What else is there to say but everything?”
—Gwendolyn Brooks

This Newsletter can’t begin to say everything about our library and archives, about our plans for it and our dreams for its future. But it can give you a glimpse into what we are doing and what we hope to do.

Our greatest move forward this year was hiring Olga Umansky as BPSI’s part-time archivist. (see page 3). She is experienced in the field and devoted to making our holdings known to members and to scholars interested in psychoanalysis. She will help us make maximum use of our library web page and its possible links to other institutions.

At present, the catalogue of our book collection as well as a description of some of our archival holdings can be found on our library portion of the BPSI website. In addition, Dr. Allen Palmer’s photographs of our senior analysts have recently been added, along with brief biographies. This is the first step in putting significant photos from our large collection online.

As part of the observance of Freud’s 150th birthday, the Library Committee has brought out an in-house publication “Freud and Me,” a title taken from last year’s academic lecture by the same name. The monograph contains a forward by Phillip Freeman, the contributions of candidates who spoke at the forum (Michele Baker, Laura Crain, Kathryn Jones, Mary McCarthy, and Cris Ratiner) as well as those faculty members (Anton Kris, Anna Ornstein, Cordelia Schmidt-Hellerau, and Stephen Sternbach) who spoke about their relationship to Freud at a recent Members Seminar. This publication is now available at BPSI for those who wish to pick up a copy.

Gifts to the library have included books, photographs, and a painting. Amusing but attractive images of BPSI members and other analytic colleagues hiking in the Colorado mountains have been recently donated. Thanks to the generosity of Mort and Raisa Newman, we have funds to purchase books on child analysis and neuroscience (should you have suggestions for books in this area or any other, do not hesitate to contact Steve Morandi, our librarian). A fine portrait of Felix Deutsch has been given to us by his daughter-in-law Suzanne (see page 2).

On other matters: We are delighted that Nancy Chodorow has written a brief review of Edward Bibring Photographs the Psychoanalysts of His Time, 1932-1938 for the International Journal of Psychoanalysis. This book, containing previously unpublished photographs of many early psychoanalytic pioneers, is still available at a 25% member’s discount through our library.

(Continued on page 2)
We have just received an important donation from Mrs. Suzanne Deutsch—a portrait of her father-in-law Felix Deutsch by the Viennese painter Josef Floch (1895-1977). Felix Deutsch studied medicine at the University of Vienna and at one time served as Freud's personal physician. He and his wife Helene emigrated to Boston in 1935. Felix is seen as one of the creators of psychosomatic medicine. He served as president of BPSI from 1951 to 1954.

The painting was begun in New York and completed in Floch’s Paris studio in 1954. Floch was a well-known artist in Europe, especially among émigré analysts, many of whom owned at least one Floch painting. He was born and educated in Vienna, and exhibited there from 1922 to 1938. After a sojourn in Paris, he emigrated to New York, where he died at the age of 82. He was a prolific painter of landscapes and portraits and, in his latter years, of brightly colored abstractions.

Dr. Marvin Krims has kindly donated a copy of his recently published book The Mind According to Shakespeare: Psychoanalysis in the Bard’s Writing. According to Norman Holland, the Marston-Milbauer Eminent Scholar Professor of English at University of Florida, “Marvin Krims has written a stunning series of essays that combine the clinical experience of a distinguished psychoanalyst with the sagacity of a wise literary critic. This is a book that will reward any reader interested in Shakespeare or simply in human nature or their own inner selves”.

Peter Schur has graciously donated a set of Freud’s Gesammelte Schriften, published in German in 1924-25. This set belonged to Dr. Schur’s parents, Max and Helen Schur. Max Schur was Freud’s personal physician from 1929 to 1939, and later became a founding member of the New York Psychoanalytic Association. This set of Freud’s collected writings is especially significant because it contains the later-published volumes 11 (1928) and 12 (1934), often missing from the set due to the large number destroyed under the Nazi regime.
Meet Our New Archivist:  
Olga Umansky

Formerly a database designer at the online publishing company Ovid Technologies, Olga has over ten years experience in the library and information science field and brings a wide variety of technical and archival management skills to the Boston Psychoanalytic Archives. Her previous jobs included cataloging, preservation surveys, and web design for the special collections and manuscripts at the Boston Public Research Library, news editing for a Ukrainian radio station, and academic library circulation services.

Mrs. Umansky received her Masters of Library Science degree from Simmons College and is particularly experienced in the preservation of archival media, digital imaging, and internet publishing. She is very enthusiastic to combine her technical knowledge with the love of archives, history and genealogy. “I am delighted to work with such a unique collection of materials. I hope to bring visibility and increase ease of access to the BPSI Archives for our membership and the global psychoanalytic community.” Among the projects Olga is working on: further organization and preservation of BPSI collections, updating of archival procedures and policies, design of a BPSI Archives web site, and conversion of photo and audio materials into digital format. She is in the office on Wednesdays and Thursdays and can be reached at archives@bostonpsychoanalytic.org.

George Prochnik’s Biography of Boston’s First Psychoanalyst

Several years ago Mr. George Prochnik, the grandson of James Jackson Putnam, paid a visit to our archives. He was, at that time, engaged in writing a biography of his great-grandfather, Boston’s first psychoanalyst and founder of our first Society in 1914. Putnam had met Freud at the Clark Lectures in Worcester, invited him to the family camp in the Adirondacks, and maintained a lively correspondence with Freud until his death in 1918. We showed him what archives we had of his family: a few items about his grandfather, whose papers are in Countway Medical Library, and a substantial amount about Dr. Marian Putnam, his daughter and founder of the J. J. Putnam Children’s Center.

During Mr. Prochnik’s visits we learned a lot that we didn’t know about our founder, and Mr. Prochnik learned more about his aunt, Molly Putnam, including the transcript of an interview with her, taped at her summer home in Little Compton shortly before her death. He has now completed and published his biography, Putnam Camp: Sigmund Freud, James Jackson Putnam, and the Purpose of American Psychology, which he will discuss at BPSI in the spring of 2007 (see page 5).

Sharing Archives Gives Glimpse Of Analytic History

More mute, ancient tape recordings have yielded their secrets. A half-dozen reel-to-reel tapes from the 1960s to 1980s were loaned to us by Dr. Nellie Thompson, archivist at the New York Psychoanalytic Society and Institute. They were unplayable until we had them converted to digital format.

These tapes were mainly interviews conducted by Dr. Lucille Ritvo of Yale, with Anna Freud, Helene Deutsch, Muriel Gardiner, Walter and Marie Briehl and our own Anna Wolff. The Briehl tapes were especially interesting in giving a vivid picture of life in Vienna for the foreign students who were undertaking analytic training in the 1920s and early 1930s. Walter Briehl studied medicine at the University of Vienna, while his wife Maria taught English at the school Anna Freud and Dorothy Burlingham created for the children of analysts. The other two teachers were Peter Blos and Erik Erikson—Blos emigrated to New York and Erikson came first to Boston and later to the Kris Child Study Center at Yale. Both Briehls completed their analytic training in Vienna, of which they give lively accounts. Muriel Gardiner, author of Code Name Mary, a memoir focused on her 1934-1939 involvement with the anti-Nazi movement, was prominent in helping Austrian refugees escape after the Anschluss in 1938, along with Helen Tartakoff and Walter Langer of Boston.
Meet the Author Series

Janna Smith, MSW
with Edith Pearlman

On October 24, 2006, Edith Pearlman interviewed Janna Smith about her most recent work “My Father is a Book: A Memoir of Bernard Malamud”. Smith’s articles and essays have appeared in publications including The New York Times, The International Herald Tribune and The Christian Science Monitor. She studied American History and Literature in college and then pursued a graduate degree in clinical social work. Smith continues to work part-time as a clinical social worker, teaching psychotherapy at The Cambridge Hospital, as well as in private practice.

Edith Pearlman has published over one hundred and fifty stories. Her work has appeared in Best American Short Stories, the O. Henry Prize Stories collection, Best Short Stories from the South, and The Pushcart Prize Collection. Her first collection of stories, Vagnita, won the Drue Heinz Prize for Literature, and her second, Love Among the Greats, won the Spokane Annual Fiction Prize. Her third, How to Fall, was published by Sarabande Press in February 2005. It won the Mary McCarthy Prize.

“No biography of Malamud, one of the great Jewish-American writers, has appeared since his death in 1986, at age 72. His daughter’s beautiful memoir offers the first intimate look at his life. And it is intimate, drawing on correspondence and early journals that describe Malamud’s struggle to define himself as a writer and express the anguish that afflicted him all his life: insecurity about his talent, sadness and shame over his childhood as the son of an unsuccessful and unimaginative immigrant grocer and a mother who went mad. She offers a fascinating look, as to how Malamud’s discovery of Freud helped him grasp that “grand moral struggles belong to the common man as much as to the hero.” —Publisher’s Weekly

Dr. David Brendel

On Monday, November 13, BPSI welcomed one of its own candidates, Dr. David Brendel, to discuss his new book Healing Psychiatry: Bridging the Science/Humanism Divide. Dr. Brendel is Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, Deputy Editor of the Harvard Review of Psychiatry, and Associate Director of the Psychiatry Residency Program at Massachusetts General and McLean Hospitals.

“Healing Psychiatry today is torn by opposing sensibilities. Is it primarily a science of brain functioning or primarily an art of understanding the human mind in its social and cultural context? Competing conceptions of mental illness as amenable to scientific explanation or as deeply complex and beyond the reach of empirical study have left the field conceptually divided between science and humanism. In Healing Psychiatry David (Continued on page 5)
Meet the Author Series

(Continued from page 4)

Brendel takes a novel approach to this stubborn problem. Drawing on the classical American pragmatism of Charles Sanders Peirce, William James, and John Dewey, as well as contemporary work of pragmatic bioethicists, Brendel proposes a “clinical pragmatism” that synthesizes scientific and humanistic approaches to mental health care. Psychiatry, he argues, must integrate scientific and humanistic models by emphasizing the practical, pluralistic, participatory, and provisional aspects of clinical diagnosis and treatment.”

- MIT Press

Dr. Stuart Hauser

To begin the 2007 Meet the Author series, Dr. Stuart Hauser will be speaking about his latest book Out of the Woods: Tales of Resilient Teens, co-written with Joseph Allen and Eve Golden. This program will take place on Monday, February 12, 2007.

Dr. Hauser is the former president of Judge Baker Children’s Center and a Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Hauser continues in his role as principal investigator of Judge Baker’s Over Time and Across Generations Project.

“How do any of us grow up emotionally healthy? That’s the central question asked by child-guidance specialist Hauser and others as they studied the adaptive capabilities of a select group of teenage residents of High Valley, a residential psychiatric facility. A succession of interviews conducted with four adolescents, all of whom were under the age of 15 when they entered High Valley, follows a lengthy introduction that describes the research methodology. Undertaken during the course of a dozen years, the interviews clearly reveal the psychological obstacles and challenges the kids faced and overcame. Unlike most studies of high-risk youth, this one, written largely in lay terms, focuses on the positive, and although the authors certainly never claim to have all the answers, they do provide some useful insight that can guide educators and others dedicated to keeping dysfunctional young people ‘out of the woods.’”

— Stephanie Zvirin, Booklist

Dr. George Prochnik


“This delightfully written, erudite book intertwines the lives and works of Freud and Putnam, along with cultural and intellectual movements of the time, such as Progressivism, spiritualism, transcendentalism and American Hegelianism. While Freud’s name became a household word, Putnam’s views, deftly explained by Prochnik, drawing on long-lost correspondence, have arguably prevailed in American psychology.”

— Publisher’s Weekly
In the Library: Other News

New Books

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


PEP Update

The Psychoanalytic Electronic Publishing (PEP) Database will undergo its most dramatic update in December 2006. The 20 psychoanalytic journals currently in the database will be updated through the year 2003. The update also will include the first electronic version of Strachey’s *Complete Psychological Works of Freud*. This will allow any section of the full text of the 24 volumes to be searched by keywords and printed.

Book Sale

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. Please make sure to occasionally check the book sale shelves on the basement level and in the third floor library for new additions. Each book is only $5 for hardbacks, $2 for paperbacks.

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.