The Literature of Psychedelics

Bob Wallace

NEW BOOKS

The Cosmic Game
Explorations of the Frontiers of Human Consciousness
Latest and broadest philosophical, metaphysical, and spiritual insights from Grof's research into non-ordinary states of consciousness, including his extensive explorations of the psychedelic mental states. The identity of the human psyche in its furthest reaches with the universal creative principle, the totality of existence, and the Divine Itself. Bibliography and index. (Stanislav Grof 1998; SUNY Press 0-7914-3876-7, 285 page paperback, $19.95; also in hardback)

The Heffter Review of Psychedelic Research, Volume 1, 1998
Excellent new scientific journal from the Heffter Research Institute. This premier issue has ten research papers on psychedelics: psychiatric research with psychedelics (Grof), brain correlates of hallucinogen states (Vollenweider), medical chemistry of phenethylamine psychedelics (Nichols), entactogens, flashbacks, ketamine therapy for alcoholism, and ayahuasca research update. Very professional; recommended. (David Nichols (editor) 1998; Heffter Research Institute, 85 page large paperback, $9.95)

Mindscapes
An Anthology of Drug Writings
Older but still interesting selections by famous people. One section on ayahuasca, peyote, and psilocybin, with writings by Artaud, Burroughs, Wasson, Harner, Castaneda, and Terence McKenna. Another on mescaline and LSD features Huxley, Michaux, Nin, Leary, and others. Also has sections on nitrous oxide and hashish. Altered state experiences are hard to describe; these articulate writers help us understand them. (Antonio Melechi (editor) 1998; Mono 0-9532444-0-7, 251 page paperback, $17.95)

The Ecstatic Imagination
Psychadelic Experiences and the Psychoanalysis of Self-Actualization
General psychoanalytic theory of the psychedelic experience. The phenomenology of both Western self-reported and Native American cultural hallucinogen experiences joined with classical, ego psychological, and object relations psychoanalytic theories. Provides a rigorous approach to psychedelics and self-actualization. Bibliography and index. (Dan Merkur 1998; SUNY Press 0-7914-3606-3, 240 page paperback $19.95; also in hardback)

The Evolutionary Mind
Trialogs at the Edge of the Unthinkable
Terence McKenna again joins Ralph Abraham, leader of the mathematics of chaos, and Rupert Sheldrake, biologist who created the idea of morphogenetic fields. New topics include: grassroots science, psychedelics and computers; evolution and Hawaii; the World Wide Web; psychic pets; fractals; time; utopianism and millenarianism. (Rupert Sheldrake, Terence McKenna, & Ralph Abraham 1998; Trialog Press (Dakota Books) 0-942344-13-8, 207 page paperback, $16.95)

The Cosmic Serpent
DNA and the Origins of Knowledge
Molecular biologist Jeremy Narby works with ayahuasca shamans and concludes they were given the knowledge of the DNA double-helix. Combines personal adventure study of Amazon ethnobotany, and investigation into sources of knowledge, intelligence, and consciousness. Extensive notes, bibliography, and index. (Jeremy Narby 1998; Tarcher (Putnam) 0-87477-911-1, 271 page hardback, $22.95)

The Gift of Life
Female Spirituality and Healing in Northern Peru
Personal and professional anthropology story of becoming a curandero in coastal Peru, using San Pedro cactus to learn what (or who) is causing an illness and how to handle it. Discusses healing, sorcery, and shamanism, as well as the different focus of male and female shamans. Notes on the classic mesa, and the "dano" or illness caused by a "brujo" or sorcerer. Scholarly as well as personal; notes, glossary, references, and index. (Bonnie Glass-Coffin 1998; Univ. of New Mexico Press (New Leaf) 0-8263-1893-2, 262 page paperback, $15.95)
Acid: The Secret History of LSD, from a British perspective.
Hofmann, Leary, the CIA, and other well-known players join Ronald Stark, the Brotherhood, Operation Julie, the Weather Underground, and the Italian Mafia in this history. Adds some information not found in the more complete Acid Dreams. Bibliography and index. (David Black 1998; Vision (Last Gasp) 1-901250-11-3, 208 page paperback, $16.95)

Pschedelia Britannica
Hallucinogenic Drugs in Britain
The cultural history of psychedelics in Britain. From Lewis Carroll’s Wonderland to R.D. Laing and LSD therapy in the 50s, the Michael Hollingshead story (he turned on Leary) and Alexander Trocchi in the 60s, plus music from Pink Floyd to the rave scene, Ecstasy clubs, and the shamanic insurrection. Introduction by Albert Hofmann, bibliography and index. Fascinating history. (Antonio Melechi (editor) 1997; Turnaround (Last Gasp) 1-873262-05-1, 223 page paperback, $19.95)

Paddos: Our Little Brothers
Dutch book for new “magic mushroom” psychonauts, also great for anyone considering taking any psychedelic. Intention, set and setting, practical tripping tips, rituals, visualizing, hazards, resources. Recommended. (Translated from Dutch) (Anonymous 1997; Egosoft 90-803696-2-4, 80 page paperback, $3.95)

Salvia Divinorum Grower’s Guide
Nice book on how to grow “Ska Pastoria,” the diviner’s sage containing salvanorin, an entirely new class of psychedelic. Rooting, humidity, soils, feeding, light, hydroponics, pests, problems, cuttings, seeds. Bibliography. (Sociedad para la Preservation de las Plantas del Misterio 1998; Spectral Mindindustries 1-800425-01-X, 64 page paperback, $11.95)

Wasson’s First Voyage
The Rediscovery of Entheogenic Mushrooms
Brief description of Wasson and his first meeting with Maria Sabina. Also has references and a Wasson bibliography. (John W. Allen 1997; Psilly Publications (Homestead), 31 page pamphlet, $6.95)

Maria Sabina: Saint Mother of the Mushrooms
(John W. Allen 1997; Psilly Publications (Homestead), 31 page pamphlet, $6.95)

Altered State
The Story of Ecstasy Culture and Acid House
MDMA and dancing have a natural affinity. Though it started with the New York and Texas club scene, both the scene and the book soon shift to England and the house/trance rave experience. Many true stories of chemists and DJs, clubs and parties of the largest youth movement in British history. Notes and index. (Matthew Colliin 1997; Serpent’s Tail (Consortium) 1-85242-377-3, 322 page paperback, $16.95)

Teonanacatl – Ancient and Contemporary Shamanic Mushroom Names of Mesoamerica and Other Regions of the World
Introduction, then lists mushrooms by species with traditional names in Spanish, Mazatec, Nahuatl, etc., plus current names in English and other languages. Also species photos (black & white) and references. (John W. Allen 1997; Psilly Publications (Homestead), 49 page pamphlet, $9.95)

Magic Mushrooms of the Hawaiian Islands
Species identification with photos, historical and current use, bibliography. (John W. Allen 1998; Psilly Publications (Homestead) 1-58214-030-8, 50 page pamphlet, $11.95)

Some Recent Notes and Observations on the Occurrence and Use of Entheogenic Fungi in Third World Countries
Magic mushroom tourism in Mesoamerica and Southeast Asia, with tips and stories. (John W. Allen & Jochen Gartz 1997; Psilly Publications (Homestead), 51 page pamphlet, $9.95)

Mushroom.MAN
Novel; tale of lone whose move to the mountains takes him on an odyssey mapped by hallucinogen experiences. Sixties man, primal man, shaman, nowhereman, everydayman; mushroom.MAN enters the world of forests, fungi, and spiritual discovery on the trail of an ancient and holy mystery, with help from a curious psychologist. (Paolo Tullio 1998; Lilliput Press 1-901866-09-2, 220 page paperback, $16.95)

New Editions

Phantastica
Classic mind drug text: the Euphorica, Inebriantia, Hypnotica, Excitantia, and our friends the Phantastica, with peyote, cannabis, fly-agaric, several Solanaceae, caapi vine, and a few obscure ones. New preface by Bo Holmstedt; notes and index. (Louis Lewin 1924 (1998 edition); Inner Traditions 0-89281-783-6, 304 page paperback, $16.95)
The Unfolding Self Varieties of Transformative Experience
New, revised edition of Opening to Inner Light helps us understand transformation with images of inner fire, death/rebirth, liberation, wholeness, return to the source, and other useful metaphors. Many examples from psychedelic experiences. (Ralph Metzner 1986 (1998 edition); Origin Press 1-57983-000-5, 344 page paperback, $14.95)

Drugs and Magic
Anthology, by culture, of the many ways people have used psychoactive plants and compounds for shamanic and magical purposes. Includes original cultural writings plus history and discussion. Covers many cultures: ancient, indigenous, medieval, and modern. Index. (George Andrews (editor) 1975 (1998 edition); Illuminia Press (New Leaf) 1-881532-12-7, 612 page paperback, $19.95)

Flowers of Wiricuta—A Gringo’s Journey To Shamanic Power
True story of the author’s work with the Huichols and with his personal spiritual and shamanic development. Many insights into Peyote, prayer, pilgrimage, and power. Chapters include Healing the Sacred Circle, Responsible Ecstasy, Spiritual Warrior, Sacred Marriage. (Tom Soloway Pinkson 1995 (1998 edition); 0-89281-659-7, 302 page paperback, $16.95)

The Serpent and the Rainbow
Excellent ethnopharmacological detective tale. Story of the Haitian people, their secret “vodoun” societies, and their use of potent plants (and animals) in the process of judging a wrongdoer, simulating their death, and then maintaining control over them (now a “zombi”). A compelling story and good ethnobotany. Wade Davis 1985 (1998 edition); Simon & Schuster (Ingram) 0-684-83929-6, 297 page paperback, $12.95)

Pharmac/Poemia
Plant Powers, Poisons, and Herbcraft
This delightful book of psychedelic plant poetry is back in print! Work continues on the next two volumes; stay tuned… (Dale Pendell 1995; Mercury House 1-56279-069-2, 302 page paperback, $16.95)

Papers on sacred use of psychedelics by Ralph Metzner and Nicholas Saunders; psychedelia in sixties Italy; the mushroom-tree of Plancourault. (Giorgio Samorini (editor) 1997; SSIS, 52 pages, $8.95)

Psychedelic Island Views, Volume 4 Issue 1
The Shulgins, Owlsley “Bear” Stanley interview (part two), and Douglas Rushkoff interviews, Nicholas Saunders, Elizabeth Gips, The Human Be-In (part two), Sandoz, ravens, limericks. (Bruce Eisinger, editor); Island Group, 64 pages, $4.95)

WHERE TO GET THESE BOOKS
All books may be ordered from Mind Books, the author’s company; of course many are available from other good sources. To contact Mind Books, call: 800-829-8127 or 707-829-8127, fax: 707-829-8100, E-mail: books@promind.com Web site: www.promind.com or write: Mind Books, 321 S Main St, #543, Sebastopol, CA 95472.