

BOOK REVIEW

Psychedelics Encyclopedia. Peter Stafford. Berkeley, CA: Ronin Publishing, Inc. (Box 1035, Berkeley, CA 94701), 1992. (Third edition). Pp. iii, 91, and 420. \$24.95. ISBN 0-914171-51-8.

In this significantly expanded third edition of *Psychedelics Encyclopedia*, Peter Stafford has offered much additional and interesting material. The earlier editions were excellent sources of information much of which were difficult to find elsewhere, but this third edition provides an incredible amount of new material as well as what the earlier editions offered. Among the additions may be cited an update of scientific research, particularly chemical research, a discussion of changing social and political considerations concerning psychoactive substances, an obituary of leaders in the study of psychoactive plants and materials and other aspects bringing the story up-to-date.

Those who have used and benefited from Stafford's earlier editions will find this third one a welcome source book of a fast changing social, political, and scientific topic. This edition includes material from the biological, psychological, physiological, medical, cultural, and sociological aspects of psychoactive drugs and their use. Its outstanding characteristic lies in its ability to strike a balanced emphasis on the popular and the scientific or technical points of view on psychoactive elements, without prejudiced exaggerations.

At the price asked, the amount of information in this volume is indeed a bargain.

Richard Evans Schultes
Botanical Museum of Harvard University
Cambridge, MA 02138