

discussion of the history of ritual in our secret society must include an examination of the history of recruitment. In truth, in earlier decades we saw little need for active recruitment. The parasite has its own "recruitment methods" if that term is even applicable to buzz mechanics. We once relied chiefly on the simple magnetism of the parasite, and many of us preferred that path. Anyone acquainted with our room understands the desire to share it, but also the importance of separation and protection from an external world that could not appreciate this discovery.

Following the earlier passive approach, the younger and arguably more flexible members embarked on a different track. In recent years, new Initiates and even Reticulites have embraced the ritualistic recruitment that one might expect from more conventional institutions. As a result, P.S. membership has come to include brilliant minds hungry for all manner of distraction and dissipation after the madness of the war. P.S. has sought to expand the community and leave parasite traces that the right people might discover

These newer recruitment methods have already changed the shape of P.S. We now think of ourselves as a group whose ranks require aggressive and focused growth. We were once merely responsive. Now, P.S. has a mission. The ever-expanding recruitment rituals are already bearing fruit. The balance between tradition and innovation will continue in the years to come.

P.S. has certainly experienced growing pains because of the changing culture, but several benefits of increased membership are immediately obvious. Already, we have increased the number of scientists, mathematicians, engineers, technologists, and scholars who are not content to experience the passive "compulsions" that impelled the earliest Initiates to seek out the parasite. The diversification of skill sets and commitment to transdisciplinary collaboration has given rise to new techniques for approaching the parasite, techniques that we never dreamed about during the early years when no one imagined that research might be a way to better understand potential