

BOOK REVIEW

The Sacred Mushroom Seeker: Essays for R. Gordon Wasson. Thomas J. Riedlinger, Ed. Portland, Oregon: Dioscorides Press. 1990. Hardcover, \$37.95.

It is the hope of each one of us to be made immortal by our contributions to science or to history in some significant way. According to these written tributes and historical recollections, Gordon Wasson was both admired by his colleagues and noteworthy in his contributions to ethnomycology.

Each essay in this publication dwells on a different aspect of his methods of research and motivations for pursuing the objects of his interests, as recalled by his friends and colleagues. Included are some photographs which hint at the stories within the essays. There is a brief general biography and a review of his major works followed by tributes to his generous teaching habits. Bibliophile, historian, scholar and ethnobotanist are only a few of the "hats" worn by this most respected and noteworthy man. Surrounded by shadows of controversy about the subject of mushroom use and religious ceremony of the ancient and Mexican peoples, Gordon Wasson strove to document and verify the subjects of his interest. The essays contained in this volume are a fitting collection to a multifaceted man, much admired, an inspiration to many.

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