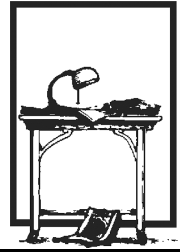

EDITORIAL



A New Publisher, a New Archive, and an Old Mystery

In late 2007, Taylor & Francis, a large and distinguished publisher of academic and professional journals and books, purchased our prior publisher, Haworth Press. Taylor & Francis took over publication of the *Journal of Trauma & Dissociation (JTD)* beginning with Volume 9, Number 1. Beginning with Volume 10 (2009), *JTD* will be published by Taylor & Francis under the Routledge imprint. This is good news for *JTD*, not only because Routledge is a highly respected name in academic publishing, but also because the publisher plans increased marketing, visibility, and improved online access for *JTD*.

Taylor & Francis expects to migrate all of the online content currently hosted on www.haworthpress.com to the Taylor & Francis site, Informaworld, by Fall 2008. There will also be changes to the appearance of the print version of *JTD* beginning with Volume 10 that I expect will be well received by our readers. During this period of transition, the Taylor & Francis staff has been responsive and supportive. I am particularly

pleased to learn from them that page numbers will be continuous across issues within each volume, the production time of our journal will shorter than it has been, and the journal will be published on a more reliable quarterly schedule.

In addition to a new publisher, *JTD* welcomes new editorial board members: for Volume 9, Bethany Brand, PhD, Pamela Birrell, PhD, Judith Herman, MD, and Richard Chefetz, MD; and for Volume 10, M. Rose Barlow, PhD, Lisa Cromer, PhD, Amber Douglas, PhD, Rachel Goldsmith, PhD, Kathy Steele, MN, CS, and Don Tucker, PhD. With a distinguished publisher and a superb editorial board, the future of *JTD* is bright.

I am also happy to be able to call attention to a new archive. In my Volume 8, Number 3, *JTD* editorial (Freyd, 2007), I mentioned that Frank Putnam, MD, had proposed we create a digital archive of the scientific and medical literature in this area from the 19th and early 20th centuries. I am very pleased to report now that Putnam's vision has become a reality. The Dissociation & Trauma Archives (<http://boundless.uoregon.edu/digcol/diss/>) contains the full text of many important articles appearing in key journals published between 1862 and 1922, including several from early French publications. This archive is available free to anyone with an Internet connection. The text of the articles is fully searchable, and the archive can be browsed by article title, journal, and author. The archive is a collaborative project between the University of Oregon (UO) Department of Psychology and the UO Libraries. Esther Giller of the Sidran Foundation generously gave us permission to digitize and post the full text of the Sidran Press book *Multiple Personality and Dissociation, 1791–1992: A Complete Bibliography* (Goettmann, Greaves, & Coons, 1994). The archive site also provides links to material related to Pierre Janet, more recent journals such as *JTD*, and all articles published from 1988 to 1997 in the journal *Dissociation: Progress in the Dissociative Disorders*.

Most of the historic articles lacked an original abstract or summary. During the UO Winter 2008 term I taught a graduate seminar called "Understanding Childhood Trauma: Historical and Societal Contexts." One of the required assignments in this seminar for each of the 14 participants was to write a synopsis of a posted article. Since then, additional synopses have been written by colleagues. The graduate students in the seminar also met with librarians Barbara Jenkins, head of reference and psychology subject specialist for the UO Libraries, and Karen Estlund, the library's digital collections coordinator, to discuss intellectual and design aspects of the archive. Jenkins and Estlund, who are spearheading

this effort for the UO Libraries, plan to add additional material to the archive as well.

An interesting aspect of the digitized articles is that they describe and document phenomena we study now but they do so with a different conceptual framework. For instance, many of the descriptions of what we now call dissociative identity disorder do not assume a trauma etiology. Many of the authors of the old works were explicitly searching for explanations of the phenomena and in some cases came up with ideas that may seem very odd to us today. We know now that trauma is strongly associated with dissociative disorders. Indeed, a lot of controversy today about dissociative phenomena is connected with controversy about trauma, particularly child abuse. It even seems that some skeptics question the reality of dissociative identity disorder in part because of the trauma framework. The old articles show that people did observe dissociation, even without a trauma perspective.

Another interesting aspect of the older articles is the change in terminology used. For instance, one of the digitized articles is titled "A Case of Claustrophobia." This 1920 article appeared as an appendix in *Instinct and the Unconscious: A Contribution to a Biological Theory of the Psycho-Neuroses*, a book by W. H. R. Rivers. Warwick Middleton, MD, initially called this article to my attention because it describes a case of recovered memory. The case report concerns a 31-year-old man who suffered from a fear of enclosed places. During treatment for this claustrophobia, the man recovered a memory from age 4 involving being trapped in a dark enclosed space. Subsequent information provided by the man's parents provided some degree of confirmation of his recovered memory. The man's claustrophobia subsided after recovering the childhood memory. Prior attempts to recover a memory of a sexual nature (due to therapist suggestion) had not been successful, indicating that the man was not unduly suggestible. Perhaps the most interesting aspect of this case today is that it is labeled a case of claustrophobia, not one of dissociation or recovered memory. The Dissociation & Trauma Archives brings such material to the attention of scholars and students.

Finally, an old mystery. A graduate student locating articles for the Dissociation & Trauma Archives alerted me to an experimental feature of the search engine Google called Google Timeline (www.google.com/experimental/). Using this tool, we found a reference to reports of a 1646 account by Paracelsus, a 16th century medical author. Paracelsus reportedly wrote of a woman who had amnesia about an alter personality who stole her money. This caught my eye: If the reports of Paracelsus's

writings were correct, this might possibly be an interesting pre-1800 example of dissociative amnesia. (For other examples, see Freyd, 2007.) I initiated a search to find the source for the Paracelsus claim. That search has been intriguing but without a clear result to date.

A frequent citation on Internet sites for the Paracelsus claim is to Putnam's 1989 book *Diagnosis and Treatment of Multiple Personality Disorder*. In that book, Putnam wrote, "Paracelsus is credited by Bliss (1980) as having described the first case of [multiple personality disorder], in 1646, involving a woman who was amnesic for an alter personality who stole her money" (p. 28). In the Bliss paper, I found this sentence: "Paracelsus (1646) noted a case in which the personality pilfered her money, while the subject remembered nothing about it" (p. 1388). Bliss referenced by footnote a book by Völgyesi (1963/1966) titled *Hypnosis of Man and Animals*. I was able to find a 1966 translation of the 1963 edition of Völgyesi's work. He wrote originally in German, and the 1966 translation was of the second edition of *Menschen- und Tierhypnose*. (I have not been able to find a copy of the first edition of Völgyesi's book.) The report of Paracelsus's amnesia case is presented in the second edition of Völgyesi's *Hypnosis of Man and Animals* as follows:

In his *Opera* (Strasbourg, 1646; vol. 2, p. 553), Paracelsus describes in detail how the monks from the Cloister near Kärnter Ossiach healed patients from the surrounding areas by letting them gaze at a crystal ball until they fell asleep. He was much interested too in the phenomenon of "moon-struck" behavior, and in spontaneous and artificially induced somnambulism as well. He quotes examples of this: e.g. the hostess of a tavern near Basel had accused her servants for many months of stealing the daily takings. One day she found blood on her bedclothes and on the table, where there were also pieces of broken glass. It then came out that her "second self" as a sleep-walker pilfered her own money, which her "original self" later found intact, hidden away in the roof. The "original self" remembered nothing of this activity. (Völgyesi, 1963/1966, p. 16)

I provide the full quotation because it is not entirely clear to me whether the citation to Paracelsus is meant to include the hostess of a tavern story, or rather whether that citation refers only to the story about the monks. Clearly, though, Bliss interpreted Völgyesi to be citing Paracelsus (1646) for the "second self" case. To my consternation, the reference section of Völgyesi's book has no reference to Paracelsus

(1646). Furthermore, in no list or source was I able to find any reference to a 1646 *Opera* by Paracelsus. One puzzle from early on in my mystery hunt was discovering that Paracelsus died in 1541. Much of his work was published posthumously, but typically not by a century. Could 1646 have been a typo for 1546?

I consulted a number of additional books about Paracelsus and his writings, hunting for more information, but I kept running into dead ends. I took to writing to colleagues and scholars in history and intellectual history, asking for their suggestions. In one instance a colleague in the Department of History here at UO gave me the name of a historian in Chicago, who referred me to a scholar in Germany. From a psychology colleague in Germany I was able to get an e-mail address for the German scholar. I explained that I had not been able to find clear citation to a primary work by Paracelsus regarding the multiple personality claim. My e-mail was eventually forwarded to Dr. Peter Kreuter, the scientific researcher of the Paracelsus Project at the Medizinhistorisches Institut der Universität Bonn. Reading original Latin and German texts, Kreuter then kindly searched for an answer to my question. So far he has not been able to locate the Paracelsus source. He most recently reported the following:

I found in Völgyesi, “Menschen- und Tierhypnose”, Zürich 1963, p. 28–29, the basic information about the so-called Paracelsian case report about dissociation (the woman who woke up in blood and broken glass). Völgyesi has indicated as source “Opera, Ed. Straßburg 1646, Bd. 2, S. 553” . . . but we have no edition made from Strasbourg in that year. 1618 yes . . . 1659 yes . . . none for 1646, none for 1546. But for 1564 we have some books printed in Strasbourg. One of them was his “Book of Surgery”—maybe Völgyesi made just a horrible mistake in the year of publication? We’ll see. (P. M. Kreuter, personal communication, March 28, 2008, used with permission)

Although I have not yet solved my Paracelsus mystery, I have developed a great admiration for historians, and I have not given up. Perhaps one of you, gentle readers, will provide the answer or a clue. Perhaps in the future this journal will publish a solution to the Paracelsus mystery, and our new archive will add an item from the 1500s.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy reading the articles in *JTD*, and I invite you to send us your best work for future issues. Also, keep tuned to

the *JTD* Web site I have created at <http://dynamic.uoregon.edu/~jjf/jtd/> for author information, links, updates, and announcements.

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