

**UK EDITION** 

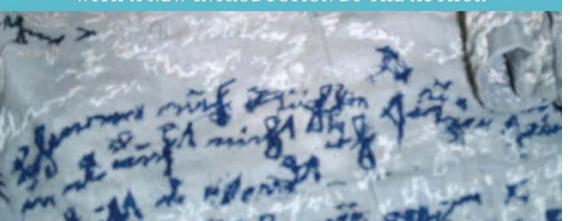
## AGNES'S JACKET

A PSYCHOLOGIST'S SEARCH
FOR THE MEANINGS OF MADNESS

GAIL A. HORNSTEIN



## WITH A NEW INTRODUCTION BY THE AUTHOR



In a Victorian-era German asylum, seamstress Agnes Richter painstakingly stitched a mysterious autobiographical text into every inch of the jacket she created from her institutional uniform. Despite every attempt to silence them, hundreds of other patients have managed to get their stories out, at least in disguised form. Today, in a vibrant underground network of 'psychiatric survivor groups' all over the world, patients work together to unravel the mysteries of madness and help one another recover. Optimistic, courageous, and surprising, *Agnes's Jacket* takes us from a code-cracking bunker during World War II to the church basements and treatment centers where a whole new way of understanding the mind has begun to take form.

"It would be difficult to over-praise this book. Beautifully written, combining intellectual rigour with the tension of a detective story, it uses historical and modern material to document the struggles and opposition faced by those called mad who simply wish to tell their own stories. A superb addition to the increasing number of critiques of the medicalisation of distress." MARY BOYLE, Professor Emeritus of Clinical Psychology, University of East London

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"An insightful and eloquent exploration of the subjective experiences of madness. The curiosity and wisdom of the author illuminates our understanding of the complex mysteries of the human condition." JACQUI DILLON, Chair of the Hearing Voices Network (UK)

GAIL A. HORNSTEIN is Professor of Psychology at Mount Holyoke College (Massachusetts, USA) and author of *To Redeem One Person is to Redeem the World: The Life of Frieda Fromm-Reichmann*. Visit her website at www.gailhornstein.com.

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