



From the Editor

Following a tradition established at the onset of the organization, an autumn Executive Council Meeting was held this year. On this occasion the meeting was hosted by George Agich in Springfield, IL on Oct. 28-29. Many topics were covered, and I will try to summarize the discussions.

George Agich was installed as the new President of AAPP and chaired the meeting. Michael Schwartz, who has been President of the organization since its inception, will take over as Program Chair of the Annual Meeting and continue his activities as Chair of the Fund-Raising Committee and Liaison to the UK Group, and will have the title of Founding President.

John Sadler gave a Treasurer's Report in which he indicated that there are now (as of Oct. 28) 404 subscribers to PPP, of which 366 are AAPP members (subscribing to PPP by virtue of the bundled subscription/membership package). There are about 80 individuals who were AAPP members but have not paid the new membership dues which include the PPP subscription. In view of the fact that the Hopkins Press looks for a subscription quota of 600, we are well on our way to meeting their goal.

John also indicated that our current balance is \$6018, all from dues. This will have to cover the ongoing cost of the Newsletter as well as the 1995 Annual Meeting.

Affiliated local groups received a lot of attention at the meeting. Jerry Kroll will be taking over as the local group liaison. There are now seven local groups in existence or formation. In addition to New Haven, Seattle, and Washington, D.C. groups, which have been reported on in the Newsletter, groups are forming in Boston, Cleveland, New York, and Rochester, MN. In an effort to support local group activity, it was decided to institute a second annual meeting, to be held on a regional basis and sponsored by a local group. AAPP will offer the respective local group \$1000 to assist in funding the meeting. The New Haven group was suggested as a first spon-

President's Column

It is a pleasure and honor to assume the Presidency of AAPP at this particular point in the Association's development. Under Michael Schwartz's leadership AAPP has passed through the early, somewhat uncertain, stage of its development into a stage in which the membership is growing significantly and AAPP's significance for the field is being assured through its programs and sponsored publications. The present and future membership of AAPP as well as scholars working in the field of philosophy and psychiatry, whether they know it or not, owe Michael a considerable debt for his vision and commitment to seeing AAPP established on a sound footing. Our journal *PPP* is establishing itself as the journal of choice for publication of work on philosophical aspects of abnormal psychology and psychiatry. In recognition of his unique contribution, the Executive Council has voted to honor Michael with the appellation, Founding President, as acknowledgment of his contribution. Fortunately, Michael is not retiring to greener pastures, but will be directing his efforts on behalf of AAPP in two other important areas: fund raising and chairing the annual meeting program committee. Michael has agreed to spearhead fund raising activities and I hope that each of you will be willing to offer advice or other assistance to augment his efforts. As AAPP broadens its scope of activity, the need for resources beyond that provided by dues grows. Michael will be exploring the ways that AAPP can augment its efforts. I have asked him to report on these ideas in a future issue of the Newsletter. Michael has also assumed the Chair of the Annual Meeting Program Committee. This year's theme is "Recovered Memories of Abuse or False Memory Syndrome: Clinical, Scientific and Philosophical Approaches" which promises to be a very lively topic. The meeting is scheduled for May 20-21, 1995 in Miami, Florida just before the American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting. The location will be determined in the not-too-distant future by the APA Program Committee and we will send a notice to all members.

After much discussion over the last few years, the Executive Council has decided to initiate a second annual meeting that we hope will be organized on a rotational basis by Local Groups in conjunction with AAPP. AAPP will extend modest financial support and assist with publicity. Like the decision to add a second day to our annual meeting that we have held in conjunction with the American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting, this decision is prompted by the recognition of the growing work in our diverse field. We are striving to provide a diverse range of academic settings in which clinical and scholarly work can be presented. A second regularly scheduled meeting would afford an additional programmatic outlet that is especially important to younger workers in the field. We strongly encourage the membership to support these regional activities by attendance and submission of papers.

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sor because of its longevity, and contacts are being made with that group.

We are making an effort to develop contacts and sponsor sessions at the meetings of other related groups. In this regard George Agich has already made contact with the three divisions of the American Philosophical Association, and we have a session scheduled for the meeting of the Central Division in April in Chicago. Melvin Woody was proposed to serve as liaison to philosophy societies, and Jennifer Radden to serve in the same capacity for psychology societies. (Addresses: J. Melvin Woody, Ph.D., Philosophy Dept., Conn. College, New London, CT 06320; Jennifer Radden, D. Phil., Philosophy Dept., U. Mass., Boston, MA 02125.) We are making an effort to make ourselves known to related groups and journals, and members who have contacts with a particular group and can be of assistance in this project are encouraged to contact us.

The 1995 Annual Meeting was discussed. Since the extension of the Annual Meeting

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There are other changes in the organization of AAPP activities that I should report. These changes are designed to increase the level of activity in the field of philosophy and psychiatry and to enlarge the circle of participants in AAPP functions. As new Vice-President, Jerry Kröll will assume the function of Local Group Liaison. As AAPP grows we hope that local groups will provide a regional focus of activities that will complement national and international meetings that AAPP will undertake. In addition, I have appointed Melvin Woody to serve as Liaison to Philosophical Societies and Jennifer Radden to serve as Liaison for Psychological Societies. Their charge is to complement local and regional interest in philosophy and psychiatry by developing a regular presence at meetings of the major philosophical and psychological societies. This will afford further opportunity for dissemination of work in this field. Jennifer and Melvin can be contacted with any suggestions for appropriate meetings and topics. I view their functions primarily as liaison, and I am sure that they will welcome your suggestions for session themes and submission of proposals. (Their addresses and phone numbers can be found elsewhere in this issue.)

Linkage with other professional groups is a natural outgrowth of AAPP's efforts to forge collaborative relationships with other organizations, the most notable of which is with the Royal College of Psychiatrists Philosophy Group whose most obvious product is the journal *Philosophy, Psychiatry, and Psychology*. This collaboration has also led to plans for the First International Conference on Philosophy and Mental Health to be held in Marbella, Southern Spain, February 28-March 2, 1996. An International Planning and Program Committee is now being constituted to assure that there is a diverse international participation. We are hopeful that AAPP members will be willing and able to participate in significant in the program and look forward to a positive response to the call for papers from our members. Mark your calendars and plan to contribute to this important inaugural effort.

Reporting on these activities provides a clue to the direction that I hope to lead AAPP as president. I want to increase the programmatic activity of AAPP in a wide range of settings. Combining with local groups to sponsor regional conferences, continuing the expanded two-day annual meeting, initiating sessions with coordinate societies, such as the American Philosophical Association, and continuing our participation in international meetings,

AAPP should be at the forefront of developments in philosophy and psychiatry.

There has never been a time when the importance of philosophy to psychiatry and the importance of psychiatry's clinical insights for philosophy has been greater than at the present. The philosophical and clinical implications of cognitive science, developments in the neurosciences, and psychopharmacologic research for clinical practice and philosophy are truly awesome. Scientific and technical developments in these fields are accompanied by changes in the structure and delivery of mental health care services both in the United States and abroad as well as by changing social attitudes toward and understandings of psychiatric disorders and the social significance of psychiatric medicine. As president of AAPP, I promise to enthusiastically advocate for attention to the philosophical, e.g., the conceptual, theoretical, and valuational aspects of psychiatry in the widest of contexts. I look forward to your participation in this vital and challenging endeavor.

George Agich, Ph.D.

Review

Madness and Modernism, by Louis A. Sass. New York: Basic Books, 1992.

Louis Sass's book, *Madness and Modernism*, accomplishes two difficult tasks: it clarifies the enigmas of schizophrenia and modernist high culture, and it represents (by example) the best argument for interdisciplinary scholarship in the psychology and the humanities - it's helpful. *Madness and Modernism* is not an easy book to summarize. On the one hand it is motivated by a simple thesis, and on the other it contains a treasure house of complexities which repay repeated close readings. The thesis that drives the book is that there is a remarkable parallel between the phenomena of schizophrenia and modern art. The treasure house of complexity is the vast literature that Sass weaves together to illustrate and amplify his thesis (the book is nearly four hundred pages long with over one hundred and sixty pages of footnotes).

Madness and Modernism represents a type of phenomenological research. As

Sass explains (in a footnote), "I use the term *phenomenology* in the Continental sense, to refer to the study of experience or the lived world: not in the sense of Anglo-American psychiatry, where it refers to the study of observable or readily identifiable signs and symptoms of mental disorders." Rather than ask *why* did it happen, phenomenological research asks *what* was the experience. The researcher does not strive for a causal explanation. Instead, she attempts a detailed description of an aspect of the human mental realm. Phenomenological research has not been popular in English speaking psychology because of the dominating influence of positivism. A core feature of positivism is that only publicly verifiable data may be used. Psychological phenomena are not publicly verifiable because they cannot be seen, heard, or otherwise sensed by anyone except the person involved. With the waning of positivism, phenomenological research is having a resurgence. Modern phenomenological research is appearing with increasing frequency in social science journals under the label of "qualitative research." The new label is borrowed from sociology and education research where the term "qualitative" is used to distinguish it from "quantitative" research.

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ADVANCE NOTICE

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PHILOSOPHY AND MENTAL HEALTH

Marbella - Southern Spain
Wednesday, February 28 -
Saturday, March 2, 1996

The conference will be jointly organized by The Royal College of Psychiatrists Philosophy Group (UK) and The Association for the Advancement of Philosophy and Psychiatry (USA) and will aim to bring together all those international groups and individuals working in philosophy and mental health.

Further details may be obtained from the Conference Office: Mrs. Jean Wales, The Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG, UK. Tel: (0)71 235 2351; Fax: (0)71 245 1231.