

## Milestones toward the Establishment of IAGP

This is a brief summary, based primarily on the articles of Jose Fonseca (Forum, 2004), Raymond Battegay, Notes from the regional Mediterranean Conference (Athens, 2004), J. L. Moreno's biography by Rene Marineau, and Adam Blatner's book "acting In."

It is interesting to note that the efforts to create an international organization of group therapy date back to the 1940's. From the outset, Jacob Levi Moreno sought to have representation of professionals who practiced group therapy in many forms, not only psychodrama. The information here is focused on Moreno, as I am familiar with his history, his vast writing and publications, and the ambition to reach all of humanity through working with groups. S. H. Foulkes is mentioned in some of these milestones, and I would welcome the opportunity to learn more about his work and his involvement in the creation of IAGP. I do not include here Moreno's prolific activities in writing and publishing, or the establishment of ASGPP, or regional conferences.

Jacob Levi Moreno was born in 1889 in Romania. At age six, his family moved to Vienna, where he eventually became a psychiatrist, creator of Psychodrama, sociometry and group Psychotherapy. The milestones below cover the time since he was a medical student, until the official creation of IAGP in 1973.

- 1911-1917: While a medical student, Moreno worked with various groups: with Children, WWI refugees, and prostitutes in the red-light district in Vienna.
- 1921: Moreno conducts the first open session of psychodrama in a community theater.
- 1925: Moreno immigrates to the United States and settles in New York.
- In the following years, Moreno worked at the Hudson School for Girls, Sing-Sing Prison and later established his own sanatorium in Beacon, New York, where he treated patients using psychodrama and sociometry. This also became a training institute for mental health professionals who came to study from many countries.
- 1928: Moreno starts to lead weekly sessions of psychodrama in a theater in Carnegie Hall, open to the public.
- 1932: Moreno coined the term Group Psychotherapy, and presented it as a valid form of therapy, to a critical audience of psychiatrists, at the annual conference of the American Association of Psychiatry (APA).
- 1941-1951 Moreno corresponds with colleagues in European and other countries, with the expressed goal to lay to foundation of an international organization of group psychotherapy.
- 1951: Moreno travels to Paris and London, meeting with an advisory board, which included S. H. Foulkes.
- 1954: The first International Congress of Group Psychotherapy is held in Toronto, Canada.

1959: The second International Congress in Zurich, Switzerland. Work in the International Council continued, Moreno was its president, the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President was S.H. Foulkes, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President Serge Lébovici, Berthold Stokvis was Secretary, and its Treasurer was Adolf Friedemann. As directors were chosen Joshua Bierer, J.H. Schultz (the founder of autogenic training), and Zerka T. Moreno and Wellman J. Warner.

- 
- 1963: The third Congress, in Milano, Italy.
- 1968: The fourth Congress, in Vienna, Austria. Foulkes, who founded the Group Analytic Society in London attended this congress, as well as many others who were in the advisory committee.
- 1973: The Congress is held again in Zurich. The crowd has grown to 1,300 participants. The constitution on IAGP is adopted. This was Moreno's last Congress, where he appeared, in spite of being in failing health.
- May 14, 1974 Moreno died.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jacob Gershoni