

DREAMS

Introduction

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Except for the London meeting in 1989, annual conferences of the Association for the Study of Dreams have been held in North America. In 1994 ASD returned to Europe, and Conference XI was held in Leiden. Each conference attracts hundreds of people interested in dreams: therapists, psychologists, anthropologists, artists, and many lay people. Over four days there were four invited addresses by leading authorities in the field, 43 separate academic papers, thirteen experiential workshops, two symposia (one on dreams and life-threatening illnesses, and one on dreams and literature), five panel discussions, six poster presentations, five performance art events, and an exhibition of the work of four artists, inspired by their dreams. The conference ended with the traditional Dream Ball, in which the participants dress up as their favourite, or feared, dream character.

Since its formation in 1983, ASD has become the major worldwide organisation for meetings and information exchange between people interested in dreams. ASD provides a multi-disciplinary, international forum for the promotion of study and research into the meanings, physiology, relevance, and applications of



dreams. ASD produces a quarterly newsletter with book reviews, letters, summaries of recent research, and interviews with well-known people in the field. ASD also publishes *Dreaming*, its scholarly journal which publishes academic papers from many disciplines.

In this and subsequent issues of *Self & Society*, the co-chairs for the Leiden conference have selected a variety of papers and workshop reports to show a little of the breadth and depth of work presented at an immensely enjoyable conference.