

Affectionate Alphabet

—letters for the spirit of our times



A is this age, the one that is new

B's barefoot economics, and Buddhist ones too

C is creation, our original blessing

D's deep ecology, dependencies stressing

E's experiential education, extending what's known

F is the feminine, coming into her own — so

G is the goddess, and Gaia, and greening, and

H is life's holiness, and holistic meaning

I's intermediate technology, friend of earth and employment

J is jobs and real work, for cash and enjoyment

K is knowledge, knitting matter and mind

L is love, living, levelling all kind

M's meditation, the motionless movement of the mystic

N's the new sciences, n-dimensional, non-mechanistic

O is the order that's implicate, Omega in time
P's post-positive shifting to a new paradigm
Q is quantum theory, Newtonian physics dissolving
R's the brain's right hemisphere, reconciling, resolving
S is the small that is beautiful and Schumacher's learning
T is Tao, transformation, and the point that is turning
U's the unconscious (Jung and Gestalt more than Freud)
V's visualisation, a vehicle Jung employed
W is the wholeness of which all else is a part
X is therefore xenophilia, for the strange an open heart
Y is yin and yang, but more yin than yang and Y
— my friends — Y is you, and
X is the Zeitgeist I'm greeting here, but fearing for too.

Source: Opening address at the Turning Point conference, Social Education Association of Australia, 1988, and later published by Trentham Books in *Daring to be a Teacher* by Robin Richardson, 1990

