American Imago Honors Centenary of Freud’s Journal

In 1912, Sigmund Freud began the journal Imago, as a vehicle for the application of psychoanalysis to the humanities, arts, and social sciences. Published originally in Austria, the journal was suppressed in 1938, but re-emerged in the United States under the direction of Freud and Hanns Sachs as American Imago.

Now publishing its 69th volume, American Imago is honoring the centenary of Freud's original journal in 2012. Throughout the centenary year, American Imago will publish issues with themes with which Freud introduced the appearance of Imago and which have marked its long career.

“These essays in the first issue of this volume emphasize the mission of the journal since its inception to form a bridge between the theoretical and clinical explorations carried out by psychoanalysis and the researches pursued by a wide range of scholarly and scientific disciplines,” says Louis Rose, editor of American Imago and Professor of History at Otterbein University.

The Johns Hopkins University Press, which publishes the journal, created a virtual timeline to celebrate the anniversary at http://www.press.jhu.edu/timeline/aim/. The website connects milestones in the journal’s history with the important historic events simultaneously taking place.

The first issue of Imago, under the editorial direction of Freud and co-edited by Otto Rank and Sachs, appeared in Vienna in March 1912. The journal remained active until its supression.

Although Freud initially hoped that Imago in exile would remain a German-language publication, he eventually agreed with Sachs’ idea for an English-language journal and suggested that it be called American Imago. Freud died before the initial issue of the transplanted journal appeared, but Sachs successfully put their project into effect.

“To explore psychoanalysis as part of history, to define its roles within contemporary society, and to engage with new concepts and methods from the humanities, the arts, and the social and psychological sciences are the ongoing tasks for psychoanalysis and the tasks to which American Imago commits itself at the start of the twenty-first century, as did Imago in Vienna at the start of the twentieth,” Rose says.

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