

JUNG

HIS LIFE AND WORK
A BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIR


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went very well. We all hoped it had been undertaken in time and that we should keep Emma Jung for a number of years. She was out of the hospital after a short time and Ruth returned to England, under promise, however, to return for the summer holidays in order to make the Bollingen life suitable for them both. Emma could not speak too highly of how much Ruth's help meant to her in her last two years.

In July, 1955, Jung celebrated his eightieth birthday. Any hope for quiet, small celebrations had already disappeared by his seventy-fifth birthday,⁸ and for his eightieth the club had a large afternoon celebration, and the C. G. Jung Institute had two, one morning and one evening, all three at the Dolder Grand Hotel.^h The morning event, open to anyone who had attended any lectures at the institute, was on a very large scale, so we expected it to be accordingly dismal. But the opposite was true, for it had one of the most meaningful and healing atmospheres I have ever experienced. Jung stayed for an unusually long time and seemed to drag himself unwillingly away.

The same evening there was a small dinner party, consisting of all the "high ups" from the many Jungian groups all over the world and from the curatorium and lecturers of the Zürich institute. The atmosphere was the reverse of the morning. Jung was very pleased to receive a bound advance copy of the first volume of the *Mysterium Coniunctionis*,ⁱ but on the whole he looked anything but happy and left as early as he could.

This contrast struck me so deeply that I asked Jung about it a few days later. I vividly remember that we were sitting by the lake in Bollingen while he was engaged in his favorite occupation of chopping wood. He agreed immediately and said the same thing had struck him very forcibly. He added: "I am sure there must have been a great many good spirits there that morning, and I think they mostly belonged to people we did not even know. But you know, those are the people who will carry on my psychology—people who read my books and let me silently change their lives. It will not be carried on by the people on top, for they mostly give up Jungian psychology and take to prestige psychology instead." 

This made the difference very clear to me: in the morning no one had been trying to get anything; it was too large a gathering to hope for special contacts with Jung and by far the majority were satisfied to see him looking so well and happy. Many of them had probably never seen him before. There were tables and refreshments, but there was no seating order; everyone sat where and with whom he liked. But in the evening there was a 

⁸ From age seventy on, the five-year anniversaries are always very special occasions in Switzerland.

^h This hotel and the Baur au Lac are Zürich's largest and best hotels. The Dolder Grand is situated in the woods, high above Zürich, with a magnificent view of the lake and mountains.

ⁱ In German this book is printed in two volumes, which makes it much lighter and easier to handle than the one English volume.