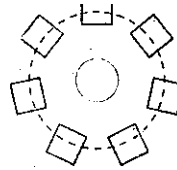


**THE GROUP-ANALYTIC SOCIETY  
(LONDON)  
BULLETIN No 1  
AUGUST 1982**



As the journal GROUP ANALYSIS is now appearing in more conventional format the Editorial Committee and the Committee of the Group Analytic Society have decided that we should issue a BULLETIN at more frequent intervals (initially about five times a year) to keep our members up to date with group-analytic matters, and to provide space for our more informal communications.

We aim to be flexible and want your active participation: news of meetings and workshops, of course; but also such items as members' reading notes; observations from your current work - clinical and non-clinical; requests for comparable observations and findings; ideas for research projects.

This first issue inevitably is heavy with Headquarters' material! please make sure that this will not be typical. Colin James' account of our European meeting here in London last May is important and topical. We shall have to try hard to keep the cost down; Also please send your material in a form which can be directly reproduced photographically, and keep it brief. Does this remind you of the earlier issues of GROUP ANALYSIS itself?

Elizabeth Foulkes

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Please send your contributions, comments & news to:  
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Home telephone no: .01-435. 1871`

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Letter from the President of the Society,  
Dr M L J Abercrombie, to the Editor.

July 30 1982

My dear Elizabeth,

Just back from an exhilarating 3 months, very group-bound, in Canada and feeling rather Rip-van-Winkelish, I want to tell you how delighted I was to hear from across the water, that our Committee had decided to venture into producing a Bulletin, And I am so glad that you have under-taken to start editing it. Nobody is so well equipped as you to carry on Michael's style of combining the personal and public aspects of the Society's aspirations. It's hard times to be starting something requiring new financial outlay. But I feel that it's just in this period of pinching and Scraping that easy personal contact with like-minded people is most important for our health and growth. The Bulletin can both strengthen our roots with the past - with the early years of GAIPAC - and give strength to GA Mark II in its more public form.

So, I would like to offer congratulations to the Group-Analytic Society for its courage in starting the Bulletin, and to wish its first Editor the very best of luck in her task and as much enjoyment of it as those will have who read it and write for it.

Yours with love,

Jane

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## **NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY**

### 1 Daleham Gardens NW3

You will have heard that the Institute of Group Analysis is acquiring premises at this address. We hope that the Society will have a stake in the equity: we shall certainly share the premises and remain closely linked with the Institute administratively and in many other ways.

To remind you: The Society, founded 30 years ago, is the Mother Body. The Institute is a stripling, just eleven years old. The Trust for Group Analysis served well for some years as a holding body, but the Charity Commissioners could no longer sanction this arrangement and we are now two separate charities.

A new brochure to set all this out in proper form is being prepared by Bryan Boswood who has done much work on our respective Constitutions,

### New Honorary Members

To mark the Society's thirty years of existence, the Committee has elected three of our members of very long standing to Honorary Member-ship: Mrs Isabel Jacobs, Mr James Home and Dr Walter Schindler.

### French/British links

The Societe Frangaise de Psycholherapie Psychanalytique de Groupe would like to have closer contact with us, perhaps a meeting once a year for French speakers, Please let us know if your French is adequate!

### Fund-raising

We had a most successful and enjoyable evening of music, food & drink and the company of happy group-analysts, arranged by Caroline Garland, Nice lot, aren't we? (Confirmed by spouses and partners).

*From the European Liaison Officer of the Society,*  
Dr Colin James,

### **Group Analytic Society.**

#### **Report of weekend meeting 8th & 9th May, 1982 at Bedford College, London.**

A most pleasant and I think successful meeting was held on 8th and 9th May, 1982 at Bedford College, London. This meeting which was attended by 40 participants, 21 from the United Kingdom and 19 from the rest of Europe, was organised on behalf of the Group Analytic Society Committee in response to requests made very clearly at a meeting of overseas members of the Society and others interested in the liaison between the Group Analytic Society and other organisations in Europe, which was held in Rome during the time of the European Symposium (6th September, 1981). The meeting in Rome itself originated from a general concern about the overseas activities of the Society which had been aired in the previous symposium in Stockholm and also during the International Congress in Copenhagen. The question of the organisation of the overseas membership of the Society has of course a longer history than this, but it seems that the impetus took off in Stockholm and certainly reached a level of importance in Rome. I think it is worth noting at this point that the Society's Committee had been very concerned about this issue and it is very difficult to differentiate from the Committee's point of view, this issue about the status of overseas membership and the question of liaising with other European societies, from the Committee's own concern about the relationship between the Group Analytic Society and the Institute of Group Analysis, an issue which has concerned the Committee and indeed the membership of the Society a great deal in the last few years.

The meeting on 9th May then, was convened in order to deal with several complicated and inter-related issues. The stated aims of the meeting were as follows.

1. To discuss the overseas membership status of the Society.
2. To consider plans for the next European Symposium on group analysis, and to organise a working party for this purpose.
3. To discuss the relationship of the Group Analytic Society to other societies, associations and institutes in this field in Europe.

At the Roma meeting Rita Leal, Göran Ahlin and I, made notes and presented them to the Society Committee in the Autumn of '81.

A full report of the discussions in the meetings and in the Committee was presented to the Annual General Meeting of the Society in February, '82 and the concern of the Committee to organise a meeting where these views could be dealt with in greater depth, was endorsed by the A.G.M. In the meantime there had been considerable correspondence concerning these issues amongst several people and to the Committee, notably Goran Ahlin, Juan Campos, Rita Leal and Fabrizio Napolitani. The documentation concerning various aspects had reached a considerable volume by the time of the May meeting.

The meeting was held on a very pleasant Spring weekend in the comfortable ambience of Bedford College in the middle of Regents Park. The format had been planned as an opening Plenary session with a division into two smaller groups to facilitate deeper discussion. Malcolm Pines chaired the meeting and it occurred over a Saturday morning and afternoon

and a Sunday morning. It goes sane way towards signifying the unity of purpose of the participants that the plan to divide into small groups was abandoned after the first meeting in that setting and the discussion was organised coherent and disciplined, throughout the weekend. At this point I would like to pay tribute to Malcolm's chairman-ship of the last session at which firm decisions and proposals were achieved.

Space does not permit a verbatim account of the proceedings but in the light of the earlier correspondence several people volunteered to introduce various points of view concerning the several issues for debate.

Goran Ahlin for instance stated that he came with a mandate from the Stockholm Institute to make contact with other group analysts in Europe and to be seen to be a part of the development of group analysis in Europe. In his inimitable way he pointed to the dangers of a tendency to want to build a church and for training to become an initiation procedure and gave a cautionary statement about the value of an association of societies or institutes being facilitating organisations rather than being developed in order to solve inherent local problems. I shall never forget his closing remark which was in the form of a question "What do we intend to do with what we intend to do?".

Juan Campos reviewed sane of the historical events that had led to the holding of this meeting and focussed on the question of the status of the overseas membership of the Society and the relationship of the GAS with other associations. He emphasized throughout the need for communication via the Journal and mentioned Foulkes' ultimate aim to form an association of group analytic societies. Juan went on to remind us of the various types of societies that we might envisage viz.(i) Learned societies; (ii) professional accrediting societies; (iii) qualifying societies concerned with teaching and training. <sup>1</sup>

Rita Leal focussed our attention on the pragmatic problems in developing ways and means to achieve our ends and emphasized the need, having got this far, to have concrete proposals from the meeting emphasizing the work task that lay ahead.

Fabrizio Napolitani having previously circulated documents about the organisation of societies in Italy described the Italian model for us and invited us to consider the development of an affiliation of various national societies.

With this introduction the discussions in the small groups started to be continued in the later plenary sessions which persisted as I have said as the ongoing model for the duration of the weekend. Incidentally, the concentrated atmosphere and concern with the issues under discussion achieved and maintained a high level throughout the weekend and it seemed that the participants had given a great deal of thought to these areas. Certainly, the warmth amongst the participants at the reception on the Friday evening was noticeable.

Returning to the themes of the weekend there was an in-depth statement and discussion with gradual clarification and focussing on key issues leading to some definite proposals.

Organisational problems, financial problems, identity problems were dealt with. The relationship between academic standards and professional qualifications, the area of leadership from members of the Society as distinct from interested workers who are not members, the historical, somewhat hierarchical position that GAS, London had occupied, different national needs, cultural differences were all dealt with slowly and carefully.

Gradually a list of needs emerged:

1. The organisation of European meetings.

2. Information exchange of the activities of other societies.
3. Communication. In addition to the Journal the need for correspondence and spontaneous exchange of ideas and developments.
4. The feeling that the whole membership of the Group Analytic Society be interested in the needs of overseas members.
5. The need to change the methodology of organisation of Symposia.
6. The priority of different national needs being recognised.

Gradually but definitely, the consensus of the meeting moved towards a wish to consolidate and re-organise initially within the confines of the Group Analytic Society to give ourselves time to re-consider changes in our organisation and to move towards greater collaboration on the resolving of key issues such as democratic representation, professional qualification status and financial autonomy for example. It seemed as if an agenda for many symposia were outlined in the course of the weekend. **As Malcolm emphasized there had been a change in perspective and a change in identity of the GAS. We had become part of a European movement and should. take full cognizance of that. <sup>ii</sup>We needed however to move slowly and definitely towards a different organisation.**

Several firm proposals were carried at the meeting for reference back to the Group Analytic Society and its Committee.

Firstly, the whole status and category of overseas membership should be considered and abandoned.

Secondly, the date of the AGM of the Society should if possible be altered to accommodate overseas members who particularly would wish to come to London for the May S.H.Foulkes Lecture annually and the possibility of organising a weekend event around these 2 occasions would be most welcome.

Thirdly, the revitalisation of the correspondence element of the Journal should be encouraged.

Fourthly, Juan Campos proposed the establishment of two sub-committees of the Society Committee. One, a sub-committee to deal with trans-national matters and two, an international sub-committee to deal with the organisation of symposia, workshops and correspondence.

It was requested that these proposals be communicated to the Group Analytic Society Committee and it was further proposed that a working party be established to continue the concern of the participants of this weekend meeting but principally to initiate the organisation of the next European Symposium, inter-nationally.

The members of the working party are as follows: Goran Ahlin, Sweden; Hanne Campos, Spain; Ursula Keller-Husemann, Germany; Terry Lear, UK; Fabrizio Napolitani, Italy; Lise Rafaelsen, Denmark; Yannis Tsegos, Greece;

Co-chairpersons of the working party - Liesl Hearst, UK; Colin James, UK.

It is hoped that this working party will meet at intervals (for example during the London Workshop, January '83) and will be active in correspondence.

Since the May meeting there has been little active correspondence amongst members of the working party but at the time of writing this report (20th July '82) some important steps have already been achieved as a result of the proposals at the meeting. You will appreciate that some of the changes which have been planned are very important and have taken the Group Analytic Society Committee a considerable amount of time and effort in reaching their decisions.

The following is a list of changes to date.

1. The Committee has noted the unanimous opinion of the participants at the May meeting to delete reference to "overseas members" in the Constitution. This will be implemented at the next AGM of the Society and will be finalised as far as the Committee is concerned in the Autumn of '82 in preparation for the AGM.
2. The date of the next AGM of the Society has been fixed. for Sunday morning 22nd May 1983. This is a major change from the traditional February date for the AGM and coincides with the weekend prior to the next S. H. Foulkes Annual Lecture which will take place on Monday 23rd May '83. These two dates having been fixed, the format of the next May weekend can be organised.
3. May weekend 1983.
  - Friday 20th May - Social evening.
  - Saturday 21st May - Meeting. Format to be decided.
  - Sunday 22nd May - 11am - AGM Group Analytic Society.
  - Monday 23rd May - S.H.Foulkes Annual Lecture.
4. The formation of two sub-committees has been agreed.
  - a. A sub-committee to deal with symposia, international meetings. The working party elected to organise the next European symposium at the May 1982 meeting has been asked to be for the time being the sub-committee dealing with international meetings etc. The committee had endorsed Liesl Hearst and Colin James to be co-chairman of this party and to liaise with the committee of the GAS on these matters..
  - b. The formation of a sub-committee to deal with the publication of the Newsletter or bulletin has been endorsed and acted upon by the Editorial Committee. Mrs Elizabeth Foulkes has accepted to edit the Bulletin, and this report is being published with pleasure in that first new edition. The committee is to ask Juan Campos to be invited to assist in the production of the Bulletin and Mrs Foulkes and Juan Campos will co-opt members to this sub-committee as necessary.
5. Although this is covered in the previous item I wish to record it as an event stimulated by the deliberations at the May weekend that the Bulletin for international correspondence has now been established and endorsed by the Society Committee.
6. Lastly, but not least, plans are afoot for the preliminary organisation of the next European Symposium on Group Analysis - the task delegated to the working party named above. The main activity in this respect is anticipated to start in the Autumn of '82 and one very firm suggestion about the date and place of the next European Symposium has been made. The Symposium being a triannual event ordinarily should take place in 1984. In April '84 there is the International Congress on Group Psychotherapy in Mexico and we have had a firm offer from our Yugoslavian

colleagues Professor Cividini-Stranic and Dr Klein who are prepared to organise the next European Symposium there. Malcolm Pines who visited them in July '82 and I have discussed the possibility and there is a problem about holding the Symposium in the September of '84 because the Yugoslav Society for Psychotherapy holds its own meeting towards the end of September. The suggestion to date therefore is that the next European Symposium would take place in Yugoslavia in July '84 and whilst this does occur three months after the International in Mexico it does seem that if we are going to hold it in Yugoslavia then we will have to take it in July and it is somewhat unfortunate that the International and the European will take place within such a short period of time of each other. On the other hand, the impetus of the International coupled with the enthusiasm for the European Symposium which seems to be growing, might well facilitate a good meeting in July '84. Any suggestions concerning this would be welcomed by the working party. There are some other ideas afloat but these have not yet been followed up. In addition to the venue and date, the format of the Symposium will need careful planning and your working party will be grateful for any suggestions.

Other news - Elizabeth Foulkes in another part of this Bulletin refers to the interest expressed by our French colleagues for a joint French Group Psychotherapy Association/Group Analytic Society meeting.

We have had a fine suggestion from Jean Claude Rouchy of Paris for a **European trans-cultural workshop and research.**<sup>iii</sup> This is a beautiful model for a workshop on a very important theme and details will be circulated to the working party for further consideration.

Finally, may I say what a pleasure it has been to write a report on a meeting which already has achieved a considerable change in many areas and I hope that this beginning augures well for the future development of links within Europe and for a stimulating European Symposium.

Colin James  
Co-chairman  
Working Party European Symposium



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LANGUAGES. Please let us know of any languages (other than English) that you read / speak / can translate from and into

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## SOME NOTES & OBSERVATIONS

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<sup>i</sup> (My underlying, JCA, Foulkes idea was not at all of a AGAS ( as I was misquoted by Colin James) but of an “international association of group analyst” –a quite different proposition! That is what Colin most certainly wanted to hear, but not what Foulkes said in his last GAIPAC Editorial, GR/AN 1979 XII/2 pp107-108, and I quoted on the occasion! JAC)

<sup>ii</sup> A turning point in the history of G.A. From “local society” into “international association”

<sup>iii</sup> On top of the above change there was seeded by Touchy **Transnational Group Analysis.**