

**Review**  
***Beyond a World Divided***  
**by Erika Erdmann and David Stover**

Among the most exciting recent advances in knowledge are those bearing on the mind. From the boundless computational abilities of its remarkable physical housing, the brain, to its highest level capacities for creating social order, evolving ethical principles, and even glimpsing its own mystical genesis, the mind has come under study and its wonders have become more and more clearly pictured. In 1981 Roger Sperry won the Nobel Prize in medicine and physiology for his remarkable discoveries about broad, high-level patterns of brain function. These have been of great interest to philosophers on the one hand and neurophysiologists on the other for the light they shed on many problems. However, they have only been seen by the broader public in fragmentary and superficial glimpses.

*Beyond a World Divided* (subtitled "Human Values in the Brain-Mind Science of Roger Sperry") by Erika Erdmann, Ph.D. (1987) and David Stover makes these ground-breaking discoveries understandable to a general reader. Most importantly, the work explores the implications of these discoveries for the broadest and most compelling problems of our time—a world divided, alienated, and seemingly bent on self-destruction.

*Beyond a World Divided* was published in 1991 by Shambhala Publications, Boston, Massachusetts. Dr. Erdmann is also publisher and editor of a quarterly journal titled *Humankind Advancing* for "work by persons with the gift to lead our species to a higher stage of mental maturity without destroying the core and content of our humanity." You can write her at R.R.1, Lockeport, N.S., Canada B0T 1L0.

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**Announcement**

**Poems Sought for *American Poets of the 1990s***

The East and West Literary Foundation (1231 Pacific Avenue, 3d floor, San Francisco, CA 94109) is selecting poems for its anthology *American Poets of the 1990s* which will be published in 1993. Send six of your best poems less than 30 lines each (published or unpublished) on any theme. Also send SASE for reply; no manuscripts returned.

**Book Review**

# Evolution into New Human Values

## Beyond a World Divided: Human Values in the Brain-Mind Science of Roger Sperry

*Erika Erdmann and David Stover*

(Boston & London: Shambala) 1991, ISBN 0-87773-590-S \$26.50

**T**his book chronicles the work of an important figure in the development of new understandings. Roger Sperry, a Nobel prize winner, aims to help human beings see themselves as actors in the evolutionary drama. His challenge is to the inertia of old models that are clearly outdated but still hold sway in all too much of social science, philosophy and even hard sciences.

Review by Robert Theobald

The book is a labour of love. It started as a master's thesis by Nova Scotia author Erika Erdmann. Convinced that Sperry's work was important, she decided to seek a wider audience for his ideas. In the process she and David Stover decided to collaborate. They both believed that it was possible to translate Sperry's ideas so they would reach a wider audience. They succeeded in their effort and the book deserves to be widely read by all those who believe, like me, that there will only be a future if we can change our fundamental understandings. It is

wonderful that books can still get published because of the commitment of authors.

Sperry's aim is to integrate human thought, consciousness and values into the evolutionary process. He has been broadly criticized for doing so. There are many stated reasons but his real "crime" is that this type of thinking breaks the simplistic Newtonian cause-and-effect models on which so much science has been based for so long. Sperry does force a new paradigm on us. If we continue to resist this new paradigm, the human race will not survive.

The drive toward a new way of looking at the world is gathering momentum. This is partly as a result of the increased clarity of the thinkers in the field and partly because the old models are breaking down so visibly. More and more people agree that fundamental change has to come but we have not yet gathered the commitment to act in the ways that are necessary. Sperry provides both a rationale for new ways of acting and strengthens our faith that each one of us can make a difference if only we choose to do so.

Erika Erdmann (Photo: Eric Hayes)



David Stover



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**Review I**

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**Erika Erdmann** (Photo: Eric Hayes)**David Stover**

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