MARK J. BLECHNER, Ph.D.

EDITOR’S FAREWELL

This issue of Contemporary Psychoanalysis, my last as editor-in-chief, embodies the qualities that I and the editorial staff of the journal have sought. We have tried to expand the range of psychoanalytic thinking to include ignored, difficult, or controversial topics, weaving together interpersonal, intrapsychic, and cultural perspectives. We begin this issue with an exploration of psychoanalytic work by Mary Brady with a gay teenager, as she struggled to escape the shackles of disinformation she had acquired during her training and find a fresh approach. We continue this theme with Chana Ullman’s description of her work with a gay man, also analyzing the effect of her personal values and the cultural unconscious, with an interesting sidelight on disguise and confidentiality. Abby Stein provides an insightful analysis of countertransferential and public reactions to sex offenders, with startling facts about how leniently the law treats intrafamilial incest. Steven Tublin explores the dilemma of how to conduct a treatment within the paradoxical confinement of postmodern not-knowingness. That is followed by an interview with Bruce Fink that is a “guide for the perplexed” about Lacan. Finally, there is a series of articles on how Interpersonal psychoanalysis has shaped contemporary approaches to clinical issues.

During my years as editor, I have tried to include articles that other journals avoided. It is easy to publish articles that describe treatments that work out happily, and there is no shortage of them. But we have published articles by psychoanalysts who were also patients in which the analytic process went awry: an analyst who severely broke confidentiality and refused to acknowledge responsibility for it (Burka, 2008), and an analyst who crossed a sexual boundary with a patient and never discussed it with her (Dimen, 2011). Both articles generated enormous discussion. If psychoanalysts do not speak up about misconduct in our field, who will? And if no one will speak about it, how can we learn from our mistakes and endeavor to correct them?

We have published articles that dealt with subjects that have been selectively inattended in the psychoanalytic literature—articles that came to fresh and surprising conclusions about core issues, including social class.
(Whitman-Raymond, 2009), menopause (Kolod, 2009), baseball and bisexuality (Harris, 2010), nonpharmaceutical and nonpsychotherapeutic amelioration of depression (O'Leary, 2008), the intersection of psychoanalysis and systems theory in couple therapy (Goldklank, 2009), Bertram Schaffner's experience as an openly gay psychoanalyst for over 60 years (Lubart, 2010), and attending to the body in psychoanalysis (Lombardi, 2011). We have also assembled discussions of radically opposed perspectives, such as the schism between drive and relational psychoanalysis, which was ably guest-edited by Lois Oppenheim. One author (Friedman, 2009) surprised us by saying, essentially, “The schism is good—let's keep it!”

Although *Contemporary Psychoanalysis* is the journal of the William Alanson White Institute and Society, we have always welcomed articles from schools of thought other than the Interpersonal, including Freudian, Object Relations, Jungian, Kleinian, Bionian, Kohutian, and independent, and we have published articles from all these perspectives. We were pleased to be able to shed light on the legacy of Wilhelm Reich, first with a memoir from his daughter (Reich Rubin, 2009) and then with 10 letters from Freud to Reich that had not previously been translated into English (Danto, 2011).

I wish to thank those who edited special issues: Sandra Buechler, who brought people from around the world to describe ideal and not-so-ideal institutes; Phillip Blumberg and Irwin Hirsch, who created lively and illuminating discussions of psychoanalysis and the arts; Lisa Robin on college counseling; and Suzanne Little on Interpersonal psychoanalysis.

I am grateful to the members of the editorial staff, who have worked so hard to keep our journal on the cutting edge of the field and who have given such constructive attention to manuscripts, even those that were not ultimately accepted for publication. It has pleased me greatly to receive thank-you emails from authors of rejected manuscripts for the very helpful suggestions of the reviewers. Our managing editors, first Eleanor Kobrin and then David Estrin, have skillfully improved the level of writing, and Marisol Pitre has kept our finances and business operations in exemplary order.

And now I pass the editor’s “pen” to Ruth Livingston, Ph.D., and Don Greif, Ph.D., with all good wishes that they may continue the thrilling tradition of *Contemporary Psychoanalysis*, which will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2014.
REFERENCES


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