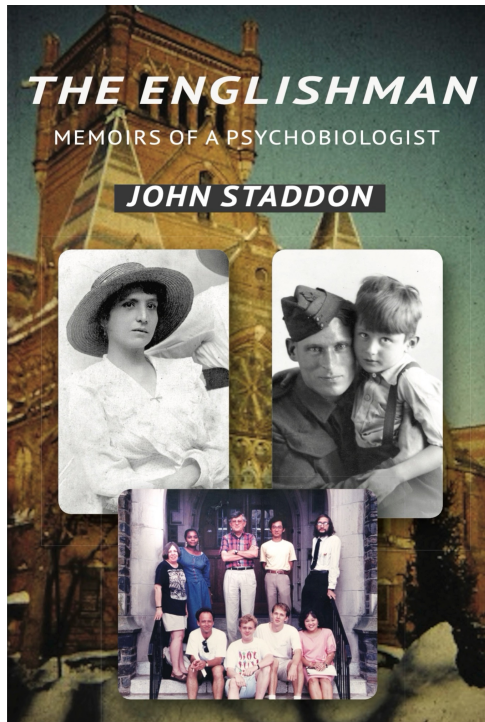




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# The Englishman Memoirs of a Psychobiologist

*By John Staddon*



In "The Englishman: Memoirs of a Psychobiologist", John Staddon is the central figure of this autobiographical memoir. It recounts his personal and professional journey, including his early life in wartime London, experiences in colonial Africa, his academic struggles and eventual move to the United States and graduate studies that led him to Harvard.

While the book focuses primarily on Staddon's own experiences, it also references influential individuals in psychology and biology, including B.F. Skinner, who was a major influence on Staddon's scientific thinking, particularly in behaviorism. Also important was Charles Darwin whose evolutionary theory shaped Staddon's approach to biology and psychology. Additionally, the memoir includes anecdotes about colleagues, mentors, and students throughout his academic career, though their names and roles may vary in prominence.

**AUTHOR: John Staddon**

John Staddon is James B. Duke Professor of Psychology, and Professor of Biology Emeritus, at Duke University. He earned his PhD in Experimental Psychology at Harvard University and is the author of more than 200 research papers and books. His published books include *Scientific Method: How Science Works, Fails to Work or Pretends to Work* (2016), *Adaptive Dynamics: The Theoretical Analysis of Behavior* (2001), *Adaptive Behavior and Learning 2nd Edition* (2016), *The New Behaviorism: Foundations of Behavioral Science 3rd Edition* (2021) and *Science in an Age of Unreason* (2022). He was profiled in the *Wall Street Journal* in January 2021 as a commentator on the current problems of science.

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# The Englishman

## Memoirs of a Psychobiologist

*By John Staddon*

### Advance Praise for the Book

The gentle and witty memoirs of a scientist, packed with personal ideas and anecdotes about people - famous and otherwise - that have filled his life.

*- Marian Stamp Dawkins, FRS CBE, Emeritus Professor of Animal Behaviour, University of Oxford*

... The Englishman is a lively, often self-deprecating story about a man's journey from the chaos of wartime London to the quiet order of a university lab, demonstrating that a life well-examined is a life well-read.

*- San Diego Book Review, Scott Olsen*

... The Englishman is an essential read for anyone invested in the empirical study of behavior or curious about the professional life of a leading psychobiologist. Staddon's measured voice, combined with his deep intellectual curiosity, produces a memoir that is both professionally informative and philosophically stimulating.

*- Seattle Book Review, Jessica Fahey*

The memoirs of John Staddon ... is a powerful read. It includes his early life, his non-linear education, and his research career at Duke University which involved significant travel. An additional highly interesting twist is the QRC code on the back cover to hear the author read the Preface and the Postscript — both delightful and the accent brings to light why he is always referred to as the Englishman even though an American citizen for decades.

*- Clarice M. Yentsch, Ph.D., Ocean Microbiologist and co-founded Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences*

