The first post–war ILAE congress was in New York in 1946 at the Waldorf Astoria. Although said by Lennox to be an international meeting, there was in fact only one foreign invited speaker (Grey Walter from Bristol) but the glittering programme of 45 lectures shows how far the activities of the American Branch had grown during the Second World War, with the advent of phenytoin and of EEG. The 1949 meeting was held in Paris and was a truly international gathering. The 1953 meeting was in Lisbon and there, Gastaut led an extraordinary workshop on the topic of Temporal Lobe Epilepsy; in effect putting this topic on the map and defining the parameters of the subject from both the clinical and research points of view for the next 50 years. Many of the important figures in epileptology of the age contributed to the meeting including Gastaut, Murray Falconer, Fulton, Fuster, Gibbs, Mazars, Jasper, Kaada, Margaret Lennox, William G. Lennox, Magnus, Masland, Pampiglione, Wilder Penfield, Subirana, Schwab and Merlis. The proceedings make it clear that the foundations of much of what we know today were laid around this time. The 1957 meeting was in Brussels, held in conjunction with the larger meetings of the international societies of neurology, neurosurgery, neuropathology and neurophysiology. It was opened by the King of Belgium and was an extravagant affair. The proceedings were published, although the subject of an unflattering (anonymous) review in Brain: ‘This volume seems the ultimate condemnation of giant congresses... this large volume contains a tedium of abstracts in several languages. Facts are buried in an expensive mass grave, their epitaphs a one–minute index which occupies less than three of the 700 pages’. Walshe was equally unimpressed with Penfield’s peroration ‘Penfield opened his paper at the Brussels congress with a page of complete nonsense... and ended with the recommendation that we should think more about the afterlife’ – exacerbating the long and famous feud between these two eminent men.