DARK CASE PARANORMAL

PARANORMAL CASE FILE 02

Borley Rectory

Essex, 1928–1939

CASE STATUS	HISTORICAL HAUNTING / DEEPLY CONTESTED
LOCATION	Borley, Essex

CASE SUMMARY

Borley Rectory became known as the 'most haunted house in England' after reports of apparitions, footsteps, bells, noises and alleged poltergeist activity. Harry Price investigated the site repeatedly and later rented it for a year of observation.

EARLY REPORTS

The Reverend Guy Eric Smith and his wife reported unexplained sounds, footsteps, bells and an apparition said to resemble a nun. The story reached the Daily Mirror in 1929.

PRICE INVESTIGATION

Harry Price visited in 1929 and returned in later years. In 1937 he rented the empty rectory and recruited observers, using marked objects, cameras and written reports.

FIRE

The building was badly damaged by fire in February 1939. Subsequent searches of the ruins produced bones, although their significance has long been disputed.

CRITICAL REVIEW

After Price's death, Eric Dingwall, Kathleen Goldney and Trevor Hall reviewed the evidence for the Society for Psychical Research and argued that much of the case could be explained by natural causes, suggestion or fraud. Later writers disputed aspects of their conclusions.

CASE ASSESSMENT

The documentary history is substantial, but the interpretation remains divided. Classification: HISTORICAL UNRESOLVED / CONTESTED.

SOURCE REGISTER

Sources used for the case file. Reported phenomena are described as claims; paranormal causation is not treated as established fact.

https://psi-encyclopedia.spr.ac.uk/articles/borley-rectory

https://iapsop.com/archive/materials/spr_proceedings/spr_journal_v36_1951-52.pdf

EDITORIAL NOTE

Dark Case Paranormal separates documented history, witness testimony, investigation, folklore and interpretation. A famous or unexplained case is not automatically proof of a supernatural cause.