

THE BERNARD LANDIS COLLECTION – AUDIOTAPES OF ERICH FROMM SEMINARS

The Oskar Diethelm Library
DeWitt Wallace Institute for the History of Psychiatry
Weill Cornell Medical College
525 East 68th Street
New York, New York 10065

Arranged and described by:
Janice Quinter
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Provenance

On March 9, 1978 Bernard Landis, Ph.D., Clinical Associate Professor of Psychology in Psychiatry of Cornell University Medical College, presented the Archives of Psychiatry of New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center with a collection of audiotapes recording a series of seminars conducted by Erich Fromm in Locarno, Switzerland.

The collection is comprised of eight cassette tapes and is housed in one .4 cubic ft. box.

Biography

Erich Fromm was born in Frankfurt, Germany in 1900. He was awarded his Ph.D. in 1922 from the University of Heidelberg and also studied at the University of Munich and at the Psychoanalytic Institute in Berlin. He taught in Germany and in Mexico, and in the United States at Bennington College, Michigan State University and New York University. He was a founder and trustee of the William Alanson White Institute.

Fromm was a psychoanalyst and developed his own system of treatment which he called "humanistic psychoanalysis." Major intellectual influences on his life were the Talmud, Buddhism, Karl Marx, J. J. Bachofen on Mother right and symbolism, and Sigmund Freud. He attempted to construct a system of ethical values based on the knowledge of human behavior. Fromm wrote many books commenting on contemporary society, read by laymen and professionals alike, including on alienation. He was active in the peace movement of the 1960's and in the humanist socialist movement. He died in 1980.

Scope and Content

In 1974 Dr. Bernard Landis organized a psychology course in Locarno, Switzerland and brought a class of twenty-two students from the Purchase Campus of the State University of New York to Switzerland, to co-teach with Erich Fromm an intensive three-week seminar on current trends in psychoanalysis.

There are eight cassette tapes recording seminars Fromm presented to the students. The tapes are numbered from 4 through 10. A brief essay by Bernard Landis describing his personal feelings about Fromm and the seminar accompanies this collection, in addition to Landis' summary of the contents of the seminar. Snapshots of Fromm complete the collection.