

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF HYPNOSIS



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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Central Office of I.S.H. has now moved to Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. It must have been with mixed feelings that Emily Orne and her hard working team, arranged and finally saw the despatch of boxes of files and records of the I.S.H.: feelings of nostalgia after so many years of devoted hard work (again, Emily, on behalf of every member of I.S.H. sincerely "thank you"), yet mixed with, I am sure, feelings of relief that such an important transition has occurred so successfully and smoothly. This transfer was the final reflection of the efficiently organized Central Office in Philadelphia.

Robb Stanley is the new Administrative Officer of I.S.H. Robb is a Lecturer in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Melbourne and is well experienced to take up this office, assisted by the Administrative Secretary, Mrs Robyn Holmes. Geographically, the Central Office is in the Department of Psychiatry at the Austin Hospital, Melbourne. Melbourne is the capital city of Victoria, in the south east of Australia. It has a population of 3.9 million. This psychiatric department is one of the largest in Australia and Professor Graham Burrows heads the Division of Psychological Medicine, as well as being the head of the academic Department of Psychiatry.

The Australian Society of Hypnosis, with some 1300 registered medical practitioners, dentists and psychologists, is an active society, and is proud to be associated with administering the I.S.H. Central Office. I recently visited the Central Office and inspected the set-up and equipment with the President of the Australian Society of Hypnosis, Dr Lorraine Dennerstein and Robb Stanley. My visit was essentially the formal opening, and the occasion was photographically recorded for readers of this newsletter.

The Central Office would like you to request it to be involved in any particular activity that you feel will further promote the appropriate clinical and experimental use of hypnosis. It is the aim of the office to ensure a harmonious and cooperative interchange of ideas and information for the purposes of furthering the International Society and the field of hypnosis.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Dr Fred Evans as the new President-Elect and welcome him to the team of I.S.H.

DAVID R. COLLISON
President I.S.H.

FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

In the preface of his classic book, *Hypnosis and Suggestibility* of 1933, Clark L. Hull wrote:

"Throughout the history of hypnotism the clinical approach, with its preoccupations with remedial exigencies, has greatly predominated. In contrast to this tendency the approach of the present work is experimental rather than clinical ... This choice was not made through any lack of appreciation of applied science, but rather in the belief that in the long run application itself will be furthered by a proportionate development of pure science."

Hull's book was to place the study of hypnosis on a sound scientific base, in much the way that over a half century earlier, the opening of laboratories in Leipzig in 1879 by Wilhelm Wundt had performed the same service for Psychology.

I was reminded of Hull's words over summer when I received the exciting news that for the fourth time in recent years, a colleague has been recognized by Psychology for his work on hypnosis. First it was John Kihlstrom who received the Early Career Award of the American Psychological Association in 1979. He was joined by Kevin McConkey who received the equivalent award from the Australian Psychological Society in 1984, and by Jean-Roch Laurence who was awarded a 5-year University Research Fellowship by Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada last year. All of these are firsts for the field; significantly, they occurred in three different countries. Further, they match another first; our Founding President Ernest R. Hilgard received a Distinguished Scientific Contribution award from A.P.A. in 1967.

Now comes more good news that Martin Orne, a former President of I.S.H., is this year's recipient of A.P.A.'s Distinguished Scientific Award for Applications of Psychology. It is a major honour, since A.P.A. is a large professional society with over 60,000 members, and in bestowing its awards, it has no shortage of worthy candidates.

On each of these four recent occasions, my delight was both personal and professional. The personal part is obvious enough; all were highly deserved. The professional aspect may be of special importance, since in each case it is the voice of professional Psychology saying, unequivocally, that the study of hypnosis enriches it, in much the manner that our field has gained from advances in Psychology.

Little did Hull know just how far we would come in such a relatively short time subsequent to the publication of his book. On the other hand, perhaps he did.

CAMPBELL PERRY
I.S.H. Newsletter Editor

