

CONTEMPORARY OBJECT RELATIONS IN LOS ANGELES

Building on the Work
of the London Kleinians

Edited by

Jennifer Langham



PHOENIX
PUBLISHING HOUSE
firing the mind

Also edited by Jennifer Langham

*London Kleinians in Los Angeles:
Laying the Foundations of Object Relations Theory and Practice*

To the memory of

ALBERT MASON

with gratitude

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Introduction

Jennifer Langham

In the companion volume to this book, *London Kleinians in Los Angeles: Laying the Foundations of Object Relations Theory and Practice*, we have the privilege of reading some lectures of the 1960s and 1970s delivered at the Los Angeles Psychoanalytic Society and Institute by some of the psychoanalytic giants of the time. The burgeoning curiosity of the young LA analysts—particularly concerning the work of Melanie Klein and Wilfred Bion—resulted in the move from London to Los Angeles of Wilfred Bion in 1968, along with Albert Mason, and (briefly) of Susanna Isaacs Elmhirst. In 1984 The Psychoanalytic Center of California (PCC) was established as a direct outgrowth of this interest and the addition of these British analysts to the psychoanalytic community in Los Angeles. Gaining membership in the International Psychoanalytical Association in 1993, PCC has endured as a vibrant centre of psychoanalytic learning and training with a continued focus on the work of Klein, Bion, Winnicott, and the contemporary object relations theorists with a special emphasis on the understanding of primitive mental states.

This volume reflects the work of current-day PCC analysts who have carried this psychoanalytic tradition forward. The aim here is to present a collection of papers that show how the ideas and theories of Klein and

Bion are used in analytic treatment today by these Los Angeles clinicians. All of these authors worked closely over the years with Albert Mason and were inspired by his clarity of thought and the depth of understanding that he brought to clinical work. The contributions collected in this volume form a tribute to Dr Mason by some of those who have been profoundly influenced by him.

Chapter 1 is a comparison of some aspects of the concepts of Winnicott, Klein, and Bion presented in the context of the psychoanalytic climate of the time. Chapter 2 is an account of the application of the infant observation experience and training as it relates to psychoanalytic practice and research, and Chapter 3 is a description of the gradual dismantling of a patient's manic personality organisation in analysis allowing for the acceptance of dependency on an imperfect human object. Chapters 4, 5, 8, and 10 are also detailed accounts of individual analyses, and Chapter 6 follows the process of engaging the psychotherapy patient in his or her journey from psychotherapy to a full analytic treatment. Chapter 7 is a consideration of the musical aspects of communication between analyst and patient and a description of how the characteristics of the rhythm and velocity of speech affect the quality of contact between the two participants in any psychoanalytic dialogue. Chapter 9 is a thoughtful and nuanced presentation of the history, meaning, and current perspective on the use of the concept of interpretation in analysis. The chapters presented in this volume reflect various areas of interest and ways of exploring current psychoanalytic thought by analysts at The Psychoanalytic Center of California.