

## The Coincidence File

Ken Anderson, a journalist from Sydney Australia, may be the world's leading collector of coincidences. He has amassed a vast number of anecdotes.

*The Coincidence File* is organised into three parts: Part I includes chapters on intuition, morphic resonance, probability, numinous numbers, the clustering effect, astrology, time, miracles, same names, and chance encounters. Part II comprises chapters of anecdotes. Part III presents a thorough examination of the similarities between the Lincoln and Kennedy assassinations.

Dr Caroline Watt has written an appraisal of the phenomena in the Appendix; the useful part of this book.

Psychic phenomena, by their nature, are not open to the repeatability so beloved of natural scientists. If their existence is to become more widely accepted, it may yet be on the basis of the sheer number of personal experiences that can be collated. Mr. Anderson is to be thanked for bringing hundreds of stories together in one book. Beyond this I can think of no reason why readers of the CP would be interested in it. To name something is not the same as either explaining it or taming it. The author's critical assessment seems to be on p.228:-

“There is, in mythology, a figure known variously as the Trickster or Cosmic Joker whose task, it appears, is to mock the human condition and one of the ways this figure chooses to do so is through coincidence – apply this possibility to many of the unlikely anecdotes recorded in this book and it does appear to offer an explanation.”

There is no theological reflection, nothing Christian or spiritual and very little in the way of parapsychological argument here. To give a flavour of the kinds of anecdotes, try this:- ‘I was reading this book, prior to reviewing it, on a train. Opposite me sat a lecturer from the Church Army. A lady I work with is an ex-Church Army student.’ Coincidence or what?