# A NEW CENTER FOR PSYCHOANALYSIS: ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS INTRODUCTORY ESSAY



Welcome to Historical Online Archive at the New Center for Psychoanalysis. This Archival Collection comprises thousands of documents reflecting in a broader sense a multifaceted historical discourse of psychoanalytic movement in Los Angeles.

The earliest archival documents are dated by the late 19th century, while the recent documents are related to the nowadays scientific works and official communications.

In 1939, Dr. Ernst Simmel, the former Director of the first Psychoanalytic Hospital *Schloss Tegel* near Belin and the founder of the Psychoanalytic Study Group of Los Angeles, wrote,

To be sure it is not something psychic that holds human society together or what we are living to see just now that threatens to break it up. It is the struggle for existence among individuals as well as among nations. But decisively new way we have learned from Freud to look at it is that this struggle for the treasures of civilization as well as for the material products, necessary for our existence, is decisively influenced by unconscious, irrational motives.

Distress, in which individuals and peoples live, is to the great extent due to the fact that a considerable amount of any distress, from which men suffer, is unconsciously created by the men themselves and that in spite of this struggling the men are unable to free themselves from the distress just because they unconsciously are bound to it.

Dr. Ernst Simmel, 1939

This is how it has begun in Los Angeles. The photograph below dates by 1929. In six years Dr. Ernst Simmel, emigrated from Germany to America. In 1935 he founded professional Psychoanalytic Group in Los Angeles. This professional circle became a cradle for the future psychoanalytic institutions in Los Angeles. It not the Los Angeles Psychoanalytic Group there would not have been all these well-grounded psychoanalytic institution of nowadays. Please see the photograph below.



Seating from the left: Anna Freud, Sigmund Freud, Mrs. Wulff. Standing from the left: Moshe Wulff, Ernest Simmel at the site of Psychoanalytic Hospital Schloss Tegel, 1929

Since its inception this Online Archive has become a scientific, education and preservation entity of its own.

The purpose of this Archival and Research Brochure or rather it is a Catalog of Conceptions, Analysis of the Collections and the Guide to archival research, is to make our archival holding available for practical application.

For that very reason we start of this narrative with the operational instructions.

# Instructions how to navigate and browse at the archival website

# The NCP Online Archive

# http://ncp-la.info/

- 1. Once you chose Archive Rubric at the NCP website menu or Go directly to the Online Archive's link, then both options will take you to the main titular Archival Page that is the NCP Online Archive
- 2. On the top of the Archival Titular Page (the Archon Platform) you shall see the browsing options: **Collections, Digital Content, Subjects, Creators, Record Group**
- 3. You can click on any of these categories and then type your inquiry in the Search Box located to the right from the NCP logo
- 4. For example, please choose the name **Ernst Simmel** as a Subject and print it in the Search Box, then **click Search**
- 5. You shall see the search results for Ernst Simmel at the left of the page
- 6. Then, for example, click on the **Digital Images and Records**
- 7. You **shall** see hundreds of results and you may click on any of these titles
- 8. Once you have clicked on any of the underlined titles, you shall see historical description of the given document and its PDF icon to the left
- 9. If you want to see the actual document, click on Download Original File
- 10. Then you need to save this file in your computer
- 11. After it has been saved, the actual PDF file appears on the bottom of your screen
- 12. Now you can open the document

## Please see the illustrations bellow,

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#### Location: Archon

#### **New Center for Psychoanalysis Los Angeles**

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	<ul> <li>Use a minus sign before a term you want to omit from your results. (e.g. 'bass -fish' finds bass guitars but not bass fishing.)</li> <li>Browse by collection title, subject, name, or classification.</li> </ul>
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	Powered by <u>Archon</u> Version 3.21 rev-3 Copyright ©2017 <u>The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</u>

http://ncp-la.info/

#### The NCP Online Archive Titular Page

We have created a modern Online Archive and the Repository to preserve and disseminate the documented Psychoanalytic History on American soil and more specifically in Los Angeles.

We continue to build the index-term searchable Online Archive for the common good, for the professional research and for purpose of education in Psychoanalysis and in related to it multidisciplinary studies.

The Online Archive has been created on the premise of subject-oriented structure. The subjectmatters factually correspond to series of the index terms. This paradigm laid a conceptual foundation for the functioning of the Archival Platform. With this in mind we like to unfold the following,

#### The state of Research and Archival processing,

The macro-collections are structured as the Record Groups, they cover the broader thematic content.

With a various extent of cataloguing, indexing, digitization and archival preservation, we have processed the following Record Groups and Collections,

1/1

- RG -- 01, Psychoanalytic Institute Foundation of Los Angles. Correspondences, 1938 1940;
- RG -- 02, Dr. Otto Fenichel, Papers, 1936 1964;
- RG -- 03, Dr. Hanna Fenichel (Heilborn) Papers, 1920s -- 1970s;
- RG -- 04, Dr. Hanna Heilborn (Fenichel), Educational Papers, Germany, 1900s -- 1920s;
- RG -- 05, Los Angeles Psychoanalytic Society, Papers, 1940s -- 1950s;
- RG -- 06, Psychoanalytic Study Group of Los Angeles, Papers, 1935 1946;
- RG -- 07, Psychoanalytic Institutions, Correspondences, 1940s, 1950s, 1960s;
- RG -- 08, Dr. Ernst Simmel, Papers, 1908 1946;
- RG -- 10, The Works of History Committee, Los Angeles, Papers, 1960s;
- RG -- 11, Interviews with the Members of Psychoanalytic Study Group of Los Angeles , 1961 -- 1965
- RG -- 12, Psychoanalytic Study Group of Los Angeles, correspondences and related documents, 1900s -- 1940s;
- RG -- 13, Psychoanalytic Narratives, Discourses and Conceptions, Papers, 1918 –1972;
- RG -- 14, Biographical information of the analysts, correspondences, 1940s 1960s;
- RG -- 15, Dr. David Brunswick, Papers, 1930s 1960s;
- RG -- 16, History of Psychoanalysis, Europe and America, The role of the local psychoanalytic institutions, 1930s – 1960s;
- RG -- 17, Correspondences from Dr. Sigmund Freud to Dr. Franz Alexander, Papers, 1924 1936;
- RG 18, Correspondences from Dr. Sigmund Freud to Dr. Ernst Simmel, 1918 1939;
- RG 19, Formation of the Psychoanalytic Institute of Los Angeles, Papers, 1939 1946;
- RG 20, Dissention (the Split) of 1950, reflections and discourse. Works of the History Committee, for the Psychoanalytic Society, Papers, 1960s;
- RG 21, Dr. Ernst Simmel, essays, articles, lectures and reviews, the German period, 1908 1934, Papers;
- RG 22, Dr. Ernst Simmel, manuscripts and drafts for the monographs, essays and articles in English, unpublished works, Papers, 1935 – 1947;

- RG -- 23, Sigmund Freud, Related correspondences and photo-documents in the NCP-LA Archive;
- RG -- 24, Selected Correspondences between the members of the Freudian Circle of Psychoanalysts, 1918 -- 1950s;
- RG -- 25, Richard Loewenberg Papers, 1940s, 1950s;
- RG -- 26, Correspondences of Hanna Fenichel with a circle of psychoanalysts, 1940s 1950s;
- RG -- 27, Kato Van Leeuwen Papers and Correspondences, 1930s -- 1990s;
- RG -- 28, Ernest Simmel, Manuscripts and Papers in German;
- RG -- 29, Los Angeles Psychoanalytic Society and Institute, periodicals, Bulletin, 1960s -- 1990s
- RG -- 30, History of Los Angeles Psychoanalytic Society and Institute, 1950s -- 1990s
- RG -- 31, Dr. Ernst Lewy Papers, 1950s, 1960s
- RG -- 32, Psychoanalytic Institutions, papers, Californian and America, 1950s -- 1980s
- RG -- 33, The Milton Wexler Affairs, Papers, 1964, 1965
- RG -- 34, Dr. Charles Tidd Papers and related materials, 1940s -- 1950s
- RG -- 35, Los Angeles Psychoanalytic Society and Institute History of Split, February, March 1950
- RG -- 36, Periodicals of the Psychoanalytic Institutions, Bulletin of the Menninger Clinic, 1950s, 1960s;
- RG -- 37, D.W. Winnicott, Papers and correspondences, 1960s ;
- RG -- 38, Bulletin of the Southern California Psychoanalytic Institute and Society, 1970s, 1980s;
- RG -- 39, LAPSI, Photo documents of the Membership, 1960s;
- RG -- 40, W.R. Bion, Papers and lectures, 1970s;
- RG -- 41, Existence, Object Subject relationship, Dasein

Our preliminary assessment accounts for approximate amount of 9,000 to 14,000 thousand documents preserved in the NCP Archive. Please note that any given document largely contains more than one page (an average document may comprise from 1 to 12 pages).

The NCP Archival Collection contains highly valuable in historical and psychoanalytic terms scientific works penned by Dr. Ernst Simmel, Otto Fenichel and their colleagues. The writings of the next generation of analysts have been also well represented. There are two Collections of Sigmund Freud's Correspondences. These are the collection of the letters between Freud and Simmel, dated between 1918 and 1939 and the collection of letters between Freud and Alexander, dated between 1924 and 1936. This Archive also features correspondences and papers of D.W. Winnicott and W.R.

Bion.

Evidently, the published and largely unpublished works (manuscripts) of the analysts who worked in Los Angeles from the 1930s to the late 1960s constitute a scientific legacy for the modern Science of Psychoanalysis.

Presently the Online Archive contains the following Collective Collections:

- Ernest Simmel Papers and Documents, 1918 -- 1947;
- Psychoanalytic Study Group of Los Angeles, 1935 -- 1946, Papers;
- History of Los Angeles Psychoanalytic Society and Institute, 1950s -- 1990s;
- Dr. Ernst Lewy Papers, 1950s, 1960s;
- Los Angeles Psychoanalytic Society and Institute, 1950s 1990s, Papers;
- Los Angeles Psychoanalytic Society and Institute, periodicals, Bulletin, 1960s -- 1990s
- Kato Van Leeuwen Papers and Correspondences, 1930s -- 1990s

## The Structure of Online Archive

We have selected the Archon Platform for the online archival database. The Archon is a unified platform for archival description and content indexing, it is equipped with multi-purpose search functions.

This system enables the end-user to conduct a multi-vectorial research through the wide array of keywords, subject-matters, scientific topics, personal names and chronological periods while focusing on psychoanalytic content.

Archival browsing is supported by the wide array of Index terms that are derivatives of the content related subjects. The subject-matters browsing is a principal search instrument.

The topical index terms collectively describe the content of any archival entity.

Overall the index terms determine psychoanalytic narrative for this online archive.

Owing to the indexed archival content the end-users can,

- Simultaneously search correlated descriptions for the archival materials in digital format;
- Review, download, print and use digital documents;
- Review, download and print finding aids to the archival collections;
- Easily navigate between collections and documents;
- Browse materials by the means the controlled categories such as by subject headings, creators, digital

content, collections and record groups;

• In other words, any prospective research theme can be browsed under various angles through the all archival entities, resulting in finding the documents of interests in digital format.

The Online Archive web address is here,

#### http://ncp-la.info/

## **Collection-Building and Collection Analysis**

We have catalogued and indexed 22 archival collections in traditional archival form and in online format. These collections are being described according to historical and archival criteria. Collections available online are listed below,

- RG -- 02, Dr. Otto Fenichel, Papers, 1918 -- 1960s;
- RG -- 04, Dr. Hanna Heilborn (Fenichel), Papers, Germany, 1900s -- 1920s;
- RG -- 05, Los Angeles Psychoanalytic Society, Papers, 1940s -- 1960s;
- RG -- 06, Psychoanalytic Study Group of Los Angeles, Papers, 1935 – 1946;
- RG 08, Dr. Ernst Simmel, Papers, 1908 1946;
- RG -- 10, The Works of the History Committee ,1960s;
- RG 11, Interviews with the former Members of Psychoanalytic Study Group of Los Angeles, conducted in 1961 – 1965;
- RG 13, Psychoanalytic Narratives, Discourses and Conceptions. Papers, 1930s 1960s;
- RG 14, Biographical information of analysts, correspondences, 1940s 1960s;
- RG -- 18, Correspondences from Dr. Freud to Dr. Simmel, 1918 1939;
- RG -- 24, Selected Correspondences between the members of the Freudian Circle of Psychoanalysts, 1918 -- 1950s;
- RG -- 25, Richard Loewenberg Papers, 1940s, 1950s;
- RG -- 26, Correspondences of Hanna Fenichel within a circle of psychoanalysts, 1940s 1950s;
- RG -- 27, Kato Van Leeuwen Papers and Correspondences, 1930s -- 1990s;
- RG 28, Ernest Simmel, Manuscripts and Papers in German, 1920s, 1930s;

- RG -- 29, Los Angeles Psychoanalytic Society and Institute periodicals, Bulletin, 1960s -- 1990s;
- RG -- 30, History of Los Angeles Psychoanalytic Society and Institute, 1950s -- 1990s;
- RG 31, Dr. Ernst Lewy, Papers, 1950s, 1960s;
- RG 36, Periodicals of the Psychoanalytic Institutions, Bulletin of the Menninger Clinic, 1950s, 196s;
- RG -- 37, D.W. Winnicott, Papers and correspondences, 1960s;
- RG -- 38, Bulletin of the Southern California Psychoanalytic Institute and Society, 1970s 1990s;
- RG -- 39, LAPSI, Photo documents of the Membership, 1960s.

The shown above list of collections exemplifies the entire Archival Collection.

The archival-building and archival-search both work on the basis of Control Vocabulary or Formalized Control Vocabulary that is the Lexicon of all already created index terms.

Stemming from this principle the end-user can search by the following categories, available at the menu of the Archon titular page, namely,

- Collections,
- Subjects,
- Creators,
- Digital Content,
- Record Group.

For the initial search it is advisable to use the category of subjects. Browsing by this category shall render a broader spectrum of content-related results.

We can say that the content of archival documents overall replicates and reflect the historical discourse of Psychoanalysis in America and specifically in Los Angeles through the period between the 1920s and 1990s.

Beginning with the mid-1930s the influence of prominent European scholars significantly changed typology of American Psychoanalysis. The intellectuals who defied National Socialist regimes in Europe were fleeing to Great Britain, America and other countries, to where they can obtain entry visas. There was no place in Nazi Germany and Austria for the psychoanalysts of Jewish descent, as well as for those whose political persuasion related to Social Democracy and Liberalism. For many of these emigrants the transitional period was a time of vexation and despondency. Although attempting to continue working strenuously, they still longed for the old country. In the 1930s and 1940s, the West Coast American psychoanalytic edifice manifested a European countenance. The papers of the following archival collection well reflect on this,

Collection, RG -- 24, Selected Correspondences between the Freudian Circle of Psychoanalysts,

Before describing this Collection, it would be sensible enough to make a remark on the Vienna's cultural milieu in the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It was Austrian by form and multi-subconscious by content. I believe this paining by Egon Schiele may reflect on such a subconscious level. He painted *Autumn in* 1912, the same year when Sigmund Freud worked on *Totem and Taboo* and on *Narcissism*.



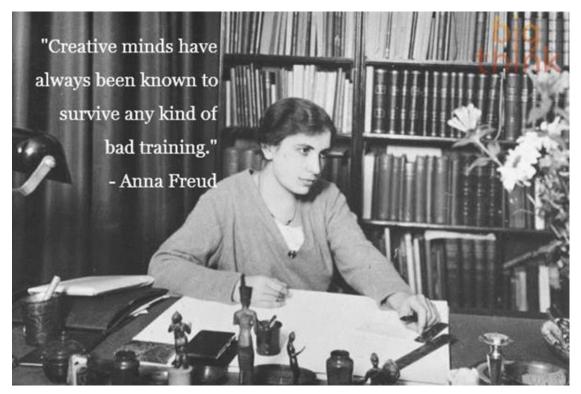
Egon Schiele, Autumn, Sun, 1912

Once you read the letters form this Collection narrated between 1918 and 1950s, you could imagine an entity of a Psyche, a 'Source', (*Quelle*), the phenomenon of return. Among those who exchange these letters there were two utmost loyal to the Freudian Theory analysts, namely, Ernst Simmel and Anna Freud.

The essence of intransigent Psychoanalysis is lucidly construed in one of the Anna Freud's letters,

If you want to be a real psychoanalyst you have to have a great love of the truth, scientific truth as well as personal truth and you have to place this appreciation of truth higher than any discomfort at meeting unpleasant facts, whether they belong to the world outside or to your own inner person.

Further, I think that a psychoanalyst should have... interests... beyond the limits of the medical field... in fact that belong to sociology, religion and history...otherwise his outlook on... his patient will remain too narrow. This point contains... the necessary preparations



Anna Freud, Vienna, 1920s

beyond the requirements made on candidates of psychoanalysis in the institute Anna Freud, Vienna, 1920ss. You ought to be a great reader and become acquainted with the literature of many countries and cultures. In the great literary figures you will find people who know at least as much of human nature as the psychiatrists and psychologists try to do. In the earlier discourse Sigmund Freud wrote, "Psychoanalysis is not a medical specialty. I do not see how one can resist recognizing this. Psychoanalysis is part of Psychology. It is not medical psychology in the traditional sense, nor the psychology of pathological process.

Correspondences of Hanna Fenichel (Heilborn) with a selected circle of psychoanalyst serve as another vivid reflection of historical psychoanalytic discourse.

RG-26, Correspondences of Hanna Fenichel with a circle of psychoanalysts, 1940s - 1950s

This Collection comprises correspondences between Hanna Fenichel (Heilborn) and the analysts who followed the Freudian school of psychoanalysis. The time-span of the narratives relates to the years between 1947 and 1952. It was the time when Hanna Fenichel (Heilborn) was active in psychoanalytic scholarship. This activity largely evinces through the correspondences with renowned psychoanalysts and liberal scholars.

A significant number of correspondences relates to the letter exchange between Hanna Fenichel (Heilborn) and James and Alex Strachey in 1947 – 1952.

Then comes the correspondence between Hanna Fenichel (Heilborn) and Erik Erikson in 1952.

The third by the amount of letter exchange relates to the correspondence between Hanna Fenichel (Heilborn) and Annie Reich in 1947, 1948.

This Collection also contains correspondences between Hanna Fenichel (Heilborn) and Ernest Simmel, Hans Lampl, August Aichhorn, Bertram D. Lewin and S.I. Hayakawa.

This Collection contains 32 documents.

The beauty of the Archon-supported search process lies in the circular principle of rendering correlated results. Any selected document is link to a broader series of the documents that are defined by the by those index terms that described the initially chosen documents. This leads to a broader array of documents from all available collections. It is a principle of collective search and it renders a broad array of correlated by the content results.

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If we, for example, would like to search for the documents related to Dr. Ernst Simmel, then his name should be regarded as a Subject. Once it is typed in a search box, near the NCP logotype, of the Public Interface, the search begins. In our example it results with the 164 subject-related matches (please note that every match takes us further to

In the result, all the correlated subject-matters where the name in question (Ernst

the other related documents, owing to the indexing).

Simmel) was part of the indexed phrase would be identified and available for further research.

All digital content, if it has been earlier added, is also available alongside the list of rendered results.

In our example the list of index terms containing the name Ernst Simmel is a collective thematic composition stemming from the all processed earlier collections.

Below you can see the rendered results in four categories. We unfolded the list of subject-headings. Clicking on an underlined title will bring up archival description and the digital document.

4/23/2018			Search Results for "Dr	Ernst Simmel "   NC	P-LA	
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Location: Archon → Search Results For "Dr. Ernst Simmel "

## Records and Manuscripts (4 Matches) Digital Images and Records (4 Matches) Creator Descriptions (2 Matches) Subject Headings (50 Matches) A great number of unpublished works of Dr. Simmel by Dr. Ernst Lewy An essay about Dr. Ernst Simmel, an outstanding scholar and humanitarian by Dr. Brunswick 🖉 Categories of Dr. Simmel scholarly works by Dr. Ernst Lewy Creation of a Psychoanalytic Society in California, Dr. Ernst Simmel, 1940 Decision to invite Dr. Ernst Simmel to join Psychoanalytic Study Group, by group members, May 1933 Diana Atkinson, personal story before she became secretary to Dr. Ernst Simmel Diana Atkinson, secretary to Dr. Ernst Simmel, 1944 -- 1947 Difficulties in family life of Dr. Simmel, by Dr. Ernst Lewy Documents from the NCP Archive, Dr. Ernst Simmel Dr. Alfred Kandelin, Biographical Notes on Dr. Ernst Simmel, 1965 Dr. Ernst Simmel and Dr. Abraham Eitington, co-directors of the Schloss Tegel Institute, 1927-1931 Dr. Ernst Lewy confirms gullibility of Dr. Ernst Simmel Dr. Ernst Simmel, co-founder of the Berlin Psychoanalytic Institute, 1920s Dr. Ernst Simmel. correspondences Dr. Ernst Simmel, discussion on Fenichel paper, the Psychology of the Emigrant, 1942 Dr. Ernst Simmel, Etiology and Prognosis of Neuroses Dr. Ernst Simmel, founder of Psychoanalytic Study Group of Los Angeles Dr. Ernst Simmel, Fundamental Principles of Psychoanalysis, lecture Dr. Ernst Simmel, German period, Rostock, Berlin, scientific work; discourse Dr. Ernst Simmel, introductory remarks, scientific meeting, Psychoanalysis and Psychiatry

You searched for "Dr. Ernst Simmel ".

Search Results for "Dr. Ernst Simmel " | NCP-LA

http://ncp-la.info/index.php?p=core%2Fsearch&q=Dr.+Ernst+Simmel+&content=1

The subject-heading Dr. Ernst Simmel, found documents, page 1.

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http://ncp-la.info/index.php?p=core%2Fsearch&q=Dr.+Ernst+Simmel+&content=1

2/2

#### The subject-heading Dr. Ernst Simmel, found documents, page 2.

Any further search would render cross-references because the term in question is part of the controlled vocabulary. In other words, the NCP-LA.info Archon Platform is also the actual Online Archive equipped with multiple functionalities.



Dr. Ernst Simmel, Founder and President of the Psychoanalytic Study Group of Los Angeles. Photograph taken in Germany, ca mid-1920s, RG-08.37, the NCP Archival Collection The documented History of the Psychoanalytic Movement in Los Angeles begins in the early 1930s. Further illustrations of archival browsing takes us to the level of individual documents

#### RG -- 11, Interviews with the Members of Psychoanalytic Study Group of Los Angeles, 1961 -- 1965

The History Committee for the Psychoanalytic Society was set up in the early 1960s. It was tasked with narrating the history of the Psychoanalytic Study Group of Los Angeles. The members of this Committee conducted a series of recorded interviews with the former members of the Psychoanalytic Study Group.

We catalogued, indexed and added digitized contend of the works of the History Committee to the Online Archive. The narratives presented in the Collection of interviews with the former members of the Psychoanalytic Study Group of Los Angeles, 1935 –1946, reflect on personal and public discourse with a special attention given to Dr. Ernst Simmel and Dr. Otto Fenichel. Besides the valuable facticity, these testimonies reveal an evocative outburst of emotions and often contradicting personal opinions, largely related to the fateful Split at the Psychoanalytic Society and the Institute of Los Angeles in 1950.

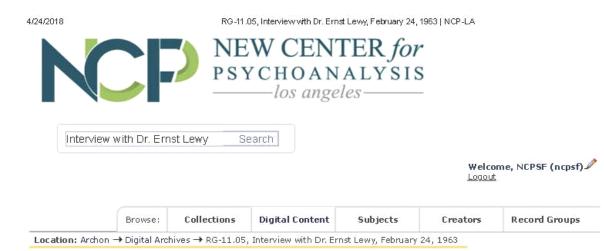
The documents have been presented in the form of personal testimonies, recollections and essays. These narratives enable us to reconstruct hopefully in a truthful and comprehensive manner the multilayered and perplexed causations of the Split and its Aftermath. The discourse is often entangled and controversial.

Differed in personal opinions and perceptions these interviews still provide a broader picture to the history of the Psychoanalytic Study Group in 1935 – 1946.

It should be noted that deposing of Dr. Ernst Simmel in 1946 played a crucial role not only in his demise but it has fueled the actual Split in 1950 and had a long-lasting negative effect on the further development of Psychoanalytic Science in Los Angeles.

The testimonies, overall, embody several principal discourses, namely the historical chronology of the Psychoanalytic Study Group of Los Angeles, its scientific progress and the outstanding role of Dr. Simmel in creating a viable psychoanalytic institution. These oral histories provide valuable insights and render analysis on the causation of the Split. They reveal the underlying role of those who induced it. In this regard, the testimony of Dr. Ernst Lewy is of exemplary value, rendering conscientious and unbiased analysis.

Hereby we present one of the results of the search by the category of digital content, namely by the name, Dr. Ernst Lewy,



# RG-11.05, Interview with Dr. Ernst Lewy, February 24, 1963 | NCP-LA

RG-11.05, Interview with Dr. Ernst Lewy, February	Title: RG-11.05, Interview with Dr. Ernst Lewy, February 24, 1963
24, 1963 (PDF Document,	February 24, 1963
6.57 MB) <u>Download Original File</u>	ID: RG-11.05
Request hi-res copy	Repository: NCP-LA
	Found in: Interviews with the Members of Psychoanalytic Study Group of Los Angeles, 1961 - 1965 → Item 5: RG-11.05, Interview with Dr. Ernst Lewy, February 24, 1963 →
	Creators: Dr. Alfred Kandelin, Chairman of the History Committee (1961 - 1965) Dr. Ernst Lewy, psychiatrist, psychoanalyst, scholar (1944 1963)
	Subjects: <u>A great number of unpublished works of Dr. Simmel</u> by Dr. Ernst Lewy British division in three groups, Anna Freud group,
	Melanie Klein group, independent group Differences between Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis, a negative connotation, <b>Dr. Ernst</b> Lewy
	Difficulties in family life of Dr. Simmel, by Dr. Ernst

http://ncp-la.info/index.php?p=digitallibrary/digitalcontent &id=17&q=Interview+with+Dr.+Ernst+Lewy+with+Dr.+Ernst

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#### Digital Content, Subject – Matters (Index terms), all index terms are further searchable

This review of the archival collections would be incomplete without accounting to the role of Dr. Otto Fenichel, a remarkable figure in European and to some extent in American psychoanalysis. To this end we are presented the finding aids to our archival holdings gathered under his name.

RG - 02, Dr. Otto Fenichel Papers and related documents, 1936 - 1964

This Collection comprises original works of Dr. Otto Fenichel, his correspondences and related documents penned by his colleagues.

The documents of this collection reflect his pre-emigration (European) and American periods, overall the time span of 1936 – 1964.

This Collection presents three sub-divisions correspondingly the character of the archived documents.

To the first group we can relate writings and discourses authored by Otto Fenichel.

The second group largely comprises correspondences between Otto Fenichel and his colleagues.

While the third group conveys the letters and documents related to memorialization of Dr. Otto Fenichel.

The documents of this Collections are in German and English.

Otto Fenichel was born on December 2, 1897 in Vienna and died on January 22, 1946 in Los Angeles. He was and is one of the most fascinating figures of the second generation of psychoanalysts.

Otto Fenichel studied medicine in Vienna between the years 1915 – 1921. He started to attend the lectures of Sigmund Freud in 1915 and participated in meetings of the Vienna Psychoanalytic Society. He began his personal analysis with Paul Federn, and continued his analysis in Berlin Institute with Sándor Radó in 1922.

In 1926 Fenichel became a teacher at the Berlin Psychoanalytic Institute and that same year he organized a seminar on child psychoanalysis, an open forum on the problems of clinical and applied psychoanalysis. Otto Fenichel was a member of the German Psychoanalytic Society from 1926 to 1934. After 1932 some members of the seminar began discussing psychoanalytic issues from a Marxist perspective.

With the Nazis taking control over Germany, Fenichel had to flee to Oslo in 1933. There he

became secretary of the Dansk-Norsk Psykoanalytisk Forening (Danish-Norwegian Psychoanalytical Society). In 1934 he started a clandestine circulation of letters for the selected circle of his colleagues in exile. By 1945 he had written 119 such letters remembered by the German word for circular letters, namely *Rundbriefe*.

In May 1938 with the great help of Ernst Simmel he and his family managed to emigrate from Czechoslovakia to the United States and settled in Los Angeles. The Los Angeles period was marked by his intensive work in scientific and practical psychoanalysis.



Dr. Otto Fenichel, 1940s

Otto Fenichel published approximately forty articles beginning with *Introjektion und Kastrationkomplex* (1925) to Neurotic Acting Out (1945). Building on his works, and upon the research of the other psychoanalysts of his time, Otto Fenichel produced his famous encyclopedic textbook *Psychoanalytic Theory of Neurosis* (1945), which for a long time remained a fundamental reading text in psychoanalytic studies.

The focus of his interest, which he shared with Siegfried Bernfeld, Wilhelm Reich, Erich Fromm, and others, lie in the development of a form of psychoanalysis that provided sociological explanations of societal discourse.

Otto Fenichel, Circular Letters,

In the years of 1934 – 1945 a small group of politically committed psychoanalysts created a conspiratorial circular organization. In spite of long and ominous danger of persecutions as well as continuous emulation with flights the members succeeded to stay in contact with each other by means of circular letters (*Rundbriefe*). These circular letters are conceived as a kind of a written seminar. The letters reflect on the situation of Psychoanalysis in various countries. The narratives present discussions with regard to theoretical issues and controversies as well as practical questions of survival in exile. For the political reasons Fenichel could not openly demonstrate his social-democratic if not socialist agenda in the United States.

## Discursive History and Archival Preservation in Digital Era

Dr. David Fisher, Chair of Archive and Research Committee of the NCP, once wrote with regard to the Bruno Bettelheim's monograph, *Freud and Man's Soul*,

For Bettelheim, psychoanalysis is first and foremost a science of the spirit, part of a tradition of hermeneutics, that is, an introspective form of self-understanding that relies on the exploration of unconscious meanings. As an ideographic science, psychoanalysis belongs to the human sciences where the method is historical, archeological and above all interpretative.

The virtual world of Psychoanalysis deserves a well-documented history. For that very reason we strive to build an online digital archive for New Center for Psychoanalysis.

Archives perpetuate History, they allow us to see the Past under different angles, create scientific paradigms for the Present and prognosis for the Future. We shall not forget that we constantly borrow from the achievements of the Past.

The nowadays Science of Psychoanalysis, if compared to the Freudian Theory and its ramifications, is not in dissonance with the scientific axioms, provisions and postulates

of that revolutionary time. On the contrary, the present-day Psychoanalysis has not rejected the cornerstone principles of the Psychoanalytic Revolution of the early 20th Century. The modified and innovated Psychoanalysis, equipped with the new methodological narratives, is still bound to the original imperatives.

In conclusion we shall say that with the developing the Online Archive we strive for perpetuation and dissemination of the psychoanalytic historical discourse. We are doing that by bringing to the light thousands of historical documents. We are also working on prospectively sophisticated resources for the multifaceted psychoanalytic research and studies, not to mention the preservation of the NCP Archival Collection in perpetuity.

The documented history of Los Angeles Psychoanalytic Group is a valid example in this regard.

This photograph below depicts the leading members of the Los Angeles Psychoanalytic Group at the meeting.



Psychoanalytic Study Group of Los Angeles, Meeting in March 1944

But in existential dimension we as this sorrowful Knight are imbued by introspection, internalized vexation and diffident thoughts. We are hesitant, if the Time has come to externalize the vicissitudes of the enmeshed Unconscious.



This brochure is narrated by Senior Historian and Chief Archivist Dr. Vladimir Melamed, New Center for Psychoanalysis, Los Angeles

DONATE TO THE ONLINE DIGITAL ARCHIVE

Dear Friends,

We are hereby adding this Appeal for giving your support to our Historic Online Archive, **ncp-Ia.info** 

Our assessment accounts for an approximate amount from 9,000 to 14,000 thousand documents preserved at the NCP Archive. Please note that any given document largely contains more than one page (an average document may comprise from 1 to 12 pages or more).

Ongoing Implementation of this long-term Project requires additional monetary resources. It is a great humanitarian deed to donate for historic research. Our responsibility is to preserve and indexed these valuable collections but not leave them in disarray.

The History of Psychoanalysis in the West Coast commenced in Los Angeles in the mid-1920s. Scholars and Psychoanalyst of world-renown reputation, namely Ernest Simmel, Otto Fenichel, David Brunswick, Ernst Lewy, Leo Rangell, Maimon Leavitt and others created scholarly viable organizations. First it was Psychoanalytic Study Group of Los Angeles. This institution later evolved in to Los Angeles Psychoanalytic Society and Institute. Nowadays, the New Center for Psychoanalysis has inherited the vastness of historic documents and the legacy of scientific traditions to teach, research and continue the ideation of Psychoanalytic Science.

We are fortunate to have correspondences and the excerpts of psychoanalytic narratives, penned by the outstanding scholars and analysts, namely, Ernst Simmel, Otto Fenichel, Anna Freud, Franz Alexander, D.W. Winnicott, Hanna Segal, Wilfred Bion, Carel Van der Heide, Samuel Sperling, Samuel Futterman, Lawrence Friedman, Hanna Fenichel, James and Alex Strachey, Annie Rich, Richard Sterba, August Aichhorn, Wilfred Bion and many others prominent scholars of Psychoanalysis.

The NCP Online Archive serves to the purpose of education and elucidation of research. By all means, the indexed Collections and Documents exhibit multi-faceted endeavors of individual scientists and institutions who pursued the Science of Psychoanalysis in Europe and America.

Digitized and indexed archival materials introduce the new professional resources for scholarship, teaching and education.

Please note that monetary contributions are tax – deductible.

The New Center for Psychoanalysis is one of the few psychoanalytic organizations in North America that indexed and digitized historical documents, thus making them available at our Online Digital Archive for all, <u>http://ncp-la.info/</u>