

*In memoriam***Emeritus Professor
Leslie Spencer
Hearnshaw, 1907-1991**

Professor Hearnshaw was born in 1907. He received his higher education at Christ Church, Oxford and King's College, London, and graduated with first-class results at each. He then became an investigator with the National Institute of Industrial Psychology. He remained a Council member of the National Institute of Industrial Psychology until it closed down in 1973. He spent the years between 1939 and 1947 in New Zealand, as a lecturer in psychology at Victoria University College, Wellington. He was also Director of the Industrial Psychology Division in the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research at Wellington between 1942 and 1947. He came to the University of Liverpool in 1947 as the outstanding candidate for the first Chair of Psychology established in 1946. At that time, Dr Agnes Crawford (Nancy), who retired in the same year as Professor Hearnshaw, was the only other member of staff, teaching seven courses and nearly 100 students!

Psychology at Liverpool was first introduced in 1903 with the support of Sherrington (Physiology) and Nair (Philosophy). Burt, lecturer in experimental psychology, taught social psychology for the Diploma course in Social Work in 1911-12. In his brief history of the Department of Psychology, 1947-75, at the University of Liverpool, Professor Hearnshaw reported that D.W. Harding was appointed Senior Lecturer in 1938, but moved to London on war work in 1938. His small laboratory was dismantled. During World War Two, Professor T.H. Pear of Manchester and Miss Silver taught psychology to Social Science Students. Manchester University's support was repaid in 1951 when Professor Hearnshaw was acting-head of its Department of Psychology in the period between the retirement of Professor Pear and the appointment of Professor J. Cohen.

Professor Hearnshaw had written that applied psychology in Britain begins with Burt. Burt's research work on the inheritance of intelligence led to charges of scientific fraud, and so, by a curious and sad twist of fate, Professor Hearnshaw found himself writing in later years a definitive biography of Cyril Burt that gave support to the charges.

Professor Hearnshaw saw his first task at Liverpool as that of curriculum development. He was greatly assisted by the publication in 1947 of the Harvard Report on *The Place of Psychology in an*



Ideal University, which recommended an integrated basic course, restricted options, and the inclusion of non-experimental methods; it recommended that applied psychology be reserved for postgraduate training. The flexible framework he established was maintained for many years, giving way eventually under the pressures of staffing, student numbers, and changes in psychology itself as a science and as a profession.

Professor Hearnshaw and his colleagues, particularly Dr Agnes Crawford, Dr Dermot Straker and Dr Ralph Hetherington, tried hard throughout his time at Liverpool to establish courses in applied psychology. In the event, only clinical psychology became firmly established.

Professor Hearnshaw was an effective teacher and administrator. His teaching and research preferences lay in the historical and philosophical aspects of psychology, and especially in what are now called the higher cognitive processes - abstraction and generalisation, i.e. conceptual thought. However, he had a strong interest and considerable training and experience in industrial psychology, and took a keen interest in developments in brain-behaviour relationships.

His empirical research in cognitive psychology was concerned with what he called "temporal integration" - nowadays referred to as "information processing". He developed a series of psychometric tests called "Letter Families". The items consisted of a succession of letter matrices. The subject had to work out the principles governing the successive changes. Nowadays, the test would be computerised, and it would be possible to track subjects' eye-movements and inter-stimulus response times accurately and in detail. Hearnshaw's interest then, however, was rather in temporal integration as an aspect of conceptual thought or high-grade intelligence similar perhaps to that proposed more recently by Belmont (1983). Hearnshaw's research was reported in his Presidential Address to the Society in 1956.

Professor Hearnshaw was an active and prominent member of The British Psy-

chological Society. He served on many committees and was President in 1955-56. He was also Vice President of the International Association of Applied Psychology, and editor of the *International Review of Applied Psychology* from 1969 to 1972. He travelled widely and attended 15 international congresses. He was a member of Council of the BPS from 1948 to 1957 and chaired its Industrial Section in 1953-54. He edited the Society's Monograph Supplements from 1960 until they ended in 1964.

Professor Hearnshaw played a full part in the administration of Liverpool University, serving on numerous academic committees for many years. His main concern, however, was to develop basic and applied psychology at Liverpool. To this end, he established close relationships with other departments including Psychiatry, Education, Extra-mural Studies and Social Science, and with organisations in the region. His background in industrial psychology was no doubt an important factor leading the Medical Research Council to fund a Group for Research in the Occupational Aspects of Ageing at Liverpool from 1955 to 1970. He wrote a short history of the work of this group. As befits a historian, he placed this and many other documents including the Burt papers, with the University Archivist.

Whilst holding the Chair of Psychology at Liverpool, he had published a number of journal articles and a book *A Short History of British Psychology 1840-1940* in 1966. He retired in 1975 and subsequently published two major works - *Cyril Burt, Psychologist* (1979), and *The Shaping of Modern Psychology* (1987). These three books called for considerable ability, effort and patience, and are now well-established exceptional works of reference. He was also co-author with R. Winterbourn of *Human Welfare and Industrial Efficiency* (1945).

In the ordinary encounters of daily life, Leslie Hearnshaw was a man of few words. In academic discussions, however, he was fluent and incisive. His published works are models of clarity and simplicity even when dealing with abstruse and complex issues. He was generous with his support, but a great believer in leaving people to get on with things in their own way, and not averse to criticising work that he judged to be inadequate. He was highly respected and trusted. He had the considerable support of his talented wife Gwen. Staff and students enjoyed regular hospitality at the Hearnshaws' home in West Kirby. He died on Monday 10 June 1991 at the age of 83 leaving a wife and four children. *Dennis Bromley*

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Reference

Belmont, J.M. (1983) Concerning Hunt's new ways of assessing intelligence, *Intelligence*, 7, 1-7.