

Members' News and Notices

Christopher Thomson, Emiliós Bouratinos - The Foundation for the Science of Consciousness

Our aim is to co-operate in the evolution of the science of consciousness, and to promote this knowledge in ways which will benefit individuals and society.

There is a virtual avalanche of interest in consciousness these days. This is apparent in the number of conferences, books, and other publications on the subject. People are talking about the 'science of consciousness', but it is not at all clear what this means. Some assume that it means the application of current scientific methods, data, and assumptions to the subject of consciousness. They see it as the exploration of consciousness by science. Others, often from within some spiritual tradition, think of it as the continuation into modern times of ancient knowledge, together with traditional methods of acquiring this knowledge. Still others, mostly from academia, insist on approaching the subject critically and philosophically. While there are, of course, many other views and approaches, the fact is that if a true science of consciousness is ever to emerge, it is essential that no single approach dominate the agenda. So, although there can be no doubt that science and scientists will have much that is useful to say about consciousness, what is really required is complementarity between all points of view, all approaches.

The science of consciousness is unique in that we are investigating what we are investigating with! Consciousness can only be known by itself. This must surely imply that the science of consciousness can only be developed by people who are making the effort to develop their own consciousness. There is a fundamental distinction to be made between, on the one hand, being able to infer the presence of consciousness from certain traits and behaviour and, on the other, being able to experience consciousness directly. The former is what scientists currently do when they study consciousness. The latter is a different matter altogether.

It is our view that one of the minimum requirements for the investigation of consciousness is the ability to experience consciousness directly. What this means in practice is that we have to start with ourselves. We have to learn to become ever more aware of who we are, in a process of self-realization. As we gradually become more conscious of our own consciousness, we can slowly graduate to the direct experience of the consciousness of others. As we do, we become true scientists of consciousness. Trying to investigate the nature of consciousness without developing the ability to experience our own consciousness much more deeply and the consciousness of another directly is rather like trying to investigate the nature of flowers without having developed our senses of smell and sight.

The Foundation's initial activities will probably include the following: we shall say exactly what we mean by 'consciousness'; we shall say why we think it important that a science of consciousness be initiated and developed, and what benefits might accrue from this; we shall suggest how the scientists of consciousness might go about developing their own consciousness such that they become better equipped to investigate consciousness; we shall say what aspects of consciousness should, in our opinion, be investigated, perhaps in some order of priority.

For further details please contact: Christopher Thomson, 148a Albert Palace Mansions, Lurline Gdns, London SW11 4DJ. Tel: +44 171 720 1336. E-mail: 100256.1265@compuserve.com

Tadeusz de Gromoboy - Atalanta Institute in Brazil

The institute was created in 1995 and has now purchased a site on which to build a centre. Its mission is to show how we can lead a less stressful life and improve our immunity; to show how we can achieve sustainable development in agricultural, medical, technological and economic fields, and provide a vision of and practical advice on technologies and attitudes for the future; and to propagate this vision by practical action covering applied research, teaching and production of healthy foods, natural medicines and replaceable energy. The plan is for a hotel and conference unit and some 50 chalets, all of which will be surrounded by natural protected forest. There will be a programme of lectures, complementary medical treatment, laboratories and a day centre; also a number of displays. UK address: 50 Abinger Road, London W4 1EX.

Prof. Andrei Lee - Parapsychology and Psychophysics

The abstracts of an international conference on 'The special states of consciousness of the person: experimental and theoretical researches in parapsychology' have been published in Moscow. There are over 50 papers on a very wide range of parapsychological topics. Further details from the Leonid L. Vasilyev Fund of Parapsychology, PO Box 54, 125124 Moscow, Russia. E-mail: A.Lee@rel.com

Awakening and Training the Inner Senses - A Foundation Course with Christopher Thomson

This is the first of a series of courses designed to help people awaken and train their latent inner senses. These are the senses which, once we have the use of them, will enable us to experience aspects of the world which our familiar outer senses are unable to perceive. They also enable us to experience the wholeness of the world. They are sometimes called our spiritual senses. They are probably at the root of our ability to know things intuitively. This course lays the foundations for the development of the inner senses. These foundations consist of our emotional intelligence, our physical intelligence, and our spiritual intelligence. The course also introduces certain essential techniques, including how to slow down and stop; how to cultivate awareness and sensitivity; how to develop a clear inner life; and how to see and hear from within. Training our inner senses is not easy, but it is well worth the effort. In the view of the course leader, it is an essential part of our spiritual development.

Date: 11-12 October 1997 (same course will also be held on 25-26 October)

Time: 9 a.m. - 5.30 p.m. each day.

Venue: Colne Denton (houseboat) on the River Thames in Chelsea, London.

Cost: £70 inclusive of refreshments but not lunch.

Further details from Christopher Thomson at 148a Albert Palace Mansions, Lurline Gardens, London SW11 4DJ. Tel: 0171 720 1336

Kathleen Ayres - Research: Mystical/Transcendental Experiences.

Needed, participants for a post graduate global research into contemporary transcendental/mystical experiences. At present, there are over 130 positive participants worldwide. For the purposes of this research the transcendental experiences range from the mystical, spiritual, paranormal, psychical, to altered states of consciousness. Amongst the numerous aims of this research are, for example, the collation of information on possible cognitive/sensory awareness within the transcendental experience; the exploration of the therapeutic efficacy of these altered states of consciousness; an appreciation as to whether such mystical states are spontaneous or sought; aiding mystics to place or confirm their experiences. Please contact: Kathleen Ayres, Oakwood House, 6 Marshall Avenue, Bognor Regis. PO212TJ. Tel:+441243822263. E-mail: topaz@knaa.demon.co.uk

Ron Pearson - A new Science and Technology Quarterly

The journal's aims are to publish and criticize mathematically-based grand unified theories of reality which incorporate explanations of phenomena currently classified as anomalous. Also to promote the experimental verification/falsification of such holistic theories. Members are invited either to submit articles which integrate theories of consciousness with cosmology in such manner that anomalous phenomena like psychokinesis appear as predictable effects, or to offer critiques of such theories.

For further details, contact Ron at Curbar Edge, 2 Rowlands Close, Bathford, Bath BA1 7TZ. Tel: +44 1225 858315. See also Ron's article '[Progress by Critique](#)' on of this issue.

Herbert van Erkelens - Marie-Louise von Franz Symposium

Teun Timmers writes: On Friday and Saturday 17-18 October 1997, member Herbert van Erkelens organizes a Symposium on the Jungian analyst Marie Louise von Franz. There will be 6 speakers and a filmed interview with Marie Louise von Franz will be shown. Themes of the Symposium are her contributions on *science (principle of synchronicity)* and *literature (on fairy tales)*, and on the *significance of numbers and geometry in dreams and music*. Herbert talks about von Franz's book *Number and Time*. Some of us will remember Herbert van Erkelens' fascinating 1996 AGM presentation of his work on the physicist Wolfgang Pauli in the light of Carl Jung's psychology. The talks will be in English and German. The symposium will be held in Leusden, The Netherlands. Enquiries: +31 23 533 1088.

Marcus Schmiede - Seminars at the Veda Akademie, Germany

The Veda Academy in Weißenstein, Germany will be hosting a series of weekend seminars. *Theory of Burkhard Heim*: 11th-12th October, 1997; *Water*: 14th-16th November, 1997; *Entropy*: 28th-30th November, 1997; *Quality of Numbers*: 13th-15th February, 1998, *Vedic Teachings*: 27th-28th February, 1998; *New Methods of Healing*: 7th-8th March 1998. For more information, please contact Marcus Schmiede, Veda Akademie, Schloß Weißenstein, D-73111 Lauterstein. Tel/Fax: +49 7332 921191.

Small publications by Members

Yoga Booklets by Dr. Georg Feuerstein

Georg has produced two small booklets - *Eight Verses on Mind Training* and *Narada's Bhakti Sutra - The Essence of the Yoga of Devotion* - both of which are small jewels. The first is

Buddhist and the second a series of verses on *bhakti yoga*. More details from the Yoga Research Center, PO Box 1386, Lower Lake, CA 95457, USA. E-mail: yogaresrch@aol.com

***Yin Yang* - Magazine by Zhi Xing Wang and Zhendi Wu**

Published four times a year, this magazine is based on the view that the Chinese tradition is more of a human than a cultural phenomenon. There are articles on various aspects of Chinese thought and medical practice such as *qi gong* and *feng shui* as well as a section on arts and even a review of a Chinese restaurant in London; also course listings. Informative for those interested in Chinese thinking. Address: Chinese Heritage Publications, 43 Frith Street, London W1.

Maureen Bannon - EarthSpirit Ecopsychology Request

Personal accounts of healing, spiritual awakening, renewal, rejuvenation, insight and/or transformation through contact with any aspect of Nature and the Earth wanted by transpersonal psychotherapist researching for a book project. Images also welcomed and requested. If you can help, please contact Maureen Bannon, Flat One, 20 Denton Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN20 7ST. Tel: 01323 643819.

Maureen also offers workshops to explore your deep responses to the Earth at this time and to find ways of expressing this more fully in your life. Next events will be held beside the Long Man of Wilmington, East Sussex downs on September 26-27, October 24-25 and November 21-22.

Simon Best - Electromagnetic Hazard and Therapy

Formerly Electromagnetics and VDU News this publication will be relaunched under a new name to reflect the growing interest and research in the area of electro- and magneto-therapy and to balance the somewhat negative news of the hazards of man-made EM fields with news of the more positive health benefits deriving from research and clinical experience of therapies and treatments using EM fields. The first issue under the new title is mid-July. Volume 7, No 3-4, 1996-97 contains extensive material on health hazards of mobile phones including a review of a landmark book entitled Mobile Communications Safety edited by Niels Kuster, Quirino Balzano and James Lin and published by Chapman and Hall. This issue available for £2 including p. & p. Address: PO Box 25, Liphook, Hants GU30 7SE. Tel/fax: +44 1428 727274.

Louise Hahn Dillon - Mysticism/Science Collaboration Wanted

Thirty years ago I had an experience that is beyond the microscope. For over 4,000 years, people have recorded seeing a nucleus of light centred within their body. The seeing ability is not through the finite eyes but through what some call 'the third or ghostly eye'; also, modern knowledge of brain/mind reveals other amazing abilities; for example, some people can see themselves during operations. My experience was also a rare seeing through the evolved complexities of brain/mind. Modern science could help me free this experience from misunderstanding and open its possibilities to the seeker. I was surprised by my central mystical experience. My total experience comprised: the fascinated pondering of evolution, the habit of prayer, and eventually the seeing of Source Light. The Source Light event was followed by a humble joy and a group of organized/complex insights that clarify subtle depths of the microcosmic human being; in addition, I have done many years of research on similar knowledge and I have written details of my findings. Now, I need the collaboration of

a leading edge physicist or biological scientist to help me clarify my insights. Please contact:
Louise Hahn Dillon, 186 Beresford Ct. G109, Milpitas, CA 95035. +1 (408) 262 3561.

Vera Curling and King's College, London - Geometropsychodynamics Research Award

Not a word, I suspect, familiar to many Members! The College wishes to provide support to an established researcher in the interface between physics, religion and psychology - Geometropsychodynamics. The sum available is £500 biannually and is offered in memory of the late Claude Curling who initiated research in this interdisciplinary area. Those interested should send their CVs and a brief account of their research to the Academic Registrar, King's College, London, Cornwall House, Waterloo Road, London SE1 8TX.