

Final Remarks

Arnold Richards

One of the themes of this meeting has been boundaries - boundaries between therapists and patients—boundaries tested, boundaries crossed, boundaries violated.

But I want to say a few words about other boundaries, the boundaries in our profession. The boundaries between disciplines: medical, non-medical, psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and all the therapists who help their patients but do not belong to what is referred to as the tri-disciplines.

And then there the boundaries between theoretical persuasions—Freudian, Jungians, Bionians, self psychology, object relations, relationalists, interpersonalists, Laconians - and more

Finally there are the boundaries between professional organizations which relate in part to the first two boundary categories but not entirely.

We are a fractured field and over the years there have been inter and intra-necine wars, law suits and designating of the groups (like the synagogue) not to belong to.

This meeting's spirit and driving force is also about crossing boundaries, bridging disciplines and theoretical approaches and bringing organizations together in the service of scholarship and learning how to do what we do better. And we have over the years learned from each other—the audience from the presenters, the presenters from the audience, and the presenters from the presenters. How did it all begin?

It began with the PEP CD-Rom. The first symposium was called the PEP CD-Rom Symposium. The PEP CD-Rom as most of you know is an archive of psychoanalytic journals—all the journal articles on a single disk accessible to a search engine. Our conviction that the symposium should bring psychoanalysts and psychotherapists together just as the PEP disc brings journals together

First Slide

The PEP CD-Rom began with 5 journals: Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association, the Psychoanalytic Quarterly, Psychoanalytic Study of the Child, the International Journal of Psychoanalysis and the International Review of Psychoanalysis.

Owen Renik was the editor of the Quarterly then and I was the editor of JAPA. Owen and I felt that in the interest of scholarship and financial success the PEP CD-Rom needed to reach out beyond the Freudian psychoanalytic establishment journals. We convinced David Tuckett, the editor of the IJP and the Brits to include Contemporary Psychoanalysis, the journal of the William A. White Society. Our first Symposium on the Seduction Hypothesis was sponsored by the six journals and their organizations: APsaA, The Psychoanalytic Institute, London, and the William Alanson White Society. Including WAW was a significant initiative: You may recall that in the 50's APsaA sued WAW for using the term psychoanalysis in their title and White was then and still is now excluded from the IPA even though the law suite by Division 39 of the APA against APsaA and the two New York Institutes was settled two decades ago.

Slide

The PEP CD-Rom has expanded. It now includes 17 journals
Our symposium sponsoring list has grown as well.

And now the organizational list is not limited to the sponsors of the journals on the PEP CD-Rom

A Symposium name change was needed. We settled on the Committee of Psychoanalytic and Psychotherapeutic Publications and Organizations.

C3PO (With apologies to George Lucas.)

This is our ninth Symposium.
Slide with all symposiums

And you have listened to a diverse group of presenters.
Slide with Names and Affiliations

I am now pleased to announce the theme of Symposium 2009
Greed Sex and Gambling which will be held here in March 2009

Save the Date email: psypsa@aol.com to save a place.
And since Symposium 2009 is a year away I would like to suggest that you save the date for
another ecumenical meeting: The Future of Psychoanalytic Education: Innovation and
Preservation, chaired by Jane Hall, on November 15th.

I hope we all will reconvene in November and next March and together advance our field.