The Edinburgh International Encyclopaedia of Psychoanalysis

Edinburgh University Press

then led to a broad examination of the role of *infantile sexuality in mental life. It should be noted that Freud did not deny that actual seduction could occur in some cases.

Freud, S. (1914) *On the History of the Psychoanalytic Movement*. London: Hogarth Press.

M. Eag.

SEGAL, HANNA MARIA (née Poznanska) has been the leading contemporary exponent of Kleinian ideas, as well as making outstanding contributions in her own right. Born in Poland on 20 August 1918, she studied medicine in Warsaw, Paris and Edinburgh where she met *Fairbairn. Encouraged by him, she trained at the Institute of Psychoanalysis in London, qualifying in December 1946. Analysed by Klein and supervised by Heimann and Riviere during that training, Segal then qualified in child analysis, supervised this time by Heimann, *Bick and *Klein.

Having read 'A psycho-analytical approach to aesthetics' in 1947, Segal followed this two years later with her membership paper 'Some aspects of the analysis of a schizophrenic'. Here she introduced seminal ideas on *symbol formation, which she related to thought disorder and concretisation. Concomitantly, she emphasised the technical need for focusing firmly on the analysis of leading anxieties as well as eschewing strengthening defences. This paper pioneered, alongside Rosenfeld and later *Bion, post-Kleinian work with psychosis. Since her appointment as a training analyst in 1952, Segal has championed psychoanalysis internationally, fulfilling among other roles those of President of the British Psychoanalytical Society (1977–80; 1981–2), Vice-President of the IPA (1976–81; 1990–3) and the Visiting Freud Memorial Professor at University College London (1977–8).

While Segal highlights her own specialism simply as 'psychoanalysis', certain underlying themes may be observed in her work. John Steiner suggests a core focus is on the dynamic balance between the capacity to tolerate reality (frustration) versus surrendering to omnipotent phantasy, the vicissitudes of which hinge on the flux between the life and death instincts. Bell adopts a slightly different vertex, emphasising the subtleties of depressive position phenomena and particularly phantasy in Segal's concerns. Such exegesis reinforces Segal's root emphasis on the role of representational processes within the mind and culture, ideas perhaps best expressed in her work on symbol formation and *symbolic equation.

In her later work Segal has highlighted the dangers of omnipotent thinking associated with societal disavowal of the danger of nuclear war and its inherent risk of species annihilation. Segal co-founded Psychoanalysts for the Prevention of Nuclear War in 1983 and International Psychoanalysts Against Nuclear Weapons in 1985, organisations which extend the purchase of reason and the life instinct beyond the consulting room.

Bell, D. (1997) *Reason and Passion: A Celebration of the Work of Hanna Segal*. London: Duckworth.

Segal, H. (1981) *The Work of Hanna Segal: A Kleinian Approach to Clinical Practice*. Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson.

Segal, H. (1997) *Psychoanalysis, Literature and War: Papers 1972–1995*. Introduction by J. Steiner (ed.). London: Routledge.

R. Wil.

SELECTED FACT A selected fact is an emotion or an idea that gives coherence to what is dispersed and introduces order into disorder. The name of the element that appears to link together elements not hitherto seen to be connected is used to particularise the selected fact. The constant conjunction is formed from multiple selected facts from which only one is used to nominate the constant conjunction. Its significance is epistemological, and the relationship between the selected facts must not be assumed to be logical. This term was used by the mathematician, Poincare, who thought that the facts science