Review of 100 Years of the IPA: The Centenary History of the International Psychoanalytical Association 1910-2010, Evolution and Change, reviewed by Vanessa Sinclair

100 Years of the IPA: The Centenary History of the International Psychoanalytical Association 1910-2010, Evolution and Change is a must read for any member of the psychoanalytic community as well as anyone interested in the history of psychoanalysis. With such rich contributions from so many distinguished analysts from across the globe, this book will prove to be an invaluable contribution to psychoanalytic literature. Editors Peter Loewenberg and Nellie Thompson provide a comprehensive look at the worldwide growth and mobilization of psychoanalysis over the last hundred years.

Citing Jacques Derrida's (1981) Geopsychoanalysis, the editors recognize the impact sociopolitical culture and geography has had on psychoanalysis as it pushes to take root throughout the world and are pleased to see the spread of psychoanalysis into previously untouched territories, including China and India. Currently, the IPA is comprised of three regions - Europe, North America and Latin America - with the psychoanalytic societies of Australia, Lebanon, India, Israel, South Africa and Turkey as members of the European Region, while Japan, China, Korea and Taiwan are members of the North American Region. With the IPA Asian Congress held in Beijing in 2010, the editors hope for and support the development of a fourth IPA region, an Asian Region, in the upcoming years.

The forward by current IPA president, Charles Hanly, recognizes psychoanalysis as a progressive profession, one in which women gained early recognition and institutional equality well before achieving comparable status in other sciences. He encourages us to continue this tradition by utilizing the "knowledge that 'disturbed the peace of the world' to ameliorate the condition of our fellow human beings" and suggests as we celebrate our centenary we contemplate new and creative ways to outreach and provide services to the communities in which we live and work.

This volume is comprised of a series of essays, written by eminent contemporary psychoanalysts spanning the continents. As the editors note in the introduction, a consistent theme in these essays is how a commitment to the values of the IPA transcends national frictions and political difficulties across the globe. As the audience is taken on a journey around the world, we see how analysts have fought to preserve psychoanalytic theory and practice, battling unthinkable obstacles and atrocities, including two World Wars.

Beginning in 1902 with Sigmund Freud's weekly meetings of the Psychological Wednesday Society and the subsequent establishment of the Vienna Psychoanalytic Society in 1908, we follow the spread of psychoanalysis across Europe to America and beyond. With Freud's appointment of Carl Gustav Jung as the first president of the IPA in 1910, psychoanalysis began to establish itself internationally with societies forming in Berlin and Zurich (1910), New York, Russia and Munich (1911), and London and Budapest (1913). Despite the upheaval and turmoil of the First World War,
psychoanalysis continued to progress establishing societies in nations such as Italy (1925) and France (1926). Spreading into Latin America, the first training analysis took place in Sao Paulo in 1937, after Adelheid Lucy Koch of Germany was authorized by Ernest Jones, then president of the IPA, to work as a training analyst in Brazil. Soon, the Argentine Psychoanalytic Association was formed in 1942, and the IPA recognized societies in Brazil (1951) and Mexico (1957).

The format of this book is fitting, as the authors so aptly demonstrate the influence of their respective cultures and ideologies through their compositions. Meanwhile, the underlying dynamics of the human unconscious, with its desires, drives and conflicts, remains a theme throughout. Bearing witness to the obstacles founding psychoanalysts faced and overcame is humbling, especially the many Jewish psychoanalysts persecuted during World War II. Psychoanalysis was outlawed by the Nazis, as well as the Soviet Union. In Italy, the heavy influence of the Catholic Church provided opposition to psychoanalysis, which was criticized as promoting the "pan-sexuality and materialism" of Freud. Following fascism, Communist Marxism became widespread in Italy, and psychoanalysis received criticism for precisely the opposite, citing a lack of materialism and excessive spiritualism.

Not only has psychoanalysis been the target of conflict from without, the profession has also weathered many internal storms. Societies have been founded only to later divide due to disputes amongst members, including differences in theoretical orientations, ethical practices and training policies. The American Psychoanalytic Association infamously reserved psychoanalytic training only for medical professionals, later being sued, with a resulting re-integration of North American non-medical and parallel societies into the IPA. Furthermore, three training models have developed over the years - the Eitingon model, French system and Uruguayan model - and while these respective modes of psychoanalytic development seem appropriate based on the cultures in which they thrive, nonetheless, differences regarding training standards have frequently been a point of contention.

Despite these differences, psychoanalysts have worked together to promote and establish psychoanalytic societies throughout the world. French and British psychoanalysts founded the Canadian Society of Psychoanalysts in 1952, Anna Freud and D.W. Winnicott addressed papers to a Turkish audience in 1958, and analysts fleeing the Spanish Civil War helped to establish psychoanalysis in Argentina and other countries in Latin America.

Following the essays covering the historic development of various psychoanalytic institutions worldwide, the final section of this book is reserved for an international survey of the formation of psychoanalytic societies and development of the standards for training, as well as a retrospective of the administration of the IPA including a contribution by the late Leo Rangell (1913-2011). Rounding off this centennial exploration is a reference list of IPA Societies and Congresses.
Having read such a comprehensive volume of the development and expansion of psychoanalysis, one is able to appreciate the scope of contributions of psychoanalysts worldwide. With dynamic variations in theoretical orientation, treatment and training, psychoanalysis coalesces as an international force for the understanding of human motivation and desire. As globalization continues in the twenty-first century, the boundaries separating us will decrease evermore. My hope is that psychoanalysis will continue to contribute to a more comprehensive and complete worldview, enriching the understanding and experience of the human condition, and as analysts, we will continue to follow the statute of the Vienna Psychoanalytic Society, remaining dedicated to the "nurture and advancement of the psychoanalytic science founded by Prof. Dr. Sigmund Freud in Vienna".