

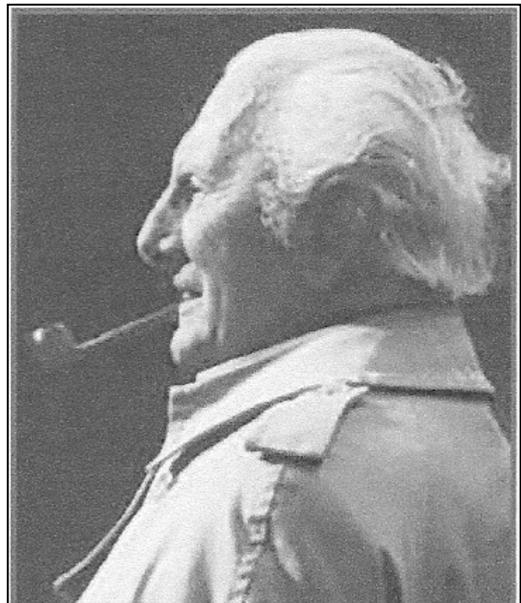
ALAN FLEMING McGLASHAN (1899-1997). M.C., B.A. (Cantab.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Eng.), D.P.M. (Eng.). –

Celebrated Psychiatrist and Eclectic Jungian Psychoanalyst.

“He entered the Royal Flying Corps at a tender age during the First World War, flying many perilous missions, including two aerial encounters with the “Red Baron,” the German ace Baron von Richthofen.”

Robert Hinshaw. The Independent (May 1997).

Alan Fleming McGlashan (1899-1997) [Epsom College 1910-1916. De Havilland Exhibition] was the son of Dr James McGlashan, a practitioner of Newhaven, East Sussex. He did well at Epsom College, being a prefect and a member of the Rugby XV. He was awarded an Exhibition to Clare College, Cambridge in 1916, but because of the First World War, had his entry to Cambridge University deferred until 1918. He then completed his medical training at St George’s Hospital, qualifying M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Eng.) in 1924. In 1916, at the early age of 18, he joined the Royal Flying Corps. After flying many perilous missions over the German lines, including two aerial encounters with the “Red Baron,” the German ace, Baron von Richthofen, he was awarded the M.C. and the *Croix de Guerre avec Palme*. The citation read: “He has accomplished all his missions with the greatest devotion, and on many occasions has succeeded in reconnaissance at very low altitude in perilous conditions under violent enemy fire.” He was frequently mentioned in dispatches. After the war Alan McGlashan worked on a tramp steamer as ship’s surgeon (1923-1924) before joining his father in general practice. During this period he also worked as a drama critic for *The Observer* and *News Chronicle*. Several years later he changed direction by training at the Maudsley Hospital and The Tavistock Clinic as a psychiatrist, and during the Second World War he served as a consulting psychiatrist on the War Office Selection Board (1941-1945). It was at this time that he became particularly taken with the ideas of Carl Gustav Jung, and he travelled to Zurich for consultations with him on several occasions. In 1984, he edited an abridged version of Jung’s correspondence with Sigmund Freud.



Alan McGlashan was a serious philosopher and he exchanged ideas and friendships with some of the leading thinkers of the day, among them Arthur Koestler and J. B. Priestley. His close friends included the Afrikaner writer and explorer Sir Laurens Van der Post. The phenomenon of time and paradox always challenged him. He believed in delight as a key to living. “Delight is a mystery,” he wrote, “and the mystery is this; to plunge boldly into brilliance and immediacy of living, at the same time as utterly surrendering to that which lies beyond space and time; to see life translucently.” In 1966 McGlashan published his best-known book *The Savage and Beautiful Country: the secret life of the mind*. In it he gives his own speculative philosophy of life, beautifully crafted. In the foreword he writes: “The purpose of the book is to indicate a new direction of perception: an almost perceptive inner change – a willed suspension of conventional judgements, a poised still awareness, a *stillness* in which long-smothered voices that speak the language of the soul can be heard again.” Marshall McLuhan described the book as one of the most prophetic works of the decade. Alan McGlashan was a member of the psychiatric staff at St George’s Hospital, the Maudsley and the West End Hospital. His large private practice was known for drawing a wide range of clientele from the rich

and famous to the very ordinary, all of them facing life's vicissitudes with varying degrees of success, among them H. R. H The Prince of Wales and, as she would become, Diana, Princess of Wales. In his spare time he was an avid glider pilot (holding certificate number 28, issued in 1930) and a hot-air balloonist. He was still playing tennis when well into his eighties, and was passionate about mythology, delivering a number of BBC broadcasts on the subject of mythology and psychiatry. Approaching his 99th birthday, McGlashan was still seeing patients one week before his death. This permitted him the luxury, he felt, of having only a small number, but this, he delightedly commented, had raised the level of his work. In his obituary it was written: "He took meticulous care in preparing himself for every analytic session – like a sacred ritual – so as to be open, receptive and alert for whatever might arise. This struck one as being not unlike the purification rites that were practised in the ancient Greek temples of healing at *Epidaurus*: before the possibility of healing could even be considered, one had first to prepare oneself totally to receive it: no shortcuts, no preconceptions."