Heffter Research Institute

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THE INSTITUTE continues
to make excellent progress.

Of course, many MAPS mem-
bers have already seen the first
issue of the Heffter Review of
Psychedelic Research, and several
of our Scientific Advisors have
offered to author a chapter in the next volume.

We have now reviewed and funded, or co-funded
with MAPS, a number of small research proposals.

Although the level of donations to the Insti-
tute is still inadequate to make a significant im-
 pact on the whole field, it is gratifying to feel like
we are at least taking small steps. The web page
(www.heffter.org) continues to generate inter-
est, and our printed materials are also undergoing
revision. As we approach the fifth anniversary
of our incorporation in 1993, is it only wishful
thinking or a real feeling of permanency that is
starting to develop? The Board members them-
 selves are increasingly being asked for consulta-
tion on a number of issues related to psychedelic
drugs. We have recently decided to bring on
board a part-time fundraising expert to help us
increase the level of contributions to the Institute
so that we can fulfill our mission.

Development of
a not-for-profit institute that does not provide
memberships, or immediate visible benefits to the
donor, has proven to be a far greater task than we
originally imagined, but we are hopeful that in
the next twelve months we can begin to meet this
challenge! It is crucial in the coming months,
when it seems that increasing attention (and
money) is being targeted to the "drug war," that
we clearly carve out a niche for the medical and
scientific value of psychedelics. These substances
are far too important to be ignored for another
generation.

On an interesting historical
note, we received an e-mail from
one of Arthur Heffter's grandsons,
Dr. Lutz Rohrschneider. It seems
that the descendants of Arthur
Heffter had a family reunion in April
1998 and Lutz was kind enough to
send me the family tree that had its roots with
Arthur and Else Heffter. Although Arthur Heffter
had no sons, he did have five daughters. They all
married and had 3-7 children each. What is
amazing about the Heffter family is that there is a
very high percentage of doctors (both M.D.s and
Professors) among his descendants. Indeed, Lutz
Rohrschneider has a Ph.D., he married a physi-
cian, and they had twin sons, both of whom
became physicians. In one very notable example,
Arthur Heffter's daughter Elisabeth married Prof.
Dr. Hans Geiger, the inventor of the Geiger
counter! (And two of their sons also became
professors). Heffter's distinguished descendants
themselves represent a rather remarkable legacy
for the people of Germany. Lutz said that he read
the Heffter Institute web page, wondering who
could have "remembered this remarkable man,
who is unknown now in Germany." Although it
was clear from the remarks of his colleagues and
students that Arthur Heffter was a remarkable
scientist and mentor, Heffter was also a devoted
family man, who is warmly remembered nearly
75 years after his death by a large and very
successful family. When we first named the
Institute after Arthur Heffter, we knew of his
important scientific contributions, but knew
nothing of the personal traits that now seem to
make him even more ideal to be the namesake
of the Institute.

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