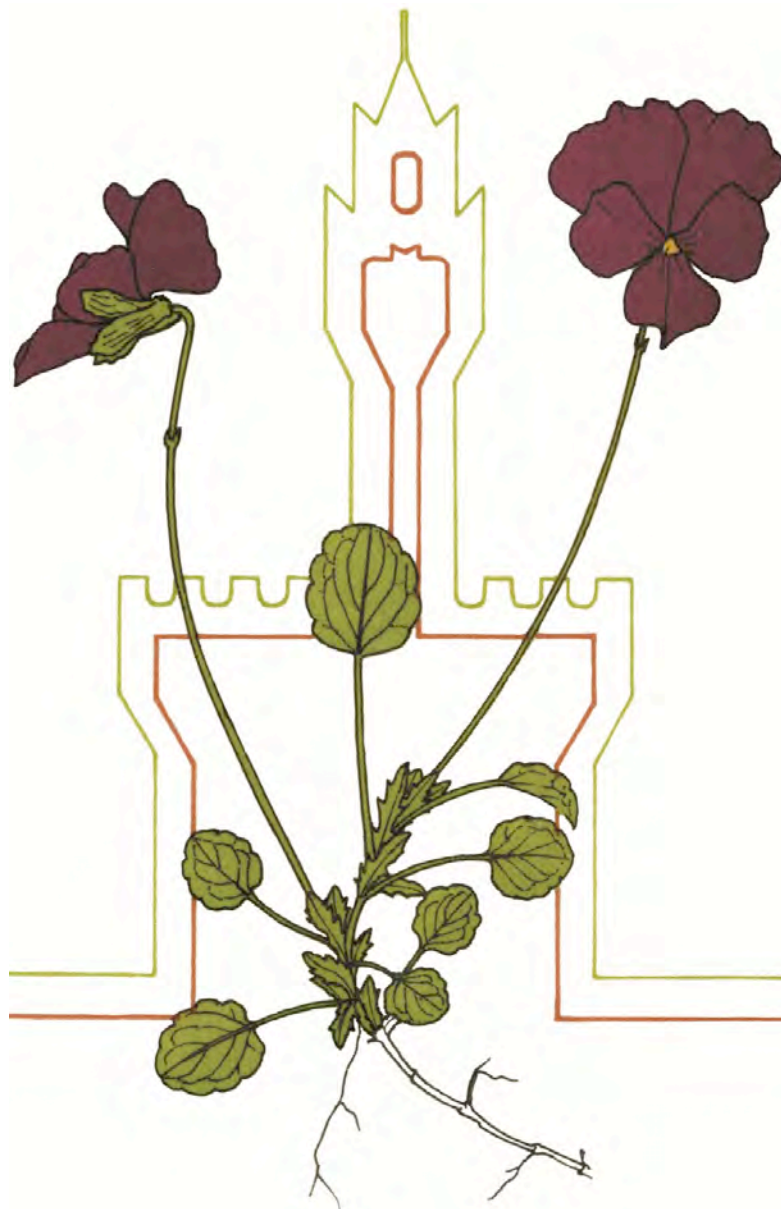


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Società Botanica Italiana

109° Congresso



International Plant Science Conference (IPSC)

from Nature to Technological Exploitations

Florence, 2 - 5 September 2014

4.6 = A “FREUD GARDEN” AT THE UNIVERSITY TOWN OF PALERMO (SICILY)

FRANCESCO MARIA RAIMONDO¹, PIETRO MAZZOLA², ROSARIO SCHICCHI², GIUSEPPE BAZAN²¹Dip. STEBICEF/Orto Botanico, University of Palermo; ²Dip. Scienze Agrarie e Forestali, University of Palermo, Via Archirafi 38, I 90123 – Palermo

Several gardens in Italy have been named after Sigmund Freud (1856-1939), the founder of psychoanalysis. There are found at Rome, Pisa, Bologna, Arezzo and Ravenna; the latest has just been open in the Parco d'Orléans, the Palermo University town. It has been located in a partly green area in front of the building where the Department of Psychology is found. It has been carried out on the initiative of the Italian Society of Psychoanalysis supported by the Psychology and BIONEC Departments of Palermo University, with the aid of the Botanical Garden, the Palermo Municipality, and its service company AMAP. It has been strongly desired by the president of Palermo Psychoanalysis Centre, Professor Malde Vigneri, to remember the Freud stay at Palermo and his great interest in plants and flowers he was used classifying and describing.

The peculiarity of this garden consists of a flowerbed where the plants in the Freud dreams are cultivated: from musk to lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*), cardoon (*Cynara cardunculus*), lily of the valley (*Convallaria majalis*), lily (*Lilium candidum*), asphodel (*Asphodelus microcarpus*), violet (*Viola odorata*), carnation (*Dianthus caryophyllus*), cherry tree (*Prunus avium*), Bengal rose (*Rosa chinensis* s.l.), camellia (*Camellia japonica*). These plants were in part collected in the field and transplanted *ad hoc*, then labelled using their both popular and scientific names. Some preexisting trees, such as bitter orange (*Cytrus aurantium*), white mulberry (*Morus alba*) walnut (*Juglans regia*), remember some famous personalities of psychoanalysis: among these, the pupil of Freud princess Alessandra Wolff (1894-1982) – born in Lettonia, married to Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa, she was living in Palermo – together with the whole Italian school including Francesco Corrao (1922-1994), Francesco Siracusano (1919-2007), Edoardo Weiss (1897-1989), Nicola Perrotti (1897-1970), C. Luigi Musatti (1897-1989), Eugenio Gaddini (1916-1985), Luciana Nissim Momigliano (1943-1998) and, in addition, Anna Freud (1895-1982) and Melanie Klein (1882-1960) from Austria, Sandor Ferenczi (1873-1933) from Hungary, Wilfred Bion (1897-1979) and Donald Woods Winnicott (1896-1971) from England, Jaques Lacan (1901-19818) and André Green (1927-2012) from France, Carl Gustav Jung (1875-1961) from Switzerland. A wild olive tree (*Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris*), was transplanted in the opening morning, in memory of Sigmund Freud.

The analyst of dreams reached Palermo on 9 September 1910; like many learned Middle-European people he was attracted by the South. He was astonished by the wonder city that was magnificent during the Belle Epoque – also thanks to economic rising of the Florio family –. In that year, several important cultural institutions arose in the capital of Sicily: among these, the modern art Gallery and the Philosophy library founded by Giovanni Gentile, while the Statue of Liberty was erected. Freud wrote his wife praising the beauties of landscape and the luxuriant Mediterranean vegetation: “I do not say you how many beauties I saw and whatever fragrances I enjoyed. Owing to magnificent flowers, parks and public gardens autumn is forgotten”.

The Freud Garden in the university town, owing to its diversity and well defined floristic elements, is identified as a little garden related to the Palermo University and, consequently, its Botanical Garden.