

## Science/Philosophy of Science

***The Whispering Pond* by Ervin Laszlo Element Books 1996, 250 pp., £12.99, p/b.** Paperback version of Ervin's book reviewed in No. 63, p. 41.

***Instinct and Revelation - Reflections on the Origins of Numinous Perception* by Alondra Yvette Oubré Gordon and Breach Publishers 1997, 299 pp., £37.00, h/b.** Subtitled 'reflections on the origins of numinous perception, this impressive study proposes that proto-transcendent experiences may have played an important role in the biological evolution of the hominid brain. The author surveys the dawn of consciousness and the evolution of the brain with special emphasis on the possible role played by ingestion of psychotropic plants and chanting. She sees humanity evolving towards a wider transcendent awareness beyond xenophobic isolation and speculates that a bias towards numinous awareness may eventually be genetically encoded thus reinforcing its role in biocultural evolution.

***On the Way to Understanding the Time Phenomenon: the Constructions of Time in Natural Science. Part 1* by A P Levich World Scientific Publishing Co. Ltd 1995, 206 pp., h/b.** Two technical volumes on time in science. The first is an interdisciplinary study in physics, biology, mathematics and earth sciences, and the second a discussion of the active properties of time according to N.A. Kozyrev. Really only within reach of specialists.

***The Pattern on the Stone* by W. Daniel Hillis Weidenfeld and Nicholson 1998, 164 pp., £12.99, h/b.** A readable popular account of the principles behind the operation of computers, dealing with programming language, algorithms, memory and new developments in quantum computing, neural networks and self-organising systems.

***The Golem at Large - what you should know about technology* by Harry Collins and Trevor Pinch Cambridge University Press 1998, 163 pp., h/b.** Subtitled 'what you should know about technology', this is the companion volume to 'The Golem'. It shows how the imperfections of technology are related to the uncertainties of science described in the first volume, and also uses a series of illustrative case studies: problems with patriot missiles and the Challenger disaster, radioactive fallout from Chernobyl (taken as paradigmatic of the way in which the UK government reacts to health scares), macroeconomic modelling forecasts and the use of lay expertise in AIDS research. Each case is followed by its own conclusion, although a number of themes are developed throughout, such as 'evidential context', which colours the interpretation of findings. Another highly readable volume.

***The Golem: What You Should Know about Science* by Harry Collins and Trevor Pinch Cambridge University Press 1993, 192 pp., p/b.** Second updated edition of a book reviewed in these pages in 1996. Deliberately designed to highlight issues in controversial science. The book takes a series of case studies on subjects such as early relativity experiments, cold fusion and the non-detection of gravitational radiation. It shows that scientific certainty 'is the interpretation of ambiguous results'. The relativity chapter has been revised in the light of discussions ensuing from the first edition, and an informative new afterword has been written that highlights issues raised by scientific fundamentalists who can't stand analysis from philosophy and sociology of science. Highly readable and lives up to its new subtitle - what you should know about science.

***Questioning Technology* by Andrew Feenberg Routledge 1999, 243 pp., £14.99, p/b.** A technical introduction to the philosophy of technology arguing that technological design is

central to modern social and political structures. One only has to consider transport and household gadgets to appreciate this point of view. Written more for professionals than a lay audience.

***The Design Inference* by William A. Dembski Cambridge University Press 1998, 243 pp., £35.00, h/b.** A highly acclaimed technical monograph asking how we can identify events due to intelligent causes and those due to undirected natural causes. The author proposes his solution as 'the design inference' by isolating the key to intelligent causation as specified events of small probability. He ranges over complexity and probability theory arguing that undirected causes are incomplete within science. It is in this way that he reformulates classical design arguments. Mainly written for philosophers and scientists concerned with epistemological and probability issues.

***Brain Mystery Light and Dark* by Charles Don Keyes Routledge 1999, 164 pp., p/b.** A systematic and sophisticated attempt to produce a model of consciousness arguing that the spiritual dimension of life is compatible with scientific naturalism. The author dismisses the kind of gross reductionism associated with an epiphenomenal view by insisting not only on brain-mind identity but also that the monistic position can attest consciousness as the subjective dimension of neurobiological processes. This makes the soul into a process. Where he goes further than his colleagues is in arguing that his scientific naturalism does not invalidate the spiritual dimension of life in the form of ethics, religion and aesthetics. He develops this thesis in some detail on the basis of Kant's distinction between empirical and symbolic knowledge and in a way that will satisfy readers who wish to remain materialists while at the same time acknowledging the significance of the inner life. However, nowhere does the author step out of his epistemological box and consider the wide range of parapsychological and other anomalies that might upset his neat monistic framework. It all makes sense within a set of self-imposed limitations shared by almost the whole scientific community. We are all searching for an overall unitive framework for consciousness but it cannot be found only within the physical realm. Nevertheless, this is an engaging and highly readable work.

***The Becoming: Notes on the Evolution of a Small Planet* by Robert Fripp John Hunt Publishing 1998, 162 pp., £7.99, p/b.** An intriguing and erudite book by a science writer that recreates Genesis in the light of modern cosmology (or cosmography, to be precise. The author rewrites the creation story in 62 verses then provides an informative commentary on each verse, drawing on a wide range of scientific and religious sources. An enjoyable read that combines imagination with well grounded scientific theory.

***Time of our Lives* by Tom Kirkwood Weidenfeld & Nicolson 1999, 277 pp., £20.00, h/b.** A very readable account of ageing in which the author advances his own 'disposable soma' theory. He argues that our genes have evolved to squander energy on high levels of maintenance and repair of bodily tissues that might allow us to live 'for ever' owing to the evolutionary pattern of our lives being cut short; also that women are less disposable than men with respect to bringing up children, which may go some way towards understanding why they live longer. He shows how there is no overall programming for ageing and lucidly explains the process at organ, cellular and molecular levels, arguing that feedback from errors is the primary reason why we age - though there is no single mechanism at work. The book is as informative as it is entertaining.

***The Symbiotic Planet: a New Look at Evolution* by Lynn Margulis Weidenfeld and Nicholson 1998, 146 pp., £12.99, h/b.** An engaging account of the author's work in evolutionary biology and her championing of symbiosis and the Gaia hypothesis. She recounts her own intellectual autobiography and argues that symbiosis is crucial to the origins of evolutionary novelty. Takes the reader all the way up the scale to the Earth, itself regarded as symbiosis seen from space. Probably the best introduction to her work.

***Breakthrough: The Origins of Mind, Space and Time!* by Cornelis Slenters (SMN) ABC & E Publishing SA 1996, 188 pp., p/b.** This book is an accessible explanation of the author's theory of life and mind. He describes a number of principles such as the 'Great Scaling Pattern', interconnectedness and adaptive loops that underlie the phenomena of the physical and non-physical realms. He sees the unity underlying everything and argues that consciousness is primary. He also discusses the creative role of the subconscious and compares his insights with those of the Seth material. The book presents an integrated understanding and challenges the reader to tap the creative resources of the subconscious mind. See web site for orders:

***Toward a Democratic Science* by Richard Harvey Brown Yale University Press 1998, 283 pp., h/b.** Subtitled 'scientific narration and civic communication', this book starts from the premise that science is a rhetorical and narrative activity and that expert knowledge is always a form of power. This interfaces with his contention that power and knowledge shape each other and has implications for environmental activism. He does not thereby relativise science but seeks to place it within a broader context that includes moral responsibility.

***The Twilight of the Gene* by John Pugsley Janus Publishing Company 1998, 240 pp., £9.95, p/b.** A multi-disciplinary study arguing that our current destructive behaviour originates with dominating tendencies inherited from our hunter ancestors. The author suggests that we need to modify our survival strategies through cultural development and achieve a balance in the nature-nurture debate. A book of considerable breadth that enables the reader to take a long view of our situation and appreciate how many fronts we now need to act upon.

### **Medicine/Health**

***The Healing Energies of Water* by Charlie Ryrie Gaia Books Ltd 1998, 159 pp., £12.99, p/b.** To read this book is not only to be reminded of the sacred significance of water and its importance for our health but also to have one's eyes opened to water's multiple dimensions and to appreciate as never before. The accompanying photos are quite stunning. If you are looking for a single book on all aspects of water, this is it.

***1,001 Health Tips* Edited by Stephanie Wienrich & Nicholas Albery The Institute for Social Inventions 1998, 108 pp., £6.95, p/b.** Derived from recent medical research, this book contains just what its title suggests - tips on health that are easily memorised and applied. Divided into a number of sub-sections, some specifically aimed at men, women and children, the reader will be surprised by some of the suggestions: dark chocolate may protect against heart disease; and teeth knocked out in a sports injury can be replanted for up to 24 hours if kept in milk! Makes fascinating dip reading.

***The Complete Book of Ayurvedic Home Remedies* by Vasasnt Lad Piatkus Books 1998, 326 pp., £12.99, p/b.** An authoritative guide to this tradition by a leading practitioner and lecturer. Defines Ayurveda as the art of living in harmony with nature. Well designed as a

self-help manual, the book outlines its philosophy and shows how it can be used in practical ways to enhance one's lifestyle by using techniques for maintaining health as well as specific breathing, meditation and dietary guidelines. The second half contains a comprehensive encyclopedia of illnesses and remedies.

***Companion Encyclopedia of the History of Medicine - 2 volumes by W F Bynum and Roy Porter Routledge 1997, 778 pp., £65.00, p/b.*** The title should perhaps have specified 'mainly Western' but this is a superb compilation. As the editors observe: 'Beyond argument, the seventy-two essays comprise the best and biggest body of expert research and interpretation in the history of medicine currently available'. The seven parts are: the place of medicine, body systems, theories of life, health and disease, understanding disease (with comparative examples), clinical medicine, medicine and society, medicine, ideas and culture. The themes within these parts are too numerous to mention, and all essays are referenced and give lists of further reading. As the BMJ review put it: 'a leisurely and intellectually enriching companion for life.

***Dr Bach's Flower Remedies and The Chakras by Philip Salmon and Anna Jeffroy Energy Works 1998, 122 pp., £8.99, p/b.*** With a foreword by Member Peter Rendel, this book introduces the authors' experience of using certain flower remedies to correspond with the functions of different chakras. They refer to the 'journey of consciousness through the body', stressing how important it is that the flow be unimpeded. Contains useful insights for flower remedy practitioners.

***Biorhythms - a Step-by-Step Guide by Peter West Element Books 1999, 60 pp., £4.99, h/b.*** An informative guide to our three main biorhythms - physical, emotional and mental, which can help the reader make the most of their cycles in relation to their lifestyle patterns and those of partners. Contains information to enable you to calculate your own.

***One Renegade Cell: the Quest for the Origins of Cancer by Robert Weinberg Weidenfeld and Nicholson 1998, £12.99, h/b.*** An informative book by a leading cancer researcher about the origins of the disease and the prospects for progress on its cure. Analyses the cellular mutations as well as environmental causes. Sees the future not just in terms of improved understanding of the cellular clock but also maintains that the largest decreases will come from prevention.

***Ethics and Values in Health Care Management by Souzy Dracopoulou Routledge 1998, 200 pp., £14.99, p/b.*** Asks if morality and health service management are compatible and argues the case on both sides. Some believe that the goals set for healthcare constitute in themselves a moral framework while others argue that the implementation of morality within a tight economic framework is simply not feasible. Contains case studies from France, Greece and Poland.

***Healers and Healing by Roy Stemman Piatkus Books 1999, 232 pp., £12.99, h/b.*** A very good general introduction to healers and healing by a writer with extensive personal experience and knowledge in the field. Combines history and case studies, theory and practice in a readable overall survey of the field that draws on a rich variety of sources.

***House Calls by Patch Adams Robert D. Reed 1998, 157 pp., \$11.95, p/b.*** A most unusual book by an equally unusual doctor. Patch Adams combines his medical practice with clowning, and has brought laughter and healing to people around the world. The book consists of two main parts - thoughts on being well and things a visitor can do. This is

subdivided into qualities and strategies respectively, each with practical advice and illustrated by cartoons. The lengthy bibliography at the end comes as something of a surprise after the laconic writing in the book - Patch assures us that we have got off lightly when we have not been overwhelmed with references! Not every reader will want to become a clown, but the book will help you lighten up.

***Environmental Health* by Ed. Susan Brown Butterworth-Heinemann 1999, 236 pp., £30, h/b.** This controversial book has been put together by the European Science and Environment Forum, which aims to provide the public with scientific analysis representing viewpoints not often properly aired in public debate. The basic thrust of the book is that health priorities in the developed world are not always appropriate to the developing countries and that the export of attitudes can sometimes be disastrous. Among the issues considered are the relationship between chlorination and cholera, DDT and control of malaria, risks of cancer from environmental toxins, and effects of nitrates on drinking water. The socio-political context is analysed in depth. A provocative read.

***Women's Bodies Women's Wisdom* by Christiane Northrup Piatkus Books 1998, 836 pp., £16.99, p/b.** Dr. Christine Page writes: This is a book that should be on the shelf of every health care professional and every woman who is interested in appreciating the beauty of the female form and its innate wisdom. Written by Dr. Christiane Northrup who is a highly respected Gynaecologist and Obstetrician, the reader is allowed to experience the true essence of Holistic Care. She manages to present complex medical text in an easy-to-understand manner intertwining physiological teachings with deep esoteric meaning. By providing a historical perspective to the repression of the feminine essence, any woman would feel that, at last, she is being given permission to enjoy her body, her feelings and her rhythms and to honour the precious gift of creativity. The latest addition of the book has been updated to include a nutritional chapter, the latest review on the menopause and hormone replacement and European resources for many natural treatments. The case histories alone provide valuable information and support the enormous contribution to women's health being offered by Dr. Northrup.

***Antimicrobial Resistance Issues and Options* by Workshop Report - Institute of Medicine National Academy Press 1998, 115 pp., £17.95, p/b.** A workshop report covering a meeting on this important topic as it appears in the US. The treatment is comprehensive and is essential reading not only for clinicians but also for legislators as the issues and policy options are set out with great conciseness and clarity.

***The Encyclopedia of Healing Plants* by Chrissie Wildwood Judy Piatkus (Publishers) Ltd 1998, 271 pp., £14.99, p/b.** A book spelling out an approach to aromatherapy, flower essences and herbal remedies that gives a history of botanic medicine and details of the chemistry of medicinal plants as well as a directory and advice on the cultivation of health. Authoritative treatment except where it strays beyond the author's expertise in asserting that mind is in the realm of quantum reality when discussing the results of Jacques Benveniste.

### **Philosophy/Religion**

***God, Religion and Reality* by Stephen R. L. Clark SPCK 1998, 177 pp., £17.99, p/b.** A wide-ranging philosophical study drawing on Western thinking from the Greeks onwards to fashion a defence of Christian theism against the inroads made by secular thinking. Densely

argued and asserting that much atheistic thought is actually underpinned by theism. Mainly of interest to readers concerned with the philosophy of Christianity.

***O Lanoo - The Secret Doctrine Unveiled* by Harvey Tordoff Findhorn Press 1999, £8.95, p/b.** Subtitled 'The Secret Doctrine Revealed', this book is a remarkable verse distillation of Blavatsky's famous but impenetrable opus. Lanoo is a Sanskrit term for a seeker after truth. The author was financial director of a computer company until the late 80s, when he bailed out and retreated to the Lake District. The book is divided into stanzas and verses covering the seven creations and the journey of the pilgrim soul. The language is limpid and charged with meaning, making it a masterpiece of condensed transposition. Highly recommended.

***The Evolutionary Mind* by Rupert Sheldrake (SMN), Terence McKenna, Ralph Abraham Triologue Press 1998, 193 pp., p/b.** The second in the series of incredibly stimulating exchanges between three original thinkers who have been talking together since they met in 1982. Coming as they do from the different disciplines of mathematics, ethology and biology but with a transdisciplinary reach and passion, their conversation freely ranges over themes of concern to us all at the turn of the century: the role of grassroots science, computers and the web, time, fractals, the heavens and millenarianism; plus a couple of chapters about Rupert's more current work on psychic pets and homing pigeons. One of the most interesting dialogues, towards the end of the book, stems from a letter from Bede Griffiths about the transcendent unity beyond multiplicity that leads into a discussion about the differences between a cyclical Platonic view and a linear evolutionary one. Reading the book is a way of listening in on a conversation one might have wished to have had oneself!

***Science Meets Faith* by Ed. Fraser Watts (SMN) SPCK 1998, 166 pp., £12.99, p/b.** A stimulating series of essays that introduces the thinking of some less well known writers in the field: Sir Alan Cook on uncertainties in science, and a stimulating piece on the neuropsychology of religion by Eugene d'Aquili and Richard Newberg. The latter piece focuses on the neurological substrate to cultural phenomenology and specifically on the issues of the imposition of control over the external world and the drive for an increased sense of unity in altered states of consciousness. There is also a very fine piece by Mary Hesse examining the question of whether science is the new religion. Can be recommended to general readers and specialists alike

***Radical Orthodoxy* by John Milbank, Catherine Pickstock and Graham Ward Routledge 1999, 285 pp., £14.99, p/b.** A vigorous collection of essays offering a critique of modernity on the basis that it represents a perverse theology, creates a false opposition between reason and revelation, leads inexorably to nihilism by bracketing out God. They situate the material and temporal realms in a participation in the transcendent. The essays are orthodox in the sense that they represent a commitment to credal Christianity and radical not only in returning to roots but also in rethinking tradition and using this reformulation to criticise modern society.

***Nicholas of Cusa* by Bernard McGinn Paulist Press 1997, \$24.95, p/b.** A new volume in the Classics of Western Spirituality series that represents the definitive introduction to the work of Nicholas of Cusa. Contains his principal mystical writings and a scholarly introduction setting him in the context of his time. His best known phrases 'learned ignorance' and 'the coincidence of opposites' have passed into common usage, and his influence on our century ranges from David Bohm to C.G. Jung. The ground of his theology is thoroughly mystical: 'it is necessary that everyone who desires to ascend to the divine way rise above all imaginable

and intelligible ways'. This is being beyond knowing and not-knowing. God is seen as enfolding all in the same way that all concepts are embraced by the concept of infinity.

***Christian Healing: What can we believe?* by Ernest Lucas Lynx Communications 1997, 202 pp., £12.99, p/b.** An illuminating book that arose from a number of consultations with Christian health care professionals, pastoral workers, theologians and ethicists and chaired by Sir John Houghton. It is a unique and ground-breaking book that really spells out a Christian perspective on healing. Each chapter is written jointly by a medical professional and someone with theological expertise and takes a number of formats, sometimes with complementary conclusions and feedback on each other's observations. Topics include the relationship between medical and spiritual in healing, the nature of health, Jesus's healing ministry, suffering, psychiatry and religion, and old age and dying. At the end there is a useful consensus statement.

***Francis Bacon, Herald of the New Age* by Peter Dawkins (SMN) Francis Bacon Research Trust 1997, 110 pp., p/b.** A revealing and scholarly book about Bacon that presents a radically new picture of the man and his work. Although known as one of the originators of modern empirical science, the author shows how even this work has been misunderstood owing to a literal interpretation of some of his work. Bacon is revealed as a student and exponent of Ancient Wisdom with a far-reaching mission to bring Love-Wisdom into our culture. Peter also adduces evidence that Bacon was the author of the Shakespearean plays and played an important role in the establishment of Rosicrucianism in

***The Complete Guide to World Mysticism* by Timothy Freke & Peter Gandy Piatkus Books 1997, 160 pp., £10.99.** A reliable and well illustrated survey of the field with fine sidebar quotations. Covers the main mystical traditions as well as mysticism outside religion and its practical implications for living.

***Science & Theology* by John Polkinghorne SPCK 1998, 144 pp., £10.99, p/b.** A superb and concise introductory textbook arising out of a course given by the author as visiting professor at the General Theological Seminary in New York. The book could only have been written by one so familiar with the field that he is able to lay out and summarise issues in the clearest possible fashion. Interesting additions to the author's previous work in the field include a chapter on consciousness and another on world faiths. Highly recommended.

***Immortal Longings* by Fergus Kerr SPCK 1997, 212 pp., £12.99, p/b.** A fairly technical book that examines the implicit theological commitments of a number of modern thinkers such as Nussbaum, Heidegger, Cavell and Charles Taylor, showing their concern with issues of transcendence but lack of understanding of the theological dimension.

***Suppressed Prayers; Gnostic Spirituality in Early Christianity* by Gerd Ludemann and Martina Janssen SCM Press 1998, 174 pp., £14.95, p/b.** A fascinating collection of newly translated prayers and hymns from Gnostic spirituality and early Christianity, including material from the Hermetic corpus. Each piece is preceded by a few words of introduction from the editors. The book originated from Lüdemann's 1996 book *Heretics: The Other Side of Early Christianity*.

***Philosophy of Religion: a contemporary introduction* by Keith E. Yandell Routledge 1999, p/b.** An admirably lucid and even-handed introduction to the philosophy of religion. Clearly set out and argued, it provides questions for reflection at the end of each section plus annotated further reading. It deals with the relations between philosophy and religion,

doctrine, pluralism, religious conceptions of ultimate reality, arguments concerning monotheistic and non-monotheistic conceptions, religion and morality, faith and reason. This last chapter is particularly worth reading as it contains a logical refutation of scientism. An exemplary piece of well written and rigorously argued work.

***I Ching* by Wilhelm/Baynes Princeton University Press 1997, 0 pp., p/b.** An amazing development of the Wilhelm-Baynes I Ching in multimedia form. Easy to install, the programme puts you right in the atmosphere of ancient China and enables you to read and print out lectures on the oracle as well as to consult the image, lines and judgement of a particular hexagram. A fascinating example of the use of new technology.

***Russell on Ethics* by Charles Pigden Routledge 1999, 257 pp., £12.99, p/b.** Aims to present Russell as an ethical theorist to add to his reputation as a practical moralist. The introduction places him in the developments of his time and is followed by essays and extracts from his books spanning the period from 1888 to 1946. Some of the earliest essays were written for Sidgwick in Cambridge. Russell remarks that one of his essays is 'the best bit of work I ever did in the way of close reasoning, though there are several fallacies in it that Sidgwick has spotted'. Excellent introductory notes by the editor. Required reading for students of Russell's work.

***The Physics of Angels* by Matthew Fox & Rupert Sheldrake (SMN) Harper Collins Publishers Ltd 1997, 226 pp., £9.99, p/b.** A most unusual book in which theologian Matthew Fox and biologist Rupert Sheldrake discuss the Western tradition of angelic beings. They had originally been fascinated by the parallels between the way that Aquinas spoke of angels and Einstein of photons - in terms of their locomotion, agelessness and masslessness. After a wide-ranging historical introduction, they take key passages from Dionysius the Areopagite, Aquinas himself and Hildegard of Bingen, using them as points of departure for commentary and analysis. The significance of the book lies in its articulation of our culture's reopening inwards towards invisible realms whose existence had been denied for three centuries by mechanistic

***Illuminated Prayers* by Marianne Williamson Rider and Company 1997, 103 pp., h/b.** A beautifully produced and moving book of prayers from one of America's most inspirational writers and speakers.

***A Horizon of Kindly Light* by Jan Kerkhofs SCM Press 1999, 242 pp., £14.95, p/b.** A richly textured book that traces light as the goal of the religious and philosophical quest. It illustrates the longing for light through the testimony of mystics and poets as well as literary figures like Dostoevsky. The author covers the gospels, early Christianity, the great mediaeval mystics, Pascal, Newman Teilhard de Chardin and even Hammarskjöld. He moves on to other experiences and in the final chapter makes a plea for a more transparent society.

***Logic* by Paul Tomassi Routledge 1999, 411 pp., £14.99, p/b.** A superb and highly accessible introduction to formal logic that will surely come as a relief to new generations of students at Scottish universities, where this is still a compulsory course for many students. The author lectures in the subject at Aberdeen.

***The Mind of Society* by Yvon Provençal Gordon and Breach Publishers 1998, 112 pp., £29.00, h/b.** An original work that sets out the principles of 'ideometry' as a way of classifying ideas and their relationships. After defining its own terminology, it draws up correspondences between ideas in physics, biology and anthropology before moving on to



use an inversion of Minsky's 'society of mind' into a consideration of the development of the mind of society as a Teilhardian noosphere. Here he compares the growth of science with the extension of awareness. A stimulating book.

***Philosophy - The Classics* by Nigel Warburton Routledge 1998, 222 pp., £8.99, p/b.** At first sight this is an absolutely standard tour of Western philosophical classics from Plato onwards but it actually does more than this. It summarises the main points of the text then sets out frequent criticisms made of it. It also provides a glossary of terms and a list of further reading as well as some dates - these are a rather too brief, in my view as they consist of little more than the date and place of birth and death, plus the date of publication of the text in question. A highly accessible introduction.

***A Barfield Reader - Selections from the Writings of Owen Barfield* by G B Tennyson Floris Books 1998, 191 pp., £14.99, p/b.** Some readers may be familiar with the writings of Barfield and his concepts of original and final participation in the evolution of consciousness, explained in his book 'Saving the Appearances'. This reader introduces the whole range of Barfield's thinking ranging from literature through aesthetics and philosophy. An excellent and timely book presenting a man whose work was admired by the likes of C.S. Lewis and T.S. Eliot.

***The Last Pope - The Decline and fall of the Church of Rome* by John Hogue Element Books 1998, 403 pp., £16.99, h/b.** Subtitled 'the decline and fall of the Church of Rome', this fascinating study deals with the prophecies of the 12th century Irish bishop St. Malachy about the papal succession. Each pope was characterised by a motto and the author gives a brief account of his reign, commenting on the aptness or otherwise of the motto. As Judgement Day was expected in 2000, it is not surprising that we find ourselves two sequences away from the last Pope. The current Pontiff is 'De Labore Solis' while the next is 'De Gloria Olivae' and the last 'Petrus Romanus'. Some comparisons are drawn with other seers, and a good deal of space is devoted to the current pope and his succession.

***Ponder on This - A Compilation* by Alice A Bailey Lucis Publishing Company 1971, 431 pp., p/b.** For those looking for an introduction to the teachings of Alice Bailey, this is the book. It is thematically arranged with short extracts in 186 sections so that it can be dipped into or read more sequentially - fully referenced.

***Beauty of the Beloved - a Henri J M Nouwen Anthology* by Robert A Jonas Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd. 1998, 212 pp., £8.95, p/b.** Many readers will be familiar with the writings of the Catholic priest Henri Nouwen. Here is an anthology with a sympathetic biographical introduction and a careful selection from his writings. His spirituality shines through and the extracts make for good contemplative reading with many practical suggestions on the spiritual life.

***The Metamorphosis of the Given* by Friedemann Schwarzkopf ABC Enterprises 1995, 210 pp..** Subtitled 'toward an ecology of consciousness', this book is a penetrating epistemological analysis of what is and is not given in traditional philosophy. It contends that 'one cannot understand reality unless one considers this faculty of giving and finding meaning as part of reality'. Hence, 'as soon as we discover our own activity as a constituent of the "given", the given undergoes change'. This is the metamorphosis of the title. The book follows in the footsteps of Goethe and Steiner in developing a rigorous analysis of participatory reality with reference to the Western philosophical mainstream.

***Testing the Global Ethic* by Ed. Peggy Morgan (SMN) and Marcus Braybrooke Co-Nexus Press 1998, 165 pp., £11.99, p/b.** A development from work already done on the global ethic, but this time with an emphasis on producing a textbook for classroom use. The book succeeds admirably in this aim. The different sections give views from major world religions plus the Baha'is, Rastafarians and Brahma Kumaris. They address the question of what it is to be fully human, then their understanding of the four directives of the global ethic formulated at the World Parliament of Religions in 1993. At the end is a chapter giving a non-religious viewpoint and a useful resource directory. Recommended for teachers and as an introduction.

***Your Spiritual Journey A guide to the River of Life* by Ruth White Piatkus Books 1995, 152 pp., £8.99, p/b.** Subtitled 'A guide to the river of life', this intuitively and psychologically based book builds on the author's earlier work as a sensitive and counsellor. It distils much of her experience into a series of self-help exercises for each stage of life. Ruth's guide, Gildas, contributes his own insights to the unfolding process.

***Rethinking Theology and Science Six Models for the Current* by Niels H. Gregersen & J. Wentzel Van Huyssteen Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 1998, 240 pp., £15.99, p/b.** Subtitled 'Six models for the current dialogue', this book is rather technical but can be recommended to specialists in the field as a significant development from the introductory level. The six authors, including Member Fraser Watts, each put forward a different view, some with intimidating titles like 'nonintegrative pragmatism' and a 'contextual coherence theory'. Fraser's piece presents a complementarity model based on his analysis of the mind-body problem.

***World Mythology* by Ed. Roy Willis (SMN) Piatkus Books 1993, 320 pp., £14.99, p/b.** A truly impressive scholarly volume. Roy Willis, a social anthropologist, introduces the book, discussing the nature of myth and moving on to look at the great themes of myth such as creation, supernatural beings, heroes, body and soul, and kinship. The book has wonderfully rich illustrations and the other contributors, all authorities in their fields, provide insights into myths the world over. A classic work.

***Mani, the Angel and the Column of Glory and Anthology of Manichean Texts* by Andrew Welburn Floris Books 1998, 296 pp., £25.00.** An anthology of Manichean texts collected by the author of a number of works on early Christianity already reviewed on these pages. He points out that the Manichean stream lasted until the extinction of the Cathars in the 13th century and that there has been a widespread renewal of interest since the scroll discoveries in the last fifty years. The book contains some wonderful passages with an informative commentary showing up the relationship between Christianity and Mani's 'religion of light'.

### **Psychology/Parapsychology**

***Freud and the Neurosciences* by Ed Giselher Guttman & Inge Scholz-Strasser Austrian Academy of Sciences 1998, 116 pp., p/b.** A series of papers arising from a conference considering Freud's path from brain research to the unconscious. The basic contention is that his early physiological studies gave him an epistemological orientation that was subsequently carried over, partly by metaphor, into his later work. New territory required a new language, but terms are inevitably carried over from one area to another. The authors consider that this early work of Freud forms a bridge to more modern forms of psychotherapy. Contains a very well written essay by Oliver Sachs.

***Insight Meditation: The Practice of Freedom* by Joseph Goldstein Newleaf 1999, 179 pp., £8.99, p/b.** Penetrating reflections on Buddhist meditation from one of its foremost teachers

***How To Defend Yourself Against Alien Abduction* by Ann Druffel Judy Piatkus (Publishers) Ltd 1998, 225 pp., 8.99, p/b.** An unusual book based on in-depth research with dozens of people who have experienced attempted abductions, whatever one is to understand by the term. The author details nine techniques that can be used to fend off intruders, including mental and physical struggle, protective rage and appeal to spiritual personages.

***Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom Doubleday 1997, 192 pp., p/b.** This is a remarkable little book that goes to the heart of life and death and has been warmly endorsed by Bernie Siegel, M. Scott Peck and Jon Kabat-Zinn. A journalist sees his old sociology professor on a TV chat show talking about life with a terminal illness and makes contact with him. The result is a touching series of conversations in which the dying older man conveys his wisdom and courage to the younger one in a way that can speak to everyone. The wish to be younger, says Morrie, is a reflection of an unfulfilled life that has found no meaning: life is about growth. Buy one for yourself and a few for your friends.

***The System in Which We Live* by Arthur Oram (SMN) Talbot Books 1998, 295 pp., p/b.** A systematic work that proposes a multidimensional model for how our present existence fits into a wider framework embracing continuity of consciousness after physical death. It considers many aspects of psi and mysteries including the influence of discarnate minds, reincarnation, precognition and the nature of memory and time. The author is very well read and has fifty years of experience in the field, including a close involvement in the sittings attempting to establish communication with Robert Thouless, a psychologist who had left a message to decode after his death. He appears to have found himself in the frustrating position of finding that the mind worked in a different way than he anticipated so he could not crack his own code! The chapters on survival are of special interest and raise the basic question of the relationship and interaction between the physical or 4D and what the author calls the HD world.

***The Idea of Consciousness* by Max R Bennett Harwood Academic Publishers 1997, 176 pp., £14.50, p/b.** Subtitled 'synapses and the mind', this book is a thorough and well informed discussion of the neuroscience of consciousness. It assesses the extent to which neuroscience has succeeded in explaining consciousness by examining how the contents of the mind supposedly arise from the workings of synaptic connections. Written from within academic orthodoxy, the survey covers qualia and semantics, the role of neuronal groups, consciousness of movement, distortions of consciousness, evolution of consciousness, and consciousness and quantum mechanics. Very lucid within its self-imposed limits.

***Journey to Freedom* by Leslie Kenton Harper Collins Publishers Ltd 1998, 351 pp., £16.99, h/b.** Subtitled 13 quantum leaps for the soul, this book charts a 13-week course to inner freedom by following a series of shamanically based exercises. Leslie Kenton shows how freedom is limited by our current materialistic understanding, and illustrates how the thinking of avant-garde writers - many are Members of the Network - has in fact already overturned these assumptions. A special feature of the book is the rich harvest of sidebar quotations that accompany and elaborate the text. My only quibble is the use of the term 'quantum consciousness' to describe what is clearly a transcendent realm. I share Wilber's view that the quantum level subscends material reality while the spiritual realms transcend and include it.

***Memories of a Maverick* by H.G.M. Hermans ABC & E Publishing SA 1998, £8, p/b.** A touching and informative memoir of Andrija Puharich by his ex-wife who herself sadly died around Christmas. We last saw Bep at our meeting in Kiev in May. It is a good yarn as life with Puharich had never a dull moment. He worked at the cutting edge of parapsychology and paraphysics for many years. The most interesting sections concern his work with the Brazilian healer Arigo, with a group of beings called the Nine (reported in 'The Only Planet of Choice') and following up Tesla's work on the effects of ELF signals.

***The Concept of the Goddess* by Sandra Billington and Miranda Green Routledge 1996, 192 pp., £14.99, p/b.** A very useful compilation that provides a welcome corrective to some of the wilder generalisations of feminist scholarship. The contributions are not biased by a specifically feminist attitude but are based entirely on observations resulting from research. Juliette Wood in particular argues against 'half-baked ideas of an archetypal and all-powerful Goddess'. Her analysis points out the ill-founded nature of arguments that the worship of a Goddess implies high status for the women in the society: not all of these figures are embedded in a patriarchal system. Many of the other contributions focus on Northern and Celtic goddesses.

#### **Future Studies/Economics/Ecology**

***Transforming Electricity* by Walt Patterson Earthscan Publications Ltd 1999, 203 pp., £12.99, p/b.** I quote here from an endorsement from Sir John Houghton, co-chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: 'An eminently readable account of the development of electricity over the past century with a visionary look into the future, especially how radical changes in technology and organisational structures applied to electricity generation can help provide a more sustainable environment in the new millennium'.

***State of the World 1998* by Lester R. Brown, Christopher Flavin, Hilary French Earthscan Publications Ltd 1998, 251 pp., £12.95, p/b.** The annual indispensable Worldwatch Institute report on progress towards a sustainable society. It is encouraging to read that the first print run in the US is 100,000 copies, that it appears in thirty languages and that it is used in nearly 800 university courses in the US alone. Features of this edition include the future of growth, sustaining of forests, losing strands in the web of life, promoting sustainable fisheries, cropland productivity, recycling organic wastes, climate change, the proliferation of small arms, private capital flows in developing countries and a final chapter on the elements of a new economy, written by Lester Brown himself. It is evident that fiscal policy has an important role to play and that the public must encourage politicians and business to take a longer view.

***Vital Signs 1998 1999* by Lester R. Brown, Michael Renner, Christopher Flavin Earthscan Publications Ltd 1998, 203 pp., £12.95, p/b.** The companion volume to the State of the World, focusing on the environmental trends that are shaping our future. Deals with food, energy, agriculture, the atmosphere, economics, transport, communication, society and the military. An overview looks at new records and stresses with their implications. Examples cited include the increased appetite for animal protein (which in turn puts pressure on grain and soya production), patterns in cigarette smoking and disease, and the new interest being shown by oil companies in renewable energy sources.

***Which World? Scenarios for the 21st Century* by Allen Hammond Earthscan Publications Ltd 1998, 306 pp., £18.99, h/b.** Subtitled 'scenarios for the 21st century', this is a comprehensive analysis of our social and political evolution into the next millennium. The author is a senior research analyst and brings to bear his critical acumen on vast amount of material. He argues for the heuristic use of scenarios and offers three for our consideration: the market world, fortress world and transformed world. A likely simplification but a helpful way of analysing possibilities. He then examines critical trends: demographic, economic, technological, environmental, social, political and security. He moves on to consider various more local issues in places such as China, Africa and South America, where the implications will be global. A fine piece of integrating work.

***Women Pioneers for the Environment* by Mary Joy Breton Northeastern University Press 1998, 322 pp., £25.50, h/b.** An amazing and inspiring book telling the stories of forty women ecological activists. The book is based not only on their writings but also on personal communications and interviews, which gives an intimate and readable feel. It is dedicated to Hazel Wolf, an engaging campaigner who was 100 last year and who is pictured formidably paddling a canoe. Some names are familiar - Helena Norberg-Hodge, Hazel Henderson, Petra Kelly, Vandana Shiva, Rachel Carson - while others are less familiar but no less interesting. I am left wondering if it is a coincidence that so many of the subjects lived into their nineties and even beyond!

***Energies* by Vaclav Smil Massachusetts Institute of Technology 1999, 210 pp., h/b.** A fascinating illustrated account by an ecologist presenting a comprehensive and integrated survey of energy in all its forms. The entries are arranged under the six headings of sun and earth, plants and animals, people and food, pre-industrial societies, fossil-fuelled civilisation, transportation and information. For the sake of clarity the author begins with an overview of units and concepts. Sample entries convey some idea of the book's scope: volcanoes, photosynthesis, basal metabolism, nutrients, horses, gunpowder, steam engines, nitrogen, ships, bicycles, microchips. Graphs and charts make the text highly accessible.

***Richer Futures* by Ken Worpole Earthscan Publications Ltd 1999, 194 pp., £12.95, p/b.** A book taking as its point of departure the work of anarchist Colin Ward. Lays the groundwork for a politics of sustainability and environmental awareness with respect to housing, health, education, consumption and transport.

***Vision 2020 - Reordering Chaos for Global Survival* by Errin Laszlo Gordon and Breach Science Publishers 1994, 133 pp., £10, p/b.** Subtitled 'reordering chaos for global survival', this book provides an overview of our current situation and suggestions for policy decisions over the next decade. It systematically analyses obsolescent features of our thinking and proposes new patterns and structures drawn from modern science fields such as ecology, systems theory and chaos theory. It then calls for a new alliance from all sectors of society to formulate a vision that can percolate through to our decision makers. A succinct and penetrating survey.

#### **General**

***Dictionary of Architecture* by James Stevens Curl Oxford University Press 1999, 833 pp., £25.00, h/b.** A remarkable piece of work. With 5,000 entries on architects, history, styles and technical terms, this is the most comprehensive single volume available. It contains 250

original illustrations. If the entry on my grandfather, a well known Scots architect, is representative, then the standard is exemplary.

***Understanding Herman Hesse: The Man, His myth, His Metaphor* by Lewis W Tusken University of South Carolina 1998, 253 pp., £23.95, h/b.** For avid Hesse readers like me, this is a definitive study of the man and his work containing a biographical introduction and sympathetic critical appraisals of his major works.

***The Instant Astrologer* by Felix Lyle and Bryan Aspland Piatkus Books 1998, 224 pp., £16.99, p/b.** A remarkable tribute to technology: comes complete with CD Rom that can be installed on your computer and produce a chart within minutes. The book then tells you how to interpret it all. Will take the beginner a while to become familiar with the terms but this is a relatively painless introduction.

***When Sons and Daughters Choose Alternative Lifestyles* by Mariana Caplan Hohm Press 1996, 232 pp., \$14.95, p/b.** This is a must read for those on either side of a conflict engendered by young people choosing alternative spiritualities or lifestyles. It reminds the reader that nothing is more important than the relationship between parents and children. It then gives a ten step guide for parents to coping with the immediate issues raised and goes on to explore the grief and loss involved. Psychological questions and social stereotypes are discussed in some detail and the book ends with some case histories. I wish the book had been available fifteen years ago when I myself was grappling with this!

***Art for Whom and For What?* by Brian Keeble Golgonooza Press 1998, 167 pp., £14.95, p/b.** A series of essays on art and artists written from the point of view of the perennial wisdom and asking 'whether and to what degree we are prepared to return to the full amplitude of our proper nature, rather than to the impoverishments of the reductive logic of the modern mentality'. We are divorced from the sacred unity at the heart of life. The essays cover a wide range of topics and artists, including Samuel Palmer, Eric Gill, Michael Cardew then themes such as work and the crafts. The author makes a persuasive case for the return to a world-view underpinned by the perennial philosophy.

***The Veiled Pulse of Time - Life Cycles & Destiny* by William Bryant Lindisfarne Books 1993, 230 pp., £9.95, p/b.** 'The core of our reality lives in unbounded time, but our destiny is anchored and unfolds in linear time'. This is a book on life cycles in relation to biography, specifically those involving seven, twelve and thirty years. Drawing on insights from Rudolf Steiner. the author not only reflects on his own experience but also analyses patterns and transitions of a number of world figures including a number of scientists, Balzac and Tolstoy. Of course it is easy to overinterpret such patterns and not consider other cycles not mentioned but the book makes an intriguing case and does stimulate reflection on one's own biography.

***A Woman's Worth* by Marianne Williamson Rider and Company 1998, 141 pp., £9.99, p/b.** Margaret Hannah writes: Like a snowdrop in Spring, the emergence of a soulful woman is a wonder to behold. Marianne Williamson captures some of this wonder in her small book: chapter titles include 'Internal Light', 'A Magnificent Adventure' and 'Embracing the Goddess'. Her style is highly polemical and without bibliography or index, this book is intended more to be listened to than to read. The problem with this is that it leaves the reader puzzled by the lack of clues as to how Williamson has got to where she is on her spiritual journey. The book lacks context, pays scant attention to the contribution of others

in forming her world-view and gives the impression of being written in haste. That being said, it still offers a powerful and positive message to women starting out on a process of spiritual renewal.

***Roslyn - Guardian of the Secrets of the Holy Grail* by Tim Wallace-Murphy & Marilyn Hopkins Element Books 1999, 242 pp., £16.99, h/b.** Argues that the seven Christian buildings of Roslin, Amiens, Paris, Chartres, Orleans, Toulouse and Compostella were all founded on Druidic sites dedicated to the planetary oracles, built by master masons and combining traditional Christian motifs with esoteric gnostic emblems. All this is related to a systematic path of initiation and to an astrological configuration to occur on 28 July 2019. The authors recount their own pilgrimage and give a good deal of historical background to fill out the picture.

***In Search of Home* by Noragh Jones Floris Books 1998, 255 pp., £8.99, p/b.** Subtitled 'women working, caring, sharing' this book is structured round fifty stories from all kinds of women in all kinds of situation and at various stages in their life journeys. The author singles them out on account of their emotional and moral intelligence and seeks to define the new meanings of home. Issues covered include relating work and home, changing patterns in parenting, the experience of being a single parent, loneliness and retirement.

***Working with Angels, Fairies & Nature Spirits* by William Bloom (SMN) Piatkus Books 1998, 163 pp., £8.99, p/b.** An unusual book that boldly affirms the existence of invisible realms lying behind everyday reality while at the same time avoiding some of the pitfalls of an overactive imagination. The author draws on his own longstanding experience to explain and illustrate his understanding of angels and devas. He gives simple instructions for those readers who wish to establish their own contact and reintegrate themselves with their deep inner nature at the same time. Reminds us that most of us use only a small part of our capacity and live in only a small area of our being. A very well balanced book.

***Manhood* by Steve Biddulph Hawthorn Press 1994, 260 pp., £9.95, p/b.** A book for men that has, not surprisingly, sold over 150,000 copies. It identifies men's basic problems as loneliness, compulsive competition and lifelong emotional timidity. It outlines seven steps to manhood, arguing that this is something to which we connect through our fathers. It involves 'fixing it' with your father, issues of sexuality and relationship with a partner, engaging actively with your children, having real male friends, finding your heart in your work and freeing your wild spirit. Men need to be liberated as well, he says, if the world is to transcend violence. There are helpful summaries and inspiring quotations at the end of each chapter. I found the book extremely helpful and have no doubt that other men reading this will find the same.

***The Fragrant Heavens* by Valerie Ann Worwood Transworld Publishers Ltd 1999, 305 pp., £18.99, h/b.** Subtitled 'the spiritual dimension of fragrance and aromatherapy', this book draws our attention to the role of fragrance in spiritual practice and advises on its appropriate application. It is a truly original multidisciplinary study of a field that has received little attention.

***Prismind: Scientific Theory of Crystal Consciousness* by Zach Shatz Prismind Publications 1998, 65 pp..** A concentrated meditation on prisms as a metaphor for understanding patterns in the physical world and in relation to consciousness. Advances an intuitive view of science based on meaning as a complement to rational science, and explores linguistic

complements (or facets) in empirical science, common culture and philosophy. These charts are the fruit of much thought and reading. Intuitive science does not separate the subjective and objective: 'as one's mind comes into coherence, the mind becomes a clearer system of reflection'. Available from the author on [shatz@sonoma.edu](mailto:shatz@sonoma.edu)

***The Limits of Thought* by J. Krishnamurti and David Bohm Routledge 1999, 131 pp., £10.99, p/b.** A series of seven unpublished dialogues between David Bohm and Krishnamurti. In his preface Bohm explains that he had initially been attracted to K's work by reading 'The First and Last Freedom' and realising how deeply he had gone into the question of the observer and the observed. This preoccupation is at the centre of these dialogues, which took place in 1975 and 1980. The process of exchange is an intense one with each man weaving in and out of the other's analysis as the processes of thought and perception explicate themselves and the realisation arises that thought itself is not insight. A good introduction to the essential thinking of both men that will interest anyone concerned with the nature of

***Fluid Concepts and Creative Analogies* by Douglas Hofstadter Penguin Books 1995, 518 pp., £27.50, h/b.** Michael Brown writes: This book focuses in depth on a particular sector of the vast field of 'AI', or as the author prefers to call it 'Cognitive Computing'. The contents are aptly described by the title, and it does not set out to review of the whole field. The word 'robotics' does not appear in the index; nor does the word 'qualia'. It is a penetrating study which identifies problems in representing brain mechanisms and it is written in an easy style suitable for a general readership. The requisite computers facilities are modest, and programs which have been developed can be downloaded over the Internet by enthusiasts wishing to gain first-hand experience of the problems of modelling the brain. Prof. Hofstadter has many years of relevant experience, and has published a series of books, dating from 1979. He has an aptitude for identifying basic problems and expressing them in simple terms. The various Chapters have different joint authorships, the other authors including Melanie Mitchell, Director of the Adaptive Computation Program, Santa Fe, and David Chalmers of widely acknowledged eminence in the field of consciousness.

***Feng Shui* by Jon Sandifer Piatkus Books 1999, 150 pp., £5.99, p/b.** What makes this book different is the fact that the principles are described and then spelled out in relation to assessing its impact on your own house. A useful guide.

***The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Divination* by Stephen Karcher Element Books 1997, 256 pp., £14.99, p/b.** An authoritative illustrated work by the co-author of the new definitive version of the I Ching. Points out that divination is in fact a suppressed way of knowing that puts us in contact with a world of spirit and soul. Covers all kinds of divination including astrology, dreams, dowsing, numerology, runes, shamanism and tarot.

***CE-VI* by William Baldwin (SMN) Headline Books Inc 1999, 126 pp., \$10.95, p/b.** Following publication of his ground-breaking study of spirit releasement therapy, the author has continued his study and practice and has written a book that serves both as an introduction to the field and an extension of his original work to consider the whole field of aliens and UFOs. he has found considerable common ground among his patients, which enables him to ascertain a number of patterns shedding light on the nature of 'close encounters of the possession kind' where various types of alien entity or deceased human being are attached to living humans either for their own needs and purposes or because they wish to study the nature of conscious life on earth. Some cases make unpleasant reading but the spirit of radical empiricism encourages us to explore the frontiers of human consciousness. This book



is surely at the frontier and highlights the need for more research and open-mindedness in this field. A real eye-opener but treated with circumspection.