One of the important tasks of our library is to record in books, journals, papers, audio and video recordings the evolution of psychoanalytic thought and BPSI’s contributions to it. We are currently adding interviews with senior analysts and posting audio recordings of our Meet the Author programs on the member’s site (p. 2). Many non-BPSI scholars are delving into our archives (p. 4-5). We hope in the future to encourage more of our own members to engage in historical research by circulating a list of suggested archival projects. Recent donations of the correspondence of Grete Bibring and Freud and the gift of the recorded lectures of Karen Horney and related materials, for instance, are worth examining. John Baker, PhD, has enlisted our librarian Olga Umansky’s assistance in exploring the history behind Wolf Man’s paintings and will present his findings at the winter meetings of APsaA. Wherever your curiosity leads you, we are here to help.

In 2017, the Library Committee introduced a new series of webcasts, "Voice of Experience", where senior members talk about important milestones of their lives and careers. Our first interview with Malkah T. Notman, MD, focused on the experiences of women in psychoanalysis.

Arnold Modell, MD, talked about his contributions to psychoanalysis in an interview with Dan Jacobs, MD, recorded in the library on June 23, 2017 (the video is posted online). A supervising and training analyst at BPSI and a clinical professor of social psychiatry at the Harvard Medical School, Modell is the author of five influential books: Object Love and Reality: An Introduction to a Psychoanalytic Theory of Object Relations (1968), Psychoanalysis in a New Context (1984), The Private Self (1996), Other Times, Other Realities: Toward a Theory of Psychoanalytic Treatment (1996), and Imagination and the Meaningful Brain (2006).

On Tuesday, October 17 at 7:30-9:30pm, Ellen Pinsky discussed her new book Death and Fallibility in the Psychoanalytic Encounter: Mortal Gifts (Routledge, 2017). The event drew a large crowd. The book is praised by many eminent analysts:

“Mortal Gifts is a necessary book—necessary for analysts and necessary for the analyses they conduct. In it Ellen Pinsky addresses a long-neglected issue in the practice of psychoanalysis: the analyst’s failure to include in the very fiber of the analysis the fact of his or her mortality. This omission is not a minor matter. It arises from deep-seated fears in the analyst that prevent him or her from being fully present in the analysis-facing one’s mortality is an integral part of being emotionally present. The book is intelligent, honest, beautifully written, and emotionally moving. What it has to teach is an essential part of the process of becoming an analyst.” ~ Thomas Ogden

“Ellen Pinsky’s gorgeously written Mortal Gifts creates wonder and despair. Pinsky describes the fundamental humanness of psychoanalysis through incisive, wide-ranging, and playful literary and theoretical portrayals, always remembering the extraordinary self-knowledge, internal freedom, and sense of being that, perhaps, only analysis can provide. Yet she troubles the reader, asking whether together with this promise there has been, since Freud, something foundationally unethical in the psychoanalytic attitude. Along with human fallibility and mortality, have lack of empathy and the analyst’s narcissism historically pervaded analytic work?” ~ Nancy J. Chodorow

On Monday, January 22, 2018 at 7:30-9:30pm, Nathan Kravis is visiting BPSI to talk about his new book On the Couch: A Repressed History of the Analytic Couch from Plato to Freud (MIT Press, 2017). As Otto F. Kernberg writes in his review of the book, “in this original integration of psychoanalysis, art history, furniture history, and history of medicine, Nathan Kravis achieves an unexpected and entirely fresh perspective on the origins of the use of the analytic couch. A large number of beautiful and provocative images complement a text that manages to be both erudite and lighthearted. On the Couch is an exciting new cultural history of recumbent posture as well as a meditation on the central—and today much disputed—icon of psychoanalytic treatment. This book opens up and changes the way we think about the use of the couch in psychoanalysis.”

About the Author: Nathan Kravis is a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medical College, where he is also Associate Director of the DeWitt Wallace Institute for the History of Psychiatry, and a Training and Supervising Analyst at the Columbia University Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research.

Audio recordings of past book events have been posted on the member’s site. Also available upon request.

In the Library

As always, we used the quiet days of the summer to attend to our long-term space and storage project. Forty boxes of unprocessed books have been brought to the library from our off-site storage facility. Most of these books came from donations of our early members and had been previously stored on the 4th floor of 15 Commonwealth Avenue in Boston. Our talented summer volunteer, Joshua Litwin, helped us create book inventories and compared donations to the library holdings.

Tony Viti is now adding new titles to the ongoing book sale and organizing our large German book collection for the future donation to a library in a German-speaking country. We also brought back BPSI’s collection of audio and video tapes. Videos will be processed and all original contents will need to be digitized. Another important project completed in the summer was binding of fragile and damaged library books pulled from the shelves for repairs last year. Over forty books were sent to Acme Book Binding, repaired, and returned to BPSI library shelves this fall.

You may have also noticed a new Library Service section on the BPSI web site. Drew Brydon developed this user-friendly and visually appealing online payment shop where anyone can securely request and purchase archival materials, articles, books, photographs, video and audio recordings using their credit cards.
In the Library

Olga Umansky, MLS

The Journal Hub

The journal subscription season has begun! Two core psychoanalytic publications, Journal of American Psychoanalytic Association (JAPA) and International Journal of Psychoanalysis (IJP) are available to members and students at discounted block rates. Since 2016, the block subscriptions are managed by our librarian, Olga Umansky. The new and exciting opportunity this year is an offer of special society rates on 9 psychoanalytic journals from Taylor and Francis. Member of BPSI can often save around 40% on their subscriptions. If you missed the announcement, contact Olga for details and instructions before the year ends.

Please remember that our library subscribes to many online psychoanalytic journals. Access is enabled for all who come to BPSI and connect to our free Wi-Fi network. Simply bookmark the Library Resource page and download current articles while you are at BPSI. Several journals have been discontinued over the years due to budget constraints, yet the library staff can usually get what you need via interlibrary loans. If you want to support our library, consider ‘Adopting a Journal’ from our current or discontinued collection of periodicals. Your donation will help to off-set the rising cost of subscriptions. In addition to journals, you can also donate a book from the library by clicking on the Wish List. All donations are tax-deductible.

Periodically publishers decide to feature special journal issues for free. The International Journal of Applied Psychoanalytic Studies has recently offered free access to the Special Issue: The American Psychological Association and the War on Terror, published in July 2017. The papers in this volume, written by well-known psychoanalysts and psychologists, look at the impact of the American Psychological Association’s (APA’s) decision to collaborate with the Department of Defense in the years following the September 11 attacks in 2001, while simultaneously denying this collaboration both to their members and to the public at large for over a decade. A compelling reading not to miss.

Abstracts of recent publications by BPSI members continue to be featured in the BPSI Authors and Film Series sections of the website—a new title is announced on the front page each month. If you have recently published a paper, let the library know and get in line to feature your work.

Your Generous Donations

Drs. Shari and Robert Thurer made a generous gift to our library, sponsoring an acquisition of The Collected Works of D.W. Winnicott, an impressive 12-volume set published by the Oxford University Press at the end of 2016. The volumes include previously unpublished Winnicott letters, reviews, obituaries, drawings, and comments and discussions on political and psychoanalytic matters and will now circulate in the library. The set is shelved with our Child Analysis collection (Call Number 2.1) located behind the librarian’s desk. Our devoted Library Committee (LC) member, Shari Thurer, is an avid reader and a talented writer who often contributes book reviews to this newsletter (see p.7). She is the author of The Myths of Motherhood: How Culture Reinvents the Good Mother (1994) and The End of Gender: A Psychological Autopsy (2005).

Earlier this year, another LC member, Marcia Smith-Hutton, LICSW, donated the funds to purchase The Complete Works of W.R. Bion (Karnac, 2013). This 16-volume publication, edited by Chris Mawson with the assistance of Francesca Bion, reflects many years of meticulous work to publish new Bion’s works and correct previously published papers. Marcia says that she values Bion’s writings because “he makes us think all the time”. She feels that he introduced clinicians to the most intuitive piece of therapy where each session is viewed as a new experience without “memory and desire”. Often obscure and even difficult to read, Bion came closest to intersubjectivity before the theory was formulated. The new Bion volumes are located in the Psychoanalytic Theory section (Call Number 5.3) in the first alcove to the left of the library entrance.

Bennett Simon, Roberta Apfel, and Ana-Maria Rizzuto recently donated great titles from their personal libraries. Many authors sent us their books (see p. 8). Dan Jacobs, Richard Gomberg, Malkah Notman, Anna Wolff, and Rita Teusch continue “adopting” journals in our periodical collections. Your continued support keeps our library thriving. Thank you!
In the Archives

Olga Umansky, MLS

The New Judy Kantrowitz Collection

Judy Kantrowitz recently donated her papers to BPSI Archives. Among the treasures in our possession are her unpublished talks, book reviews and panel discussions. Judy L. Kantrowitz, PhD, is a Training and Supervising Analyst at the Boston Psychoanalytic Society & Institute (BPSI), and an Associate Clinical Professor at Harvard Medical School. She is on the Editorial Board of Psychoanalytic Quarterly, and the author of the following books: The Myths of Termination (2014), Writing about Patients (2006), and The Patient’s Impact on the Analyst (1996). The new archival collection was processed by the summer archival management program student… Drew Brydon! Known to most BPSI members as a Library and Education Program Coordinator, Drew is soon to complete his Master of Library Science degree at Simmons College. A detailed description along with the finding aid for this new collection has been posted online.

Karen Horney’s Lectures and Papers

Susan Quinn, the author of A Mind of Her Own: The Life of Karen Horney (Summit Books, 1989), donated new Karen Horney materials to our archives. The donation includes thirteen reels of Horney’s audio lectures, copies of her letters to Karl Abraham, adolescent diaries, her Notes on Children, 1912-1918, and a notebook with her remarks on a wide range of readings—from the Talmud to Goethe.

George Wilbur’s Letters—A Precious Find

Peg McCarthy contacted our archives offering two interesting letters of George Wilbur from January 1933. Ms. McCarthy found these letters in the papers of her grandfather, Theodore Zercher, who lived in Topeka, Kansas and was a friend and class-mate of Dr. Wilbur. The letters offer Dr. Wilbur’s ideas on psychosis. An early member of the Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute, George Wilbur was born in Larned, Kansas, went to Harvard College and Harvard Medical School and later practiced psychiatry and psychoanalysis in Iowa and on Cape Cod. He was the second editor of the American Imago assuming the position after the death of its founder Hanns Sachs in 1947 and holding it until 1963. BPSI Archives holds a small collection of Wilbur’s early cases as well as his correspondence with Otto Rank, Hanns Sachs, Theodor Reik, Helene Deutsch, and Max Barsis.

Addition to the Grete Bibring Collection

Ana-Maria Rizzuto has offered BPSI a box of Grete Bibring’s correspondence with Sigmund Freud (copies). Grete gave these papers to Ana-Maria for safe-guarding when she deposited originals to the Sigmund Freud Archive at the Library of Congress.

Recent Inquiries and Research

Barbara Schildkrout, MD, an Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, in the Department of Psychiatry at Beth Israel visited our archives to look at Spafford Ackerly’s letters in the Ives Hendrick’s collection. Dr. Shildkrout is revisiting Ackerly’s research on the functioning of frontal lobes.

Film producers, Kevin Hinchey and Glenn Orkin, requested 11 images from the Edward Bibring Photograph collection for their nearly completed documentary about Wilhelm Reich. Reich started as Freud’s student in Vienna and tragically died in Federal prison accused of being a maverick scientist. His books were banned and burnt by the US government in the 1950s. While he became known for his controversial studies of the “orgone” energy and “cloudbusting”, Reich remains an important author of influential books, such as Character Analysis (1933), The Mass Psychology of Fascism (1933) and The Sexual Revolution (1936). The Wilhelm Reich Documentary Film Project intends “to correct and dispel distorted narratives.” While the film is still in production, a trailer can be watched online. The photo above from our Bibring Photograph Collection shows Wilhelm Reich in 1927.
Elizabeth Danto, PhD, the author of *Freud’s Free Clinics: Psychoanalysis and Social Justice, 1918–1938* (2005), requested the Oral History Workshop materials for her new article about Ernst Kris. A long-time friend of BPSI Archives, Professor Danto is a Curator of the *Freud/Tiffany* exhibit at the Freud Museum in London. She kindly donated copies of the exhibit catalog to our library.

Alex Petrillo, Assistant of Professor Patrick Weil of Yale Law School inquired about Paul Roazen's papers for Weil’s book about the Treaty of Versailles and a former US Ambassador to the Soviet Union and France, William Bullitt. Paul Roazen was a historian who wrote numerous books about Freud, Edward Glover, Helene Deutsch, and the early days of psychoanalysis. At the time of Roazen’s death in 2005, he was working on a study about Freud’s and Bullitt’s friendship and their strange collaboration on the book *Thomas Woodrow Wilson: A Psychological Study*, published in 1967 and questioned by Freud’s biographers ever since.


Ellen Goldberg, PhD, our Library Committee member, is looking at the new Hampstead Children Clinic materials, collected by the film producer Joan Tewkesbury in 1976 and given to our archives last year. The collection includes transcripts and audio recordings not included in the released documentary. Ellen is working on an article about struggles and perseverance of the Hampstead staff in the face of frequent financial difficulties.

John Baker, PhD, our Affiliate Scholar Member, and Olga Umansky are researching literature on the Wolf Man’s art, his early artistic influences and Russian heritage for the Oral History Workshop presentations at the winter APsA meetings in New York. The centenary of Freud’s publication *From the History of an Infantile Neuroses* falls on 2018, so the winter workshop will focus on Freud’s famous patient and the history of the case. The Sigmund Freud Archive at the Library of Congress holds an extensive collection of Sergius Pankejeff’s papers including 27 boxes of his talented paintings and drawings.

**Freud Returns to Vienna**

Aurelia Young, the daughter of Sigmund Freud’s acclaimed sculptor, Oscar Nemon, contacted our archives to share news about the unveiling of Freud’s new statue in Vienna on June 4th, 2018. Oscar Nemon first sculpted Freud in 1931, in the carved wooden bust that Freud called “an astonishingly life-like impression.” Thirty years later, Oscar Nemon was commissioned by BPSI to come to Boston and sculpt another bust “based on studies made during Freud’s lifetime”. Cast in bronze and unveiled at BPSI on October 19, 1963, the bust remains planted in our library to this day.

In 1936, Nemon also created a full-length seated portrait for Freud’s eightieth birthday. Intended for the Vienna Psychoanalytic Society, it was never installed in Austria due to the Anschluss. An enlarged version of the portrait was placed in the New York Psychoanalytic Society in 1947. Only in 1970, thanks to D.W. Winnicott’s efforts, the full seated bronze statue was erected in Hampstead (see the photo). A monument, which will be unveiled in Vienna eighty years after Freud had to leave the city, is a twin to the Hampstead bronze. The project is partly sponsored by the Medical University of Vienna, but fundraising continues to ensure installation in the anniversary year.

Viviane Chetrit-Vatine is a training and supervising analyst for adults and children, a researcher in both France and Israel, a former President of the Israeli Psychoanalytic Association, and she has published in French and English journals. (e.g. International Journal of Psychoanalysis (2004, 85 (4) 841-850) “Primal Seduction, Matricial Space and Asymmetry in the Psychoanalytic Encounter”). The title of her book spiked my curiosity, and I found the clarity of her thought, argument and writing style impressive. Her thesis can be summarized as follows: Given the double asymmetry of the analytic encounter, which she describes as both an ethical and primal seduction, the analyst is required to be an “ethical subject” guided by an ethics of “responsibility for the other”. Chetrit-Vatine begins with an overview of Freud’s and other analysts’ views of ethics and then draws extensively on the writings of Emmanuel Levinas (French philosopher on Ethics, 1906-1995) and Jean Laplanche (for example, Laplanche (1997). The theory of seduction and the problem of the other. Int. J. Psycho-Anal. 78: 653-66.). She also references the works of French analysts and philosophers less familiar to North American analysts, such as Bokanowski, Brun, Assoun, Aulagnier, Jonas, Kristeva, and Rousillion, which further enriched this book.

Levinas described maternity, pregnancy and the womb as an ethical space because “it metaphorizes the capacity for making a space for the other, even at the risk for my being”. Posing an ethics of “responsibility for the other”, he suggests this ethic resides in the feminine-maternal dimension of the adult, “in his/her potential capacity to let him or herself be touched, penetrated, taken hostage, interpellated by the other’s fragility. This feminine maternal order makes the analyst capable of being receptive, capable of emotionally cathexed listening, of recognizing alterity, of respecting the limits of this other, and, therefore, of affirming him” (p. 163). Chetrit-Vatine argues that Laplanche deemphasized the ethical dimensions arising from the nature of the analytic situation, and so did other analysts who have focused on the maternal in the analytic encounter (containing -Bion), (holding -Winnicott). She convincingly shows that there is an analogy between the patient in analysis and a child’s legitimate need for and expectation of an ethical other, a need that requires satisfaction, and, if it has not been, it still awaits it. With Laplanche, she believes that the analyst, to a large extent, provokes the transference that ensues in the treatment s/he provides, and carries the responsibility for its consequences. I thought that Chetrit-Vatine’s reflections on the analyst’s passion were illuminating. She cites Bion’s view that passion consists of love, hate and a search for knowledge and can be described as “an optimal emotional position” (p.61). Like Bion, she distinguishes it from countertransference, understood as evidence of repression.

I found Chetrit-Vatine’s book intellectually stimulating, eloquent, clinically accessible, and highly relevant given our profession’s struggle to come to terms with violations of patients by some of our colleagues. Chetrit-Vatine’s proposed ethics for psychoanalysis parallels the ethics inherent in the mother (primary caretaker)-child relationship, especially with regard to its essential asymmetry and taboos. The patient has entrusted him/herself into our care at the point of maximal vulnerability, is essentially unknowable, and has a series of rights that the author beautifully outlines. Chetrit-Vatine’s proposed ethics is one that comes before the desire for knowledge and truth, it is an ethics rooted in a “feminine” position of “responsibility for the other”, rather than a “masculine” focus on power. I highly recommend this very rich and important book to all analysts and everyone interested in an ethics for psychoanalysis.

~ reviewed by Rita Teusch, PhD


With humour and honesty, experienced clinicians talk about the pain and privilege of doing psychoanalytic work. The opportunities for growth by both patient and analyst are movingly described, as are the misunderstandings that can make the work so difficult. An intimate portrait of life behind the couch. The featured analysts include BPSI members, Nancy Chodorow and Jane Kite.

~ recommended by Dan Jacobs, MD

In Elizabeth’s Strout’s Anything Is Possible, a farmer watches his barns burn down in a fire possibly set by the town’s public masturbator, whom he exonerates. The farmer’s decency is set against the petty nastiness and ugly sexual secrets of other residents of Amgash, Illinois many of whose primary source of entertainment seems to be shabby gossip. These Amgash folks are not the inhabitants of Little House On the Prairie. True, there are moments of grace and kindness among them, but those moments alternate with shared schadenfreude. Strout paints an interlocking chain of nine portraits of individuals,warts and all, that combine to create a realistic panorama of life in a depressed farming town. Many of these characters have appeared in other Strout novels, but here take their turn in the spotlight.

While most of her characters lead thwarted lives of quiet desperation, they do not think of leaving Amgash. In fact, they disparage those who do get away, like Lucy Barton, the subject of another Strout novel. Barton, here a best-selling author, hails from extreme poverty, including a background of dumpster-diving. She returns to Amgash briefly, after seventeen years, to visit her brother and sister, and proceeds to have a panic attack. Her father was the masturbator.

Strout is an omniscient narrator who eavesdrops on her characters’ thoughts and feelings. The psychoanalytic reader will admire her insights, even as her characters themselves are highly defended. Fatty Patty observes her mother’s infidelity and thereafter cannot have sex. Pete, Lucy’s brother, son of the sexually inappropriate father, withdraws into children’s books. All these dynamics are psychoanalytically true. We see them in our patients, maybe in ourselves. Strout’s writing is spare and accessible; the dramatic turns are understated. I had a hard time leaving Amgash, claustrophobic as it is, but I found myself mesmerized by the dynamics of a place where, like the Boston Cheers bar, “everybody knows your name,” but no one tells the truth.

~ reviewed by Shari Thurer, ScD

In the Media

How Do We Feel About Freud?

In a recent Guardian article “How We Feel About Freud”, a well-known British psychoanalyst and writer, Susie Orbach, skillfully defends Freud’s legacy in a debate with an academic writer, Frederick Crews. Their conversation was prompted by a recent publication of Crew’s book Freud: The Making of an Illusion (Metropolitan Books, 2017). Frederic Crews, known for decades as a fierce opponent of Freud’s ideas, produced a new 600-page biographical study to further question Freud’s integrity. Susie Orbach explains why she still finds Freud’s ideas “illuminating”, arguing that "the listening/talking cure is alive and well and growing." Crews’s book was widely reviewed in the American and British press this fall. The Times reviewer David Aranovich calls it “a book full of fury.” George Prochnik titled his New York Times review “The Curious Conundrum of Freud’s Persistent Influence”. While Prochnik salutes the author’s attempt to compile “a full roster of Freud’s blunders between 1884 and 1900 at the new level of detail”, he also wonders what drives Crews “to stab the corpse again.” A writer himself, Prochnik is no stranger to psychoanalysis. His book Putnam Camp (Other Press, 2006) documents Freud’s only visit to America in 1909, which led to his unforeseen friendship with James Jackson Putnam, Prochnik’s great-grandfather and the founder of the first Boston Psychoanalytic Society in 1914.

Insight Into Psychoanalysis: New Film Projects

PEP and the Psychoanalysis Unit at University College London have teamed up to produce a series of films featuring contemporary analysts and their influential papers. Twenty nine analysts have been interviewed so far including two BPSI members, Judy L. Kantrowitz talking about “The External Observer and the Patient-Analyst Match” and Lawrence J. Brown discussing “Bion’s Ego Psychology: Implications for an Intersubjective View of Psychic Structure”. The list also includes Warren S. Poland, Otto F. Kernberg, Stefano Bolognini, Ron Britton, Irma Bremen Pick, Peter Fonagy, Edna O’Shaughnessy, Virginia Ungar, David Bell, and many others. You can watch all interviews in the PEP/UCL Top Authors Project via PEP Video channel or check out a 12-minute overview of excerpts.

In another short-film series Shrink, directed by Teddy Blanks and Alex Karpovsky, smart and charismatic celebrities who have been in therapy for years share what they have learned—all in under two minutes. The first season features Sarah Silverman, Susan Orlean, Lena Dunham, Gary Shteyngart, Kimberly Peirce and Natasha Lyonne. Available online.
# New Books

The following is a list of books acquired by, or donated to, the Hanns Sachs Library since July 2017:


# In the Library


# Book Sale

The Book Sale in the Community Room has been replenished with many new titles. Any book is just $1. Stop by to browse the stack for bargains and treasures—books are arranged alphabetically by author.

Checks, cash or online payments are accepted—leave the money with Olga or Drew.

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