1853  J.D. Morrell’s (1816-1891) Elements of Psychology is the first book published in England to be called ‘psychology’ (Hearnshaw, 1964:21).

1855  In the Principles of Psychology Herbert Spencer (1820-1903) asserts that “mind can be understood only by showing how mind is evolved” (Hearnshaw, 1964:41). Alexander Bain publishes The Senses and the Intellect.

1856  The Medico-Psychological Association’s Asylum Journal of Mental Science becomes the Journal of Mental Science (Hearnshaw, 1964:25).


1858  Thomas Laycock (1812-1876) publishes Mind and Brain, a systematic treatise on the new physiological psychology. (Hearnshaw, 1964:20).

1859  The National Hospital “for the relief of paralysis, epilepsy and allied diseases” is opened in Queen Square, London. A long succession of eminent neurologists would work there including Hughlings Jackson (1835-1911) and David Ferrier (1843-1928) (Hearnshaw, 1964:69-70).

1860  Following the passing of the Criminal Lunatics Act of 1860, the Broadmoor lunatic asylum for the criminally insane is opened (Hearnshaw, 1964:146).

1861  Henry Maudsley’s (1835-1918) The Physiology and Pathology of Mind is an attempt “to bring the manifold instructive instances presented by the unsound mind to bear upon the interpretation of the obscure problems of mental science” (Hearnshaw, 1964:27).

1862  The Metaphysical Society is founded (Hearnshaw, 1964:124).

1863  Two generations of Oxford students would be nurtured on T.H.Green’s (1836-1882) idealist Prolegomena to Ethics; “and inoculated against the deceptions of empirical psychology” (Hearnshaw, 1964:128).

1864  W.B. Carpenter (1813-1885) publishes a definitive statement of his psychological views in his Principles of Mental Physiology. “Dr Carpenter contributed in no small degree to the foundation of a rational, that is to say, a physiological psychology” says ‘Darwin’s Bulldog’ T.H. Huxley (Hearnshaw, 1964:19,24).

1865  Two years before Wilhelm Wundt establishes the first psychological laboratory in the world, the Cambridge University senate rejects Ward and Venn’s proposal to establish a laboratory of psychophysics (Hearnshaw, 1964:171).

1866  The Cruelty to Animals Act is introduced. It would not be replaced until the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act came into force in 1986 (Wilson, 2001).

1867  The Society for Psychical Research is founded by Henry Sidgwick (1838-1900), F.W.H. Myers (1843-1901) and Edmund Gurney (1847-1888). The Society’s purpose is to gather information on telepathy, hypnotism, hauntings and hallucinations. The Cambridge Philosopher Sidgwick is its first President (Hearnshaw, 1964:158).

1868  The Froebel Society is founded (Hearnshaw, 1964:258).

1869  Compulsory education is introduced in England (Hearnshaw, 1964:151).

1870  Charles Reade coins the term ‘psychosomatic’ in his novel Hard Cash (Rylance, 2000:14).

1871  The journals Brain and the Journal of Physiology are founded (Hearnshaw, 1964:69).

1872  A month after its founder’s death, The Psychological Society of Great Britain is abolished (Richards, 2001).


1874  David Ferrier publishes The Functions of the Brain (Hearnshaw, 1964:73).

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1877  Francis Galton (1822-1911) publishes his Inquiries into Human Faculty (Hearnshaw, 1964:59).

1878  Galton sets up an Anthropometric Laboratory at the International Health Exhibition in London. For a small fee, visitors receive an assessment of their mental faculties and physical abilities. The laboratory is continued at the Science Museum until 1891 (Hearnshaw, 1964:59).
1885 James Ward’s (1843–1925) influential article in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* defines psychology’s principal task as ‘to analyze and trace the development of individual experience as it is for the experiencing individual.’ Alexander Bain praises it as ‘among the masterpieces of the philosophy of the human mind’ (Hearnshaw, 1964:136). Ward was offered the essay because George Croom Robertson, the original choice, fell ill and James Sully refused the task (Rylance, 2000:321).

1886 Inspired by Galton, London headmistress Sophie Bryant undertakes mental testing (Oldfield, 1950:351).

1887 A small, short-lived psychological laboratory is set up in Cambridge by Wilhelm Wundt’s American student James McKeen Cattell (Sokal, 1972).


1891 James Ward’s *The Human Mind* is published. It would later be described as ‘the most scholarly, comprehensive and well-balanced factual textbook of psychology ever produced by a British psychologist’ (Hearnshaw, 1964:134). James Sully (1843–1923) is appointed Professor of Philosophy at University College London (Hearnshaw, 1964:133: Gurjeva, 2001).

1892 E.B. Titchener (1867–1927)—‘an Englishman who represented the German psychological tradition in America’ according to E.G. Boring—briefly returns to Oxford having spent two years studying with Wundt in Leipzig. He then departs for Cornell University where he remains for the rest of his life (Boring, 1950:410–420).

1894 Karl Pearson (1857–1936) introduces the terms ‘normal curve’ and ‘standard deviation’ (Hearnshaw, 1964:67).

1895 The British Child Study Association is founded (Keir, 1952). W.H.R. Rivers is appointed Lecturer on the Physiology of the Special Senses at Cambridge University (Hearnshaw, 1964:172).

1896 James Sully publishes *Studies of Childhood* (Hearnshaw, 1964:133). The Claybury Asylum at Essex is established by the London County Council. Frederick Mott (1853–1926), its first director, establishes the syphilitic cause of general paralysis of the insane. “Mott’s work at Claybury constituted the most important stream of psychiatric research in the country prior to the First World War.” (Hearnshaw, 1964:150)

1897 The University of Aberdeen establishes the Anderson Lectureship in comparative psychology. G.F. Stout is the first holder of the post (Hearnshaw, 1964:177; Knight, 1962: Boyle, 1993).

1898 With help from Francis Galton, James Sully’s experimental psychology laboratory opens at University College London. W.H.R. Rivers is appointed to undertake the teaching of students. He obtains experimental apparatus from Hugo Munsterberg’s laboratory in Freiburg (Valentine, 1999). Charles Myers, William McDougall and W.H.R. Rivers represent British psychology on the expedition to the Torres Straits. Its goal is to study the islanders’ psychology, linguistics, sociology, folklore and ethnomusicology (Herle & Rouse, 1998).

1899 G.F. Stout (1860–1944) publishes his *Manual of Psychology*. The aim is to make the student ‘live himself into psychological problems... so as to acquire a real power of thinking for himself on psychological topics...’ [He] ought to be able to do riders in Psychology as he does riders in Euclid. The book would become the most widely used psychology text in British universities for the next quarter century (Hearnshaw, 1964:139: Boyle, 1993).

1900 Karl Pearson introduces the χ² (Chi-square) test for goodness of fit. He also developed the product-moment formula, the method of multiple correlation, and the formula for the probable error of a correlation coefficient (Hearnshaw, 1964:67).


1902 The London Psycho-Therapeutic Society is founded as an ecumenical site for the development of the psychic interests of Spiritualists, Theosophists, and the Mental Science, Christian Science, and Divine Science Movements (Thompson, 2001). Conway Lloyd Morgan is appointed Professor of Psychology and Education at the University of Bristol (Hearnshaw, 1964:96–100).
A department of experimental psychology is established at the London County Council Asylum at Claybury. Dr. W. G. Smith is appointed director (Hearnshaw, 1964:288).

1902

W.H.R. Rivers, Charles Myers and William McDougall are appointed as the psychological subcommittee of the British Association for the Advancement of Science (BAAS) set up to recommend methods of conducting anthropometric surveys of the British population at large. Their 1908 report is the first explicitly to suggest the inclusion in such surveys of measures of higher psychological processes, by means of ratings of character and capacity by trained observers, as well as of sensory and motor capacity (Hearnshaw, 1964:183-184).

James Ward (1843-1925) is elected a foundation Fellow of the British Academy (Kenna, 1960b).

1903
Charles Myers (1873-1946) is appointed part-time Professor of Psychology at King’s College, London. He starts a laboratory there and remains in the position until 1909 (Hearnshaw, 1964:176).

On April 25, the radial and external cutaneous nerves of Henry Head’s (1861-1940) left arm are divided at the elbow and during the next four years an examination of the resulting loss and return of sensibility is carried out with the assistance of W.H.R. Rivers (Hearnshaw, 1964:83).

The Institute of Sociology is founded. Psychologists Alexander Sand, James Sully and Graham Wallas are members (Hearnshaw, 1964:110).


George F. Stout (1860-1944) is elected a Fellow of the British Academy (Kenna, 1960b).

1904


William McDougall is appointed to the Wilde Readership in Social Psychology at the University of Liverpool, a position he holds until 1912 (Hearnshaw, 1964:202).

1905
W.G. Smith is appointed Lecturer in Experimental Psychology at the University of Liverpool (Hearnshaw, 1964:178).

William McDougall publishes Physiological Psychology. He devises a dotting test apparatus, a modified version of which would be widely used in personnel selection in World War Two (Hearnshaw, 1964:Ch XII).

1906
At the York meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, Sir Ray Lankester, BA President and Director of the Natural History Museum announces: “I have given a special heading to this subject (Psychology) because its emergence as a definite line of experimental research seems to me one of the most important features in the progress of science in the past quarter of a century.” (Hearnshaw, 1964:184)

The Psychological Society changes its name to The British Psychological Society, to distinguish itself from another ‘unacademic group’ (Edgell, 1947:116).

Charles Sherrington (1857-1952) publishes his highly influential The Integrative Action of the Nervous System. He coins the term ‘synapse’ (Hearnshaw, 1964:78; Smith, 2000, 2001).

The first psychological laboratory in Scotland is established at the University of Edinburgh by W. G. Smith (1866-1918), who becomes the George Combe Lecturer in General and Experimental Psychology (Hearnshaw, 1964:178; Hunter, 1998).

1907
Samuel Alexander asks T.H. Pear [pronounced ‘peer’] (1886-1972) to consider the possibility of him starting a psychology department in Manchester, provided he obtains a first in his undergraduate degree (Costall, 2001).

After a visit to Kraepelin’s clinic in Munich, Frederick Mott (1853-1926) urges the establishment of a university psychiatric hospital for treatment and research. Henry Maudsley donates £30,000 to the London County Council for the realisation of the plan and the Maudsley Hospital in London is eventually built (Hearnshaw, 1964:29).

Francis Galton is instrumental in establishing the Eugenics Society (Hearnshaw, 1964:63).

At the age of 44, Charles Spearman obtains his first academic appointment as Reader in Psychology at University College London (Hearnshaw, 1964:196).

Cyril Burt (1883-1971) becomes Lecturer in Experimental Psychology at Liverpool, a position he holds until 1912 (Hearnshaw, 1964:202).

1908
American psychologist Henry H. Goddard arrives in London on the first stop of his European tour of the major European institutions for psychological research and work with the feeble-minded. In France, he becomes acquainted with the Binet-Simon intelligence tests for the first time (Carson, 1994:300; Zenderland, 1998).


Graham Wallas (1858-1932), the first considerable British social psychologist, publishes Human Nature in Politics (Hearnshaw, 1964:116).

The first psychological laboratory in the Southern Hemisphere is established at Victoria College, New Zealand. Having been appointed lecturer there in 1904, the laboratory’s first director, Thomas Hunter (1876-1953), undertakes a tour of psychological laboratories in the USA, Germany and Britain during 1906-7 (Q88PS, 1952,18:101-111; Obit: Q88PS, 1953, 21:1-2).

The Royal Commission on the Care and Control of the Feeble-Minded (appointed 1904) issues its report. Mental
1909 Cyril Burt draws attention to the Binet-Simon tests, suspecting that they may be able to distinguish between training and intelligence (Hearnshaw, 1979).

1910 Conway Lloyd Morgan becomes Professor of Psychology and Ethics at the University of Bristol (Hearnshaw, 1964:96-100).

W.H. Winch, an English school inspector, announces his invention of the treatment group in the Journal of Educational Psychology 'I have, I believe for the first time, employed the method of equal groups to the solution of questions of fatigue.' (Danziger, 1990:113; Collins, 2001)

Charles Spearman, Cyril Burt, William Brown and Charles Myers contribute to a symposium on mental testing and factor theories at the Sheffield meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science (Hearnshaw, 1964:183).

1911 Charles Spearman is appointed Grote Professor of the Philosophy of Mind and Logic at University College London (Hearnshaw, 1964:196-201).


1912 With £3000 of an inheritance, Charles Myers establishes the Cambridge Psychological Laboratory. He becomes its first director (Hearnshaw, 1964:173).

James Drever (1873-1950) succeeds in having a psychological laboratory included into the plans for the Moray House training college building design. It becomes the earliest educational laboratory in the country (Hearnshaw, 1964:178).

William McDougall (1881-1938) is elected Fellow of the Royal Society (Kenna, 1960a).

Francis Aveling's (1875-1941) The Consciousness of the Universal confirms the Würzburg school's doctrine of 'imageless thought' (Hearnshaw, 1964:224).

Bernard Hart's The Psychology of Insanity is an early attempt to popularise psychoanalysis. It would be reprinted 15 times before 1940 (Hearnshaw, 1964:238).

1913 The Cambridge Psychological Laboratory is opened (Q8BPS, 1962, 48:22).

Cyril Burt is appointed to the half-time post of psychologist by the London County Council. The LCC Chief Education Officer describes him as being 'the first official psychologist in the world'. Burt's tasks are 'the examination of children nominated for admission to schools for the mentally defective'. He continues to work for the LCC until 1932 (Justneman & Sharp, 1980).

L. T. Hobhouse's (1864-1928) Development and Purpose is 'the last important original piece of work in comparative psychology in Great Britain for some time.' (Hearnshaw, 1964:104; see also Wilson, 2001).

Jessie Murray, with support from Charles Spearman, sets up the Medico-Psychological Clinic of London. James Glover runs psychotherapy sessions (Hearnshaw, 1964:165).


The Mental Deficiency Act is passed and remains in force until repealed by the 1959 Mental Health Act (Hearnshaw, 1964:152; Thomson, 1998).

Using anthropometric measures, Charles Goring's The English Convict refutes Lombroso's theory of the criminal type (Hearnshaw, 1964:157).

1914 Charles Myers becomes the sole editor of the British Journal of Psychology. The British Psychological Society's subscription is raised from half a guinea to a guinea and the journal is given to Society members.

Charles Myers proceeds on his own initiative to France 'to do what he could to help the war effort' (Hearnshaw, 1964:245).


1915 Charles Myers coins the term 'shell-shock' in The Lancet. He reports that he has successfully used hypnosis on a number of cases. He is elected Fellow of the Royal Society later in the year (Kenna, 1960a).

The Health of Munition Workers Committee is appointed under the Chairmanship of Sir George Newman. Its purpose is 'to consider and advise on questions of industrial fatigue, hours of labour, and other matters affecting the physical health and physical efficiency of workers in munition factories and workshops.' (Hearnshaw, 1964:247).

1916 Charles Myers, consultant psychologist to the British Expeditionary Force, has personally seen over 2000 cases of 'shell shock'. He suggests replacing the term with i) concussion and ii) functional shock (Myers, 1940).

1917 The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Medical Research Council is invited by the Home Office to appoint a Committee for the investigation of industrial fatigue. At HMS Crystal Palace, C.S. Myers, T. Pear and F.C. Bartlett attempt to devise selection tests for hydrophone operators (Hearnshaw, 1964:248).

1918 By the end of the First World War, the army had dealt with over 80,000 cases of shell-shock (Bourke, 2001).

The Industrial Fatigue Research Board is established under the joint auspices of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Medical Research Committee, 'to consider and investigate the relations of hours of labour and other conditions of employment, including methods of work, to the performance and efficiency of workers in British industry, and to the preservation of the health of workers engaged on fatiguing or dangerous tasks.' (Hearnshaw, 1964:248).
1919 A meeting of the Industrial Psychology Provisional Institute Committee is held in London.

Charles Myers outlines his vision for a new Industrial Psychology Section. He remarks that ‘it is hoped in the near future to form further Sections for Social Psychology, the Psychology of Aesthetics, Animal Psychology, etc.’

A medical section of the BPS is established to act as a forum for debate in psychopathology and psychotherapy.

Faced with increased printing costs and competition from the medical profession and industry, The British Psychological Society is forced to reorganise itself and admit many more members, ‘thereby snapping the normal link between professionalism and exclusiveness’. The criteria of membership are changed from persons engaged in psychological research to those merely interested in it. In one year, membership quadruples (Lovie, 2001).

At the University of Manchester T.H. Pear becomes the first full-time Professor of Psychology in Britain. He holds the position until 1951 (Costall, 2001).

James Drever is appointed W.G. Smith’s successor as George Combe Lecturer at the University of Edinburgh (Drever, 1948: 26).

1920 A psychological test paper is introduced in the competitive examination for clerical posts in the civil service. Forty thousand candidates are tested in the first four years.

Hugh Crichton Miller establishes an Institute of Medica Psychology in a private house in Tavistock Square. (Field Marshal Haig and Admiral Beatty are Honorary Vice-Presidents.) Miller wants to expand the possibilities of psychodynamic work in peacetime into the wider community.

The Tavistock Clinic is one of the first clinics in the country to provide out-patient psychological treatment for adults and children unable to afford private fees (Q88PS, 1951: 14: 105-112).

At the Cardiff meeting of the British Association, C.S. Myers discusses ‘The Independence of Psychology’ and argues that the Association should devote a separate section to psychology (Discovery, 1920: 335-340). He is elected first President of The British Psychological Society.

Henry Head propagates the doctrine of the ‘schema’ in order to explain the capacity of the normal human being to appreciate bodily position and the direction of bodily movement. It is taken up by Frederic Bartlett, later becoming ‘the basic unit of explanation’ in psychology (Hearnshaw, 1964: 84: 214).

William McDougall leaves England for an appointment at Harvard University. His theories are at odds with behaviourism and his involvement with controversy led Hearnshaw to conclude that ‘McDougall’s immense promise was never fully realized’ (Hearnshaw, 1964: 185).

The British Journal of Psychology — Medical Section is founded.

1921 Sixty-five thousand ex-servicemen are still receiving disability pensions for ‘shell-shock’ (Hearnshaw, 1964: 245).

With Henry Welch, an industrialist, Charles Myers founds the national institute of industrial psychology (NIIP) on an entirely voluntary basis. It would become the most important avenue of employment for psychologists in Britain prior to the Second World War (Hearnshaw, 1964: 275-282; Shimmin & Wallis, 1994).

Psychology is established as an independent section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science (BAAS) for the first time. Conway Lloyd Morgan is appointed President.

Cyril Burt publishes his widely-used Mental and Scholastic Tests. In The Psychology of Society, M. Ginsberg criticises McDougall’s instinct theory, maintaining that ‘social life is not a mere balance of instincts but a new product or synthesis on which the original instincts have been greatly transformed’ (Hearnshaw, 1964: 234).

1922 The first psychologist in a British industrial company, V. Moorrees, is appointed at Rowntree’s Cocoa Works. Rowntrees establish a psychological department, which continues until 1946.

On the initiative of Cambridge classicist Edward Bullough, the Aesthetics Section of The British Psychological Society is formed. It continues until 1937.

Cyril Burt establishes and heads the vocational guidance department of the NIIP.

Henry Maudsley and Frederick Mott’s campaign to establish a clinic for the treatment and study of insanity finally comes to fruition with the opening of the Maudsley Hospital (Derkson, 2001).


Charles Myers moves to London to run the NIIP. He appoints his protégé Frederic Bartlett Director of the Cambridge Psychological Laboratory.

1923 The Nursery Schools Association is founded with Margaret McMillan as its first President (Rose, 1989: 182).


The first independent Department of Psychology in Australia is started by H.T. Lovell at Sydney University (Q88PS, 1956: 28: 54).

In The Nature of Intelligence and the Principles of Cognition, Charles Spearman proposes ‘three laws of neogenesis’ (Hearnshaw, 1964: 198).

Based partly on his experiences treating shell shock cases at Netley and Littlemore hospitals during the First World War, William McDougall publishes his Outlines of Abnormal Psychology.

1924 The Board of Education’s Consultative Committee publishes Psychological Tests of Educable Capacity, ‘a turning point in the history of educational psychology, reinforcing public interest in psychological techniques, encouraging the wider use of psychological tests in scholarship examinations, and providing a nascent subject with the stamp of official approval’. Psychologists begin to play an important role in formulating educational policy (Hearnshaw, 1964: 250).

An advertisement appears in the New Statesman for ‘an Educated Young Woman ... to conduct education of a small group of children aged 2½-7, as a piece of scientific work and research’.
1925 Cyril Burt publishes the plans for a child guidance clinic as an appendix to his ‘classic’ The Young Delinquent (Hearnshaw, 1964: 207).

The Practical Psychologist is launched. ‘This great study of human life brings new enlightenment, new education, new and clearer understanding of the phenomena of everyday life’ says Anna Maud Hallam, Life President of the Federation of Practical Psychology Clubs of Great Britain (Thomson, 2001).

Analysis of variance is first described by R.A. Fisher (1890-1960) in his Statistical Methods for Research Workers.

Lev Vygotsky visits London as the official representative of his government to the International Conference on the Education of the Deaf (BBPS, 1980, 33:103.)

At the instigation of the Howard League for Penal Reform, James Drever begins clinical psychological work with children and juveniles at Edinburgh University. This later becomes the University Psychological Clinic, a forerunner of the Scottish Child Guidance Clinics (Drever, 1948).

1926 The Report of the Royal Commission on Lunacy and Mental Disorder argues that the problem of insanity is essentially a public health problem to be dealt with accordingly (Rose, 1989: 23).

Lewis Fry Richardson (1881-1953) is elected Fellow of the Royal Society (Kenna, 1960a).

1927 Under the auspices of the Jewish Health Organization, Noel Burke and Emanuel Miller open the East London Child Guidance Clinic at the Jewish Hospital.

Beatrice Edgell is appointed the first woman Professor of Psychology in Britain (Hearnshaw, 1964: 176; Valentine, 2001).

William McDougall publishes the results of the only experimental work he undertook in America, the ‘dubious’: An experiment for the testing of the hypothesis of Lamarck’ (Hearnshaw, 1964: 194).

1928 The London Child Guidance Centre Demonstration Clinic is established in Islington. It deals with ‘backward children, delinquents, and “nervous” and “unmanageable” children’. Dr William Moodie is the Director.

Margaret Lowenfeld founds a Children’s Clinic for the Treatment Study of Nervous and Difficult Children (Urwin & Hood-Williams, 1988).

Charles Spearman is appointed Professor of Psychology at University College London.

1929 Alexander F. Shand (1858-1936) is elected Fellow of the British Academy (Kenna, 1960b).

1930 Beatrice Edgell becomes the first woman President of The British Psychological Society (Valentine, 2001).

With the passing of the Mental Treatment Act, voluntary admission to institutions becomes general (Hearnshaw, 1964: 145).

The University of Edinburgh founds a Chair of Psychology. James Drever later claims that the event requires ‘virtually an Act of Parliament’ (Drever, 1948: 27).

1931 The University of Edinburgh founds a Chair of Psychology. James Drever later claims that the event requires ‘virtually an Act of Parliament’ (Drever, 1948: 27).

Frederic Bartlett is appointed to the first Chair in Psychology at the University of Cambridge.

Margaret Lowenfeld’s clinic becomes the Institute of Child Psychology (Urwin & Hood-Williams, 1988).

1932 Frederic Bartlett is elected Fellow of The Royal Society (Kenna, 1960a).

The Hadow Report endorses the 1918 Education Act’s insistence on the need for widespread expansion in nursery education.

Susan Isaacs is appointed Head of the newly formed Department of Child Development at the Institute of Education, London University (Hearnshaw, 1964: 177; Sayers, 2001).

1934 Harry Price’s ‘University of London Council for Psychological Investigation’ is established with help from Francis Aveling, Cyril Burt, J.C. Flugel and C.A. Mace (Hearnshaw, 1964: 243). Cyril Burt and William McDougall were also members of the Society for Psychical Research (Collins, 2001).

1935 The Pilgrim Trust gives funds to O.A. Oeser of St Andrews University Psychology Department to study unemployment in Dundee (Hearnshaw, 1964: 236-7).


1936 The Practical Psychology Magazine is founded by the British Union of Practical Psychologists to develop an understanding of the expansive understanding of the self (Thomson, 2001).

Whilst working at the London Child Guidance Clinic, John Bowlby begins a series of studies into the familial experiences of juvenile thieves (Rose, 1989: 162).

‘Next term I am going to send you a genius’, James Drever tells a startled Frederic Bartlett on a country walk. ‘From the beginning he was very much at home’, Bartlett recalled of Kenneth Craik, ‘with any amount of genuine modesty, but not a scrap of false humility. He knew, and within a very few minutes I knew, of the power that was within him.’ (Bartlett, 1946)

The Institute of Experimental Psychology is established at Oxford as a result of a benefaction from one of William Brown’s patients (Hearnshaw, 1964: 208; Oldfield, 1950).

1937 O.A. Oeser’s call for an ‘anthropology at home’ in his paper on ‘Methods and assumptions of field work in social psychology’ (British Journal of Psychology XXVI, 343-363) is taken up by the social anthropologist Tom Harrisson who goes on to create Mass-Observation with Charles Madge and Humphrey Jennings (Roisser, 2001).


1938 Death of William McDougall. McDougall had nearly all the ingredients for the making of a scientific psychologist except the scientific attitude.’ (Hearnshaw, 1964: 195)
1941

Aubrey Lewis, Clinical Director of the Mill Hill Emergency Hospital, appoints Hans Eysenck to undertake psychological research (Derksen, 2001).

All men entering the Army are referred to a General Service Corps where they are subjected to a series of intelligence, aptitude tests and interviews. The War Office Selection Boards are established (Rose, 1989:42,45).

In his Report on the Mental Health Services, Eugenics Society stalwart Carlos Blacker argues that a child guidance clinic should be established in a ratio of one per 20,000 children (Rose, 1989:163,169).

Criticisms by social and medical psychologists lead to the outlawing of ‘blood training’ of Army recruits (Bourke, 2001).

1943

The Report of the Committee of the Secondary School Examinations Council appointed by the President of the Board of Trade (The Norwood Report) launches a counterattack against psychometric testing arguing instead for the importance of traditional values in education.

Psychology has made major inroads into the military establishment by 1943. A senior psychologist is a member of the staff of the Chief of Naval Personnel and 10 psychologists (aided by around 300 assistants) are working in other parts of the Admiralty. Nineteen psychologists are employed at the War Office where over 30 officers have received psychological training. Four psychologists advise on training methods at the Air Ministry (Bourke, 2001).

John Rickman and Wilfred Bion are drafted into Birmingham’s Northfield Military Hospital to deal with unruly conditions. Neurotic disability is recognised as a group phenomena and social psychiatry is born (Rose, 1989:48-9).

Group psychotherapy is pioneered at the Mill Hill Hospital's Neurosis Unit by Pat Wood and Maxwell Jones (Rose, 1989:50).

The Provisional National Council for Mental Health is formed from the Mental Health Emergency Committee, itself an amalgamation of the Central Association for Mental Welfare, the Child Guidance Council and the National Council for Mental Health (Rose, 1989:159).

1944

There are now more than 70 Child Guidance Clinics in Great Britain.

The Applied Psychology Unit is established in Cambridge with Kenneth Craik as its first Director (Collins, 2001).

The Education Act requires that all children receive secondary education suited to their abilities. It proposes that children should be allocated to grammar, technical or modern schools at 11-plus (Hearnshaw 1964:268).

1945

The Research Unit of the Civil Service Commission is established to supply intelligence tests for selecting administrative, executive and clerical grade candidates (QBQPS, 2:46-51).

The National Foundation for Educational Research is established with a donation from the Leverhulme Trust. Local education authorities, national associations of teachers, universities and other educational bodies constitute its corporate membership (QBQPS, 1953, 20:19-24).

Kenneth Craik publishes The Nature of Explanation. It would become a major influence on the post-war generation of psychologists. Craik is killed in a cycle accident.

1946

The University of Oxford establishes a Chair in Psychology (Oldfield, 1950).

A preliminary meeting of The Experimental Psychology Group (later the Experimental Psychology Society) is held in Bartlett’s rooms in St John’s College, Cambridge (Mollon, 1996).

Chaired by Frederic Bartlett the inaugural meeting of the Cambridge branch of the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare is held.
Susan Isaacs is made a CBE in the New Year's Honours List.

A fire in the BPS offices destroys a number of records, including those in the safe (QBBPS, 1962,48:51).

The Industrial Neurosis Unit at Belmont Hospital, Sutton is set up to investigate treatment and resettlement of maladjusted industrial workers and 'the neurotic unemployed' (Rose, 1989: 31; QBBPS, 1950,8:307-8).

With a substantial grant from the Rockefeller Foundation and anonymous donations, The Tavistock Institute of Human Relations establishes itself as a non profit-making association, working in medical sociology and group dynamics. The two polarities of its theoretical framework are psychoanalysis and Gestalt psychology (QBBPS, 1951,14:105-112).

R.J. Bartlett concludes his Presidential Address to the BPS with an appeal ‘to reach a fuller understanding of mind in its complete sense of Aristotle’s “psyche”. Psychology is now a vast subject split up into many different sections, each using its own jargon, knowing very little of what is happening in other sections and, in several cases, claiming that its part is the whole.’ (QBBPS, 1948,1:24)

Having established the Queen’s University in Ontario Psychology Department from scratch, George Humphrey takes up his appointment as first Professor of Psychology at Oxford (BBPS, 1965,19:35-38).

The British Journal of Psychology – Statistical Section is founded. Hans Eysenck publishes Dimensions of Personality.

Susan Isaacs is made a CBE in the New Year’s Honours List. She dies on 12 October. Frederic Bartlett is Knighted and May Smith receives an OBE.

A deputation of the BPS meets representatives from the Treasury to discuss the official incorporation of psychologists within the Scientific Civil Service (QBBPS, 1948,1:2-4). “The problem before us is not to decide whether psychology is a science but to decide whether the work of the psychologists in Government Departments is such as to make appropriate their inclusion in the Scientific Officer class of the Civil Service,’ the Treasury says. It resolves to create a separate professional class for psychologists (QBBPS, 1948,2:38-9).

The Quarterly Bulletin of the British Psychological Society is launched with Frederick Laws as editor. A journalist with the News Chronicle, Laws had worked under William Stephenson at the Institute of Experimental Psychology at Oxford (BBPS, 1976,29:338).

1947
The Scientific Films Committee of the BPS meets to define the scope of its duties. They include ‘To foster research and give any necessary help where the research is connected with films or film topics of a psychological nature.’ (QBBPS, 1948,1:12-13)

A subcommittee of the BPS is appointed to consider the professional status of non-medical people who were already working with children. Two working parties are established under John Bowlby and John Gibbs. The outcome, in 1949, is the founding of a Provisional Association for Child Psychotherapy (non-medical) and a Provisional Medical Advisory Council.

The Child Study Society formally ceases to exist and is absorbed by the Education Section of the BPS (QBBPS, 1949,1:104-109).

Eileen M. Scott delivers a paper on ‘Scottish National Attitudes’ to the Scottish Branch in which she reports that ‘it can be concluded that over two-thirds of the population are in favour of some form of “devolution”’. (QBBPS, 1949,5:189-92)

Hans Eysenck publishes his views on ‘Training in clinical psychology’ in the American Psychologist. He argues that ‘the psychologist has sufficient scope in the fields of diagnostic testing and clinical research to make it undesirable for him to become a “jack-of-all-trades”’ by also providing therapy’ (QBBPS, 1949,4:10-11; Derksen, 2001).

In the British Social Hygiene Council pamphlet Influence of the Social Environment on Intelligence Test Scores, Julian Blackbum argues that ‘not only is the influence of social environment manifested in the results of verbal tests, but also in those of pictorial, diagrammatic and performance tests’ (QBBPS, 1949,4:154-5).

In a letter to the Quarterly Bulletin of the British Psychological Society, Hans Eysenck castigates the BPS for electing officers undemocratically, for being ‘remote from the ordinary membership’ and not having a dedicated social psychology journal (QBBPS, 1949,4:156-7).

C.H. Gravelle-Williams argues for the creation of student membership of the BPS (QBBPS, 1949,4:159-60).

Professor Godfrey Thomson receives a Knighthood.

Formerly of the Vocational Guidance Staff of the NIIP, Dr N.A.B. Wilson, Psychologist to the Civil Service Selection Board is appointed Senior Psychologist to the Admiralty (QBBPS, 1949,6:206).


1950
R.L. Reid reports to the Scottish Branch on his experiences at the Harvard Psychology Department. Noting that students had utilised an old sofa, ‘reputed to have been the property of McDougall’, Reid warned ‘that people worked too hard and that there was a constant danger of producing too many Wundts and too few Galtons.’ (QBBPS, 1950,8:313-6)

William Grey Walter publishes his design for ‘an electromechanical animal’. Demonstrating that complex behaviour could emerge from extremely simple systems, Grey Walter’s ‘tortoises’ were ‘mechanical propagandists for the cybernetic argument’ (Hayward, 2001).

The first meeting of the Sub-Committee of Professional Problems of Psychologists discusses a ‘Code of Professional Ethics Governing the Disclosure by Qualified Psychologists of Psychological Information about Individuals’, compiled by members of the Society’s Australian Branch.

A proposal to establish a Psychology of Religion Section of the BPS is rejected by the Council (QBBPS, 1950,9:333).

A sub-committee of the Council of the BPS is established to collect information about the numerous organizations now operating in the psychological field Great Britain (QBPS, 1951, 14:102).

Cyril Burt (1883-1971) is appointed a fellow of the British Academy (Kenna, 1960b).

1951


N.H. Mackworth is appointed Director of the Medical Research Council Unit for Research in Applied Psychology, Cambridge (QBPS, 1953, 19:2).

1952

The working party of the Committee of Professional Psychologists (Mental Health), English Division is set up to consider problems of training psychologists for work in the Education and Health Services in England and Wales (QBPS, 1955, 25:1-18).

At the Social Psychology Section’s conference on ‘The Fundamentals of Social Psychology’, Professor Emeritus T.H. Pear wondered if there were any ‘inner’ factors which cause some psychologists not to see, not to think further about, still less to investigate the serious new social problems which the rapid, often un-coordinated advances of the physical, chemical and medical sciences are producing” (QBPS, 1952, 17:74-76; Costall, 2001).

W.E. Hick publishes his influential paper ‘On the rate of gain of information’ (QEP, 4:67). ‘Hick’s Law’ is based on the experiment’s only subject – Richard Gregory (Gregory, in Sato (Ed) 2000:41).

1953

Frederic Bartlett receives a Royal Society medal for his creation of an experimental school of psychology which has established, under his leadership, an outstanding position recognized internationally as without superior.’ (QBPS, 1953, 19:1).

Rex Knight presents an informal report on ‘The Work of the Charter Committee’ at the BPS’s Nottingham Conference (QBPS, 1953, 20:3-4).

The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Medical Research Council establish the Human Factors in Individual Efficiency Committee (Chair: F.C. Bartlett) and the Human Relations Committee (Chair: A.B. Waring) (QBPS, 1953, 20:27-29).

Roland Harper of the University of Leeds points out that the ‘mutually inconsistent properties’ of ‘bouncing putty’ ‘raise, in an acute form, many questions of testing and measurement which are analogous to those encountered in “the scientific study of personality”’. (QBPS, 1954, 22:47-48).

1954

J.A.C. Brown publishes The Social Psychology of Industry: Human relations in the factory, by underpinning the vocabulary of human relations with the conceptual foundations of American social psychology and the Chicago school of sociology, the book would go on to become the most influential example of a new British approach to the subjectivity of the worker (Rose, 1989:84).

At the Northern Branch of the BPS meeting, Ruth Griffiths announces ‘a new scale of tests for assessing mental ability in the first two years of life’ (QBPS, 1955, 26:47).

The British Psychological Society submits a Memorandum to the Royal Commission on the Law relating to Mental Illness and Mental Deficiency. Chaired by Professor Rex Knight of Aberdeen, the working party makes five recommendations including ‘That persons who are intellectually feeble-minded but show themselves capable of profiting by social, educational and vocational treatment and training should be dealt with in specially equipped units.’ (QBPS, 1958, 35:1-26).

1955

The Underwood Report (Report of the Committee on Maladjusted Children) – ‘an important milestone in educational psychology’ – draws attention to the ways in which educational psychologists work, to the need for acceleration in their recruitment, and to the deployment of their services by local education authorities in child guidance clinics and the school psychological services (QBPS, 1961, 43:12-14).

In his Presidential Address to the BPS Annual Conference in Durham, Professor P.E. Verdon launches a defence of ‘The Psychology of Intelligence and g’ against recent accusations that its theoretical foundations are ‘distinctly insecure’ (QBPS, 1955, 36:1-14).

The BPS resolves to form the South West of England Branch (QBPS, 1955, 26:36).

R.W. Pickford becomes the first Chair of Psychology at the University of Glasgow (Hearshaw, 1964:178).

In its Memorandum of Evidence submitted to the Home Office Departmental Committee on the Law Relating to Homosexual Offences and Prostitution a BPS special committee argues that ‘whether the age of sexual discretion should be different in a homosexual context ... should be a matter for careful consideration.’ In summary, it can be said that a biological tendency for inversion of sexual behaviour is inherent in most if not all mammals, including the human species.’ (QBPS, 1956, 29:1-7).

The BPS approves the formation of the Welsh and the Northern Ireland Branches (QBPS, 1956, 28:64).

1956

The Association of Child Psychotherapists has three recognized training centres: The Hampstead Child Therapy Course (Anna Freud); The Institute of Child Psychology (Margaret Lowenfeld); The Tavistock Clinic (John Bowlby) (QBPS, 1956, 66).

Working for a few years as the first psychologist in the Gold Coast, Gustav Jahoda discovers that ‘so-called tests of abstract behaviour were no more culture free than intelligence tests’ (Jahoda, 2001).

Roger Russell and Arthur Summerfield report that the ‘modal’ British psychologist trained during 1949-51 ‘may be seen as male, as now about thirty years of age and having a B.A. degree with second class honours ... He is likely to have read philosophy and/or a social science in addition to psychology. He probably did not go on to any kind of postgraduate course on obtaining his first degree, though he may have intended to do so later. By the end of 1951 he was quite likely to have been appointed to an applied psychological post, though he might equally well have held an appointment in which he was not described as a psychologist. He was very unlikely to have been without employment.’ (QBPS, 1956, 28:50).

1957

At a BPS meeting, R.A. Sanderson reports that LSD ‘releases energy from the unconscious and produces a series of phenomena which are of great interest to the psychotherapist
...in some cases the patient may enter into an active primeval symbolic experience' (BBPS, 1957,33:24).

John and Elizabeth Newson purchase a portable tape recorder and embark on a long-term project to conduct open-ended interviews with 700 Nottingham mothers (Newson & Newson, 2001).

The first meeting of the North-East of England Branch of the BPS is held in Newcastle upon Tyne (BBPS, 1957,33:5).

Vance Packard's The Hidden Persuaders – 'a graphic account of the nefarious activities of psychologists in persuading people to buy things for which they had no need' – increases the demand for psychologists in business (Duncan, 2001).

1958

H.J. Eysenck introduces behaviour therapy to British psychiatry in a lecture before the Royal Medico-Psychological Association. He creates a furore (Derksen, 2001).

Aubrey Yates publishes his account of 'The application of learning theory to the treatment of tics' in the Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology.


Donald Broadbent publishes his highly influential Perception and Communication. He becomes Director of the Applied Psychology Unit of the Medical Research Council (BBPS, 1958,35:38).


1959

H.J. Eysenck publishes the Maudsley Personality Inventory.

Alan Baddeley takes up a research post at the Applied Psychology Unit in Cambridge. He is to undertake basic research on 'coding' (Baddeley, 2001).

Over half the Chairs of Psychology in Britain are now held by Bartlett's former students (Hearnshaw, 1964: 219).

On the appointment of Professor H. Kay, the Department of Psychology opens at the University of Sheffield.

'Electronic computers are likely to be increasingly used in the future by students, researchers and workers in the social sciences', F.W. Warburton surmises. Manchester University's Department of Education has written programmes for factor analysis and multiple correlation and analysis of variation is in preparation (BBPS, 1961,43:40-41).

A display of imaginary psychological apparatus, tests, and museum pieces is mounted at the BPS Annual Conference in Liverpool (BBPS, 1961,45:25-27).

John Graham White begins his campaign to introduce clinical psychology into the Health Services of the six counties of Northern Ireland (BBPS, 1967,20:19-23).

1961

Alec Rodger is appointed Professor of Occupational Psychology at the University of London.

Influenced by Quine's thoughts on logic, Peter Wason devises the 'Wason Selection Task' (Wason, 2001).

Having spent a year in New York, Michael Rutter returns to England impressed with the power of longitudinal and epidemiological methodologies. He later describes his experiences in America as a turning point for me (Rutter, 2001).

1962

The British Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology is launched with Michael Argyle and Jack Tizard as editors (Argyle, 2001).

1963


Jean Wallace reads in a local newspaper that a 52-year-old man, blind from birth, was to receive corneal transplants. 'Within an hour we packed every imaginable visual experiment into the car and set off for the hospital. It was the best decision I ever made.' (Gregory, 2001)

1964

Jack Tizard is appointed the first Professor of Child Development at the University of London Institute of Education (BBPS, 1979,32:484).

1965

At Buckingham Palace, the Queen grants The British Psychological Society a Royal Charter.

Professor Sir Frederic Bartlett delivers the first Myers Memorial Lecture to the BPS (BBPS, 58:1-10).

Using the Maudsley Personality Inventory, Barbara Knapp discovers that a sample of 46 top-class British lawn tennis players is 'more extravert and less neurotic than the group of normal English subjects' (BBPS, 1965,61:21-23).

1966

The Sheffield Department installs an Elliott 903C computer for on-line psychological experimentation. It is the first of its kind in the country.

Don Bannister argues that psychologists 'have not yet faced up to the issue of reflexivity and the need for reflexivity in psychological thinking' (BBPS, 1966,63: 21-26).

The British Psychological Society submits a Memorandum to the Royal Commission on the Penal System in England and Wales. It recommends that research designed 'to determine expected rates of recidivism for specific groups of offenders should be given high priority' (BBPS, 1964,19:23-34).

1967


The Bene-Anthony Family Relations Test is developed by Eva Bene 'to facilitate the recollection of childhood family feelings [and] obtain these recollections in a form which is systematic and in which they can be quantified' (BBPS, 1966,19:32).

A number of papers on Aversion Therapy are delivered at the BPS Annual Conference in Belfast. Among the conditions deemed suitable for treatment are alcoholism, homosexuality, transvestism and fetishism (BBPS, 1967,20:4A, 22A & 25A).

Donald Wallis is appointed Chief Psychologist to the Ministry of Labour (BBPS, 1970,21:56).

Stuart Lewis concludes that it is not possible to acquire knowledge while asleep (BBPS, 1970,21:23-26).

1968

The Summerfield Report (Psychologists in the Education Services, HMSO) recommends that the ratio of psychologists to pupils be 1:10,000, a considerable improvement on the 1:23,000 recommended by the Underwood Committee of 1955.

The inaugural meeting of the British Society of Sports Psychology is held.

In his essay on ‘The Breakdown of Modern Psychology’ R.B. Joynson concludes that ‘The history of modern psychology is a record of scientific advance, but of intellectual retreat’ (BBPS, 1970,23:261-269). Rom Harré responds by arguing that only a paradigm change involving a rejection of positivism can resolve ‘Joynson’s Dilemma’ (BBPS, 1971,24:115-119).

Martin F. McHugh is elected first President of the Psychological Society of Ireland (BBPS, 1971,24:169).

1971 Don Bannister and Fay Fransella publish Inquiring Man (Fransella,2001).

1972 Michael Rutter’s Maternal Deprivation Reassessed is published. It would be reprinted six times during the 1970s (Rose, 1989: 283).

M.P. Bender describes ‘The Role of a Community Psychologist’ (a term he had coined in 1968) as being the instigation of change at a field level (BBPS, 1972,25:211-218).

Raymond Cattell publishes Beyondism, a system of Darwinian ethics designed to bring about the improvement of the human species. Commenting on the underdeveloped world in a review of the book, Richard Lynn suggests that ‘What is called for is not genocide, the killing off of the populations of incompetent cultures. But we do need to think realistically in terms of the “phasing out” of such peoples.’ (BBPS, 1974,27:506).

‘A’ Level Psychology is launched by the Associated Examining Board. Two-hundred and seventy-five candidates sit the examination (BBPS, 1981,34:10-11).

Rom Harré and Paul Secord publish The Explanation of Social Behaviour (Harré,2001).

1973 Phil Brown edits Radical Psychology, a collection of 28 essays expressing dissatisfaction with contemporary psychology.

1974 Before it has even come to fruition, W.E.C. Gillham doubts that the attempt to construct a British Intelligence Scale can be justified. Colin Elliot responds by asserting that ‘Time may well show that Gillham’s obituary was premature.’ (BBPS, 1974,27:307-317).

Nigel Armistead edits Reconstructing Social Psychology. One reviewer suggests that ‘Rather than needing a new paradigm, social psychology is still in search of its distinctive approach for the first time.’ (L.Vine, BBPS, 1974,27:507).

1975 Using the Delphi technique or repeated polling, a group of 40 psychologists predict that by the year 2002 ‘A’ levels in psychology will outnumber those in geography and that the development of ‘do it yourself’ pleasure centres in the brain will become a technical possibility (J.M. Smith, ‘Che Sera Sera’, BBPS, 1975,28:1-9).

The first letter in a long series of correspondence on the ethics of the use of animals in behavioural research is published in the Bulletin of the British Journal of Psychology.

The Scientific Affairs Board of the BPS investigate the possibility of establishing a permanent display of psychological methods and findings in one or more of the national museums. Professor R.J. Audley co-ordinates submissions for the Exploration exhibition at the Science Museum (BBPS, 1975,28).


The Association of Psychology Technicians is formed to improve communications between technicians.

1977 The radical journal Ideology and Consciousness begins publication.

The BPS Division of Criminological and Legal Psychology holds its inaugural meeting. D.A. Black is elected to the Chair (BBPS, 1977,30:301-302).

Margaret Boden publishes Artificial Intelligence and Natural Man (Boden,2001).

The British Society of Experimental and Clinical Hypnosis is founded.


Peter Morris and Mark Howes propose the formation of a Cognitive Psychology Section of the BPS (BBPS, 1978,31:207).

Michael Billig publishes Fascists: A Social Psychological View of the National Front.


1979 The University of Liverpool Department of Psychology in collaboration with The British Psychological Society holds a meeting to mark the centenary of the founding of the first laboratory of experimental psychology in Leipzig. L.S. Hearnshaw argues that Wundt deserves two cheers ‘for consciously seizing the opportunity which confronted him’ and ‘for being an exceptionally hard-working and competent organizer. But we must withhold the third cheer, which we will keep for psychology’s man of genius, its Newton, when he turns up.’ (BBPS, 1979,32:451)
M. Gauquelin, F. Gauquelin and S.B.G. Eysenck demonstrate a significant relationship between the introversion-extraversion personality dimension and the position of the planets Mars, Jupiter and Saturn at birth for several thousand French scientists, sportsmen and actors (BJSCP, 1979, 18: 71-75; see also BBPS, 1980, 33: 155).

Discussing the ‘Troubles’ in Northern Ireland, G.W. Beattie argues that ‘some of the most extreme and alarming views held by people in Northern Ireland about their fellow countrymen can be understood when the interaction between general biases in social judgement and the existing social matrix of everyday life in Northern Ireland is considered. These views undoubtedly play a major role in the continuation of the conflict’ (BBPS, 1979, 32: 252).

1980

The journal Personality and Individual Differences is launched.

Cary Cooper argues ‘The goal of all concerned with industry is now widely agreed is the improvement in the quality of working life. Occupational stress is the threat to work.’ He advocates ‘stress audits’ of particular jobs using ‘stress debits’ and ‘credits’ (BBPS, 1980, 33: 50).

Fraser Watts, discussing the implementation of the legal registration of psychologists, comments ‘the fact that unqualified practitioners could not use the title of psychologist means that the public would gradually acquire a clearer and better image of a psychologist and his roles.’ (BBPS, 1980, 33: 77)

Steven Perrin and Christopher Spencer argue that the Asch effect is ‘a child of its time.’ Their article initiates a series of claims and counter-claims concerning the legitimacy of social psychological laws of conformity (BBPS, 1980, 33: 405-406).


1981

Professor C.C. Ching of Peking University visits a number of psychology departments and addresses the annual meeting of The British Psychological Society. It is the first visit to Britain of a Chinese psychologist for 32 years.

Kevin Wheldall’s The Behaviourist in the Classroom does much to introduce behavioural methods into educational circles (Baistow, 2001).

Jamie Bennett-Levy argues ‘that psychiatry failed its trial by jury’ in the case of the ‘Yorkshire Ripper’ trial. The trial wholly failed to establish a coherent causal explanation of why Peter Sutcliffe committed the horrific crimes. This was due to the framework provided by the 1957 Homicide Act, and its absolute reliance on the medical model of mental illness.’ (BBPS, 1981, 34: 305-307)

1982

Fay Fransella founds the Centre for Personal Construct Psychology in London (Fransella, 2001).

in accordance with Wergen’s suggestion that self-concept is shaped by environment, G.A. Tyson concludes that a person who visits astrologers ‘will incorporate some of the traits which astrology predicts for him into his self-concept and may begin to act in accordance with them’ (BBPS, 1982, 35: 186). At the Metropolitan Police Training School, ‘policing skills’ training is initiated which aims to foster ‘an awareness of self, of others and of the community’ and ‘a range of interpersonal, interviewing and information processing skills which will enable young police officers to be more effective and efficient in the early days of their service.’ (BBPS, 1984, 37: 145-147)

1983

Stephen Newstead discovers that Heads of Psychology Departments in the UK regard B.F. Skinner as the most important living psychologist in the world, with H.J. Eysenck and D.E. Broadbent in second and third places respectively. Freud, Piaget, Pavlov, Skinner and James are considered the five most important psychologists of all time (BBPS, 1983, 36: 239-241).

M. Wetherall, J. Potter and P. Stringer argue that if psychology is to take its relationship to literature seriously, then it shall have to utilise concepts from literary theory. Such discursive analyses ‘can expose the contingency of certain taken-for-granted patterns of sense-making in psychology as well as literature’ (BBPS, 1983, 36: 377-379).


1984

Thames Television broadcast All in the Mind, a series of programmes made with contributions from British psychologists. Themes covered include social relationships, intellectual development, anxiety and prejudice and treatment (BBPS, 1984, 37: 211).

J. Henriques, W. Holloway, C. Urwin, C. Venn and V. Walkerdine publish the influential rethink of psychology, Changing the Subject: Psychology, Social Regulation and Subjectivity.

1985

Tony Benn MP credits James Thompson’s Psychological Aspects of Nuclear War with providing ‘those who are campaigning against the nuclear arms race with all sorts of new points that can be used’ (BBPS, 1985, 38: 153).

D. Middleton and D. Edwards argue ‘that psychology as a discipline is best conceptualized not in “pure-applied” terms, but rather as theory and need driven’ (BBPS, 1985, 38: 146-150).

Following a postal ballot of its members, The British Psychological Society adopts A Code of Conduct for Psychologists: ‘In all their work psychologists shall value integrity, impartiality and respect for persons and evidence and shall seek to establish the highest ethical standards in their work.’ (BBPS, 1985, 38: 41-43)

Rex and Wendy Stainton Rogers resign their membership of The British Psychological Society. It seems to us that the Society has undergone a fundamental shift of emphasis, from being a body devoted to psychology, to being an organization serving the self-orientated “profession” of psychologists. The recent pursuit of chartering, registration and ethical codes leave no other interpretation except to those blind to the
social history of professional establishments, and the dynamics of their self-serving ideologies.' (BBPS,1985,38:53)

The Welsh Branch of the BPS organise an exhibition in Cardiff 'to promote the image of psychology and increase psychological awareness amongst the general public'. Two thousand, five hundred visitors see the exhibition on a single day (BBPS, 1985,38:410-413).

1986

Kevin Connolly’s article ‘Can there be a psychology for the Third World?’ (BBPS, 1985,38:249-257) elicits a fierce response from Fathali Moghaddam and Donald Taylor who accuse the author of having a ‘colonial attitude’; ‘psychology has already shown enough of what it can do for some concerned indigenous psychologists to raise their voices and call for major changes in the way developed world psychology is being imported to their countries’ (BBPS, 1986,39:4-7; and reply, pp. 8-11).

Peter Furnell argues that ‘little research exists on the experience and life-styles of self-identified gay men and lesbian women, the literature on homosexuality having been hitherto dominated by ‘issues of treatment and aetiology’ (BBPS, 1986, 39:41-47).

The BPS issues its ‘Report of the Working Group on the Use of the Polygraph in Criminal Investigation and Personnel Screening’. The Report concludes that ‘it is difficult to see how Members of the Society could engage in work as polygraphic interrogators and claim that their conduct is consistent with the Society’s Code of Conduct.’ (BBPS, 1986,39:81-94).

The National Film Theatre opens a season of films on the topic of ‘Freud at the Movies: Hollywood and Psychoanalysis’.

1987

The BPS History and Philosophy of Psychology Section holds their first annual meeting in Ilkley.

The Psychology of Women Section of the BPS is formed.

At Buckingham Palace, on 18 December, the Queen grants amendments to the Charter of The British Psychological Society. It allows the BPS to maintain a Register of Chartered Psychologists.

References


Voices of reviews of the Royal Society (vol. 5). London: The Royal Society.


This chronology has been prepared by Dr Geoff Bunn, The British Psychological Society’s Research Fellow at the Science Museum. He would welcome suggestions for inclusion and corrections. Please email them to g.bunn@nmsi.ac.uk or send them to Dr. G.C. Bunn, The Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London, SW7 2DD.