

Letter to  
Heinz Hartmann

Dear Heinz Hartmann,

I wrote Loewenstein the letter of unadorned testimony I felt I owed to him who trained me, and I authorized him to convey it to you as well as to any individual in a position to gauge the precise bearing of such a document.

You know, I believe, that I did not initiate the secession, that I followed those witnesses of and participants in what has been going on here for years who understood that it was necessary and placed their confidence in 45 candidates who had themselves rebelled at the manner in which the team at the newly founded Institute conceived the relation between masters and students.

The members of that team have admitted for months to whoever wanted to hear it that that Institute had been made against us, that is against those whom they finally forced to take leave of them.

I have always collaborated loyally with my colleagues and ordered my activity and my utterances for the good of the community. They derived advantage and prestige from that circumstance during the years of our rebirth after the war, a rebirth concerning which it may be judged just how much effort was required of us once one considers how few of us there were who were able to be effective. And in order to strike down those who had given the most to both the training and the scientific life of the Society, our adversaries did not hesitate to make use of the group of those very individuals of whom they spoke only a few months prior to that, in their customary style, as the dead wood of the Society.

If they now reproach me with alleged freedoms taken with analytic technique, they were always in a position to control their effects, and did not judge them to be unfavorable. And it is at the very time that I have for months been in conformity with the common rule on the accepted principle of professional supervision that they make use of it as a weapon against me.

But in order to understand it, you have only to see what is transpiring: those who are being promoted to replace me at the Rome Congress designate themselves: it is they who for months have been directing the operation.

I am not speaking of Nacht, and I will never speak of him again. I have

given myself over entirely to teaching and the training of students. I have given them a love for our technique and I have helped them in my supervisions and my seminars by responding to a need to know and to understand which elsewhere encountered only suspicion and inane irony.

If you are unable to inquire at the source to find out what I have brought to each of our students, you are able to realize that the two-thirds majority which is our following is not due solely to the errors of those whom we are indeed obliged to call our adversaries.

Dear Heinz Hartmann, I may regret, no doubt, that the chaotic events of these last years, then the extreme isolation that is a condition of our professional life, have prevented me from making myself better known to you.

But I am counting on your authority in order that the genuine labor—so deeply concerned with maintaining Freud's teaching alive—that is ours be respected, that a tone of reason be restored to a struggle that is as sterile in its forms as it is base in its motivations, and that it be brought to an equitable measure of restraint in order to preserve the public that psychoanalysis is currently in the process of conquering in France and to whom this struggle can only be a disservice.

Kindly extend my respects to your wife, and rest assured of my trust and my faithfulness.

J. L.  
July 21, 1953

XVIIIth Congress of the  
International Psycho-Analytical  
Association. Report from the  
President, Dr. Heinz Hartmann\*

In France, the *Paris Psycho-Analytical Society*, owing to the intense energy of some of its members, has made an important step forward in reestablishing, after an interval of many years, an Institute in 1953. As to its organization, this Institute is partly independent of the Society. We wish to congratulate our French colleagues on their achievement. Unfortunately I have to inform you that even more recently a division has come about in this Society. A few weeks ago five members resigned. . . . By this act they have also lost membership in the International Association. They are: Drs. Lagache, Lacan, Dolto, Favez-Boutonnier, and Reverchon-Jouve. This question has been widely discussed. The resignations occurred after a meeting of the Paris Society at which Dr. Lacan, then president, had received a vote of no-confidence in the society. The doubts concerned serious deviations of training practices counter to the experiences and convictions of the majority. On the one hand, the members who resigned have now formed a new group and asked for recognition. They claim that it was rather incompatibilities of character that caused the difficulties and induced them to move. The Central Executive feels that before any decision can be reached the situation ought to be more thoroughly clarified than could be done at the Congress and it has nominated a committee to ascertain the facts and report them. The committee consists of Dr. K. R. Eissler, Dr. Greenacre, Mrs. H. Hoffer, Dr. Lampl-de Groot, Dr. Winnicott.

*Dr. Loewenstein* stresses the fact that, according to information received by him, the majority of students followed the split-off group. He points to the dangers inherent in such a split to students and patients. He pleads for tolerance on both sides and for the safeguarding of the training of students and the analyses of their patients irrespective of the side to which the students adhere.

*Dr. Hartmann*. Thank you, Dr. Loewenstein, a very important suggestion.

*Mme. Bonaparte* is in favor of studying the situation carefully. She affirms that the split occurred because of divergence in technique. She considers the

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