"Synchronicity 1.1" by Visionary Software
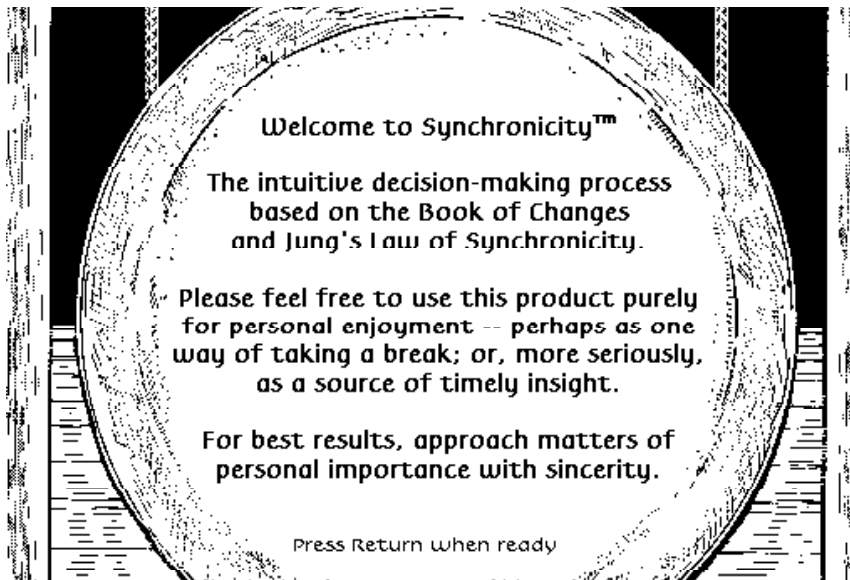### --a review by Randall Brown; Apple-Dayton User Group

It was bound to happen! First there was 'Flower Power' in the 60s. Then there was the 'Me Generation' in the 70s. Along came the 80s and the 'Yuppies' and 'Dinks'. The personal computer was brought to fruition during the last phase of the 'Flower Power' movement, was made into a profitable commercial venture during the 'Me Generation' and was turned into the machine for 'The Rest of Us' during this past decade.

During the 80s, the self-help, self-improvement, self-involvement industry blossomed and boomed. Magazines touting assistance in every conceivable area poured onto the newsstands. The exercise industry has increased 10 fold. New products and techniques for removing wrinkles, undoing baldness, and rearranging body parts have taken their place on supermarket shelves and TV advertisement spots everywhere.

Now there is "Synchronicity"!

"Synchronicity" is software for the Macintosh based upon the research and teachings of the eminent Swiss psychologist, Carl Jung (YOONG). Jung broke off his studies with Sigmund Freud and developed his own theories for human behavior. Among his theories, is his belief in the principle of a 'collective unconscious' among human beings; a shared system of knowledge for which Albert Einstein coined the term 'synchronicity'. Part of Jung's theory is derived from his 30 year study of the ancient Chinese document "The Book of Changes" The "Book of Changes" is over 4000 years old and is said to speak of the universal laws of nature.

Welcome to Synchronicity™

The intuitive decision-making process based on the Book of Changes and Jung's Law of Synchronicity.

Please feel free to use this product purely for personal enjoyment -- perhaps as one way of taking a break; or, more seriously, as a source of timely insight.

For best results, approach matters of personal importance with sincerity.

Press Return when ready

Quoting from a documentation file which comes with the disk:

"Synchronicity is a system to help you clarify and resolve perplexing questions, dilemmas, and problems as they arise. How does it do this? By removing you from the fray just long enough to tap into your own intuitive insight. As a result, you can easily regain your best balance and get clear *before* you react. It's easy, it's effective, and it's fun.

Synchronicity reflects your unique energy with a symbolic mirror that can be used on any topic – providing clear insight and a new way of looking at things, pointing the way to a superior course of action.
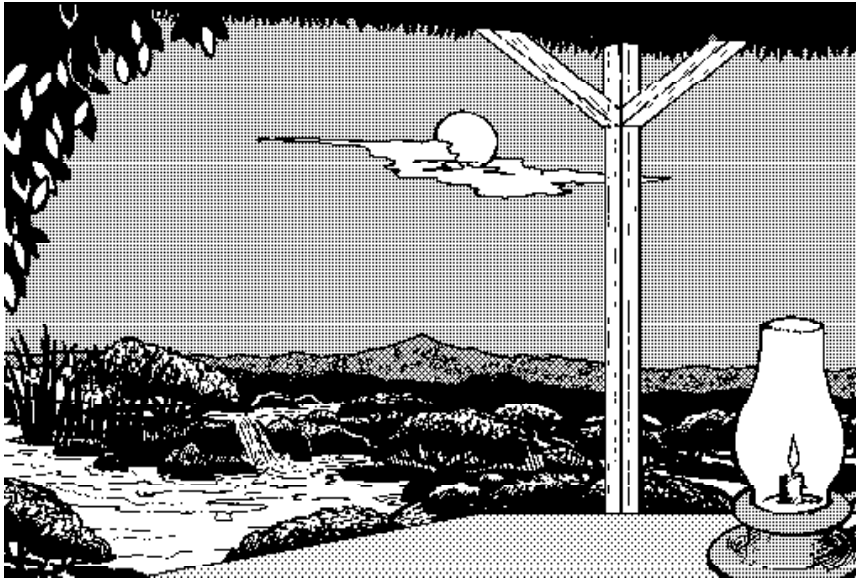
Synchronicity is the only software that employs visual beauty, animation, relaxing sounds, and a keyboard process to help you get in touch with a state of focused relaxation – the best thing for intuition and creative strategy. In the process of seeing more clearly, stress dissolves like the beautiful art that fades in and out of **Synchronicity** screens!
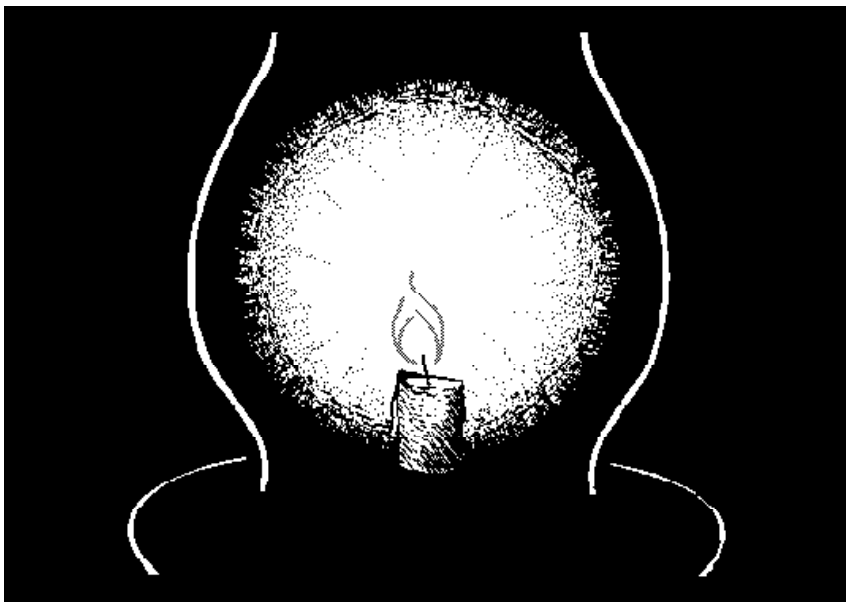
Synchronicity will help you

• know the best time to advance, wait, or back off in sensitive situations

• respond to crises in a more skillful and balanced way

• develop intuitive insight and creative detachment

• quickly and easily regain poise in the midst of chaos

• increase productivity and enjoyment at work."

How does it work?

I have made it a practice over the years to study Eastern and Western philosophy, psychology, and religion, so I was not startled by the intent of "Synchronicity". I must admit, though, that I was startled by its effectiveness! The various graphic screens which the user is presented with in their process of gaining balance and insight are quite calming and tend to focus one's attention to the task at hand. The accompanying sound file "Random Frogs" plays in the background during several screens depicting a quiet, gently flowing stream. The sounds, in addition to the nicely designed graphics, all work together to provide an atmosphere of tranquility.

In the course of proceeding through the program, the user is asked to take part in a 'keyboard ritual'. Here, the user presses down a random sequence of keys for a random interval. This is repeated three times, after which a gong is sounded. During this ritual the user views a picture of a flickering candle and is drawn in to the 'collective unconscious'. When the ritual is complete, the user is presented with a series of text screens which make up the unique reading based upon a question the user asked at the beginning of the program, a list of keywords to help focus the user's thoughts, and the 'keyboard ritual'.

The readings are the culmination of the activities in "Synchronicity". They are generalistic in nature, but nevertheless, can provide the user with much insight into the nature of the problem put forth in the initial question. As with any form of assistance, be it psychological, philosophical, or religious, it is beneficial only to those who listen, believe, and trust.

The readings I received to the several questions I posed to "Synchronicity" were focused on the question and positive in nature. They were beneficial in the sense of providing a detached point of view of the problem, which is a well respected method for effective problem solving.

Recommendation

I found "Synchronicity 1.1" to work exactly as stated by Visionary Software. "Synchronicity 1.1", like any tool, is only as effective as the method and desire employed by the user.

Software Specifics

The user interface is similar to that of HyperCard; no pull-down menus and button-click controlled. It seemed very intuitive to me, presenting all necessary information on the screen at any given moment. One interesting feature is the absence of a standard Macintosh scroll box for bringing into view the off-screen text of the readings. By clicking on either the up or down arrow which are provided, the text itself merely scrolls up or down. I am not able to remember seeing another application which utilizes this method.

The user can save the readings to disk for future reference or can choose to print them. This is a nice feature, as there is no guarantee that the same reading will ever occur again. There are 64 multi-part readings with thousands of vastly different responses possible.

Hardware Requirements

In order to use Synchronicity, you need a Mac 512KE, Mac Plus, Mac SE, or Mac II computer with a hard disk or two floppy disk drives. To get best results (i.e. to support Synchronicity's sounds), you need System 6.0.2 or later as currently supplied by every Macintosh dealer, downloadable from many online networks, or available free but for the cost of handling from Visionary Software. Note: Because of its superior fade-in, fade-out graphics, Synchronicity Version 1.0 and 1.1 does not work with some non-Apple big screens (V. 1.2 will accommodate them).

Ordering and pricing information

$49.95 for the first copy, plus $20 for additional copies for friends, if the additional copies are ordered at the same time. The price is $59.95 including the fascinating Synchronicity Guidebook. Call the toll-free number, 1-800-877-1832 and receive immediate service. Visa and Mastercard, prepaid-by-check, or UPS COD orders.

Special offer to Apple-Dayton User Group members

Until June 1, 1989, members are entitled to a 40% discount if ordered directly from Visionary Software. A full-featured demonstration copy of "Synchronicity 1.1" may be offered on the May 1989 Mac DOM issue or can be obtained from Randy Brown (leave message on either A-D BBSs or phone 254-7243).

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