

## **THE CLARA BEERS PAPERS**

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:  
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### **Provenance**

The Clara Beers Papers were donated to the Archives of Psychiatry (now the Oskar Diethelm Library) at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center by Emily Martin between 1966 and 1969. She annotated and identified much of the material.

The collection is comprised of .5 cubic ft. housed in one .4 cubic ft. box and in the printbox also containing the Diamond, Kenworthy and Williams collections.

There are no restrictions regarding use of the collection.

### **Biography**

Clara Louise Jepson Beers was born in New Haven, Connecticut in 1874. She and Clifford Beers, founder of the mental hygiene movement, were married in June 1912. She played an important part in his work, and traveled widely with him, visiting other countries in an effort to form an international organization for improving the care of the mentally ill. Even after her husband's death in 1943, Mrs. Beers continued to be active in mental health organizations, particularly the American Foundation for Mental Hygiene and the World Federation for Mental Health. She died on September 8, 1966.

### **Scope and Content**

The Clara Beers Papers consist primarily of correspondence and photographs. Between November 1902 and August 1903 she took an extensive tour of Europe, and many letters to her parents relate her experiences. The strong bond she had with her parents, especially her father, is apparent in these letters. Clara maintained two diaries with brief entries, and there is also other

correspondence regarding Clara's father, Benjamin Jepson, a professor of music, and her brothers, Arthur and Harry Jepson. A number of photographs portray Clara, including one in her wedding dress, as well as several of her as a child and a young woman. Other photographs depict her family and Clara and Clifford's summer home in Belgrade, Maine. Emily Martin's correspondence about Clara's health in her last years and obituaries complete the collection. The dates for the collection are 1865-1972.

## Inventory

Box # 1

Folder

1	Passport for Clara Jepson's European trip	1902
2	Bon voyage letters to Clara Jepson from her friends Ed and Fanny Oriatt	1902
3	Letters from Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Jepson to their daughter Clara Louise Jepson in Europe	1902-1903
4	Letters from Clara Jepson while in Europe	1903
5	Letters from Clara Jepson while in Europe written to her family	12/1902-1/1903
6	Letters from Clara Jepson while in Europe written to her family	2-3/1903
7	Letters from Clara Jepson while in Europe written to her family	3-4/1903
8	Letters from Clara Jepson while in Europe written to her family	5/1903
9	Letters from Clara Jepson while in Europe written to her family	5-6/1903
10	Letters from Clara Jepson while in Europe written to her family	6-7/1903
11	Letters from Clara Jepson while in Europe written to her family	6-7/1903
12	Correspondence between Clara Jepson and her father, Benjamin Jepson. Letters re Clara's marriage to Clifford Beers and of Benjamin Jepson's death.	1882-1914
13	Diary of Clara Beers	1-12/1936

14	Diary of Clara Beers	1-4/1940
15	Account about life of Benjamin Jepson and newsclipping	1913-1955
16	Correspondence with and concerning Clara's brothers, Arthur and Harry Jepson	1904-1954
17	Obituary of Seth Bingham, former student of Harry Jepson	1972
18	Letter and news clipping re first annual Beers lecture	1957
19	Four photographs of Clara Jepson and friends taken in Florence, Italy	1903
20	Nineteen photographs of Clara Jepson and her family	ca. 1865-1912
21	Wedding photograph	6/1912
22	Nine photographs of the Beers' summer cottage in Belgrade Lakes, Maine, and of their garden in their home in Englewood, New Jersey	1939, n.d.
23	Photograph dedicated to Clara Beers depicting three leaders in the mental health movement	1957
24	Photograph of Clara Beers and others at 50th anniversary dinner of founding of National Committee for Mental Hygiene. Program for dinner.	1958
25	Unidentified photograph	n.d.
26	Correspondence of Emily Martin re condition of Clara Beers during her last years	1965-1966
27	Obituary of Clara Beers	1966
28	Obituary of Clara Beers in <i>NAMH Reporter</i>	1966
29	Biographical sketch of Clara Beers prepared by Emily Martin	1966
30	Memos by Emily Martin re collection	1966-1969