

# Psychoanalytic Archives and Freedom

C. Diercks<sup>1</sup>, E. O'Neill<sup>4</sup>, C. English<sup>2</sup>, J. Suljagic<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Vienna Psychoanalytic Society, Vienna, Austria*

<sup>2</sup> *British Psychoanalytical Society, London, United Kingdom*

<sup>3</sup> *Psychoanalytic Society of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia*

<sup>4</sup> *RMARA, London, United Kingdom*

## Abstract Content (EN)

Freud introduced "A short account of psychoanalysis" in 1924 with the remark that psychoanalysis did not drop from the skies ready-made. 'It had its starting-point in older ideas, which it developed further; it sprang from earlier suggestions, which it elaborated.' This applies not only to the history of theory but also to the history of psychoanalytic institutions and our personal path as analysts.

The documents of history contained within our European archives function as aides to our future psychoanalytic development, and enhance our freedom to expand psychoanalytic knowledge. This will be shown using the examples of the archive and projects of The Freud-Archive (which was the basis for the digital Viennese Sigmund Freud Edition), the Balint archive collection (which reflects how political and personal freedom is experienced through migration), and the Melanie Klein Archive (in which we see Klein reflecting on the development of her ideas in seminars with candidates).

Psychoanalytic archives, which reveal how eminent analysts worked through their ideas, and contain the fascinating personal stuff of analytic biographies, are a magnificent aid to analysts wishing to develop their own professional freedom; both as they nurture psychoanalytic ideas and grow as clinicians.