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## HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY

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The International Association of Group Psychotherapy was organized in Zurich in August of 1973 as an extension of an international council which had already successfully conducted four congresses. At the Zurich meeting a Constitution was adopted.

After considerable difficulty the first congress was held in August of 1954. After the Annual Conference of the American Group Psychotherapy Association in 1952, Sam Slavson suggested that we were ready for an international congress in conjunction with the World Congress of Mental Health to be held in Toronto in August, 1954. It was soon learned that Jacob Moreno of the Moreno institute of Psychodrama planned a meeting at the same time. Frank Fremont-Smith, head of the World Mental Health Association, insisted that they join in a single congress on Group Psychotherapy.

With some reluctance planning for a joint congress was started. Moreno and Slavson began meeting to plan the congress, but conflicting views generated much friction and eventually it was suggested that Slavson and Moreno each select someone in whom they had confidence who was also acceptable to the others and they should proceed with the planning.

Slavson selected Wilfred Hulse, an analytic psychiatrist, and Moreno chose Wellman Warner, Chairman, Department of Sociology, New York University. These mild mannered gentlemen cooperatively arranged an excellent program with the cooperation of E.F. Rosen and a local committee. Representatives of many countries were contacted and endorsed the planned congress. The friction between the adherents of Moreno and Slavson did not subside, but some European figures joined an international committee and provided neutral direction that eventually planned a second congress in Zurich. Bierer and Foulkes of England, Lebovics of France, and Friedemann of Switzerland joined in their efforts and the congress was held in Zurich in August, 1957. The diplomatic flair of Warner contributed greatly. The European contacts of Warner and Moreno assured an excellent meeting August 28-31, 1957.

An unexpected appearance of Carl Jung at a plenary session was a special treat to many in attendance and might have prompted the comment of Wellman Warner in a letter to Sam Hadden under the date of March 22, 1975. He wrote, "I am struck by the parallel between the early history of the development of psychoanalytic organization with all of the bitterness, mutual suspicions, recrimination and obstruction and our emerging international organization in group psychotherapy. The immensely(?) revealing Freud/Jung letters, published just last year, throw a flood of light not only on persons and national groups, but also on ideas and theory."

The executive sessions in Zurich were at times stormy, and the friction between Moreno and Slavson continued. Following that congress Slavson practically withdrew from further participation in the international committee. Moreno, through his numerous European contacts and dynamic personality, assured the permanence of an international organization while Adolph Friedemann as Secretary General made meaningful contributions. It was following this congress that J. Wellman Warner, who functioned as Secretary from his home in Mamaroneck, resigned, and the function of Secretary was transferred to Beacon, New York.

In the planning for the third congress in Milan, Slavson took little if any part, but one of the principal sources of friction between him and Moreno were Moreno's objection to the adoption of a constitution in which Slavson felt standards for training should be delineated. It was Moreno's wish according to Warner as outlined in the letter to Hadden in March of 1975, "To provide channels of communication for a wide range of workers in the field because in Europe the psychoanalytic orthodoxy had been replaced by a pluralism of theory." At any rate, Hadden, at the suggestion of members of A.G.P.A., presented a constitution and by-laws without any standards for training for adoption. It was not brought to a vote. However, it was made clear that the drive for a constitution through which a degree of permanence could be assured would occur at the next congress.

Although the press for adoption of a constitution was the feature of the executive sessions, the scientific program was excellent and gave evidence of wider utilization of group techniques. General Manager and Organizer of the Third International Congress in Milan in 1963 was E. Spaltro. The social arrangements at Milan were excellent and the warmth of our Italian hosts was memorable.

The next congress was arranged in Vienna where Raoul Schindler played a prominent role and even the distractions of the beautiful city could not detract from the excellent program. It was here that the rough draft of a constitution was agreed upon. Friedmann Warner, Madden and others labored cooperatively to construct a constitution that would be workable and provide guidance creating a means whereby assurance of democratic procedures would establish an orderly succession of authority through an elected board and officers.

The return of the congress to Zurich in 1973 was due largely to the efforts of Friedemann, Battegay, Uchtenhagen and Moreno. Group psychotherapy was in full flower and the program continued the progression of excellence which characterized each congress.

Moreno appeared at the opening plenary session and briefly responded to the spontaneous display of affection. Zerka T. Moreno gave an excellent address which was the feature of that opening session.

At executive sessions the constitution which was discussed at great length was finally adopted with a few minor changes. Moreno was present and pleased to note that the discipline he had worked so hard to advance had reached the point where its continuance would be assured under a democratic constitution. Officers were elected and Nice, France, was selected as the place for the next meeting. Anne Ancelin-Schutzenberger, who had so faithfully supported most of our congresses, agreed to arrange for the meeting. Unfortunately, complications arose in getting financial support and the board agreed to hold the congress in Madrid in August, 1976.

The proposed meeting in Nice was well publicized at considerable expense when cancellation became necessary. Arrangements for the Madrid meeting were progressing nicely and many registrations were received. The program under Jay Fidler, Malcolm Pines and Zerka Moreno was progressing smoothly when Spain, in the United Nations, voted to declare Israel a racist nation. This act caused so many to cancel their reservations and withdraw from the program that the board cancelled the meeting again after considerable funds were spent in advertising and other expenses. Finally the meeting was planned for Philadelphia in August, 1977.

Because of the two cancellations, the printing, mail and other costs had depleted the treasury and a vigorous effort to enroll additional individual and organizational members was necessary. Screening of individual and organizational membership was suspended. Simultaneous translation was too expensive to be considered, and, because only 15 months were available to complete the plans, the congress was held. There was deserved criticism of some of the presentations.

At the business meeting, as required in the constitution adopted in Zurich in order to assure that the next congress would be an excellent one, organizational members were requested to submit a plan for the next congress. Jacob Katwan presented documentary support of the West German government and the city of West Berlin where fantastic facilities would be at our disposal without cost. Malcolm Pines presented a plan to hold the congress in a British university town where the dormitory and other facilities would be at our disposal, and this appealing proposition was the one adopted. At the business meeting Raymond Battegay of Basel, Switzerland, was elected president with Malcolm Pines chairman of the Program Committee.

Local professional tensions in England made the proposed location impossible. Raymond Battegay traveled to Berlin, but found that Jakob Katwan could no longer make the prior offer. Both Pines and Battegay finally met with Lise Rafaelsen and her co-workers in Copenhagen and established the 7th International Congress. This was a superbly organized congress which was a scientific, social and financial success.

Battegay worked not only to establish the Copenhagen Congress, but to set the groundwork for future congresses in Mexico, Yugoslavia, Portugal, Israel and Japan. The machinery of the organization is beginning to work as planned.

With Malcolm Pines as president, the plans for the 8th International Congress are set for Mexico in 1984. Luis Feder will make local arrangements. Raymundo Macias will establish the program. A modest step toward a permanent central office is getting under way through the efforts of Jay Fidler.