

On the occasion of purchasing of the “Ferenczi House”,

– the apartment that was originally Ferenczi’s office in his former villa
at the Sun Hill, Budapest –

the *International Sándor Ferenczi Foundation* and the *Sándor Ferenczi Society*

announce the

FERENCZI HOUSE LECTURE

The Future of the Irma Dream

The overwhelming task of standing trauma

by **Carlo Bonomi**

May 27, 2011, at 6 pm,

International Ferenczi Center,

Budapest, I. ker. Lisznyai utca 11. I. em. 4.

Carlo Bonomi, Dr., is President of the Associazione culturale Sándor Ferenczi, and member of the board of the International Sándor Ferenczi Foundation. He is a training and supervising analyst of the Istituto di psicoanalisi H.S. Sullivan in Florence, and Associate editor of the *International Forum of Psychoanalysis*. He has taught History of Psychology and Dynamic Psychology at the University of Florence. He is the author of several books and about 70 articles, mostly in the field of the history of psychoanalysis.

The Irma dream is “the most interpreted dream of all time” (Blum, 1996, p. 515). Between 1895 and 1900, the “specimen dream” of psychoanalysis precipitated the shift from medicine to psychology, survived the collapse of the seduction theory, fertilized Freud’s systematic self-analysis, inspired the method of deciphering the dreams, and paved the road to the Unconscious. Yet the confidence in our capacity to understand it has been shattered: we cannot understand how it could have been the starting point of everything. In the 1980s, the canonic narrative of the origins of psychoanalysis was broken into a set of scattered pieces, and the understanding of the role played by self-analysis in the origins of psychoanalysis was severely threatened by the shocking revelation of the medical background of the Irma dream. Consequently, the interpretation of the dream was split into many different voices and incompatible fragments. According to the author, in order to work out a consistent view of both the origins of psychoanalysis and of its future task, it is necessary to gain access to the traumatic core of the Irma dream, to stand it, and to take responsibility for it. The teaching of Ferenczi helps us achieve this aim.