

Rorschach Origins by Diane Jonte-Pace per Alberto A. PERALTA

Hi. Below a copy of a message I sent to the list almost 2 years ago, motivated by the reading of the important albeit hardly referenced paper by Diane JONTE-PACE "From Prophets to Perception: The origins of Rorschach's psychology", while I was thrilled by the originality of its contents and felt the need to share this "discovery" with my colleagues. Now I feel the need to come back to it to, out of respect for scientific honesty, tone down my own judgement about its originality. The thing is, the core of what this paper contributes is not original from JONTE-PACE but from K. W. BASH (from Switzerland, former President of the International Rorschach Society) who in my opinion deserves much more credit than the one she actually bestows him in the text. It is not that she doesn't reference him, but in her writing it is not sufficiently emphasized how much of what she presents was actually his argument in his Epilogue ("Tabula Undecima - Seu Smaragdina") to RORSCHACH's edited volume of "Collected Papers" (1965 from Hans Huber, in German), where he thoroughly analyzes the role of this collection -particularly the sect studies- in RORSCHACH's last and greatest work "Psychodiagnostics"; for ex., the discovery of the outstanding similarities between BINGGELI's and RORSCHACH's biographies and the interpretation of the role of the former as a 'shadow' (in Jung's sense) of the latter was all BASH's. I had read this latter, unusually illuminating piece of work too many years ago and had almost forgotten its contents, until yesterday when I reread it. "To pay honors to he who deserves it".

Alberto A. PERALTA

From: "Alberto A. PERALTA" <amerorschachives@HOTMAIL.COM>

Reply-To: Rorschach Discussion and Information Group
<RORSCHACH@MAELSTROM.STJOHNS.EDU>

To: RORSCHACH@MAELSTROM.STJOHNS.EDU

Subject: Re: historical article Date: Sun, 21 Mar 2004 18:47:40 -0500

I would like to thank publicly Bruce HARRY here for his kindness in tracking this remarkable article and sending it to me, expanding in this way the collection of the American Rorschach Archives. JONTE-PACE's work, based on her 1984 Ph.D. Dissertation, has several features which make it unique beneath the predominant American Rorschach literature: its true historical character, making scholarly profit from German literature by or about RORSCHACH almost never referenced in English, and its original nature which leads to fresh and illuminating discoveries about the Master and his work. It constitutes a welcomed, no less valuable complement to ELLENBERGER's 1954 biographical essay. Definitely my kind of research!

She concentrates on RORSCHACH's sect studies (particularly the one about Johannes BINGGELI, whom based on striking biographical similarities she convincingly concludes was a double or mirror-image of the author, in the psychoanalytical sense) and their simultaneity with and influence on the creative process that lead to the epoch-making

publication of "Psychodiagnostics", correcting ELLENBERGER's view that the latter research abruptly interrupted the former leading in a totally different direction. What she says about this mirror-duplication is essential for understanding RORSCHACH's method, creatively exemplified in the symmetry he featured his inkblots with recreating this "double" effect (cf. the all-important plate III, to relate with French psychoanalysts LACAN's and DOLTO's body-image theories). In this and in other points there is a very close relationship with my own Doctoral research, particularly in the following quotation which describes in RORSCHACH's creative path the same 3-step perceptual process which I have specifically exploited and related to ZULLIGER's inkblot series that implicitly systematizes his teacher's main categories:

"In his inkblot studies Rorschach cognitively allowed the perceptual world to break into fragmentary pieces before reassembling them as a psychodiagnostic technique... While creating the inkblots and exploring the emergence of perceptual organization out of chaos, he allowed his visual reality to crumble into unstructured fragments. He then reassembled his perceptual universe, creating a new psychodiagnostic technique and a new understanding of the perceptual process." (p. 200)

As Gaston BACHELARD once said in a famous wit simultaneously filled with wisdom: "Lier, c'est bien; délier, c'est mieux; relier, c'est parfait!"

This work deserves infinitely more attention than it seems to have been the case almost 20 years after its publication.

Jonte-Pace, D. E. (1986). From prophets to perception: the origins of Rorschach's psychology. *Annual of Psychoanalysis*, 14, 179-203.

Alberto