

## How This Book Came About

The subtitle of this book—“Practice In Tending the Appearances”—has two meanings:

You are being offered practice in *tending to*—looking after and heeding—the appearances.

You are also invited to *intend* the appearances. The meaning of “intend” is illustrated every time you make a choice.

In the early 1980s Stephen Edelglass, along with John Davy and Hans Gebert, was working on a book whose aim was to reimagine science. But Davy died in 1984, and for some time the manuscript rested in a drawer. Eventually Stephen got Georg Maier involved in writing, and the result was eventually published in 1992 under the title *Matter and Mind*, then republished in 1997 as *The Marriage of Sense and Thought*. In the preface to this second edition, Stephen wrote:

While the first edition was well received, readers did not always notice that a truly phenomena-based science has radical implications for understanding sense experience and the world of phenomena. The present revised edition is an attempt to remedy that situation.

In order to set forth these “radical implications” more fully and explicitly, Stephen and Georg began to think of writing an entirely new book. And Ron Brady, who had pursued a deep and precise understanding of sense experience, was an obvious collaborator for the project. Two of the tentative titles, taken from a 1997 outline, suggest what was aimed at: *Giving up Metaphysics* and *Modern Esoteric Practice*. By the way, in those days Stephen was already convinced that Steve Talbott would be the ideal editor.

In 1997 they began to write. Stephen aimed at applying the phenomena-based approach in education. Georg tried at first to write about the meaning of “esoteric,” but this turned out to be much too historical and was scrapped, just as a chapter on afterimages and allied effects. Those philosophers of appearance with the B-names: George Berkeley, Alexander Gottlieb Baumgarten, and Heinrich Barth became his theme. Ron was writing up his work on

intentionality, grounded in phenomenology. Drawing from Steiner and Barfield, Ron had consciously recorded his own experience in creating the appearances on a daily basis. The dialogic relationship between the individual mind's active thinking and the world became his central focal point. In this way, a philosopher of science joined the two physicists.

In July, 2000, the authors, reinforced by Hanna Edelglass, Michael D'Aleo, and Johannes Köhl, discussed the project at a meeting in Saratoga Springs, New York, at the end of which the themes the authors would work on were fixed anew. The tentative title now read, *For the Time Being*. We decided that each author should begin his contribution with a biographical essay, as Ron had done. But then Stephen fell ill in the fall of that year and died on November 17, 2000. Thanks to encouragement by the supporting group, Ron and Georg were able to continue their work. Michael D'Aleo took over project management on behalf of the Saratoga Experiential Natural Science Research Institute, SENSRI.

All of those participating (now also with Ellen Dolgin and Christa Maier) met in 2001 in Saratoga. There a new outline was created, with chapters by Ron and Georg, as well as chapters already written by Stephen. Then there was a meeting in 2002 in Switzerland, where each chapter was read and discussed, and suggestions and revisions were considered. By the end of that series of discussions we fixed August 15, 2003, as the target for completion. Hanna had by now formulated the title, *Being on Earth*. Ron would come to see Georg the following March, by which time the outlined plan was to have been carried out. When Ron arrived, they were able to agree that the outlined plan was indeed basically achieved; but then, on March 27, 2003, Ron suddenly died at the Goetheanum in Dornach, on the way to the auditorium where he was to give a talk.

In keeping with the target date, the manuscript was put together with Michael's help in the beginning of August, 2003, in Saratoga Springs. The manuscript could now be read by those interested in it. For some years, Michael had been intensively looking for an editor, but no one had agreed to do the work. Moreover the book was now an orphan, being an American book without a living American author. It was really in need of being adopted. With this in mind, Hanna, Michael, Christa, and Georg went to visit Henrike and Craig Holdredge and Steve Talbott at the Nature Institute in Ghent, N.Y., on August 7. To our surprise, Steve volunteered to work through the manuscript with people at the Institute, finding out where things are not yet plausible to the reader, and since then a lively and productive correspondence between him and Georg ensued, mainly from 2004 to the fall of 2005 when we deemed the manuscript to be finished.

The manuscript has been slow in evolving. The logical next step would have been to look for a publisher, and it became apparent to us that publication was still far ahead. And at this point

we have decided to try out the still rather novel variant of an electronic publication on the Internet.

This introduction may be taken to be an integral part of chapter 12, “Company.”

*Ellen Dolgin, Hanna Edelglass, Georg Maier, Michael D’Aleo, Steve Talbott*