

C.E.R.D.H.

31 rue Jouve-Rouve
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FRANCE

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LETTER

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NUMBER 18

NUMBER 1988

INTERNATIONAL ENCOUNTER
FRANCE

MONTVILLARGENNE CASTLE
to August 6, 1989

Montvillargenne second Encounter theme is :

"Service"

A Mighty Messengers tells us :

"Service - purposeful service, not slavery - is productive of the highest satisfaction and is expressive of the divinest dignity. Service - more service, increased service, difficult service, adventurous service, and at last divine and perfect service - is the goal of time and the destination of space." (28-6-17)

Study and reflection topics will be discussed in groups of 6 to 8 people. The French and English languages will be used simultaneously.

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** C.E.R.D.H. : a non-profit society, getting together readers of the *URANTIA Book*.

Center of Study and Reflection
on Human Destiny

C.E.R.D.H. **

Study Group of the URANTIA* Book
31 rue Jouye-Rouve
75020 PARIS
FRANCE

LETTER N^o 18

NOVEMBER 1988

URANTIA* BOOK READERS INTERNATIONAL ENCOUNTER IN FRANCE

MONTVILLARGENNE CASTLE
from July 30 to August 6, 1989

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Material organization

Location: Montvillargenne Castle is 35 minutes away from Paris, and 20 minutes distant from Charles de Gaulle Airport.

Price: per person and full board for whole stay:

- single bedroom:	2900 FF
- double bedroom:	2250 FF
- children under 13:	1400 FF

Accommodation: those prices include:

- Full board for the whole stay (wine and coffee included), rooms with bathroom, telephone, television, radio alarm clock;
- Swimming pool, park, bar;
- Lecture rooms;
- Social event: one day visit of Paris in motor coach with a bilingual guide, or one day visit of Chantilly castle;
- A motor coach will be at the arrival at Charles de Gaulle airport on the 30th of July to join Montvillargenne, and the return will be assured August, the 6th.

Enquiries and registration :

C.E.R.D.H.
3 bis rue Grande
77940 Blennes/Voulx
FRANCE

THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL MEETING

1988, October, 10th to 14th

REPORT

A meeting of Urantia Book readers, sponsored by an Australian group, was held from October 1988, the 10th to the 14th, at Robertson near Sydney. The theme was: *Cultural diversity and Spiritual unity*.

The assistance at that meeting was composed of Australian readers and of those coming over from New-Zealand - Tahiti - The Fidji Islands - The U.S.A. - The United Kingdom - Switzerland - Finland - China - and France. The English language was used all along the meeting. There were about 90% of English speaking readers, and 10% of French speaking readers.

We intend to present a short report of this meeting, but it will be more our impressions, what we hope to be the gist of the speeches rather than the correct data, because we have not understood everything and we apologize to the speakers for the possible distortions.

ENCOUNTER UNFOLDING

Monday

After becoming acquainted to each other around a refreshment table of "wines and cheeses", the party relaxed in a beautiful English style park planted with marvellous flowers and inhabited by parrots and wallabies (small kangaroos).

Tuesday

After a generous English style breakfast, each country was presented by one of its representatives.

Australia: Many Australian readers were present, taking into account that Australia numbers 13 million inhabitants. There are at least ten stable and regular study groups, forming a living network covering the main towns. The greatest difficulty concerning contact between readers is the long distances which separate them. That is why a periodical magazine has been created in 1979, the "6-0-6 NEWSLETTER", to link up readers and to present both news about the international Urantia movement and deep studies. Since 1986, to reinforce links between them, they have held an annual meeting. The present meeting is the third one. European readers wanting to receive the "6-0-6 NEWSLETTER" may apply to C.E.R.D.H..

New Zealand: 2 study groups numbering from 4 to 6 readers, and some readers at large. There would exist a real enticement of religion as a personal experience.

Tahiti: Several readers who have to face some important difficulties hindering the Urantia Book concepts spreading. These are:

- the traditional ways and customs : ancestral belief, the institutional churches;
- the presence of a sect led by a gourou pretending contacts with extra-terrestrial people, showing openly the Urantia Book and some of its revelations to impress his believers. This sect has been expelled from French Polynesia, but it remains that for many the Book is associated with this sect which brings a local discredit on the Book. But happily some sincere readers strive to re-establish the Book in public esteem and satisfy the thirst of polynesian people for spirituality.

Fidji Islands: Some years ago, a Fidjian and his wife brought back home the Urantia Book from Hawaiian Islands where they were working. Now retired this couple is looked upon as "the wise couple" of the Islands and their advice is highly valued by government members and many high personalities like ministers or doctors who have become readers of the book. This Fidjian used to offer the Book when it was urgently asked for.

Finland: There is a cell numbering hundred persons or so, keen Urantia Book readers, financially backing a translation which should be soon ended. This cell of readers publishes a Finnish periodical, the "HEIJASTE" which links readers together. They publish news, studies and poems. Many stable and regular study groups function. And Finland which keeps up close ties with the Urantia Foundation, will certainly be the first European society affiliated to Chicago Urantia Brotherhood. Also, a meeting is foreseen in June 1989 to embody this decision in a concrete form.

United Kingdom: Since the Urantia Book is written in the English language, we were led to suppose that in England, the Urantia Book would have been as well received as in the U.S.A.. This is not the case, and in England there are few readers. However, for some years, we have noticed a growth. Two study groups have been formed; and a periodical, "THE URANTIA BOOK STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER" is published

by Chris Moseley, 344 Gosbrook Road, Caversham, Berkshire RG4 8EG, U.K., whom you may contact if you want to receive this interesting periodical.

Switzerland: For a long time, the Urantia Book has been sold in the Switzerland French speaking cantons. A dozen of readers or so gather three or four times a year. The important hindrance for the spreading of the Book is the number of spoken languages - more than four for this small country. A periodical "l'Echo" presenting news and studies is published in French by Claude Castel, rue de la Cité n^o19 CH.1204 Geneva - Switzerland, whom you may contact if you want to receive this interesting periodical.

China: A chinese woman from Hong Kong, who came over with the American party, delivered an interesting speech based on transparencies, explaining the numerous deities and beliefs punctuating the religious life and the Chinese calendar. The existence of a trinity of deities was paralleled with the Paradise Trinity described in the Urantia Book.

U.S.A.: A delegation numbering 9 persons attended this meeting. The U.S.A., cradle of the Fifth Revelation, has more than one thousand active members; they gather regularly in study groups and form the skeleton of the U.S.A. Urantia movement. The Foundation, the owner of the Book text has been founded in 1955; its main responsibilities are the protection of the text of the Book and the spreading of the Fifth Revelation concepts.

A Urantia Brotherhood has also been founded to organize social relationships between readers, to answer new readers inquiries, to bring readers into touch with each other, etc...

Amadon Corporation is entrusted with the Book sale;

All those activities are centered in 533 Diversey Parkway at Chicago, where a staff numbering about 10 persons is working full time. They are salaried employees by Urantia Brotherhood.

Today, a Spanish translation is going on, it is entrusted to Euramerica, a professional translation organization; their translation is controlled by two bilingual readers and its publication is foreseen for 1990.

The next triennial Chicago Brotherhood conference will be held in 1990 in Colorado - U.S.A..

France: The first non English speaking country to have a Urantia Book translation in its own tongue; it was published in 1962 in three volumes under the title "La Cosmogonie d'Urantia". Then, since 1962 - slowly - study groups have been appearing, and up to date we number at least 6 stable and regular study groups.

A non profit, tax exempt association, the "C.E.R.D.H." has also been formed; it is presently dedicated to:

- establishing and maintaining ties between readers;
- helping on study groups formation;
- publishing and spreading a periodical "The Letter", presenting, in French and English language, News and studies;
- keeping on a stock of Books available at the lowest possible price;
- organizing readers Encounters;
- Maintaining a close and fraternal contact with the readers of any country - with the Foundation - with the brotherhood and its affiliated societies.

The presentation we made at this Australian meeting constitutes the following article.

Wednesday

A bus drove us to the "Kangaroo Valley" - (where we have only seen cows) - We have contemplated a beautiful lanscape made of small valleys covered with eucalyptus forest, alternating with vast canyons at the very bottom of which water flowed down in a thin stream. Nature was beautiful, non polluted, and water remarkably limpid and pure. We lunched on the margin of a deeply embanked stream. The tongues were wagging away, discussing and laughing. Back at the hotel, after dinner, we enjoyed a musical evening party during which we listened to a piano concert performed by Urs Ruchti, followed by a duo of guitars and songs by Kathleen and Trevor Swadling; then it was the turn of a New Zealander reader who recited poems.

Thursday

The President of the Brotherhood, Mr David Elders, made a speech in which he gave his point of view about the necessity of joining the Brotherhood of Chicago.

Then Mrs Hales, after making a short review of the times of the Forum, a member of which she was, answered many questions.

Lastly, John Hales, presented the Brotherhood, its structure, and its internal working, then he answered many questions.

Chris Moseley gave us some accounts of the Urantia Book placing in English libraries.

Gleen Glasziou made a speech concerning our present knowledge level about: physics of particles - the state of matter - the synthesis of the 4 now known basic material energies in comparison with the Urantia Book data. We keep, on request, the whole account of Gleen's speech at the disposal of the readers.

Trevor Swadling tried to statistically fix the number of surviving people of a planet, in our local Universe. This computation was hazardous when taking into account so many parameters in such a kind of calculation. But he succeeded very well. Will the result of that computation be in accordance with the seraphic recorders? We shall have to wait a bit longer for the answer.

Then, Peter made us think over facts, meanings and values.

This day came to an end with a dancing party along which a typical orchestra made us dance as they used to in the last century. An evening of joy where sparkling spontaneity and good humour were at the acme.

Friday

As a conclusion, this Encounter had a beautiful and thrilling prayer led by the Fidjien reader. We were standing in a great circle in the center of which Michael presence permeated our gathered souls brought together in his name and in the Universal Father's name. Delightful moment of communion and spiritual unity. By itself this prayer justified such a long travel.

This conference was very successful for the knowledge of others and an experience in sharing; it will mark a date in the history of the internationalization of Urantia movement on our planet.

The organizers of the conference knew how to let events develop by themselves - naturally. We were never in a hurry, nor enrolled into an artificial time-table. So, exchanges between readers could develop - friendships could form, and no doubt, here lies the conditions of the success of a meeting.

"But personality and the relationships between personalities are never scaffolding; mortal memory of personality relationships has cosmic value and will persist." (112.5.22)

**FRENCH PRESENTATION
AT THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL MEETING**

Dear Friends,

You asked us "*to give a short presentation highlighting special characteristics of the spiritual life of our culture*" ?

From our point of view, there exists a progressive disaffection of institutional religions, above all catholicism - However, now exists an effort to make rituals clearer and adapt them to modern mind.

The present turn of mind is to material enjoyment offered by the consumption society. A lot of ideas but fewer and fewer ideals.

Cheating is in fashion and affects even the highest level of athletic sports circles, those which ought to be an example of nobleness.

There also exists an increasing doubt concerning God's existence, owing to the increasing atrocities whereas people have been taught about God's goodness.

Then, you asked us "*how these factors may affect the reception of the Urantia Revelation?*"

Logically, in the main, those factors work for allowing the human mind to find out in the study of the Book, on one hand the explanation of his state often bordering distress, on the other hand, the revelation of the way leading him to the development of his personality.

Certainly, these factors intervened in our Rulers decision motives to bestow us this book.

As for us, we acknowledge not knowing very well how to handle this Book to have it accepted. Surely, for us, it is a lack of patience when we observe how slowly the Book is spreading and the readers slowness to sink into its deepness - its spiritual flavor.

Now, let me tell you how we present this book, how we understand the present situation, and how we act :

The Urantia Book is the John The Baptist, the announcer of the fifth Revelation; it is given us to prepare minds to welcome the "Revelator of Truth" on earth, and to understand the certainly concomitant re-establishment of Urantia within the universal circuits.

These events are the realization of a plan, minutely prepared by spiritual Personalities and which the human brain is unable to anticipate.

To day, it is the Book which is an authority. Then, authority will be transfered to the "Revelator of Truth", and, when he leaves, our planet will be by itself again; and a Peter, a Paul or an Abraham will appear with authority.

The present period is a period of study allowing minds to make ready for those gigantic events. Therefore:

Our first activity is to study the Book - The Study Group.

The study of the Book begins with a personal study, at home. Then in a study group, readers exchange their points of view and grow in the knowledge of the Book.

Therefore do we apply our main effort on the "Study Group". Every individual ought to strive to make acquaintance with an other individual to share his study. We are helped in that research: "*Social Architects do everything within their province and power to bring*

together suitable individuals that they may constitute efficient and agreeable working groups on earth." (39-3-5)

And for the good health of our embryonic coordination, let us *"not nullify the right of social groups of believers to maintain order in their ranks and administer discipline upon unruly and unworthy members."* (178-1-2)

The study of the book allows us to acquire:

1^o - *General Knowledges*: coherent notions about universe organization - to become conscious of our cosmic citizenship in our local universe - to Know hierarchies, particularly the hierarchy of Personalities in touch with us.

2^o - *Practical knowledges*:

- to find out the concepts.

- to make them clear to discover true values.

But, if a general knowledge represents only an intellectual acquisition supplying a frame of mind, per contra, a practical knowledge can be acquired only through their experiencing. Here lies the teaching methods of the universe as it was applied by Jesus when teaching his apostles in the morning and sending them evangelizing in the afternoon. There, the apostles were in fact, guided by the Spirit of Truth, Jesus.

And, as for us, it is said that it is owing to the joined action of the Thought Adjuster and the Spirit of Truth in our mind, that we are able to understand the book.

This individual intervention which each serious student has experienced, and which is verified in any study group engaged in a deep research, leads us to consider that the Revelation is first destined to the individual, who, when transformed by the experience of his personal contact with these divine gifts, will be the constitutive cell of the new society.

Our second activity: Let people know about the Book.

In bookshops, the Urantia Book being sold 500 Frs and more, our reaction was to try to have the Book available at a lower price. We obtained Books allowing us to sell them Frs 170 a copy.

We let it been known to the readers we knew, and so, for some years the French Urantia Book has been sold in France from person to person; and this sale method eventuated in a little network of readers. It is through this sale channel we strive to form study groups.

Our third activity: Correcting the French translation of the Urantia Book. Anonymously and benevolently this work has been going on for seven years, and will be finished next spring. It is done by a team including a bilingual person and an English teacher in a high school.

For many years, benevolently and anonymously we have been at work, but, if our hope is intact, we observe how slow - very slow - this process is, which requires a great deal of patience; and up to now we have not yet reached a presentable result. However, slowly arises the beginning of a collegial coordination.

Finally, without having looked for it, we observe that we respond to three out of the four Revelators' admonitions, that is :

- Spread the Book from person to person.
- Translate the Book into the main languages.
- Form thousands and thousands of study groups from which will raise leaders and teachers.

The fourth admonition being the copyright protection; although we have also responded to it by signaling to the Foundation any copyright infringement we met.

And, this is, seen from our observatory, how in France, we strive to establish contact with those who do not know the Book - and we strive to serve them.

Paris, FRANCE

C.E.R.D.H.

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