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First prepared in October 2006 by the Survival Research Institute of Canada (Debra Barr and Walter Meyer zu Erpen). Capitalization of any name or subject in the text below indicates that you will find an entry on that topic in the forthcoming third edition of Rosemary Ellen Guiley's *Encyclopedia of Ghosts and Spirits* (October 2007).

Currie, Ian (1936-1992)

Professor and author. Ian Currie was born in Vancouver and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and anthropology, and a Master of Arts degree in sociology, from the University of British Columbia. He went on to do doctoral work in sociology at the University of California at Berkeley and later became a professor at York University, Toronto. In addition to sociology, in collaboration with colleagues in other fields, he taught interdisciplinary courses on the subjects of death and dying. As an academic, Currie received ten scholarships and fellowships, and produced several scholarly publications on subjects relating to sociology and thanatology.

Eventually Currie decided to leave academe in order to become a full-time researcher and writer. In 1978 he published *You Cannot Die: The Incredible Findings of a Century of Research on Death*, which appeared simultaneously in New York and Ontario. Well received, it was reprinted by many different publishers in several countries, including a Playboy Mass Market Paperbacks edition released in 1981.

You Cannot Die investigates the evidence for SURVIVAL AFTER DEATH found across a variety of human experiences including DEATHBED VISIONS, near-death resuscitations, OUT-OF-BODY EXPERIENCES, accounts of MEDIUMSHIP, REINCARNATION stories, APPARITION sightings, POSSESSIONS and HAUNTINGS. Reviews indicated that the book offered a convincing case for the survival of human consciousness beyond death and for the continuing effect of decisions made in this life on events taking place after physical death.

According to Canadian author JOE FISHER, who wrote the foreword to a softcover edition released after Currie's untimely death in 1992, Currie underwent hypnotic past-life regression with Toronto psychiatrist Dr. Joel Whitton, then led past-life therapy sessions himself. He also partnered with medium Carole Davis in responding to GHOST INVESTIGATION requests from their many clients.

After Currie's death, Toronto medium Muriel Williams began CHANNELLING Currie and recording information from the sessions, often received in response to questions posed by her husband Bill Williams. Muriel Williams died in 2003, and

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her husband completed and published her book, *Life in the Spirit World* (2006). Bill Williams had met Currie in 1985 at a meeting of the Association for Past Life Experiences, and they had become close friends. During a period when Currie was ill, they had pledged that whomever passed over first would attempt to make contact through a psychic or medium in order to share knowledge garnered from the world of spirit. Muriel and Bill Williams were both convinced that Currie did indeed return to them through the channelling process. *Life in the Spirit World*, which addresses the nature of the AFTERLIFE, is the result of their three-way collaboration.

Further Reading:

Currie, Ian. *You Cannot Die: The Incredible Findings of a Century of Research on Death*. New York and Toronto: Methuen, 1978.

Currie, Ian, with a foreword by Joe Fisher. *You Cannot Die: The Incredible Findings of a Century of Research on Death*. Toronto: Somerville House, 1993.

Williams, Muriel and Bill. *Life in the Spirit World: The Mind Does Not Die*. Victoria, BC: Trafford Publishing, 2006.