

# The Edinburgh International Encyclopaedia of Psychoanalysis

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**MELTZER, DONALD** (1922–) has been a key, if controversial figure within post-Kleinian thinking, particularly in proposing a ‘concrete’ inner world. Born in the USA on 14 August 1922, Meltzer came to psychoanalysis through interests in internal medicine gained during training at Yale and New York University. After practice in St Louis, an initial analysis and participation in the Chicago Institute’s satellite study-group, Meltzer came to London where he trained at the Institute of Psychoanalysis (1954–7). Analysed by \*Klein (with whom he

continued until her death in 1960) and supervised by \*Segal and Rosenfeld, Meltzer then completed child analytic training over the next two years. \*Bick's supervision during that latter period profoundly impressed him, her influence deepening when he began working with her at the Tavistock Clinic. He resigned from the British Society in 1984.

Meltzer's numerous contributions stem from his early focus on the internal situation, phantasies and curiosity which significantly motivate emotional life. Mapping this internal geography led Meltzer to emphasise the inherent intrusiveness of pathological projective identification, processes he linked with anality and anal masturbation. Intrusive identification is thus an insidious entry into the inside of the internal maternal object, motivated by fear and wishes to control. Having perversely entered the object, the subject becomes prone to identity confusion, 'geographical confusions' and claustrophobic states within what Meltzer terms the claustrum. Inherent in this geography is the notion of a multi-dimensional space, which may be containing or confining, entered intrusively, by consent or invitation, and by concrete or imaginative means. In autism, Meltzer highlighted the two dimensional nature of the subject's internal world wherein contact, as Bick hypothesised, is through adhesive identification. More recently, Meltzer has emphasised the aesthetic dimension, aesthetic conflict emanating from appreciation of the object and respect for its privacy in the face of phantasies of usurpation.

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R. Wil.