

EDUCATIONAL AGENDA

The Secret Chief

IN 1996, MAPS WILL PUBLISH and distribute its first book titled *The Secret Chief*. The book is a series of interviews between Myron Stolaroff, Ph.D., a pioneering psychedelic researcher and the author of *Thanatos to Eros*, and "Jacob," the secret chief of the underground psychedelic psychotherapy network in the United States.

"Jacob" is an actual person who passed away in 1988, after having changed the course of thousands of lives. During his career, he trained hundreds of therapists in the procedures of psychedelic psychotherapy and facilitated the psychedelic experiences of thousands of people. "Jacob" was the person who coined the code name "Adam" for MDMA. Eight years after his death, his family and friends are finally comfortable with letting Myron's conversations with "Jacob" be made publicly available.

In *The Secret Chief*, "Jacob" lets Dr. Stolaroff in on the methods he developed over the course of several decades practicing his unique labor of love. He talks about how he developed his procedures for individual and group sessions, what he thought were the different qualities of the drugs that were the tools of his trade, how he felt they could be put to the wisest use, and how he handled issues of security, fear, illegality, sexuality and emotional catharsis.

In a simple and direct manner, "Jacob" opens a window on the secret heart of kindness at the center of the psychedelic movement. It was my profound good fortune to have "Jacob" assist me on two of my inner voyages. It is with special pride that MAPS will publish this book in 1996. •

This book by **Myron Stolaroff** will be MAPS' first book publishing project.

Dance, Trance, and Transformation

IN THE SPRING OF 1996, the US edition of Nicholas Saunders' second book about MDMA will be published. The book has been a phenomenon in England. It has been translated into Italian, German, and French with forthcoming editions in Russian and Hungarian. Mr. Saunders has donated the North American rights to his book to MAPS, with the profits from the proceeds to support MDMA research. MAPS negotiated a contract to publish and distribute the book in North America with Quick Trading Company, under the direction of Ed Rosenthal.

MAPS has been working with Mr. Saunders to revise the book for the North American audience. MAPS has found authors for new chapters of special relevance to US readers and has reviewed and commented on possible revisions throughout the entire book. If the book is even half as successful in the US as it is in England, many people will be educated and MAPS will receive several thousand dollars for MDMA research. •

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E D U C A T I O N A L A G E N D A

The Worlds of Consciousness Conference in Heidelberg, Germany

From February 22-25, 1996 the European College for the Study of Consciousness is sponsoring its second international conference. The conference will provide a "multidisciplinary forum for the advancement of research and for the exchange of experience in the field of altered states of consciousness, elicited by psychological triggers or psychoactive substances." This conference provides an important meeting ground for psychedelic researchers from the United States and Europe. Some of the speakers who may be known to readers of the MAPS newsletter include Albert Hofmann, Ph.D. (who turned 90 in January!), Dr. Charles Grob, Ralph Metzner, Ph.D., Drs. Juraj & Sonya Styk, Dr. Leo Hermle and Dr. Franz Vollenweider.

MAPS will be represented at the conference by myself, and Sylvia Thyssen. We will attend the conference to gain a better understanding of the research underway or planned in Europe and to foster collaborations between the US and European researchers. In addition, we will gather information for the next issue of the MAPS Bulletin so that its readers, MAPS members as well as the scientists and policy makers who receive complimentary copies can learn what European researchers are doing.

For information about attending the conference, contact Eurokongress GmbH, Rosental 3, D-80331, München, Germany, ph. +49 551 48 44 63, fax +49 551 48 74 87. •

The International Transpersonal Conference in Manaus, Brazil

From May 17-22, 1996, the International Transpersonal Association will convene its fifteenth international conference in Manaus, Brazil in the heart of the Amazon. The theme of the conference is *Technologies of the Sacred*. The conference is being coordinated by Dr. Stanislav Grof, the pioneering LSD researcher, and will focus on a "broad spectrum of ancient, aboriginal and modern techniques that can mediate access to the sacred dimensions of existence."

Dr. Grof asked MAPS to help coordinate and financially support the psychedelic research portion of the conference. Though MAPS reserves most of its resources for the support of clinical trials with psychedelics, education is also one of MAPS' priorities. As a result, MAPS is budgeting \$5,500 to help subsidize the travel expenses of Drs. Rick Strassman, Charles Grob, Donna Dryer, Richard Yensen and Dennis McKenna. Also in attendance will be Ann and Sasha Shulgin, Ram Dass, Ralph Metzner, and Michael Harner.

This conference will have substantial educational value for the researchers themselves. The few scientists willing to devote their careers to conducting psychedelic research are the psychedelic research community's greatest resource. By assisting many of these scientists to attend the conference, the researchers will have an opportunity to be in direct contact with the Brazilian priests/shamans/ therapists. By virtue of living in a country where the religious use of ayahuasca is legal, these Brazilians have been able to evolve a relationship with the use of a psychedelic that is fundamentally different (though not necessarily better) than what can occur within the context of an FDA-approved study. The scientific researchers and the Brazilians who use ayahuasca within a religious context have much to learn from each other.

MAPS' educational mission also involves reaching out to people who are not familiar or comfortable with the use of psychedelics as well as to MAPS members and others who are both familiar and sympathetic. The field of transpersonal psychology has a long history of valuing the use of psychedelics as tools for research and therapy. Numerous attendees at the conference have previously made generous donations to MAPS for the research that will be discussed in the psychedelic panels. Educational outreach will be taking place since an increasing percentage of the participants at the ITA conferences are substance abuse treatment professionals who understand the importance of spirituality but have little information about the value of psychedelics.

The educational value of MAPS' support for the psychedelic sessions at the ITA conference will be enhanced by the articles that each researcher who received support from MAPS will write about their talks and their impressions of the entire conference. These articles may intrigue those policy makers and scientists who receive complimentary issues of the newsletter as well as the many MAPS members who will not be able to attend the conference. This includes me. I'm foregoing traveling to the middle of the Amazon on the chance that my second child might arrive earlier than her June 3 due date, which I wouldn't want to miss. •

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