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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 (2009/2)

The present issue is devoted to the problems of the relation between psychoanalysis and literature, with a special emphasis on the psychoanalytic interpretation of the life and works of Hungarian writers (Géza Csáth, Dezső Kosztolányi, Ignóty, Gyula Krúdy), belonging to the circle of the progressive literary review *Nyugat* (1908–1941), that first opened its columns to psychoanalytic and psychoanalytically inspired contributions.

MAJOR ARTICLES

ZOLTÁN KŐVÁRY, Morphine, matricide and psychoanalysis. Themes and variations in the life and work of Géza Csáth and Dezső Kosztolányi

There are several parallelisms in the life histories, interests and philosophies of two cousins, friends and Hungarian writers, both from the provincial town Szabadka (today Subotica, Serbia): Géza Csáth (1887–1919), and Dezső Kosztolányi (1885–1936). In this essay the author deals with four such parallelisms in details. These are (1) their relations to literature (arts), (2) to psychoanalysis, (3) to addictive drugs (morphine), and, specifically, (4) to the theme of matricide. Why does the theme of killing the mother appear so often in the works of these particular writers, so close to each other? In Csáth's work matricide appears in a less disguised, uncensored form, and there was even an actual "matricide case" in the later, tragic life of the writer, namely, killing his wife, Olga Jónás. Where do their common fantasies of murdering the mother come from? Moreover, in one of Csáth's most well known short stories the

crime is committed by two brothers... How can we account of the psychological differences between the successful (Kosztolányi) and the (eventually) unsuccessful (Csáth) forms of elaboration? The author argues that these phenomena are connected to the controlled (Kosztolányi) and uncontrolled (Csáth) versions of opiate consuming. The differences between the two writers suggest that Géza Csáth's personality might have had less inner coherence, and that was the reason why he could not resist the temptations coming from the outside as well as the inside world. It seems, on the other hand, that Kosztolányi's "neurosis" was more stable, and he had something to hold on to until the very end: the language, his mother tongue. Words as tools of elaboration may possess magic power, and thus, they are able to save us from being swept away in the middle of the "swirls of instincts".

GYÖRGY PÉTER HÁRS, Beyond the Ferenczian ocean – Ignotus problems and fantasies

The essay deals with two problems specifically selected from those that could be raised in relation to the psychoanalytically inspired works by Hungarian writer and critic Ignotus (Hugo Veigelsberg, 1869–1949), founding editor of *Nyugat*, at the same time one of the founding members of the Hungarian Psychoanalytic Society. The first problem is the history of the idea of "Thalassa" itself. The author points out its parallelisms, and shows its reception in the contemporary Hungarian literature. He argues that this idea was quite common in the atmosphere of the age; therefore, it is unnecessary to look for primacy. The second problem is the parallelisms and contrasts between the mentalities, the fates and ideas of Ignotus and the Austrian psychoanalyst and anarchist thinker Otto Gross, in the framework of the adaptation theory developed by the Hungarian-born psychoanalyst Sándor Radó.

WORKSHOP

MARIANNA PÁL: Intersubjectivity as a constructing principle of the narrative in Krúdy's novel *Sunflower*

The essay is an attempt to reinterpret the early twentieth-century novel *Sunflower* (1918) by the Hungarian novelist Gyula Krúdy (1878–1933) from a psychoanalytical point of view, in order to achieve a post-modern reading of the work. In the author's view, reading Krúdy's novel in the light of Lacan's psychoanalytical and philosophical views reveals poetic and interpretational novelties that have not been discovered before. A striking feature of the novel is interpersonality, which encouraged the author to use Lacan's mirror stage theory and intersubjectivity in the psychoanalytical interpretation of connections between various passages. Therefore, the interpretation mainly focuses on the analysis of the narrative, and special attention is given to the relationships between the

main characters that allow us an intersubjective interpretation. The author also dwells on certain issues of symbolism, metaphorism and narration. Through a detailed close reading the text of each chapter, the author aims to show the freshness of the novel, and point out the possibility of a psychoanalytical interpretation of the textual features of the work.

ARCHIVES

In this section we publish the first Hungarian translation of SIGMUND FREUD's *The Theme of the Three Caskets* [Das Motiv der Kästchenwahl] (1913), with an introduction written by the translator ELVIRA DOBOS.

IN MEMORIAM

In this section KATALIN PETŐ commemorates György Szőke (1935–2008), Hungarian literary critic and psychoanalyst, author of several important contributions the theme “psychoanalysis and literature”.

BOOK REVIEW

In this section JÚLIA GYIMESI reviews a new collection of essays by Géza Róheim under the title *Adam's Dream*, edited by György Péter Hárs.

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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