

ICASSI 1962, Elsinore, Denmark

The first International Summer School with Rudolf Dreikurs, M.D., as Director was held in Elsinore, Denmark, in 1962. It was sponsored by the International Association of Individual Psychology and the Danish Center of Individual Psychology and organized by Preben and Ruth Bichel, Danish psychologists, who had studied with Dr Dreikurs in America.

The brochure stated the purpose of the Summer School as being “the intensive study of Adlerian Psychology in its theoretical and practical aspects with special emphasis on the training of teachers, improving skills in child guidance and psychotherapy, and in clarifying the philosophical implications of Adlerian Psychology for all professional disciplines as well as for everyday living “.

The format was largely lectures, small groups and demonstrations which involved participation from the community and schools in Elsinore and from a mental hospital in Copenhagen. Staff members included Dr Joseph Meiers of New York, Dr Esther Tauber of Israel, Dr Marcelle Robinson of Los Angeles, and Bronia Grunwald, Adeline Starr and Eleanor Redwin of Chicago.

According to letters from members of staff and participants, the number of students was disappointingly small and the challenge to win over some of the psychoanalysts was not an easy task. However, re-echoing through the correspondence were numerous comments which were exemplified by the following accounts:

“Do you mean Dr Dreikurs, that in one interview you can know everything that is important to know about a person...IMPOSSIBLE!” Thereupon in his customary fashion, Dr Dreikurs, with the consent of his dissenter, proceeded to prove his point. After the demonstration, the reply came... “REMARKABLE!” “In minutes, Adeline Starr, you have psychotic patients, who never before have said much, talking and acting out their problems in psychodrama...AMAZING!” “A SUPERB wonderful demonstration”.

There was also mention of the contribution regarding the translations so skilfully done by Ruth Bichel (more recently known to many as Ruth Holger-Neilson), of a scholarly address by Dr Marcelle Robinson, and an inspiring lecture on Group Dynamics and Group Discussions by Bronia Grunwald.

During this International Summer School, there was often chamber music in the evenings. A pre-conference tour included a visit to Scandinavia and the Farewell Party was on the island of Aero.

The next International Rudolf Dreikurs Summer School was not realised until 1969 in Crete.