In Ranulph's Terms

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This article gives a broad overview of the ASC's activities between 2009 and 2014, focusing on key events and initiatives of the ASC Executive Board, with a focus on ASC President Ranulph Glanville's vision for the ASC during this period, based on the author's own memories as well as public and private records. The article presents Ranulph Glanville's own terms for judging the success of the ASC's 2009-2014 period, recalls key initiatives, and concludes with a list of thoughts Ranulph Glanville offered to the ASC to contemplate moving forward.
Keywords: Ranulph Glanville, American Society for Cybernetics, cybernetics of cybernetics, ASC Past Presidents
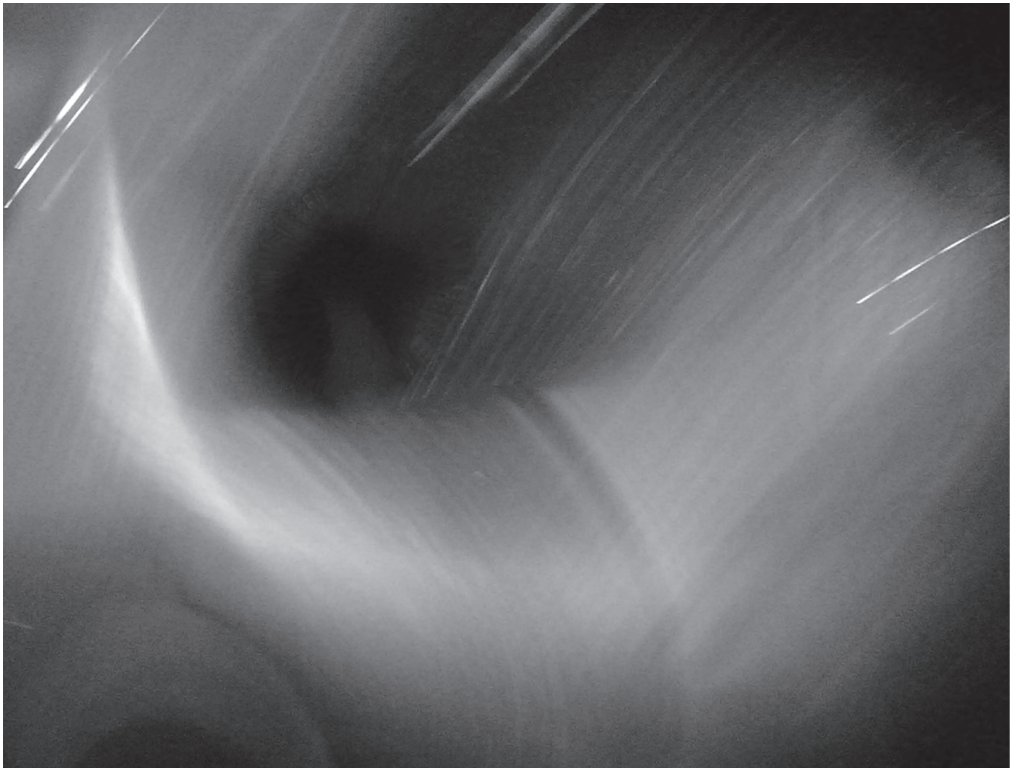
Introduction

Ranulph Glanville was the President of the American Society for Cybernetics (ASC) for two terms between 2009 and 2014. This article summarizes the activities of the ASC during this period, which, as will be shown, are inseparable from Ranulph's approach to cybernetics, as well as from his vision for and dedication to the ASC. Ranulph contributed to ASC conferences since 1978. Serving on the nominating committee for the ASC's 2006 executive board elections, Ranulph searched in vain for a candidate for the vice presidency, stood for the position himself, and was elected, alongside Louis Kauffman who became the ASC President. This set the course for what Ranulph later called "the story of the last decade of [my] life" (Glanville, 2014).

Ranulph's Terms as ASC President: 2009-2014

It was Ranulph's idea to invite the ASC's past presidents since 1976 to recapitulate their times in office at the ASC's 50th Anniversary conference at The George Washington University in Washington D.C. in August of 2014. He organized a "Cybernetics in the Past" day as a part of the program of that conference. It was also Ranulph's idea to compile written-up versions of all past presidents' presentations in this journal issue. Having been the sitting president at the time, and with his general tendency to offer the podium and attention to others rather than claiming them for himself, Ranulph did not include himself in the line-up of past presidents he assembled. In the weeks before the conference it became clear, much to his and others' disappointment, that he would not be able to travel to the anniversary conference. Although he followed much of the proceedings via a video link to his home in Portsmouth, UK and although he contributed video material to some portions

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