

FREUD'S THINKING

In this brief but comprehensive introduction to Freud's theories, Mikkel Borch-Jacobsen provides a step-by-step overview of his ideas regarding the unconscious, the cure, sexuality, drives, and culture, highlighting their indebtedness to contemporary neurophysiological and biological assumptions. The picture of Freud that emerges is very different from that of the fact-finding scientist he claimed to be. Bold conceptual innovations – repression, infantile sexuality, the Oedipus complex, narcissism, the death drive – were not discoveries made by Freud but speculative constructs placed on clinical material to satisfy the requirements of the general theory of the mind and culture that he was building. *Freud's Thinking* provides a final account of this mirage of the mind that was psychoanalysis.

A philosopher by training, Mikkel Borch-Jacobsen is Emeritus Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Washington, USA, and an award-winning theorist and historian of psychoanalysis and psychiatry. He is the author or coauthor of some sixteen books translated into twelve languages, and coauthor, with Anne Georget, of the documentary *Branding Illness* (2011).

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An Introduction

MIKKEL BORCH-JACOBSEN

TRANSLATED BY
KATY MASUGA



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Contents

	Introduction	<i>page</i> I
1	The Unconscious	9
	Hypnosis	9
	Hysteria	12
	Trauma	14
	Repression	18
	The Psychological Apparatus	22
	Interpretation	27
2	The Analytic Cure	30
	Justifications for the Unconscious	30
	Free Association	34
	Resistance	38
	The “Dora” Case	40
	Transference	43
	Self-Analysis	48
3	Sexuality	52
	The Seduction Theory	53
	Fantasy	59
	The Oedipus	65
	Infantile Sexuality	71
	“Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality”	75
	Sexual Biology	78
	“Little Hans” and the Castration Complex	81
4	Drives	90
	Metapsychology and Metabiology	90
	Sexual Drives, Ego-Drives	92
	Narcissism	98
	Object-Libido, Ego-Libido	105
	The Oral-Cannibalistic Stage	110

	The Ego-Ideal	112
	The Compulsion to Repeat	114
	Life Drive, Death Drive	121
5	Culture	124
	Applied Psychoanalysis	124
	The Barrier against Incest	128
	Totem and Taboo	131
	Religion	138
	Group Psychology	144
	The Id and the Superego	148
	Civilization and Its Discontents	157
	Conclusion	164
	<i>Bibliography</i>	167
	<i>Index</i>	175