

Introduction

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“Also the task is to evaluate and assess, and to decide whether the work is a novel, or a book of memoirs, or a parody, or a lampoon, or a variation on imaginative themes, or a psychological study; and to establish its predominant characteristics; whether the whole thing is a joke, or whether its importance lies in its deeper meaning, or whether it is just irony, sarcasm, ridicule...”

Witold Gombrowicz in *Ferdydurke*,
as used by D.C. Gajdusek in the Foreword to “The Laughing Death” [8].



Fig. 1. D. Carleton Gajdusek in one of his animated talks.

This issue of *Folia Neuropathologica* is devoted to the memory of the late Daniel Carleton Gajdusek [1-8]. I was able to obtain reviews, original works and reflections from a group of prominent scientists – Richard

A. Bessen, Paul Brown, Larisa Cervenakova, Ralph Garruto, Lev G. Goldfarb, Michael Katz, Shirley Lindebaum, Tatsufumi Nakamura, Vivek Nerurkar, Charles Weissmann and Richard Yanagihara. I am



Fig. 2. In a search for haemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome and hantaviruses: D. Carleton Gajdusek, Ana Gligic and Fidel Castro.

more than grateful to them. Those researchers were associated with Gajdusek either as his fellows and postdocs or as those who followed the path marked out by his experiments on the transmission of kuru to chimpanzees. I also decided to publish a few pictures of him taken on various occasions (Fig. 1-9). I believe we all owe a debt to Carleton Gajdusek, who was not only one of the greatest scientists of the last century but also an extraordinary person. However, the majority of questions he asked, in his innumerable papers and lectures and in thousands of pages of his journals, remain unanswered.

References

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Fig. 3. D. Carleton Gajdusek in his house in Yonkers, NY.



Fig. 4. D. Carleton Gajdusek in his house in Yonkers, NY.



Fig. 5. D. Carleton Gajdusek with myself and his adopted kids. First row from the left: Iyo [John] Fanechigiy Raglmar, Jason Sohorang Gajdusek, Brenda Bridget Gillippin Faimau, D. Carleton Gajdusek, Edwina Wes Mugunbey; second row, myself, Senavayo Akesigi Anua, Daniel Sumal Tamel Gajdusek and Basil Talonu. Frederick, Maryland, USA 1993.



Fig. 6. Gajdusek, myself and Professor Herbert Budka (Vienna, Austria) in Lodz, Poland.



Fig. 7. Gajdusek, Prof. Radzislaw Kordek, currently a Vice-Rector for Research at the Medical University of Lodz, and myself, Lodz, Poland.



Fig. 8. D. Carleton Gajdusek and his niece, Jana, Lodz, Poland.



Fig. 9. D. Carleton Gajdusek, one of the last pictures taken in Paris in 2008, with Richard Yanagihara.