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The British Journal of Psychiatry



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ISSN 0007 - 1250

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British Journal of Psychiatry (ISSN 0007-1250) is published monthly. The six issues starting January 2018 comprise Volume 212, the six issues starting July 2018 comprise Volume 213. Orders from non-members of the College, which must be accompanied by payment, may be sent to any bookseller or subscription agent or direct to the publishers: Cambridge University Press, Journals Fulfillment Department, UPH, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8BS, UK, email journals@cambridge.org; or in the USA, Canada and Mexico, to Cambridge University Press, Journals Fulfillment Department, 1 Liberty Plaza, Floor 20, New York, NY 10006, USA, email subscriptions_newyork@cambridge.org. Japanese prices for institutions are available from Kinokuniya Company Ltd, P.O. Box 55, Chitose, Tokyo 156, Japan.

The annual subscription prices (including delivery by air but excluding VAT) for Volumes 212/213 are as follows:

	INSTITUTIONS	INDIVIDUALS
Print and electronic	£518/\$925	£418/\$651
Electronic only	£425/\$652	£271/\$423

Single issues are £50 (US\$89 in the USA, Canada and Mexico) plus postage. EU subscribers (outside the UK) who are not registered for VAT should add VAT at their country's rate. VAT registered subscribers should provide their VAT registration number. Claims for missing issues should be made immediately on receipt of the subsequent issue.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes in USA, Canada and Mexico to: *British Journal of Psychiatry*, Cambridge University Press, Journals Fulfillment Department, 1 Liberty Plaza, Floor 20, New York, NY 10006, USA.

Queries from College members about missing or faulty copies should be sent to Customer Services, Cambridge University Press, email journals_societies@cambridge.org, tel. +44 (0)1223 326070.

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British Journal of Psychiatry is hosted on the Cambridge Core service at <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/the-british-journal-of-psychiatry>.

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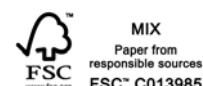
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Founded by J. C. Bucknill in 1853 as the *Asylum Journal* and known as the *Journal of Mental Science* from 1858 to 1963.

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Printed in Great Britain by Henry Ling Limited, The Dorset Press, 23 High East Street, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1HD.

This journal issue has been printed on FSC™-certified paper and cover board. FSC is an independent, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization established to promote the responsible management of the world's forests. Please see www.fsc.org for information.



The *British Journal of Psychiatry* is published monthly by the Royal College of Psychiatrists (a charity registered in England and Wales (228636) and in Scotland (SC038369)). The Journal publishes original work in all fields of psychiatry. Manuscripts for publication should be submitted online at <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/bjpsych>.

All papers in this journal are peer-reviewed. No person is permitted to take any role in the peer-review of a paper in which they have an interest, defined as follows: fees or grants from, employment by, consultancy for, shared ownership in, or any close relationship with, an organisation whose interests, financial or otherwise, may be affected by the publication of the paper.

A41 Editorial Board
A43 Highlights of this issue

Editorial

627 **Are rating scales for bipolar disorders fit for purpose?**
Jan Scott and Greg Murray

629 **Sir Thomas More, L^D Chancellor – ‘His discourse was extraordinary facetious’ – psychiatry in history**
Greg Wilkinson

630 **Montgomery and shared decision-making: implications for good psychiatric practice**
Gwen Adshead, David Crepaz-Keay, Mayura Deshpande, K.W.M (Bill) Fulford and Veyan Richards

In Debate

633 **It is ethical to diagnose a public figure one has not personally examined**
John Gartner, Alex Langford and Aileen O'Brien

Papers

638 **Persistent depressive symptoms and cognitive decline in older adults**
Fanfan Zheng, Baoliang Zhong, Xiaoyu Song and Wuxiang Xie

645 **Childhood maltreatment and adult medical morbidity in mood disorders: comparison of unipolar depression with bipolar disorder**
Georgina M. Hosang, Helen L. Fisher, Karen Hodgson, Barbara Maughan and Anne E. Farmer

653 **Sir Walter Raleigh: deliberate self-harm in the Tower of London, 1603 – Extra**
Greg Wilkinson

Review article

654 **Anxiety as a risk factor of Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia**
Eva Becker, Claudia Lorena Orellana Rios, Claas Lahmann, Gerta Rücker, Joachim Bauer and Martin Boeker

Short reports

661 **Cultural engagement and cognitive reserve: museum attendance and dementia incidence over a 10-year period**
Daisy Fancourt, Andrew Steptoe and Dorina Cadar

664 **Timing of onset of lithium relapse prevention in bipolar disorder: evidence from randomised trials**
Matthew J. Taylor

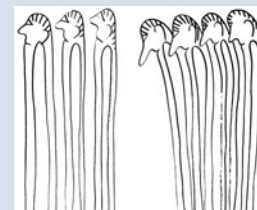
Columns

667 Correspondence
671 Book reviews
674 Contents of the *American Journal of Psychiatry*
674 Contents of *BJPsych Advances*
675 Kaleidoscope
677 From the Editor's Desk

678 **Reflection on: *Madness and Modernism: insanity in the light of modern art, literature, and thought (revised edition)* – psychiatry in literature**
Giovanni Stanghellini

Cover picture

Oswald Tschirtner with his unique artistic language, gets directly to the heart of various phenomena of life. The artist abstracts and simplifies human figures, nature and biblical stories in a remarkable manner. Using drawing-feather and ink on paper Tschirtner makes human beings appear only consist of heads, mostly shown in profile with overlong extremities. The drawer's stroke is delicate and the figures seem fragile and weightless. The majority of the artist's oeuvre is created in clear contrasts of black and white. Sometimes one or two colours are added sensitively. On other sheets a line of handwriting provides insight into the drawn topic and the date of origin. The artist was born in 1920 in Austria and raised in a strongly Catholic family environment. The realization of his wish to study theology was made impossible by the World Wars, during which he had to serve as a soldier. From 1947 onwards, Tschirtner was living in mental institutions. As member of the artists community living and working at the *House of Artists*, nowadays part of the *Art Brut Centre Gugging* in Maria Gugging, Austria, Tschirtner became internationally well known for his unique manner of drawing and artistic style. Soon the artist's name became indispensable within the circle of "Art Brut" and furthermore, across the borders of art history genres. In 1990 he received together with the group of *Gugging Artists* the "Oskar-Kokoschka Prize". Today his artworks are part of renowned collections and frequently shown in international exhibitions. Oswald Tschirtner passed away in 2007. For further information please visit: www.gugging.com/www.gugging.org.



Creditline: Oswald Tschirtner, 1980, Human figures. Marker on paper and wood, 260 x 170 cm © Privatstiftung – Künstler aus Gugging.

Thanks to Drew Walker for co-ordinating this series of images and for obtaining permission to use them.

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