
My Tribute to a Great Psychologist

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It was during the first week of October, 1951, that I was inducted to the Assessment Branch of CIA otherwise sometimes called "The Pickle Factory" by its incumbents. In those days it was very hush-hush; indeed, "CIA" was never mentioned within earshot of anyone. We were quartered in the old World War I "temporary" Marine Hospital Buildings in Foggy Bottom, behind a somewhat shaggy but still standing eight foot wooden fence.

But behind this antiquity a new psychological typology was being pronounced decades ahead of its time, and even as I began my professional life as a "Clinical Psychologist," I was to undergo an almost immediate conversion forever.

The "magnetic force" was John Gittinger, and his extraordinary insights about the Wechsler (Bellvue) Intelligence Scale, and their windows to an understanding of personality, in clear cognitive and behavioral descriptions.

These were the early days when we talked about "high" or "low" Digit Span, "high" or "low" Block Designs, "high" or "low" Picture arrangements. The future language involving symbols, and formulas of the Personality Assessment System (PAS) had not yet evolved.

By the following spring, 1952, I was urged by our Chief of Assessment, Dr. Monaghan, to apply for a Virginia Psychologist License. I was then a resident of Alexandria, Virginia. I complied with some dread at the prospect, but relying heavily on my new-found, but primitive PAS concepts (this

source was quite unknown - nor explained - to The Board of Examiners.) I was "passed" with flying colors and congratulated on perceptive insights concerning the "case" I had been given to prepare.

Back at "The Pickle Factory," John chuckled.

In the years that followed, when I became Chief of the Assessment Branch, John continued to be our mentor, leader, and active consultant to our staff, in spite of the negative disposition on the then Chief of Assessment and Evaluation Branch. By 1957, my core staffers had dispersed, John left, and I took a lateral transfer within The Office of Training, but away from Washington. In 1961, my wife, Ruth and I moved to Augusta, Maine.

At the Veterans Administration Center, Togus, Maine, the PAS continued to be an important part of all psychological evaluations. Back in Washington, John Winne became my communication "Pipe line" to the rapidly developing PAS, and I was able to submit a modest but apparently meaningful contribution to the PAS data base (on alcoholics). I was also privileged to be a "proof reader" for the newly formulated, multi-volumed P.A.S. "Index" in draft form. During the "Togus" era, I was able to "recruit" the then Chief Psychologist, Howard White, and a "trainee," Ellen Reiss. The latter became an expert on the subject in pursuit of her doctorate. Later on, Dick York, in Cape Cod kept me abreast of the PAS process and its meetings.

After retiring from Federal service, in 1970, I became a consultant to Maine State Prison, where under the aegis of the Maine State Bureau of Human Services, Vocational Rehabilitation, I was able to make a second "institutional" contribution to the PAS data base, this time concerning convicts.

In other consultation contexts the PAS has been a significant factor in the determination of disability applications for the Bureau of Human Services. In private consultations, PAS has been an extremely important help in understanding clients' personalities, contributing greatly to more effective psychotherapeutic endeavors.

The Reverend Doctor Richard H. Hall, Rector of St. Phillips Church, Wiscasset, Maine is my most personally gratifying "recruit" to the PAS. Dick Hall is not only pastoral counselor, (D. Min. Andover Newton Theological Seminary) and private practitioner, but maintains a parish ministry as well. Dick and I have consulted each other and shared PAS approaches for several years on many cases and their related PAS profiles.

Lastly, but most importantly, I have injected the principles of the PAS to every psychological course I have taught as a part-time faculty member of the University of Maine at Augusta, Maine. This activity has spanned thirty years, on several satellite campuses, and a wide range of subjects including General, Social, Abnormal, Personality, Theory, Educational, and especially Developmental, Child, Adolescent, and Adult. The "Principles" of John Gittinger's PAS have found a way into all of these, and have been especially informative to parents, teachers, nurses, even a few lawyers, business men, clerks and accountants, who have attended my classes.

In the latter years of my part-time work, it has been my privilege to attend both national and regional conferences. At these conferences, I have been able to continue learning from John's case

profile approach, which remains as fresh and insightful as ever. His sonorous voice echoes over the years, creating background, framework, direction, and inspiration to my clinical career, and I must add, to my personal life.

Thank you, John for *all* that, plus our friendship with you and your family as well.