

Ian Brockington



## Eileithyia's Mischief

The Organic Psychoses of Pregnancy,  
Parturition and the Puerperium

### **EILEITHYIA'S MISCHIEF: the ORGANIC PSYCHOSES of PREGNANCY, PARTURITION and the PUERPERIUM**

By Ian Brockington,  
Professor *emeritus*, University of Birmingham.

Bredenbury, Ery Press, 2006,  
in a limited edition of 100 copies, each copy handcrafted by  
the author \*.

250 pages (100,000 words) of text, with 1,300 references.

Chapters:

Chorea gravidarum  
Wernicke-Korsakoff syndrome  
The psychopathology of parturition  
Eclamptic psychosis  
Infective delirium  
Cerebral vascular disorders  
Other psychoses linked to childbirth  
Incidental psychoses  
Conclusion.

In his foreword, Alwyn Lishman wrote,

This is a remarkable and important book, beautifully produced. [It] traces the history and affiliations of all such disorders from a remarkably wide literature, [much of which] has hitherto failed to pass the language barrier. [It] charts the studies and conflicts of opinion that held sway in earlier times, in a manner that will be of immense interest ... to medical historians. Everything is illuminated by a wealth of case histories, infused with deep clinical knowledge [and] analysed with critical care. The result is an academic *tour de force*.

In the Norwegian Medical Journal, under the title '*mesterverk om svangerskapspsykoser*', Nils Retterstøl wrote,

Ian Brockington has created a masterpiece that will in due time become an important resource. With a long life of clinical work behind him, and with an extensive historical literature review, he has illuminated every subject with cases past and present, many of them striking and indeed moving. On top of all this, he has himself undertaken the production of the book, which has given a beautiful result. (Kindly translated by Jan Øystein Berle).

In the British Journal of Psychiatry, Ian Jones wrote,

What is most impressive ... is the depth of research. The author visited 20 countries across 4 continents to consult literature from the past 300 years. On a number of occasions he was the first to cut the pages of important historical publications - one example from 250 years ago. This approach to scholarship has become unusual in an age of internet searches and on-line publication.

In his review in *Le Carnet Psy*, Abram Coen wrote,

*Un travail de titan.*

Price £100, or equivalent in US dollars or Euros, plus postage.