

Allan Kardec

39 languages

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*"Kardec" redirects here. For the film, see *Kardec* (film).*

*For the Brazilian footballer, see *Alan Kardec*.*

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Allan Kardec (French: [kaʁdek]) is the pen name of the French educator, translator, and author **Hippolyte Léon Denizard Rivail** ([lɛvɑl]; 3 October 1804 – 31 March 1869). He is the author of the five books known as the *Spiritist Codification*, and the founder of *Spiritism*.^{[1][2]}

Early life [edit]

Rivail was born in Lyon in 1804 and raised as a Roman Catholic. He pursued interests in philosophy and the sciences, and became an acolyte and colleague of Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi.^{[2][3]} Rivail completed a number of educational courses including a Bachelor of Arts degrees in science^[4] and a doctorate in medicine.^[5] He was also fluent in German, English, Italian, and Spanish, in addition to his native French.^[6] Kardec became interested in Protestantism after his education in Switzerland.^{[7][8]}

Career [edit]

He was a member of several scholarly societies, including the Historic Institute of Paris (Institut Historique), Society of Natural Sciences of France (Société des Sciences Naturelles de France), Society for the Encouragement of National Industry (Société d'Encouragement pour l'Industrie Nationale), and The Royal Academy of Arras (Académie d'Arras, Société Royale des Sciences, des Lettres et des Arts).^[2] He organized and taught free courses for the underprivileged.^{[2][9]}

Educator [edit]

Rivail's work with Pestalozzi helped lay the foundations for the teaching model in schools in France and Germany.^[citation needed] For several decades he helped advance Pestalozzi's pedagogy in France, founding schools and working as a teacher, educational writer and translator.^[2]

Banker [edit]

In 1839, with a new partner, Mr. Maurice Delachâtre, a merchant, he created a so-called "exchange" bank, which aimed to facilitate commercial transactions and thus create new opportunities for trade and industry, in order to support in default of pecuniary resources for the natural products. The duration of the trading bank was fixed by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry at ten years.

Spiritualism [edit]

According to "My predictions concerning spiritualism" as he himself described in his manuscript written between 1855 and 1856, "in May 1855, he met a certain Mr. Fortier, a magnetizer, who took him to Madame de Plainemaison, a medium who lived in the Rue de la Grange Batellere in Paris, just a step away from the Opera House. In the presence of other guests for the session, he entered into communication with a spirit named Zephyr, who gave him the mission of being the spokesman of the Dead. For him, it was a revelation. He was there, for the first time, witnessing the phenomenon of turntables jumping and running".

Spiritism [edit]

Main article: Spiritism

Rivail was in his early 50s when he became interested in *séances*, which were a popular entertainment at the time. Strange phenomena attributed to the action of spirits were considered a novelty, featuring objects that moved or "tapped", purportedly under the control of "spirits". In some cases, this was alleged to be a type of communication: the supposed spirits answered questions by controlling the movements of objects so as to pick out letters to form words, or simply indicate "yes" or "no".^{[10][note 1]} At the time, Franz Mesmer's theory of *animal magnetism* had become popular. When confronted with the phenomena described, some researchers, including Rivail, pointed out that animal magnetism might explain them. Rivail, however, after seeing a demonstration, dismissed animal magnetism as insufficient to explain his observations.^[11]

As a result of these influences, Rivail began his own investigation of *psychic phenomena*, mainly *mediumship*.^[2] During his initial investigation, he stated that before accepting a spiritual or paranormal cause for some phenomena, it would be necessary first to test if ordinary material causes could explain them. He proposed that fraud, hallucination and unconscious mental activity might explain many phenomena regarded as mediumistic, and also proposed that telepathy and clairvoyance may be responsible.^[12]

He compiled over one thousand questions concerning the nature and mechanisms of spirit communications, the reasons for human life on earth, and aspects of the spiritual realm. He asked those questions to ten *mediums*, all purportedly unknown to each other, and documented their responses. From these, he concluded that the best explanation was that personalities that had survived death were the source of at least some mediumistic communications.^[13] He became convinced that the mediums:

- provided accurate information unknown to themselves or others present (e.g. personal information about deceased individuals);
- demonstrated unlearned skills such as writing by illiterate mediums, handwriting similar to the alleged communicating personality, and speaking or writing in a language unknown to the medium (*xenoglossy* and *xenography*);
- accurately portrayed a range of personality characteristics of deceased individuals.

He compiled the mediums' responses that were consistent and adapted them into a philosophy that he called *Spiritism*, which he initially defined as "a science that deals with the nature, origin, and destiny of spirits, and their relation with the corporeal world."^{[14][15]}

Rivail wrote under the name "Allan Kardec", allegedly following the suggestion of a spirit identified as "Truth".^[16] On 18 April 1857, as Allan Kardec, Rivail published his first book on Spiritism, *The Spirits Book*, comprising a series of answered questions (502 in the first edition and 1,019 in later editions)^[citation needed] exploring matters concerning the nature of spirits, the *spirit world*, and the relationship between the spirit world and the material world.^[citation needed] This was followed by a series of other books, including *The Medium's Book*, *The Gospel According to Spiritism*, *Heaven and Hell* and *The Genesis According to Spiritism*, and by a periodical, the *Revue Spirite*, which Kardec published until his death. Collectively, the books became known as the *Spiritist Codification*.^[citation needed]

Kardec's research influenced the *psychical* research of Charles Richet, Camille Flammarion and Gabriel Delanne.^{[17][18][19]}

Personal life [edit]

Family [edit]

On 6 February 1832 he married Amélie Gabrielle Boudet.^[20]

Death [edit]

After his death caused by *aneurysm* in 1869, Kardec was buried at the *Cimetière du Père Lachaise*.^[21]

Writings [edit]

- Cours pratique et théorique d'arithmétique* (1824)
- Plan proposé pour l'amélioration de l'éducation publique* (1828)
- Catéchisme grammatical de la langue française* (1848)
- Le Livre des Esprits* (*The Spirits Book*), 1857
- Le Livre des Médiuims* (*The Book on Mediums*), 1861
- L'Évangile selon le Spiritisme* (*The Gospel According to Spiritism*), 1864
- Le Ciel et L'Enfer* (*Heaven and Hell*), 1865
- La Genèse* (*Genesis* or *Genesis According to Spiritism*), 1868

Notes [edit]

- ↑ A possible explanation for these movements is the *ideomotor phenomenon*.

Allan Kardec



| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Born | Hippolyte Léon Denizard Rivail <div>3 October 1804</div> Lyon, France |
| Died | 31 March 1869 (aged 64) |
| Burial place | Père Lachaise Cemetery |
| Occupation | educator |
| Known for | Systematizer of Spiritism |
| Spouse | Amélie Gabrielle Boudet (married 1832) |
| Signature |  |

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References

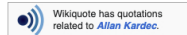
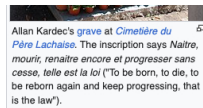
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- ↑ Eliane Rezende Garcia. *A Educação: saber e sabor na relação entre sujeitos?* (In Portuguese). Ponto-e-Virgula, 10: 282–285, 2011. PUC-SP. ISSN 1982-4807 .
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- ↑ Allan Kardec (a), a compilation of short works entitled Christian Spiritism (Philadelphia: Allan Kardec Educational Society, 1985), p. 189
- ↑ Janet Duncan, Translator's Preface to Allan Kardec's The Gospel According to Spiritism (London: Headquarters Publishing, 1987), pp. ix–x
- ↑ *Introduction to the U.S. Latina and Latino Religious Experience?*. Brill Academic Publishers. 2004. ISBN 9780391042407.
- ↑ *Of Wonders and Wise Men: Religion and Popular Cultures in Southeast Mexico, 1800–1876?*. University of Texas Press. 6 March 2009. ISBN 9780292774711.
- ↑ (in Portuguese) *Textos – Allan Kardec?* Archived 2009-12-24 at the Wayback Machine, espirito.org.br; accessed 30 October 2015.
- ↑ Mario Dos Ventos. (2008). *Sea El Santísimo: A Manual for Misa Espiritual & Mediumship Development*. Nzo Quimbanda Exu Ventania, p. 13. ISBN 978-09556-903-0-3
- ↑ *The Medium's Book*, Chapters 8 & 14.
- ↑ Kardec 1860
- ↑ Kardec 1986, 1996, 1999; Moreira-Almeida 2008
- ↑ Kardec 1868, p. 12
- ↑ Spiritism and Mental Health: Practices from Spiritist Centers and Spiritist Psychiatric Hospitals in Brazil. Jessica Kingsley Publishers.
- ↑ Posthumous Works] (26th Ed. FEB, pp. 279-75)
- ↑ Brady Brower. *Unruly Spirits. The Science of Psychic Phenomena in Modern France*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2010. Pp. 17.
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- ↑ Gabriel Dellane. *Le Spiritisme devant la science*. Paris, E. Dentu, 1885.
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- ↑ Raymond Buckland. (2005). *The Spirit Book: The Encyclopedia of Clairvoyance, Channeling, and Spirit Communication*. Visible Ink Press. p. 210; ISBN 978-15785-921-3-5

External links

- The Spirits' Book by Allan Kardec (PDF)
- The Book on Mediums by Allan Kardec (PDF)
- The Gospel According to Spiritism by Allan Kardec (PDF)
- Heaven and Hell by Allan Kardec (PDF)
- Genesis by Allan Kardec (PDF)
- Allan Kardec Educational Society
- ALLAN KARDEC: Free PDF spiritist books in several languages
- Kardec a 2019 film.
- U.S. Spiritist Council
- Allan Kardec Biographic Information
- The Spirits' Book Archived 2005-09-06 at the Wayback Machine by Allan Kardec
- Divulgação de Espiritismo en Argentina de Allan Kardec
- Libros de Espiritismo ^(permanent dead link) de Allan Kardec
- British Union of Spiritist Societies Archived 2014-12-10 at the Wayback Machine
- Works by Allan Kardec at Dominio Público
- Works by Allan Kardec at LibriVox (public domain audiobooks) ◄
- [] by Federação Espirita Brasileira

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