

CHAPTER 7

Psychology

Show me a sane man and I'll cure him for you.

Carl Gustav Jung

THE KRISTINE MANN LIBRARY

URL: <http://01772fa.netsolhost.com/visitthelibrary.html>

Telephone: (212) 697-7877

E-mail: info@junglibrary.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Kristine-Mann-Library/48833244389?fref=ts>

Online Catalog: <http://catalog.nycjung.bywatersolutions.com/cgi-bin/koha/opac-main.pl>

The Kristine Mann Library is devoted to the study of Carl Gustav Jung (1875–1961), a Swiss psychologist who, early in his career, became a favored protégé of Sigmund Freud. The two men had a major falling out, substantially over Freud's insistence that libido is the most important factor in human behavior. Jung went on to found his own school, which, like Freud, paid attention to dream interpretation. The library's namesake, Kristine Mann (1873–1945), was a psychiatrist who studied under Jung in the early 1920s and later went on to become one of the cofounders of the Analytical Psychology Club of New York. At her death in 1945, she willed her collection to the group, founding the current library, which has been housed at its current location for about 30 years.



Entrance to library.

The library is divided into two smallish rooms. The south room, which one enters first, contains the service desk, stacks of books, and a number of Jung-inspired paintings, as well as the card catalog, which has been generally supplanted by an online catalog. A curtain separates this room from the west room, which contains more books, considerable sculpture, and the copy machine. In a visit late on a Thursday night, the west room was generating the most activity. Just before closing time, there were several users, who seemed to be graduate students, in earnest contemplation, while the copy machine was in constant use.



Research room.

The assistant librarian supplied some of the basic facts. The Kristine Mann library has been in existence since 1945 and at its current Midtown location since 1980. The collection contains about 10,000 titles. Anyone can come in to use the collection, but to borrow books you must join the library for a \$50 annual fee. He stressed that the collection included a considerable number of titles in subjects that Jung considered to be important, such as Eastern religions, mythology, and dream interpretation.

I noticed that the arrangement of the books seemed to be following some sort of homemade system with categories such as Asia or Dream. It was confirmed that this is the case.

The librarian also said that it is hard to pin down the average user of the library, although authors and students were a major factor. Also, he pointed out that the library is affiliated with the New York Jung Center, which brings in numbers of prospective Jungian analysts who are interested in the library's resources.

LIBRARY: AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

Address: 5 West 73rd Street

URL: <http://www.aspr.com/>

Telephone: (212) 799-5050

E-mail: aspr@aspr.com

Access: Open to researchers by advanced appointment

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/American-Society-for-Psychical-Research/108396505855130>

Transportation: Subway B&C line, 72nd Street

Sometimes I got my best leads on libraries to visit from other libraries I visited. Such was the case with the American Society for Psychical Research (ASPR), which was recommended to me by two other librarians in very different types of libraries. After a series of e-mail correspondences, I settled on April 1, 2015. This was significant because it was the only day on which I visited four libraries in Manhattan. The main thing I learned from that experience was to visit no more than three libraries on a given day. However, the staff there could not have been more welcoming, so I counted the visit as a success.

The society is in a well-kept old mansion just west of Central Park and across the street from a subway stop. The staff noticed that I looked a bit tired, so they sat me down in a comfortable chair and brought out a bottle of water. Patrice Keane, the society director, was stuck in traffic on the 59th Street Bridge and phoned in to apologize. She asked that her intern begin the process of showing me around the archive until she could make it over to the West Side.



Library decor on the second floor.

The intern showed me the archive area, and one of the areas there struck me as totally unique. “This is the sensory deprivation room,” she announced. It reminded me of the darkrooms we used to use back in the day when students developed film, but it seemed just large enough for a person to sit down at a small desk. The point was to block out all conflicting sensory data when an ESP test was being run. The intern admitted that the tests had not been run for a few years, but they had plans to continue soon. She also showed me a large section of shelves containing spirit photography books. She admitted that a good number of the photographs were probably fake, but they were interesting as art.



Main reading room.

Finally we went to the reading room—four walls of ceiling-high shelves with a window overlooking 73rd Street. As I glanced to the left, I immediately recognized a book that is also on my shelf—the extraordinary *The Tao of Physics* by Fritjof Capra, which attempts to find common ground in Eastern religions and quantum physics. Since it is a known fact that human observation can change the behavior of subatomic particles, it is a compelling concept, but lots of scientists scoff at the notion.

Soon Ms. Keane arrived, somewhat frazzled by the drive, but ready to talk. She told me that the facility has approximately 20,000 volumes, and the thing that makes them proudest is the complete archive of the *Journal of the American Society for Psychological Research*. She is very proud of her organization, which was founded by William James and Harry Houdini, among others. They have an active program of working with nearby colleges and universities providing interns. She is also proud of the work that they had been doing in partnership with the Shakers, whose mystical visions were a source of study for the group. They also have a grant funded by the National Institute of Mental Health to study dreams.



Entrance to archive area.

The library has been given 300 boxes of papers from the estate of Montague Ullman, a significant psychologist, and past president of the ASPR. A poster displaying his obituary was found in the group's lobby.

“This is a place for serious research, and visits are only allowed by advance reservation,” said Keane. She asked me if all of the specialty libraries had that kind of restriction, but actually I have found that it is about half and half.

One of my standard questions is to find out which famous people had used the library. At first she mentioned that when *Ghostbusters* came out, Dan Aykroyd had recommended the library to anyone with a serious interest in the supernatural. Then, as I was leaving, she opened up and admitted that many years ago, John and Yoko had come by from their home around the corner. “Stop the presses,” I replied.

FURTHER READING

Wikipedia biography of Montague Ullman: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montague_Ullman.

Carl Jung Home Page: <http://www.cgjungpage.org/>.

Carl Jung resources for Home Study: <http://www.carl-jung.net/>.

Description of Shaker Visionary experiences documented by the ASPR: https://books.google.com/books?id=q8aX4_S47XoC&pg=PR7&lpg=PR7&dq=aspr+shaker&source=bl&ots=ND6iMZE4pU&sig=BWB3pArFBIU132erX1FiKIUqOE&hl=en&sa=X&ei=18NGVbrFI4e9yQTrzICQCg&ved=0CEoQ6AEwCTgK#v=onepage&q=aspr%20shaker&f=false.

Jung's theory of dreams: <http://members.core.com/~ascensus/docs/jung1.html>.

Out of Body experience video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GbkQ2HxYsOM>.

Wikipedia biography of Montague Ullman: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montague_Ullman.

William James Society: <http://wjsociety.org/>.

Out of Body experience video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GbkQ2HxYsOM>.

Description of Shaker Visionary experiences documented by the ASPR: https://books.google.com/books?id=q8aX4_S47XoC&pg=PR7&lpg=PR7&dq=aspr+shaker&source=bl&ots=ND6iMZE4pU&sig=BWB3pArFBIU132erX1FiKIUqOE&hl=en&sa=X&ei=18NGVbrFI4e9yQTrzICQCg&ved=0CEoQ6AEwCTgK#v=onepage&q=aspr%20shaker&f=false.

William James Society: <http://wjsociety.org/>.

Out of Body experience video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GbkQ2HxYsOM>.