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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 (2010/2)***

The present issue is devoted to the life and work of **MICHAEL BALINT** (1896-1970). A series of articles by an on Balint will be continued in the next issue (2010/3).

After an **Introduction** by ZOLTÁN KÓVÁRY we publish, in the MAJOR ARTICLES section, two original contributions by MICHAEL BALINT: **Trauma and Object Relationship** (1969); and **Notes on Parapsychology and Parapsychological Healing** (1955).

In her paper **Balint and psychosomatics. Object-relational concepts in the treatment of somatic symptoms**, MARTA CSABAI analyses a paradox of Michael Balint's lifework, that is, while Balint's main objective was an integration of psychotherapy with everyday medical practice, he did not succeed in creating a synthesis on a theoretical level. Balint became world-famous by a detailed description of the application of psychoanalytic thinking to the cases of family medicine and psychosomatic illnesses. His concepts - the basic fault, primary love, benign and malignant regression, therapeutic counter-transference - were also fundamental to the opening of new trends in psychoanalysis after the Freudian era, mostly to establishing the object-relational approach. However, a real synthesis which might have served as a strategic guideline for the renewal of psychoanalytic psychosomatics, was never born within Balint's oeuvre. The paper shows some possible connecting points in Balint's and other object-relational psychoanalysts' work which may help us to reach a better understanding of psychosomatic phenomena, and to find more appropriate ways of treatment.

In his essay **Michael Balint: continuer of Ferenczi's work** ANDRÉ HAYNAL examines the complex relationship between Ferenczi's and Balint's ideas. The author argues that though Balint's most important theories have their roots in

Ferenczi, he was an autonomous and independent thinker who was able to go beyond the Freud-Ferenczi controversy, and completed Ferenczi's work.

In the INTERVIEW section we publish **An interview with Michael Balint** by **BLUMA SWERDLOFF**. This memoir is the result of a series of tape-recorded interviews conducted for the Columbia University Oral History Research Office by Dr. Bluma Swerdloff with Dr. Michael Balint in London, England, August 6–7, 1965. Dr. Balint has read the transcript, and has made only minor corrections and emendations. The reader is asked to bear in mind, therefore, that he is reading a transcript of the spoken rather than the written word.

In the ARCHIVES section we publish **MICHAEL BALINT's** 1925 article **Perversion or a hysterical symptom?** which was published originally in the Hungarian medical journal *Gyógyászat*.

In the WORKSHOP section **JUDIT B. GÁSPÁR's** essay **Descent and/or sublimation** is published. The essay is an attempt to rethink the messages of the literature of deep psychology and hermeneutic-phenomenological philosophy from a special point of view. It clarifies what we are to think, first of all, about everyday empirical creativity, revival ability; then, about secondly, psychotherapeutic activity; and, thirdly, about artistic creative ability and the relationship and difference between the work of art and its reception. It examines – arguing along the lines of Michael Balint's ideas – the similarities and the differences between the psychical and motivational specifics of the subject of these activities, the psychodynamic process of creativity and the quality of the created object.

In the LAUDATIO section **DÉNES LUKÁCS** commemorates **JÁNOS PAÁL** (1916–2010), an eminent Hungarian psychoanalyst who lived in Germany.

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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