

# Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute



## Hanns Sachs Library and Archives Newsletter

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### From the Director

Dan Jacobs, MD

*“What is the use of a book,” thought Alice  
“without pictures or conversation”.*

—Lewis Carroll

Most of the 7500 books in our library are without pictures. We try to make up for that with an extensive collection of archival photographs and DVDs. And conversation is provided by our “Meet the Author” series and by the seminars where reading is discussed.

We have had a number of requests for permission to use our photographs from authors, publishers, and museums. Many of the requests come from colleagues who have seen our published collection of Edward Bibring photographs.

A new acquisition to our growing photographic archives is a portrait of Bill Ackerly recently taken by Allen Palmer. This represents a continuation of the *Faces of Experience: Portraits of Senior Analysts* exhibit installed at BPSI two years ago. Dr. Ackerly’s photograph is hanging in the second floor study. If you have any photos of yourself or colleagues that you would like to add to our collection, please contact us.

Those authors with whom we have had a chance to converse this year are: Stuart Hauser (*Out of the Woods: Tales of Resilient Teens*), George Prochnik (*Putnam Camp: Sigmund Freud, James Jackson Putnam, and*

*the Purpose of American Psychology*), and Marvin Krims (*The Mind According to Shakespeare: Psychoanalysis in the Bard’s Writing*).

Next year, we plan to extend our program to conversations with local artists as well as new authors. Our Fall 2007 Meet the Author Series program, featuring artist John Baker and also BPSI member Dr. Michael I. Good, can be found on page 2.

We are especially pleased that our archivist Olga Umansky has been able to put a catalog of our archival holding online (see page 3). She is also creating links to other libraries and psychoanalytic organizations so that scholars around the world can know of our collection.

Generous donations to our library (see page 2) help make our library a very special place. Thanks to all of you who helped us grow.

As the academic year ends, we ask all of you to return the books you have borrowed. Replacement costs of books misplaced or lost to private libraries are high.

The BPSI library and archives is open all summer. Steve Morandi and Olga Umansky will be here to help you. From the library staff and committee, we wish you a summer of good times and good reading.

## Recent Donations

**Dr. William Ackerly** has donated a book to the Hanns Sachs Library entitled *Sigmund Freud, coleccionista* (“Sigmund Freud, collector”), a Spanish language book that details the numerous ancient artifacts Freud kept in his office.

Over 125 books were recently donated to the Hanns Sachs Library by **Carolyn Ferris Gombosi** of Newton. The books were part of the professional library of the late Peter G. Gombosi, PhD (1941-2004). Peter became a member of BPSI in 1990. He taught for a number of years in the Advanced Training Program and in the Fellowship in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy. He was also a member of the Committee on Continuing Education.

**Dr. Judy Kantrowitz** has kindly donated several books to our library, including her new book

*Writing about Patients: Responsibilities, Risks, and Ramifications* (2006, Other Press).

**Dr. Marvin Krims** has given the library a copy of his book *The Mind According to Shakespeare: Psychoanalysis in the Bard's Writing* (2006, Praeger).

We continue to be grateful to **Dr. Morton and Raisa Newman**, whose donations support the purchase of books on child analysis.

**Dr. Michael Robbins** has donated two fascinating audio CDs containing a patient interview by Dr. Elvin Semrad (see page 5).

**Dr. Maurice Vanderpol** has graciously given our library a 24 volume set of *The Complete Psychological Works of Freud* as well as a 17 volume set of Freud's *Gesammelte Werke (Collected Works)*.

## New Volunteer: Kate Boutin

We are pleased to welcome Kate Boutin as a volunteer in the Hanns Sachs Library and Archives. Kate is earning her Master's degree in Library Science at Simmons College. Currently, she is sorting through our collection of audio materials, which contains hundreds of cassette tapes, including important talks and historical

interviews of analysts. Though currently available for listening, many of these tapes have never been cataloged, and so they go unnoticed. Kate's work will help to make this collection visible to our patrons. Future plans include the conversion of these audio materials from analog to digital format.

## Meet the Author Series

### Meet the Artist: John Baker

Monday, October 22, 2007 at 7:45 PM

John Baker is Professor of Art History at the Massachusetts College of Art. Since the conclusion of his appointment as Affiliate Scholar at BPSI (2000-2002) his collage paintings have been featured in exhibitions at Portals Gallery in Chicago (2004), Robins Egg Gallery in Lambertville, New Jersey (2005), and O.J. Art Gallery in New York City (2005-2006).

He will speak about a dream he had connected to the irretrievable loss of several sources of love and how the making of a collage painting the making was an attempt to deal with this loss.

### Meet the Author: Michael I. Good

Monday, December 10, 2007 at 7:45 PM

Dr. Good is the Editor of *The Seduction Theory in Its Second Century: Trauma, Fantasy, and Reality Today* (2006, IUP).

Review excerpt from the back cover of the book:  
“This is an important and enduringly useful volume on a complex and controversial issue, both within and outside psychoanalysis—the issues of fact, fantasy and feeling in relation to childhood abuse and seduction. It gives room for disagreement, controversy and humbling uncertainty.”

-Dr. Bennett Simon

**In the Archives****Sanford Gifford, MD and Olga Umansky, MLS****BPSI Archives Web Site**

The new BPSI Archives web site is now up and running. It features an index to all BPSI collections, individual collection sites with biographical information, detailed finding aids, cross-references and links to related archives. The BPSI Archives on the web will provide a map for our growing collections, link papers to relevant photo and audio materials, and become a live portal to wider archival resources for researchers and historians. Check us out at <http://www.bostonpsychoanalytic.org/library/archives.html>.

The new web site includes link to:

- related collections at Harvard University libraries, Library of Congress, and other archives.
- the American Psychoanalytic Association, JAPA, and other psychoanalytic institutes' archives.
- Google Scholar, PubMed, and Amazon citations.
- entries from the International Dictionary of Psychoanalysis and free e-books from Nizkor Project, Globusz Publishing, Doubleday, Page & Company, and other publishers.
- book reviews, biographies, and obituaries featured in newspapers.
- Oral History resources at the New York Psychoanalytic Society, Columbia University, British Library, and other audio archives.
- photo exhibits and anniversary sites.

**Recent Archival Research at BPSI**

BPSI continues receiving requests from various researchers and institutions to access our archival collections. The Viennese Psychoanalytic

Association (WPV) has recently asked us for photographs of our Viennese members for the WPV's centennial anniversary photo book, which is coming out in 2008.

BPSI's Archives also helped the Jewish Museum in Vienna to prepare an exhibit about Wilhelm Reich, which will take place from November 2007 to March 2008 and later travel to other museums around the world.

A Ph.D. candidate in American Studies from the University of Minnesota, Peter Kizilos-Clift, will be visiting us this summer to work with the Herbert I. Harris papers in our archive. Harris (1905-1998), a long-time member of BPSI, consulted at the Groton School and MIT and wrote many papers on psychiatry and education. Mr. Clift will be using this material for his dissertation on the history of MIT's Department of Psychiatry during the decades following World War II.

**Irmarita Putnam, MD**

A spin-off from George Prochnik's Meet the Author talk about his great-grandfather, James Jackson Putnam, was a search for information about Irmarita Kellers Putnam. She was our first Secretary of the Education Committee in 1932-33, and she made the arrangements for Hanns Sachs to become our first permanent Training Analyst, after the departure of Franz Alexander. Our search through various libraries and the Vassar Alumnae Archives yields the following data about her.

She came from Montclair, NJ, and graduated from Vassar in 1916, a classmate of Dr. Edith Jackson, the child analyst from Denver. She obtained her MD at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in 1921, when it was one of the few medical colleges that accepted women. After two years in Beijing, probably at the Rockefeller Institute, she married Tracy Putnam, the eminent neurologist and a nephew of James Jackson Putnam. Both spent a year of study abroad. Returning to Boston, Irmarita practiced

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Jungian analysis, and was then analyzed by Sigmund Freud in Vienna. She became a leader in the stormy re-organization of the BPSI, until she and her husband and young daughter moved to New York. In 1943 there was a bitter divorce and Tracy Putnam left for Los Angeles. She and her sister lived with their aging parents. Irmarita's last Vassar class note was 1964. We have no birth or death dates.

### Re-establishing Relations with Countway Medical Library

Another by-product of the Prochnik visit was re-establishing relations with Harvard University's Countway Medical Library, for the first time since the departure of Richard J. Wolfe, Curator of Rare Books and a renowned authority on New England medical history. His current successor is Jack Eckert, who introduced us to Giordana Mecagni, Project Archivist for Women in Medicine. From her we learned that the Grete Bibring papers at Countway will soon be organized and accessible to all. This archive filled over 40 document boxes, and included the famous Beth Israel Research Project on normal pregnancy.

Ms. Mecagni visited us at BPSI, we exchanged information about the Bibrings, and we learned that there are other collections of our members at Countway that we did not know existed. They include the papers of Lydia Dawes and Elizabeth Almy Cobb, the wife of Stanley Cobb (whose MGH papers were lost), and a very large Erich Lindemann archive.

### The Lucille Ritvo Interviews from Yale

Dr. Nellie Thompson, archivist at the New York Psychoanalytic Institute, shared with us a remarkable set of interviews, conducted by Dr. Ritvo in New Haven between 1963 and the 1990s. They include Anna Freud, Muriel Gardiner, and Marie and Walter Briebl, reminiscing about their early analytic experiences and their lengthy

sojourns abroad for analytic training. Dr. Gardiner, for example, recalls her first analysis in 1924, and how different it was from later conventions of analytic neutrality.

These interviews were recorded on ancient reel-to-reel tapes, otherwise unplayable, which we had transcribed by the Harvard Media Lab onto CDs that could be converted into typescripts. These will be accessible to members of the BPSI and the NY Institute.

Dr. Thompson, who visited us last fall in pursuit of her research on Bertram Lewin, donated an interesting exchange of letters between Lewin and Joseph Michaels. He reminisces about the early years of BPSI before 1933, when he commuted from New York to teach a seminar and supervise candidates. He represented Boston in our application for membership in the American Psychoanalytic Association and the International Psychoanalytic Association. He was amazed at the resistance from the latter organization, when he considered us better qualified than the Washington-Baltimore Institute.

### Donation of Spafford Ackerly Correspondence

Dr. William Ackerly has donated his father's letters to Ives Hendrick, which enables us to complete the other side of their correspondence in the Hendrick Archives. They date from the early 1940s, when the re-organization of BPSI had been completed in 1933 and the refugee analysts from Europe had established themselves. Ackerly and Hendrick had been classmates and close friends, and their intimate exchange reflects Hendrick's uneasiness in Boston and possible plans for moving away, which never came to pass.

### HD's Silent Movie "Borderline"

Although Freud disapproved of movies about psychoanalysis, one of his favorite analysands, Hilda Doolittle (known as HD), secretly made a movie in

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1930 in which she played a part, disguised by the pseudonym Helga Doorn. She collaborated on the film with Hanns Sachs, whom Freud had reproached for his role in making the 1926 G. W. Pabst film, *Secrets of a Soul*.



Hilda Dolittle. Public domain photograph.

*Borderline* was shot at Lake Geneva, Switzerland under the direction of Kenneth MacPherson and starred Paul Robeson, the great black actor, director and singer. It has just been published in a 4-DVD set of Robeson films and memorabilia. The DVDs can be borrowed from the Hanns Sachs Library, as part of our film library.

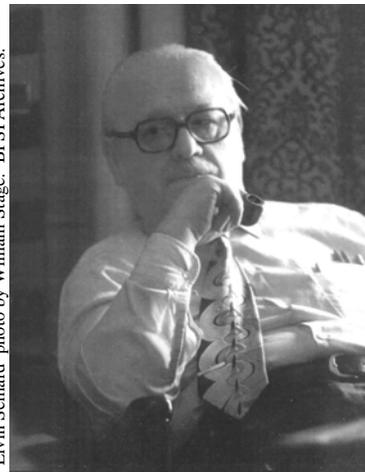
### Elvin Semrad Interview

We were delighted to receive audio recordings of Dr. Elvin Semrad from one of his former students, Dr. Michael Robbins, a member of BPSI. Dr. Robbins recorded the interview on reel-to-reel tape in 1963, and recently had it digitally transferred to a CD.

Dr. Robbins kindly offered the following comments on the importance of these recordings:

“Elvin Semrad was ward consultant during my residency at Mass Mental Health Center in the early 60s. As most of you know, he taped almost everything he did for his own use. Near the end of my residency I asked if I might tape him doing a case conference and he agreed without reservation.

The tapes gathered dust on my shelves for many years. When I listened to the material to make certain it was suitable to donate to the library I found it fascinating in ways both expected, such as Dr. Semrad’s unique ability to translate psychoanalytic principles and practices into life’s essence, “living and loving,” in a way that was uniquely inspiring to students and patients alike, and unexpected, such as his fixation on aspects of theory that we might nowadays look upon as “classical” and even find inapplicable to psychosis.



Elvin Semrad photo by William Stage. BPSI Archives.

The recording also brings to life the psychiatry of almost half a century ago, in which long-term hospitalizations and sometimes naive and indiscriminating efforts to do intensive therapy with psychotic persons were the norm, and although some major anti-psychotic and anti-depressive medications were available, in which the power of psychopharmacology for good and for ill was hardly appreciated.”

### Psychoanalytic History on the Radio

In February 2007, *The Diane Rehm Show* featured an interview with the biographer Brenda Maddox, who talked about her new book *Freud’s Wizard: Ernest Jones and the Transformation of Psychoanalysis* (2007, Perseus). You can listen to the hour-long interview online by clicking on <http://wamu.org/programs/dr/07/02/07.php>.

## In the Library

### New Books

The following is a list of books recently received by the Hanns Sachs Library:

Araoz, D. (2006). *The Symptom is not the Whole Story: Psychoanalysis for Non-Psychoanalysts*. New York: Other Press.

Bateman, A., and P. Fonagy (2005). *Psychotherapy for Borderline Personality Disorder: Mentalization-based Treatment*. London: Oxford University Press.

Black, David M. (2006). *Psychoanalysis in the 21st Century: Competitors or Collaborators?* New York: Routledge.

Cozolino, Louis (2006). *The Neuroscience of Human Relationships*. New York: W.W. Norton.

Good, Michael I. (ed.) (2006). *The Seduction Theory in Its Second Century: Trauma, Fantasy, and Reality Today*. New York: IUP.

Kantrowitz, Judy L. (2006). *Writing about Patients: Responsibilities, Risks, and Ramifications*. New York: Other Press.

Kernberg, Otto F. (2004). *Aggressivity, Narcissism, and Self-destructiveness in the Psychotherapeutic Relationship*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Krims, M. (2006). *The Mind According to Shakespeare: Psychoanalysis in the Bard's Writing*. Westport, CT: Praeger.

Reppen, J., Tucker, J., and Schulman, M. (eds.) (2004). *Way Beyond Freud: Postmodern Psychoanalysis Observed*. London: Open Gate Press.

If you have any suggestions for new books, journals, CDs, or DVDs you'd like to see in the Hanns Sachs Library, please contact Steve Morandi at 617-266-0953 or [library@bostonpsychoanalytic.org](mailto:library@bostonpsychoanalytic.org).

### Book Returns

As the spring semester ends, I would like to remind our library patrons to look around for any books that might have been taken out during the past few months. Please return any overdue books to our librarian, Steve Morandi, as soon as possible.

### Book Sale: Standard Edition

Many new items are being added to the book sale at BPSI. Included among the sale items are first editions and extra copies of books weeded from our stacks to make space. Each book is only \$5 for hardbacks, \$2 for paperbacks.

We are offering a complete 24-volume set of Freud's *Standard Edition* for \$850 to those within the BPSI community. Anyone interested should contact BPSI.

### LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP

For those who are not BPSI members or students, you may join the library for an annual fee of \$50. As a library member, you are entitled to borrow books and to the services of Steve Morandi for searches and xeroxing of materials. Additionally, you may use the PEP (Psychoanalytic Electronic Publishing) archive in the library, which allows for quick searches and printing of many full text articles from major psychoanalytic journals. For more information please call Steve at 617-266-0953 or e-mail him at [library@bostonpsychoanalytic.org](mailto:library@bostonpsychoanalytic.org).

