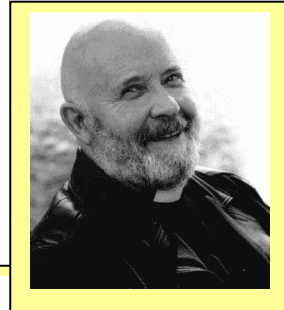


1961-63: Lionel Fanthorpe's reminiscences of Keswick Hall



MEMORIES OF KESWICK HALL

I have the happiest possible memories of Keswick Hall 1961–63. I was among the guinea-pig year of mature students when the college became co-educational. I had formerly worked as a journalist on the Norfolk Chronicle as “our main in Cromer” before embarking on a teachers’ training course. Patricia and I moved to Pople Street in Wymondham and found a nice little terraced house there next door to Woodbine’s Fish and Chip Shop. Our neighbour’s delicious cuisine formed a staple part of our diet while we lived there!

Warm memories of Keswick include superb science lessons that Mr. Mattocks gave; the enthusiastic help and encouragement of Miss Strathdee; the deeply philosophical academic theology of “Religious” Jones and the dynamic brilliance and energy of “English” Jones. Marjorie Copeman’s psychology lectures still fill my mind, and when teaching my own psychology students now, I very often quote her with much admiration. Two comments of hers in particular I commend to all our readers. The first was this: “Any activity undertaken for its own sake – even if we get paid for it – may be regarded as leisure.” Her other great psychological aphorism was, “Flight or fight are not the only alternative reactions to a disagreeable stimulus. Sometimes the most positive thing to do may be to ignore the stimulus and to allow it to dissipate on its own.”

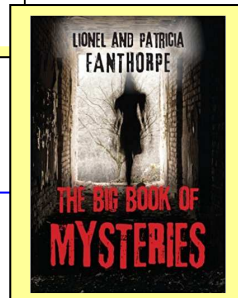
The generous help that Mary Duff gave me with New Testament Greek will never be forgotten, and I am still full of admiration for the way that she could switch off whatever important matter she had just been dealing with when I was due for a tutorial and say, “Ah! Yes, Mr. Fanthorpe, we were on page 7, exercise 9 last time you came.” She certainly deserved her reputation for academic excellence and for great kindness.

Keswick had its share of fun as well as its heavy stints of hard academic work and teaching practices. I remember one college entertainment in which with my good buddies, Derry Purvis and Barry Conway, we performed a song and dance number based on the two psychology text books. It went to the tune of ‘Oh My Darling Clementine’ and referred to the famous Valentine text book. Lovell was its rival tome. One verse that I still recall after more than forty years runs:–

“Walking past the pool on Thursday
Slipped and dropped my Valentine
And the fish we ate on Friday
Had a well adjusted mind.

*Chorus:
What a text book: it's your next book!
You can't beat old Valentine,
Very dodgy – psychology –
Let him excavate your mind!”*

Having taken a psychology module in a later degree course, I still remember Lovell and Valentine and our psychology lectures with much gratitude. It was perhaps from their foundations that I went on to lecture at Cambridge University’s Extra-Mural Board on a course which I devised there entitled “The Psychology and Sociology of Unexplained Phenomena.”



Lionel Fanthorpe (from his website, www.lionel-fanthorpe.com)

Lionel started as a journalist in Cromer. Then ten years as a Headmaster of a big Comprehensive High School in Cardiff.

Lionel is now a popular TV and Radio presenter and celebrity guest on chat shows, as well as a fully ordained Anglican Priest. He’s a qualified weight-training instructor and a Dan Grade martial arts instructor.

With 50 years in print and having written well over 250 books as well as numerous, columns, articles and features you might wonder how he manages to fit so much in...

