

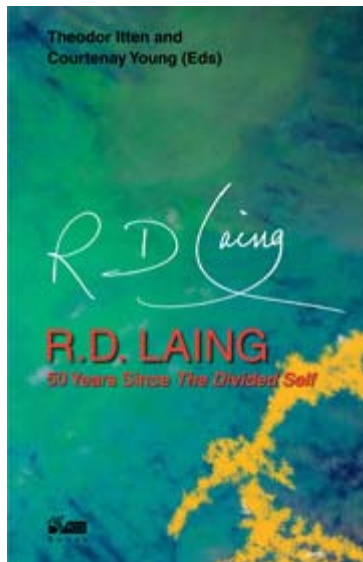
R. D. Laing: 50 years since *The Divided Self*

Edited by Theodor Itten & Courtenay Young

Published by PCCS-Books; www.pccs-books.co.uk/forthcoming-books

ISBN 978 1 906254 54 4

Cover Price £16.00



First published in 1960, *The Divided Self* by Scottish psychiatrist R.D. Laing (1927-1989)

set out to explain psychosis as an ordinary and understandable human experience. Laing's insights were absolutely revolutionary in its humane approach. One commentator described it as 'that particular touch of genius which causes one to say 'Yes, I have always known that; why have I never thought of it before?''.

Collected in these pages are writings critically celebrating Laing's life, work, frailties, brilliance, and his wide and varied influences over this last half a century. You will find transcripts, memoirs, newly commissioned and written articles and only a very few previously published papers. Contributions have come from colleagues, friends, clients and a family member, as well as people who never actually knew him personally, yet deeply appreciate his work. Each is different in tone and character. Each captures something unique about Laing and his work.

R.D. Laing was as famous for his empathic perception, sagacious intellect, wisdom of the heart, as well as his rebelliousness and falling from grace. In reading this book you may partake in shared experiences possibly beyond your previous imagination; you may anticipate some fascination and exhilaration. You may also be made to rethink some obvious assumptions and hopefully you will be inspired.

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements

Introduction by Theodor Itten & Courtenay Young

I. CONVERSATIONS

1. **'Variations On My Theme** *Hanspeter Gschwend*
2. **Conversation in two Beds** *Phyllis Chesler and R.D. Laing*
3. **R.D. Laing in Conversation with Manfred Bleuler** *Theodor Itten*

II. PRAXIS and PROCESSES

4. **Take as Long as It Takes** *Mina Semyon*
5. **R.D. Laing and long-stay patients** *David Abrahamson*
6. **Re-turning, Re-membering and Re-viewing** *Leon Redler*
7. **Soteria - A different approach to mental health** *Voyce Hendrix*
8. **50 Years Since *The Divided Self*** *Murray Gordon*
9. **'Tales from the boiling pot'** *Bruce Scott*
10. **The 'Divided Self': A personal account** *Courtenay Young*
11. **Personal recollections of Ronnie Laing** *Emmy van Deurzen*
12. **Love, will, and the hatred of reality** *Andrew Feldmár*
13. **The Fabric of Her Hope** *Susan Griffin*
14. **Where did it all go wrong?** *Chris Oakley*

III. REFLECTIONS and THEORIES

15. **A New Introduction to *The Divided Self*** *Anthony S. David*
16. **From *The Divided Self* to *The Voice of Experience*** *Theodor Itten*
17. **Sanity, madness & memory** *Ron Roberts*
18. **The impact of the ideas of R.D. Laing on UK psychology students** *Brian Evans*
19. **More than fifty years after: Laing, Sartre & the Other** *Ljiljana Filipović*
20. **Demystifying Madness** *Brent Potter*
21. **'Physician, Heal Thyself': The work of R.D. Laing** *Tom Ormay*
22. **Psychiatry and the Limits of Dualism** *Benjamin Sünkel-Laing*
23. **Editors' Insert: Re: DSM-V**
24. **Laing and Szasz Revisited** *Ron Roberts & Theodor Itten*

IV. ECHOS

25. **The Liberating Shaman of Kingsley Hall** *Francis Huxley*
26. **Two Reviews of *The Divided Self*** *A.C. Smith; L. Ratna*
27. **The Controversy Continues:** Letters from *The Guardian*, 2011.
28. **R.D. Laing (1927-1989): A Biography** *Theodor Itten*
29. **R.D. Laing Quotations** *Compiled by Courtenay Young*

Editors: **Theodor Itten** is a Swiss psychotherapist, who trained, in the 1970's with R.D. Laing and The Philadelphia Association in London. He runs *The International R.D. Laing Institute* and is Executive Editor of the *International Journal of Psychotherapy*. **Courtenay Young** is a psychotherapist working in the NHS and privately in and around Edinburgh. He is currently the editor of the *International Journal of Psychotherapy*.