

Obituary  
 Artur Zylinski Arthur  
 (1927-1990)

Many of us were deeply shocked and saddened to learn of the sudden death of Artur Z. Arthur in Kingston, Ontario at the age of 63 years. Artur was best known in New Zealand for the significant role he played, as Lecturer in charge of the clinical psychology programme at the University of Canterbury from 1963 to 1966, in placing clinical psychology in New Zealand on a sound footing. He also contributed to the emergence of the New Zealand Psychological Society from what had been the New Zealand Branch of the British Psychological Society in his roles of N. Z. Branch Secretary (1964-65) and as Chairperson of the Christchurch District Committee of that Society (1965).

Artur was born in Alytus, Lithuania, in 1927. During World War II he was sent to Germany to learn to drive supply trucks for the German Army, then to work in occupied France. After the Allied invasion he and a friend escaped, made their way to the American lines and thence to Scotland, where Artur volunteered for service in the Free Polish Forces. As a result of his wartime adventures, he was able to claim that he had survived bombing by almost every airforce involved in the European theatre of war!

Artur's academic career was impressive. Within five years of arrival in Scotland he had completed Diplomas in Commerce and Business Administration as well as an external B.Sc. in Economics from the University of London. He then focussed his interests on psychology, completing a B.A. (Hons) with First Class Honours at University of London, followed by both a Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Psychology (with Distinction) and a Ph.D. at the Institute of Psychiatry, often referred to as "The Maudsley".

As a recent Ph.D. graduate, Artur came here to the job of developing the fledgling Canterbury clinical programme. His wife Diane, also a Ph.D. clinician from "The Maudsley", worked as a clinical psychologist at the Templeton psychopaedic hospital. Both of the Arthur's sons, Peter and Richard, were born in Christchurch, the latter shortly before the family moved to Ontario, Canada, where Artur had been appointed to chair the clinical programme

at Queen's University, Kingston. He retired early from Queen's this March in order to devote more time to research and writing.

In recent years Artur's research interests lay in stress as an anticipatory response. He had carefully assembled a large body of evidence in support of his ideas, which challenged traditionally accepted theories, and had begun to write a series of papers. His untimely death nipped these exciting and important developments in the bud, compounding our loss.

Those of us who worked and studied with Artur Z. Arthur will remember him for his gentle humour, his belief in the value of data and the need for a scientifically-based clinical psychology, as well as for his challenging question, "Where is your evidence?" He inspired in his students an enthusiasm for relating scientific research to clinical application, encouraged critical evaluation, engendered a sense of wonder and excitement in creating, examining, and challenging ideas, and drew the very best from them by nurturing them and by the example of his own interest in, and enthusiasm for, his subject. He took great pride in his Canterbury students and in their eventual success as clinicians and academics within and beyond these shores. Artur's legacy in this country lies in the people he taught and in the continuing existence of the high quality of clinical training and clinical practice that he worked so hard to establish here.

In mourning his passing may we give thanks for having benefitted from his life and his contributions to psychology and extend our very deepest sympathies to Diane, Peter, and Richard.

Barry S. Parsonson,  
 Department of Psychology,  
 University of Waikato,  
 Hamilton,  
 New Zealand.