

Newsletter

European Society for Cognitive Psychology

Haren, 11th November, 1988.

Dear Colleagues,

It has been a busy few months since I last got in touch with you. Much has happened and as you will read for yourselves a lot more is going to happen! The next important event in the life of our Society will be the appearance of our new Journal in March next year. Michael Eysenck and his colleagues have been very busy and the first number is already more or less ready. The standard of articles submitted has been very high - which is obviously very gratifying. There is one small problem, however. Michael would like to receive more submissions from researchers living on the mainland of Europe - so get busy!

Our second Summer School, this time on Perception, takes place in July, 1989. Please put up the enclosed poster in a suitably prominent position in your departments and do all you can to encourage good students to apply. Three workshops are also being arranged and you will find all the relevant details further on in the Newsletter.

I have one less pleasant piece of news to pass on. Dr. Ivan Sipos of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava died earlier this year. Those of us who had the pleasure of meeting him in Madrid will realise the large gap he leaves in his department.

As you will see from the new membership book, our numbers continue to grow - I've suddenly become a very popular person in our department - everyone wants to have the lovely foreign stamps I keep getting in my mail! Though I have listed all the names I've received, not everyone has paid their dues! If you are one of the guilty ones please do so as quickly as possible. As you can imagine, the costs of sending this Newsletter and printing the membership books is a costly business. (Members from countries in Eastern Europe will find details of how to pay further on in the Newsletter.)

The conference in Cambridge was a great success - those of you who missed it should make sure that you keep dates free in September, 1990 so that you can come to the next one which will take place in Italy. Our thanks have to go to the Cognitive Section of the BPS who were our hosts in Cambridge. They, and in particular John Richardson, did an excellent job and it will be good to continue to strengthen our links with this group.

Remember to hang up your poster!
With Best Wishes,

Janev L. Jansen

Janet came up to me. She gave me a look that would make a bishop kick a hole in a stained-glass window.

"Me and the boys got a job for you, Phil", she said.

"What you got in mind?", I drawled, as I completed a travel expenses claim. Private Eyes like me usually get Lost Animals and messy divorces to handle. This better be something big.

"We want you to go to Cambridge and.." She paused and looked around. She lowered her voice and came closer. "We want you to find out about European Cognitive Psychology."

I felt like a nouvelle cuisine cook in a university refectory.

This was a hopeless case. Big Max had got wise and gone to Australia; they said Phil would soon be off to the States. Was there anybody left? Would they spill the beans?

When I got to New Hall I could see this was a class joint.

Security was tight: the light switches in the rooms were cunningly hidden and although they gave you two beds you needed the nerves of a mountain goat to get from one to the other. There was this dame sat at a desk who looked like she knew the score. "Can I help you?", she said. She gave me the sort of look that funding agencies give philosophers.

"I want to register", I said.

Then I went to these papers. They'd invited three wise guys to give us the works. Sanford kicked off on Discourse, then Wagenaar on Eye witness procedures and Mehler on infant language learning. Mehler said some babies could tell the difference between French and Russian when they were only four days old. I know some forty-year-olds who can't do that.

I thought I'd check out this speakeasy where Al and Wayne were drinking a bottle of whisky. These guys really had class but only one bottle of whisky. The next day my throat felt like a Skinner box that had been used to train a skunk.

They told me there was a good Face Recognition Symposium, mainly because there were so many new faces.

So off to the APU barbecue. Some dude sure knew how to cook a mean sausage. The Rioja had more distinctive features than a Georgian phonologist. People sprawled out on the grass: there were more bodies on the ground than at the St. Valentine's Day Massacre. I tried a little conversation with this dame, but she pretty soon told me I wouldn't reach the 10% significance level on a one-tail test.

The last day came and I still hadn't figured out who was Mr. Big, but then we had this presentation. It had all been organized by John Richardson: now there's a guy with real class.

Philip Smith
(with a little help from Raymond Chandler)

SUMMER SCHOOL ON VISUAL PERCEPTION, 2nd - 15th July, Umea

The European Cognitive Psychology Society will be holding its second Summer School on 2nd to 15th July 1989 (teaching starts 3rd July), in Umea, organised by Vicki Bruce (Nottingham) and Lars-Göran Nilsson (Umea). Although last year's Memory summer school will be a hard act to follow, we are now quietly confident that the Umea school will be a great success, and that we too will be able to have nostalgic and boozy reunions with our students and teachers at future ESCPS conferences. Our guest lecturers are Richard Gregory, Gunnar Johansson and Marc Jeannerod, and we have assembled an impressive list of lecturers and tutors from across Europe (see and display the enclosed poster please). Our next task is to attract good student applicants-please do everything you can to publicise the school and encourage your young researchers to apply. Students should be postgraduates or recent postdoctorals working in visual perception or related fields (it would be perfectly OK for someone who wanted to move into perception from another area to apply). We seek