

He originated in the provinces, was forced to move out into the big wide world and conquered not only a second home but also a “terra incognita” (an unknown territory) – that was Ernst Grafenberg. He was born today 125 years ago in Adelebsen, near Göttingen. He studied in Munich and Göttingen, where he took his medical finals.

G. started as a doctor in an eye clinic, but he soon set his sights on gynecology. In the profession he made himself a name with the intrauterine spiral which he developed, the so-called “Grafenberg Ring”. Birth control was his subject. And in the course of his researches he found what was later to render him immortal, though only as a shorthand abbreviation: the “G-point”. That this is not really a point but an area does not narrow its subsequent impact. What the “Grafenberg Zone”

, restricted by other authors to the “G-Point”, involves is actually an area in the female anatomy which is supposed to serve as a source of pleasure. Out of consideration for the male minors in our readership, we will not go into details here and prefer to quote the medical professional terminology, which refers to “the trigger area for the pelvic, neural-uterine orgasm”.

When Ernst Grafenberg, a Jew who had fled the Nazis, died in New York in 1957, his name had remained familiar, at best, in only narrow professional circles. All this changed when sexological and emancipatory ambitions were focused on the erogenous zone of the woman. Some regards it as a

...G celebrates his 125<sup>th</sup> birthday discovery, others as an invention and there are those for whom it is “ a sort of gynecological UFO” - which does not deter many to seek a landing on the “G-point”: Ernst Grafenberg has rendered outstanding services to pleasure in life.

R.W.