INTERVIEW WITH MR. AND MRS. JEROME LACHENBRUCH

by

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Committee for the History of the Society

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H: I've come here today to interview you, Mr. and Mrs. Lachenbruch, as part of the series of interviews we're doing to collect a history of the psychoanalytic movement in California. Perhaps the best place to start might be if you could, in a general way, orient us about your connection with psychoanalysis here.

Mr: Well, to start with, I didn't really get into any of the psychoanalytic things until Mrs. Lachenbruch, who knew David Brunswick for many years, got in touch with him after he arrived. In fact, I had spoken to him before Mrs. Lachenbruch came out here, and he told me he was going to practice here, but we did not get in touch with him -- I did not follow this up at all. Then, after Mrs. Lachenbruch arrived, we learned that Mr. Libbin was organizing, or had organized, a small group, of which Dr. Brunswick was one, and also I believe Mrs. Libbin, now Mrs. Munk. Then, in 1934 I believe, David Brunswick was very eager to get some of the better-known analysts from abroad to come over here and start some type of real organization. He was successful in getting Dr. Simmel to come over here. How Dr. Simmel got over here you probably have heard from other sources. And one of the first things that happened was that I helped Dr. Simmel with some of his work; in other words I was the forerunner of Diana Howard, and I used to go every evening to Dr. Simmel's home, and we would work on articles and things of that sort. Let's stop for a second. It was in this period that he and David, but mostly Dr. Simmel, was very eager in getting people over to America. He succeeded in getting -- I think Dr. Lewy was one of the first.

H: Please speak up, Mrs. Lachenbruch.

Mrs: No, Dr. Lewy came very much later than that to Los Angeles. The first person I think who came through Simmel's instigation was Mrs. Deri, and then a few months later Otto Fenichel came, and then, at about that same time, but I'm not quite sure of the time sequence, Hanna Fenichel came. It may have been almost the same time. As you probably know, Dr. Fenichel was married to Claire Fenichel when he arrived here, and later he and Hanna Fenichel were married. As far as I can recall, Dr. Lewy did not come directly to Los Angeles; he was first, I think, in New Jersey, and then later at Menninger's, and then some time later -- I would venture to guess it was about the time we got into World War II, because I remember seeing him one evening at a Study-Group meeting, which was at that time being held in the School for Nursery Years, then on Rossmore.

Mr: During this period Dr. Simmel was very active, and extremely eager to establish the Study Group among the people who were here, and he did. They were all very eager to join the project, and the Study Group was organized. I think at first it met for a short time at his home, and then he rented another building -- I think -- was it Hudson? Hudson Street, where he practiced, and there he set aside the living room, and set up a big U table and there we had our meetings. We were sort of associate members of the Study Group and went there to listen to the discussions, and they were very lively and very good, and those attending were not only psychoanalysts. Other people were invited, and this was Dr. Simmel's big idea; he wanted not only psychoanalysts, but he wanted social workers and other people of that sort -- psychologists, and among the psychologists who came were Professor -- what

was her name -- ?

H: The Tolmans?

Mr: Yes. Among those who came were Carolyn Fisher, the Tolmans, and several other people whom I don't recall at the moment, and they had not only lectures or papers on psychoanalysis, many aspects of the science, but also lectures by Max Deri, who gave us lectures on art, and from that point, the psychoanalytic implications of these lectures, of the things he said, were brought forth and it was all very interesting and all sort of tended to the same thing. But I want to emphasize that Simmel was extremely interested in spreading the psychoanalytic doctrine to other disciplines, and I think he was the prime mover of that in this section of the country. He also wanted to lecture at universities, and he did get an offer to lecture at USC, and this was the beginning of the spreading of the psychoanalytic doctrine to the universities in this part of the country. I think he wrote five lectures -- how many were there?

Mrs: Six.

Mr: Six lectures, and I know I worked like mad trying to translate his very involved German at that time into English. I don't know what they look like now, but the translations were rather crude, I think, but he gave the lectures, and they were very well received. Now from that point on I don't know just what happened to the lectures -- do you know?

Mrs: Yes, actually, I think before he gave those lectures he submitted them to Freud, and there are some of those lectures in the library of the Institute, with annotations by Freud.

H: That's very interesting. I didn't know about that. If they're not in the Institute -- if they're in somebody's possession, that would be --

Mrs: Actually, what has happened, and this is very curious; I'm not quite sure now whether there are three or more of them -- in some strange way, three at least are there, with annotations by Freud. Simmel had written and asked him whether he would examine them and check them out, and Freud said at that time that this was something he had great hesitation in doing, but just because it was Simmel, of whom he was very fond, and whom he admired tremendously, he would do them as he had time. I think it would be difficult to overestimate Simmel's contribution to the psychoanalytic movement here in the California area. Not only was he of tremendous importance in building up the actual work in the field of psychoanalysis, but in what he did in what today would be called public relations, of bringing a wider understanding of psychoanalysis to the well-informed layman, to other categories of science.

Mr: Let me add one more point. Simmel was very eager to break down the barriers between psychoanalysis and other disciplines. That's why he asked psychologists, psychiatrists.

Mrs: Teachers.

Mr: Teachers, that's very important. He was very eager to have teachers come to

the Study Group, and have them pick up whatever they could, and suggest reading to them.

H: Let me ask you, did this feeling extend to the training of lay people in psychoanalysis, as far as you know?

Mr: As far as I know, really, I do not know whether there was any formal training, or whether it was advocated, but I do know there was a great deal of discussion, and this comes later in time, about the validity of having laymen in the psychoanalytic organization as it was later formed.

H: Well, certainly there was a lot of contention on this point from other people. I wondered particularly what Simmel's position might have been, since you described his wish to expand the field.

Mr: Simmel's position was the same as Freud's -- that a good psychoanalyst need not have had formal medical training -- he need not be able to cut a person open, but he must know something about how the mind works, and that was Freud's idea, and Simmel was very close to Freud in that, and he had no objection to good psychoanalysts -- and some of the best people they had, Deri, for example, he was very enthusiastic about -- Deri he felt was worth three or four or five other analysts as far as her knowledge and ability are concerned, and it would be ridiculous because she hadn't got a medical degree to bar her from practicing psychoanalysis here. But that's going ahead of the story. I do know about 1936 -- wasn't it, Ruth --

Mrs: I don't know what you're going to say.

Mr: Well, when they came here and we had English conversations -- it's not important --

H: Please, this would be interesting.

Mr: It was very amusing anyhow; they liked it -- the people who came to us were Dr. and Mrs. Fenichel, Simmel came --

Mrs: Mrs. Simmel.

Mr: Mrs. Simmel, and Deri -- I don't think she was here all the time. But at least we had conversations, and ran into many expressions that they would meet with from their patients, expressions their patients used, and they asked us what the equivalent would be in German, and so we were able to clarify a lot of the things that they heard from the couch that they didn't quite understand.

H: Did they learn English readily?

Mr: They knew English; all of them knew English to a certain extent, but they did not know a lot of the slang expressions and colloquialisms and so on. I think one of the funniest things when a patient -- I won't say whose patient it was -- it was a woman analyst, lady analyst -- and the patient used the word "shenanigans" -- did you hear that story?

H: No.

Mr: Well the man used the word "shenanigans," and the analyst didn't know what it was, and so the man began fussing around and avoiding it and trying to be smart, and then the analyst countered with, "Now I know what 'shenanigans' is, that's what you're doing right now."

H: That's a delightful story.

Mr: So things like that happened, and Hanna was the one -- Hanna Fenichel -- who made the most notes, and seemed to appreciate the lessons very, very much.

H: So this was mainly learning idiomatic expressions.

Mrs: We did this one evening -- it was a purely social evening, and they liked it enough so that they asked us if we would do it -- I've forgotten whether it was every two weeks or something of that kind -- that they wanted to keep this up, because they felt this was the kind of English that they would never get in the usual English for foreigners class -- that it was a very sophisticated kind of thing, and there was one thing that occurred to me, Jerry, when you began talking about the meetings on Hudson Street, and that was -- I think it was the very first year that we met there, that Dr. Simmel gave a series of introductory talks on psychoanalysis, a sort of basic course in psychoanalytic concepts.

H: For the members of the Study Group?

Mrs: For the members of the Study Group.

H: I would like to go back a moment. You know you started in describing some of the events when the analysts began to arrive here, but I'm not clear on several things -- what your own interests were in the field, and what your connection was with these people, beforehand. In other words, how did you come into this?

Mrs: We had known David Brunswick in Vienna; we were there at the same time he was there.

Mr: Also the Libbins.

Mrs: Yes, the Libbins were there then too, and when we came to California we made contact with them.

Mr: Just one sidelight. We were in Vienna because we were both being analyzed. So we knew a little about it -- then we came here and got in touch with these people.

Mrs: And I think the thing that perhaps pushed us into activity was some of the people, some of the Americans, who were here, like David Brunswick, Margrit Munk (then Margrit Libbin), Estelle Levy, and I think Marjorie Rosenfeld was active at that time also --

H: Marjorie Leonard?

Mrs: Marjorie Leonard, yes -- sorry -- they brought us in touch -- we were invited

to meet Simmel, oh, within a week after he arrived I would think, and I remember there was an evening at his house, the first house that they were in, and after dinner he spoke informally, and I remember Mr. Libbin saying that I should restrain my laughter because other people couldn't hear all of Simmel's witticisms -- he was a very brilliant speaker -- Libbin said, "Now the rest of us want to hear, just quiet down." Then I think it must have been just about that time that either someone suggested it to Simmel, or Simmel asked us, asked Jerry rather, whether he would be able to help him in making his German material available in English.

H: While you were both in analysis in Vienna -- had you had contact with the field in any other way, or was this your introduction to the field?

Mr: Here, you mean?

H: In Vienna.

Mr: That was the first introduction, in Vienna.

H: Would you care to make any comments about your analytic experience in Vienna?

Mrs: No.

Mr: No, because I'm satisfied and dissatisfied -- it's been so many years since then that I --

Mrs: In the 1920's.

H: Yes, well, the reason I ask is that this would be of great historical interest, if you, you know, if you would care to make some comments about what it was like, or who you were with. I understand of course that there's a lot you might not want to talk about, but --

Mr: Well, we were both with Nunberg. I for about two-and-a-half years, Ruth on two occasions and on the whole considerably longer, and we are always amused at the tremendous efforts being made here to keep one patient from seeing another.

H: Yes?

Mr: When we went to Nunberg's home, there was a lousy hallway --

Mrs: Wait a minute -- let's explain -- this was shortly after World War I, when there was an acute housing shortage in Vienna, and people were glad to have whatever accommodations they could get, and there was this tiny -- well, it really was like a corridor, and there was just room enough for one person to pass another, and you waited there, and when the other patient came out you waited, and you got in. You didn't have all the privacy that today's analytic offices afford.

Mr: A very good little episode I remember was he had one patient who was always ahead of me, a man with bulging eyes and a strange look, and one day I went in after this guy and I said, "What's the matter with that guy, are you sending him to Hell?" He said, "No, I've just saved him from going crazy." So

you see, these little things, the fact that you meet a patient and have an impression of a patient really doesn't affect your analysis, because you have to talk about it, and if you talk about your impressions you begin to find something about yourself -- so this tremendous secrecy -- my God, you musn't let one patient see another -- turned out to be a little bit ridiculous.

H: It didn't impose any impediment to your analysis.

Mr: That's right -- absolutely not, it just helped it, because then you spoke about what was happening, and what you thought about the other guy, and what you thought about the analyst for not doing this or doing this, and so on, so it simply was material for analysis, it was further material for analysis.

H: Along that line, do you recall what the climate at that time was toward psychoanalysis -- did you, as pioneer patients -- did you receive criticism, or was it well accepted in the community at that time, or --

Mr: In Vienna it was more or less accepted, at least the people that we knew didn't say anything about it; they didn't know,and they just wondered, does it do any good, does it not do any good, and so on -- the people whom we knew did not criticize.

H: Was there any climate of intense curiosity, or --

Mr: Not that I recall, you see, after all we were asked not to talk about our analysis, which we didn't, and so there was nothing for anybody to talk to us about as far as analysis was concerned. Many of the people we knew had read something about analysis; whether they believed it was effective, or whether it was good theory or not, they all respected Freud. So I can't give you any comment on that; certainly there was nothing like what we encountered in America afterwards.

H: In the way of what?

Mr: Oh, psychoanalysis is just a fad.

H: There was resistance that you know of --

Mr: See, this was in the 1920's.

H: So when you came here you encountered a lot more resistance to the movement than you had experienced in Vienna.

Mr: People had heard about it and read articles about it -- stupid articles about it, and --

Mrs: I don't think that we had very much occasion to observe directly resistance. What was true at the time the pioneers in the profession here began working was that there was a tremendous amount of, fakerism is the only word I can think of -- I mean, all over Los Angeles there were signs --

Mr: Signs out -- psychoanalyst.

Mrs: The kind of thing that I think is designated as "wild psychoanalysis."

H: That's an interesting point, if I might interrupt at this time; there is a derivative of this nowadays, and that is, many of the older analysts, I suppose having lived through that period and remembering it, have the impression -- I don't know exactly how to put it -- that they must be very careful to distinguish themselves from the fraudulent analysts who advertise. In my experience there isn't a great deal of that now.

Mr: May I add one comment -- that at that time people who had signs up, fortune tellers, took them down and put up signs, psychoanalysts.

Mrs: Or a combination.

Mr: Or a combination.

H: Well, I think in the intervening years that has receded again and my own impression is that there isn't as much advertising of psychoanalysis by unqualified people, and yet this apprehension still remains among many of the older analysts.

Mr: I don't think it's true; I don't think that by and large you can say that; if you made a real canvass of this town you wouldn't find that. About other people coming over here, in 1938 it was that I think that Dr. -- in 1938 Dr. and Mrs. Haenel came over. Mrs. Haenel had worked at the clinic in Tegel, and she was a very good analyst, and Simmel thought highly of her, and he had the two of them come over. He was a little bit doubtful about Dr. Haenel, according to my recollection, because he was a very good Catholic, and he had doubts as to whether a good Catholic could also be a good psychoanalyst, but he was a very good person, and a very sincere person, and I'm sure that Simmel and some of the other analysts recommended patients to them -- to Dr. Haenel as well as to Mrs. Haenel.

H: May I return to Vienna for a moment? Were there other members of the psychoanalytic movement that you had contact with there, that you met, or heard lectures from, or did you ever hear Freud, for instance?

Mr: No, I never heard Freud; I did take his picture, though.

H: You did?

Mr: Didn't you know that -- turn this off a minute.

H: You were saying that you took a picture of Freud. Would you tell us about that?

Mr: Oh, I was with his niece -- he had a niece over there at that time, and she was also in psychoanalysis with Nunberg, and on Freud's 69th birthday -- it was his 69th birthday, May, 1925 -- we went to his mother's home, and he was there for a short visit, and his niece had her little boy there, and I had my camera, and I don't know how it came about, but he was asked to pose for a picture, and he did, and that's the picture I took, and then I took a picture of him and his mother, and a picture of him with his little, was it nephew? Yes, grand-nephew. And that was taken in 1925.

H: What can you tell us about your memory of both Freud and his mother?

Mr: Well, Freud was very, very genial, very kind, and it wasn't too long after one of his operations. He was recovering, but I don't think too well, and in spite of any pain that he may have been in he never showed it. He was just as kind and as co-operative as could be, and I knew that he didn't want his picture taken, that's why I didn't propose it, but I don't know whether his mother inveigled him to do it, or his niece -- whichever it was, it was done.

H: She must have been quite elderly at that time.

Mrs: You're talking about the mother.

Mr: The mother was very old; she was quite old and --

Mrs: You can check on birth dates and so on.

Mr: A regular force in the little family, or big family, and --

Mrs: This isn't Los Angeles.

H: No, this is very interesting.

Mr: This is something that they probably would never get from any of the analysts here, and that is, that she had one of the daughters -- Dolfie -- what was her real name?

Mrs: Adolfina.

Mr: Adolfina, who was about 60 at the time, and the grandmother, or rather, the old Mrs. Freud, thought of her always as a "junges maedchen" -- as a little girl, and now Ruth has a beautiful story about that -- go ahead and tell it, Ruth.

Mrs: I don't think it belongs.

H: This is very pertinent, please include it.

Mrs: Well, I've done this for the Freud archives. I don't know, there was a time when they were away for the summer vacation, and Dolfie went into the town to do some shopping, and as she came back someone met her, and this friend said, "Well, how's the family?" And she said, "Unfortunately, I have no family." And the old mother was sitting up on the balcony and overheard the conversation and when Dolfie came in she reproached her and said, "That's no way for a young girl to talk, that you have no family."

H: What did you understand her to mean by that?

Mrs: Well, what she meant of course, was, "I am the unmarried one, and I don't have a family."

H: I see.

Mrs: In German it sound rather different -- it flows differently, but I really, this is something I would have preferred not to say, and I did in only at your urging.

H: All right, let's include it that way, because I think this is of historical interest.

Mrs: For the movement here?

Mr: The meetings were held regularly, and the discussions started about the validity of admitting non-medical persons to the psychoanalytic society that they wanted to form -- that they had formed already. Wasn't it formed by then?

Mrs: All of the dates are too vague for me to recall. I only know that -- I think it was in 1938, The American Psychoanalytic Association set up certain standards, and the most important one was the matter that we're now discussing -- it was then decided that only people with medical training could be admitted to institutes for training in psychoanalysis, and then there was the so-called grandfather clause, which said that people who had qualified by having training prior to that date, even though lay analysts, would be admitted to the Society.

H: Can you recall what part that played in our own particular Society or Study Group here, that is, was this an important issue here?

Mr: Very, and I think one of the prime movers was May Romm. Actually, Simmel was instrumental, and boosted her to become President at one time of the Psychoanalytic Institute here, wasn't it -- or was that later.

Mrs: I don't remember that -- I'm much too unclear.

Mr: I think that David Brunswick could elucidate on that.

H: But she was in favor of this restriction.

Mr: She definitely was -- so was --

Mrs: As far as I recall there was at first an affiliation with Topeka, and by that time of course Simmel and Fenichel and Mrs. Deri were undertaking some training here; I don't know whether there were any others involved in training at that time, and then, as more physicians who had qualified as analysts came to the West Coast generally, the San Francisco Psychoanalytic Society was founded, and I have a vague feeling that Simmel was the first President of that.

H: Yes, that's correct.

Mr: Reider went up there; he was here for some time.

Mrs: Reider was one of the people I think who trained here in Los Angeles; he had had some work at Topeka, but he went on with his training here.

H: Would you care to give us some of your recollections of Simmel, and of Fenichel, and perhaps of others to help in our portrait of these people?

Mr: I think before this time Dr. Lewy came from Topeka, didn't he? When did he come here?

Mrs: He came here early during World War II, I think -- I think that's correct.

H: I have the material at home; I don't have it handy now. You worked very closely with Dr. Simmel. Can you fill in our portrait of him?

Mr: Personally I found that he was a very charming, humorous, generous person, who was always eager to go out and meet somebody else's ideas and examine them; and did not accept anything without proof, but was willing to give anybody the opportunity to express himself or herself at the Study Group meetings, or the early psychoanalytic group meetings; and he was of course sometimes completely deceived, as we know from the case of Montgomery, which you've heard about undoubtedly, and Montgomery, as I remember, was a very articulate person, and he knew his stuff, and Simmel had great respect for him and for his knowledge, but didn't realize the sort of thing he was doing to his practice. I don't know how that broke up, but all of a sudden -- you probably have the record of it --

Mrs: It was discovered that he was not a qualified person.

Mr: Was not a qualified psychoanalyst.

Mrs: I think we know too little of the details.

Mr: Yes, we don't know much about the inside --

H: But Simmel was a very democratic person, as you describe him.

Mr: Extremely democratic; after all, he was a member of the Social-Democratic group of doctors in Berlin.

H: This was a political organization?

Mr: Semi-political, I think.

Mrs: I think it was called something like the Society of Socialist Physicians.

Mr: And Simmel knew many of the Social-Democratic leaders, and I don't know the details -- I remember his telling us about them -- the episodes that occurred over there during the Communist putsch -- the semi-Communist putsch -- some of the characters are historical -- and they wanted the physicians to back them up, and Simmel got into it in some way -- never very deeply.

H: Let me ask you this question. You described his very open and receptive and democratic attitude, and his interest in promulgating psychoanalysis amongst members of other disciplines. Now when The American set down its policy of restricting training to medical people, which was also backed by certain people here locally, what was Simmel's reaction to this?

Mrs: I don't remember.

Mr: I do know that when some of the members of the Study Group -- or whether that was after the Society was founded -- I don't remember, but I do know that some of the medical people in the Study Group or the Society were very much against it -- Mrs. Deri, for example, and Hanna Fenichel, who didn't have a degree, you see --

Mrs: In medicine.

Mr: In medicine, and Simmel was definitely against that. He fought for them; he said, "These people know more and are better psychoanalysts than all these doctors that have come here and are fighting them," you see? And there were some who were outright vicious in their comments. Just the details I don't know, but I know that was the spirit.

H: Certainly that may well have played a part, may it not, in the alignment of forces that eventually led to the split between the --

Mr: Definitely. It seemed a very unfortunate and very unhappy incident that some of the people that Simmel was very eager to help, and had helped, to come here and get started were the very ones that turned against him, and that I think was a case of professional jealousy. That's my personal opinion. I don't know why. I don't have anything definite to pin it on, but I can't imagine what else. Simmel was not a -- didn't go out to grab power; he didn't care about that; people thrust it upon him because he was able; he was a very able person, perhaps not as good an administrator, certainly not a good politician, and certainly very mistaken in many of the people whom he trusted, and he laid himself open to thrusts that made him very unhappy eventually.

H: Would it be your feeling that Simmel and other European analysts were more democratic in their attitudes about psychoanalysis than perhaps their younger American colleagues?

Mr: No, I don't think that all the analysts from abroad were so democratic at all; I think they've all broadened out since then, but some of them were -- Lewy for example, Dr. Lewy definitely was, Fenichel was, and -- I'm trying to think of others.

H: Did you have much contact with Otto Fenichel?

Mr: A fair amount. Ruth had a lot of contact with Otto Fenichel, as you know, if you ever used the textbook and read the introduction.

H: I don't recall that at the moment.

Mrs: Well, as a matter of fact, on The Psychoanalytic Theory of Neurosis, Fenichel went over that with some of the younger candidates for -- or perhaps by that time they were practicing analysts, that I'm not sure of -- to make sure of technical terminology. Then, after that -- he had written it in English -- but after that he wanted to be very sure that the English was idiomatic, and so for several months I went over the text. I would work on it chapter by chapter and make my suggestions, then we would work together, and as you surely know, the German language tends to use very long and involved sentences, and I would try to break up some of the sentences, but his feeling always was, let us go on and adhere to this form, because this is an all-inclusive statement, and must stay within this limit. It was a long period of time that I worked with him; he was a good person to work with because he was very clear thinking; he was a difficult person to work with because he was very adamant about staying with the text, and not letting some of the nuances that I wanted to introduce come into it.

H: May I read this signed copy of The Psychoanalytic Theory of Neurosis? It reads "To Ruth Lachenbruch, in thankfulness for the hard job she had with a merciless

author! Los Angeles, December 15, 1945. Otto Fenichel." Well, since you worked so closely with Otto Fenichel in the preparation of this book for printing, it would be very interesting to have your impressions of Otto Fenichel as a person.

Mrs: Well, I don't know that I can add very much more to what I've already said. He was certainly a very thoughtful and very careful worker, and one of the things that I thought of before when Jerry was talking about Simmel -- I think that Fenichel was probably a more astute judge of people than Simmel. I think that Fenichel was a much better appraiser of human qualities. I think that Simmel had a quality that many creative people have, of stimulating others, so that in his presence they gave their very best, and his tendency was to accept that very best as the way they always functioned. I think that Fenichel was aware that you will sometimes have this very best appearing, but that it isn't always the whole person, that that's only part of it, and I think that, although we have mentioned that Simmel was interested in political affairs, I think that he had much less keen understanding of political operations than Fenichel did. Fenichel had a very practical, worldly understanding that Simmel, because of the kind of person he was, really did not have.

H: Simmel then was an idealist.

Mrs: This isn't a way of saying that Fenichel wasn't an idealist; he was, but I think, just to use a colloquialism, he had his feet on the ground more than Simmel did.

Mr: Don't forget that Simmel had a great deal of the artist in him, and his imagination would come out -- he loved to write -- he would write humorous things, and sometimes he read them to the Society.

Mrs: Actually, there's a thing that you once said, I think it was at Dr. Lewy's house when we were visiting shortly after Simmel's death. We were mentioning the two men, and Jerry at that time said, "I think that one distinction that you could make between Simmel and Fenichel is that Simmel was very much the creative person, who out of a very slight clue could build up something quite fabulous, and Fenichel was much more the analytic classifying kind of mind." Mrs. Deri commented --

Mr: There was one famous case that Simmel had -- I translated it, and it's been published -- the case of the man who had dropsy or heart disease, and Simmel when he was called in the man was about to die, and they called in Simmel as a last resort, and said, "Well if his wife drowned herself there's hope for the man." And he did --

Mrs: He was able to help him over a period of time.

H: That's an interesting anecdote.

Mr: Simmel wrote quite a few papers on that.

H: Speaking of that, can you tell us what's happened to his unpublished papers; what's going on with that?

Mrs: Please turn it off.

Mr: Do you know about the papers?

Mrs: For a long time I felt that the unpublished and published papers of Simmel should be collected and published. Some of them were in German, untranslated, some of them were in English requiring further editing, and in the early 1950's -- I'm not quite sure of the exact date, I got in touch with Ed Simmel, and mentioned that I thought this would be a good thing to do. I was in New York in 1954, and suggested this to the Editor of the International Universities Press, and he felt this was something very much worth doing. Shortly after I returned from New York, Jerry and I were in San Francisco, and Ed was at that time at the University of California, and we talked to him. I believe the papers were at that time in storage, and he said that he was coming to Los Angeles in the fall, and he then brought those papers to be stored at the Institute, and then, I don't remember exactly why, the whole thing lapsed -- perhaps it was because he was out of town -- and I had no way of working with him. The project was in abeyance for some time. And a couple of years ago I had the idea of doing something about it again, and I began talking to some of the analysts here, and at that time a group of people got together.

Mr: Do you want to mention the names of the people?

Mrs: I'd rather leave it -- just let's leave it this way for the moment. A meeting was held, at which both Michael Hunter, the son by the first marriage, and Ed Simmel were present, and it was suggested that we would try to get to work on it. A plan was then proposed that the papers should be cataloged, and it should be determined by analysts which of the papers seemed proper for inclusion in a volume, and the problem arose as to whether the papers were the property of the Institute or whether they were the property of the sons, and after a number of conflicts it was determined that these papers were not part of the library which had been purchased by the Institute, but actually were the property of the sons, and had only been stored at the Institute. They were then released to the sons, and a meeting was held at our home some months later, and because the sons were not in agreement with the procedures that the analyst members of the committee felt should be undertaken the project was dropped.

H: Do you have any hopes or expectations that this may be pursued sometime?

Mrs: It's possible that the sons may do something, I don't know.

H: We've talked a good long time today; perhaps this would be a good stopping place, and we can have a chance to look over the transcription of what we've talked about, and then we can see if we feel we might like to talk further. I've enjoyed talking to both of you very much, and I think your recollections are most interesting. Thank you very much.

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