

Bumps in the Night!!!!

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Paranormal "U"

History of Ouija Boards

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The history of the Ouija board goes back about 165 years to when the Fox sisters, Kate and Margaret, claimed to have contacted the spirit of a dead man and sparked an obsession across American and Europe. That obsession was the birth of modern Spiritualism.

Spiritualism is a religion with the belief that spirits of the dead can communicate with the living. Spiritualism follows the belief that there are gifted and unique individuals, called Mediums, that can facilitate this communication with spirits. They use a variety of tools to do this communication. Over the years these tools went from table turning; to using a Planchette; to witch boards; to using Ouija boards. There were other tools and techniques used, but these were the main ones.

The Ouija, pronounced WEE-jə, board itself has a sorted history. Ranging from several different people claiming to have invented it, to lawsuits between companies fight over patent infringements, to streaks of bad luck for some associated with them. The primary history of the Ouija board is that during the late 19th century, two businessmen Elijah Bond and Charles Kennard had the idea to create a "talking" board with the alphabet printed on it and would be used with a planchette that could be used to talk to spirits. They filed a patent on May 28, 1890 and thus "invented" the first talking board. A few years later, in 1901, an employee, William Fuld took over the talking board production and made his own boards under the name of "Ouija". Fuld and his estate ran the business until 1966, when Parker Brothers bought the business from the Fuld estate. Parker Brothers produced the boards until 1991 when Hasbro purchased it. Hasbro continues to hold all trademarks and patents and produces them to this day.

Even the name "Ouija" has at least two different stories for how it was created. The first being from Kennard when he claimed it came during a talking board session when the word Ouija was spelled out. He claimed the word was an ancient Egyptian word meaning "good luck." However, Fuld claims the name comes from a combination of the French and German words for "yes." I guess we will never know for certain.

In the paranormal field there are mixed thoughts and feelings on the use of a Ouija board as a tool to contact ghosts or spirits. We at TnT Paranormal do **not** support the use of a Ouija during an investigation. There are many reasons for this, but primarily we believe since it's not a controlled tool it is hard to prove one way or another what caused the planchette to move.

There are beliefs that the Ouija board is a tool to open a portal to the "other side" and allow ghost or spirits to communicate with them through the board. The risks are that you don't know "who" will show up and unless you know what you're doing, you might not know how to make them go away.

No matter what your beliefs are about the "Ouija board" as you can see it has a sorted and colorful past. To learn more check out the follow sites:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ouija>

<http://www.museumoftalkingboards.com/WebOuija.html>

<http://www.allabouttheoccult.org/ouija-board.htm>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spiritualism>

<http://ghostresearch.org/articles/ouija.html>