

Introduction *

In this issue of *Thalassa* we present the unpublished correspondence of Sándor Ferenczi and Ernest Jones found in the Archives of the British Psychoanalytical Society (BPS). The letters are kept in the Archives of the British Psychoanalytical Society, in the Ernest Jones Collection in the folder marked with the reference code P04/C/C/01.

They are reproduced in the original languages Ferenczi and Jones used. Only one of the letters has been in print before; the one written to Jones by Ferenczi in Freud's study on 2 November 1913 in Vienna.¹ The letters are published here with the kind permission of Judith Dupont and the Archives of the British Psychoanalytical Society.

The corpus of the correspondence comprises altogether 37 letters and 5 postcards. The first letter is dated 8 April 1911, the last one 22 March 1933. Most of the letters are from Ferenczi to Jones, however the collection also contains copies of 3 typed letters written by Jones to Ferenczi (7 August 1924; 25 June 1925; 1 February 1929). According to our present knowledge, the rest of Jones's letters addressed to Ferenczi did not survive. Most of Ferenczi's letters are handwritten and are in German, a language which Jones knew well. He, on the other hand, replied in English, the language he used in the *Rundbriefe* and elsewhere in his correspondence. Ferenczi wrote three typed letters in English. Two of these sent from New York on 5 October and on 13 December 1926, both on the letter headed paper

* Translated by Tímea Friedrich, revised by Judit Székács.

¹ This letter is regarded by Gerhard Wittenberger and Christfried Tögel, publishers of the circular letters of the „Secret Committee”, as one of the precursors of the circulars and is published by them in the first volume of *Rundbriefe* (Gerhard Wittenberger – Christfried Tögel [Hg.] *Die Rundbriefe des „Geheimen Komitees”*. Bd. I. 1913-1920. edition diskord, Tübingen, 1999, pp. 32-34).

of St. Andrew hotel. The third typed letter written in English – the last letter of the collection – is dated 22 March 1933. This letter was presumably translated and typed by Elma Pálos for the seriously ill Ferenczi.

In his letters, Ferenczi writes to Jones addressing him “Dear Jones”, “Lieber Freund” and “Lieber Ernest” alternately. When writing in German he initially used the formal, polite form of address (German *Sie*); however, after his letter dated 23 June 1914, he began using the informal address (German *Du*).

The saga of how we learnt about the existence of the Ferenczi-Jones correspondence takes us back to 2004. Following “CONFERENCZI” the second international Ferenczi conference held in London devoted to “Revisiting Hungarian Psycho-analytical Ideas”.² Pearl King, the legendary figure of the Independent Group and the Archives of the British Psychoanalytical Society has encouraged and guided us to find the relevant boxes and files containing the Ferenczi documents. During the following years Ken Robinson, the Honorary Archivist of the British Psychoanalytical Society and his colleagues were of great help to us. We would like to thank them for their valuable assistance.

Continuing our research in 2006/2007 we studied the letters and made photocopies of the original manuscripts. It is relevant to mention here that we also discovered an anonymous and un-dated English draft translation of approximately half of the letters written in German. This translation proved to be inaccurate in a number of places most likely due to the fact that the translator was not always able to decipher Ferenczi’s handwriting. Thus we relied only on the original German manuscripts.

In the next phase the letters – most of them handwritten – were typed into our database from the photocopies. This work was done by Melinda Friedrich, teacher of German and student of the “Theoretical

² The conference was organized by IMAGO MLPC and the Freud Museum and supported by the Hungarian Cultural Centre (HCC).

psychoanalysis” PhD program of the Doctoral School in Psychology at the University of Pécs. She indicated where the text was ambiguous or unclear. The scholarly footnotes, illuminating the context of the letters and providing information regarding relevant items of primary and background literature were also prepared by her. As the majority of these letters were written in German, the language of the footnotes remains also German. However, we included in the Appendix, a Hungarian translation. This is the work of Petrik Bottka, psychologist and student of the same PhD program. The Hungarian translation does not contain footnotes. The reader may find these attached to the original German and – in a few cases – English texts. Editing of the revised text and also editing and typesetting of this issue (including the footnotes) is the precise and valued work of Anna Kovács.

This Ferenczi-Jones correspondence is an important document of the early history of psychoanalysis. It may cast new light on familiar events and developments we know from other sources, such as the Freud-Ferenczi and the Freud-Jones correspondence, the circular letters of the “Secret Committee” (*Rundbriefe*) and also from their diverse publications.

The Ferenczi-Jones correspondence is not as comprehensive and all-embracing as the latter correspondences. At the same time, it spans over more than two decades, and all relevant issues of the psychoanalytic movement during these two decades are reflected in them: Freud’s relation to Stekel and Jung, the First World War, the debates of the 20s regarding the theoretical and technical ideas of Rank and Ferenczi, problems of leadership, structure, finding a center for the psychoanalytical movement, issues related to telepathy and lay analysis, etc.

Probably the most interesting aspect of these documents is how they allow us to look into an extraordinary relationship developing between these two important figures of the history of early psychoanalysis. Their relationship could hardly be termed harmonious: it was not devoid of rivalry and jealousy, sometimes of hidden passion, and even outright hostility. Nevertheless, friendship, sympathy, collegiality and readiness for cooperation were just as important for Ferenczi and Jones as rivalry, mistrust and suspicion.

Different capacities and personality traits, conflicts of their private lives, professional interests, theoretical disagreements and – last but not least – dynamics of the given group formations within the psychoanalytical movement all affected the ambivalent, sometimes fiercely undulating relationship of these two analysts. Ferenczi analysed Jones in Budapest in 1913, and this episode had a definitive influence on the development of their relationship. The necessity of continuing Jones' analysis is a recurring topic mentioned several times over the years .

Processing these letters is a challenging task from both the historical and the psychodynamic point of view. As the first step of this project, we published a study entitled »“Váltakozva égtünk és fagyoskodtunk.” Ferenczi Sándor és Ernest Jones kapcsolata levelezésük tükrében« [“We have been burning and freezing by turns” – The relationship between Sándor Ferenczi and Ernest Jones in the mirror of their correspondence].³

For the first time, this issue of *Thalassa* opens up the correspondence of Sándor Ferenczi and Ernest Jones. We hope that those readers who are interested in our project will be encouraged to use this material as a source for further research and interpretation in the spirit of openness expressed in Ferenczi's letter written to Jones on 6 July 1929:

“The British colleagues' stay in Budapest meant the formation of a kind of British-Hungarian psychoanalytical brotherhood which seems to be an additional expression of the sympathy that exists between our countries.”

Ferenc Erős – Judit Székács

³ In: Erős Ferenc – Lénárd Kata – Bókay Antal (eds.): *Typus Budapestiensis. Tanulmányok a pszichoanalízis budapesti iskolájának történetéről és hatásáról*. [Studies in the history and reception of the Budapest School of Psychoanalysis.] Thalassa, Budapest, 2008, pp. 53-78.