

# THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

## The History of a Spiritualist Movement

This peer-reviewed study represents a culmination of years of research into the history of the Theosophical Society. In this unique project which combines biographies with source analyses, Jeffrey D. Lavoie records a detailed history of the early Theosophical Society and examines its relationship with the modern Spiritualist movement between the years 1875-1891. Special attention has been paid to some of the neglected figures associated with these organizations including Arthur Lillie- the Gnostic-occultist and early critic of the Theosophical Society; the Davenport Brothers- the Spiritualist mediums who developed many of the standard elements which became associated with modern Spiritualism; Alfred Wallace- the prominent scientist, Spiritualist, and supposed member of the Theosophical Society and many others. This work will appeal to a wide array of readers including those interested in modern religious movements, Western Esotericism, South Asian history, and Victorian studies.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jeffrey D. Lavoie pursued post-graduate studies at Episcopal Divinity School and Harvard University. He has published in various academic journals related to modern religious movements and is presently a doctoral candidate in the history of Western Esotericism at the University of Exeter.