INTERVIEW WITH DIANA HOWARD ATKINSON

by

Dr. Albert Kandelin

November 15, 1963

Committee for the History of the Society

Interview with Diana Howard Atkinson
by Dr. Albert Kandelin
November 15, 1963

K: This is Dr. Albert Kandelin. I'm going to interview Diana Howard Atkinson. This is November 15, 1963. We are at Diana's home, 4840 Longridge Avenue, Sherman Oaks. How do you do Diana? Do you recall that I interviewed you once before, June 23, 1961? The only thing we need to remember is, one person talks at a time. We have enough tape and should take enough time to repeat and expand upon the very interesting details that you were able to give me in the interview we had in 1961, plus of course having an opportunity to actually record it this time which we did not do last time. Now please commence talking. I have here if it will help you to get started, the fact that you came to Los Angeles from Chicago in 1943 -- am I correct? -- and perhaps you can tell me a little about the circumstances about coming to Los Angeles.

D: I came to Los Angeles from Chicago because I thought it was time to change my way of living and separate from my family with whom I had been until my 28th year. I came in August of 1943 and went to work for Lockheed where I stayed until December. Then I worked for an eye doctor, and then heard that Dr. Simmel needed a secretary. This was somewhere around January of 1944. And after a rather interesting situation about taking the job, I started to work with him -- I believe it was the 28th of February, 1944, as closely as I can remember. I stayed with him until a month before his death -- October, 1947. He died on Armistice of '47, just about sixteen years ago.

K: Also you told me that you'd had experience in Chicago at the Psychoanalytic Institute there. Am I correct?

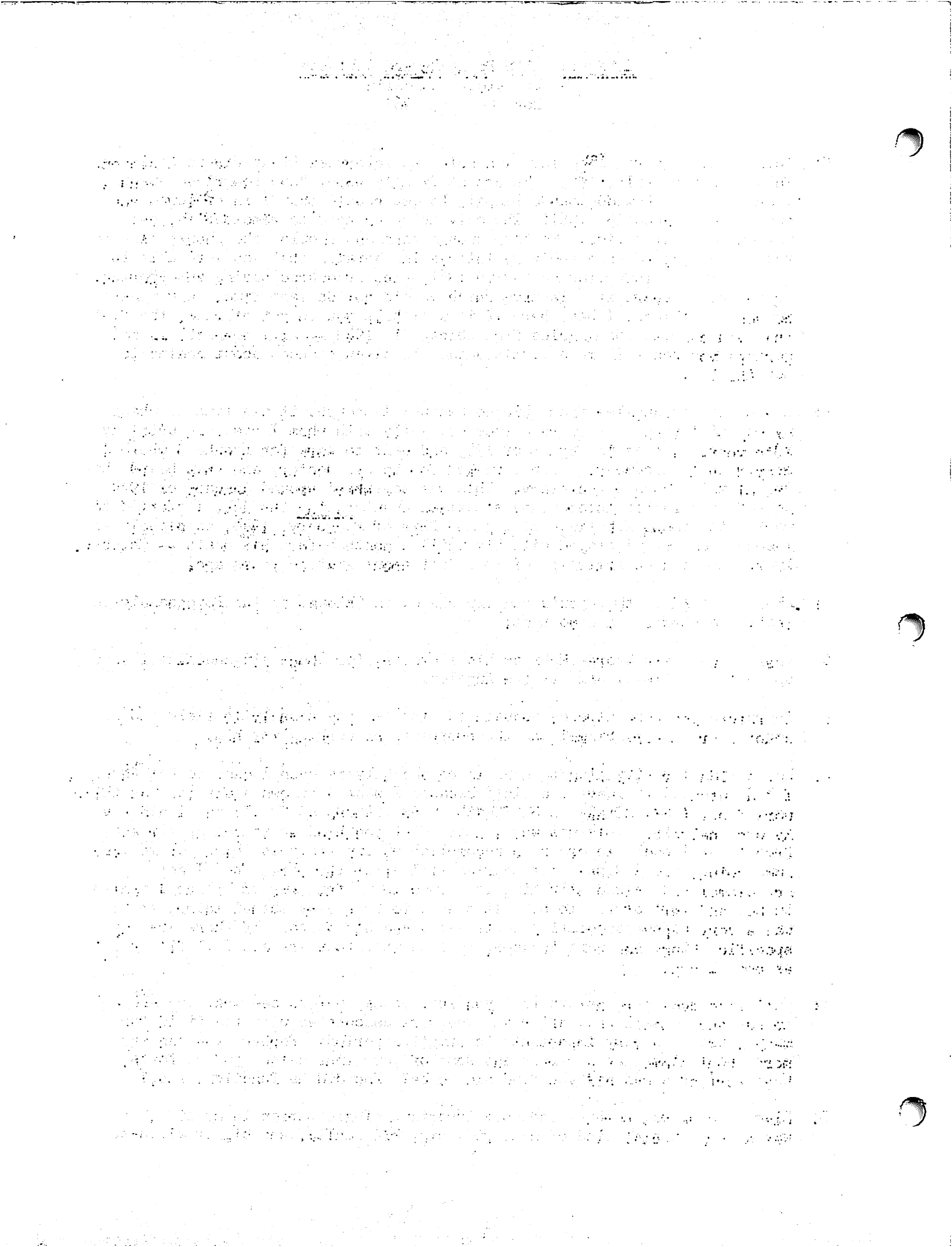
D: Yes. I was with George Mohr as his secretary for about six-and-a-half years, up until the time I came to Los Angeles.

K: Therefore you were already acquainted with the psychoanalytic field and no doubt alert to Dr. Simmel and the prospects of working for him.

D: No, I didn't really plan to work in psychoanalysis when I came to Los Angeles. I had intended to leave the field because I wanted my own analysis. As things worked out (NEXT REMARK IS SMOTHERED AS SHE LAUGHS ABOUT IT) but I did have my own analysis. This was why I started at Lockheed -- to get as far away from it as I could in order to accomplish my own analysis which for me took some doing, and I didn't get started till after the war. When I met Dr. Simmel and talked with him, it seemed to me that was the place I wanted to be, and sort of had to be. It seemed to be a very mutual thing, and it was a very happy association until - ? - and his death. If there are any specific things you want to know, tell me what they are and I'll fill you in as best I can.

K: Well I've come here not to tell you what to say but to see what you are able to say and to tell us. After all you were associated with the field for many years at a very important, informative period. Perhaps you can say more about Simmel as a person and some of your impressions and so forth. What sort of a man did you find him to be? How did he function, etc.?

D: Simmel to me was perhaps the most important single person in my life. He was a very special kind of man, with big, big faults, and bigger virtues.



(LONG PAUSE) He was, I think primarily an artist. He was a man who had very little regard for money, for anything practical. These things were not important to him. To him -- and I think we see this now more and more, but I'm not so sure how true that was then -- but to him every patient was a research case, somebody very individual, and he had a case load the likes of which I have rarely seen until perhaps now where I work, where Dr. Ekstein deals with the psychotic, with the schizophrenic child. Simmel was never afraid to touch the kind of patients that most analysts would veer very very far away from. He didn't really know very much about fear. (SMILING TONE) He also didn't know very much about money, or practical things. And I was kind of impressed at one point when several of his patients voluntarily increased their own fee because they thought he undercharged. This was such an integral part of him but it had some dire consequences for him and for his family when he died. I think he also considered himself to be indestructible somehow, so that insurance and any practical matters never really entered his thinking. It never really occurred to him that he wouldn't be one day. And so -- as we know -- those of us who knew him -- he didn't do the most for the people he left behind. He was a very creative, very intuitive, but very kind man; a man who if you wanted to know something, if you needed something, he would always give you his assistance, even if it meant keeping someone waiting. (LAUGHINGLY) And he always kept someone waiting. He was never on time for anything. As long as I knew him I never knew him to be on time, not for an appointment, not for a work day, not for a meeting. That was something that was not part of his make-up at all.

Another thing that impressed me very much because it was the first time that I had encountered it, was that if he was writing a paper and you wanted to know something because you didn't understand, he would spend an hour, two hours if it were necessary to make very sure that you would understand what he was talking about. So that I would have considered him a very great teacher. These are some of the things that I remember about him and what I just thought. He made me very very angry because he was in some ways a jealous taskmaster. If you had a doctor's appointment, if there was something you wanted to do, that would be the time that Simmel would decide he had to finish all kinds of work, because he really wanted you there; he didn't want you to leave. It didn't please him that you had to.

He had not very good judgment about people always. I think he loved them all but got disappointed by them but I think the basic feeling for people was so positive, that he never looked for faults. And I think for him the password was always "psychoanalysis." If anyone walked into his house or his office or anywhere and said, "psychoanalysis," he was in! -- until he did some perfectly horrible thing and Simmel then was forced to revise his opinion, and some of these things are well-known by now. And they were really just questions of bad judgment on his part. I think he was a man of extreme integrity even with his bad judgment. He was always available to everybody for whatever anyone might need; a colleague, a friend, a housekeeper, a secretary, a relative. I don't know how many people he brought over from Europe, but I think there were vast numbers for whom he signed affidavits. To go off on another tack, I think one of his very great disappointments was in his not being able to get the medical license here. He would very often say he didn't care, but I know that he cared very, very much. I really can't talk too much about him as a scientist, because I think other people are much better qualified to do that. I can only talk about the man who was my boss, who was my

friend, who was my father surrogate, and a man who was as I said, perhaps the most important single person in my life, in my development. Whatever I did learn about psychoanalysis came from him -- in these little meetings where he'd be writing a paper and wanted to make absolutely sure that you knew what he was talking about, because he felt that if you didn't know then it wasn't sufficiently clear for an audience to understand; even though it might be addressed to a scientific audience with a much broader scope, he thought it was very important for everyone to understand.

K: May I remind you that when I phoned you for this appointment, you mentioned the business which is now being done regarding trying to prepare some sort of biographical material about him. I believe you said it was done by Dr. John Peck (D: 'Yes.') of the other group. And also you said on the phone that there were certain things that you wanted to add -- to correct, so I presume that some of the things you are saying now are part of that attempt, but please go on if you can, to give us a good record.

D: (RUSTLING OF PAPER AS SHE APPARENTLY PERUSES THE PECK PIECE) Yes. I feel like this is "Person to Person" -- I had an interview with John Peck as did many other people because he got the assignment to write about Ernst Simmel. I was quite unhappy when I saw the article which I now have before me. It's not only that there are things in it that are incorrect, I just don't feel it captures the man, the spirit, the quality of him. I was really rather offended by it, and reading and re-reading it. It's a very pedestrian article written by a very decent and nice man, who never really captured this man at all for whatever reason. Maybe one really had to know him. Just in his beginning: "Ernst Simmel was a man of about 5 feet 6 inches in height, with large brown eyes and a friendly expression." All right. "Friendly, enthusiastic, cheerful, witty, intuitive and spontaneous." This is all true, but then he writes, "One gets the feeling that Simmel's optimistic and enthusiastic attitudes were among his chief contributions to the development of psychoanalysis." (WRY LAUGHT) I must take exception to that, because I don't really think that's what his chief contributions were. I think they were scientific contributions, not merely optimism. Some of the optimistic and enthusiastic attitudes made some trouble for him. Er -- like the Schloss-Tegel thing which is pretty well-known.

K: David Brunswick said he read this ... this ... (D: 'Yes?') piece you referred to, and felt that the emphasis seemed to be rather on the negative side.

D: Yes. I think it was true that Simmel was a poor business man. I don't think that's all so negative. It had certainly some bad consequences, but I think we could do with a few not so good business men and just good analysts. And that I think is what's missing. He doesn't really pinpoint what Simmel's strengths were, what his real contributions were; rather he says, as I said, in rather elemental language -- some statements that aren't even true. I haven't seen this for awhile. (REFERRING TO THE PIECE OBVIOUSLY) I just got it out. (WITH A SORT OF SHAKY HUMOR) Though as you notice it was one of the things I could put my hands on in this house. I just don't think he gives him enough stature or enough recognition as a really outstanding psychoanalyst. But he didn't know him and after listening to all of us who did, I don't think he knew him either. I don't think he came alive for him. I just don't like it. (UP) One of the things about Simmel -- Simmel was invited to come

to Los Angeles and join a small group of nine medical therapists. Something I think that is very important to know about Simmel is he was not really in favor of non-medical psychoanalysis, and I think this was well-known. I don't think this appears anywhere here. He went beyond this for people as he knew them and as he came here, and I think perhaps David Brunswick was the one who said when they had some question about asking him here where there were only lay analysts at the time, and they wrote and said, we wonder how you would feel about this with the stand you've taken. He said, "Good lay analysts or non-medical analysts are better than none -- well-trained ones." These are the kinds of things that Simmel stood for; where he really stood on principle and belief which do not appear anywhere in this paper. (SHE LAUGHS AS SHE SAYS) I must say I get very annoyed every time I look at it. (READS DRILY) " -- lived his life around psychoanalysis and approached everything in life through it." I think this is true. I think he was one of those monomanic people who was a psychoanalyst first, last and in the middle, and this was his whole way of life. But then he goes on to say, "His friendliness was combined with a tendency to be gullible and a poor judge of people, which led to difficulties on one or two occasions. He would warmly accept anyone who showed an interest in psychoanalysis ..." and in the same paragraph (HER LAUGHTER BECLOUDS THE NEXT PHRASE) "He smoked large numbers of cigars, and could not be bound to a strict schedule." Well this is poor writing, and somehow again the man just doesn't come through. (READING AGAIN) "He had no particular hobby." He did. He liked gardening. His hobby really was people, and his hobby was psychoanalysis. (STRONG) Now I think that it's very bad taste, although it's pretty well-known, to put in an article that his wife was left with almost no financial resources. Um -- (PAUSE) And he wasn't forgetful and unconcerned about the fees he charged. He just -- undercharged. He was just much more interested in treating people. (LONG PAUSE.) By omission and commission it's just not good, and I would like someone to -- someone who knows more than I, to so state before this becomes a part of a book. (FAST) Incidentally I told this to John Peck, and I did not get as far as telling him I wanted my name removed as one of the people he talked to, because then I re-read it again and at that time I was very busy and involved in thinking about getting married, and I never got around to it, but I wish that someone would answer this article because it's a bad one. (MUMBLING) It's a very bad one; it isn't a good one.

K: Younger people are equally or perhaps even more so, interested in Fenichel because of -- shall we say -- a greater acquaintance with the Fenichel writings. A familiar question is: Simmel and Fenichel lived and worked on the same scene; what can you add about their relationship?

D: I think they were very friendly enemies. I think there was a great deal of jealousy between the two men. Fenichel I did not know as well, and of whom I think I told you once before I was sort of frightened; I found him a rather aloof and cold man. I understand this was not so. As to their relationship, they were in disagreement on a number of things. I think they admired and respected each other, and there was a certain jealousy between them. I think they had different things to contribute. I think Fenichel was a compiler, a theoretician and a very brilliant, erudite, scholarly man. I don't know that Simmel was all that scholarly and all that learned and all that erudite or Talmudic. He was the intuitive genius, and I think this was his contribution. I do know of one particular time that they were in vast disagreement, and that was at the time of the self-preservation and the death instinct

paper, if you remember that. Fenichel did not agree with his concept at all; said so openly. Whatever they did disagree with each other about, I think they did so quite openly, and I think (HER VOICE DROPS TO A CONSPIRATORIAL CHUCKLE AND WITH IT SOME OF THE WORDS DROP OUT OF HEARING, LEAVING ONLY) - ? - kind of cute - ? - . But I don't think it was the kind of um -- it wasn't a fighting hostility; it was a friendly -- (REFLECTIVE PAUSE) -- jealousy! It's the only way that I could explain this. I could even pinpoint it for you even a little better by saying it took Simmel -- oh two hours to write one sentence and it took Fenichel with whom I worked once one hour; in that hour he accomplished twenty pages, and it might very well take Simmel twenty hours to do one page. Because he never was very sure about his English. He really had something of a writing block and he would polish everything so, that as we all know now, so little of Simmel is published of his last years' work, and I think perhaps this is why the man doesn't come through for so many people. He isn't known. Those of us who knew him and got to know him, really knew what his qualities were, but the people who learned about him later, learned about him almost as a mythological figure because he wasn't all that published in his later years. He had some notions about addictions. He started to work on them. This was about the time he got ill. He had some very good ideas -- his own ideas, for instance about epilepsy and what caused it. He was in the process of a book on "Repression, Regression, and Organic Disease" which he had been writing for years. There are volumes of it, but it never got published. It was a brilliant piece of work and people who have worked on it and who know what he was trying to do have attested to this but he never really got there. And I think that was Simmel's tragedy, and I would say, if one could call it a fault -- his greatest; that he had great difficulty finishing things for publication, for anything. Maybe it had to do again (LITTLE LAUGH) with his feeling indestructible. Like he had all the time in the world and he would always do it tomorrow or the next day or something. But he just never did. And I think this is also the tragedy for psychoanalysis, that this man with this great gift also had a writing block and couldn't finish things. And that I think is really true. He really did have this difficulty.

K: Simmel had the unique position of really being the organizer of psychoanalysis in Los Angeles (D: 'Mm-hm.'), that is the Study Group (D: 'Yes.') and subsequently organizer of an Education Committee where he appointed training analysts to help him. What can you say about his interest in and talent for this sort of activity; namely, organizing and teaching? What were his interests and how did he function?

D: I think he was an excellent teacher. I am not so sure he was that good an organizer. I'm not so sure my saying this is altogether valid, because you must remember at the time when I knew him when he was doing this, he was a very sick man. He spent many months at a sanitarium and many months away from work so I don't know how just it is. But he did make some mistakes in these things too in judgment. And this was in the last year of his life. He did make some mistakes there. (UP) It wasn't that he wasn't interested. He was very interested but he was also very sick. I think there are better organizers. I imagine that a man like Fenichel would have been a better organizer. I think one of his disappointments in the psychoanalytic Institute was that at one meeting without any prior warning, he was deposed as Chairman of the Education Committee. I think this was a fact that made him very unhappy, that hurt him very much. It was one of those sub-rosa affairs which I think was my first inkling and indication (LAUGH) that the analysts have clay feet. And I

remember the repercussions in that. Because he was a very tired, a very sick and a very disappointed man, and nobody saw fit to talk straight to him. This was just a fait accompli he was presented with at a meeting, and I don't think he ever got over it really. I don't think he was the best organizer. I think he was a superior teacher. I think there are better organizers. Maybe he had been. He certainly did a lot of organization work. He did it in Europe and he did it here too. Maybe in his healthier years he was a better organizer.

He believed in and he wanted good psychoanalysis. I don't think there was very much rancor in Dr. Simmel. What little there was came out in the very few months before he died. Before that he had very little - ? - . I think he was tired and he was sick. He had a perfectly dreadful home life and I think that's well-documented other places, and we all know it and there isn't any great reason to say anthing about that. I think he had some disappointment in his kids. He was a really very kind man -- and a great man.

K: About some of the other early analysts, and of course not so early but what they aren't still on the scene. Who occurs to you? What can you say? What were some -- what are some of your recollections or some of your experiences with some of these people?

D: When I came there was a very small group. I told you my reaction to Fenichel. He scared me. I was always sorry that I didn't get really to know him better (LAUGH) so that I could get over the fear. I think he was probably a great man in his way. I think if you work with someone you always take on something of his (UNINTELLIGIBLE) - ? - not so positive feeling or difference of opinion. (LAUGH) You sort of line yourself up with -- with your "father" against somebody else's. So about Otto Fenichel I told you. Hanna was on the scene too. I think they were married not too long before I came, and Hanna I always remember (UP) as a very friendly, brusque, abrupt woman as she is even today carrying roses to the Simmels. I also remember about Hanna, that she was in disagreement with her husband on that self-preservation paper, and she came and told this to Simmel. I remember that scientifically. Mrs. Deri, er -- was Simmel's closest friend, and I got to know her quite well. I got to know her even better when Simmel was sick because she would visit him every single night at the end of her very long practice. Mrs. Deri was not a young woman then. About Mrs. Deri I remember, a slow speaking but (LAUGH) very energetic - ? - lady whom I saw once professionally and who scared me half to death. She was the first person I saw, professionally. I came to know her better. But I remember her dedication and devotion to Simmel, mostly. Albert Slutsky I remember as a very pale, anemic, worried man with one concern: his sick and dying son who outlived him.

K: What was the detail on that?

D: I think he had rheumatic fever and was in bed a good part of the time. He had a rheumatic heart and the Slutsky household revolved around that boy. Slutsky had a wife who I believe was a pianist. I met her once or twice after his death. He had a daughter and he had this ailing boy who consumed every waking hour of his father. And if you ever asked him how he was, his answer was, "I would be fine if I could get my boy a new heart." That I remember, always. He never looked very happy. He looked very worn and very worried always. The boy survived him if I'm not mistaken by a year and then died I think in his teens. So this is the way I remember him.

Estelle Levy who later became one of my very good, good friends, I remember as a very funny little old maid parrot lady, who did very nice things in (SMALL LAUGH) the most abrupt manner. (PAUSE) I always thought of Estelle as a little old maid; (SOFTLY) and she was. But she became my devoted friend and I hope I became hers. Even as she did, she still looked like a little old maid and a parrot, to me. Estelle was also quite dedicated to Simmel. This group was.

The other person was Mrs. Munk who became my analyst. About her I knew not too much, she also happened to be my analyst. I remember about her that she and Hanna were always together; I think they still are always together and that Simmel used to call them The Twins. Charlie Tidd I didn't meet until later until after the war. Romi Greenson I met after the war. I really didn't know May Romm until I came to the Institute. Some of the people who came after the war were people I had known in Chicago like Martin Grotjahn, Norman Levy, Carel Van der Heide, Milton Miller; these people I had known in Chicago, some of them as candidates. So they were not exactly new people to me.

My first encounter with Charlie Tidd was a very unpleasant one. (PAUSE, THEN SMALL LAUGH) I don't remember the details, but I remember that we revised our opinions of each other, some time afterwards. Then there was the Study Group and in that Study Group -- you have the membership lists of Lachenbruchs and Eugene Lowe and any number of people, whose names I don't all remember. But it was a very nice, close, and warm circle. David Brunswick I always remember with warmth and affection. He was always a gentleman. He always had the same manner as he has now. That hasn't changed. He's just a little bit older, like we all are, but he's always had this same quality.

K: You had certainly a good deal to do with setting up the Institute and its functioning. What general impression do you have of how that was accomplished, and how did it go?

D: The Institute job I had inherited from Virginia Smith when she got married. It was a very busy and very active job where you could pretty much call your own shots. When I came to the Institute, Ernst Lewy was the Chairman of the Education Committee. Charlie Tidd was the Institute Treasurer, I believe. And it was a pretty free and independent kind of job so that whatever one wanted to expand on, you could. Nobody really bothered you much. You made your own forms and your own decisions about things unless they really were matters for Education Committee. But about the administrative end of it, I was left pretty much to my own resources and devices. Now as the Institute grew and acquired a library and acquired more status and more officers, er -- what I remember best about the Education Committee was that everybody used to fight. (LAUGHING AND WITH A TOUCH OF COQUETRY) Wanna hear about the fights?

K: Yes! That'll be the best part.

D: Yeah, you couldn't hear about them then, but they were about everything. I mean not enough people believe this anymore: there were scientific differences in the split Education Committee which eventually split into two institutes. There was a four-to-three division as you probably know, and a three-quarters vote was needed to pass anything. And -- again this was another eye-opener for me, because while I had grown up in a union family and lots of politics,

I never expected to find it in a scientific field. And I remember one of the very first meetings I went to, before Virginia left even, Virginia and I were asked to leave the room and there was a real (THE LAUGH SWELLING) knock-out, drag-down fight on some issue or other. It didn't help any for us to leave the room because the voices carried just as plain as day in the bedroom where we were -- hidden. And this seemed to be the course of that Education Committee, which had on the one side, er -- Ernst Lewy. I believe Charlie Tidd was on our team. (TO SELF) Romi Greenson? I don't know if David Brunswick was a training analyst then. He might have been by then. Mrs. Deri was a member -- er, was a training analyst but not a member I believe. On the other side were May Romm - Grotjahn and I believe Milton Miller if I'm not mistaken. (ASSENTING SOUNDS FROM K: 'That's right.') That was that beginning group and you could always see who sat where. I sometimes had a very uncomfortable situation because I grew up in the Chicago Institute which is sort of Alexandrian; came to the Los Angeles Institute where the Simmel and Fenichel and classical analysis were my team then. And I really in Chicago didn't know enough to know what the whole hullabaloo was about. I only knew in Chicago that Blitzsten and Alexander hardly talked to each other, but what that was all about I didn't know.

The first split I ever witnessed was the New York split. That was the very first split of any Institute, and that I remember because Sandor Rado came into our office. So when I saw it happening I thought, oh my God, again? (LAUGH) I was very struck by their human qualities and when they would scream at each other at the tops of their lungs. And a situation evolved where nobody could ever settle anything and it was a real horse trade; if they wanted to appoint a training analyst, they had really to horse trade. Our side would get one and their side would get one, and unless you did that you could pass no major ruling, no decisions. The same applied for people's candidates, and many, many issues. The issues were very often scientific but (LAUGH) sometimes they deteriorated into personality ones. And sometimes the screaming got pretty loud, and I think it was this stymied Education Committee that led Ernst Lewy to think he could solve it. I think he has sometimes been quite sorry that he couldn't salvage this in a different way. But I think it was just plain wear and tear that made him think maybe the best solution would be a division of efforts, of labor, of love, into two separate groups. He has been severely criticized about this in many quarters (LAUGH) and to this day I don't know who is right. But I know where my loyalites were by then. I know they were very unpleasant and very unbearable meetings to have to go to, and they must have been three times as much as that to chair (LAUGH) because you couldn't keep order. And it could start over nothing. That isn't true that it would start over nothing; it would start over one issue and eventually you'd have this four and three and nothing could be done unless you gave something, for it. That's a very clear recollection I have of my beginning years at the Institute. My job did not involve that. I only (LAUGH) had to take the minutes of it, and sometimes they were kind of hard to take.

K: Did you choose the offices in 1948 on Commercial Center Street, or who was responsible for them?

D: Charlie Tidd found them and then I approved them I think. That was as much money as we had, and that's my best recollection of about how it happened. We needed an office, sort of central where we could house what we had then, which consisted of twenty chairs, a big table and a typewriter, and some filing

cabinets. Later we had a bookcase. But I think he found it.

K: Who selected the location on North Bedford Drive?

D: I don't remember who did that, whether that was Charlie Tidd. That was 1953, and I think there was a Housing Committee by then. It might have been Leonard Rosengarten. Was he a member then? I think it probably was. At least he furnished those offices. I think he was instrumental in our getting them. Many people were very unhappy with Commercial Center Street, both because of its commercial-center quality and also because it really wasn't close enough for people to get to in their ten-minute break. I think they were considerably (LAUGH) happier with the Bedford Drive -- they must be because they're still there. What I remember is that Leonard furnished it. That was his baby, all the furnishing of it. So he might also have found it. Maybe Dr. Friedman too. I'm not sure. Maybe one reason I'm not so sure is, that on the day that we moved I went to the hospital for surgery, so I'm kind of blank on that one.

K: This sheet of paper I have in my hand is a little chronology I made up which is very brief and abbreviated. If glancing at it would stimulate your memory? Perhaps you've seen it before?

D: No I haven't. (SILENCE AS SHE PERUSES IT.) Some of this is before my time. I didn't know that Otto Fenichel was only 47 when he died. (PERUSING SILENCE.) I thought he was more. I thought he was closer to 50.

K: Have you ever met a lady I met last week -- Mrs. Gertrude Frankel Picard?

D: No I have not. Who is she?

K: Mrs. Picard was your predecessor who was employed as secretary to Simmel beginning in 1936 until 1940.

D: I don't know her. There was a girl -- and a very nice girl who did Fenichel's work and Simmel's. I think her name was Renata Oppenheimer. She did it on a free-lance basis. She has married. I don't know what her name is now. But I did know her. Gertrude Frankel I don't know.

K: Gertrude Frankel worked mostly in a house on Hudson Avenue which Simmel rented and used for an office (D: 'Mm-hm.') up to 1939 or 1940.

D: It was 901 South Hudson. I remember the address, because I have that kind of a memory. I saw the house but I never was in it. That was before my time, but letters to Simmel were addressed there. In 1939 and '40 I was in Chicago with George Mohr.

K: Was 555 North Wilcox Simmel's only residence in Los Angeles?

D: No I think they lived on Arden Drive before I knew them. I think they lived at one time on St. Andrew's Place. I don't know when they lived where but I think probably when they lived on St. Andrew's he had the office on Hudson. It was a little house, because Herta took me to see it -- pass by it. So that's -- I never was in it. The only house they lived in in the years that I knew them was Wilcox, then Herta moved to Vista after Ernst Simmel died.

K: Well Diana is there more that we can do? Or do you want to take a rest and say more later? In any event we've been talking for about an hour.

D: Is there anything more that you would specifically like to know?

K: This is Friday night, so perhaps I'm not a very good interviewer at the end of the week.

D: And I'm not all that spontaneous. Machines bug me.

K: I think you've done very well. We seem to have concentrated on Simmel, but after all you more or less set it up this way; because the telephone call, material about the John Peck paper -- . And I think you've accomplished what was a kind of an aim on your part.

D: It was -- it really was. I don't want him misunderstood (LAUGH) or misrepresented. I think there's been too much of that already. And while I certainly think like everybody else, he had his faults, I don't think this points up (LAUGH) his virtues enough, and he had those too. We know because we worked on a project together which fell apart, that I have a little more vested interest -- some of us do -- in Simmel, those of us who knew him well and really cared about him; and what he meant to us and what he meant to psychoanalysis, are really quite unhappy with the fact that this man is lost to posterity. And this is perhaps why I'm so slanted in the one direction.

K: Thank you Diana! Let's stop for now. It's been very good to have this interview with you.

First transcript by Sophia Wyatt.
Final transcript by Jean Kameon.

Recorded on tape at the home of Mrs. Diana Howard Atkinson
4840 Longridge Avenue
Sherman Oaks