

PROF. DR. FREUD

11. XI. 1932
WIEN IX. BERGGASSE 19

hierbei das Verzeich-
nis mit der Begründung
gefordert, daß Prof. Dr.
Freud die Anwesenheit
zu ermöglichen wünscht, so
daß er sein Büro zum
besonderen Gast.
Unterwies, daß in der Zeit
wobei Wilson-Konferenz
halten und in großer
Räumlichkeit durchgeführt
ist, daß ein besonderer
Motiv, an diesem Punkt
auf die zu versuchen, daß
es sehr notwendig
wäre, mit der Anwesenheit
des Prof. Dr. Freud, der
wäre, natürlich, und das
ständig, wenn man sich
von seiner Psychologie, das
später, Könige
Mit der besten Wünsche
für die Gesundheit
Ihr Freund

Letter by Freud to George Sylvester Viereck, 11 November 1932, sold at auction by Lion Heart Autographs, New York, 24 May 2017, lot 41, €3,000

Catalogue description

FREUD, SIGMUND. (1856-1939). Austrian neurologist and founder of psychoanalysis. ALS. ("Freud"). 1p. 8vo. Vienna, November 11, 1932. To German-American writer and Nazi sympathizer GEORGE SYLVESTER VIERECK (1884-1962). In German with translation. ***** "I read with satisfaction that Prof. Plesch's promises are beginning to be fulfilled, so that you are feeling much better already. In the meantime I received your book about Wilson - House and read it through with great excitement. I have a special reason to be interested in this material, which I presently cannot reveal to you. Obviously the relationship between the two could only be comprehended, if one could understand each of them psychologically. With my best wishes for your complete recovery..."***** Trained as a neurologist, Freud developed psychoanalysis after studying with the French expert in hypnosis and hysteria, Jean-Martin Charcot, from 1885-1886. He published his ground-breaking *The Interpretation of Dreams* in 1899, and by 1902 Freud had acquired a number of followers who formed the Wednesday Psychological Society – later known as the Viennese Analytic Society – a weekly gathering in which physicians discussed psychoanalysis. Remembered as the father of psychoanalysis, his monumental works include *Civilization and Its Discontents* and *Beyond the Pleasure Principle*. With his students and colleagues, Freud not only shaped the future of psychoanalysis, but the very consciousness of modernity. ***** Viereck, alleged to have been the illegitimate grandson of Kaiser Wilhelm I, won international recognition for his poems, many of which were "Uranian" or pederastic in nature. An outspoken pacifist at the outbreak of World War I, Viereck was expelled from social clubs and professional organizations and even driven from his home by an angry mob for the views he espoused in his weekly magazine, *The Fatherland*. In 1923, his book about the pioneering Austrian endocrinologist Eugen Steinach, *Rejuvenation: How Steinach Makes People Young*, prompted Freud to enter into a correspondence to suggest a similar book which would explain psychoanalysis to the lay reader. Viereck interviewed Freud in Vienna and "became a leading popularizer of Freudian thought in the United States," ("The First Conservative: How Peter Viereck inspired-and lost-a movement," *The New Yorker*, Reiss). In 1925, Viereck published "Freud: The Columbus of the Unconscious," in *The Forum*, and in 1926, he again met with Freud at his summer house in the Austrian Alps, leading to the publication of "An Interview with Freud." However, by 1933, Freud became "disillusioned with Viereck, who had become an apologist for the Nazis," and sent a private letter condemning him for supporting the lies of the Hapsburg Crown Prince who stated that "no one in Germany suffered injustice on account of their religion," (Escape of Sigmund Freud, Cohen). ***** The subject of our letter is Viereck's 1932 book *Strangest Friendship: Woodrow Wilson and Colonel House*,

about American President Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924) and his close advisor, diplomat Edward House (1858-1938). From 1915-1916, House engaged in European negotiations in an attempt to end World War I. But "Colonel House was not one of the multitude which, so long as the war lasted, believed the crippling of Germany as a great economic and political Power to be an essential element of future peace. On the contrary, he was convinced that a strong, albeit demilitarized, Germany was necessary to the economic stability of Europe and the welfare of the world," (The Intimate Papers of Colonel House). Following America's entry into the war, House was charged with laying the groundwork for the League of Nations and outlining an armistice between the Allies and Germany. House resided in the White House, acting as Wilson's advisor and helping to craft foreign policy until 1919, when the two broke with each other.

***** Freud's "special reason" for being interested in Viereck's book was that he himself was collaborating on a book about Wilson, co-authored with his patient, Ambassador William C. Bullitt (1891-1967). Freud was deeply affected by World War I in which his sons fought and which dissolved the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Bullitt was one of Wilson's plenipotentiaries at the Paris Peace Conference who resigned his position because of the terms of peace. He began his treatment with Freud in 1925 (a year after marrying John Reed's widow, Louise Bryant). The first work Bullitt authored with Freud's input was "The Tragedy of Woodrow Wilson," which remained unpublished. In 1930, he proposed to Freud the project which became *Thomas Woodrow Wilson: Twenty-eighth President of the United States: A Psychological Study*. "Before Bullitt broached the subject, Freud, already suffering from cancer of the jaw, had been lamenting that his own death would be insignificant since he had nothing more to say. But as Bullitt described his idea, in which studies of the principal actors at Versailles would elucidate the reasons behind the treaty's failure, 'Freud's eyes brightened,' Bullitt recalled, 'and he became very much alive.' Freud implored Bullitt to allow him to write the chapter on Wilson," ("Hail to the Analysand," *The New York Times*, Prochnik). The work, however, remained unpublished until 1966, decades after Freud's death. "The basic premise of the book is that Wilson's resolution of the Oedipus complex caused him to become exceedingly neurotic: he cast his father, a Presbyterian minister, in the role of God and himself as Christ, thus becoming the suffering servant and betrayed savior of mankind. Ultimately, for Freud and Bullitt, the Treaty of Versailles as directed by Wilson was an abysmal failure because of his unmitigated and inarbitrable belief in his own divine rightness," ("To Bury Freud on Wilson": Uncovering *Thomas Woodrow Wilson, A Psychological Study*, by Sigmund Freud and William C. Bullitt, Modern Austrian Literature, Campbell).

***** Our letter also mentions Dr. Plesch, likely Hungarian-German pathologist János Plesch (1878-1957). His work on hemodynamics (the movement of blood throughout the body) brought him much recognition, and, after converting from Judaism to Catholicism and becoming a German citizen, he was appointed a professor in Berlin and head internist at Berlin's Catholic Franciscan Hospital. He advised the German army during World War I and was a prominent member of Berlin's society, counting among his circle of friends the likes of Oskar Kokoschka, Max Reinhardt, Marlene

Dietrich, Emil Rathenau, Paul Ehrlich, Albert Einstein, and Max Liebermann. Nonetheless, he was harassed after the Nazi regime took hold and, like Freud, immigrated to England. ***** Dust stained with two irregular file holes in the left margin, one of which is torn affecting a small amount of text. Folded and creased with light cello tape show through in a small part of the left margin. The black ink ownership stamp of Dr. Max Thorek, a famous Chicago autograph collector and surgical innovator, on the verso was covered with correction fluid, leading to some bleeding onto a couple of words in the text. In good condition. A significant correspondence between Freud and Viereck is in the Morgan Library and the U. S. Library of Congress.