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THALASSA is the journal of the Sándor Ferenczi Society, Budapest.

THALASSA is the title of Sándor Ferenczi's classical work.

THALASSA symbolically refers to the sea, the womb, the origin, the source.

THALASSA is an interdisciplinary journal devoted to free investigations in psychoanalysis, culture and society.

THALASSA has roots in the historical traditions of Hungarian psychoanalysis, but is not committed to any particular school or authority.

THALASSA welcomes all original contributions, historical, theoretical, or critical, dealing with the common problems of psychoanalysis and the humanities.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENT ISSUE (2005/2–3)

The present issue publishes essays and working papers examining the life and work, the influences and parallels of Attila József (1905–1937), one of the greatest Hungarian poet of the twentieth century. With the publication of this volume we commemorate the 100. anniversary of his birth. The volume is introduced by **FERENC ERŐS**.

MAJOR ARTICLES

ANTAL BÓKAY, Self-analysis and poetic construction in the poetry of Attila József

It was a crucial task of modern poets to achieve a linguistic construct, a new form of self as a center of existence and understanding. In the early modern symbolist and post-symbolist poetry the self was understood as an objectification of inner experiences, the search for inner essences through symbolic and metaphoric meaning. Late modern poetry went one step back to find the more basic, pre-oedipal construct of the self. Attila József, the major Hungarian late modern poet, created the objective correlate of this search back to the poetic representation of primary narcissism. His 1925 poem *Tiszta szívvel* (“With a Pure Heart”) presents this journey as a process of self-analysis.

ZOLTÁN VARGA, Fragmentarity, intimacy and regularity in Attila József's *Szabad-ötletek jegyzéke*

The paper analyzes one of the most famous and most scandalous narrative text of Attila József, the *Szabad-ötletek jegyzéke két ülésben* (“A register of free associations in two sessions”). Avoiding the debate over the poetic value of this text “trouvé”, which were published after his death, the author points out some inner and unconscious poetic strategies and structures which make the poetic efficacy of the text. One of the major conclusions of the analysis is that linguistic automatisms, puns, chocking proximity of different verbal registers express a hopeless search for an ideal dialogue partner in the discourse of the subject of *Szabad-ötletek jegyzéke*.

GYÖRGY PÉTER HÁRS–ZOLTÁN KOMÁLOVICS, The language of the object loss – on the margin of the literature

The essay examines the representational system of “Patologika”, a text written by Gyula Juhász, a Hungarian poet while he was treated at a psychiatric clinic in Budapest 1917. The authors focus on the phenomenon of ‘object loss’, which simultaneously means the loss of the beloved being and that of any writeable theme. The authors explore the incapacity of writing, using the term “unoccupied language” (Juliet Mitchell), which means – according to Mitchell – words that are metaphores, similes and symbolic equations. These words are expressions of feelings rather than those of meanings. The paper also aims at exploring certain connections between the original and the guest text. The intertextual dynamics unfold by way of interpolated quotations and words that become the representations of the self-cencealment and self-recovery at the same time.

ORSOLYA PAPP, Alterations in the ‘space of reception’: divergent interpretations of *Füst* by Attila József

This essay attempts to examine, in the light of modern psychoanalytic of art and artistic reception, some interpretations of Attila József's poem *Füst* (“Smoke”), given by a specific group of readers. It focuses on the “transformation” model of literary experience developed by Norman N. Holland, and critically discusses the literary uses of certain concepts springing from object relation theories. The author suggests a careful analysis of every single literary work in order to decide whether it can be considered as a transitional object. The aspect emphasized here is the capacity of the poem for arousing the feelings, memories and patterns of the early mother-child relationship. The paper also touches upon the different ways in the construction of meaning specific for persons suffering from psychiatric problems.

JUDIT ZSÁK, “Dupes of orphanhood”. Ottó Orbán and the Cult of Attila József

The article focuses on the intertextual relationship between Attila József and Ottó Orbán's (post)modern poetry. Orbán deconstructs and reinterprets *the literary cult of Attila József* and selfconstruction embodied in it. Orbán in his book titled *The Power of Poetry* (1994) wrote poems with a split personality, one part of his text represents the vulnerable Attila József, i.e. manifestation of his tragic life, the other pieces express the total rejection of his sufferings. The oeuvre of Orbán is characterized by this duality: he himself identifies with both sides.

WORKSHOP**GÁBOR PANETH, “The song of the Cosmos” and Imre Hermann's theory of thermic orientation**

The focus of this essay is Attila József's early masterpiece *A Kozmosz éneke* (“The song of the Cosmos”), a sonnet wreath written in his age of eighteen. The poem is permeated with concepts and ideas borrowed from the natural sciences, namely, from thermodynamics. According to the author, it originates not only from purely theoretical reasons. Rather, his interest in thermodynamics may be viewed as signs of pathology. These may be connected with the theory of thermic and olfactory orientation, developed by the Hungarian psychoanalyst Imre Hermann. In Hermann's views, this orientation predominates in the pathological states of regression. The author argues that these pathological symptoms are thoroughly present in the life work of the poet. Nevertheless, he was not mentally ill, even though his personality showed, without doubt, some symptoms of schizophrenia. However, instead of identifying with divinity, he chose suicide, thus he himself becoming a “divine poet”.

GYÖRGY SZÓKE, The history and the psychological background of a poem

The author analyses a poem by Attila József, addressed to an older, well-established poet, Mihály Babits, with whom he had a serious conflict at the time. At first sight the poem appears as a gesture seeking reconciliation with Babits. However, the author argues that it is, in fact, a document of his self analysis. The rationalization of the insult elevates some more or less hidden elements to the surface. Lines which signal the process of sublimation were deleted by the poet from the final version of the poem.

ANNA VALACHI, The “mother-attached” poet and the “awakening science”. Sándor Ferenczi’s virtual presence in Attila József’s oeuvre. Contributions to reconstructing a possible relationship

The essay – based mostly on hermeneutical methods – reconstructs the possible spiritual influence of Sándor Ferenczi on Attila József’s psychoanalytically inspired poetry. The author suggests that it was rather the pre-oedipal dual union (the symbiotic relationship between mother and infant) and not the Freudian oedipal triad that the poet considered as the basic formula of his own conception of self and the world. Although Ferenczi’s name – in contrast to Freud’s – does not appear in the poet’s literary and theoretical works, the intimate, empathic, and evocative nature of his poems borrows their cathartic power from their capacity to revoke a communicative relationship which models mother-child attachment.

BALÁZS BARTÁK, Oedipal contexts in Attila József’s poetry. A possible typology of the father complex

In addition to the premature loss of the mother, the lack of the father had also left a discernible trace on Attila József’s oeuvre. The image projected about the father as well as the mother in the oeuvre cannot be regarded as homogeneous. It seems obvious that the poems touching upon the father or the lack of the father, either directly or indirectly, should be approached from a psychoanalytical perspective. On the basis of Sigmund Freud’s three different concepts of the Oedipus-complex, the present study attempts to put forward a possible typology for the interpretation of this heterogeneous world of poems.

ARCHIVES

In our **ARCHIVES** section we present Edit Gyömrői, a psychoanalyst whose name is mostly known in Hungary as one of the last therapists who treated Attila József before his suicide, and to whom, in his “transference love”, the poet addressed several love poems and a series of psychoanalytic notes *Szabad-ötletek jegyzéke* (A register of free associations). But who was Edit Gyömrői, apart from her encounter with the poet? In her article **Creation, healing and change. The life course of Edit Gyömrői (Gelb, Rényi, Újvári, Glück, Ludowyk)** ANNA BORGOS overviews her life course that was exuberant in terms of places and circumstances of living, languages and career, and of her manifold activities including psychoanalysis, literature, political activism, philosophy and art.

This biographical sketch is followed by EDIT GYÖMRŐI's recollections under the title **Remembering Otto Fenichel and the German Psychoanalytic Association**. These recollections, written in 1979, recall her Berlin years, her memories of her analyst, colleague and friend, Otto Fenichel and other significant figures of the German Psychoanalytic Association, like Siegfried Bernfeld, Annie and Wilhelm Reich, Karen Horney, Max Eitingon, Felix Boehm, in the late 1920s and early 1930. The memories also recall her own professional, social and existential circumstances and difficulties at that time, as well as the changing political situation that strongly influenced German psychoanalysis as well as the personal and professional life of several analysts, including Gyömrői herself, most of whom had been forced to emigration.

We accept contributions in Hungarian, English, German or French. Authors are requested to provide their papers with an English and/or Hungarian summary. Original articles, reviews, reflections, and suggestions should be sent to Dr. Ferenc Erős, Institute for Psychological Research of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Victor Hugo u. 18–22, H–1132 Budapest. Phone/fax: (36–1) 239–6043. E-mail address: thalassa@mtapi.hu and erosf@mtapi.hu

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THALASSA is published by the Thalassa Foundation, Budapest (address above).

The present issue of THALASSA was supported by the Ministry of National Cultural Heritage and the National Cultural Fund of the Republic of Hungary.

Thalassa is edited in cooperation with the “Theoretical psychoanalysis” PhD program of the Doctoral School in Psychology of the University of Pécs, and of the Institute for Psychological Research of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

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