRITING UNDER PSEUDONYM "STUDENT OF PSYCHIC PHENOMENA" (SPP) ON 23 KNOWN OCCASIONS:**

- "Some Talk with Spirits," *Kingston Daily Whig*, September 14, 1899, 2.
- "Defence of Spiritualism: An Answer to a Globe Editorial," *Kingston Daily Whig*, March 8, 1900, 3.
- "Forecast From a Vision: A Supernatural Prediction of Wonderful Changes," *Kingston Daily Whig*, May 19, 1900, 9.
- "Over Their Signatures" [B.F. Austin's defence of the Bangs Sisters' spirit portrait paintings], *Kingston Daily Whig*, October 12, 1901, 4.
- "A Letter About Demons," *Kingston Daily Whig*, November 18, 1901, 3.

Dr. Samuel A. Aykroyd's Journalism, 1895-1929  
Compiled by Anton Wagner

- "In Spirit Land: Principal [George Munro] Grant [1835-1902] Talks Through a Medium," *Kingston Daily Whig*, December 4, 1902, 7.
- "Japanese Belief: Ancestors Living Persons to Them," *Kingston Daily Whig*, December 23, 1905, 4.
- "Trickery Is Denied," *Kingston Daily British Whig*, May 27, 1910, 6.
- "Has Soul Weight?: Student of Psychic Phenomena Argues Question," *Kingston Daily British Whig*, November 30, 1910, 9.
- "Psychic Phenomena Is Not All Mere Trickery and Fraud," *Kingston Daily British Whig*, December 20, 1911, 11, and *Weekly British Whig*, December 21, 1911, 5.
- "Wreck of the Titanic: What Are the Conditions of Human Beings Ushered Into Eternity in Such a Moment?," *Kingston Weekly British Whig*, June 13, 1912.
- "W.T. Stead Appeared," *Kingston Daily British Whig*, October 10, 1912, 9.
- "Shadow of Cross" [Spirit painting], *Kingston Daily British Whig*, August 7, 1913, 3, and *Kingston Weekly British Whig*, August 11, 1913, 3.
- "Great Scientist Dead: The Late Alfred R. Wallace A Social Reformer," *Kingston Daily British Whig*, November 15, 1913, 11, and *Weekly British Whig*, November 17, 1913, 4.
- "Mind Phasing In Man" [about Oliver Lodge], *Kingston Daily British Whig*, December 5, 1913, 3.
- "About Spiritualism," *Kingston Daily British Whig*, January 8, 1914, 7.
- "The War Predictions," *Kingston Daily British Whig*, October 1, 1914, 3.
- "About Joan of Arc," *Kingston Daily British Whig*, January 23, 1915, 9, [first article] and *Weekly British Whig*, January 25, 1915, 2, [first article] and *Daily British Whig*, February 2, 1915, 11 [article no. 2; "To Be Continued," but article no. 3 not located].
- "Mischievous Spirits Produce Various Kinds of Supernormal Phenomena," *Kingston Whig-Standard*, February 3, 1928, 10.
- "The Future Life," *Kingston Whig-Standard*, April 25, 1928, 4.
- "Psychic Science" [T.G. Hamilton in Winnipeg], *Kingston Whig-Standard*, November 20, 1928, 4.
- "Spiritualism In Politics," *Kingston Whig-Standard*, May 16, 1929, 10.
- "Spiritualism—What It Teaches," *Kingston Whig-Standard*, September 20, 1929, 12.

### **S.A. AYKROYD WRITING UNDER PSEUDONYM "KINGSTONIAN" ON ONE KNOWN OCCASION**

- "THE DOMINION: Normal Developing School in Kingston, Ont.," *Progressive Thinker* 19:494 (May 13, 1899), 1.

### **S.A. AYKROYD WRITING UNDER PSEUDONYM "MEMBER OF A.S.P.R." [American Society for Psychical Research] ON ONE KNOWN OCCASION**

- "Has The Soul Weight: A Spiritualist Describes Experiments," *Kingston Weekly British Whig*, March 25, 1907, 7.

### **S.A. AYKROYD WRITING AS HIMSELF ON 40 KNOWN OCCASIONS**

- "Social Questions," *Kingston Daily British Whig*, October 3, 1895, 2.
- "Some Prohibition Facts," *Kingston Daily Whig*, January 4, 1898, 3.
- "The Idea an Absurd One: That the City Should Employ Only Union Labour," *Kingston Daily Whig*, December 11, 1900, 2.
- "An Answer To 'Medicus': The Beastly System of Vaccination," *Kingston Daily Whig*, May 3, 1901, 3.
- "Worth A Trial: Electing of Alderman by Whole City," *Kingston Daily Whig*, December 22, 1903, 2.
- "Work of the Rioters in Vancouver Was a Useful Service—The Yellow Race Is Not Wanted in Canada," *Kingston Daily British Whig*, November 8, 1907, 8, and *Weekly British Whig*, November 11, 1907, 2.
- "A Day at Lily Dale: Most Excellent Results on the Part of the Investigator," *Progressive Thinker*, 37:938 (November 16, 1907), 7.
- "Cause of Our Social Evils," *Kingston Daily British Whig*, May 17, 1909, 5.
- "Talks On Teeth," *Kingston Daily British Whig*, May 4, 1910, 6.
- "Talks On Teeth, No. 2," *Kingston Daily British Whig*, May 10, 1910, 5.
- "Talks On Teeth, No. 3," *Kingston Daily British Whig*, May 17, 1910, 6.
- "Talks On Teeth, No. 4," *Kingston Daily British Whig*, June 1, 1910, 8.
- "Talks On Teeth, No. 5," *Kingston Daily British Whig*, June 9, 1910, 5.
- "Talks On Teeth, No. 6," *Kingston Daily British Whig*, June 9, 1910, 5.
- "Favours Reciprocity Pact," *Kingston Daily Standard*, April 18, 1911, 3.
- "Right In Principle: A Writer Gives Views on Reciprocity," *Kingston Daily British Whig*, April 24, 1911, 6.
- "Advocates Free Trade in Wheat: S.A. Aykroyd Writes The Standard," *Kingston Daily Standard*, January 13, 1914, 9.

- "People Are Restless: Spirit of Discontent All Over the World," *Kingston Daily British Whig*, January 22, 1914, 9.
- "The Call Is for Food," *Kingston Daily British Whig*, February 8, 1918, 5.
- "A Better Civic Spirit Is Needed in Kingston Says Dr. S.A. Aykroyd," *Kingston Daily British Whig*, December 19, 1918, 5.
- "Society Is an Evolution: Great War a Long Time in the Making—A Writer States That History Will Show That War in its Origin Was Economic Rather Than Political," *Kingston Weekly British Whig*, January 6, 1919, 3.
- "Psychical Research: A Spirit Photograph," *Azoth* 4:3 (March 1919).
- "Federal Department of Health," *Kingston Daily British Whig*, March 29, 1919, 11.
- "Versatile Man of Genius" [Sir William Crookes], *Kingston Daily British Whig*, April 14, 1919, 9.
- "Sir Oliver Lodge and His Message," *Kingston Daily British Whig*, February 4, 1920, 12.
- "A Reply to Prof. [Stephen] Leacock," *Kingston Daily British Whig*, March 13, 1920, 14.
- "Vaccination," *Kingston Daily British Whig*, November 17, 1920, 2.
- "A Lesson from the Facts" [St. Lawrence Seaway], *Kingston Daily British Whig*, February 3, 1922, 11.
- "Economic Conditions Must Be Improved," *Kingston Daily British Whig*, February 9, 1924, 11.
- "Progress," *Kingston Daily British Whig*, August 19, 1924, 10.
- "Facial Deformities," *Kingston Daily British Whig*, June 4, 1925, 5.
- "The Economics of the Tariff," *Kingston Daily British Whig*, October 30, 1925, 3.
- "Payable in a Thousand Years," *Kingston Daily British Whig*, January 2, 1926, 11.
- "Tuberculin Testing of Dairy Animals," *Kingston Daily British Whig*, March 17, 1926, 2.
- "Our Social and Economic Systems Need Improvement," *Kingston Daily British Whig*, April 26, 1926, 2.
- "Diet in Relation to the Teeth," *Kingston Daily British Whig*, May 10, 1926, 7.
- "Natural Law and Progress," *Kingston Daily British Whig*, May 14, 1926, 6.
- "Premier Baldwin and the Miners," *Kingston Whig-Standard*, March 16, 1927, 10.
- "The St. Lawrence Project," *Kingston Whig-Standard*, January 17, 1928, 4.
- "Pays Tribute to M.S. Burnette: Dr. S.A. Aykroyd Recalls His Social and Economic Views," *Kingston Whig-Standard*, February 8, 1928, 12.