

Senses unknown to us constitute the everyday life of all animals (ultrasonic waves for bats, infrasonic vibrations for whales, individual magnetic fields for reef sharks, or earth's magnetic field for migrating birds, night vision of a prey's body heat for some snakes, pheromones perceptible from long distances for butterflies). In the human race, such perceptions probably exist – although they may be stronger in some individuals than in others and felt more strongly by dint of physical and psychic training. Couldn't an object retain, one way or another, the trace of events in which it would have been involved, or even in which it would have played a determining part? Spectres – for want of a better term –, seen or detected by well-equipped scientific witnesses or mere commoners, could very well be related to electric or magnetic or any other fields, actual or residual presences or traces. Some beings, whether human or not, have a strong, perceptible presence, the mere reflection of an exceptional inner personality. Likewise, some objects have a "charge". On certain photographs, far more than the image is perceptible: the presence of something or someone that is not explicitly represented. In his book *The Last of the Just*, André SCHWART-BART wrote: "Yesterday, as I stood in the street trembling in despair, rooted to the spot, a drop of pity fell from above upon my face, but there was no breeze in the air, no cloud in the sky... There was only a presence." As Shakespeare said: there are more things in heaven and earth than we may perceive.