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Book Review

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Edited by Andreas Schweizer and Regine Schweizer-Vuellers. Einsiedeln,
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Reviewed by Thomas Elsner

The Psychology Club, Zurich, was founded by C. G. Jung and others close to him in 1916. This was just four years after Jung broke from Freud, the middle of World War I, and just about the time that Jung's work on *The Red Book* was getting going in earnest. From the start, the club served as one of the important venues in which Jung began to bring his work out into the world. The meetings and lectures, given by and for a selected group of scholars, engaged professionals, and laypersons, buzzed with the creative, experimental energy of the newly developing field of analytical psychology—one in which both the presenters and audience participated in a cross-fertilization of personal and cultural interests united by the common thread of the human psyche. It must have been a unique moment in time in those early days, a time in which many of us would have relished participating.

In 2016 the Psychology Club celebrated its 100th anniversary. Today, the beautiful and stately Club House on

Gemeindestrasse, now under Cultural Heritage Protection from the local government, has been newly renovated. The club offers a thriving program of lectures, seminars, excursions, and now, with the publication of *Stone by Stone: Reflections on the Psychology of C. G. Jung* to mark its centennial anniversary, the club's first book in modern times.

Stone by Stone opens the doors of the Zurich Club to a wider audience than those who happen to live in Switzerland or who are fortunate enough to travel there. Accepting the invitation to the club in this way, through this book, leads us on a journey back in time with original presentations by Jung and Marie-Louise von Franz, from 1952 and 1970, and then brings us into the present moment with essays by contemporary Jungian analysts associated with the Psychology Club who build on Jung's early work from 1916 forward. At least this is how I felt as I read the essays in this volume: that I had traveled back in time, listening in, for instance, while Jung, in that inimitable way in which he spontaneously blended humor and profound depth, took questions from the audience on his book *Aion* in 1952 when it had just been published in German in 1951. And then I was sitting in the audience at the Psychology Club in 1970 listening to Marie-Louise von Franz deliver a brilliant presentation on fairy tales. I then took a seat in the Club House as it exists today to hear lectures given by outstanding Swiss Jungians and analysts in the Swiss spirit, bringing us right up to the present day with their experiences and creative work.

Having trained in Switzerland myself, I recognized a familiarity with the content and feeling of the eleven essays in this volume. These essays, offered in English to us non-German speakers, give an

example of the Swiss depth psychological connection to the past and its creative life in the present.

The title of this volume, *Stone by Stone*, is an allusion to the alchemical stone, the lapis, the symbolic image of the self, built up slowly in the opus of Jung's individuation process. The editors describe this stone: "In psychological terms, it is an image of the Self, for the completeness or wholeness within us; in other words, for that never-to-be quite-realized mysterious inner value that embraces all parts of one's personality, even the minor, unsightly and despised aspects. Therefore, to the lapis and the alchemical process always belongs the encounter with the dark sides of one's own personality." The essays circle around this theme in their own ways, scholarly and personal, intelligent and heartfelt, historical and poetic. They span topics from the *I Ching*, to the symbolic background of the gravestones of Marie-Louise von Franz and Barbara Hannah, to Gershom Scholem and the Kabbalah, aloneness and calling, individuation in old age, Indian culture, feminine symbolism in fairytales, Jung's friendship with Adolf Keller, and,

as mentioned earlier, Jung's spontaneous discussion of *Aion* after this book had just been published. The authors—the current President of the Psychology Club Andreas Schweizer, Marie-Louise von Franz, Regine Schweizer-Vuellers, Tony Wolfson, C. G. Jung, Murray Stein, Marianne Jehle-Wildberger, Hermann Strobel, Claudine Koch-Morgenegg, and Rudolf Hoegger—span a variety of backgrounds and perspectives, but the guiding thread here is the exploration and valuing of that encounter with the dark, unknown, or "other" side of the personality.

These essays all left me with the rare experience that they bear multiple readings, a feeling that proved correct; going back into them over time has yielded more and more. Thank you to the editors for inviting us into the Zurich Psychology Club through this substantial, soulful, and intelligent volume of essays.

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