

Essay 22 : The Golden Years, The Emergence of ECE Theory

The golden years of my scientific life have been the last eight years, the phenomenal impact of ECE theory puts that beyond doubt. I refer to and remember the Agolden days@, however, as those days in which I was first allowed the freedom to do original research on my own, the best remembered of which are summer 1973, when I returned from a scholarship in France to the Edward Davies Chemical Laboratories (EDCL), to the autumn of 1974 when I had been awarded my Ph. D. I have clung to that freedom ever since, because as James Joyce wrote in ADubliners@, all else to me was Augly, monotonous child=s play@. In ancient Wales the primal creator and giver of life was the Celtic half god Creyr (Heron). The Arthurian Lady of the Lake, the half goddess Rhiannon, often took the form of a heron, and gave Arthur the power of Kingship. Excalibur was thrown back to her after the death of Arthur, and Creyr or Heron repossessed the creative power from Rhiannon. Heron is Athe patron saint@ of all creative beings. Whether knowingly or not, Dylan Thomas took up this symbol in what both my predecessor on the Civil List, the poet laureate elect Vernon Watkins, and myself thought or think is his greatest work, the powerful and mature poem AOver Sir John=s Hill@. This supremely great work of literature was famously composed in 1948 in Laugharne in the metaphysical style of John Donne and my two ancestors, Henry Vaughan and George Herbert. It was written Abefore the lunge of night@, in grave foreboding of a looming evil upon humankind, the atomic bomb with its universal, most fearful, power of destruction. The last part of the final stanza is an elegy for all humankind, which has betrayed Heron:

A.....The Heron, ankling the scaly
Lowlands of the waves,
Makes all the music; and I who hear the tune of the slow
Wear-willow river, grave,
Before the lunge of night, the notes on this time-shaken
Stone for the sake of the souls of the slain birds sailing.@

There is wonderful and instantly memorable use of alliteration in the last line, which I first came across when I bought a copy of his ACollected Poems@ from the Uplands Bookshop in Swansea as a young student. Dylan Thomas had a half memory of the intricate mediaeval cynghanedd of my ancestor Dafydd ap Gwilym.

The years before the emergence of ECE theory had been ones of personal foreboding also, but gradually at first, and with ever quickening pace, the theory began to influence scientific thought across the world in an entirely new way. Not only were the ideas as radically new as AYoung Thomas@, something which I had always wanted to achieve in science, but they were being taken up at Olympic pace through the ECE websites kindly created by a group of friends and intellectuals - the AIAS group. The use of feedback software has made this objectively clear to all as described in a previous essay. In the very conservative and intolerant mindset of natural philosophy, the use of websites was the only way forward, otherwise the theory would have been censored at birth out of existence. Only a very few physicists had the imagination to see what was happening back in 2003. Gradually this small group overturned the whole of twentieth century physics and like Heron, created a powerful new natural philosophy.

Gradually it became clearer and clearer that the main ideas of twentieth century physics were Atotally wrong@, as recently admitted in a TV programme by contemporary icons. Ideas can easily be totally wrong, even if they are repeated by thousands, or more

accurately, particularly if they are repeated by thousands. The reason is that so few bother to study the source papers. In some instances, such as general relativity, no one knows any more where the source can be found. The ideas come across so confidently on TV screens, and TV can never be wrong. After the programme is over switch to cricket none the wiser. So ECE has reached the point where it is studied by visitors from all the relevant universities in the world, by all major corporations, all relevant Government departments and by over a million and a half individuals. Sometimes it is difficult to believe that one is not watching feedback to a rugby or baseball website, but a high brow website full of intricate thought, thought as intricate as any page of the Book of Kells.

Perhaps people are fascinated by intricacy, as the scribes were in their simple stone scriptorium on wild Iona. However, after eight years the millions are still there, and ever increasing. About half a dozen scholars have developed a complete grasp of ECE and are able to apply it themselves in many new directions, becoming accomplished scribes in their own right. The world of conventional physics looks back at us with fascination now, through the windows of feedback software, rather than Alook back in anger@ or irritation or stalking contempt. In the immortal words of all the ultra conservatives who ever existed: Athere must be something in it after all@. The author, lecturer, educator and researcher Kerry Pendergast has just published a biography of yours truly and is working on a new book, ACrystal Spheres@, describing the emergence of ECE theory in an objective way and putting it into historical context.

In the history of physics, eight years is a very short span of time, so this is a prime example of Kuhn=s sudden paradigm shift, or as Kuhn puts it, Athe essential tension@. Some would say it is a Aparadigm war@. Fortunately physics is not war, (the ugliest aspect of human nature), it is a rational and irreversible development of thought based on a study of nature. In the wrong hands, physics can be used to produce terrible results, as described by Dylan Thomas, but in the right hands it is enlightenment. An enlightenment comes to stay, it does not go away, so among real intellectuals there is no going back to the twentieth century.