



The Psychoanalytic Quarterly >
Volume 87, 2018 - Issue 3

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A Classic Revisited

Countertransference and Psychoanalytic Technique: A Response

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Pages 587-589 | Published online: 15 Oct 2018

Cite this article <https://doi.org/10.1080/00332828.2018.1495526>

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COUNTERTRANSFERENCE AND PSYCHOANALYTIC TECHNIQUE: A RESPONSE

SANDER M. ABEND

The designation of my 1989 paper on Countertransference as a "Neglected Classic" by *The Psychoanalytic Quarterly* certainly took me by surprise. I am now retired from clinical practice, although not from the psychoanalytic literature, or from frequent discussions with colleagues. That said, it has been at least a couple of decades since I last looked at that particular essay myself. I chose to read the various commentaries before daring to re-read it, and I was thus somewhat apprehensive that I might find it disappointingly dated. With a certain degree of relief, I must say that that turned out not to be the case.

I will not respond specifically to each of the writers who addressed my paper, especially since they all, to some extent, pursued issues connected to the overall theme in somewhat individual and rather different ways. I do, however, appreciate that some of them explicitly chose to credit me for having focused some attention on the then burgeoning alterations in the *Zeitgeist* of our field. I shall have a bit more to say about that issue later on, but first a word or two on the topic of counter-



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