



Interview with Paddington Mercury

A 95-year-old academic with an IQ higher than Albert Einstein's has published a series of fascinating brain teasers.

Erwin Brecher PhD was born in Budapest and served in the Czech army in 1938. When Hitler invaded the Sudetenland, part of Czechoslovakia, he escaped to England.

He volunteered for the RAF, but his skills as an engineer landed him a job with aircraft manufacturer De Havilland, for whom he worked on the design of the Beaufighter.

After the war, he joined several financial services organisations as CEO, including a chairmanship of a quoted Investment Trust, and retired in 1984.

At the age of 80, he started his writing career, resulting in more than 20 titles, published by Random House, Pan/Macmillan and others and translated in six languages including Russian.

In 1995 he was awarded the Order of Merit in Gold from the City of Vienna in recognition of his literary achievements.

Mr Brecher is a member of Mensa, the high IQ society, with an IQ of 161, among the highest ever recorded.

His score is one point higher than that of Albert Einstein and Professor Stephen Hawking, both Nobel Prize winners.

This puts him among the top one percent of Britain's intellectual elite.



A spokesman for British Mensa, which describes Mr Brecher as *the* “puzzle master”, said: “Mensa would like to congratulate Erwin Brecher for his successful publishing career to date.

“We wish him a happy and prosperous 2010.”

Mr Brecher's non-fiction books include scientific titles and mind-bending conundrums, all designed to expand the reader's powers of lateral thinking.

One of his latest – and best – books is *Hidden Evidence*. This contains more than 200 mind-benders with offbeat and unusual hooks.

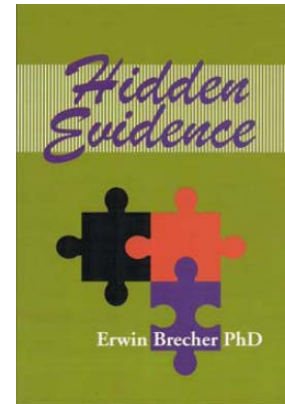
All can be solved by intelligent and logical reasoning.

One of the puzzles, called ‘Sisters’, poses the question: “Jane and Jessica are sitting on a park bench, two very pretty dark-haired girls as alike as two peas in a pod.

“A stranger walked by, looked at the girls, and said, ‘You must be twins.’

“The girls smiled, and Jane volunteered, ‘We have the same parents and were born on the same day in the same year only five minutes apart, but we are not twins.’ Explain.”

If you can solve this puzzle, you are probably Mensa material and should sit for an IQ test. If your IQ is 144 or higher you will qualify for membership.



For the answer to ‘Sisters’ – and to pit your wits against other brain-teasers – order your copy of *Hidden Evidence* today.

Hidden Evidence costs £6.95 (including p&p) and is available, along with Mr Brecher’s other titles, from www.panaceapress.net Orders can be placed by email at ebrecher@panaceapress.net

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Notes for editors: Mr Brecher, a grandfather-of-three and a great grandfather-of-two, is from St John’s Wood, London.



He is available for media interviews. Please contact him directly, via email, at ebrecher@panaceapress.net

Photographs of Mr Brecher, and of the books’ jackets, are also available.

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