



In Memoriam
JAMES SHIELDS, 1918–1978

With the death of James Shields in London on 20 June 1978, following a heart attack, behavioral genetics and twin research in particular, lost a world-renowned scholar and a gentle man-for-all-seasons. His research and in-depth reviews provided models of fastidious, judicious scientific reporting, partly because he disliked controversy and the limelight and partly because of his epigenesis. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth, a sister, two daughters, and three grandchildren.

Among his proudest achievements were his musical activities with the Hampstead Music Club, his contributions to Eliot Slater's "Psychotic and Neurotic Illnesses in Twins" (1965), his book "Monozygotic Twins – Brought up Apart and Brought up Together" (1962, completed after he had personally seen more twins reared apart than anyone else), the R Thornton Wilson Prize in Genetic and Preventive Psychiatry (1965, with I I Gottesman), "Man, Mind, and Heredity – Selected Papers of Eliot Slater on Psychiatry and Genetics" (edited 1971 with IIG), "Schizophrenia and Genetics – A Twin Study Vantage Point" (authored 1972 with IIG), the Hofheimer Prize for Research (1973) for the latter from the American Psychiatric Association, and a rare, Honorary Degree of Doctor of Medicine (1975) from the University of Zurich for his contributions to psychiatric genetics.

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Modesty prevented Jerry from ever framing or displaying the luxuriantly illuminated scroll. He prized the recognition conferred by D Rosenthal's and S Kety's invitation to summarize the genetic evidence for schizophrenia in their landmark international conference in 1967 in Puerto Rico, by M Bleuler's and J Angst's invitation to speak at the Centenary of Burghölzli Hospital (where E Bleuler had developed the modern concept of schizophrenia), and by the opportunity to address the Second International Congress on Twin Studies (1978) on a reevaluation of his reared-apart MZ twin data in the light of the controversy surrounding Sir Cyril Burt.

At his untimely death, aged 59, Shields held the rank of Reader in Psychiatric Genetics at the Institute of Psychiatry of the University of London where he had worked since 1947 when he started professional employment as a psychiatric social worker research assistant to Eliot Slater. Two more books were in progress, a revision of Slater's and Cowie's "Genetics of Mental Disorders" and (with IIG) one tentatively entitled "Genetical Pieces in the Schizophrenia Puzzle."

Born in Edinburgh on 21 November 1918, James Shields also received his early education in Scotland at the Loretto School, Musselburgh. After a year abroad in Vienna, where he had studied classical music and conducting ("never as a serious vocational choice", he told me later), he entered Merton College, Oxford, in 1937. He had played the cello since age eleven and seldom did a Wednesday evening in recent years pass by without his playing in a string quartet. At Oxford he read philosophy, politics, and economics until the war interrupted when he served as a gunner in the Royal Artillery (1939–1946). Fate struck him two blows, first when he was captured at Dunkirk in 1940 and spent five long years as a POW in a German "Stalag". He perfected his fluency in German and managed to avoid any bitterness or prejudice toward the cultural and scientific accomplishments of reputable Germans. After the war, he obtained a year's training at the London School of Economics that qualified him as a social worker and went to work at the Maudsley Hospital for Slater. His Oxonian wartime Bachelor of Arts gives no hint to his competence; his encyclopedic knowledge of classical music, psychiatry, genetics, and psychology was gained through self-study, and he could have been a professor at any major university.

The second blow came in 1954, after he had started the field work in testing and interviewing identical twins reared apart who had been identified through a BBC television program: he was struck down by polio shortly before the vaccine became available for use with adults in the United Kingdom, survived a bout in an iron lung, and was confined to a wheelchair for the remainder of his working days. No one reading his bibliography or CV would have guessed. Despite the onerousness of international travel, Jerry and Elizabeth traveled widely in Europe and the Western Hemisphere in response to a growing number of invitations. He enjoyed an extensive international scientific correspondence and served as a consultant to the World Health Organization, the Canada Council, and the Medical Research Council. Many writers and readers benefited unknowingly from his searching comments as an anonymous referee for the *British Journal of Psychiatry*, *Psychological Medicine*, and *Journal of Child Psychiatry and Psychology* and from unsigned editorials (leaders) in the *British Medical Journal* and *Lancet*. He had recently been appointed an Associate Editor of *Behavior Genetics* and a member of the Editorial Board of *Acta Geneticae Medicae et Gemellologiae*.

Thesis writers in Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Portugal, Japan, and the USA, sought Jerry's advice and counsel, given unselfishly. He found lecturing to Maudsley classes an unwelcome chore, but lit up at the chance to tutor those few students and staff who found their way to his small, crowded office in the "genetics hut". Visiting Resident

Scientists whose work bears an imprint ranging from slight to allelic after exposure to Slater and Shields, during the heyday of the MRC Psychiatric Genetics Unit (1959–69) as well as since Slater's "retirement", comprise A da Fonseca, N Parker, K Abe, I Gottesman, M Tsuang, L Heston, E Kringlen, and G Carey. Resident staff included V Cowie, J Price, J Kahn, and V Seal. He enjoyed the respect of his department heads, first Sir Aubrey Lewis and then Sir Dennis Hill, as well as his illustrious colleagues at the Maudsley too numerous to mention, and many further afield, including G Allen, B Harvald, R Race, R Sanger, N Juel-Nielsen, E Inouye, M Annett, A Clarke, E Essen-Möller, Ø Ødegaard, Sir M Roth, D Falconer, J Thoday, L Erlenmeyer-Kimling, and E Zerbin-Rüdin. Jerry had a special relationship with Eliot Slater as collaborator, scout, confidante, and "Boswell". My own bonding with Jerry began in 1962 when we were paired by Slater to re-examine the use of the twin method in schizophrenia research; our work has flourished ever since. Of course we used the Maudsley Twin Register, begun in 1948 and maintained by Shields, with consecutive admissions yielding almost one thousand psychiatric proband pairs at the time of his death.

Many of the major unresolved problems of psychopathology were addressed by his lucid analyses of schizophrenia, the affective psychoses, the neuroses, homosexuality, alcoholism, the dementias – evenhandedly but firmly. Still he found time for the musical history of Hampstead, chamber music, and his stamp collecting, always the perfectionist; for the latter he recently won a prize for his philatelic illustration of St.-Saen's Carnival of the Animals. Shields was a Fellow of the Eugenics Society and of the International Society for Twin Studies.

In the letter informing me of this tragic loss, Slater concluded with the following that may serve as an epitaph: "He was a very noble soul. We shall both miss him very much, and I think more and more as his absence makes itself felt."

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