

Introduction and Explanation

In 1989, I decided to start publishing the *Proceedings of the Pavese Society* which I distributed to some two dozen friends and colleagues in the field of suicidology. It consisted mainly of biographies that I wrote of mostly famous people who had committed suicide, but occasionally I included the biography of an attempted suicide. I also sent copies to SIEC in Calgary, Canada, where presumably there are still copies. Moving into the modern age, I have now placed them online on my website.

I have reorganized the material for this presentation. You will note that some years are missing. I included other pieces in the *Proceedings*, and these are omitted from this section of the site. Some are elsewhere on the site, such as *The epidemiological study of suicidal behavior*, and some have been published. For example, I solicited autobiographies from famous suicidologists. These were first published in the *Proceedings*, but have since appeared in Maurizio Pompili's *Suicide in the words of suicidologists* (Nova Science, 2010). There were also years when I wrote no biographies.

I have prepared a name index (printed below) to facilitate finding a particular biography.

I have used these biographies in several research studies and in my books and articles as cases to illustrate particular theories of suicide. In addition, two collections have appeared:

- Lester, D. (2000). *By their own hand: Suicides by the rich and famous*. Chichester, UK: Aeneas.
- Lester, D. (2008). *Exit weeping: Understanding suicide through the study of famous suicides*. Hauppauge, NY: Nova Science.

I hope you find the content of this site interesting and, perhaps, useful too.

The Index of names is by volume. The match between years and volumes is:

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David

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