

The following interviews were done by Professor Fred M. Frohock, Researcher who worked on a collection of oral history of the life of Dr. Alexander Tanous. This was done for the Alex Tanous Foundation.

- **Dr. Elaine Schwinge – January 26, 1997**
- **Andy Bambrick – January 31, 1997**
- **Karen Tanous – January 31, 1997**
- **Karlis Osis – February 10, 1997**
- **Patrice Kean – February 28, 1997**
- **Scott Jones (1) – March 19, 1997**
- **Arthur Fine – March 30, 1997**
- **Colette Malenfant – April 12, 1997**
- **David Johnson – April 12, 1997**
- **Colette Long – April 13, 1997**
- **Nolan Tanous – April 15, 1997**
- **Thomas Tanous – April 17, 1997**
- **Scott Jones (2) – August 1, 1997**
- **Alan Vaughan – August 8, 1997**
- **Rhea White – August 8, 1997**
- **Ingo Swann – August 11, 1997**
- **Michael Grosso – August 11, 1997**
- **Joyce Goodrich – August 14, 1997**

annotations on interviews -- unless noted, the interviews here are on tape

Dr. Elaine Schwinge -- January 26, 1997

Recollections of work with Alex in therapy sessions with her patients from (roughly) 1983 to 1989. Reports that Alex was well liked by both the patients and staffs, and had unexplained insights into her patients' illnesses and lives. These insights went beyond the most ambitious expectations of empathy and seemed to Dr. Schwinge to demonstrate genuine psychic powers. Said that Alex used auras to diagnose maladies, and that he taught her to see these phenomena. Also reported in general terms on her trip to Egypt with Alex and a group of friends. Many dates are uncertain in Dr. Schwinge's memory. She said that she would try to find the time to review her files and report on cases to me in a later interview. Urged that I interview two others: Andy Bambrick and Don Galloway (a psychic who lives in England).

Andy Bambrick -- January 31, 1997

Bambrick related some of his experiences as a therapist when Alex was present in his sessions. Also believes that Alex had genuine psychic powers in excess of his considerable empathetic skills. The interviewee was regrettably succinct and reluctant to expand on his brief observations. Most of his comments were redundant with those offered by Dr. Schwinge. I also left open the possibility of a later call to revisit this territory. Note that the audio level for Bambrick's voice is very poor. Technicians at the Newhouse School have enhanced the audio.

Karen Tanous -- January 31, 1997

Tanous told of her childhood experiences with Alex. Remembers him as a loving uncle who played games with the children in the family. She reports that his tricks did not always work (he couldn't always find the lost or hidden object), which she attributes to the often-told maxim that psychic powers sometimes cannot be summoned successfully for those who are close to the one with the powers. (I thought of the old observation about a prophet not being without honor except in his own home and his own country, etc.) Karen regarded Alex as a guide to members of the family, offering advice and assistance. Her memories are that he was a good and spiritual person (not a magician simpliciter), and that his psychic powers were real. Regrets expressed: that she did not spend more time with him when she was an adult.

Karl's Osis -- February 10, 1997

In several earlier (non-taped) phone conversations Dr. Osis had expressed concerns that he is too old to remember much, and suggested that "Scott" Jones is an important figure for recollections of Alex's government work. But in this, the first of what I anticipate will be several interviews with him, he was quite helpful. He told me how he met Alex, and how Alex was obviously gifted with psychic powers. Dr. Osis admitted that these powers did not always work, especially in controlled experiments (which he described as limitations on the powers), but that they were impressive nevertheless. Dr. Osis stressed Alex's out-of-body experiences. He pointed out that these OBEs occurred well before such experiences became widely discussed. He also talked about Alex's abilities to discern a spiritual presence, which he (Alex) used to find and expel ghosts in haunted houses (stories here). Dr. Osis remembers

Alex as a sympathetic person who reveled in his psychic gifts and pursued a success line with them (as a public figure). In conclusion Dr. Osis confirmed that in his view Alex was not only the genuine article but the most impressive psychic that he (Dr. Osis) had ever known. We agreed to talk again. These projected sessions are to include a visit to his home where I will conduct a more extensive personal interview.

Patrice Kean -- February 28, 1997 -- Face-to-face interview at the ASPR (NYC)

Theme Statements: Anecdotal and theoretical summaries of the ASPR experiments and insights into Alex's personality. Very favorable impressions of Alex and vivid memories of his ASPR visits. Kean placed Alex very effectively in the larger psychic community, commented on his standing in this community, and provided a number of excellent theoretical insights into the range and limitations of Alex's psychic powers. (See Polly's comments and listen to my tape.)

Scott Jones (1) -- March 19, 1997

Theme Statements: Jones met Alex when he invited him to speak (in 1976) at Casper College in Casper, Wyoming. Later, in 1978, Jones helped coordinate a group of psychics invited by the federal government to do intelligence work (which Jones reports is still going on). Alex, according to Jones, was the leader of this group. The interview largely consists of Jones relating his experiences with Alex (and the other psychics) in their efforts at "remote viewing." He recalls Alex as a teacher as well as a psychic, in the direct sense that he (Alex) was always trying to help others develop their own psychic powers. Problems occurred in validating intelligence "findings" and

forging cooperation among sectors of the intelligence community. Alex used OBEs in his intelligence work.

E: Alex worked on the Iranian hostage situation, trying to locate the hostages.

1984: Alex helped the Secret Service with C.A.T case, one involving an individual who wrote threatening letters to President Reagan over a two-year period. Use of psychic powers: Alex was able to provide a psychological profile, a description of the individual, and a place where he lived by picking up images/data from an object.

Arthur Fine -- March 30, 1997

Theme Statements: Fine as a friend who met Alex in the service (US military) when Alex was doing public relations work for the army. Fine and Alex got together and wrote songs (Alex doing the lyrics). One memorable number was a "swing" song: "The Merry-Go-Round Waltz." Alex met Debbie Reynolds, Eddie Fisher, and Elizabeth Taylor. Fine claims to have known Alex quite well. Mentions brother (of Alex) who disappeared at sea, of Massachusetts.

M: Songs that Alex wrote in military with Fine: "Is It Right or Wrong" and "I'm Very Much In Love." Alex also produced/wrote in New York: "The Joke Is On You," "Let Me Be A Boy Again," "The Rio de Janeiro Samba," (with others). Fine said that he would send me copies of this material.

Colette Malenfant -- April 12, 1997

Theme Statements: Malenfant knew Alex as a teacher (she was in several of his classes) and as a friend. Dates: 1980/81 until Alex's death. Malenfant relates her painful bankruptcy, and extolls Alex as a seer and confidant who restored her confidence (before *and* after his death). Tells story of Alex giving her a gold bird on a chain that he brought back from Egypt. Malenfant regards the bird as a surrogate for Alex. A medium has assured her that Alex remains close to her (Malenfant). Remembers Alex as humble: he would urge people to go to the doctor, and then would try to heal them only when conventional medicine failed. Alex was a teacher who could energize a class through instruction and prayer. He had the powers of prediction and the ability to comfort.

E: In 1982 a girl was killed in Quebec City. Alex helped the police in the search for her killer.

1990: Alex visited Malenfant in Florida. He had health problems. Was sick, throwing up.

David Johnson -- April 12, 1997

Theme Statements: Claims to have been one of Alex's closest friends, from 1985 until Alex's death. Johnson saw Alex as a kind of *idiot savant* who had real psychic gifts but needed help from friends and family to negotiate the practical sides of life. Alex could paint, had perfect pitch, but could not read well. (Read by "psychic scanning.") Remembers Alex as a very complex person who lacked confidence, but could give people confidence. Alex had

strong religious beliefs, positive beliefs, but probably overrated himself. Others, however, believed in Alex so completely that they wouldn't do anything without consulting him (e.g., C. Malenfant). Alex's French was "abysmal," his PhD was from a mail-order catalog, and things like this made him vulnerable to critiques from prominent skeptics. But Johnson regarded his psychic powers as genuine.

E: 1985 trip to London (David J. and Alex). There, at Guild Hall, Alex located a lost painting for a woman.

Alex had a heart attack in 1987, which he ignored while he traveled to Japan. By the time he returned and sought treatment his heart had been damaged badly.

Trips: China in summer 1985. To Egypt in summer 1986. To California in first part of 1986 (to see David Viscot, a psychiatrist who knew Alex).

Johnson mentions a Virginia (no surname recalled) who knew Alex, an heiress of the Oneida Company, came up to visit Alex when he was dying.

Colette Long -- April 13, 1997

Theme Statements: Long was a student in Alex's weekend courses in Quebec and Maine. She recalls the emphasis that Alex placed on the development of the will in each person.. Saw world as a war of minds where the strongest will would survive (triumph?). Also emphasis on removing guilt and fear from one's psychic landscape. Alex would require each student to write out a script of his/her life, then (of course) try to live this script. He would also use regression techniques, a form of group therapy in which individuals would have