

EDITOR'S NOTE

On behalf of our editorial team, I welcome Hannah Jenkins in her new role as AIPR President, and wish her a long and productive stay with us. If you have read Hannah's formal introduction on the previous pages, you will see that she has a wealth of interesting projects planned for the AIPR. In particular, you as subscribers to the journal should note that the AIPR is your Institute and these new projects and services, as well as many of those already in action, are specifically designed with your best interests in mind—they are not just for the lay community. We hope you take advantage of the opportunities that the AIPR offer,¹ and we value your support in the form of any comments or suggestions you would like to make that might help make the AIPR a better service to you and the community.

On a similar vein, and as editor of the *Journal*, I constantly consider the journal's standard and content. My goal is not only to ensure that it meets your needs and expectations, but also that it compares favourably with parapsychological journals published overseas. To do that effectively, I need your feedback. As such, a short survey was enclosed with last year's December issue. The response was impressive, considering the small scale under which we operate—over 20% of our readership responded. Here are the results:

1. Is the journal too technical? 86% said "No" or "It was OK as it is"
2. Would you like to see more transpersonal contributions? 55% said "No" or "It was OK as it is"
3. Would you like to see more reports on paranormal investigations? (e.g., 'ghost-hunts', haunting-type research, etc.) 73% said "Yes"
4. Would you like to see more first-hand accounts of paranormal experiences? 64% said "No" or "It was OK as it is"
5. Do you like the book reviews? 90% said "Yes"
6. Would you like to see more book reviews? 81% said "No" or "It was OK as it is"
7. Do you subscribe to other parapsychological journals? 81% said "No"

These results mean that the vast majority of readers are not challenged by the technical nature of the articles, but one person thought there'd be room for a glossary of technical and statistical terms. In the past, we have embedded definition boxes in the main text of articles for easy reference, but we realise that some terms can give us the slip. We apologise

¹ for further information, see the AIPR website at www.aiprinc.org/index.asp

for any inconvenience, but remind readers that there are a number of affordable glossaries available (e.g., Thalbourne's, 2003, *Glossary of Terms Used in Parapsychology*, published by Puente) and there is a good one on the Internet.²

Interest in transpersonal contributions was about half-half, but there was a strong demand for reports on paranormal investigations and paranormal experiences (I'll comment on these two issues shortly). Readers were very happy with our book reviews, and about two or three reviews per issue seemed sufficient. Finally, we note that a very large proportion of readers' exposure to research on paranormal issues comes almost exclusively from our *Journal*, so that puts a lot of responsibility on our shoulders. Our goal is to continue meeting the same high standards maintained by other parapsychological journals.

And here is what you expressly asked for: (i) more articles on anthropology-related research articles; and (ii) articles by a more diverse range of authors, from Australia, New Zealand, and the South Pacific. More than once, we were commended on our "good work," and one respondent thought that it was "excellent to have a journal on psi published in Australia," but one reader thought we were "too clicky" (ouch!) and "elitist" (sorry!). You must remember that there are very few parapsychologists in the southern hemisphere, but we still consistently manage to feature articles from authors in far away continents, including North and South America, and Europe (including the UK).

I have to say that anthropology-related research articles don't come our way very often, but because we tend to paint with a broader brush, we often do feature articles from non-English speaking countries, or studies that cross the ethnic and/or cultural divide in terms of themes or content studied—see Vol. 6(2), pp. 114-124, 156-166; Vol. 6(1), pp. 21-34; Vol. 5(2), pp. 140-148; Vol. 4(2), pp. 114-127; Vol. 3(2), pp. 140-146; pp. 159-174; and Vol. 2(1), pp. 44-62. And there have been a number of articles that depart from the discipline of psychology by addressing paranormal issues from the perspectives of physics, philosophy, history, sociology, and phenomenology, and in this issue for the first time, astrology.

Given the overwhelming support for the journal as it currently stands, and given that we have always intended to maintain a journal that meets the expectations of the scientific community, we will continue to feature peer-reviewed research articles and book reviews in the journal, but for *all* subscribers (especially those who asked for it), we plan to present occasional reports of paranormal experiences and investigations in a *free*

² See www.mdani.demon.co.uk/para/paraglos.htm

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newsletter, *The A.I.P.R. News*, which will be included free in your subscription fee to the *Journal*. *The A.I.P.R. News* is in its formative stages, but you can expect to see the first edition soon (between issues of the journal—i.e., March and September). It is also planned to feature other items of interest in the newsletter including news and reviews of current events in the world of the paranormal.

We, on the editorial board, hope that you enjoy both this first issue of the *Journal* for 2007, and the inaugural issue of *The A.I.P.R. News*, coming soon.

—Lance Storm