

4 June 1981
Lone Pine, California

James R. Horne
Associate Professor
University of Waterloo
Waterloo, Ontario, Canada
N2L 3G1

Dear Dr. Horne:

Your letter to John Lilly regarding the work of Franklin Merrell-Wolff has been forwarded to us here in Lone Pine where Dr. Wolff makes his home.

We are delighted to hear that Mr. Ron Leonard is beginning his dissertation on the mystical philosophy of Dr. Wolff and offer any assistance we can regarding his project.

To begin with, we can refer Mr. Leonard to another published work, Introceptualism, The Philosophy of Consciousness Without an Object, Volume II. Dr. Wolff also has 400,000 to 500,000 words on tape from lectures given over the years. These tapes are here with us in Lone Pine.

We would also like to extend an invitation to Mr. Leonard to journey to Lone Pine (if that is at all possible) where we would welcome him as our guest so that he may have the chance to work with Dr. Wolff face to face.

Sincerely,



Rao Garabedian
Assistant to Dr. Wolff

July 20, 1981

Mr. Rao Garabedian
Assistant to Dr. Wolff
Drawer F'
Lone Pine, California 93545

Dear Ms. Garabedian,

Dr. Horne has informed me of your reply to his query, and I am quite overwhelmed. Your offer of assistance is much appreciated and I shall be most pleased to accept your generous offer to be your guest while working with Dr. Wolff in person and studying the lecture tapes.

Of course the material you describe is quite extensive and I would prefer to familiarize myself with it to a degree of thoroughness which would likely necessitate remaining for several weeks, a period which would perhaps be somewhat longer than would be appropriate for a guest. In such an event, would alternate accommodations be available as well?

The ~~most~~ convenient time for me would be January 1982. It would allow time to locate and read Dr. Wolff's latest book, which you so kindly mentioned (I assume it is by the same publisher as Volume I), and generally to prepare myself to make the most of the opportunity. Furthermore, I am expecting a Teaching Assistantship for the fall term only, after which I ~~will~~ be free. The time will allow me to arrange adequate financing for the expedition.

There is at present an additional difficulty concerning correspondence since the postal workers in Canada are on strike, and those in the U.S. are threatening to strike illegally. I expect it to be September before normal service is resumed and your next letter could arrive.

Sincerely,

BRH/lk

Ron Leonard

P.S. Because Volume II is as yet unavailable, would it be possible to purchase 3 copies directly from you? Dr. Horne and the U of W Library also desire copies as soon as possible. Please inform me as to the most convenient arrangements for payment.

PO Box 33783
Phoenix, AZ 85067
April 25, 1984

Dear Franklin,

Regretably, Dorothy + I were unable to visit you this Easter, though we would have loved to celebrate it with you. I do understand that Alix and her friends were to be there, so it should have been an enjoyable time. Dorothy + I spent Easter with the family over at Helen's + had a real fine time.

My classes are nearly over for Spring term, and I am really pleased to be able to introduce the students in both the Humanities + Intro Philosophy courses to your philosophy... the high point of the term.

In the time remaining, I've been working on the thesis, but because it requires a virtually complete immersion, I require periods of a week or so with nothing else pressing. After tonight's lecture on mysticism I will have such a period before the deluge of grading at end of term.

Things here are going well, but spring brings change. James, as you know, is moving to L.P. for the Summer. Dana is anxious to move out again to be on her own. The twins have just

turned 17 and each has an active life which will get ⁽²⁾ more active with summer holidays. Dorothy is still in the center of the bank's operations + is going to apply for the position of secretary to the President (+ Chairman of the Board) when it opens shortly. She is having some much needed repairs done to her teeth.

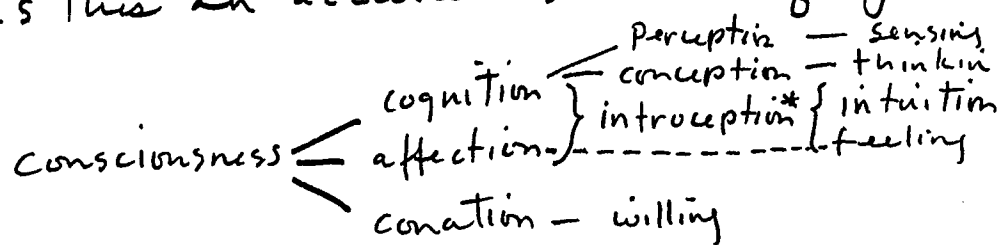
We are looking forward to our 1st anniversary + will celebrate it in style! It has been a very good year + we look forward to more of the same. I'm going to retrieve my belongings from Canada this July + visit friends + relatives there as well as confer with my thesis supervisor. However, I should have the central chapter of the thesis written before I go, + have time to write the next one before starting to teach in the Fall. Of course I'll be back in time for holidays with Dorothy + attending convention. We are in the process of organizing the program now, and are getting excited about it. It will be good to see you there, and we are planning on extra time to visit.

This has been an exceptionally nasty winter for most of the country, but Phoenix weather has remained warm + sunny. We had only 2 days of rain, one in January, + one in April — and a record drought in between. Still, the massive snow pack

the mountains should keep our reservoirs full - if (3) not overflowing similar to last year's floods.

I have a couple of questions regarding the thesis which would be best answered before I encounter them during my oral defense. I anticipate the following objections:

1. You state that introception is a way of knowing related to the affective function (feeling one's thought, as it were). How would you respond to the objection that it is only a matter of feeling, not knowing?
2. Similarly the knowledge attained through introception is not objective - i.e. knowledge of the world. How would you counter the objection that it is therefore merely subjective, especially in the light of your claim that What is Realized is authoritative for the mystic alone?
3. Is this an accurate scheme of your view on psychology?



If you could clarify some or all of these matters I would be very grateful. Thankx.

P.S. I am thankful that James will be in your company for a while. I feel it will be a great benefit to his spiritual unfolding.

Shine on ...
In Love + Light,
Ron

2. PROMOTIONAL COPY

(a) One page, double-spaced promotional copy:

Franklin Merrell-Wolff is a twentieth century mystic and philosopher, an exceedingly rare and fruitful combination. His philosophical training made him aware of the importance of grounding his thought in immediate awareness to avoid the pitfalls of mere speculative thought. As a mystic, he provides personal accounts of his mystical experiences, the sort of invaluable primary data that is most often lacking in a mystic's writings.

Wolff claims to have verified the existence of a third function of cognition (introception) besides perception and conception, and describes the process that results in formulation. This may hold the key to metaphysical knowledge, which Kant showed would be impossible solely through the operation of the two familiar functions. Wolff's mystical penetration grounds a philosophical position that holds that Consciousness, in the sense of a Primordial or Field Consciousness, is primary.

My critical exposition of his philosophy is intended to explore its implications within the multifaceted context of contemporary philosophy, showing why it must be taken seriously. As a whole, it deepens our understanding of the nature, value and philosophical significance of mysticism. It illuminates the nature of consciousness as such, and in its relation to the problems of knowledge and reality. This discussion is also of great interest to the domains of psychology and religion, as well as phenomenology, the philosophy of science and philosophy of language.

(b) Capsule description

This is a critical exposition of the philosophy of Franklin Merrell-Wolff, a contemporary Western mystic. It focuses on his two primary claims (1) that Consciousness, transcending the subject-object structure, is primary, and (2) The Noetic Thesis, that there is in mystical experience a way of knowing other than sensation and conception. It explores the accounts of Wolff's grounding in the immediacy of his Realizations, and the nature and philosophical significance of mysticism for our understanding of knowledge and reality.