President's Message

Psychologists who acknowledge that the Orgeist, the spirit of a place, affects context and content of thought will not be surprised that a Minnesota landscape in the fall provides the ground for this presidential message. As I reflect upon our Division's three years of existence within APA, several images come to my mind: ripening wheat, almost ready for harvest; the glistening Mississippi, ablaze with sunlight and brightness of shimmering sumach and maples; and lovely, lively spring-fed lakes, each as unique as a fingerprint.

The thrust of our youthful, vigorous, rapidly-growing Division 36 is quite properly toward the future. Our Division's past and present provide much that is valuable for enhancing and enriching its future. Some of our senior members remember their own early efforts some thirty years ago to broaden psychology's horizons at a time when, save for efforts such as theirs, the prevailing psychological outlook was remarkably limited and limiting.

Today, Division 36 is becoming ripe and bright, like the glistening Mississippi in whose waters are reflected the varied colors of fall. Psychologists with many talents from a variety of academic and applied settings find an open, welcoming spirit in Division 36. All psychologists open to the scientific exploration of religious behavior and experience, and to expanded horizons for psychology at large, find in Division 36 a means for sharing their outlook and their hopes.

As I look ahead to my brief turn to serve Division 36 as president, I think of the lovely, lively lakes of the Minnesota landscape. None of these is "just another lake" to those who know them well. My prime aim as president is simply to be a welcoming channel for waters and springs from whatever sources come to me, for whatever will help us toward achieving common aims and constructive hopes for our new division. Our active ongoing committees, ranging from Research and Planning, to Membership, to Program for the next convention, our newsletter as a means of spreading news of our division to interested psychologists all over the continent, and, above all, the ideas and support that each one of our members can bring to our divisional planning will help to make the coming year fruitful and strong. I sincerely hope that this year will be one of planting, growth, and harvest. It will surely mark the nurturing of existing life already growing toward fruition. I will do my level best primarily to be a receptive channel for ideas, insights, and help that in many ways may benefit us all.

Eileen A. Gavin
Message From The Editor

As your newest Newsletter Editor, I come upon my task with some interior butterflies and mounds of positive expectation. Just what ought a newsletter be like — any newsletter? Delectable morsels of newsmongering and heresy? Notices of where, how, and why a particular member of the readership exists, moves about and thinks? The good word about where things are at relative to the sponsoring agency of the newsletter? Sure — all these things! But perhaps something more.

We are, after all, a very special Division of the American Psychological Association. Our members indicate that underneath the multi-colored robes of religion that there are an equal multitude of issues which are of concern to the psychological academy. And it is to these issues that we in the Division express a special interest. An interest which stresses that those many varieties of religious experiences, as well as the variety of impact of our religious institutions have a significant place on the agenda of the professional, academic and research psychologist(s).

Thus I hope that in this Newsletter we can handle the news events of our membership in a way creative for all of us. Recalling a memorable injunction from my favorite saint, Benedict, who thought it good to welcome gossip per se, I pledge that news will fit into the larger service of our charge as a Division and not be mere notations. Benedict wrote: “But if he (the guest) have been found gossipy ... it shall be said to him, honestly, that he must depart. If he does not go, let two stout monks ... explain the matter to him.” I do hope that you will regard this Newsletter as your guest at all times, and check me out on fact and fiction. I don’t want the ultimate fate of Benedict’s careless intruder.

You, of course can help. You can send me your news — reports of promotions, books you think we ought to take note of, research in progress or recently completed, coming events which you feel we should all be alerted to, opportunities for specialized study and fellowships in the psychology of religion, travel you have done which you feel might be of importance to our membership. Please save your Editor from charges of nepotism by keeping his mail bag flowing with what you want said.

We will, of course, try to keep you updated on Divisional activities, programs, elections, special concerns, etc. . . . And here too, your responses will make us more of the community we deserve to be.

Address all of your communications to me at the following address:
  Graduate Division of Pastoral Counseling
  Iona College
  New Rochelle, New York 10801

E. Mark Stern

SAVE THIS INFORMATION:

Inquiries relating to the status of our membership should be sent to:
  Dr. Richard Kahoe (Membership Chair)
  Christian Haven Home — Rt. 1, Box 17
  Wheatfield, Indiana 46392

Nominations for Fellowship in the Division should be mailed to:
  Dr. Howard Lyman (Fellowship Chair)
  University of Cincinnati — Psychology Department
  Cincinnati, Ohio 45221

Information re program participation:
  Dr. Mary Jane Meadow (Program Chair)
  Mankato State University — Dept. of Psychology/Box 35
  Mankato, Minnesota 56001

Input on research and planning
  Dr. Eugene Kennedy (Research and Planning Chair)
  Loyola University Chicago — Psychology Department
  6525 North Sheridan Road
  Chicago, Illinois 60666

Questions concerning ethics and social responsibility:
  Dr. John Dulin (Ethics & Social Responsibility Chair)
  5001 Mayfield Road
  Lyndhurst, Ohio 44124

Planning for Divisional participation in regional meetings:
  Dr. Constance B. Nelson (Regional Meetings Chair)
  1053 Clermont
  Denver, Colorado 80220

Liaison with Committee on Women in Psychology (APA):
  Dr. Carole Ann Rayburn
  535 North Bluff Street
  Berrien Springs, Michigan 49103

Concerns re: revision of Divisional by-laws, consult:
  Dr. Virginia S. Sexton (Revision of Divisional By-Laws Chair)
  Lehman College — Psychology Department
  Bedford Park Blvd, West
  Bronx, New York 10468

Future editions of Newsletter will include more committee information. Other committee chairpeople are being contacted so that we may know better the workings of their assignments.

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REST IN PEACE Dr. Jack Krasner,
Professor in the Graduate Division of
Pastoral Counseling of Iona College,
died after a protracted illness on
October 6, 1978.

PLEASE we need as many of your A.P.A. Council allocation votes. We sure could use all 10!
It Has Come To Our Attention:

that a Comparative Buddhist Studies program is being sponsored by Antioch University International, Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387 in Bodh Gaya, India for the Fall of 1979.

that an annotated bibliography in English on Medical and Social Scientific Research on Yoga and Meditation is available for $4 from the Scandinavian Yoga School, Keysers gt. 4, N-Oslo 1, Norway.

that a fellow of our Division, Dr. Walter Houston Clark, recently lectured on The Power of Religious Experience. Professor Clark, who had been Dean of the Hartford School of Religious Education for ten years and who now teaches an occasional course at Andover Newton Theological School, discussed various types of religious experience with an emphasis on mysticism. Clark believes that many people have experienced the mystical state and that only a few have revealed this fact. He spoke in Newton, Massachusetts under the auspices of Interface, an educational association sponsoring lectures, workshops and classes dealing with religion, psychology and medicine.

that a recent book The Hospice Movement by Sandol Stoddard (New York: Stein and Day, 1977, 266 pp. $8.95) builds on the experience of St. Christopher's in England and various American counterparts. The lessons to be learned from ways of caring for dying patients has a particular relevance to psychologists interested in death as a developmental task.

and that as a correlative of sorts is a new series of cassettes put out by BMA Audio Cassette Publications (200 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10003) dealing with Clinical Advances in Pain Management (co-edited by John V. Basmajian and Wilbert E. Fordyce). A most interesting tape is the one which includes the work of psychologist Thomas H. Budzynski of the Biofeedback Institute of Denver and the University of Colorado Medical School. Inquiries should be addressed to BMA, 200 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10003.

and that additionally we are reminded by Marian C. Diamond, Professor of Anatomy at the University of California at Berkeley (writing in The American Scientist earlier this year) that environmental factors may outweigh brain cell loss in the aging process. She discovered that the higher centers of the mammalian brain do not lose large numbers of nerve cells from maturity to old age as previously believed. Diamond notes that studies by numerous scientists indicate that there is good evidence that drastic structural changes do not occur in the mammalian brain with aging providing the animal lives in a reasonably stimulating environment. In her article “The Aging Brain: Some Enlightening and Optimistic Results,” Diamond cites her own recent research study, in which nerve cells in the cerebral cortices of male rats living three per cage were counted in young, adult, and old rats. No significant loss of cells took place between the adult and old rats, she says. In previous aging studies in which such a loss of cells was indicated, Diamond notes, investigators did not always consider the importance of the environmental living conditions of the aging animals, or of people when they were the objects of study. Diamond argues that if we dare “extrapolate results found in rats to human beings,” then, “as long as the brain is exposed to a stimulating environment, structural changes like brain cell loss are probably less significant than role expectancies, psychosocial relationships, and other environmental factors in determining well-being and personality. In the absence of disease, impoverished environment, or poor nutrition the nervous system apparently does have the potential to oppose marked deterioration with aging.”

and speaking of brain/environment, a book by Gordon Mogens (Somerset, N.J.: Erlbaum/John Wiley, 1978, $14.95) called The Neurobiology of Behavior serves as a fine introductory textbook, incorporating research findings of special interest to psychologists. Sections dealing with the limbic brain, in particular the hypothalamus, bring together research data which hint at psycho/soma interrelationships for sickness and problems of cognition. Good illustrations.

that the January Council vote to discontinue accreditation of graduate programs in psychology given by colleges and universities under religious auspices was overturned in Toronto. This means that the accrediting facility of the American Psychological Association will continue to visit these programs as they had been doing in the past.

Publications Of Interest To Our Membership

We call to your attention the Bulletin of The Council on the Study of Religion which is published in February, April, June, October and December. The publisher, CSR is a federation of learned societies in religion interested in developing greater coordination of the field as a whole. Its stated purpose is to initiate, coordinate and implement projects designed to strengthen and advance scholarship and teaching. Subscriptions are presently $10 a year. Write to CSR Executive Office, Wilfred Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, N2L 3C5.

Synthesis, subtitled The Journal of Ideas and Practice for Those Seeking Self-Realization was founded by the late Roberto Assagioli, M.D., the originator of Psychosynthesis. It is a new kind of journal "to answer a new kind of need." Synthesis publishes the thoughts and findings of leading figures in psychology, education and philosophy, selected for their contributions to the understanding and practical implementation of the process of growth: emotional, intellectual, interpersonal and spiritual. Subscriptions are $12 for one year (two issues) and should be sent to Synthesis Press, 830 Woodside Road, Redwood City, California 94061.

Divisional members might be interested in the work of the Hastings Center: Institute of Society, Ethics and the Life Sciences.
Several Vintage Books:

Such as:

*The General Next to God* which is the story of William Booth and the Salvation Army. (London: Collins, 1965, 25 British shillings at time of publication) The story of General William Booth and his Salvation Army is dramatic to the point of melodrama. Salvationists were hunted through the streets by armed mobs in London during those early years around 1865. Their meeting places brunt down and destroyed. The authorities used every known trick and subterfuge to malign the Army. But things were to change, and the Salvationists gradually grew to a time of tolerated respectability. The man Booth confronted prisons and prostitutes. It was through this fortitude that women rose in the ranks to be every bit the equal of men. For psychologists interested in the vitality of the evangelical movement, *The General Next to God* provides and excellent vantage point for understanding several varieties of social religious experience.

Of those many newer spiritual seers on the American scene, one name stands out as transplanting a primary religious tradition to the American soil. Chogyam Trungpa, the eleventh Trungpa Tulka tells of his early years in Tibet — through an exodus which ultimately led him to flee to Yankee soil. Chogyam Trungpa was born “prophetically” during the New Year Festival on the day of the full moon in the Earth Hare year of the Tibetan calendar — February, 1939 He was thought to be an incarnate Lama of elevated rank. This book follows his life from the age of thirteen months when he was installed as supreme abbot of the Surmang monasteries. He was educated along ancient lines in seminaries and meditational centers. Then Communist pressures forced his escape first to India, then to Britain and America. Chogyam Trungpa remains a teacher in this culture and has tried to gain and make use of a combination of psychotherapeutic and spiritual practices. The book is called *Born in Tibet* and published in paperback (New York: Penguin Books, 1968) and is still available from larger paperback booksellers as well as from the publisher. Significant reading from psychologists wanting a very different sense of an historical reapproachment between Eastern religious practices and introspective psychotherapy.

And if at all possible, try to get a copy of the English language edition of *Buddhism in China* published by The Buddhist Association of China in Peking in 1960. The author, Chao Pu-Chu was then, or is now, Vice-President and General Secretary of the Buddhist Association of China. This brief book seeks to place social collectivism in some spiritual perspective. In his exploration, various forms of Buddhism which flourish in contemporary China, Chao cites the *Avatamsaka-sutra*: “All living beings are the roots of a tree, while the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas are the flowers and fruits of the tree. When the living beings are benefited with the water of *Maya karuna* then the fruits of *prajna* of all Buddhas and Bodhisattvas can be fructified. Therefore, Bodhi belongs to the living beings.” The sense of water as both an agent of cleansing and a sign of entry into the spiritual community affords a view of a common spiritual core which should not be lightly dismissed by psychologists of religious experience.