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## The Pleasure of Sages

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# The Pleasure of Sages

**1998** The Year of the Tiger marks a turning point in the development of *The International Journal of Transpersonal Studies*. The origins of *IJTS* go back to 1981 when it was founded by Don Diespecker — then attached to the University of Wollongong — as *The Australian Journal of Transpersonal Psychology*.<sup>1</sup> Don's remarkable vision and dedication were carried forth by devoted succeeding editors and their editorial boards. In 1993, *AJTP*'s title was changed to *The International Journal of Transpersonal Studies* to reflect the expansion of the transpersonal perspective into other disciplines and to reflect the increasing international interest in transpersonalism. Still another step was taken in an international direction in 1995, when the *Journal* inaugurated a subseries entitled *Voices of Russian Transpersonalism*. This series, edited by Tõnu R. Soidla (Russia) and S. I. Shapiro (USA), will be publishing its fifth volume later this year. Through the good offices of Erin Neill, the most recent editor in chief, and John Kyneur of Bolda-Lok Publishing, the *Journal* has migrated from Australia to the shores of Hawai'i, where it is published by a new editor and staff through Panigada Press.

We are indebted to our editorial predecessors and we hope to build still further upon their stout foundation. As before, the *Journal* seeks to cast a wide net in the seas of transpersonalism, welcoming a broad range of content and methodological approaches. We especially hope to expand our international focus with regard to readers, contributors, and editors. We are also giving the *Journal* a distinctive new style.

When I pick up a new issue of *The New Yorker* magazine, it's with a sense of anticipation and pleasure. I look forward to broadening my horizons and venturing beyond the confines of the familiar. Contrast this with the commonplace experience of opening many professional journals only to breathe a sigh of relief that most of their contents fall outside one's research interests and needn't be read. Of course an academic journal is not *The New Yorker*, but must we absolutely forgo style, artistry, and engagement? Our response is a resounding "No." We seek to banish blandness. We don't expect our readers to live by bread alone. We nourish seasoned words and cater to subtle flavors. We see no gain in scientific weight by resorting to heavy words and a lumbering gait. We want to decriminalize language that sings, evokes, awakens. We want words to dance, not put us to sleep. We applaud style.

To emphasize style and artistry, we have redesigned the *Journal* and given it a new look in layout and typography. Words cannot exist alone on a page without space. We honor both. In content, the *Journal* will feature original artwork, cartoons, poetry, and photography as well as continuing to be an international forum for transpersonal studies.

One more point: Writing is a Path. Yes, words can stand in the way of experience, but skill in words can also point to the Mystery...and where does the Way of Words lead?

*The pleasure a writer knows  
is the pleasure of Sages.<sup>2</sup>*

I look forward to the challenge of editing *The International Journal of Transpersonal Studies* and fostering its further development. To meet that challenge successfully, it is necessary to call upon our readers to support the *Journal* by subscriptions, by informing other colleagues and libraries about the *Journal*, and by donations.

Philippe L. Gross, Ph.D.  
Editor in Chief  
Honolulu, Hawai'i



#### Notes

1. Diespecker provides a short overview of the birth and early history of *AJTP* in the present issue of the *Journal*.
2. From Lu Chi's *Wen Fu*, a third century Chinese classic on the art of writing.