



THE GHOST OF LORD COMBERMERE

SPECIFICATIONS:

Date: December, 1891

Location: Combermere Abbey, Cheshire, England

Photographer: Sybell Corbet, sister of Lady Combermere

Type Camera: Unknown

Other Information: Figure identified as late owner of the home, Lord Combermere (1818-1891)

ENHANCED IMAGE
FOR CLARITY

This well known photo—and perhaps one of the oldest bonifide spirit photos ever taken—was shot in the Combermere Abbey Library in 1891. The exposure length was approximately one hour, and after the negative was developed the figure of what appears to be a man can be seen sitting in the armchair located in the foreground. (It's difficult to make out, but a head and arm can just be made out sitting in the chair. See enhanced inset photo for greater clarity.) Relatives of Lord Combermere identified the figure as Lord Combermere himself, who was at the very moment the photo was being taken being buried four miles away. (The fact that the house was empty and locked at the time is why the photo was taken; it was one of the few opportunities the usually bustling residence af-

forded in which a timed exposure shot could be accomplished.)

One explanation frequently offered by skeptics is that during the lengthy exposure a servant inadvertently sat in the chair for a short time, noticed the camera, and hastily left, leaving what is effectively a fuzzy double exposure. What argues against this theory, however, aside from the fact that all members of the household were supposedly attending the funeral at the time, is the lack of lower torso. A person caught in a timed photo should have left an image of the entire torso—particularly the waist and upper thigh—with only the arms and legs being subjected to motion blur. Additionally, those who knew Lord Combermere claim the figure looks exactly like the man, so we have to wonder if the old gentle-

man wasn't simply just visiting his old "haunt" one last time.

(Interesting side note: Lord Combermere is connected to another well-known paranormal story: the famous "Moving Coffins" of Barbados. The coffins inside the sealed vault of the Chase family are said to have been moved about by unnatural forces. The heavy coffins were repeatedly put in proper order, but often when a new coffin was added to the vault, the coffins were found strewn about. Lord Combermere's father was the governor of Barbados at the time, and he ordered a professional investigation of the mystery.)