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Introduction to the work of Bion and the Post-Kleinians

Melanie Klein settled in London in 1926 at the invitation of Ernest Jones, and lived there until her death in 1960. Her ideas, which were revolutionary, were to become one of the dominant influences on psychoanalytic and later Jungian thinking at the S.A.P. in London. To this day her followers continue to write and teach prolifically and they now constitute the largest group by far in the British Psychoanalytic Society.

The Jungian analyst Michael Fordham and the group around him considered that the work of Klein and her circle provided important new ways of thinking about Jung's work and offered the important dimension of clinical thinking to Jung's philosophical bedrock. These early analysts at the S.A.P. worked hard at integrating Kleinian theories and practices with Jungian analytic thinking from the 1950s onwards.

I have attempted in this reading to give you an introduction to some of the Kleinian - Post-Kleinian ideas that have been so influential, especially those of W.R. Bion, considered the greatest thinker amongst the followers of Klein. I hope that we may bring our own case material to the seminars, giving special thought to the transference-countertransference situation, as well as attempt to make our own rapprochments between Kleinian and Jungian thinking.

These seminars are recommended particularly for those of you who have attended some of my seminars in previous years on Klein, on Transference and Countertransference, on Infant Observation, on the Analytic Attitude and Method and on the British School of Object Relations.

The following reading will be important for the seminars. Please let Frau Sanne at the Institut or me know if you are unable to obtain any of it and we can make sure you have it as soon as possible.

Required reading:

Psychosis:

Grinberg, L. et al., (1977) *Introduction to the Work of Bion*, Jason Aronson, New York, Chapter 2, Pp. 23 – 42, “Psychosis”

Bion, W.R., (1967, reprinted 1984) *Second Thoughts*, London, Maresfield Reprints, Chapter 5, Pp. 43 – 63, “Differentiation of the Psychotic from the Non-Psychotic Personalities”

Thought:

Grinberg, L. et al, *ibid.*, Chapter 3, Pp. 45 – 60, “Thought”

Bion, W.R., *ibid.*, Chapters 8 and 9, Pp. 93 – 119, “Attacks on Linking” and “A Theory of Thinking”

Practice:

Rosenfeld, H., (1987), *Impasse and Interpretation*, London, Tavistock Publications, Chapters 1, 2 and 3, Pp. 3 – 60, “A psychoanalytic approach to the treatment of psychosis”, “Some therapeutic and anti-therapeutic factors in the functioning of the analyst” and “Breakdown of communication between patient and analyst”

