

# SPORE PRINTS



BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
200 Second Avenue North, Seattle, Washington, 98109  
January 1978 Number 138

## HALLUCINOGENIC MUSHROOM CONFERENCE

Scott Chilton

The Second International Conference on Hallucinogenic Mushrooms, organized by Jonathan Ott and Preston Wheaton of Olympia, was held at Fort Worden State Park, Port Townsend over Halloween weekend. Over 260 registrants assembled to hear lectures from an interdisciplinary faculty ranging from Mayan studies to psychiatry. About one quarter of the participants were drawn from the medical profession and universities, and a smaller group represented the legal community, including lawyers, agents of the Drug Enforcement Agency and even the R.C.M.P.

R. Gordon Wasson, author of Mushrooms, Russia, and History and dean of ethnomycology (= study of the use of mushrooms in different cultures), reviewed how he and Valentina Pavlovna Wasson set out in 1924 to compare the differing attitudes of Slavic and Anglo-Saxon societies toward mushrooms, a life-long study which led to the discovery of the Mexican psilocybe cults and the hypothesis that Soma of the Hindu Rig Veda was Amanita muscaria. Dr. Richard Evans Schultes, Harvard Botanical Museum, narrowed the ethnobotanic focus to natural intoxicants in two lectures on aboriginal use of intoxicating plants drawn from a lifetime of study among Indians of the Amazon Basin. Dr. Andrew Weil, author of The Natural Mind, and Dr. Norman Zinberg, Harvard Medical School, dealt with social, cultural, and legal attitudes toward drug use in our own society. Palo Alto research chemist David Repke summarized chemical aspects of hallucinogenic and related chemicals of Psilocybe and allied genera, and Dr. Scott Chilton, University of Washington, did the same for mind-altering drugs from Amanita muscaria - Amanita pantherina groups. Dr. David Harnden, San Francisco physician, discussed clinical treatment of mushroom intoxication.

Professor Carl Rose, a Mayanist from Tufts University discussed the significance of mushroom stones. These are pre-Columbian stone-carved mushrooms about one foot tall. Hundreds have been found in Guatemala and southern Mexico. When R. Gordon Wasson discovered in 1954 that some Mexican Indians still held Psilocybe spp. sacred, it was quickly assumed that the mushroom stones were connected with ritual use of Psilocybe spp. Rose proposed that the stones were actually used to beat out the shape of latex balls used in Mayan ball games. Since these games had a sacred nature, an association with Psilocybe is still not ruled out by Rose's hypothesis.

Laboratory sessions on Psilocybe identification and culture were conducted by Dr. Gaston Guzman, Polytechnical Institute of Mexico, and Dale Leslie and Jeremy Bigwood, freelance mycologists.

R. Gordon Wasson, Dr. Albert Hofmann, Swiss pharmaceutical chemist, and Greek Professor A.T. Ruck of Boston University presented a new hypothesis concerning the ancient Greek Mysteries of Eleusis. This team of ethnomycologist, chemist, and Greek classicist has collaborated on the theory that a near relative of ergot, Claviceps paspali, was used to induce hallucination at the height of the experience involved in the Eleusinian Mysteries. Our knowledge of just what oc-

curred in the rite, which could be experienced only in the small Greek town of Eleusis is very meager because the celebrants were sworn to secrecy. It is known from Aristotle that one went to Eleusis for an experience - nothing was to be learned there; and also that there was a scandal when it was discovered that some of the Athenian nobility had profaned the Mystery by taking it to their homes for entertainment.

Dr. Albert Hofmann, who discovered LSD in 1943, has found strains of the grass-parasitizing fungus Claviceps paspali which produce high levels of lysergic acid amide, a very close relative of LSD. This particular fungus produces only low levels of some of the other ergot alkaloids responsible for the adverse effects of ergotism (constriction of blood vessels with concomitant gangrene or mummification of the extremities). Hofmann has shown that lysergic acid amide produces altered states of consciousness at high dose levels and that hot-water extraction of Claviceps paspali effects a partial fractionation of lysergic acid amide away from the deleterious vaso-constricting ergot alkaloids. This means that the technology for extracting the centrally-active component was very simple and could have been known to the classical Greeks.

Wasson, Hofmann and Ruck plan to publish the details of their hypothesis in a book next year. Proceedings of the Conference will be available at a later date.

## NEW BOOKS

H.R.H.

Hallucinogenic and Poisonous Mushroom Field Guide by Gary P. Menser, published by AND/OR PRESS, P.O. Box 2246, Berkeley, CA 94702. 160pp. 39 color plates, 50 line drawings with keys and charts. Price \$5.95

California Toxic Fungi by Dr. Thomas J. Duffy and Paul P. Vergeer, published by the Mycological Society of San Francisco, Inc., P. O. Box 904, San Francisco, CA 94101. 34 pp., 10 color plates, 3 figures plus a toxin chart. Price \$3.50

A Guide to the Poisonous Mushrooms in the Greater New York Area published by the New York Mycological Society c/o Emil Lang, 1700 York Ave., New York, N.Y., 10028 44 pp., 35 species illustrated, Price \$2.50 + 25¢ postage.

Toxic and Hallucinogenic Mushroom Poisoning - A Handbook for Physicians and Mushroom Hunters by D. H. Mitchel and Gary Lincoff. Publisher Van Nostrand Reinhold Company of New York., Price \$15.

How To Identify and Grow PSILOCYBIN Mushrooms by Jule Stevens and Rich Gee, published by Sun Magic Publishing 911 N.E. 45th, Seattle, WA 98105. 83pp. Price \$5.95

The Boletes of Michigan is a new book authored by Drs. Smith and Thiers. Price \$18.95. Further details as to publisher etc., are not available at this time.

Also the popular Orson Miller book, Mushrooms of North America, is now available in paperback for \$8.50, in most Seattle bookstores. The smaller size makes it ideal for carrying in the field. Another difference is the placing of the color photographs near their respective mycological descriptions.



# P. S. M. S. Spore Prints

is published monthly except July and August by the  
PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
c/o The Pacific Science Center, 200 - 2nd Ave. North  
Seattle, WA 98109. Mail copy, art or photos to Hilde-  
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## Membership Meeting

Monday, January 9, 1978, 8:00 pm, Eames Theater,  
The Pacific Science Center.

Program: We are fortunate to have Mr. Adam Szczawinski of the British Columbia Provincial Museum give us a talk on Lichens (Lichens are composite organisms, consisting of an ascomycetous fungus living symbiotically with an alga). Mr. Szczawinski is a co-author (with Robert J. Bandoni) of the Guide to Common Mushrooms of British Columbia (available through PSMS).

In addition, we will have the slide-tape lecture on Ascomycetes, narrated by Michael Beug. This is one of the short slide-tapes mentioned in the November 1977 issue of Spore Prints.

### BOARD NEWS

H.R.H.

Note that the December Board Meeting was cancelled. The following report covers the November Board Meeting, held November 21, 1977.

President Orth reported that the Society received more phone calls about identifying mushrooms than in other years. The genus *Psilocybe* is especially popular this year. A letter from the Lewis County Sheriff's Office had a sample of a brown mushroom (in very poor condition) enclosed and asked for an identification as to poisonous or not. Dr. Stuntz examined the samples microscopically. Some young people had been arrested for trespassing and had the mushrooms in their possession.

The question of the moral and legal responsibility of PSMS was discussed. Basically, we don't exactly know what to do with requests for identification of hallucinogenic types.

Dr. Stuntz had his assistants keep track of the time they spent on the phone and with personal requests at the University for identification of these 'happy' mushrooms. It amounts to the equivalent of 40 hours per week since September. One suggestion was that those members qualified to identify, take turns by the week.

John Mudge, our treasurer, reported that after most of the exhibit bills have been paid, we are about \$1,400 ahead this year. After examining the book sales, he suggested reducing the discount given to members, since the shipping costs of the books had previously not been considered.

John asked the board to think about how the set-aside funds should be used. Mentioned were scholarships for students of Dr. Stuntz, the Morel Committee, Oak Patch. A firm commitment will be made in January.

President Orth appointed the following members to the election committee: Ed Cantelon (chairman; phone 242-6115) and Dick Sieger (phone 362-6860) and Ken Chaplin (phone 852-1623). In 1978 elections will be held for the position of president, treasurer, five board members and alternates.

A donation of \$50 was approved for Oak Patch, the camp for retarded boys. A letter received from the executive director of Oak Patch, Chris Severson, indicated that the money will be added to the building fund for the new building.

### LAST CALL - PAY YOUR DUES FOR 1978

Joy McKnight (5610 South 121st, Seattle, 98178, phone: 772-5567) is preparing the membership roster for 1978, and if you are not paid up, you will not be included. Wrong spellings, phone numbers, addresses, etc. also should be reported to her, so they can be corrected.

## Calendar

January 9, Monday, Membership Meeting, 8:00 pm

January 23, Monday, Board Meeting, 8:00 pm

January 27, Friday Deadline for Spore Print Material; Send all articles, art work, photographs to the Editor, 4029 E. Madison, Seattle, Wa., 98102

February 13, Monday, Membership Meeting, 8:00 pm

March 11, Saturday, The 14th Annual Survivors' Banquet

### BANQUET NEWS

Louise Rautenberg

On Saturday, March 11, 1978 PSMS members will gather at the Officers' Club at the Sandpoint Naval Air Station for the March Membership Meeting which will have an international theme. Tickets again (for the third year) are still \$7.50 per person and can be obtained at the January and February Membership Meetings, or by sending your order accompanied by a check, and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Sally Ann Hansen, 10433 - 1st Ave. SW., Seattle, Wa. 98146 Musical entertainment again will be provided by Ed Farmer. Notice the change in location: The banquet will be held at the Sandpoint Officers' Club.

Louise (phone 542-5109) still can use some help with decorations, so please call her, and volunteer.

All the details about the banquet will appear in the February issue of Spore Prints.

The following article appeared in the Kitsap County Herald on October 26, 1977. This article is on the humorous side, but there were several in South King County reporting about actual arrests that were made when the "magic mushroom" harvest was in full swing. It seems the farmers objected to flocks of youths trampling their pastures.

The article in the Herald said: "Your friendly neighborhood mushroom picker, that kindly gray-haired lady with the canvas satchel, faces a new hazard this year. In the past, along with getting lost in the woods at least once a year, she has had to listen to people complaining about her mushrooms. 'I wouldn't eat one of those things if they paid me,' they said. She also suffered from wet feet and an occasional head cold. It's okay, though. Take up a hobby, you can expect a few bad moments.

But this year it's worse.

For out of the Kitsap County Courthouse comes a press release from the Deputy Sheriff hinting that anybody who is out there picking mushrooms is probably some kind of dope-head.

'For the second year in a row, the Sheriff's Office is being flooded with reports from citizens who are concerned about the great number of mushroom pickers invading their property.' 'There seems to be a myth going around, specifically among the youth, that these are Psilocybin or "The Magic Mushrooms" that give a person a hallucinogenic high when ingested.'

But it's not so, the Sheriff adds. Those mushrooms are toxic. The hot and cold flashes they produce are symptoms of poisoning, not some happy turn-on. Try them, and you could wind up in Harrison Hospital's emergency ward.

For the neighborhood mushroom picker, who is looking neither for the cheap glow nor a trip to the hospital, that's not exactly welcome publicity. The Deputy Sheriff gets all the way down to the bottom of his press release before he admits there are ordinary citizens out there picking edible mushrooms.

That wins him a special place, along with wet feet and head colds, as a hazard for the hobbyist. Who invited him to the party, anyway?"

#### 1978 NAMA FORAYS from the Mycophile

The National NAMA 1978 Foray will be held at Camp Gualala about 100 miles north of San Francisco in late November or early December. The Mycological Society of San Francisco will be the host club.

Plans are being made for NAMA's second international foray with a trip to Finland in August 1978. Dr. Orson Miller will serve as the foray mycologist. The trip will last 18 days and the cost per person should be about \$1,500. Paid up adult and student NAMA members only will be accepted. This will probably be the first time a major foray has been held by Americans north of the Arctic Circle, since there will be forays near Kevo.

#### FUNGUS FAIRS IN THE SAN FRANCISCO AREA

The Mycological Society of San Francisco held a Fungus Fair at Ft. Mason on Sunday, December 10, and will hold another one on Sunday, January 8, 1978 at the Oakland Museum.

#### FACTS ARE FACTS Minnesota Mycological Society

After the MMS claimed to be the oldest mycological society in the USA, the Boston Mycological Club set the record straight by proving that it has been in continuous existence since 1895, while the MMS is two years younger.

The Mushrooms and Man Symposium was held on the campus of Linn-Benton Community College, in Albany, Oregon, November 4 - 7, 1977. In addition to the lectures on identification, cultivation, taxonomy, toxicology, the following subjects were covered: Pacific coast foraging and ecology. The lecturers included Dr. Daniel E. Stuntz, Dr. Lynn Brady, Dr. Andrew Weil, Dr. Harry Thiers, Dr. James Trappe, Dr. Varro Tyler, and Dr. William Denison. Added features were a culinary lecture, and preparation, and demonstration by the internationally known chef and author James Beard.

The Symposium also exhibited commercial cultivation displays and an identification table.

#### MUSHROOM BULLETINS from The Mycophile

The following two bulletins are available, free of charge, by writing to the Cooperative Extension Service, University of Maine, Orono, Maine 04473. Ask for Bulletin 556 - "Some Edible Mushrooms Found in Maine" and Bulletin 583 - "Some Common Poisonous and Questionable Mushrooms Found in Maine". Both of these bulletins are very useful to the mycophagist no matter where he/she might collect in North America.

The following booklet sells for \$1.00, Bulletin 735 - "Ectomycorrhizae of Maine". It is a pictorial listing of Boletaceae with their associated hosts. There are 37 colored plates of Boletes. The Boletes are listed under either coniferous or deciduous hosts. Such a booklet can help a great deal in just which Bolete the forager might have in hand. Send your check and request to Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, Deering Hall, University of Maine at Orono, Orono, Maine 04473.

Another free publication, "Mushroom Collecting for the Beginner" Publication #861-1972 (Single copies free) can be ordered from Canada Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Canada, K1A 0C7.

#### BITS AND PIECES H.R.H.

Hopefully, when you are reading this, Estella Hansen will be home from the hospital and continuing to make progress in her recuperation from surgery.

It seems the East Side is catching mushroom fever. The first ever edition of The Other Side (November 1977) included a mushroom story written by PSMS member Ginger Dunmire. The picture features Winston Hufford at the Annual Exhibit.

Also the Daily Journal-American carried an article on mushrooming, featuring PSMS members Gwen and Ted Heib.

Think Elections! It is not too early to call Ed Cantelon, 242-6115, Dick Sieger, 362-6860 or Ken Chaplin, 852-1623 and volunteer to be a candidate for one of the following positions president, treasurer, 5 board members and alternates, which come up for elections in March. Get more involved in Your Society. You can also nominate a fellow member for a position, but you must obtain the permission of that member. It certainly would make the job of the committee easier if they would get some nominations. Newer members should also get involved.

Welcome to Rita Henrici (phone 938 - 3288) our new member of the month.

Think mushrooms - spring is just around the corner!

As I indicated last month, I have received a few recipes that people have asked for because the food tasted so good at pot-lucks, at the Annual Exhibit, or at the Christmas party. However, the three recipes listed below are all that I have received, and I urge those members who asked for some other recipes to keep nagging the excellent cooks for the recipes they want. Otherwise our recipe file will stop here.

**CORNERED BEEF SALAD** furnished by Louise Rautenberg

- Heat, then add
- 1 can Campbells Consommé
- 1 large package lemon jello
- 1/4 cup boiling water
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 2 hard cooked eggs
- 1/4 cup chopped green onions
- 1 T. chopped parsley
- 1/2 cup chopped green pepper
- 1 cup mayonaise
- 1 teaspoon mustard
- 1 small jar pimento

Crumble 1 can Corned Beef into mixture. Freeze in 13 x 9" pan.

**GREEN TOMATO GARLIC DILL PICKLES** Vic Nendza

In each quart jar put a grape leaf or 2 or 3 cherry leaves. Then pack green tomatoes with lots of dill heads and cut up stalks. The more, the better.  
 1 or 2 small hot peppers and about 9 cloves of garlic (use less if you don't like it too hot or too garlycy).  
 2 tablespoons (heaping) mixed pickling spices.  
 Pour in hot brine and seal.  
 BRINE: 8 quarts of water; 3 cups of vinegar; 1-1/2 cups of pickling and canning salt.  
 Vic then added, that at the end of the growing season, when green tomatoes are more available, it is too late for fresh dill. Therefore, he always keeps dried dill heads and stalks on hand for the above, and other recipes.

**UKRAINIAN MUSHROOM COOKIES ALSO KNOWN AS SPICED MUSHROOM COOKIES** Judy Blomster

These are the beautiful mushroom cookies Judy brought to the Christmas party. She told me that she found the recipe in the December 1977 issue of Bon Appetit magazine, and John Clancy School of Cooking and Baking is the provider of the recipe. Since I was at the end of the line, the cookies were all gone, by the time I reached the table, which is a pretty good indication that they are good.

Here is the recipe:  
 1/4 cup (= 1/2 stick) unsalted butter; 1/2 cup sugar;  
 2 large eggs; 1/4 cup yogurt; 3/4 cup honey; 4 cups all purpose flour; 1-1/2 teaspoon baking soda; 1 teaspoon cinnamon  
 1/4 teaspoon allspice; 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg; 1/2 teaspoon ginger; 1 teaspoon grated lemon rind.  
 Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs, one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Stir in yogurt and honey (warm slightly if too firm to pour easily).  
 Sift together flour, allspice, nutmeg and ginger; add lemon rind. Add dry ingredients in small amounts to liquid mixture blending thoroughly to form a soft dough. Chill until easy to handle, about one hour.  
 Preheat oven to 350°F. Pinch off walnut-size pieces of dough and roll between palms to form a ball for the mushroom 'crown' Dip index finger in flour and press indentation in ball. With indentation - side down, place on ungreased cookie sheet.

Roll out mushroom 'stem' between palms, pointing one end slightly and squaring the other. Continue rolling until you have made an equal number of crowns and stems, varying size of stems from 1 to 1-1/2 inches in length and 3/8 to 1/2 inch in diameter; curve some stems for variety. Bake 10 to 12 minutes, or until firm to the touch. (If dough gives, the cookies will lose their shape during cooling.) Use handle of spatula to re-open indentation in crown. Remove to rack and cool thoroughly before assembling.

**ICING**  
 3-3/4 cups powdered sugar; 1/2 cup water; 2 tablespoons lemon juice; 2 tablespoons cocoa.  
 Combine sugar with water and lemon juice to make thin icing. Coat stems by dipping into icing. Carefully insert pointed end into indentation in mushroom crowns. Place upside down on tray and allow to dry about 15 minutes.  
 Add cocoa to remaining icing, mixing thoroughly. When stems are dry, carefully coat crowns with cocoa icing, using small spatula. When completely dry, arrange mushrooms in a basket or on a serving platter. Yield: 3 dozen cookies.

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE** Russell Torneby

This mycologically oriented crossword puzzle was sent in by our new member Russell Torneby who keeps thinking mushrooms during the winter months. The solution will follow next month. Now go to work and solve the puzzle.

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                        | <b>DOWN</b>   |
| 1. Gilled Mushroom                   | 2. Georgia (abbr.)                                    |
| 7. Pity                              | 3. Man's Name   |
| 9. Overtime (abbr.)                  | 4. Indian Prince                                      |
| 11. Half an Em                       | 5. Exists   |
| 12. 3.1416                           | 6. Mushroom with Pores                                |
| 13. Mushrooms found in swampy forest | 8. Size of Calvatia gigantea                          |
| 16. Unit of work                     | 10. Immoral woman                                     |
| 17. Girl's name                      | 12. Slippery Jacks are often found under _____ trees. |
| 18. Tablet Triturate (abbr.)         | 14. Coast Guard (abbr.)                               |
| 19. Not Ma Kettle                    | 15. Egyptian Sun God                                  |
| 21. And (Fr.)                        | 19. Hawaiian Food                                     |
| 22. High Dam                         | 20. Beast of Burden                                   |
| 24. Destroying Angel property        | 22. Artificial Language                               |
|                                      | 23. Therefore   |

