The study reported in the following pages was an attempt to study the role of money in personality states by correlating attitudes and associations to money with underlying system of ego-needs and phantasies. In this way, it sought a clearer understanding of the process through which social reality becomes internalised within a given cultural context and a clarification of the function of symbols in this adaptive ego-task.

The present report is divided into four sections. The first briefly reviews and reinterprets relevant work in the area and defines the scope of the enquiry. The second reports three pilot studies and the development of special instruments for the project. Equipped with the leads obtained from the pilot studies and with the help of these instruments, six small-scale experiments were made to further sharpen these hypotheses. These are reported in section three. In the concluding section, the theoretical implications of these experiments are discussed and an attempt is made to reassess the relations postulated in the first section.

The study was essentially exploratory in nature. The approach was clinical and it was done in a clinical setting during 1961-1964.