have even modified their introduction to account for the absence of some of the original contributors to the conference. The editorial reward of having their names on the front of the book was earned very discreetly.

The book could be taken as a sampler of NIMH-funded research, although not all the papers acknowledge the NIMH. It could be seen as an introduction to current frontiers in research on friendly behavior, aimed at newcomers who would not normally read the *Annals*, but in that case it should have been made accessible by an editorial onslaught on some near impenetrable jargon and tortured grammar. One of the worst offenders in opacity was actually written by one of the editors—Kirkpatrick’s discussion of the dual nature of schizophrenia is nevertheless worth the effort of unraveling. On the other hand, Carter and Altemus’s discussion of the role of lactational hormones in social behavior would be a well-written senior undergraduate thesis.

Finally, I must protest against Carlson and Earls’s study of children in Romanian orphanages. I do not think this work would have been accepted for publication in, say, *Animal Behaviour*, if the subjects had been nonhuman. It seems to me that it was well established in the fifties and sixties that living in understaffed orphanages was bad for children, and indeed that much less severe social deprivation had long-term bad effects on both children and monkeys. Is it really necessary to dot i’s and cross neuro-endocrinological i’s, rather than put any available resources into making things better for the children? Even the authors find it necessary to defend the ethics, but I was not convinced.

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**Prehistory of Australia.**


An apt adjective for both the Australian biota and the prehistory of the Aboriginal people is "enigmatic." Only recently, however, has it been appreciated how the historical and ecological biography of Australia and Aborigines are inextricably linked. This authoritative book lucidly explains why certainty and simplicity have retreated in direct proportion to the ongoing research effort into Australia’s prehistory. For instance, the authors’ sober analysis of the evidence demonstrates that the time of colonization remains an open question despite forty years of research. What this research has demonstrated, however, is that some of humanity’s first seafarers colonized Australia sometime beyond the radiocarbon dating horizon of 40,000 years before present. Equally, the authors doubt the enduring hypotheses that Australia was colonized by "archaic" humans such as *Homo erectus* or that the late Pleistocene inhabitants caused the extinction of the Australian megafauna.

Aboriginal people have a rich body of oral traditions concerning their past, but Mulvaney and Kamminga feel that it is not possible to integrate these with the western scientific approach that they espouse. They accept that it is possible to extrapolate the knowledge of the "ethnographic present" to the relatively recent past of the last few millennia. They demonstrate, however, that the vast majority of the Australia’s prehistory is as opaque as smoked glass. For instance, the review of a large body of work led them to conclude that there is currently no agreement as to the development of stone technologies. Similarly, although rock art provides an enthralling window into the aesthetic and cultural world of the Aborigines, it is concluded that without absolute dating the significance of paintings and engravings remains elusive. Early prehistory is even more difficult to resolve because the only evidence is derived from geographically scattered late Pleistocene sites containing the residual of an unknowable material culture that is extremely difficult to date reliably. Despite these limitations, fragmentary deposits of stone artifacts, ochre, human remains and animal bones reveal, paradoxically, both cultural continuity and change.

The authors introduce all the major debates in Australian prehistory and pose so many questions that the book seemed to ache for a recapitulation that it does not, and perhaps could not, have as its final chapter. This beautifully laid-out book is an invaluable guide for those who want to comprehend the extraordinarily complex and perplexing history of Australia and its first inhabitants.

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**The Paradox of Sleep: The Story of Dreaming.**


This exceptional book contains articles and speeches dating from 1978 by arguably the world’s greatest sleep researcher. Here a great mind muses on the mind-brain problem in the context of paradoxical, or rapid-eye-movement, sleep. Paradoxical sleep is the sleep of dreams, and the issues within this state of consciousness, and hence of this book, include physiology, Freudian psychology and dream analysis, neural development, genetics and epigenetics.