

Herbert C. and Anna L. Gunzburg

It is very hard to find words to express myself here. Twelve years ago on the 25th April 1994 my father, the founder and Editor of this Journal, passed away after a short illness. My father, Herbert C. Gunzburg, was one of the pioneers of the field and his contributions remain as relevant today as during the time that he was running the psychological services in the Birmingham (UK) area. My father was a very kind and in some ways almost self-effacing but without doubt his name stands today with the greats of the profession. His work made the greatest impact in the area of socialization, and his Progress Assessment Charts (PAC) are still a valuable instrument in both charting progress and setting new learning goals.

When my father died, my mother, Anna L. Gunzburg, decided to continue his life work and took up the reigns as Co-ordinating Editor of the British Journal. My mother was an architect by training, had worked extensively both in the private sector as well as for the hospital board in the UK, and had more and more specialized in architecture designed to challenge and provide learning opportunities. Together, my father and mother had written a book "Social Competence and Physical Environment" on this subject. Nevertheless, taking over my father's chair was a challenge. And she did take over my father's chair – even though she insisted on the title of Coordinating Editor in fact she virtually single handedly ran the journal. Every paper that was submitted was read by her and sent out to a number of independent reviewers. The reviews came back, were considered and the comments, together with my mother's own, sent back to the authors. She spent incredible time painstakingly editing each and every manuscript for English, checking the references, checking the punctuation and the figures. And so often my mother received mail from authors thanking her for the help she had given them in getting their papers fit for publication.

My mother picked up all the challenges as they came. She was seventy three when she took over as Coordinating Editor. She learned the intricacies of email, using the web, word processing and the management of PDFs. As new technologies came she gladly took them on board so that most recently the Journal was sending out proofs as PDFs and sending marked up PDFs back to the printer – greatly speeding up time to publication. My mother never shied away from challenges and so she communicated with her net of contacts throughout the world by email.

At the same time my mother looked after her household, took care of many other things and many people, was active as an architectural advisor, making plans both for private houses as well as for planned adaptations for the local University, travelled extensively and took especial pride in maintaining her garden. She was a wonderful and kind person.

It thus came as a complete surprise and a total shock when, after a short illness, my mother passed away earlier this year on the 10th May 2006. She was eighty five. She insisted on reading manuscripts for the British Journal in her hospital bed.

We who are left miss her incredibly. And we are determined to continue her and my father's legacy. The British Journal for Developmental Disabilities will continue under the combined editorial guidance of Dr. Arturo Langa and Dr. Brian Salmons. An expanded editorial board will be appointed and there will be some changes in format and layout. But the independent spirit that has guided the Journal over the past fifty plus years will continue. I would like to think that I can count on your support over the next years both for the Journal and to perpetuate the legacy that my parents have left us.

Walter H. Günzburg. Ph.D.
Professor of Virology and Chairman
Research Institute of Virology and Biomedicine,
Director
Christian-Doppler Laboratory for Gene Therapeutic Vector Development
University of Veterinary Medicine,
Veterinaerplatz 1,
A-1210 Vienna
AUSTRIA

Tel: +43-1-25077-2301
Fax: +43-1-25077-2390
Email: walter.guenzburg@vu-wien.ac.at