GRAHAM GODDARD (1938–1987)
A Personal Reminiscence

A hiking accident in the highlands of New Zealand has claimed the life of Graham Goddard, well before his time. Graham's place in history is secure—his pioneering work on the amygdala; his discovery of kindling, which spawned an industry; and his work on long-term potentiation all have made their mark. We will miss his restless energy, and the field will be noticeably poorer for his absence. The detailed recounting of these and further contributions will be left to others.

I first met Graham in 1963. He was finishing his PhD in the Psychology Department at McGill University; I was starting mine. About a decade later he spent a sabbatical year in London, where he devoted a lot of his time to reading an early draft of the book O'Keefe and I were writing. His input was invaluable. In 1977 Graham received a Research Professorship, which released his salary. He invited me to Dalhousie University to fill his position for 2 years. My family and I started our sojourn in Halifax by staying at Graham and Pat's remarkable gothic house on a rocky cove an hour outside Halifax. As I recall, he was installing a 30-foot beam directly into the bedrock beneath the house, to provide stability for his turntable, and triple-glazed windows, to handle the wind.

We all saw a lot less of Graham after he went to New Zealand, but were happy to hear that he was getting on so well. His joy at becoming a father after 20+ years was written all over his face when I saw him in Washington, D.C., some months ago. Characteristically, Graham had agreed to come a great distance to the Society for Neuroscience meeting to participate in a memorial session for Don Hebb, one of our mentors.

How can I best describe this man? As the rebellious graduate student wearing black T-shirts, black leather jacket, and sporting a beard, taboo at the time? As the department builder who certainly had a lot to do with the prominence of both psychology departments he was a part of in Canada (Waterloo and Dalhousie)? As the friend who bailed me out when I needed help, most recently to cover the Hebb session? Or as the scientist who had a keen nose for quality, both in scientific problems and in people? Graham had an unerring eye for a good phenomenon, and was consistently ahead of whatever field he chose to be in. Though he was not an easy person to get to know, the effort was well worth it. Graham Goddard made a difference wherever he went, and the world of neuroscience is considerably richer for his many contribution.

Lynn Nadel