

NEW ORLEANS REPORT:
COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE
"GALVEZ" TRISTES SEMI-TROPIQUES

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TRACTATUS GEOPSYCHORUM*

Of late a self-evolving mode of knowledge has undertaken to be revealed.

GEOPSYCHICS. Def.: Characteristic phenomena that may be seen as an expression of the consciousness of a locale in its most unique stylistic and behavioral manifestations. The study of regional peculiarities; the ambiance of local phenomena.

The term surfaced in New Orleans, where cultural anomalies are so autonomous and peculiar that they frequently seem to possess a life of their own. The ritual observance of curious phenomena is a curious phenomenon peculiar to New Orleans. Hence the study of geopsychics came about as a result of New Orleans geopsychics.

Although urban and coastal in origin the concept may be readily applied to all other regions. Geopsychics blends art and science through subjective and objective awareness. The subjective realm deals with qualities and sensations of consciousness. The objective realm deals with phenomena that may be measured or recorded.

Throughout time various peoples have believed that all matter whether alive or inert is imbued with consciousness. Various architects, commercial designers, and Tantric Hindus and Buddhists among others believe that consciousness (hence behavior) can be conditioned by applied visual elements contained in an environment. The relationships that exist between consciousness and environment, and between subjective and objective phenomena, clearly constitute a circular process. The science of geopsychics is concerned with the process itself. The art form of geopsychics is concerned with the products of the process, the evidences of subjective consciousness within the external regional reality.

*NOTE: The Tractatus Geopsychorum was begun in 1967 as an exposition of geopsychic knowledge. The Tractatus is still in the process of being compiled. It consists mainly of photographs and verbal messages. The manuscript presented here is the introduction.

Certain objective characteristics are primary to the observance of geopsychic phenomena. These include:



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Architectural environment. The architecture of an area traditionally reflects a combination of the cultures represented and the nature of the indigenous building materials. The term architecture is used here to mean the entire man-made environment—buildings, monuments, streets, bridges, etc.



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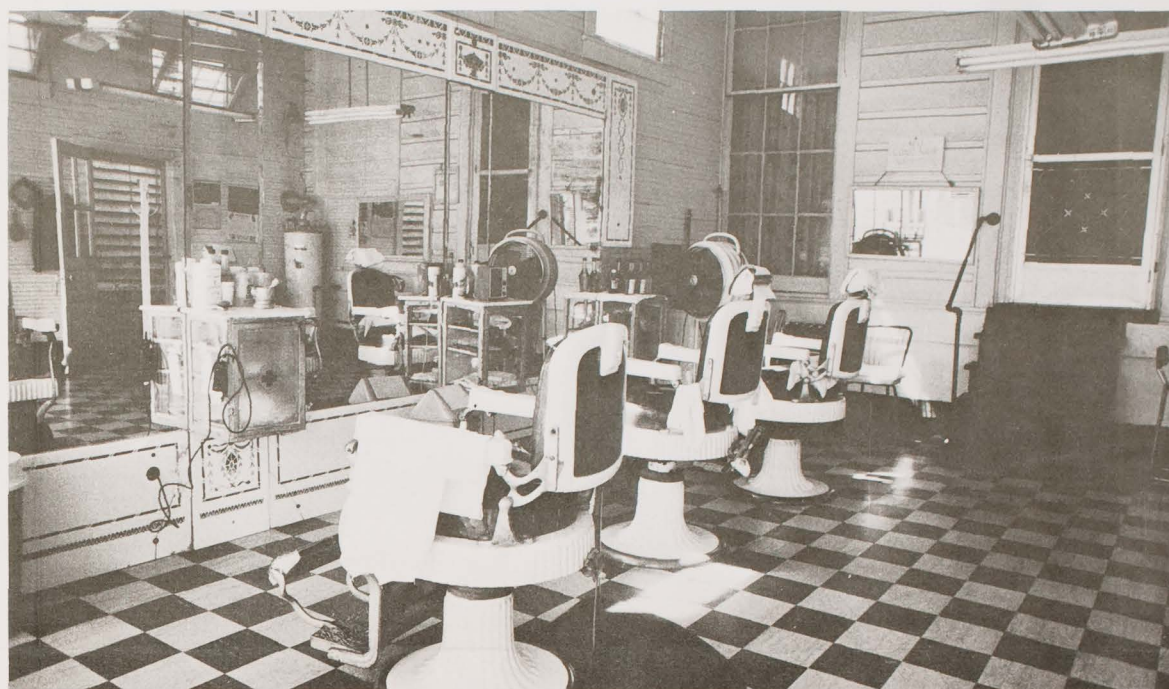
Location on the planet. Location is a primary factor in determining the nature of energy received from the universe,

the sun, the moon, and by extension the air currents, tides, clouds, rivers, and other elemental currents.



Bookhardt

Synthesis. Energy patterns in the natural environment frequently recur in the cultural environment. Qualities of light strongly affect visual appearances, which in turn strongly affect qualities of consciousness. Light qualities must be classed with energy patterns as subliminal signifiers of the prevailing patterns of existence. The velocity of wind currents exerts a direct influence on behavior and biochemistry through the process of ionization. An excess of positive ions is brought about by high winds and causes erratic and extreme behavioral impulses, biochemical anomalies, and prevents the proper coagulation of the blood. (In Switzerland doctors do not operate during a windstorm, and crimes of passion receive more lenient treatment by the authorities.)



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The light. Relative hardness, intensity, clarity, luminosity, tint, and length of longest day and shortest day.



Duury

Flora and fauna. Specifically the shape and prevalence and size of the characteristic vegetation and animal life of an area. Trees and foliage are especially important.

Topography. The physical nature of the land is a strong determinant of the visual environment. Most important are elevation, contour, soil composition, dampness, color, texture.



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The cultural environment, while generally fluid and self-evolving, is subject to the combined pressures of the various forces at work, and so may tend to drift into curious tangents, or in some cases crystallize entirely. This latter phenomenon is known as the frozen time syndrome. A particular instance of this syndrome is known as a Time Warp. A Time Warp may exist in the form of a building and its inhabitants, a street or neighborhood, or an entire locale that is locked into some vestige of a peculiar past. Such areas constitute outstanding opportunities for geopsychic investigation. However all localities exist in their own space/time, whether fluid or frozen, and such investigations can always be launched into the mysteries of the familiar. These mysteries of the familiar, like the subjective awareness contained within the objective, and the mind contained within matter, can be made concrete through geopsychics in the form of Evidence. Evidence is the geopsychic art form.

Evidence. Def. (Webster): Clearness. An outward sign; indication. That which furnishes any mode of proof. One who bears witness.

Geopsychic Evidence logically assumes the form of a found object, or a found image. These are necessarily contextual by definition. Photography is an ideal medium for geopsychic investigation, but much Evidence may also be derived from print media. Newspaper clippings and private or clandestine publications can provide a fertile field of inquiry. Regional recordings can also be employed in some manner as Evidence if their sources are sufficiently remote. A possible project in Geopsychic Evidence might be regional pornography performed in a characteristic setting. Incidental noises could be recorded with native birds and insects in the background.

However, the Tractatus Geopsychorum is itself concerned with photographs, the written word, and print media. In the last analysis all that can be asked of Evidence in any form is that it be revealed.



Bellon

Cultural background. The nature of the human inhabitants, ethnic origins, immigration patterns, dominant subgroups, political and colonial heritage (territorial values), and relative age of the society. Physical traits of the populace.

Energy patterns. Recurring patterns of natural energy tend to be evidenced by matter in the form of topography (the shapes of rivers, mountains, rocks, etc.) and in the shapes of trees, foliage, and animal life. Natural energy patterns tend to correlate at some level with cultural manifestations through architectural motifs and human behavior patterns.