

In memoriam Dr. Maurice Haber

2 July 1934 - 14 August 2022



On a hot summer's day in August, Maurice Haber left us in silence. He had not been well for some months and we knew that he was suffering from a serious progressive illness even though some of us had the pleasure of having good exchanges with him during the last year. I speak here on behalf of the members of the Board and all the members of the Belgian Psychoanalytical Society that I represent. I also refer to our many colleagues abroad, who have sent us their condolences.

Maurice was an upright and sincere man for whom we always had a lot of respect and esteem and whom I personally appreciated during during my own training and later at the level of the training committee.

I always appreciated his intelligence, his finesse, his modesty, and his humour. He was a colleague with a great human quality, who trained us with passion and whom we remember vividly and respectfully.

His contribution to the Belgian Psychoanalytical Society is impressive. Maurice is an example of someone who, despite a traumatic past as a hidden child, showed great resilience and became a doctor with a great capacity for empathy and who was very committed to the community at large and to the world of psychoanalysis. As a teenager, he left school of his own accord and enrolled with friends in a technical school. After graduating as a technical engineer, he worked for a while at the ACEC in Charleroi, then at the Bordet laboratory and as an electronic engineer in collaboration with Nobel Prize winner Professor Christian De Duve. There, his intention to resume his studies was reactivated. After his medical studies, he specialized in psychiatry.

He began an analysis in the 1960s and became a member of the Belgian Psychoanalytical Society in 1968. In 1975, he presented his dissertation for membership with the title: *A propos d'un cas de névrose hystérique-phobique*.

Many colleagues of our society have been in psychoanalysis and supervision with him. He is remembered as a person with excellent listening skills and absolute discretion. Throughout his career, he was fully committed to psychoanalysis. Maurice actively participated in the creation of the Bureau Elargi in 1976. In 1982 he co-founded the *Revue Belge de Psychanalyse* and became its editor-in-chief for 8 years. He was president of the SBP from 1990 to 1992. He was also active in the ethics committee and re-launched the *Bulletin* in

1978 before creating the *Revue* despite a lot of opposition at the time. He has been a member of the Teaching Committee since the 1980s. And for three years he was a general member of the IPA House of Delegates. Maurice was very much appreciated in the French-speaking world of psychoanalysis and by all those who regularly attend the congress of French-speaking psychoanalysts. Our colleagues remember the report he presented at the Brussels Congress in 2002 with Jacqueline Godfrind, Nicole Carels and Marie-France Dispaux, which was highly appreciated.

Maurice published several scientific articles in the *Revue Française de Psychanalyse* and especially in our *Revue Belge de Psychanalyse* on a concept that he had constructed with Jacqueline, namely l'expérience agie partagée. He was very interested in the transformation of the intersychic to the intrapsychic and the treatment of narcissistic personalities. He reflected on the analyst's action, on group processes and on the political aspects of psychoanalysis. The article he wrote in 1990 in which he makes a plea for an ambiguous psychoanalysis caught my attention.

In 2018, under his impetus, the *Maurice Haber Prize* was created to reward psychoanalytic authors who submit a high-quality scientific article.

His passing is a great loss to us all. Maurice was so present for many years in our society. He was a genuine analyst, a real pillar of our Society, deploying his energy to make it evolve. He was much appreciated by our members.

We shared so many moments together. He will be greatly missed. Fortunately, he leaves us a rich and varied legacy.

Our small community is in mourning. On behalf of the Board of Directors of our Society, on behalf of all our members and candidates for training, I offer our deepest condolences to Jacqueline Godfrind, his wife of many years, who helped Maurice during these last difficult years. Our sincere condolences also go to two members of his family, Murielle van Thiel and Nicole Zucker, who are also psychoanalysts of the Belgian Psychoanalytical Society. We offer our condolences to the whole family and wish them much support in this difficult time.

Dr. Marc Hebbrecht

President of the Belgian Society of Psychanalysis

August 18, 2022