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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.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENT ISSUE (1998/2–3)

Our **MAJOR ARTICLES** section starts with the Hungarian philosopher LÁSZLÓ TENGYELI's essay **The philosophical discovery of desire**. In this article the author examines those developments in the philosophy of the fifties and sixties which led to new avenues in philosophical ethics. He focuses on the re-evaluation of the ethical status of desire by French thinkers. According to the author, this re-evaluation contributed enormously to the increase of the philosophical significance of psychoanalysis. The question can be formulated in the following way: Is there any desire which motivates morals? This problem is examined by Jean Nabert, who is followed by Ricoeur, and this will be the main question raised by Lacan and Lévinas, too. We publish here JACQUES LACAN's essay **The meaning of the phallus** which is an unaltered text of a paper delivered in German in 1958 at the Max Planck Institute in Munich. In this fundamental essay Lacan speaks about the function of the phallus as signifier, and he connects this function to dialectics of the desire and the demand for love. The third article in this section is the contribution by the Slovenian psychoanalyst and philosopher SLAVOJ ŽIŽEK "**The Big Other doesn't exist**". In the essay the author analyses in Lacanian terms the consequences the decline of the paternal authority. Her argues that the father of the uncompromising "No!" who seems to be in retreat; in the absence of his prohibitory "No!", new forms of the fantasmatic harmony between the symbolic order and *jouissance* can thrive again.

In our **ARCHIVES** section we publish ALEKSANDR ETKIND's essay **Sabina Spielrein: pure game with a Russian** girl which is an essay taken from the St. Petersburg based Russian author's book *Eros nevozhmožno* (The Eros of the Impossible), a cultural history of psychoanalysis in Russia. In this chapter the

author retells the story of Jung's and Freud's Russian patient and colleague Sabina Spielrein, whose name means "pure game" (*Spiel-rein*). The author adds new elements to the well-known story by utilizing recently found archival and oral history sources.

In the section **HUNGARIAN PSYCHOANALYSTS IN PARIS III**, we present the life work of NICHOLAS ABRAHAM and MARIA TOROK to the Hungarian public. Nicholas Abraham, a translator and linguist (1919–1975) and Maria Torok, a psychoanalyst (1925–1998), have become famous in France as well as in English-speaking world on the basis of their contribution to the conceptual renewal of psychoanalysis and literary theory. Central to their approach is a general theory of psychic concealment, a poetics of hiding. Whether in clinical setting or a literary text, they speak out the unspeakable secret as a symptom of devastating trauma revealed only in linguistic or behavioral encoding. Under the title **The phantoms of the unconscious** we publish a conversation with MARIA TOROK and NICHOLAS RAND, originally published in French in *Le journal des psychologues*. This conversation is followed by a selection of Abraham's and Torok's book *The Shell and the Kernel*, edited, introduced and commented by NICHOLAS RAND. The excerpts are published here under the title **Cryptic mourning and secret love**. In the same section we publish as well the recollections of the Paris psychoanalyst ÉVA FÜZESEÉRY on Jacques Lacan under the title **Lacan... once upon a time**.

Our **WORKSHOP** section consists of two contributions. The first, MÓNIKA TAKÁCS's article **The "debased sexual object" in a fin de siècle poem** is a portrait of the Hungarian poet, writer and journalist Géza Szilágyi (1875–1958), a close friend of Sándor Ferenczi and a member of the Hungarian Psychoanalytic Association, whose poetry was strongly influenced by psychoanalysis. In the article the author analyses Szilágyi's early poem *The good God* (1903) which is about a prostitute. She shows both literary (Baudelaire, János Vajda, Gyula Reviczky, Endre Ady) and psychoanalytic (Freud, Ferenczi) parallels of the topic. The second contribution is a fragmented diary of LAJOS SZÉKELY (1904–1995), a Swedish psychoanalyst of Hungarian origin. The diary – **A dream on Freud and Umberto Eco** – was written shortly before his death and it is a reflection on Umberto Eco's novels *The Name of the Rose* and *Foucault's Pendulum*.

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 of Psychology of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Teréz krt. 13., H-1067 Budapest. Phone: (36-1) 322-0425, fax: (36-1) 342-0514. E-mail address: thalassa@c3.hu and feros@orange.okt.cogpsyphy.hu

THALASSA is now available on Internet: **<http://orange.okt.cogpsyphy.hu/thalassa>** and **<http://www.c3.hu/scripta>**

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