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Miles, Bruno oral history interview

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Interview with Bruno Miles by Steve Hochstadt
Shanghai Jewish Community Oral History Project

Summary Sheet and Transcript

Interviewee

Miles, Bruno

Interviewer

Hochstadt, Steve

Transcribers

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Date

9/3/1990

Extent

2 audiocassettes

Place

Portland, Maine

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Biographical Note

Bruno Miles (formerly Meyerowitz) was born in Königsberg on February 28, 1904, in an assimilated Jewish family. He attended a classical Gymnasium, then went to the University of Königsberg, where he studied medicine. He also studied in Berlin and Vienna. After passing his exams, he moved to Italy, where he worked in Palermo and Rome. Interested in tropical disease, he went to Shanghai in the mid-1930s. In Shanghai he had an office in one of the *Heime* for refugees. He married Melitta Sommerfreund in 1944, also a refugee from Germany, whose interview is also in this collection as Melitta Colland. They had a daughter, Asherah, in September 1945. The family left for Panama in 1947, and soon afterwards for the U.S. They later divorced. At the time of this interview, Miles lived in New York City. He died on September 21, 1992.

Steve Hochstadt: . . . it was hot . . .

Bruno Miles: Oh it was, it was.

Hochstadt: . . . it was hot over the last few weeks.

Miles: It was unpleasant [unclear] , you know.

Hochstadt: Yes.

Miles: It's a plus-minus twenty degrees Fahrenheit makes it freezing or, or pleasantly warm. It doesn't, I don't know how far it goes, of course. I remember once going up the Saigon River. And that is not yet Shanghai, so you don't have to record it yet, but just in order to get into the talking and you can make notes in the meantime. Once going into Shanghai, it was terribly hot. I don't know how hot, I didn't care to measure. So when we came back downstream or whatever you call downstream, I don't know, the two words, the flow is downstream?

Hochstadt: Yes.

Miles: Yes. So, at a certain while after a day, or I don't, I don't remember any more the time what it was, suddenly everybody that had been suffering from heat started to freeze, but everybody on deck started to freeze. And so I was interested in the temperature and asked the, somebody, and they read it up, and it was ninety. And we were freezing at ninety, because before there was about hundred and fifteen, hundred. So this, [laughs] so that was, was, made an impression on me to know that you can freeze at the, at the degree of, of ninety. It's just the switch that makes it. Of course, it doesn't go forever, there's a limit, but within that limit of twenty degrees Fahrenheit, at that time it was, it is now, this, you see, this is a translation in my mind, because at that time I didn't know anything about Fahrenheit.

Hochstadt: Why were you on the Saigon river? Was this on your way to Shanghai?

Miles: No. This was another, I think it was another time.

Hochstadt: Perhaps you're . . .

Miles: It must have been on, wait a minute, I wasn't in, in, in Sai-, Saigon before, no. I don't know.

Hochstadt: You said you had been to Hong Kong once before, before . . .

Miles: Yes.

Hochstadt: . . . before the final trip to Shanghai.

Miles: Yeah, but I don't know whether at that time we went, it might have been then, I don't know. I only can tell you, that is why I, I spoke of fairy tales, because I . . .

Hochstadt: Yes.

Miles: . . . I don't remember it myself. I meld things together, like for instance, sure. Supposedly my wife had spoken to me yesterday morning. The day before I had spoken to her, and I threw, I mixed all that together and I thought it was one time.

Hochstadt: One conversation.

Miles: And I told Asherah, "I have to, to speak to, to Marti." And she said, "Again?" I said, "What do you mean again?" And she said, "You spoke to her this morning." That was yesterday. So you see what, what my mind is doing, and when I use the word fairy tale, that is what I mean. It's a, a mixture of events being mangled, whether to the better or to the worse, I can't tell you.

Hochstadt: Well, the last time we spent a lot of time in Königsberg. But . . .

Miles: [unclear]

Hochstadt: . . . and the last thing that we talked about was your trip, your actual trip to Shanghai on the freighters and, when we stopped, you had just arrived in Shanghai.

Miles: Well, I have thought about that yesterday. It wasn't today. It was yesterday. I had, no, I started thinking of when did we meet? That was Friday or Saturday?

Hochstadt: Friday.

Miles: Friday, so on Saturday I started thinking about that, what happened to me, how did I arrive in Shanghai? I can't recollect it. I know there were, I, I know one person who was waiting for me, knowing that I would come.

Hochstadt: And who was that?

Miles: Vio.

Hochstadt: Vio?

Miles: Yeah.

Hochstadt: Erich Vio.

Miles: Erich Vio, yes. And in case you should ever come across that, he had a father named Antonio

and he had a son also named Antonio after the, after the father.

Hochstadt: Were they all in Shanghai all three generations?

Miles: No. No, the father was somewhere in Europe that I, I visited with him, somehow in a port of the, on the Mediterranean. I don't know, right now, I don't know which one, because, don't also forget that so many things have changed. Countries have changed their names.

Hochstadt: Yes.

Miles: Siam has become Thailand. And I mixed it up, you know? Just now to say what comes to my mind, Ceylon, or Ceylon, as you used to call it, is now Sri Lanka. Mozambique wasn't there. This was I think Belgian Congo, when I went to school. Partly of it . . .

Hochstadt: Yes.

Miles: . . . at least.

Hochstadt: So Erich Vio was there to meet you.

Miles: No, I don't think so. I don't, I can't remember any . . .

Hochstadt: Or he was there in Shanghai, when you arrived.

Miles: He was there in Shanghai. I met also somebody who I knew from, I think, from Palermo, yes, sure. Who met me at some time and said, "Finally you come. I was waiting for you so long." I had not the slightest idea that he was in Shanghai, I had not the slightest idea, he come from somewhere, I don't know from where. Last time I saw him in Rome. [laughs] That's all I can tell you.

Hochstadt: Were you excited when you arrived in Shanghai? Was this going to be part of . . .

Miles: My whole life was that way. I was very curious and I wanted to have the smell of things, the looks of things, the, the sounds around me, the looks, the people, whatever. It was, I compared it, I think, last time only with the television screen. I have a, I have the corresponding thing on television, and television becomes a very powerful life experience for me. So, but I, to come back to what we started with. I don't remember anything about the, the time of my arrival. I didn't even know I, I know I was living in the French Quarters for a little while, with somebody whom I never knew and whom I, whom I met there. But how it came, I know the, the ship that I arrived with did not, did not land on the Bund. So there must have been something, some other harbor. Is there today? You were there, you must know, how is that?

Hochstadt: I don't know.

Miles: And the Bund, Bund is the, I don't what is east or west or north, I've forgotten it, but I remember from Shanghai, right, right now I see it. I see the Bund. I see on one side, but I don't know any more what is north and what is south. So, I've not the slightest idea what's north and what's south. That's very unusual to me, because I, I, when, wherever I am, I have a hang-up to find out the directions. And I don't know where the sun rose and where the sun set in Shanghai.

Hochstadt: I wish I could help with a map, but I don't have a map.

Miles: No, no, I have the map in my mind, but I still don't know, I can only, yeah, a map, I would perhaps guess something. I would see the direction of the Bund.

Hochstadt: Yes, and then we could know north and south.

Miles: Now does the Bund go west to east?

Hochstadt: I don't know. You could have landed on the other side of the river. And then taken off . . .

Miles: That I don't think so, because on the other side of the Huangpu River, it could be, but later on, on the other side, in front, let's say, in the country, how did they call that, the Huangpu River. How do they call that, that area the, on one side were the International Quarters and the, and the, how do you call that, did you call that? Hold on, please. The Bund was part and parcel of what? Of the international community, what was the name of that?

Hochstadt: The Settlement, International Settlement?

Miles: Probably International Settlement. To me, that's a very strange name, but I know what it means. It was a kind of International Settlement, yes. Then, on the opposite side of the Huangpu River, but the Huangpu River makes a knee there, isn't it?

Hochstadt: Yes.

Miles: There is one bridge going over there. I remember that, because I later on I, I had an office there in, in a road that was parallel to the Bund.

Hochstadt: Is that in Hongkou?

Miles: It was an avenue, like.

Hochstadt: Was that in Hongkou that you had . . . ?

Miles: No, no, that was not in Hongkou. Later on, and I li-, later on I, there was a kind of a settlement camp there. Mainly Jews. And I was, was one of the physicians there. And Vio was the one who made that connection. So I was a physician there and I lived on that camp there, later on.

Hochstadt: Do you remember the name of that camp?

Miles: No.

Hochstadt: Was it in Ward Road?

Miles: Yes! It could be. Ward Road! Yes! It was in Ward Road. How do you know, were you there?

Hochstadt: Yes.

Miles: Tell me one thing, I, and now I want to ask something else. On the other side, whatever the other side is now, let' s, maybe let' s, we can reconstruct the geography, geography.

Hochstadt: There' s a bridge that goes across the Soochow Creek called Garden Bridge.

Miles: Gar- what?

Hochstadt: Garden Bridge.

Miles: It could . . .

Hochstadt: And that goes from the . . .

Miles: . . . it could be.

Hochstadt: . . . from the Bund over to Hongkou, where, and Ward Road is part of Hongkou or leads into Hongkou.

Miles: And how, and say that again, how did the Ward Road come in? Ward . . .

Hochstadt: I think, after you go over the, the Garden Bridge . . .

Miles: Yeah, yeah.

Hochstadt: . . . you get onto the . . .

Miles: Garden Bridge.

Hochstadt: Garden Bridge.

Miles: Yes.

Hochstadt: You get onto Ward Road there, I think, I'm not exactly sure, and that goes into Hongkou and and that camp is on Ward Road.

Miles: Is still, there's still a camp there?

Hochstadt: No, now it's apartment buildings.

Miles: What I wanted to, there, there were more than one, there was another, there was another. This is all [unclear] please. I'm not there any more, I'm only remembering to have been there, which is the so-called fairy tale, yes? Because I'm not sure of anything. I just have images. There was another camp across the river. I remember the time when there was, you know what *Tohuwabohu* is?

Hochstadt: Yes.

Miles: *Tahowabaho. Tohuwabohu.* It means everything mixed up, *Durch-* . . .

Hochstadt: *Durcheinander.*

Miles: *Durcheinander*, yes. Right. Did you ever speak German?

Hochstadt: Yes.

Miles: You did?! And you still recognize words. Also then you know *Tohuwabohu* was used in German?

Hochstadt: Yes.

Miles: It was not, it had nothing to do with Yiddish, although it might have come from there. But it was, had, it was made into a German word, and every, every German, probably also every Nazi later on, used the word *Tohuwabohu*.

Hochstadt: Where does it come from?

Miles: *Tahowabaho. Wust und leer.* That comes from the Bible and I learned that later, not when I, when I grew up. *Tahowabaho* is *wust und leer*. When God, God created the earth the, the, or whatever

it is on the earth, and it says, and he, *die Erde war tahowabaho, wust und leer*.

Hochstadt: I see.

Miles: And therefore, of course, *Tohuwabohu* is more what we call in, in German, *Durcheinander*. How do you call it in English?

Hochstadt: I don't know. Everything all mixed up. Higgeldy- . . .

Asherah Cinnamon: Topsy-turvy.

Hochstadt: Topsy-turvy.

Miles: Yeah, yeah, but *Tohuwabohu* is really not a, a, the right word, because "mixed up" means there is matter there to be mixed up. There's already a structure there, otherwise there wouldn't be a *Tohuwabohu*. Isn't it? While here, *wust und leer* maybe is a, a . . .

Hochstadt: Nothingness.

Miles: . . . a nothingness.

Cinnamon: Chaos.

Hochstadt: Chaos.

Miles: Chaos. Chaos is the right word.

Hochstadt: Yeah.

Miles: Chaos, this is Greek, for emptiness, yes. But for emptiness, chaos. And chaos in ancient Greek means emptiness, as far as I remember, please. [laughs] So we make different things of it. Chaotic, chaos is, is a, a *Tahowabaho*. But this is all mixed up and I have later on found out how words and phrases develop and change, change completely. Ugly words become good words, good words become ugly words. It's, I want, I spoke yesterday, but I broke it up. That's my way of, unfortunately of not having a thread to follow. I'm *Tahowabaho*. [laughs]

Hochstadt: I understand.

Miles: Yes.

Hochstadt: Well, can we get back to being a doctor in Shanghai? Tell me what kind of patients you

saw.

Miles: Anybody. But mostly English-speaking people. Otherwise, I wouldn't have any English. I learned there.

Hochstadt: You learned English in Shanghai?

Miles: I learned English in Shanghai. Really, I mean, I knew a few English words. I, I also knew many many French words. I know a lot of Italian words. Spanish not so much, French yes.

Hochstadt: Did you learn English in some formal way or . . .

Miles: No.

Hochstadt: . . . just by hearing it?

Miles: No. I don't know how formal. Probably, I don't remember any more how I learned English. I very well remember how I learned French, sure, and Latin and Greek, because that was in school, and I think I remember very well. I learned also my own language, which was German. That was learned very precisely, grammar-wise there's many words to learn, and words have changed their meaning in German, too. That goes to the point where, the other day, I told you, did I tell you about Shakespeare and the German . . .

Hochstadt: Yes.

Miles: . . . Shakespeare. Now that's something very important in me, if you, I can't help it, I'm talking about me all the time. And so I read Shakespeare in what I told you last time, I think.

Hochstadt: Schlegel Tieck.

Miles: Schlegel and Tieck, yes.¹ It seems every little bit that was known, that that was even discovered and translated into a particular kind of German. This was the German that was spoken at beginning of the nineteenth century, 1800, Schiller, Goethe, approximately a little later, too, they were, they lived a little longer, I think, than, than Goethe did. Goethe became a pretty old man, yes, so, active old man. And, and so I started to love Shakespeare, in that translation. Of course, I didn't know anything about Shakespearean English, because I didn't know anything about English. It wasn't taught in school and therefore I didn't come to know it. So my only source to Shakespeare was, of course, Schlegel Tieck German, which was not, at that time, Shakespeare's English. He left a few centuries

¹ Two poets of the romantic period, August Wilhelm Schlegel (1767-1845) and Ludwig Tieck (1773-1853), translated Shakespeare's works.

earlier, and therefore his language was completely different from, from today's English. So, so to that even the, the average, at least the average American English, needs explanations of the meaning of words. So that when you read Shakespeare in Shakespearean English without in, having learned Shakespearean English. I know somebody who did.

I'm trying to find my way, but you, you leave me alone. I, I try to lead myself. Yes. So to me Shakespeare was Schlegel Tieck. And I liked many, I loved many of his comedies, dramas, whatever there was. The Königsberger theater had lots of it. And my parents were clever enough to, and somehow unusually open and understanding enough to let the little boy go to the theater. They took, they took me themselves there. And, of course, the Shakespeare was also performed in, in Schlegel Tieck German, so it became a, a second language to me, although it wasn't the present German. It was a completely different German, which I really didn't know, because I got so used to it that I understood the Schlegel Tieck language.

The other day I wanted to go to a movie, "Henry V". Have you seen it?

Hochstadt: No.

Miles: You missed it, and you, I, I don't know whether it's, I don't think it's on tape yet, because it was last year. So I don't think, when the tapes come out, it's worth your while, it's a magnificent, one of the most accomplished movie creations I can remember have, having seen in my life.

So in order to be prepared, I usually, I like to read, when I go to the theater. I like to read whatever it is, the piece, the play, before I go to the theater. I have a much better aim and much better understanding of it when I have read it before. So, "Henry V", so I get hold myself of "Henry V", of course in the Schlegel Tieck translation. 'Cause what do I know about, about, about Shakespearean English? So I had the Schlegel Tieck there and I read it. Didn't understand a word, not a word. So I said, "Oh, I know there is a modern English transmission into the Shakes-, from Shakespearean English into modern English. You know that there are an number of plays of Shakespeare in modern English, that was transported into modern English, I would say. So the Schlegel Tieck I couldn't make. The modern English didn't exist, because there's "Henry V". There are a few things like "Hamlet" and "King Lear" and what not. They are in modern English, which I enjoy much more, because I get the direct understanding. And so, I read the, the original Shakespeare English, "Henry V". And it had much more to say to me than the Schlegel Tieck, which was, to me, like a foreign language. So I, now on that Shakespearean English version of Shakespeare, which was the original Shakespeare, there was for each page of Shakespearean English, there was at least half a page on the other side for explanation of words.

I have a kind of niece. How do you call it, an in-law niece, you know what I want to say.

Hochstadt: Yes.

Miles: Is there something like in-law niece?

Cinnamon: In English, she is your niece. There's no distinction.

Miles: There's no distinction. So, well in German, it's neither *Nichte*, it's *Nichte*, but still, there's a difference from where it comes. So it's *Nichte*, yes. No, it isn't *Nichte*, 'cause she's a real niece. Sure, no. Well, so yeah, I. It's difficult, this story for me. As it didn't happen yesterday, but a little longer before. So with, with the help of this booklet of "Henry V" in Shakespearean English, gone through it, when I saw the movie, I had a, then I realized what a great movie it was. And I don't even know whether this was the, whether it was the, how should I say, the merit of Shakespeare as much as it was the merit of the movie maker or whatever is connected with it, because there is an army of, of people that has to, that have to work before a movie is presented.

Hochstadt: Yes.

Miles: So whose work is it really, it's very difficult to say. So, that is, I saw that twice and I think it is so moving and so much it has to say in, in terms of feeling and sensing and thinking and a little bit of history, whatever history is, which is anyhow a fairy tale. And we think that today it seems a couple of decenniums we are daring, finally, to try to speak out history, because there were too many no-nos, too many things that you don't talk about this, that also entered the, the history writing. I have read about that, I don't know it of my own experience. This is only conclusions from things I read, no? So I, I read now that history has always been a kind of fairy tale, until very recently and, whether a future generation with computer and television will think that our present history is history or it is perhaps also another fairy tale for after tomorrow's generations, I don't know. Who knows what their history will be.

Hochstadt: I don't know.

Miles: Nobody knows. I don't think, some people think they know or believe they know. [laughs]

Hochstadt: Bruno, can I bring you back . . .

Miles: Yes, please do that.

Hochstadt: . . . to Shanghai?

Miles: Yes, please.

Hochstadt: That's alright.

Miles: I associate. That's my way of living.

Hochstadt: That's alright.

Miles: I associate.

Hochstadt: That's, that's fine.

Miles: And as I told you, I can have two, three conversations mixed into one . .

Hochstadt: Into one.

Miles: . . . and not knowing it, until I'm really digging and finding out, yes. First she's telling me that I'm asking Marti on the telephone. Yes, I have, but I can't recollect it any more.

Hochstadt: Well, let's . . .

Miles: Yes.

Hochstadt: . . . go back to . . .

Miles: Yes.

Hochstadt: . . . being a doctor.

Miles: Yes.

Hochstadt: You were specializing in tropical diseases in Shanghai?

Miles: No, no, no, no, no, no.

Hochstadt: What kind of . . .

Miles: Anything. Anything that came. I was, today I would say and, please, this is my, this is an image, I would say I was a medical practitioner. Or, no, in today's language, you would probably call it family physician.

Hochstadt: And where did you have your office? At first, where was your first office?

Miles: My office. My office was in the camp. Oh, I wanted to tell you this, no, I have to tell you this also in Shanghai. Across the Huangpu River, there were, there was later on I remember, there was a *Tohuwabohu* in this, in the town on the Bund everywhere, and people were trying to leave. English, French, I don't know. At that time, at least, I couldn't, I didn't know what it was and where they wanted to go, I was aware of nothing. I was like a child enjoying himself, without, because it was so nice. What's going on, people are running, people are, I wasn't afraid. Stupidly enough, probably, but I wasn't afraid. But they were not all succeeded in leaving, succeeding in leaving. And now I associate

that with what happened in, in Saigon or Saigon, Ho Chi Minh City today, when the French settlers wanted to escape and didn't quite succeed.

Hochstadt: Well, why were all these people trying to leave Shanghai?

Miles: I didn't know that. I have come later on to know, but that's only what I have read thirty years later or so. Well, what was that, we are probably now in '35, '36, when, when there was a danger there. I think the Japanese came near there. They were somehow up in Manchuria and, as I know now by history, their intention was to occupy the entire coast of the Pacific Ocean. They wanted to have it all. They wanted the, the coastline to be the coast area, coastal area, to be Japanese from Manchuria down to what I know Malaya, Sumatra, they wanted everything. This, this was their ambition. You know that.

Hochstadt: Yes.

Miles: You know good, fine, then I don't have to talk about it. But I have to talk about it, because it, my memory's triggered and that's the way it comes out. I can't help it.

Hochstadt: So this is even before the war started?

Miles: Yes. Yeah.

Hochstadt: And there was some scare.

Miles: Suddenly there was something. What's that?

Hochstadt: There was some scare.

Miles: Yes.

Hochstadt: And all the Westerners wanted to leave.

Miles: Yes, yes. Now . . .

Hochstadt: But you didn't feel frightened.

Miles: No, but this is on third thought. This was probably lack of intelligence, lack of knowing, lack of being informed, lack of keeping contact with what was going on. I was completely uninterested in that. Life was lovely. And like it was in a brothel or it didn't matter. In a restaurant, in a whatever you did, the only thing I did formally and knew exactly was eating with chopsticks. It became a holy ritual. Not any more, it's long gone, since years. But at that time eating with chopsticks became an absolute strict

ritual.

Hochstadt: For you.

Miles: For me. Yes, not for anybody else. The Chinese did it with a certain naturalness. That is they used chopsticks like they used their fingers. Other people use their fingers. For me it was still, it took a while until it became my fingers, but in the meantime it became also, it became a ritual. To eat with chopsticks.

Hochstadt: Now many Europeans that I've talked to were not interested in eating Chinese food and they tried to recreate their European foods. That, you weren't interested in that, you . . .

Miles: I am interested, I have always been interested in, in what I like. It might have been poisonous, if I liked it, I would have eaten it. I was, I took it for granted that I would live forever at that time, or more or less. And in other words, I did not think, I did not incorporate that into my life, that it would end. I knew it, but I didn't incorporate it emotionally in my life. It wasn't there. I lived and everything was lovely. Wherever it was, wherever it took place. And that, that *Angst*, that movement in the streets, I was part of it. I loved it. I danced with it, the dance of running away, of being afraid. Can you see that? Yes. And I was in the dance. But I wasn't afraid, I performed. That it was fun.

Hochstadt: Can you compare Shanghai for me to the other cities that you were in? Berlin or Vienna or Paris. At least Shanghai before the war started there, the time you're talking about.

Miles: It, the Chinese were some how treated with condescendence, no, is it condescendence?

Hochstadt: Condescension.

Miles: Condescension. Yes. Looked upon as something of second-rate human creature, at least this is the way I received it. I remember, the way I remember it. That is why I learned English in a Chinese-speaking country. It was really a kind of colony, where the white men dominated, and the, to the point where the Japanese had a respect for it and for a long, long time, even when they were all around Shanghai, I think they even occupied in the French Zone, but it took a long time before they, before they took over the International Zone, the International Zone, it was called, yes. The Int-, what did you call it, you call it?

Hochstadt: International Settlement, international Zone.

Miles: International Zone. Zone, Settlement, I don't know. International Zone, Settlement. French Zone, French Settlement.

Hochstadt: French Concession.

Miles: French Concession. This was the International Settlement, yes, I think. Yes. And that was English dominated, but it was called International. And it was the international that gave it a certain style. Now where was the office? Later on.

Cinnamon: May I interrupt with a question that might help here? Were you at one time doctor to a consulate?

Miles: Yes.

Cinnamon: At what point in your stay was that, in general?

Miles: Oh, I have to say this. I don't know when the war broke out. America somehow was only geographically, as I told you this last time I think. And it was only geographically there even for me then. For me, the International Settlement was English. Ask me the question again.

Hochstadt: About whether you were doctor for a consulate.

Miles: Yes, I was, because there was then, there was the war . . .

Cinnamon: Was that your first office, as doctor for a consulate?

Miles: No.

Cinnamon: No.

Miles: As a doctor among other things, among other people came also . . .

Cinnamon: I see.

Miles: Yeah. Came, came, came. I had, also, as a, so far as a client, one of the consulates, because they were confined. Evidently the Japanese, I presume, Japanese prevented anybody from leaving.

Hochstadt: So this was after Pearl Harbor?

Miles: Pearl Harbor, I don't know anything. I must have known when I was there. I must have known. But I have, I would say I have as little recollection of Pearl Harbor, Pearl Harbor as I know about the circumstances under which I arrived in the, on the Bund. You can say that this, a man like that belongs into an institution. The funny thing is that, that that little area where it comes to public safety and my safety, I must have functioned. I must have done the right thing at the right moment. Of course for the soldier, if you're a soldier, to do the right thing at the right moment might cost your life and you know it, and I think sometimes that's what the soldier does. He tries not to think of it. That's the way they

develop their humor probably, to eliminate somehow the emotional part of being afraid for, of dying.

Hochstadt: So you had . . .

Miles: Ask me question. You keep me asking questions, because otherwise I will . . .

Hochstadt: Can you put yourself into your office where you were practicing?

Miles: I try to put myself into the office in the camp . . .

Hochstadt: Well, do that.

Miles: . . . where most of my clients. There were other doctors there. I wasn't the only doctor. Most of my clients were people from the camp. Also people from the outside, I think, came there knowing that there was a medical, collection of medical doctors who treated and diagnosed.

Hochstadt: Were the sicknesses or the patients that you saw, did they have different kinds of sicknesses, because they were in a camp in Shanghai than they would have had?

Miles: I don't remember that any more. Let me see. What did we really do? I have to say, I must laugh. Don't forget at that time the, the extensive importance of viral diseases were not known, at least not to me, not to us. A flu was a flu, a few viral diseases were known, such as rabies, for instance. That we knew. Also I don't think that at that time, electron microscope didn't exist then yet. And therefore nobody had seen it. I don't think you could have seen it under an ordinary microscope. So it was a different kind of medicine. Later on, there was a hospital in Hongkou, I don't know any more where. There was.

Hochstadt: There was a hospital in the Ward Road camp, at some point.

Miles: No, that was a little, that was in Hongkou, but not in the Ward Road camp as far as I remember.

Hochstadt: No.

Miles: The hospital was in the Ward Road camp. Can you tell me . . . ?

Hochstadt: I met a woman who . . .

Miles: A name. Yeah, but tell me, what were any, any doctors mentioned, any names of doctors mentioned? Because I forgot them too and I want to remember them.

Hochstadt: Well, let me, I have two names of doctors that I would like to ask you about.

Miles: Yes.

Hochstadt: Arthur Peretz.

Miles: I know Peretz. Yes, oh yes! Sure.

Hochstadt: Tell me, please, about Arthur Peretz.

Miles: Peretz. He was, he was something almost comparable to what you would call today an internist. But I couldn't tell you any particular capacity except, you know, he was a highly capable physician. Not only, I'm thinking now in terms of, let's say, 1940, yes or '41, '42. I didn't realize in my mind, there was no war going on as far as I knew. We were confined, yes, I was not. I had a free go. I could go wherever I wanted. So by the way . . .

END TAPE ONE, SIDE A

BEGIN TAPE ONE, SIDE B

Miles: My friend, for instance Vio, was a, was of I don't know. I think originally of Austrian origin, I don't know, no, of Italian origin. His father was an Italian. So, I don't know whether he was a lawyer or a judge, that I can't tell you.

Hochstadt: His father.

Miles: Yeah. This is just on the sideline. Vio knew that I would come, because I had gotten in touch with his father, met him there and then his father wrote to him and he wrote to his father and so. I never have been a writer. I don't write. Even if I wanted, if I think of somebody, I'm not sitting down and writing, I'm just thinking. So that is why I haven't got a diary. It's such a silly thing not to have it. So let me see now here.

Hochstadt: So you said that you lived with, with Melitta and her mother.

Miles: Yeah.

Hochstadt: After you got married to Melitta.

Miles: No, I don't know. We got married very fast. And I don't even know, I hadn't much, I think I, I hardly had met her. There was something about her, I can't tell you what. I, I wish I would have seen

it. I was a good looking man, my God. Melitta.

Cinnamon: That's their wedding picture.

Hochstadt: That's a wonderful picture. And she looks like Asherah, doesn't she?

Miles: Asherah, would you look at me? No, so that the light falls on you. I can't see it that way. But I can't see it, because I, I never knew I was looking that way. Goodness gracious.

Hochstadt: Broadway studio, Shanghai, Hongkou.

Miles: Broadway? What is Broadway? I remember now that, yes! Was there a Nanking Road in Shanghai?

Hochstadt: Yes, yes.

Miles: There was my office.

Hochstadt: On Nanking Road?

Miles: On Nanking Road.

Hochstadt: Your first office.

Miles: To Ward Street. No, the only office. But I had an office in the camp.

Hochstadt: You had offices, two offices at the same time?

Miles: I don't think so. I think, I don't know.

Hochstadt: But you had an office in Nanking Road.

Miles: Yes.

Hochstadt: That was a major road, an important road.

Miles: It is parallel to the Bund.

Hochstadt: Yes.

Miles: I think it's the first, one block [unclear] . It's one large block away from the Bund. The Bund then parallel to it, more towards east or west, but I don't know maybe you can tell me.

Hochstadt: I can't.

Miles: Where's does the sun set in, in Hongkou in, in . . .

Hochstadt: I don't know the directions either.

Miles: But maybe on a, on a map, even a general map, I can see at least where is the city and where is the river.

Hochstadt: Yes.

Miles: Then I know where north and south is and where I was and I could show you that approximately, on what part of the Nanking Road it was. I can show you. I was to tell you something, but, oh it will come back. Yeah, the camp. There was another camp on the other side of the Huangpu River, where all the English and the French were kept as, as prisoners, so to speak, a prison camp. Later on, when I was already a way in, in, even in, in either Massachusetts or New York, that I don't remember any more. Something was written up and talked about and, you know, we, I say we now, I'm, I'm meaning the Jewish people and I am one of them. Even if Jewish means something quite different from what it ever did before, I have a different attitude. I am really part of it, not forced, but I am part of it, period, part of, part of the human stream in which I am, I am a Jew. And only on second or third thought now it occurred to me, I better appreciate my fate that blew me in this direction, although very complicatedly back and forth, but nevertheless to safety and to enjoying life. We, how did we started? You better check on me with your questions, otherwise I'm getting lost.

Hochstadt: I don't know, but I wanted to ask you again about your marriage to Melitta, about who married you and where you got married. How did you do the marriage?

Miles: I had to first get a divorce of a woman that I didn't know where she was.

Hochstadt: This was a woman you'd married and taken to Italy with you and then she left?

Miles: Yeah.

Hochstadt: How did you get the divorce?

Miles: That's it! It was a sheerly perform-, sheer, pure juridical, international juridical performance. That is all. Now I was interested to know where she was. We had to go to all sorts of circumstances and questions and answers and international calls for Anna Nora, Anna Nora Monoson. Do you name, does the name Monoson mean something to you? That's, I think last time I couldn't remember that.

Hochstadt: What was . . . ?

Miles: Monoson.

Hochstadt: That was the name . . .

Miles: Yes, Monoson.

Hochstadt: . . . that was the name of your wife?

Miles: Yes, Monoson. Anna was her first name. Nora was her self given name. Because she read "Nora", Ibsen's "Nora". And identified with her. Long before I knew her. And so this disturbs me, put it no, no, no, but this machine, can you put it away? This disturbs me.

Cinnamon: Just put it out of sight.

Miles: Yeah, yeah, fine, good. So. Strange it disturbs me, but it does.

Hochstadt: So you were looking for her or you wanted to know where she was, now.

Miles: Yeah. Juridically, she had to be somehow living somewhere. We never knew.

Hochstadt: Who did you contact in Shanghai to find this out?

Miles: Oh, a very good lawyer, lawyer firm.

Hochstadt: Jewish lawyers?

Miles: In, in. That I don't know. I know only I, I, if I'm not mistaken, they were in the International Quarter, but I'm not sure. Where did Broadway, where did Broadway lead to? Was, there was a Broadway in Hongkou?

Hochstadt: I don't know where. I don't have a map. I'll bring a map next time I do an interview. Because I need to, I need to have some maps.

Miles: Yes, I think you should.

Hochstadt: Here's another . . .

Miles: Yeah.

Hochstadt: . . . set of pictures. Oh, these are negatives.

Cinnamon: Yeah, I have some photographs too. I thought you' be interested in the package.

Hochstadt: The package is nice and it' s from Avenue Joffre. Royal Photo . . .

Miles: Avenue Joffre.

Hochstadt: That' s in the French . . .

Miles: Avenue Joffre, I know.

Hochstadt: That' s in the French, French Quarter.

Miles: And I think I was living there for a while.

Cinnamon: Mother had her store there. Chez Nicole, Avenue Joffre.

Hochstadt: These are all negatives.

Miles: Chez Nicole. Chez Nicole.

Cinnamon: Gently, gently, it' s very fragile. Please, please, gently

Miles: Yes. What' s fragile about it?

Cinnamon: It' s fragile. The paper is fragile. I don' t want it to tear.

Miles: Yes. I know what that means, yes. Can you look in?

Cinnamon: Yes, it' s photos, it' s tiny photographs. I have them enlarged.

Miles: No, I think that is, there should be at least enlarged . . .

Cinnamon: I have them enlarged.

Miles: No, wait a minute, enlarged to the point where they can be perhaps even, who' s this?

Cinnamon: You.

Miles: Me?

Cinnamon: Yes.

Miles: I had a beard? No.

Cinnamon: No, that's not a beard.

Miles: Oh, I see.

Hochstadt: And this is you?

Cinnamon: Yes. That is I think already in China, though. I mean, Panama. I don't think that's in Shanghai any more. I'm not sure. Possibly still in China. But I have some from Shanghai.

Miles: You should have that sorted, perhaps projected or have it on tape.

Cinnamon: Daddy, I have some I will show you right now and it may bring back a few memories.

Miles: So, we, we . . .

Hochstadt: So you were not able to find Anna Moroson.

Miles: Monoson.

Hochstadt: Monoson.

Miles: Yes. I know, but if, if you ever come across some Monoson, let me know.

Hochstadt: Okay. So what happened when you couldn't find her.

Miles: . . . because I might visit Emila Monoson.

Hochstadt: I see.

Miles: The father I'm sure is dead because he. Emila could be my age, if he's alive. I don't know whether Anna Nora is alive. Chez Nicole comes to my mind. I called your mother Nicole, and she I think, she called me Peter. Is it true?

Cinnamon: Yes, it's true.

Miles: And after which it brings back now my, my memories. Why did she call me Peter? I wanted to

be called Peter, because . . .

Cinnamon: She had a boyfriend named Peter.

Miles: Ah, yes. She had a lover before that. Peter what? What's the last name?

Cinnamon: I don't know. I was, I was never told.

Miles: I knew him.

Cinnamon: I was never told. Was that in Shanghai?

Miles: Yes. I think so.

Cinnamon: Was that one of the people, that she said, she was, that she came to you to ask which one she should marry and you said, you should, she should marry you? Was he one of them?

Miles: Yes! That's true.

Hochstadt: Why did she come to you to ask you which one she should marry.

Miles: I don't know.

Hochstadt: You had met her somehow.

Miles: Somehow I had met her. I don't even know how, How did I come to, to, to know her? Sommerfreund. I couldn't remember Sommerfreund for a moment.

Cinnamon: My mother's maiden name.

Miles: I married Melitta Sommerfreund. But I don't know how I met her, let me see. How did I meet her? And somehow was hit when I saw her. Something, you know it happens. It's difficult, can't. Maybe some other time, but I think of her. Show me a few pictures. Maybe it will bring something to my mind. Oh, I should have taken my, my magnifying glasses.

Cinnamon: That's mother and Oma.

Miles: I get my magnifying glasses, just a minute.

Cinnamon: Careful, Daddy.

Miles: Sometimes I have difficult, but it can't be helped.

Hochstadt: Yes, I know.

Miles: But it's probably takes a lot of your time. You know, I have the time of my life, whatever that means.

Hochstadt: This is a very enjoyable time for me.

Miles: Is it?

Hochstadt: Yes.

Miles: Yeah, I just wanted to know that in, Asherah, do you have a, a map of the world?

Cinnamon: I'm sorry, I only have a tiny little globe.

Miles: Fine, that will be good.

Cinnamon: It has no cities on it.

Miles: As long as the outlines of the continents are there.

Cinnamon: Okay, I'll go get it.

Miles: You'll help me, because . . .

Hochstadt: We can maybe . . .

Miles: . . . maybe you have an idea. At least you had an idea, you're young, for me you're young, and you have the memory of a young man. And my memory is very strangely functioning.

Hochstadt: Can I, can I ask you again . . .

Miles: Yes, please.

Hochstadt: . . . about, you were, you were searching for Anna Monoson . . .

Miles: Anna Nora Monoson, yes.

Hochstadt: But you couldn't find her and you got . . .

Miles: Oh, yes I see that's where you were, I, we couldn't find her so . . .

Hochstadt: But you still managed to get a divorce . . .

Miles: There was, somehow we, we fulfilled the international law. There's something referring to international law, there's an international code of law, evidently, that makes it possible to treat somebody as if he or she would be present or not, or you can consider her absent. And there's a formulation, often somebody can be considered juridically dead. And that is, I think, the, the, at least the absence wherever it is and wherever that person might be, it is so far outside the legal code of where you live that it can be declared as nonexistent.

Hochstadt: And that was . . .

Miles: And so that was it. She was declared nonexistent any more in whatever way or fashion, while living in Heaven or living on the, on Mars or whatever it is or somewhere, there was a way of formulating it legally, internationally. That was done and then I was free. Then I married Melitta, but I wonder how did we get married? Not in synagogue, I don't think so. I don't even know, I don't even know where the synagogue is or was.

Hochstadt: In Shanghai.

Miles: Yeah.

Hochstadt: You didn't visit it there?

Miles: If I did, I don't, I can't remember and you know where it is, where it was?

Hochstadt: There were several different ones. There was a large one on, near Bubbling Well Road.

Miles: Bubbling Well, Bubbling Bell. Bubbling, double B? [unclear]

Hochstadt: Seymour, on Seymour Road. There was a large synagogue on Seymour Road called Ohel Rachel. That was a Sephardic synagogue. Then there was a . . .

Miles: I, I like so far, I have a romantic hangup on the Sephardim, yes. Sephardim. Why do I want to say Sephardim? Is that plural?

Hochstadt: Yes.

Miles: Yeah, I see.

Hochstadt: Bruno, can I ask you a different question a little bit?

Miles: What does it mean by the way? Do you know something, some Hebrew?

Hochstadt: Very, no, I don't.

Miles: Suddenly something, *mene mene tekel upharsin* or *opharsin*, I don't know, how do you pronounce it. So, yeah, you wanted to, please.

Hochstadt: Most of the Jews in Shanghai had, most of the German-speaking Jews had come there because they were fleeing the Nazis and they, they . . .

Miles: That was only when the Nazis were a threat.

Hochstadt: Yes. And they were, they had to worry a great deal about money and they were, they had come, many of them had been in concentration camps, and that's very different from your experience.

Miles: Yes.

Hochstadt: You came to Shanghai as kind of an adventure.

Miles: Yeah, but tell me, where was the concentration camps? There was one concentration camp that was across the river. I wanted to tell you that, that's important, that belongs to Shanghai, although it doesn't perhaps belong to the Jewish community in Shanghai, that I don't know. But there was a camp there, where all the aliens, so to speak, were kept. And I came to know, later on, that on that side, on the other side of the Huangpu River, I forgot the name of it, of the location where that was. It had a name, but I forgot, that they had found after the war. By the way I left, in retrospect probably fortunately, before Mao Zedong came, because it seems that there has been a lot of *Tohuwabohu* in Shanghai when Mao Zedong came. Is it true or not?

Hochstadt: Yes.

Miles: And what, what was that? Can you tell me what happened? I only know there was many, lots of killings and I don't know who was killed and by whom and . . .

Hochstadt: Well, I think . . .

Miles: . . . or tell me a book where I can . . .

Hochstadt: I, I don't think a lot of Jews were killed.

Miles: No, no, I'm talking about what, who were killed, because, for instance . . .

Hochstadt: A lot of Chinese were killed.

Miles: You see, Chinese against Chinese.

Hochstadt: Yes.

Miles: Chinese against, isn't that what, do you remember now Liberia? They are fighting madly with each other and . . .

Hochstadt: Yes.

Miles: . . . killing each other and hating each other. Different tribes that are hate, hating each other. They are evidently growing up hating the other group.

Hochstadt: I don't think that's what it was like in China, I think it's more political in China.

Miles: No, that is, this is, this was not that way.

Hochstadt: Yes, it was more political in China, killing enemies, political enemies.

Miles: Political enemies, non-Communist, whatever Communist is, my God. Today if you are, if you are a conservative, that means you are a Leninist, a Stalinist, that's conservative.

Hochstadt: It's very confusing, isn't it?

Miles: No, it isn't. It's just so. You have to realize only what conservative means.

Hochstadt: Well, why did you leave Shanghai before Mao arrived?

Miles: Because I was invited by, by then, then wife, Collette . . .

Cinnamon: My mother.

Miles: We have to go up again now. So, yes, yes, yes, yes, I might have some associations when I see the picture I saw yesterday, that I couldn't remember. There is a picture of Melitta with glasses on. It's black and white, the design, kind of draft. Melitta with glasses on looking at something.

Hochstadt: So you were invited.

Miles: . . . captured by her. No, we were invited by, by not, not saying anything, but I want to remember that myself. Sommerfreund, by Henry Sommerfreund, you still called Henry Sommerfreund? Unfortunately he has no, but this man didn't marry. It's a pity for himself and whatever, for him. You know, I had a hangup on him. Yes.

Cinnamon: My mother's brother.

Miles: What do you say?

Cinnamon: I'm just explaining to Steve that he is my mother's brother.

Hochstadt: Your mother?

Cinnamon: My mother's brother.

Miles: Yeah, yeah. He invited us to come to Panama. And so we went to Panama.

Hochstadt: Why, why not, why follow that invitation?

Miles: I don't know, wait a minute. Yes, that's the trouble, that I don't remember, that I don't remember how, how I, I came there. I can only say, that's the way a gypsy travels, although I was very much at the same time, strangely enough, feeling like a Prussian, but that somehow changed, I don't know in which direction. It did not happen through Mussolini. I did not know enough about Hitler to know about the Nazis. I had a kind of alertness against them, that's all. And when they whatchamacall, I don't know his name now any more, told me that I don't want [unclear] to know. I was wondering why, but I realized there must be something right, if he's telling me. You know, he has become a Nazi yesterday, so to speak [laughs] and today he is telling me, knowing that I am of, of, that I am a Jew. Speaking of terms of today at that time, in Shanghai, even in school already, I was almost an antisemite.

Hochstadt: Why? I don't understand that.

Miles: You, I can't understand it either. I only know it was that way.

Hochstadt: I mean, it's not that I don't understand why. I don't understand what you mean by . . .

Miles: I mean that there was a general tendency, a general prejudice that had taken hold in me, too, because it was the, the, a general motion, a group that had this dislike of a group of people to which I theoretically belonged. I didn't feel belonging. But then classmates of mine, I'm coming back again to my childhood.

Hochstadt: No, that's fine. Classmates of yours . . .

Miles: Yes. My best friend was Jewish and a conservative, I told you that I think last time, yes, but all the others I disliked. Because they felt they had, I, I was not scholastically good enough. I was lazy, I was, because I was interested in other things, I just passed, and that, and I misbehaved. I called people names, I did things that at that time, today nobody would say anything about it, would be taken for granted as done, but I don't know, whatever it was, I can tell you only in general terms, that I did not behave the way a gentleman today should behave. When you say gentleman and you mean it with a smile, with a kind of a caricaturistic smile, like George Sanders in "All About Eve". Do you remember the movie?

Hochstadt: A little bit, yes.

Miles: Then you better look at it, because it's a completely different feeling that I get now than I got when I saw it the first or second time, as it's, this is George Sanders and everybody has to be a George Sanders. And so I was not enough George Sanders, would I say.

Hochstadt: And the other Jewish boys in school were . . .

Miles: Yeah, yes.

Hochstadt: . . . that way?

Miles: Yes. They behaved. Not George Sanders in this role, of course, he'd be it cause he acts it, but this man he represents is not acting. He is, that's him. And so I was me and I wasn't quite the George Sanders they wanted me to be.

Hochstadt: So when did you lose this kind of antisemitism, when did that go away?

Miles: It's difficult to say, but I think it has a little something to do with, with Asherah. Somehow, although she didn't know what she did, just by talking. Like I walk up the stairs and suddenly pictures are speaking to me. So Asherah did something and something else happened in me. But I became aware that I wasn't the, the creature I thought I was. I, I, I always run around with a mirror although it's not there, but I've been running around with a mirror. It's always there wherever I, I look, I'm mirrored and I see myself and sometimes I don't like it, and I change it.

Hochstadt: So does, so does that mean . . . ?

Miles: So I behave, I also keep myself in a certain way, playing the role of Bruno Miles. Even if I don't want to play and I don't know I play, but I know now that I do play. I also do things I don't

appreciate, but I do now because I can and I am comfortable. So.

Hochstadt: So does that mean when you were in Shanghai, that you didn't feel this kind of solidarity with the other Jewish people there?

Miles: No, no, no, I didn't.

Hochstadt: How, what did you feel about yourself and them?

Miles: Today I would say almost, almost like a like a nomad, nomad, like a nomad, nomad. How do you say?

Hochstadt: Nomad.

Cinnamon: Nomad.

Miles: Nomad. Nomad. [laughs] I was no mad, but I was a nomad. [laughs]

Hochstadt: So you were, you didn't feel yourself to be part of them, part of . . .

Miles: No.

Hochstadt: . . . this Jewish group.

Miles: And I probably behaved that way. And perhaps, if any, they had their, their judgments about me without telling me. It's a possibility. So. Say anything [unclear] ?

Cinnamon: Yes.

Miles: Good, thank you.

Hochstadt: Did you ever have to worry about money while you were in Shanghai, about where your next meal was going to come from, or . . . ?

Miles: No, no, I don't know why, but I didn't. I evidently made enough money, perhaps through my patients, I don't remember that any more. I had, by the way, the patients came from, from all sorts of areas and I would say some of them were even Chinese but they were speaking English, because I didn't learn Chinese. I evidently wasn't, in a way, in China, I was in the world. It was a mixture like New York City is. You know New York City?

Hochstadt: Yes.

Miles: Yes. You know that lovely mixture some people hate. So two years ago, I think on, on New Year's Eve, or three years ago, I don't know, I met a snob, I say snob, a rich lady. Rich is relative, of course. Tomorrow she might commit suicide, because she doesn't have, there was a famous man that jumped out of the window in 1929, yeah, [laughs] because he had only so much left. So, yeah this lady. So she had a certain lifestyle and value, and she evidently was a, a rich [unclear] related to her surroundings, that's what it all is referring to, having more than other people to the point where you join the other people who have approximately as much as you have or those that have more, and not, and only hesitatingly, because you think you get a better place in Heaven, [laughs] to, to give a smile to the, to the lesser fortunate ones. How did we come that?

Hochstadt: You were talking about this rich lady in, as a snob.

Cinnamon: In New York.

Hochstadt: In New York.

Miles: Oh, yeah, she, yes, she was born and brought up in Cuba, in Havana, Cuba. And when Castro came, she had to flee. And she eventually, I don't know what her, her, her fortune was, but she eventually ended up married here in, in New York City, where I met her and her husband. What is that? I think, I'm not sure. But anyhow, a well-to-do person here in New York City, born Cuban, who hated everything that looked not the way she wanted. And she had a dislike for it. Like for instance, she didn't like the population mixture in New York. It was too mixed. These, these tables with vendors, that to me are part and parcel of the charm of some New York, large New York streets, with the vendors that vend, that sell things that make the streets for me alive, and they have their large carts standing there to transport their, their merchandise, so that they're not even poor, they are probably, have more money than I have, you know, but that's their way of, of persisting and living. And she, she hated them, because she wanted to have an orderly life of well-dressed people and she had a contempt for anything that was not so. How did we come to that? Why did we, how did we come . . .

Cinnamon: Go back.

Miles: What?

Cinnamon: I was suggesting that Steve steer you back.

Hochstadt: Tell me about the end of the war, when the Americans came to Shanghai. Did that, how did that affect your life?

Miles: It didn't. It didn't. There was an invitation of Henry and I don't know why I reacted immediately. You have to ask your mother, because I don't remember any more.

Cinnamon: You reacted immediately?

Miles: No. I don't know how I reacted immediately. But of course, she, we lived together and we shared living together, in many ways, many, many ways. I mean, we were married in the best way possible. So, so she might, but she might have a better memory. So. You have talked to her.

Hochstadt: Yes.

Miles: So she might give you many answers, her answers, at least to the questions that I can't answer right now. Not because I don't want to, but because I don't have the answer.

Hochstadt: Well, let me ask you a very general question.

Miles: Yes.

Hochstadt: What does it matter that you spent all those years in Shanghai. What does it matter to you or to . . . ?

Miles: Variety of life. Variety of life. Now, variety. Things are changing fortunately, it's part of the fun of living. And if you can't change yourself, you see others changing. I'm constantly relating to my surroundings. I go out the steps and I do this right away, and I am emotionally touched by the things that I, that I see. It reaches sometimes very deep into me. I'm sure you don't [unclear], among other things, like that copy you did. Something that is part, becomes suddenly part of my emotional substance of the day. So . . .

Hochstadt: So you think that the years in Shanghai changed your thinking about things? About yourself, or . . . ?

Miles: When I change probably, I have thought of that, because I knew that I would talk to you, so I am not really unprepared. I usually change, when I have already changed.

END TAPE ONE, SIDE B

BEGIN TAPE TWO, SIDE A

Miles: Turn out the book. I want to buy that in hardcover.

Hochstadt: Okay. I will let you know when this happens.

Miles: Yes, you let me know when it's there.

Hochstadt: But it won't be next year or the year after.

Miles: So I might not even be alive any more.

Hochstadt: It will take me a while.

Miles: Dr. Peretz isn't alive. What a pity. He was a good man. You would think it, too, so. And also a good doer, in other words he, he knew how to relate. I try to figure his wife, because I knew her. But she wasn't a Jew.

Hochstadt: No.

Miles: No. Right.

Hochstadt: There was a bit of a scandal when he got married, I think.

Miles: When who got married?

Hochstadt: Arthur. She had been married to, she had been married and, and, and then she got divorced from, from whoever she was married to.

Miles: Where was that scandal?

Hochstadt: I don't know.

Miles: In which town, in which country?

Hochstadt: In Shanghai.

Miles: In Shanghai?

Hochstadt: In Shanghai.

Miles: This scandal was in Shanghai. That I can believe. People were terribly bourgeois and I think they became more bourgeois than ever, when they were in close, living close together. The, the bourgeois thinking became condensed.

Hochstadt: Why didn't it affect you? You didn't, don't seem to have participated in that.

Miles: I don't think so, no. I didn't. Let me see or did I? At least, I can't remember, ask, ask Melitta. Colette, my God!

Hochstadt: What is Colette or . . . ?

Cinnamon: That's a love name.

Hochstadt: For Melitta.

Miles: Yeah. It was chosen name for her business activity.

Cinnamon: No, that was Nicole.

Miles: Yeah, I mean, yeah, Nicole, Colette. It has to do, either a boyfriend called her that way or I don't know what. Maybe it was my way of convincing her to marry me, because of something that attracted me. I mean more than others, because it was not a, a purely sexual attraction. That I had lots. So, that I took for granted, so to speak. And I have to tell you that my, my morale has changed, if I must say so, in other words, I did things that I wouldn't do today. And the other way around.

Hochstadt: Can I ask you to give an example?

Miles: Yes! For instance, well, today, I wouldn't, let's see. Yeah, I want to, I want to find that example myself. For instance, having sexual relations to patients. That was one of the, this would be one of the no-no's today for me in my mind, although I'm not practicing any more. But I was quite frequently relating to patients.

Hochstadt: In Shanghai?

Miles: Yes, and before that. Oh yes. For me it was, it was like an animal on, on constant, what do you call that stage?

Cinnamon: Heat.

Miles: Heat, yeah. Not that it, that it overdominated me, but it was very important. It had to be satisfied and was satisfied, period. So, and I was lucky, I, I didn't know I looked that well. It's incredible! Melitta looks nice, yes. There's something very friendly and very, very, how should I say, there's something very attractive about her.

Hochstadt: Bruno, could you, could you say something more about . . .

Miles: Yes.

Hochstadt: . . . how the sexual morality in Shanghai was different from, maybe what you'd experienced in Europe or not necessarily, not necessarily your sexual morality, just in general . . .

Miles: No, no, the general one.

Hochstadt: . . . or was it different? Whether, whether there was anything different about it?

Miles: I tell you this. I'm very reckless. If you, please don't, I warn you still, I call it a fairy tale, because I, I know that I'm deceived by myself, by my memory. So. When my father, and at my time, it was every day was father's day, so to speak, this is jokingly speaking. So, when my father felt or, or knew that I had my first sexual sensations, he had a talk with me, recommended to me addresses of prostitutes, of, well, evidently relatively safe prostitutes, whatever you, [laughs] you called safe, as today I, with all the AIDS around, I have my, how should I say it, I have my great difficulties in not being constantly afraid of getting it. Because with the news, with the market of television, they try to make a big thing out of nothing [unclear] . So we become so aware of this infectious disease and, and at my time it was syphilis, gonorrhea, whatever else you could get, I was well aware of it. At my time they had already invented Salvarsan, I don't know whether you ever heard of it. No? That was the first effective remedy against syphilis. Paul Ehrlich invented it. Did you hear, did you know him?

Hochstadt: Yes.

Miles: He was, became famous through the, through the, what do you, how do you call it, not invention. When you put together some chemistry to become a medication, effective medication. What do you call that or how would you call that? Invention? You can't really call it. Let's say, let's use the word invention. And, and . . .

Cinnamon: Discovery?

Miles: No, it was, this wasn't discovered. Because you discover something in a plant or in an animal or so. This was, I, I, let's say, he, he experimented and, and because he was interested. This was a disease, it was, it was not only quite spread in Europe at least, but it was also leading to, to [unclear] . The whole organ system could be off. The body could be in, in, involved, including the brain, there you got the paralysis [unclear] paralysis, about which for instance, mother, give me this son. That's Ibsen, sure. That's how you call it, that's also syphilis, third grade, brain syphilis and the young man evidently has it, has already to the, in the brain and Ibsen, I think it's Ibsen, I'm not sure it, for a time being, I can't even remember the title of the, of the drama. It was a drama.

Hochstadt: Well, anyway you were talking about your father sending you to . . .

Miles: Yeah, yeah, I wanted to tell you that all, this all this was there, but so we were aware of it. Salvarsan was already there, so there was less of a fear to, to get a, to get an untreatable disease. As AIDS today, for instance. You see, I'm associating, I'm coming now to AIDS. What can I do, but that's all I can I tell you, the way, I'm going probably with my surrounding. My morale would be different if I would live among the headhunters, I would try to hack people's head off. I have the tendency to live up to the standards of the group I live in. Make my exceptions, if I like it and if I can afford it. That is, I wouldn't do something that, most probably would like not to do something that's forbidden by law. I try to avoid that. For instance, emptying your bladder somewhere behind the tree, you can do in New York without being arrested. But when my, my daughter told me that when I do that in Portland, whoever I am, if I do that, and even if I try to cover it up by being behind a tree, the police would will arrest me and bring me to jail. Then there will then be a trial while I am in jail, you know, so, as in indecent exposure or something like that, for which here in Portland, Maine, evidently they have particular feelings. Now I, I can't participate on that, but I have still to be more careful. And if I am feeling safe and I, I need it, I have become much better in holding it today. I don't know how I come to, to that story, because you ask me a question and we are ending up with . . .

Hochstadt: Well, we were, we were comparing the sexual morality in Shanghai . . .

Miles: Yes.

Hochstadt: . . . with other places that you have lived.

Miles: I don't think, I don't think there was any particular morality for me. I didn't receive it. A woman that, that was hot looked around for a man she liked, and, and the other way around, and if it so happened by coincidence that they meet, they go, they make love. Or whatever you want to call it, because making love is also a euphemism, euphemism for other things.

Cinnamon: Well, that was, that was your personal, that was your personal morality. But would, for instance . . .

Miles: The general morality I wouldn't know.

Cinnamon: My grandmother have approved of that?

Miles: No. Your grandmother wouldn't even have approved . . .

Cinnamon: Would my mother have approved of it?

Miles: I don't think so.

Cinnamon: Would Henry have approved of it?

Miles: I don't know. I don't know, because Henry, after all I haven't seen Henry for thirty-five years.

Cinnamon: No, no, I mean back then.

Miles: Thirty-six.

Cinnamon: Back then, would he have approved of it?

Miles: Back then, what do I know? I, I have a hard time to find out what I would have approved of, at that time.

Hochstadt: I guess I'm, I'm . . .

Miles: The way my, my, my behavior pattern has become, my feelings become different. For instances, AIDS, may I speak of AIDS now?

Hochstadt: Yes.

Miles: Permitted? Okay. I was a probably unduly afraid of AIDS. There was so much of public transmission of wherever you looked, AIDS, AIDS, AIDS, most people didn't even know what AIDS stand for. I didn't know either until I had to learn it, to not to, because I'm, I'm bad in abbreviations, very bad. You know for me abbreviations are like BGB, that's the *Bürgerliche Gesetzbuch*, yeah, and then there's the USA, this is the United States of America. And so I needed perhaps a dozen or two of abbreviation. That's it. And I'm becoming less and less capable of interpreting abbreviations, even in books. Even if, if they are repeated to me, I explain the first time and then they are used, I have to go back to where it says it. And now that's, that's memory, of course, sure.

So I'm not aware, that's all I can say, that there was a different attitude of sexuality and towards sexuality. And . . .

Hochstadt: Well, were there perhaps, it was . . .

Miles: Like for instance . . .

Hochstadt: . . . easier to have sex in Shanghai than in Vienna or Paris or easier to find sexual partners?

Miles: I don't think so. There were always, there were always professional women.

Hochstadt: Apart from professional women.

Miles: Or, or whatever it is, but ever since AIDS, for instance, I became very much afraid of it. To the

point where I started to be careful with, of anything. I even didn't want to go to swimming pools any more. Because I know what people do in the swimming pools. I went to my doctor, to one of my doctors, and I explained, and he said, "Don't worry, because you need a much, very, a really intimate contact to get that." Yeah but, intimate, as it turned out, what is not intimate? Is the water in the swimming pool not an intimate contact, indirectly? No, the, I ask him, "No," he said, he didn't believe that, he didn't believe. After all our knowledge of today is our belief of today. So then I read up. So I was afraid for a long time in spite of the doctor. And then I read sometimes somewhere in a book, or in a, in, about immunity, about immunity of the, of the human community all over the body, all over the, the . . .

Hochstadt: World.

Miles: No.

Hochstadt: Globe.

Miles: Globe, yes. The words to me are something completely different. So and I learned that what we call AIDS, that virus or that family of viruses, is perhaps, has been in Africa for a long time and that evidently the African population has, others have died. And those that have survived have developed an immunity, that's why they have survived. So now Africa is full of people who have a certain immunity against AIDS. So that, it took a while till that sank in. And then I lost my fear of swimming pools and said, I said it the other day to somebody, it's a vaccination. A constant casual contact with a virus or viruses, not only AIDS now, the viruses around me, and the microorganisms around me, let's call it that way, that I'm getting slightly infected by and develop an immunity, that's what vaccination is. So by telling me that you are going to a vaccination, I'm going to a swimming pool. And I only don't go when, when the weather's too hot, so that the, it spoils the fun, and I stay in an air-conditioned apartment.

Hochstadt: Bruno, can I ask you a last . . .

Miles: Yeah, sure, please ask me.

Hochstadt: . . . question?

Miles: Yes, whatever it is.

Hochstadt: Is there anything else you want to tell me about Shanghai that sticks in your mind or . . . ?

Miles: Oh, let me see. I don't remember. Let us, again, probably, I am evidently adapting, I'm well adapting, evidently, not only to, to so-called, to, to encounters in life, including the microorganisms, including the macroorganisms, like people or animals, I have my likings and dislikings, and I enjoy living and that I did in Shanghai, too. I even got divorced from one and married to another. And I have

to say that it was a very lovely marriage. That like every other marriage, when it's happy, it has to have its moments of discontent in order to appreciate the happiness. I have told you that the other day already, and that's when you asked me long enough and I'm getting very repetitious probably, because even my, what I have to say is, I'm not a genius, so after a while I repeat myself. That's where the limit is and something new has to come, then I might go into a new direction. And my direction now is would be, but you can do without it, I can do it alone with Asherah. I might associate something when I go up the stairs and look at the pictures. If you have time enough to do that, we can do it together. But otherwise I really would not know. And perhaps I have a certain, certain built up immunity against, yeah, that I have to say, that has nothing to do with Shanghai, nothing has to do with Shanghai. I was, a time of my life, but my life, evidently and I, very, I become part of the community in which I live or the group in which I live in my mind. Whether I become a member in their mind, I don't know. By letting it go, it develops, somebody either likes me or don't, doesn't like me. When it comes to problem, let me discuss, I might start thinking and I might have second thoughts the next day. I might discover that I was wrong, I really don't, I'm, I'm not all that way. It takes me a long time, sometimes it takes me weeks before I come to a decision that I, I, it's not true, I'm not that way. My attitude is different and I must have changed, because the changing occurs first. I don't notice that usually, that it has come, come found out lately that, that when I, when I realize that a change has already taken place. Then you can think back . . .

Hochstadt: Then you recognize it.

Miles: . . . and by thinking back, you try to find out what changed you and it's usually not defined by line. You can say in the last two, three years or something like that. Like when I read an article about the, about the development of immunity against, among other things, AIDS in Africa, that gave me second thoughts and I thought a long time and certain things have changed. The loss of fears, my behavior has changed a little, modified, I'd say or so, because, but . . .

Hochstadt: Well, Bruno, I'd like to thank you for telling me all of this about, about your life.

Miles: Well, I really . . .

Hochstadt: I'm going to turn this off.

END OF INTERVIEW