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The William Alanson White Institute

The William Alanson White Institute of Psychiatry, Psychoanalysis and Psychology, incorporated under the provisions of the New York State Education Law on October 18, 1946, as a nonprofit Educational Corporation, is an association of psychoanalysts and other behavioral scientists, whose primary function is the training of resourceful psychoanalysts. The significant contributions of *Sigmund Freud* to the understanding of human behavior, and the vital pre- and post-Freudian developments of the study of personality, find a place within the framework of its philosophy.

The curriculum takes note of the psychological, social, and biological factors in human behavior. Taking as its basis the special contributions of two of its co-founders, *Harry Stack Sullivan* and *Erich Fromm*, it fosters the study of the human person as a social being, and of human behavior as social communication.

The Institute's program extends beyond the training of psychoanalysts. Its Continued Professional Education Division offers, to a select professional public, courses in recent developments in psychoanalytic theory and the study of behavior. Its clinical therapeutic services provide low-cost therapy to the community. Its Department of Research is concerned with basic studies of behavior within experimental and clinical settings.

In these manifold functions, the Institute expresses its faith that man, through the enhancement of his own capacities, may cope more efficiently with the problems of being human.

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FROM THE EDITORS

This, the first issue of volume 50, heralds a banner year: a year to reflect on the past of *Contemporary Psychoanalysis*—which in 2014 celebrates its 50th anniversary—and a year to imagine our future as we begin a new era as part of a larger family, the Taylor & Francis Group, our new publisher. We'll say more about the latter shortly, but let us start with our anniversary.

Under the co-editorship of Max Deutscher, Ph.D., and Rose Spiegel, M.D., *Contemporary Psychoanalysis* was launched in the fall of 1964, around the same time the William Alanson White Institute, founded in 1943, moved to new headquarters located at 20 West 74th Street in New York City, where it still resides. It was an exhilarating time. The first issue of *Contemporary Psychoanalysis* featured articles by Otto Will, Silvano Arieti, and Erich Fromm (a founding member of the Institute). Published twice a year until 1973 when then-editor Arthur Feiner expanded the journal to a quarterly, *Contemporary Psychoanalysis* might be seen as a historical monument to the progression of psychoanalysis in America, from the mainstream, orthodox “one-person” practices of the European/Freudian tradition of the 1920s and 1930s, to the dominance of ego psychology in the United States in the mid-20th century, to the more interactive “two-person” approaches that have become more prevalent in contemporary practice. Volumes over the 50 years highlight the rich, innovative theoretical and clinical ideas that many of us use in our work with patients.

So, how to celebrate these glorious 50 years? To start, we have asked a number of *Contemporary Psychoanalysis*'s seminal authors to pick an “unsung” gem from our archive that they consider important to their thinking and practice over the years. By “unsung,” we mean seldom cited, perhaps forgotten in the literature, although certainly not forgotten by the colleague who chooses it. From the many to consider, we have selected three—one per issue during this anniversary year—to highlight, along with an introduction or commentary by the person who recommends it. This double issue includes a reprint of a 1970 article by Charles Clay Dahlberg, M.D., entitled “Sexual Contact between Patient and Therapist,”

with a commentary and accompanying article by Editor Emeritus Mark J. Blechner.

In addition, we're excited to present this double special issue, edited by Rebecca Coleman Curtis, which focuses on empirical psychoanalytic and psychodynamic research. As Dr. Curtis explains in her introduction, there is increasing evidence to support the efficacy of psychoanalytic and psychodynamic treatment approaches. This comes after many years in which only manualized (i.e., cognitive behavioral) treatments were considered empirically validated as effective. The buzz around the "success" of CBT treatments left some patients wondering how psychoanalysis or psychodynamic therapy could help them. Many patients chose CBT. It also left psychoanalysts on the defensive: how could we, given the presumed lack of sufficient evidence, assure our patients that our treatment would help them? In introducing our anniversary volume with this special issue, we hope to remind readers of the ongoing evolution of our field, and how the art of psychoanalysis is an "art" that is also supported by science, buttressing what we have always known.

One more note. We also want to alert you to another commemoration for our 50th anniversary, still in the early stage of planning. Sometime in late October 2014, we will convene a roundtable discussion, open to all, to explore the impact of the journal on psychoanalysis over the past 50 years, its current place within the field, and where it is headed. Participants in the roundtable will be Editors Emeriti Mark Blechner, Philip Bromberg, Jay Greenberg, and Donnel Stern; and Darlene Ehrenberg, Jay Klawer, and Edgar Levenson. We (Don Greif and Ruth Livingston) will be moderators. We will keep you posted about details of this event.

Finally, to the other big news: Starting with this issue, *Contemporary Psychoanalysis* will be published by Taylor & Francis/Routledge. As our co-editorship progresses, it is increasingly clear that we can no longer compete in a marketplace dominated by ever-expanding technology, which—as a self-published journal—is impossible for us to harness. We have long wished for *Contemporary Psychoanalysis* to have a more global presence and we are optimistic that this move, long in the planning, will be a good one for us. We look forward to your ongoing support and collaboration as we continue on this journey.

Don Greif, Ph.D.
Ruth H. Livingston, Ph.D.
Editors-in-Chief