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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 (2006/2-3)

The main topic of our present issue is psychoanalysis and its relation to the critique of society. The MAJOR STUDIES published here represent the contributions of the Frankfurt School and its intellectual surrounding to the integration of psychoanalysis into social theory. After an Introduction by FERENC ERÓS we publish the classic work of THEODOR W. ADORNO Freudian Theory and the Pattern of Fascist Propaganda. This essay is followed by an article by MELINDA FRIEDRICH Otto Gross, The Forgotten Cultural **Revolutionary.** It describes the life and work of the once highly praised but after his death unjustly forgotten Austrian psychoanalyst, anarchist and Bohemian, Otto Gross. The focus is on his lifelong struggle against patriarchy in all its manifestations and the process of his exclusion from psychoanalytic circles and society, while giving insights into his relationship with the key figures in psychoanalysis. An overview of his main theoretical contributions shows how he applied psychoanalysis to social problems, which made him one of the first to link psychoanalysis with politics. Then a short essay by OTTO GROSS follows under the title Zur Überwindung der kulturellen Krise (Overcoming the cultural crisis). WILHELM REICH is represented here by a text under the title Psychoanalysis and socialism which was originally published in Hungarian in 1935 and which is in fact part of his 1929 essay Dialectical materialism and psychoanalysis.

In our WORKSHOP section two contributions are published. The first, GYÖRGY PÉTER HÁRS's article Correspondences: Walter Benjamin and Sándor Ferenczi is about the relation and similarities of the way of thinking of Sándor Ferenczi and Walter Benjamin. It is argued here that not only their lives were similar but there was real connection between them: Erich Fromm, who was Benjamin's colleague at the Institut für Sozialforschung, and whose wife was analysed by Ferenczi. But it is even more interesting that one can discover is a parallel between their interests the questions they raised and their answers given to these questions.

Ferenczi wished to a create a new psychology, Benjamin a new philosophy. The keywords in this effort – for both of them – were mimicry and symbolisam. The second, G. F. MITRANO's essay **The first kiss of philosophy: Sándor Ferenczi** concludes that Ferenczi was led to his experiments with mutual analysis by a hunger for truth which had a philosophical origin. Not coincidentally, Ferenczi, who considered philosophy "a dangerous weapon, nevertheless appropriated for the analyst Schopenhauer's "philosophical courage" as a "sincerity and probity of investigation" that "does not arise from reflection, cannot be wrung from resolutions, but is an inborn trend of the mind". At first his hunger for truth leads Ferenczi to Freud and his primary law of repression—which he initially rejected ,later, the same hunger causes him to drift away from psychoanalysiss's clinical aspect as a practice for neuroses and psychoses.

In our IN MEMORIAM section FERENC ERŐS commemorates the recently deceased eminent Hungarian psychoanalyst Iván Lust. The obituary is followed by an **Interview with Iván Lust** made by CSILLA MIHALICZ in 2003.

In the ARCHIVES sections three texts by SÁNDOR FERENCZI is published: Suggestion and Psycho-Analysis (1911); A review on »Drei Aufsätze über den inneren Konflikt« by Otto Gross (1920); and The ultimate secrets of love, an interview with Sándor Ferenczi, published originally in the Hungarian daily newspaper *Pesti Napló* in 1928.

In our FORUM section we publish a case study by TIHAMÉR BAKÓ under the title Intrapsychic aspects of functional infertility as seen through the mirror of a case. We also publish here ERICH FROMM's essay On the feeling of helplessness (Zum Gefühl der Ohnmacht). FRANZ SAMELSON in his article The authoritarian character from Berlin to Berkeley and Beyond: The Odyssey of a Problem shows the history of the Frankfurt School's empirical research (Fromm, Adorno and others) on authoritarianism and its contradictory or ambivalent reception in American social psychology.

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.

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