FOREWORD TO THE SPECIAL ISSUE:
Rediscovering Jay Haley’s Contributions to Hypnosis

In my opinion, the previously unpublished papers of Jay Haley presented in this special issue of the *International Journal of Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis* are nothing less than a treasure. I have greatly appreciated the opportunity to work on this project, not only because of the content of these wonderful historical gems but also because it has given me the chance to collaborate with a long-time friend, Peter B. Bloom, MD, and to meet for the first time Jay’s wife, Madeleine Richeport-Haley, PhD. The three of us were able to meet and begin discussion of this project while attending the European Hypnosis Society’s International Congress in Sorrento, Italy, an excellent location to begin any endeavor!

As I talked with Peter and Madeleine, I was struck by the range of experience represented by our trio. Madeleine, Jay’s wife of many years, worked and shared much of his professional life. I, on the other hand, know Jay Haley only through his writing; first, because I worked in a Child Guidance Clinic in the 1970s and a little later when I was introduced to Milton Erickson by Jay’s masterpiece, *Uncommon Therapy* (Haley, 1973). Peter is able to share his perspective of Jay’s contributions, having had direct contact with him in Philadelphia when Jay was affiliated with the Philadelphia Child Guidance Clinic while both had a passion for hypnosis. I’m sure you will enjoy Peter’s contributions in this issue as he shares both basic background and personal insights and memories of Jay Haley.

Without the efforts of Madeleine Richeport-Haley, this entire project would not have been possible. It was through her careful efforts and dedication that these previously unpublished papers were identified, preserved, and presented for this publication. In addition, most of the articles in this issue will begin with a brief introduction by Madeleine, providing the context of the paper or transcription.

The papers by Jay Haley that appear in this issue were compiled by Madeleine Richeport-Haley, PhD, who collaborated with her husband professionally for many years.
As you will see, not all of these papers are polished articles in final form. Some are transcripts of presentations that contain gaps or sections that are incomplete or missing. In spite of this, I believe that the historical value of these works far outweighs the inconvenience of some missing words.

Those who know me well know that, over the past 20 years, I have avidly assembled the *Living History of Hypnosis* by taping hundreds of video interviews with some of the leading clinicians, teachers, and hypnosis researchers from around the world. It is a great regret that I did not have the opportunity to complete such an interview with Jay Haley. I hope, however, that this special issue will contribute in some way to a recognition and appreciation of the incredible debt we owe Jay for his contributions to the world of hypnosis.

Rather than following a strict chronological order, this issue begins with “Explorer in Hypnosis.” This detailed description of Milton Erickson’s approach to hypnosis and psychotherapy predates *Uncommon Therapy* (1973) by 16 years and certainly captures the essence of Erickson’s work. Haley includes anecdotes not only of clinical demonstrations and technique but also of early biographical data as Erickson overcame obstacles related to his polio. Today we enjoy the extraordinary efforts of Jeff Zeig, Ernest Rossi, and many others who have shared their experiences and insights related to Erickson’s genius. This paper by Haley, however, can stand the test of time as a tribute to his early recognition and appreciation of Erickson’s work and the coming revolution in hypnosis and brief psychotherapy.

Several years prior to his paper about Milton Erickson, Haley met with Erickson in his home along with John Weakland and discussed the relationships, if any, among hallucinations, hypnosis, and schizophrenia. The abridged transcript from this 1955 conversation is entitled “Discussions on Hypnosis and Schizophrenia.” Although now considered primarily a biological disorder, younger readers may not realize the complexity of research and discussion that centered around understanding schizophrenia as a psychological disorder. I think you will be amazed at the discussion of these three men, sitting in Erickson’s living room and later by the discussion among Haley, Weakland, and Gregory Bateson as they consider Erickson’s views related to the double bind. In a conversation while preparing this issue, Peter Bloom referred to this transcript as “a classic paper in intellect and argument.”

In each of the additional papers or transcripts included in this issue, the reader is treated to a glorious front-row seat to history and is able to watch the evolution of key concepts related to hypnosis, psychotherapy, and psychopathology. We are offered suggestions regarding how hypnosis fits in the context of time and culture and are given a very personal view of both Milton Erickson and Jay Haley as clinicians and
as teachers. We get a rich and powerful glimpse into a style of teaching and learning that is rarely duplicated today.

Haley, like other giants in the world of hypnosis such as Clark Hull and Ernest Hilgard, gained fame in areas beyond the scope of hypnosis. I am sure that anyone who has engaged in child or family therapy has been directly influenced by Haley’s research and writing. In this special issue, however, we celebrate his efforts and contributions to hypnosis in the hope that this extraordinary teacher will continue to have an impact for generations to come.

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