

Our saga begins in 1978 with our first trip to China. We went with a group sponsored by APsaA. The itinerary was supposed to include sightseeing in Iran but we arrived in Teheran in the middle of the Iranian revolution. It took some doing for us to get a flight to China and it was difficult on the way back to get from Teheran to New York City. I remember that we were the last group to leave Teheran. I remember the cavernous waiting room at the airport. There was us and someone selling caviar. Arlene of course bought a pound for us at a bargain price. When we arrived in Beijing we were met by our translator a Mr. Liu who had been the translator for Nixon and Mao. The Chinese decided to give us special treatment because they were sure the American Psychoanalytic Association was a very important organization. The first words from the translator were “First we take you to change your money and then we take you to the cleaners.” They then proceeded to sell us everything they could offer us—jade, scrolls, etc in their effort to accumulate dollars and here they are 3 trillions dollars later.

On the trip we went to Hangchow and Shanghai after Beijing. In Beijing we visited the Shanghai mental hospital, one of the largest and most prestigious in China. The staff presented a case to our group. We were told patients are treated with heart to heart talks and haldol. We were impressed by the sophistication of the case presentation. The striking difference in the treatment from what we are familiar with was the attention to the patient’s place in the community and the way in which the community is mobilized to participate in the treatment and effort. We were also impressed by the sophistication of the hospital director, a psychiatrist. He told us he subscribed to *JAPA* and wanted to know what was the latest theory in psychoanalysis. He was very interested in the work of Margaret Mahler and the concept of separation and individuation.

Fast forward to 2011 and a second trip to China. The changes that had occurred in more than 40 years were mind boggling. I could not get out of mind the 1978 image of Beijing—few cars, most riding bicycles, and most in similar drab dress. The second trip was a result an invitation to visit the Wuhan psychotherapy hospital. We were asked to give papers to the staff, provide supervision for psychotherapy patients and I was asked to run an inpatient group. Thirty patients and the staff were on an inpatient ward. The patients talked about their concerns and I could observe a group process developing with some patients vying for my attention and preference.

Before the last session I asked them to report their earliest memory. The most dramatic was a patient who recalled seeing her grandfather commit suicide by hanging himself when she was six years old. At the end of the group each sang a song. They asked me to sing a song. I sang “In an Anarchistic Garret,” which I selected because I knew the words. And then all of us sang the International in Chinese, of course.

The meeting ended with a plea that we return. We did as a result of a ceremonial dinner that was arranged for us. Arlene sat next to the Secretary of the Wuhan Communist Party. He wanted to know what we did and she explained about the psychotherapy training program. We were asked to assemble a faculty, which we did, of eight I believe, members of APsaA and one analyst from Australia. Two hundred mental health professionals signed up for the first three-year program—two sessions each year, six sessions in total. Each faculty member was asked to give a lecture to the entire class and supervise 20 individual students in five three hour sessions. I will not report on the case presentations because Arlene will do so in her presentation. But I will indicate that I

was impressed with how hard the therapists worked and the good jobs the translators did and how much the therapists had learned by the end of the first three-year program.

And I will add that many of my students and others as well formed an online study and supervision group which meets weekly for most of the year. And other faculty arranged online study groups as well. Many of these groups continue to this day. My group has been running since May 2013. There have been a total of 275 hours of case supervision and 175 hours on psychoanalytic theory with a wide range of papers and topics. I also have almost completed another one and a half hour weekly supervision group for 31 psychotherapists and am in the process of organizing two other groups—one to read Freud (12 volumes have been translated into Chinese) and a course on “From Ego Psychology to Contemporary Conflict Theory” with a focus on papers from volume 1 of my selected paper which has been translated into Chinese as *Open Controversies*.