

We have gathered here tonight to pay tribute to Prof. Sandler, a great psychoanalyst, teacher and friend.

Born in Cape-Town in 1927, Prof. Sandler received his first degree in psychology at 18 and his masters by 19, both from the university of Capetown. At 23 he received his Ph.D. from the university of London, where he emigrated as protest against the South-African social and political regime of those days. At the encouragement of his analyst, he started medical education at University College Hospital immediately after completion of his Ph.D.. By the age of 25 Prof. Sandler was a qualified psychoanalyst of the British Psychoanalytical Society.

Prof. Sandler's prowess of creativity, immense intellectual capacity, originality and humanity, combined with clinical and research skills, soon made him one of the leading figures in psychoanalysis, a position he retained for several decades, until his death in October 98.

He was the author and co-author of some 200 papers, quite a number of them together with Anne-Marie, and was the co-author and editor of 44 books. Sandler enriched our psychoanalytical knowledge by his creative and unique way of translating complex ideas and concepts into more simple language (Think of the Hampstead Index). His writings reflect the evolution of his conception of the theory of psychoanalysis: a focus on the analytic relationship rather than just interpretation; on wishes and feelings rather than instincts and drives and development being more than a biological maturation stressing the evolution of increasingly complex mental structures where the child's relationship experiences could be represented. In this context I have in mind his original papers on the background of safety, the Superego, the representational world, his book on the patient and the analyst, the past

