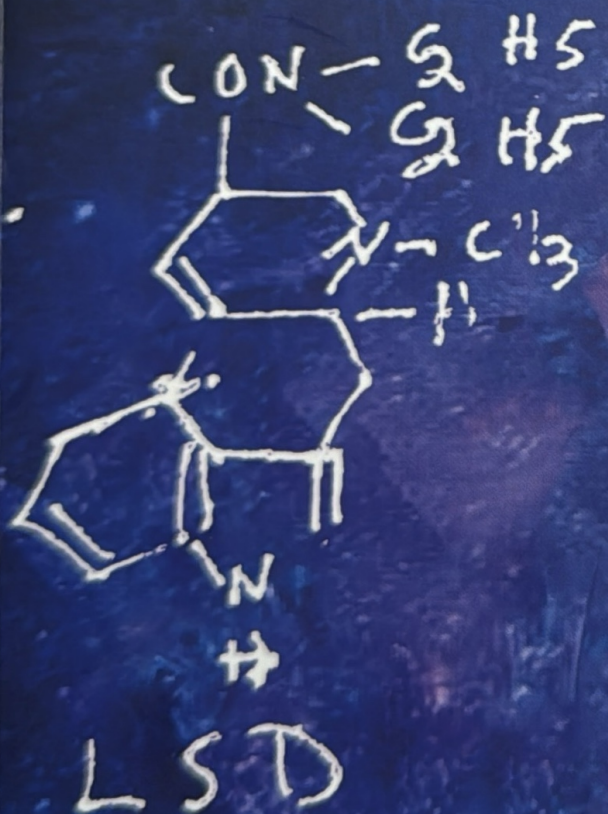


STANISLAV GROF

LSD PIONEER

FROM PHARMACOLOGY TO ARCHETYPES



BRIGITTE GROF

*Birthday
Greetings*

*For
Cyril*

with best wishes!

Bright and Stan

At the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the Czech lands can be considered the cradle of critical thinking and music of late Romanticism. The roots of such greats as Antonín Dvořák, Leoš Janáček, Karl Popper, Kurt Gödel, Erich Korngold, and Franz Kafka go back to a relatively small area of Bohemia and Moravia in Central Europe. In the second half of the twentieth century, this region enriched world culture, philosophy, science, and sports with cosmopolitan figures who, thanks to their talent and greatness, achieved worldwide significance. In sports it was, for example, Martina Navrátilová, Ivan Lendl, or Jaromír Jágr, in film undoubtedly Miloš Forman, in literature Milan Kundera and in psychological sciences Stan Grof.

Several important historical circumstances came together in the case of Stan Grof. First, it is the "golden age" of the 1960s, when several enthusiasts began experimenting with hallucinogens and their application in psychotherapy at the Psychiatric Research Institute in Prague. The second important circumstance is a particular reflection of the relative limitations of reductionism in science and an understanding of our being's transcendental dimension. Stan Grof later elaborated on this area in his book *Beyond the Brain*.

And the third and perhaps most important circumstance in the case of Stan Grof was his emigration to the United States, which was forced by the invasion of Soviet troops into then Czechoslovakia. Hand in hand with the following era, during which psychedelics fell into disrepute due to restrictive substance abuse policy, Stan Grof extended his concept of LSD-induced altered state of consciousness not only to altered states of consciousness in general but also to transpersonal psychology.

With this overlap into the end of the twentieth century's philosophy and thought framework, Stan Grof became one of the above-mentioned cosmopolitan greats, whose roots lead to the same place. All future generations of scientists, thinkers, philosophers, and those interested in psychology will have to deal with Stan's work.



Stan Grof and Cyril Höschl, Prague

Whether it is an understanding or critical analysis, it will in any case be a lasting trace left by Stan Grof in human civilization, continuing the tradition of such greats as Sigmund Freud and Carl Gustav Jung. Grof's significant life anniversary is an excellent opportunity to sufficiently understand and appreciate the significance of his life's work.

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