

THE LIFE OF SIGMUND FREUD A BRIEF CHRONOLOGY

- 1856** 6 May, Birth at Freiberg, Moravia
- 1859** Move from Freiberg to Leipzig
- 1860** Family settles in Vienna
- 1865** Enters Leopoldstädter Gymnasium school
- 1873** Hears extract of essay 'On Nature' (attributed to Goethe) read out at a lecture. This decides him to abandon law as a career and enter the University of Vienna to study medicine.
- 1877** First publications. (On intersexuality in eels and on Petromyzon).
- 1881** Graduates as M.D.
- 1882** Engaged to Martha Bernays.
- 1882-5** Works in Vienna General Hospital.
- 1884-7** Researches into the clinical uses of cocaine.
- 1885-6** Studies under Charcot at the Salpêtrière, Paris. Charcot provides new insight into hysteria and uses hypnosis.
- 1886** Sets up private practice; marries Martha Bernays.
- 1887** Treats nervous diseases in his practice; introduces hypnotic suggestion.
- 1891** Writes 'On Aphasia', about language disorders and neurology.
- 1893-6** Works with Josef Breuer on case histories (including that of 'Anna O') which later becomes *Studies on Hysteria* (1895).
- 1895** 'Project for a Scientific Psychology'; an attempt to work out a psychology

based on neurological terms (contained in the letters to his confidant of the period 1887-1902, Wilhelm Fliess).

1896 First use of the term 'psychoanalysis'; death of his father.

1897 Freud's self-analysis begins, leading to the abandonment of the trauma theory of neurosis (developed with Breuer), recognition of infantile sexuality and the Oedipus complex.

1899 November

The Interpretation of Dreams published. Freud's favourite book containing dozens of dream analyses on the way, as Freud says, to "the royal road to the unconscious".

1901 *The Psychopathology of Everyday Life*

Introduction of "Freudian slip".

1902 Founding of the Wednesday Psychological Society

1905 *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality* ; 'Dora' case published (although the events of the case history date from the late 1890s).

Jokes and their Relation to the Unconscious.

1906 Freud becomes friend and colleague of the Swiss adherent of psychoanalysis,
Carl

Gustav Jung

1908 Salzburg: first international meeting of psychoanalysts.

1909 Freud and Jung travel to the U.S.A. and give the Clark Lectures: first lectures on psychoanalysis in America. (Freud is not enamoured of America; sees it as a "big mistake".)

1912 Jung returns to U.S.A.

- 1912-3 Freud publishes *Totem and Taboo* which explores how culture and society are rooted in the prohibition against incest, an assertion contrary to the development of Jung's studies.
- 1914 Secession of Jung from the official psychoanalytic movement.
- 1915-7 Introductory Lectures given.
- 1919 Freud observes soldiers traumatized by the war.
- 1920 Death of Freud's daughter, Sophie.
Publishes *Beyond the Pleasure Principle* which deals, in part, with the paradigmatic actions of Sophie's son Ernst in his nursery. Introduces new theories of the 'compulsion to repeat' and the concept of the 'death instinct' as well as the revision of the 1900 theory of dreams as wish fulfilments.
- 1921 Publishes *Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego* .
- 1923 *The Ego and the Id*. Deals with a new account of the structure of the mind, revising the one to be found in *The Interpretation of Dreams*. Freud diagnosed as suffering from cancer.
- 1926 *Inhibitions, Symptoms and Anxiety*. Freud makes anxiety the cornerstone of his developmental theory.
- 1927 *The Future of an Illusion* . A consideration of the origins of religion. Freud, here, explicitly states his atheism.
- 1930 *Civilization and its Discontents* . A profoundly pessimistic account of the irreconcilability of personal drives and the demands of society.
- 1932 *Why War?*
- 1933 Freud's books (along with other psychoanalytical works) publicly

burned by the Nazis in Berlin.

1936 Freud's 80th birthday. Honoured by the Royal Society in Britain who make him a corresponding fellow.

1938 Nazis invade Austria. Freud and his family manage to get exit visas.

Moves to 20, Maresfield Gardens, London NW3. Continues work, seeing patients

and finishing *Moses and Monotheism* and *An Outline of Psychoanalysis*.

1939 23 September

Dies in London from the cancer that had dogged him since 1923.

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