
Obituary

John Eaton Hardwick-Smith, formerly psychotherapist/analyst

John Hardwick-Smith, born in 1910, died on 16 October 1997 in Lower Hutt, New Zealand. He was a Member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and a Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists.

John, who had enjoyed a long and distinguished career as a psychiatrist and psychotherapist in Wellington, was one of New Zealand's first trained psychotherapists, working closely with both Dr Kathleen Todd and Mario Fleischel, from whom he underwent training in psychoanalysis.

His supervision of trainee registrars over many years had a considerable and positive impact on the style of practice of many of New Zealand's current psychiatrists. His personal and professional qualities were evident in his clinical work and supervision.

John was born in Wellington the only child of Henry and Ellen Hardwick-Smith. His father, an English born, trained surgeon, became Surgeon-Superintendent of Wellington Hospital.

John was educated in New Zealand at Wellesley Preparatory School, Wellington and Christ's College, Canterbury. His family moved to England

in 1929 and John was accepted into Clare College, Cambridge, to study medicine. Clinical training was at St Bartholomew's, London and while there he attended psychotherapy training courses at the Tavistock Clinic.

He returned to New Zealand in 1938 to establish a general practice briefly before joining the ANZAF when the Second World War started. He served in the Pacific as a medical officer.

After the War he established a successful private practice in psychiatry and psychotherapy. His theoretical orientation was initially Freudian, but he was mainly eclectic in his approach and acknowledged the profound influence of Jung and Melanie Klein on his work. He also integrated the then developing art of psychopharmacology into his psychotherapeutic practice with great ease and success.

From 1969 to 1975 he was appointed as the first consultant psychiatrist to the Victoria University Health and Counselling Service. He was also working part-time for Wellington Hospital as a psychotherapist and a registrar supervisor, and continued his private practice, albeit reduced, into his 80s.

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