



the Park Hospital for Children, which was then one of the few places in the UK with an academic child psychiatry unit. It was here that Issy conducted his first two research projects: a description of aggression in adolescent delinquent boys and one of the first major studies of childhood autism. He demonstrated that patients with this condition had high rates of concurrent neurodevelopment difficulties but these did not inevitably develop into schizophrenia. His work laid the foundations for considering classical Kanner autism as a biological disorder, in sympathy with a growing body of British research dispelling the myth that autism was a childhood functional psychosis with no organic origins. In 1964, he was appointed Physician-in-Charge of the Nuffield Psychology and Psychiatry Unit in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and Lecturer in Child Psychiatry at the Department of Psychological Medicine, headed by Sir Martin Roth. He remained in this consultant post for the next 27 years, turning the Nuffield into one of the foremost university departments of child and adolescent psychiatry in the world. His work was recognised with one appointment in 1977 to a personal chair. Three of his many research and clinical successes over this time stand out. First, and perhaps the most remarkable, was the unique study of psychological interventions in the maladjusted child in schools, published as a book in 1981, *Help Starts Here*. This, the first controlled trial of psychological treatment in primary schools, proved that skilled conversational treatment was effective in ameliorating emotional and behavioural difficulties. The second was the longitudinal epidemiological investigations of the intergenerational transmission of psychological disadvantage, carried out through the 1000 families first identified and recruited in 1947 by Sir James Spence at the Department of Child Health, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Kolvin and colleagues traced a sub-sample of 300 families,

then in their early 30s, and identified continuities in the risk for deprivation in the offspring of the original cohort, as well as protective factors against such a negative outcome. These positive characteristics included a flexible behavioural style in the face of adversity, social competence, parents who planned ahead and provided physical and emotional care in spite of privations this may have meant for themselves. These broad categories of psychosocial resilience have subsequently been replicated with remarkable robustness in many other similar studies worldwide. The third important success was in the clinical and political challenge of chairing the Cleveland Inquiry into child abuse. This most difficult task was carried out with a fairness and thoroughness that brought him the respect of many in the community and led to significant recommendations to central government regarding the roles and practice of professionals and parents concerned in child protection.

In 1991, at the age of 60, he was appointed to the newly created John Bowlby Chair in Child and Family Mental Health at the University of London, based at the Royal Free Hospital and Tavistock Clinic. He was Chair of the Association for Child Psychology and Psychiatry, 1994–1996. The photograph was taken in 1996 at the Association's 3rd European Conference in Glasgow. Over the 4 years, before his retirement, he engaged a clinically oriented group of clinicians of international repute for psychodynamic practise in quantitative methods of evaluation in therapy. On his retirement, he left a clinical workforce engaged with modern scientific methods of examining clinical practice and a thriving academic department that few thought possible in such a brief period. He continued to engage in research and to publish through his last illness. When asked what, looking back, he saw as his greatest achievement, he said, without hesitation, his own family. He is survived by his wife, Rona, whom he married 50 years ago, and his two children.

Ian Goodyer

As an addendum to Professor Goodyer's obituary of Professor Israel Kolvin, allow me to emphasise his invaluable services to the College. He was, *inter alia*, a man of business: under his stewardship the finances of the College (he was Treasurer from 1993–1999) prospered. Further, his annual financial reports were so presented that the simplest mind could understand them.

Henry Rollin



Max Meir Glatt

An internationally renowned pioneer of the treatment of alcohol and drug misuse

Max Glatt, by the narrowest of margins, succeeded in escaping the Holocaust. His parents, as he discovered much later, were less fortunate: they were slaughtered in an Estonian concentration camp leaving him and a sister, who had been smuggled out of Germany into Holland, as the sole survivors of his entire family.

Max was born in Berlin on 26 January 1912 into a prosperous, middle-class Orthodox Jewish family. His Judaism was then, and remained, central to his life despite all the difficulties involved in keeping the complex beliefs and practices of orthodoxy, particularly in the Diaspora.

Max's career as an undergraduate in the 1930s was blighted by the rise of Nazism, particularly the malignant persecution of the Jews. Nevertheless, in 1937, he was awarded his MD at the University of Leipzig. By that time, the poison of anti-semitism had seeped into every layer of the German medical establishment so that further academic progress was blocked, practice in any general hospital was forbidden by diktat, and the only work available for Max, as a Jew, was in a small hospital in Berlin which served exclusively Jews. Even so, his innate optimism coupled with, apparently, a degree of political naivety, caused him to hang on. And hang on he did until the momentous events of Kristallnacht shattered the last vestiges of optimism: the message on the wall was clearly written, not in chalk, but in blood.

Max put his escape plan into effect. The plan in the event was shot through with failures, and it is a near-miracle that he finally succeeded in arriving safely in England (for the second time). And it was in England that, in 1942, Max resumed, or was permitted to resume, medical practice, fortunately, as it happened, in mental hospitals controlled



columns

by the London County Council Mental Health Department.

But in which direction should he point his genius and his hunger for work? It was probably his own personal suffering as a member of a persecuted minority, plus his deep-seated compassion for the underdog, that led him to seek out a neglected and best-forgotten section of the community. And what better example could he find than those he saw around him every day in the back wards in mental hospitals, among the frequenters of park benches or pavement-sleepers – to wit, those suffering from alcohol or drug misuse? These, he decided, were the people to whom he would devote his professional life and with missionary zeal he set to work.

His first NHS unit for the treatment of alcoholism was established at Waringham Park Hospital near Croydon, South London, to be followed by another for alcoholism and drug addiction at St Bernard's Hospital, Ealing, West London, now named the Max Glatt Centre. In theory, both units were based on group and/or community principles and, as his fame spread, so further units were established in the NHS, in the private sector and within the prison service, the best known being that at HMP Wormwood Scrubs.

Max was a prodigious worker. He served as an honorary consultant psychiatrist at four London teaching hospitals as well as acting as chair or member of innumerable committees. His advice was sought by important bodies such as the British Medical Association, the Home Office, the Royal medical colleges and councils concerned with the problems of alcoholism and drug addiction. To cap it all, he was appointed a part-time lecturer at several universities.

Tangible rewards began to flood from universities and academic bodies at home, and particularly, from abroad, who fell over themselves to award him prizes and honorary degrees. In 1970, The Royal College of Physicians of London elected him MRCP, to be elevated to FRCP in 1975. The Royal College of Psychiatrists elected him to the Foundation Fellowship in 1971, and in 1985 he was elected to the Honorary Fellowship. Prestigious prizes were heaped on him in America and, ironically, in Germany. It is worthy of comment that the suffering experienced at the hands of the Nazis failed to quench his love for Berlin, to which he returned whenever the occasion arose.

Max was a prolific writer. He proved as nimble with his pen as he was with a table tennis bat. This simile is apt because, surprisingly, he was an excellent and stylish table tennis player, who had represented Berlin as a student and at a senior club in Croydon much later. Having mastered the English language, Max's

contribution to the literature was enormous. *Inter alia*, by 1982 he had contributed 30 papers in the UK and abroad, written 9 chapters in important books and, as a single author, had published 4 books, all of them now classics. What is more, Max was a skilled editor. Between 1961 and 1978, he transformed *Addiction* from a parochial British journal into a publication of world-wide repute.

But Max, albeit a physician of the utmost fame, remained modest, gentle and good-humoured throughout his life. His love for his family was matched only by his devotion to and the strength he gained from his Judaism.

But what drove him relentlessly on was work; work was always the name of the game. He never retired and he died, as he would have chosen to do, with his boots on. The end came on 14 May 2002, the spread of advanced prostate cancer was responsible, in all probability, for the fall he sustained while conducting his weekly group at the Florence Nightingale Hospital. He was in his 90th year.

He leaves his wife, Gisella, herself a Holocaust survivor, his son Julian, two grandchildren and a host of grateful patients.

Henry R. Rollin



Roy Porter

Formerly medical and social historian[†]

Surely there has never been a historian who was elected an Honorary Fellow of both the Royal College of Psychiatrists and the Royal College of Physicians. In this, as in so many things, Roy Porter was unique. Yet he once said to me – and no doubt to many others – 'I'm not really a medical historian. I'm a social historian and an 18th century man'.

Roy's achievements and life – only 55 years unfortunately – have been extensively set out in the obituaries that appeared in all the serious newspapers.

These facts were also eloquently expressed in the encomia given at his memorial service on 22 April 2002 at St Pancras Parish Church, packed by those who knew him, had been taught by him, had heard his lectures or had at least read some of his unique literary output. The admissions' tutor from his Cambridge college told how Roy's scholarship papers had gained the highest marks ever known to his examiners. Yet he had not come from any intellectual hothouse.

By origin, Roy was a working-class cockney, born in 1946 and raised in a warm but crowded family home, lacking in all mod cons. In a delightful introduction to his *London: A Social History*, he described this 'stable, if shabby, community . . . undiscovered by sociologists'. From there, the family moved to a semi with indoor toilet which, in the 1950s, was definitely going up in the world. At his grammar school (would he have done so well in a comprehensive?), Roy was fortunate to come under the influence of an exceptional English master, although on arrival at Cambridge, he switched to history. He was recognised quickly as an outstanding student and mopped up the predicted double first.

He was then influenced by the psychoanalyst and scientific historian, Bob Young, founder of the Free Association Books, to study the 18th century history of geology, resulting in his first book, *The Making of the Science of Geology*. After this, he became Fellow, Director of Studies and – astonishingly for one so unconventional – Dean of Churchill College, with heavy teaching and administrative duties. Meanwhile, books began to appear on the history of environmental sciences, 18th century science and the Enlightenment. A wish to have more time for research and writing then led to his move to the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, first as Senior Lecturer and then as Professor.

It was there, particularly in association with Professor Bill Bynum, that his interest turned to the history of psychiatry. Their first edited product, together with the late Michael Shepherd, was a trilogy, *The Anatomy of Madness*. Today, its contents give a very uneven impression but, in fact, it opened a new era in the serious professional historiography of psychiatry. It also provided a launching pad for a new generation of historians of the subject, some of whom were psychiatrists. One of Roy's personal works, *Mind Forged Manacles*, which was a history of madness from the Restoration to the Regency, followed next, and clearly established his reputation. His literary output then began to assume Stakhanovite proportions.

Once asked what he was currently writing, Roy replied '14 books'. It was neither an exaggeration nor a boast, but

[†]Photo courtesy of The Wellcome Trust, University College London.