



# REVIEWS

## THE UNITED SYMBOLISM OF AMERICA

by Robert Hieronimus, PhD, with Laura Cortner

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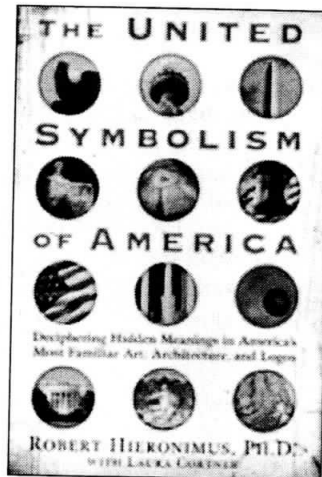
Symbols draw societies together and provide psychological and organisational foundations in social life, says Dr Bob Hieronimus. Since the 1960s, this author, artist and environmental activist has been researching, writing about and lecturing on the America's foundational symbols: the Great Seal, the American flag, the Statue of Liberty (a goddess symbol used in early colonial times) and the Liberty Bell, among others. He devotes a chapter each to analysis of these symbols and their histories, plus one to the story behind the design of the federal district of Washington, DC.

Dr Hieronimus is adamant that the Founding Fathers had the best of intentions in their use of such symbols as the radiant eye in the triangle and the 13-level pyramid, used on the reverse of the Great Seal, and probably didn't ascribe to them any symbolic meaning beyond superficial allegory. Remember, there were 13 states being unified at the time, and these sorts of symbols were common in the Age of Enlightenment.

He also maintains that just because some of the Founding Fathers were interested in esoteric subjects and spirituality, this didn't mean that they were

initiates in the ancient wisdom teachings or were "Satan-driven Illuminati Masons intent on world domination". He rails against "the fundamentalist-conspiratorialists"—a sub-group of the religious right that holds that anything not strictly "Christian" is therefore "of Satan". Hieronimus pulls apart such beliefs, which didn't really come into play until the mid-20th century McCarthy era and the release of William Guy Carr's *Pawns in the Game*. He's also critical of some authors who have translated the Latin mottoes of the Great Seal to suit their purposes.

This is an enlightening study that sets the record straight on America's symbols and promotes a deeper appreciation of their role in the life of the nation.



## QUANTUM SHIFT IN THE GLOBAL BRAIN by Ervin Laszlo

Inner Traditions, Rochester, USA, 2008  
ISBN 978-1-59477-233-7 (182pp tpb)  
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[www.deep-books.co.uk](http://www.deep-books.co.uk)

Our world is undergoing a radical "macroshift" at the same time as our scientific understanding of reality is revving up for a major paradigm shift. Ervin Laszlo (*Science and the Akashic Field*, 12/02; *The Chaos Point*, 13/04) argues that now it's no longer "business as usual": the signs of climate change are increasingly visible. We fail to deal with change at our peril, he warns.

Laszlo looks into the spiritual dimension of what it means when quanta and living organisms can be instantly connected across space and time.

Science, he says, is now closer to explaining our link to the multidimensional reality known to the sages of old. He exposes the unsustainability of a materialistic technological civilisation so reliant on non-renewable energy sources. We're in an untenable position unless we discard obsolete beliefs and adopt a new vision for peace and sustainability, says Laszlo.

He also focuses on institutions that are facilitating a positive macroshift. In the annex, he offers a scientific perspective on instrumental transcommunication.

This is truly inspiring stuff!

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