



*Dr. Albert Hofmann receiving a poster from MAPS' 50th Anniversary of LSD Symposium.*

### SWISS ACADEMY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES COMMEMORATES THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF DR. ALBERT HOFMANN'S DISCOVERY OF LSD

**ON** October 22 and 23, 1993, the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences held its LSD conference in Lugano - Agno, Switzerland amidst mountain lakes near the Italian border. By the end of the conference, I felt that the consensus of the participants was that LSD should indeed be the subject of renewed scientific inquiry. This conclusion seemed to be echoed by all concerned including experts in the treatment of drug abuse, therapists, brain neurochemists, and even government regulators from several countries. While the renewal of psychedelic research is still in its infancy, the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences conference made an important contribution toward strengthening the scientific arguments and political consensus for its continued growth. Perhaps Albert Hofmann's problem child, like so many of us whose path to adulthood was turbulent and troubled, may yet grow into a responsible citizen. Much hangs in the balance.

At its heart, the Swiss Academy conference was a tribute to the very important scientific and medical contributions made by Dr. Albert Hofmann. In his wonderful synthesis of the science of chemistry, the art of living, and the spirituality of the psychedelic experience, Dr. Hofmann has been a profound inspiration to many people all over the globe. For those who know the value of LSD, the world seems doubly gifted, first by LSD's discovery and second by the fact that it was Dr. Albert Hofmann who discovered it. ■

### HELLO FROM SYLVIA THYSSEN — MAPS' NEW STAFF MEMBER

Dear MAPS Members;

"Who is this person who has begun to answer our MAPS mail?" you ask. For years, my career passion has been museum studies, though now, I'm not so sure, and I'm exploring other interests. Upon graduation, I was far from committing to a graduate program, so fortune returned me to my hometown of Charlotte, where I met Rick. Though what I first found compelling about MAPS was the full 19-syllable name, what has kept me committed is its multi-disciplinary imperative, weaving together the varied threads of thought and deed that cross paths with the MAPS office. This approach can only enhance research projects, heal minds and bodies, and inspire us to understand more deeply our right to joy and freedom. Ignore the interplay of culture, medicine, and politics, and you're missing the point.

This is why I am here! I look forward to working with you.

Sylvia Thyssen

*Sylvia surrounded by MAPS newsletters.*

