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## CLOSING REMARKS

RHEA A. WHITE: This brings to a close the 39th annual international conference of the Parapsychology Foundation. Although it may have been one of the smaller ones in terms of the number of observers, I think it has been one of the most provocative. There is even an outside chance it may turn out to be one of the more productive ones. Of course, we have not decided what we mean by "productive," but maybe we will work that out in the coming months and years.

The papers that were given and the discussions that followed provide ample evidence that a feminist approach to parapsychology (a) is potentially valuable, and (b) is very much in flux. Not only are new approaches and angles, many of them contradictory, being published each month in the feminist literature, but here at this very conference the presenters were obviously breaking new ground and not yet sure of their footholds. I think the one sure generalization that can be drawn is that it was a mind-opening experience for all who participated. We learned new things in the course of writing our papers. We also learned much from this experience of coming together to discuss this topic. In fact, our own remarks to each other following each presentation tended to fill the entire discussion periods, leaving little time for questions from the floor.

I am sure I am speaking not only for myself but for the other participants when I express my gratitude to the Parapsychology Foundation for holding the conference and to my colleagues for putting themselves on the line in their papers, questions, and comments. At this 39th conference of the Parapsychology Foundation, a seed has been planted, and I hope that it will set forth roots and shoots in many directions. As it grows it will require much tending, trimming, and shaping, but this conference did establish one thing: something new has begun to grow within the ranks of parapsychologists. It is still too soon to say whether it will have a visible effect on the field. I hold the hope that in a conservative discipline that is devoted primarily to improving upon and consolidating the old, a feminine view might reveal our age-old phenomena in an entirely new light. This is only a possibility—the proverbial "gleam." It will be interesting to see if anything viable emerges from the complex of feminine approaches in the coming decades.

I thank the Parapsychology Foundation for bringing us to this beautiful Ireland. And I would like us to open our hearts in a spirit of gratitude to Eileen Garrett, whose impetus, really, has helped so many people for the last 40 years by means of the Foundation's activities. I would also like to thank Lisette Coly, whose boundless energy has largely been responsible for pulling this conference together. I call on Lisette to say the final word.

LISETTE COLY: It is hard to believe that our two conference days have come to an end. It seems appropriate to note in closing that never in their writings and personal reflections did either Eileen Garrett or Frances Bolton ever intimate that they ever considered themselves women with perhaps different abilities, capabilities or attendant liabilities than men. Their basic message was, "Decide what you want to do. Go about it with a singlemindedness of purpose and do it!" which is sound advice for all.

We definitely owe a great deal of gratitude to our moderator, Rhea White, for her insightful and thought-provoking papers and comments and for keeping us so well on track. Thank you, Rhea. We literally could not have done it so well without you.

On behalf of Parapsychology Foundation, thank you all for your efforts to participate in this very special conference marking the Foundation's 40th anniversary. We have welcomed the opportunity to sponsor this conference and appreciate your valuable contributions. Certainly the women in parapsychology have much to be proud of. You can be assured that the Parapsychology Foundation will continue to support as best we can our valued researchers, be they male or female.

This conference is now adjourned.