

became scared and rowed ashore and hid behind a log. Soon they heard the sound of paddles in the water and canoes approaching. One of the canoes, with five men in it, paddled ashore and one of the men said: "What do you think? Let us go up-river and make war against the people."

"I cannot go with you," said one of the young men. "My relatives do not know where I have gone. Besides, I might get killed. But he," said he, turning to the other young man, "will go with you." So one of the young men returned to his village, and the other went up-river with the war-party.

They went to a point beyond Kalama, and the people came down to the river to fight them, and they fought. Soon, the young man heard someone say: "This Indian has been wounded."—"Maybe they are ghosts," he thought, because he felt perfectly OK. The war party suggested leaving, and they left, and the young man went back to his village.

There he lit a fire in front of his abode, sat down to await the sunrise, and told his story to the villagers. "I went with a war-party to make war with the people. There was fierce fighting and many were killed, and many were wounded. They said I was wounded, but I did not feel a thing. Maybe they were ghosts."

He had told it all, and when the sun came up, he gave a little cry. Something black came out of his mouth. He fell over. He was dead.

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## 40 An Adult Eidetiker

Charles F. Stromeyer III

*Stromeyer's "Elizabeth" comes closer to having a literally "photographic" memory than any other memorist ever studied. Though Stromeyer reported few tests of her memory in the conventional sense, he does describe several astonishing feats of visual information storage. As reported here, Elizabeth could combine a stereogram presented to her left eye with the image of a corresponding stereogram seen with her right eye the day before; the result was a figure perceived in depth. "Elizabeth" may be unique. In the dozen years since the publication of this paper, no other such eidetiker has been found.*

Elizabeth is a young teacher at Harvard, very intelligent, a skilled artist. She has a talent that most painters don't have. At will, she can mentally project an exact image of a picture or scene onto her canvas or onto another surface. This hallucinated image appears to contain all of the detailed texture and color of the original. Once the image is formed, it remains still and Elizabeth can move her eyes about to inspect the details.

Elizabeth (not her actual name) says that she can project a beard onto a beardless face, for example, or leaves onto a barren tree—additions so strong that they can obscure the true image. However, she never confuses eidetic images with reality, and spontaneous imagery rarely bothers her.

Her ability to recall and visualize images is not limited to pictures or scenes. Years after having read a poem in a foreign language, she

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