

24th May 2009

Devon

Dear Mr Bouchard,

Thank you for taking the time to consider my application for the position of Librarian at the Magnus Institute. It would be a great opportunity for me, and I hope that my skills and abilities can be of use to the organisation.

I am a very hard-working, conscientious person, who always makes sure that every member of the team is happy and working well together. I am very organised and can manage my time effectively, even under pressure from a heavy workload. I also work well independently and show initiative when pursuing solo projects.

I am very interested in parapsychology, particularly the history of accounts of anomalous phenomena. As a result, I gained a degree from the University of Edinburgh in psychology, and was offered a place on the Master's course, with a focus on parapsychology. The university's Koestler Parapsychology Unit was the perfect place to learn as much as I could about the paranormal and how people react to it.

While I have not experienced any significant paranormal phenomena myself, I have meticulously studied dozens of verified accounts and interviewed various people who believe they have witnessed abnormal events. One account stands out to me as particularly interesting, and was one of the case studies included in my dissertation. I conducted an interview with a man who, when he was a young boy, was told by his father not to go into the garden shed, because there was dangerous equipment in there and he didn't want his son to get hurt. One day, his curiosity got the better of him, and he managed to steal the keys to the shed's padlock. Inside, there was the equipment his father had warned him about, like a chainsaw and a strimmer, but what was much more alarming were the spider's webs that covered every inch of the shed. Just before he closed the door, he heard a chittering sound from a corner of the shed, and saw something black, wet and gleaming out the corner of his eye, but was too scared to investigate further. He didn't tell his father about this incident, but made sure to follow him the next time he went to the shed. Peeking over his shoulder, the shed looked completely normal. Two decades later, he said, he remembered it as if it were yesterday. I took detailed notes about this series of events, and can provide them to the Institute if they would prove useful.

Outside of my academic studies, I have worked as a library assistant at Dawlish Public Library, and then moved to Exeter Public Library where I was promoted to librarian. There I developed my organisational and archiving skills, and ran a weekly poetry night which was open to all and very well attended.

Please take a look at my attached CV for more details on my academic qualifications and work experience, and feel free to contact me for any additional information.

Thank you again for considering my application, and I hope to hear from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Blackwood

JM:

*Well aren't you the eager one,
Mr. Blackwood. Perhaps eager
enough to keep an eye on
Gertrude for me. Will need to
check for cobwebs, by the sound
of it, though his falsehoods
speak more of desperation than
manipulation. Worth an
interview if for no other reason
than to see why he wants to be
here so very badly.*