

## IN MEMORIAM

### *Iain Malcolm Lonie (1932-1988)*

Iain Lonie was one of the best and most innovative modern historians of classical medicine.

Iain's life was spent alternately in England and New Zealand. Born in England, Iain went with his family to New Zealand at an early age. There he was educated at Otago University, and then returned to England where he took a further degree in classics at Cambridge University. Back again in New Zealand he was Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, and finally (1970-4) Associate Lecturer in Classics at Otago University. Then he returned once more to England where he made his home. He was supported by the Wellcome Trust as a Research Fellow at London, Newcastle, and Cambridge. Finally he returned once more to New Zealand, and there he died.

Iain's major area of interest was always Hippocrates: the origin and nature of Hippocratism, and its subsequent career. His scholarship was of the highest standard. He produced the definitive text, commentary and English translation of three Hippocratic texts on generation (*The Hippocratic Treatises «On generation», «On the nature of the child», «Diseases IV»*, Berlin, 1981). His translations of «The nature of the child», «The seed», and «The heart» were printed in G.E.R. Lloyd, *Hippocratic writings*, London, 1978. Iain was also always open to new ideas from other scholars. After himself making contributions to the traditional debate on Cos versus Cnidos, he was nevertheless able to accept Wesley Smith's historiographic study which revealed the flimsiness of the evidence on which that distinction had originally been built, and then to make a major contribution to this revised field («Cos vs Cnidos and the historians», *History of Science*, 1978, 16). He was also open to anthropological studies, and in his last work, on literacy and the Hippocratic corpus, he was applying some of the insights of Jack Goody to the Hippocratic texts and throwing new light on that most basic question about them: why should anyone have written them down in the first place?

A poet as well as a scholar, Iain was one of the gentlest and most generous people I have known. Modest, always self-effacing, he was genuinely astonished that other people admired his work. I first came to admire his path-breaking piece which tried to reconstruct pre-Hippocratic medicine, using the evidence of the Hippocratic texts themselves («A structural pattern in Greek dietetics and the early history of Greek medicine» *Medical History*, 1977, 21). Later it was my privilege to work with

him for a couple of years on a joint project on Hippocratism in the sixteenth century. An initial product of this project was his essay «The 'Paris Hippocratics': teaching and research in Paris in the second half of the sixteenth century», which appears in a volume of which he was one of the editors, *The Medical Renaissance of the Sixteenth Century* (Cambridge, 1985). Because of the joint nature of our project, that essay is probably all of it that will now appear in print. But Iain was also engaged in creating, as a basic research tool for that project, a check-list of Renaissance editions of the Hippocratic writings (a sort of 'Durling' for Hippocrates editions); though unfinished at the time of his death, the material from this may be incorporated in the *Catalogus translationum et commentationum*.

Iain suffered much sadness in his personal life, and had recurrent attacks of depression. One attack in the 1970s had led him to give up his academic position in New Zealand, and work his way on a ship to England. After the totally unexpected sudden death of his greatly loved wife, he returned to New Zealand with his young son Andrew, where depression overwhelmed him again, and he took his own life in tragic circumstances. He will be much missed.

ANDREW CUNNINGHAM