

TRANSCRIBING DR. SHULGIN'S LAB BOOKS

by the Erowid Crew

In an era of prolific experience report writing facilitated by the Internet, the hand-written reports that fill the first of Dr. Alexander Shulgin's early 1960s lab books offer a glimpse into the private reflections of a group of intrepid psychonauts.

In order to maximize the value of these amazing artifacts, Erowid is creating text versions of the scanned pages. Using a wiki to coordinate the process, we are managing a group of volunteers who are painstakingly

transcribing the faded and often difficult-to-read writing, page by page. So far, four volunteers have stepped forward to help decipher the scanned pages and commit them to searchable text. The wiki is easy to use and volunteers can do as little or as much as they would like.

Lab Book #1 was published in October 2007 and its transcription is under way, the scanning of Lab Book #2 has been completed and it is being proofed prior to publication, and

Lab Book #3 is currently undergoing anonymizing in preparation for scanning.

Though it is slow going, this process requires very little training and there is a lot to do. We could use more help! If you are interested in assisting with this project, please fill out the volunteer form at Erowid.org/volunteers and mention the Shulgin transcription project. ●

You can find the lab books at: Erowid.org/books_online/shulgin_labbooks/

Reading the lab books provides a reminder of why Sasha developed the simple "Shulgin Scale": he was addressing the question of whether the substances he was experimenting with were psychoactive at all. The scale is designed for recording the most basic information about a compound at a specific dose (as with the MDA entry below), not for identifying nuances of the type or level of effects once a substance's effective dose range is known.

The first books are labeled on the cover and every page with "Dow Chemical Company". Sasha worked for Dow at the time and was performing some of the experiments with an eye towards potential commercial use. A few pages are marked with official signatures of Dow employees certifying that they had read and understood the contents.

+ 10/28/65 ATE 35.0 mg 9:30 AM. Probably threshold mentally - definite threshold automatically. 10:30 50% dilation - teeth rubbery - eyes pretty much normal 1:00 PM. Mental confusion shown in calculations, played poor bridge. mental effort certainly gone by 1-2 pm. very nebulous.

There are many curious and interesting experiments reported. A notable series of trials, starting in March 1963, begins with the consumption of raw leaves of *Salvia divinorum* and by June 1964 moves on to the ingestion of a "glassy extract" of the leaves.

I have read pages 22 to 29 in this notebook and understand their contents. There are no blank pages, except . All entries are in the handwriting of A. S. Shulgin.
Signed: [Signature] Date: 10/19/62
Signed: [Signature] Date: 10/19/62

5/28/63 10:50 PM several small leaves These were leaves which were left from the pruning and making cuttings of one of the plants AD brought to the lab. Unfortunately prior to this trial I had consumed both dinner and a considerable amount of wine. There was possible lightheadedness, but nothing dramatic, and certainly ascribable at least in part to the wine. Taste not at all unpleasant. An intensification(?) of the (wine) intoxication provides sufficient justification to build a green-house. Am doing.
Σ 5.0g.
11:10 PM several more, 5g → 10g