

Phillida (Phil) Salmon, 1933–2005

It is with great sadness that we report that Phil Salmon died on 13 May 2005. Phil was a long-time member of the Auto/Biography Study Group and a real and lovely friend to many of us. Phil, as is well known, had a distinguished academic career during which she remained a keen advocate of the life story as a method of insight and understanding within psychology and the social sciences. Phil wore her learning with lightness, gentleness and humour and was greatly encouraging of those who sought her advice. Phil will be greatly missed but her life will be a reminder to us all of the importance of the integrity of genuine modesty both in our contact with others and in the manner in which we develop and practise our intellectual endeavours.

The convenors of the Auto/Biography Study Group will establish a Phil Salmon Memorial Lecture as a feature of its annual summer conference.

To create a life story which is credible, which allows development as well as continuity, which tells a tale worth telling – this is the task that, as human beings, we must all attempt. It is a task which, essentially, demands imagination. If we are to construct a coherent account – an account which encompasses, rather than denies, all the phases we have lived through, the vicissitudes, the pain as well as the joy – then we must approach our experience, and that of others, with the greatest possible imagination. It is only through our imaginative construction that we shall be able to own the full heritage of the experience we have acquired through living in time. And if we are to affirm the meaning, the value, of our own story, we must make an act of personal faith. In the end, it is the storyteller who, like any novelist, commands the audience. Our sense of the meaning of our story – that is our contribution to life.

(From *Living in time* by Phil Salmon)