

DEDICATION

Ullin Place: 1924–2000

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Many readers of this journal will remember Ullin Place as a frequent contributor to the behavioral literature on verbal behavior and as a regular speaker at our meetings. Perhaps because he was raised and educated in England, straddling the fields of philosophy and psychology, his viewpoint was unique and his contributions unfailingly original; he was a staunch behaviorist but never doctrinaire. He traveled widely, attending professional meetings that spanned diverse positions in philosophy, psychology, and linguistics. As a result, he was able to fertilize mainstream behavior analysis with fresh questions and with novel interpretations of data.

Nearly 2 years ago, Place was diagnosed with incurable lung cancer. He responded coolly and objectively, as if to a call to arms, by increasing his already formidable pace of scholarship. He recruited colleagues to help him edit and publish his remaining papers, gathered into four thematic volumes. He died on January 2, 2000, with this work in progress.

As one contribution to this enterprise, an edited version of Place's lengthy correspondence with Noam Chomsky is presented in this volume. As most readers are surely aware, Chomsky has been a steadfast critic of Skinner's interpretation of verbal behavior, and more generally, of what

one might call a behavioristic world-view. He acknowledges the value of research on animal learning but vigorously objects to glib extrapolations to complex human affairs. The battle lines were drawn over 40 years ago, and until Place took up his pen, there was little dialogue between Chomsky and any behaviorist in the interim. The correspondence opened in 1993 when Place sent Chomsky his paper on empiricist linguistics (1992), hoping, perhaps, to discover whether there was middle ground upon which radical behaviorism and structural linguistics might meet. They corresponded for several years in long, detailed letters, reminiscent of a bygone era when letter writing was an art, before concluding that they had drawn no closer.

In its original form, the correspondence was unwieldy and repetitive. However, Ted Schoneberger has heroically edited it so that it is efficiently organized around several central questions. Chomsky himself provided additional light editing and approved of the final form, and it is presented here with permission of the estate of Ullin Place. This volume is dedicated to his memory.

REFERENCE

- Place, U. T. (1992). Eliminative connectionism and its implications for a return to an empiricist/behaviorist linguistics. *Behavior and Philosophy*, 20, 21–35.