

From the Editor

Be apprised of this editor's New Year's Resolution: the final issue of Volume 4 of the Newsletter will reach you by the end of 1996. (But be mindful of the same man's staggering record of failed Resolutions!) I hope that in this tardy, final Issue of 1995 we will compensate with quality and variety for what we are lacking in punctuality.

From Rome Emilio Mordini has sent us an engaging communication describing both the recent history of psychiatry in Italy as well as the efforts of himself and others to develop the field of philosophy and psychiatry there. And from Heidelberg our energetic and polyglot colleague Manfred Spitzer has brought us a tantalizing smorgasbord of tidbits (his metaphor!) from neuroscience. Greg Mahr and Jennifer Radden offer excellent reviews of recent books, continuing our project of working our way through the relevant literature. Eric Gillett provides a productive commentary that guides us through the lexicon of the mind/brain discussion and its application to Freudian thought. From George Graham we have a description of a MIT publication project in philosophy and psychopathology for which he and Owen Flanagan will be the editors. Finally, there are George Agich's column and the continuation of my report on last May's Annual Meeting. You may note that the column, "New Publications," is missing. Our members have apparently suffered an attack of acute modesty in announcing their recent publications. Hopefully they will overcome this condition forthwith.

I would call your attention to the variety of meetings in which AAPP has been involved or has organized. This issue contains the continuation of a report on our very interesting and successful Annual Meeting of last May in Miami. We also organized a symposium this December at the Eastern Division Annual Meeting of the American Philosophical Association. This symposium, which I am told went very well, will be reported on in the next issue of the Newsletter. Finally, three meetings deserving of mention will take place in the coming months.

President's Column

My warmest wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year. This wish also relates to the association as I reflect on some of the discussions at the Fall Executive Council Meeting that was held on November 10-11 in Washington, D. C. There was lively discussion about the many promising projects that we might undertake, each of which involves resources which we do not presently have. Serious concern was raised about AAPP being a marginal academic society if we do not succeed in attracting a membership that represents the diversity in the field of philosophy and psychiatry. To this end, we think the organization should move to an independent Annual Meeting that is more readily available for our membership. This is particularly important if AAPP is to develop into a member-driven organization that many of us would like.

Meeting just before the American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting has not proven to be the best time slot for AAPP's needs. Notification of our meeting location is always delayed by the complexity of the APA program and such a large meeting as the APA is restricted to a limited (and usually expensive) convention site. As a result, attendance has suffered even though the quality of the program has been consistently very high. If AAPP is to serve its purpose of promoting research and education in philosophical aspects of psychiatry, then we will have to find alternative for our Annual Meeting. Whatever is finally decided, we will still maintain a presence at the American Psychiatric Association meeting, but perhaps by organizing symposia or special courses. We are already doing something similar at the Annual Divisional Meetings of the American Philosophical Association. The New England Regional Meeting being planned by the Yale-New Haven Local Group for January 17-19, 1997 will allow us to gauge whether a free-standing meeting can attract the kind of attendance that we think our programs deserve. Maintaining and expanding these kinds of efforts will tax our limited resources.

A critical decision was taken several years ago to assure that PPP was given its best chance of success. Dues for AAPP were actually lowered significantly and bundled with the subscription to the journal. So far this has been positive for AAPP as well as the PPP, but we are currently unable to do much to affect AAPP's income through dues. The Council believes that a fundraising effort might be worthwhile as a way to provide a level of expanded support for the organization. Thus far, AAPP has relied on the generosity and hard work of a small group of individuals, many of whom are on the Executive Council. I do not think that this pattern of reliance is a responsible way for the association to develop further, much less to flourish.

Accordingly, I have appointed a Fundraising Committee to bring a formal report to

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At the end of February the First International Conference on Philosophy and Mental Health, jointly sponsored and organized by the British (The Royal College of Psychiatrists Philosophy Group) and American (AAPP) groups, will take place in Benalmadena, Spain. As indicated in the title, this is the first such meeting where the goal is a truly international participation. As George Agich indicates in his column, there is every indication that the goal will be realized. We will have a substantial representation of AAPP members in attendance and giving papers. And with Jonathan Glover and Kenneth Schaffner offering Keynote presentations the opening evening, the conference will be launched on a high level.

The AAPP Annual Meeting on May 4 and 5 also promises to be a rewarding experience. In the manner of last year's meeting, where a fairly narrow theme concentrated the presentations in a productive way, Jerry Kroll has organized this year's meeting around the

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the Executive Council at the Annual AAPP Meeting in New York on May 4-5, 1996. Alfred Freedman has agreed to chair the Fundraising Committee; other members of the committee include Nassir Ghaemi, Michael Schwartz, and Kenneth Schaffner. The committee has been asked to bring a plan for fundraising for a number of projects such as sponsorship of the *Newsletter* and support for an expanded independent Annual Meeting. At this point the committee would welcome any ideas regarding sources of funds or ideas for projects that might attract support. Members should feel free to send their ideas or suggestions to the committee through AAPP's Administrative Secretary, Linda Muncy, whose address is on the back cover of this *Newsletter*.

Registration and submission of papers for the First International Congress for Philosophy and Mental Health scheduled for Benalmadena, Spain, February 8-March 2, 1996 has exceeded our expectations. By the time you receive this *Newsletter* the deadline for registration for this meeting will have passed. I am happy to be able to report that the quality of the submitted abstracts is very high. The Program features a wide array of papers representing various approaches and thematic interests in philosophy and psychiatry. In that sense, it is a relatively good representation of the diversity that is embraced by the phrase philosophy and psychiatry. Submitted papers from seventeen countries will be presented at five plenary sessions; in addition, there are 40 parallel sessions with a total of 170 papers on the preliminary program. This response is extremely gratifying; it reflects the wide interest in the concerns of our organization in other countries as well. The meeting should bring visibility to the work of many of our members and should afford ample opportunities for networking with colleagues working in the field from around the world.

Clearly, the New Year portends good things for our field. AAPP supported or initiated activities are increasing and the scope of the organization's efforts is expanding. With the enthusiastic support of our members, we have much to look forward to in the new year.

George Agich, Ph.D.
December 1, 1995

Letter from Rome Philosophy and Psychiatry in Italy

In Italy philosophy and psychiatry have had a controversial relationship. In the first half of this century Italian psychiatry was very biologically oriented. Psychological approaches and psychoanalysis felt quite separate from one another. When psychiatrists were interested in philosophy, it was just a matter of a personal interest without any relationship to their profession, or, at least, to their clinical practice. One can quote, for example, the introduction to the 2nd edition (1920) of the *Handbook of Psychiatry* of A. MorSELLI, a renowned scholar of that period: "Psychiatry, no longer a matter of mere philosophical debate, has now become a positive science" (p.7).

Meanwhile Italian culture was strongly influenced by two philosophers coming out of the idealist tradition: B. Croce and B. Gentile. Mr. Gentile (1875-1944) was involved with Fascism. He was Minister of Education (to be honest not one of the worst in the Italian recent history), and he reformed the Italian school system according to his view. Eventually he was killed by communist partisans during the World War II. Mr. Croce (1866-1952) was one of the leading intellectuals and opponent of fascism, and, in 1944, at the end of the fascist years, he served briefly as a cabinet minister. The two philosophers influenced the whole Italian culture till the sixties. Both Gentile and Croce identify philosophy with historical studies of the developments of concepts; both believed that human sciences (e.g., literature, arts, philosophy, music) were totally split from natural sciences (e.g., physics, biology, medicine). Both considered new empirical sciences such as psychology and sociology not sufficiently scientifically grounded.

In the sixties this situation was dramatically overturned. Other philosophical views such as phenomenology, existentialism, French structuralism (but not analytic philosophy, which remained rather foreign for still a long period), broke out, especially thanks to the philosophical circle of Turin, with N. Abbagnano. Meanwhile Italian culture discovered psychoanalysis, sociology, and psychology. The first chair in sociology in Italy was set up in Trento in the late sixties, while the first in psychology was set up in Padova in the early seventies. Psychiatry fell in love with these new sciences. Biological psychiatry went out of fashion and young psychia-

trists discovered sociology, psychology and, eventually, philosophy: in particular phenomenology.

Meanwhile the community mental health care movement had also begun in Italy. It was localized in North and Central Italy. In early 1960's some sociologists and psychiatrists (following the analogous movement started in the U.S. and the U.K. in the 50's) began to ask fundamental questions about mental hospitals. What happened was an ideological shift in which the total institution came to be seen as authoritarian, inefficient, and in many ways anti-therapeutic. Early attempts to transform the mental hospital into a therapeutic community (Gorizia, Perugia, Arezzo) were soon overwhelmed by demands that nothing less than its abolition would do. In 1978 Italy radically reformed its mental health system, abolishing psychiatric hospitals (except forensic psychiatric hospitals) and establishing community-based, non-segregated and demedicalized care. Social therapies (part-time hospitalization, self-help communities, substitute homes, non-residential self-help organisations, professional & para-professional organisations) were regarded as the real solution to the problem of mental health cares. Biological psychiatry survived in private clinics and in a few universities, while the whole system of community care and most

FINAL NOTICE

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PHILOSOPHY AND MENTAL HEALTH

**Benalmadena - Southern Spain
Wednesday, February 28 -
Saturday, March 2, 1996**

Keynote Speakers:

Jonathan Glover	Kenneth Schaffner
U. of Oxford	G. Washington U.
UK	USA

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 Linda Muncy, Administrative Coordinator, AAPP.