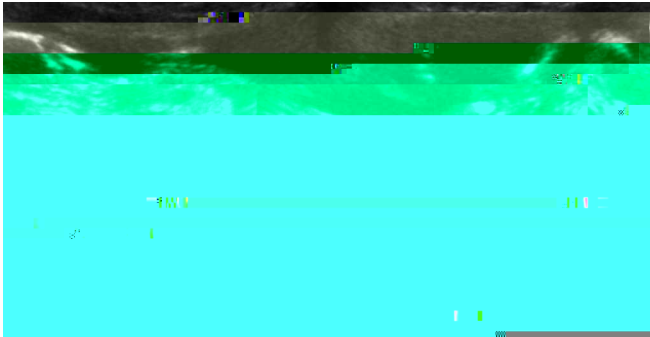


Of Geminates and Gemellology

Chris McManus
University College London, UK

Twins have always attracted attention—Romulus and Remus, Castor and Pollux, Jacob and Esau, Fafner and Fasold; there has always been intrigue, mystery and confusion surrounding two-in-one and one-in-two. The interest for Laterality and lateralisation is compounded, because if it is the difference between an individual's two sides that results in laterality, how are those two sides represented in twins, particularly monozygotic twins that once were one? This Special Issue of *Laterality* clearly indicates a continuing interest in the relationship of twinning and laterality, and it is a particular pleasure to include both biological and neuropsychological papers. The editors' job has been particularly easy since all but one of the papers were submitted spontaneously, and the only editorial tasks were the pleasant ones of putting them together, and writing a light-hearted introduction to accompany them. The 13 papers in this issue are interesting scis



The problems of asymmetry and twinning start even with the very words themselves. Both words are whh

(**cap-puc-cino**); Latin languages seem here to be systematically different from Germanic (Delattre, 1971). The phonetic difference is a matter of subtleties of timing, and it is therefore interesting in the context of handedness (McManus & Cornish, 1997) that the perception and production of geminates may be cerebellar in origin (Ivry & Gopal, 1993).

What about **asymmetry**

enclosing a manuscript I had written; the charming letter in reply had the gentlest of admonishments: ``you should notice **asymmetry** itself has an asymmetry which you have neglected''.

REFERENCES

- Delattre, P. (1971). Consonant gemination in four languages: An acoustic, perceptual, and radiographic study: I. *International Review of Applied Linguistics in Language Teaching*, 9, 31±52.
- Ivry, R.B., & Gopal, H.-S. (1993). Speech production and perception in patients with cerebellar lesions. In D.E. Meyer & S. Kornblum (Eds.), *Attention and Performance XIV: Synergies in experimental psychology, artificial intelligence, and cognitive neuroscience*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Lowe, L.A., Supp, D.M., Sampath, K., Yokoyama, T., Wright, C.V.E., Potter, S.S., Overbeek, P., & Kuehn, M.R. (1996). Conserved left-right asymmetry of nodal expression and alterations in murine situs inversus. *Nature*, 381, 158±161.
- McManus, I.C. (1980). Handedness in twins: A critical review. *Neuropsychologia*, 18, 347±355.
- McManus, I.C. (1995). Pruritus. *Lancet*, 345, 1584.
- McManus, I.C., & Cornish, K.M. (1997). Fractionating handedness in mental retardation: What is the role of the cerebellum? *Laterality* 2, 81±90.
- Newton, J., & Seagroatt, V. (1993). Why is osteoarthritis of the hip more common on the right? *Lancet*, 341, 179.
- Schiller, F. (1979). *Paul Broca: Explorer of the brain*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Venneri, A., Cubelli, R., & Caffarra, P. (1994). Perseverative dysgraphia: A selective disorder in writing double letters. *Neuropsychologia*, 32, 923±931.
- Witelson, S.F., & Bryden, M.P. (1995). Dichhaptic technique. In G. Beaumont, P.