

FOR LACK OF LACAN

The story goes that Picasso, who was mistrustful of just about everyone, was also quite wary of medical specialists. For a given affliction, he would always call for a doctor from another field. In this way, in Paris in the 1940s, he came to rely on the services of the psychoanalyst Jacques Lacan for the treatment of his common colds.

PS:

Since writing this entry, I found out that Lacan refused to practice as a psychiatrist during WWII in protest against the German Occupation. Picasso may have used this circumstance for his own humoristic ends, as I did. I have a great admiration for Lacan's thinking, which is more comprehensible in spoken form (on tape). Lacan was not in vogue in France in the 1980s, as he was in the USA. Living in Europe, I came to his work relatively late, in the 1990s. It is to my credit that I latched on to Edgar Allan Poe's "The Purloined Letter" as a major intellectual parable and problem before then (see entry 66).

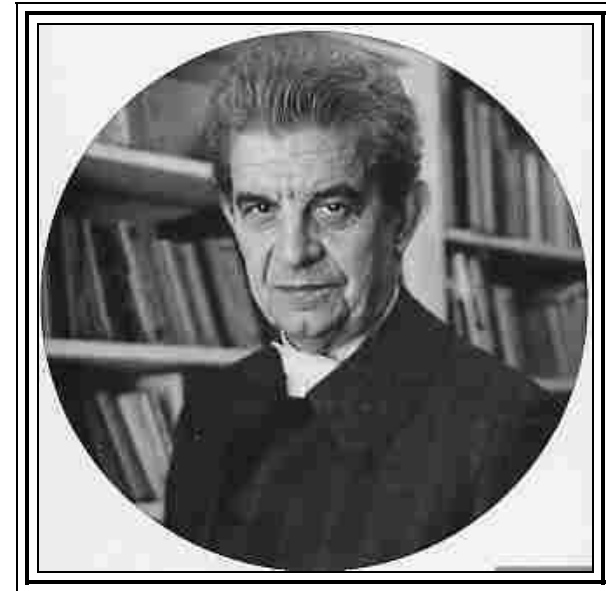


Photo: Jerry Bauer