



simply a fact. How he did it will probably never be clearly understood, though he certainly slept very little. One house guest who came down to his kitchen in the middle of the night found Roy deep in the works of Aristotle. Perhaps he had mild hypomania, without any of the pathological features. Practically every photograph of Roy that has appeared since his death has shown him with a wide and mischievous grin. Most people would feel more cheerful after even a casual conversation or telephone call with him.

Among the books that emerged in breathtaking succession were those on *A Social History of Madness* (up to the Regency), *Gibbon*, quackery in England, medicine in the 18th century, *Enlightenment: Britain and the Creation of the Modern World*, an encyclopaedia of the history of medicine, a social history of London, a medical history of mankind and a dictionary of 18th century history. Other publications are too numerous to mention and are to be found in many academic journals.

On top of this, he was a prolific reviewer of books, a regular broadcaster and a ubiquitous lecturer, rarely refusing an invitation, however humble or remote the audience. The two qualities that have been most often stressed since Roy's death were his kindness and his generosity; whatever his commitments, colleagues or students never came to him

in vain for help or advice. I was once astonished to receive a note of congratulation from him about a book review I had written in a fairly minor journal. It was the sort of kind action one often thinks of, but does not get round to doing.

With German Berrios, Roy was a founding editor of the journal *History of Psychiatry*, the first one to be devoted to the subject. He was also Editor for many years of *History of Science*. Some time after the Wellcome Institute moved to University College London, while still at the height of his powers, Roy surprisingly took early retirement and moved to the Sussex coast. His intention, he said, was to have more time for writing and travelling, to cultivate his allotment and learn to play the saxophone – he was a great jazz enthusiast.

Great historian though he was – in the opinion of his peers – it would be impossible to write anything about Roy without trying also to portray the person. With facial hair that oscillated between a beard and 'designer stubble', a shirt generously unbuttoned, a gold medallion or even an earring, jeans and cowboy boots, Roy was scarcely the picture of a reclusive scholar. He enjoyed good living in every form and enlivened every gathering he attended. Fame had not brought him riches though; he was unworldly about finance and his travel was by train or bicycle. His long-suffering literary agent found, when she

took him on, that he had already signed 29 publishing agreements, few of which would bring him any significant monetary income. His personal life can be best described as eventful; he was divorced four times – possibly a record outside Hollywood.

We had one disagreement when he contributed to a volume that was being edited by German Berrios and myself. Characteristically, his own chapter was one of the first to come in; it was stimulating and stylistically admirable. In writing about the 1920s, though, he praised the part of Virginia Woolf's *Mrs Dalloway* in which she sarcastically describes the intervention of a fashionable psychiatrist (based on Sir George Savage, who had treated her). But, I asked him, what would you have done if you had been the psychiatrist in 1923, with the options available then? For once, he had no ready answer and we agreed on a compromise text. Perhaps there is really no substitute for the actual experience of clinical responsibility, even for one so learned and full of human sympathy.

Roy died suddenly, while cycling from his allotment in St Leonards. Work on the history of psychiatry will never be the same without him.

Hugh Freeman

miscellany

Mental Health Act Section 12 approval training

The Faculty of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry is planning a second series of its Mental Health Act Section 12 approval training initiated in 2001 with the support of the Department of Health. One hundred and twenty Faculty members participated in the 2001 training sessions held in London, Cardiff and Preston. The programme is designed to provide full training for approval under the Act by considering the Children Act, Human Rights Act and the Common Law, while ensuring that the consent also meets the needs of child and adolescent psychiatrists. Feedback from participants in 2001 was very positive. The Faculty would like to invite those interested in

this training to contact Mr Robert Jackson at the Royal College of Psychiatrists (e-mail: rjackson@rcpsych.ac.uk).

The British Pakistani Psychiatrists' Association

The British Pakistani Psychiatrists' Association (BPPA) was formed in 2001 and has now become fully operational. Currently it has over 144 regular and 32 associate members but it is hoped that membership will double by the end of 2002.

The BPPA is not about nationality. It is about cultural diversity in multi-cultural Britain and it celebrates cultural heritage in collaboration and in integration with British communities. Psychiatrists from the

subcontinent have provided a high quality and consistent service to the NHS and wish to participate in the development of the new NHS with full vigour. The BPPA aims to develop social connections and peer support and has already established social and academic links with Indian, Sri Lankan, Bangladeshi and Arab associations. There is also an opportunity to enrich the psychiatric scene further by exchange programmes in psychiatry. Links have been developed with its counterpart in the USA and a joint conference is planned for 2003. This will offer advice on careers, training and other relevant issues confronting members.

For information about membership, please e-mail: akmal@britpakpsych.org.uk. You can also visit the BPPA web site at <http://www.britpakpsych.org.uk>.