



The Heffter Review of Psychedelic Research now available

THE FIRST ISSUE of the *Heffter Review*, edited by David Nichols, Ph.D., includes articles about ayahuasca research, flashbacks, the transpersonal experience, the history of New World hallucinogens, and other topics.

The Heffter Research Institute plans to continue publishing a review of psychedelic research. David Nichols and Mark Geyer will co-edit future volumes. The publications will be collections of short reviews by the Founders and Scientific Advisors of the Institute and other interested scientists. The topics may include anything related to consciousness, or the pharmacological, neurobiological, or clinical effects of psychedelic or other psychoactive drugs. *Reviews* are intended to be for a general readership of nonscientists who have a high level of education. •

The Heffter Review is available from MAPS. (Price: \$9.95 plus shipping. Within the United States add \$3.00 shipping, outside the country add \$6.00 shipping).

Rise of Hallucinogen Use Report

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) October 1997 *Research in Brief* features the article "Rise of Hallucinogen Use" by Dana Hunt, Ph.D., Senior Scientist with Abt Associates, Inc. To request a copy of this report, you can call the NIJ at 800-851-3420. It is also available online at www.ncjrs.org.

The report discusses the history of hallucinogen use in the United States, a comparison of past and present user groups, and the impact of today's use and distribution patterns on law enforcement and public health safety. Its target audience is drug enforcement and drug treatment practitioners, college and university officials, high school administrators, public health officials, drug policy coordinators, and researchers. •

New Entheogen Review

[submitted by Will Beifuss]

The Vernal Equinox issue of *Entheogen Review* is excellent. It is the first to be put out by the new editor, David Aardvark, who took over the helm from Jim DeKorne, who is busy writing and researching on the Kabbala. The *Entheogen Review* is now more scholarly and better researched, and they have gone to great lengths to try and answer readers questions thoroughly. For example, Alexander Shulgin was contacted to help clarify a few points regarding mushroom chemistry, and K. Trout is now the technical editor. K. Trout is the author of Trout's Notes, a series of over 20 papers that delves into the subjects of mescaline-containing cacti and tryptamines with impressive skill and attention to detail. The new *ER* has an in-depth article on *Trichocereus peruvianus* by K. Trout, complete with pictures showing the morphological differences of *T. peruvianus* plants from four different commercial sources and one botanical garden. This is the first time, to my knowledge, that such comparisons have been done. There is also an article by Terence McKenna on *Salvia divinorum*, plus book reviews and the usual thought provoking letters from subscribers. •

Subscriptions to the *Entheogen Review* are \$25.00 (USA), \$35.00 (foreign) for one year (four issues). For subscriptions to *ER*, write to: *Entheogen Review*, 564 Mission St., Box 808-M, San Francisco, CA 94105-2918. The *Entheogen Review* is not available at newsstands, although a compilation of back issues is available from Mind Books, www.promind.com.

Psychoactivity

A Multidisciplinary Conference on Plants, Shamanism & States of Consciousness, Amsterdam, Netherlands, October 1-4, 1998

Following the success of the first conference in San Luis Potosi in Mexico (1992), the second in Lleida, Catalunya, Spain (1994) and the third in San Francisco, USA (1996), an independent group of scientists, authors, and business people will convene a fourth conference in Amsterdam in this series on Shamanic Science.

The focus of this conference, "Psycho-activity," will be visionary art, anthropology, botany, and psychotherapy. Talks, discussions, presentations, and extra-conference events are planned. One day will be devoted to discussing psychedelic rituals in the Netherlands, the political situation, and the past and future of psychedelics in European countries and around the world.

Confirmed speakers include: Sasha Shulgin, on the process of discovery of new psychedelics; Ann Shulgin, Donna Dryer, and Richard Yensen on MDMA and LSD-assisted psychotherapy; Jonathan Ott, on his studies of Jurema and Pharmahuasca; Ralph Metzner on LSD therapy and ecology; Christian Rättsch on the ethnology of psychoactivity; Alex Grey on connecting his visionary art to psychedelics; Paul Stamets on psilocybin mushrooms; Stacy Shaefer on recent research on peyote and Huichol women; Manuel Torres on the iconography of South American snuff tablets; and Peter de Smet on ritual enemas and snuffs in the Americas. More speakers are expected. •

The conference fee is US\$237.50 or Dutch 475.00 FL. Hotel and food are not included. Registration must be accompanied by Eurocheque or money order to: "Psychoactivity" c/o Conscious Dreams, Schinkelkade 59-61, 1075 VL Amsterdam, Netherlands. Fax: 31-20-470-7616 (31 is the country code). E-mail: codreams@xs4all.nl, Web: <http://neturl.nl/codreams/>. Cancellations before July 31, 1998, 50% refund. No refund for cancellations after this date will be granted. Space is limited to 500 people. Hotel reservations can be made through the Amsterdam Tourist Office, E-mail: vvadam@pi.net.

ECSC/ECBS Update

[submitted by Stefan Trebes]

The European College for the Study of Consciousness/Europäisches Collegium für Bewußtseinsstudien (ECSC/ECBS) held its annual membership meeting on November 29, 1997 near Stuttgart. Several members reported on the present state of psychedelic research in Switzerland and Germany.

Christian Beck reported very interesting details about the early history of MDMA from his research in the archives of Merck in Darmstadt, Germany. There is quite a lot of speculation and myth circulating about the early history of this unique entactogen, for example that it was developed as a appetite suppressant—see the Reader's Forum note on the history of MDMA by Alex Gamma, *MAPS Bulletin*, Vol. VIII No. 1—and it seems that recently almost the same work on this topic has been done by two researchers independently.

MDMA was synthesized by Merck chemists as a precursor for a planned pharmaceutical production of Hydrastinin, an isoquinoline derivative with vasoconstrictive properties. According to Christian Beck's research, the "birthname" of MDMA was Methylsafrylamin and its stimulant properties were not discovered by Merck until 1933. Details on early toxicology studies of MDMA and other findings by C. Beck will be published in the next *Yearbook of Ethnomedicine and the Study of Consciousness*, C. Rättsch and J. Baker (eds.), Verlag für Wissenschaft und Bildung (VWB), Berlin.

The Third International ECSC/ECBS "Worlds of Consciousness" conference will be held in Basel, Switzerland in the second half of 1999 (exact dates to be announced). •

For more information about the European College for the Study of Consciousness, see their new website at <http://ecbs.magnet.ch>.

Wild Mushrooms Telluride

An Educational Conference on the Study and Cultivation of Wild Mushrooms

August 27-30, 1998

Nobel Prize Laureate Kary Mullis, Ph.D., will address a plenary session on *The Realm of the Senses*. Other guest speakers at this year's conference include John Corbin, Gary Lincoff, Rita Rosenberg, Paul Stamets, and Andrew Weil, M.D. •

Registration fees vary from \$200 to \$265. For more information, contact Fungophile, Inc., P.O. Box 480503, Denver, CO, 80248-0503, Tel/Fax (303) 296-9359. Website: <http://telluridemm.com/mushroom.html>.

