

From the Editor

I will leave it to others to describe the pleasures and triumphs of the Spain conference. Let me mention only two of my many lingering memories. The first: a panel I chaired with presentations by Otto Doerr-Zegers ("The Phenomenology of the Body in Depression and Schizophrenia"), Victoria Allison-Bolger ("I am not myself—Madness and Personal Identity"), and Louis Sass ("Solipsism and the Yearning for a Private Language: Wittgensteinian Reflections on Schizophrenia"). The first two so thoroughly reflected the Continental and Anglo traditions that I questioned whether either understood what the other was talking about. And then Sass, with his blend of phenomenology and Wittgenstein, stepped forth with a synthesis to the thesis and antithesis that preceded him. Here indeed in my panel was a microcosm of the contemporary world of philosophy/psychiatry. The second memory: wandering the backstreets of Malaga with George Agich on a sunny afternoon after the end of the conference, browsing at the outdoor cafes, and finally joining up with Emilio Mordini, Martin Heinze, and others of the German contingent for a feast of wine and tapas at a local restaurant. A fine end to a fine conference!

What is one to make of the brouhaha over the exhibit, "Sigmund Freud: Conflict and Culture," planned by the Library of Congress for the coming autumn. Following a petition of 50 prominent signatories the Library postponed the exhibit, citing funding problems. Although the petition only asks for a more balanced exhibit, claiming that the current advisory board is too one-sidedly pro-Freudian, it is apparent that the petition organizer, Peter Swales, the historian who has built a research career on the question of whether Freud had an affair with his sister-in-law, would prefer total cancellation of the project, which he has declared "completely one-sided and highly partisan (toward Freud)..." (*Clinical Psychiatry News*, Feb. 1996). What is less clear is whether the majority of signatories, among whom are numbered such luminaries as Oliver Sacks, Gloria Steinem, and

President's Column

God apparently watches over young children, fools, and organizers of international meetings. The relatively modest goal of bringing together AAPP and the Royal College of Psychiatrists Philosophy Group blossomed into a full-fledged international meeting that exceeded my own rather guarded hopes. To say that the meeting in Benalmadena, Spain, February 28-March 2, 1996 was an *international congress* however misleads. Actually, the meeting was a more congenial (120 participants) *working conference* of individuals actively conducting research in various aspects of philosophy of psychiatry. It afforded a remarkable opportunity for the active exchange of ideas and for viewing the breadth and depth of work in philosophy and psychiatry. Many participants told me that the meeting in Benalmadena was the first professional conference at which their own research interests found a comfortable niche. The meeting by all reports was collegial and worthwhile.

Participants expressed enthusiastic interest in the organization of another international meeting be planned for the not too distant future. Another topic discussed was the prospect of arranging bilateral meetings either in the US or abroad. Colleagues from Australia, France, Germany, and Italy indicated their interest in pursuing cooperative projects with AAPP. A number of initiatives are underway that I hope to be able to report on in the near future. Beside the substantive and intellectual quality of the meeting, it is remarkable that AAPP's commitment to develop this field is recognized abroad. The organizers of the meeting are currently reviewing papers for possible inclusion in a proceedings volume. I hope to be able to report on the proceedings volume in a future Newsletter.

The meeting opened with keynote addresses by Jonathan Glover, "Explanation: Human and Scientific," and Kenneth Schaffner, "Behavioral Genetics, Psychiatric Genetics, and Explanations of Mental Disorders," which set the tone for the meeting. Both papers featured clearly articulated and incisive analysis of fundamental questions and issues for philosophy of psychiatry. Plenary sessions were filled with papers drawn from each of the countries (19) represented at the meeting and parallel sessions meant that there was no time for enjoying the Costa del Sol.

There is no way to fairly report on the many sessions at the meeting, but a listing of session topics can give readers of this Newsletter a good idea of the diversity and breadth of interests represented: narrative and interpretation theory, personal identity, conceptual issues, self deception, intersubjectivity and interpersonality, mind body relations, conceptual models in psychiatry, concepts of psychiatric disorder and mental illness, causality in psychiatry and psychotherapy, theoretical issues in psychotherapy, suicide, ethical dilemmas, the language of psychiatry, diagnosis and classification, phenomenological psychiatry, personal identity, culture and community, and boundary questions. These topics attest to the vibrancy of current work in philosophy and psychiatry and to the common research interests that promoted highly worthwhile collegial interactions.

George Agich, Ph.D.

Freud's granddaughter, Sophie Freud, are in agreement with Swales' design or have been hoodwinked by him into signing the petition. While the organizers continue to insist that the problem has only been one of inadequate funding and that the exhibit will indeed take place in the fall of 1988 (*Clinical Psychiatry News*, April, 1996), the fate of the exhibit remains unclear. (See also *Lingua Franca*, Nov./Dec., 1995, for a sympathetic treatment of the petition.)

This successful campaign to sideline the Freud exhibit is striking in at least two ways: as an example of the increasing vulnerability of the Smithsonian and the Library of

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Letter from Sydney

In October, 1994, a group of psychiatrists met in Jeanette Martin's home in Sydney to establish a Philosophy and Psychiatry Group within the New South Wales State Branch of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP). Jeanette Martin and Stephanie Winfield had previously (1992) organised a series of twelve seminars on philosophical topics for psychiatrists which had been well received, and were aware of the philosophy group within the Royal College of Psychiatrists. Once Stephanie had been exposed to the irresistible charms of Michael Schwartz and Bill Fulford in Paris at the First World Congress of Medicine and Philosophy, it was clear that the time was now to try to set up a more permanent philosophy group within the RANZCP.

The initial meeting attracted around a dozen people who were swiftly relieved of \$25 each to cover the group's expenses. We decided to hold monthly evening meetings in Jeanette's home, starting with tea/coffee and sandwiches to revive the participants, before a 30-45 minute paper followed by an hour's discussion.

We have now completed our first calendar year of activities and it seems the group is on a firm footing. During the year we heard nine papers on topics from both the Continental and Anglo-American traditions, given by psychiatrists, philosophers and a historian, and had a dinner with Professor Grant Gillett, followed by a paper. Initially the group was a little anxious about admitting non-psychiatrists as group members, wishing first to consolidate its aims and to find an appropriate level for philosophical discussion among psychiatrist members. We now have academics and post-graduate students in philosophy as members, as well as psychiatric nurses, psychologists, and a varied bunch of psychiatrists. It is a lively mix! Our numbers have grown steadily, to the point that at the last meeting Jeanette was reduced to climbing in the window to enter her living room, such was the crowd.

With the encouragement and advice of Professor Sid Block, we are currently embarking on a new stage of development—the formation of a binational philosophy group within the RANZCP. Representatives from each Branch of the College are working as an ad hoc committee towards this, and we hope to launch the group at the College Congress in Wellington, New Zealand, in May, 1996.

We invite any members of AAPP who are visiting Sydney to come to our meetings, perhaps to give a paper! Contact

Stephanie or Jeanette via phone or fax: Stephanie (02) 389-1896; Jeanette (02) 386-1758.

We enjoyed meeting many colleagues at the Philosophy and Mental Conference in Spain in February, and look forward to the continued development of philosophy and psychiatry.

Drs. Jeanette Martin and
Stephanie Winfield
Sydney, Australia

The First International Conference On Philosophy And Mental Health Benlmadena, Spain February 28 - March 2, 1996 Report

One of AAPP's most important events this year, co-sponsored by the Royal College of Psychiatrists Philosophy Group, was the First International Conference on Philosophy and Mental Health, which took place in Benlmadena, Spain, between February 28 - March 2, 1996. A long desired and awaited international reunion, the meeting was conceived as a direct response to the recent upsurge of cross-disciplinary contact between philosophers and mental health practitioners on a world-wide basis. The organizers aimed to offer the many international groups and individuals working in this rapidly expanding field an opportunity to get together, and also to provide an opportunity for the exchange of ideas and experience, the presentation of new research, and the discussion of new teaching initiatives.

The main organizers of the Conference were the Royal College of Psychiatrists Philosophy Group in the UK (KWM Fulford) and the Association for the Advancement of Philosophy and Psychiatry (G. Agich) in the USA. However the organizing committee included representatives from other groups concerned with this field from elsewhere in the world, including Australia and New Zealand, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Scotland, France and Romania.

The organizers' choice of site was the Hotel Triton in Benlmadena, Spain. (We

had initially hoped to meet midway between the USA and the UK—this was as "midway" as we got!) Happily, this placed the Conference in the wonderfully picturesque landscape of the Costa del Sol, where the mountains meet the Mediterranean Sea in a combination of green and endless marine-blue spotted by the incredible white of traditional Andalusian architecture. The schedule of the Conference was busy, starting with two substantive and theme-setting Keynote Addresses by Jonathan Glover ("Explanation: Human and Scientific") and Kenneth Schaffner ("Behavioral Genetics, Psychiatric Genetics, and Explanations of Mental Disorders"), and then proceeding to Plenary Sessions in the mornings (each offering 6 papers and followed by intellectually challenging discussions moderated by a designated chair) and Parallel Sessions in the afternoons—one of which was conducted in German. One of the most difficult tasks for a participant was to choose among the many exceptional presentations unfortunately held at the same time during the parallel sessions. However, the time spent together with experts in the field and the cross-fertilizing discussions between delegates (for which the Conference provided plenty of opportunities) created many possibilities for networking, new insights, and new friendships.

In this report, due to limited space, we will be able to present only a few of the most important papers. We hope that this selection can give the reader an idea about the wonderful atmosphere of this conference and about the diversity and depth of subjects presented by world-class investigators.

It seems fit to begin with an analysis of phenomenology and current and future trends in its relationship with psychiatry as presented by Michael Schwartz and Osborne Wiggins (AAPP) in their paper: "Phenomenological Psychiatry in the Next Century." Modern psychiatry, represented by Kraepelin, and phenomenology, as developed by Husserl, began around the same time and shared a common goal: detailed descriptions of human experience. The relationship between the two fields has undergone multiple transformations, but at its core, the phenomenological approach continues to emphasize to psychiatrists the concrete situatedness of persons through embodiment, culture, and history. Schwartz and Wiggins proceeded to identify three main future directions for cooperation between phenomenology and psychiatry: (1) the development of a philosophical anthropology through which mental disorders can be comprehended, (2) an