

## THE DONALD WOODS WINNICOTT 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:  
Janice Quinter  
October 1987

### **Provenance**

The correspondence, unpublished papers and patient case records of Donald Woods Winnicott were donated by Winnicott's widow, Clare Winnicott in 1980 and received by the Archives of Psychiatry, New York Hospital – Cornell Medical Center in 1981 and 1984.

The correspondence and patient case records were microfilmed prior to final processing. Therefore the microfilm is not in exact alphabetical and chronological order within each alphabetical unit. The patient records have not been processed because of restrictions on access. The letters were originally housed in notebooks, generally one for each year and then arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent. The original order has been retained for each year. However, within each letter of the alphabet, exact chronological and alphabetical order has been imposed. Occasionally Winnicott retained letters prior to the date on the volume if the subject matter was related.

Two sets of microfilm were made; the original is stored by the company that microfilmed the papers:

Microfax  
S-10 Route 17 at Route 4  
Paramus, New Jersey 07652

The second set will be sent to England for research purposes:

Ms. Pearl H. M. King  
Institute of Psycho-Analysis of Manfield House  
63 New Cavendish Street  
London W1M 7RD

All publication rights remain under the control of the Trustees of the Winnicott Trust, and researchers should correspond with the following representative:

Dr. Martin James  
Chairman of the Trustees

The Winnicott Trust  
274 Earls Court Road  
London SW5 9AS

Permission of the Trustee shall not be required for brief extracts of unpublished material used by researchers for critical analysis of not more than 250 words each or for a series of extracts (with comments interposed) aggregating up to 500 words but of which no one extract exceeding 200 words. Inquiries to quote from published material should be referred to the relevant publisher.

The audiotapes were donated by Dr. Michael Neve on January 15, 1986.

The correspondence, unpublished papers and audiotapes occupy 4.4 cubic ft. and are housed in eleven .4 cubic ft. boxes.

The collection was assigned accession # 24.

### **Biography**

Donald Woods Winnicott (1896-1971) was born in Plymouth, Devon in England. He was educated at Leys School in Cambridge and Jesus College, Cambridge University. He began his medical career as a pediatrician at a time when there were few in Great Britain who were engaged solely in the practice of the medical care of children. He was appointed Physician to the Paddington Green Children's Hospital in London in 1923. This same year he began a personal analysis, thereby becoming more interested in child psychology. In the 1930's he became an Associate, and then a Member, of the British Psycho-Analytical Society. He was elected president in 1956. His 1931 book, *Clinical Notes on Disorders of Childhood* was one of the first books in which there was a fusing of the two aspects of pediatrics, medical care and child psychiatry. He began to specialize in antisocial behavior as a result of his work during World War II with the failure of the evacuation scheme. In Dr. Winnicott's private practice, he served as both a pediatrician and psychoanalyst for children, adolescents and adults. Gradually his psychoanalytic work took precedence. He taught at the London School of Economics, London University, London Institute of Education, London Institute of Psycho-Analysis, and later at the Tavistock Institute of Human Relations.

Winnicott is best known in the United States for his studies on the mother-infant relationship, the process of separation and the use of the transitional object (e.g. the blanket or the teddy bear). His writings also focus on object relations, aggression in the relationship, the true and false self, development of language, symbol formation and creativity. He had an international reputation as a speaker on his subjects.

Winnicott retired from Paddington Green in 1963 and continued with his private practice, lecturing, and writing. He died in England on January 25, 1971.

## **Scope and Content**

The Winnicott papers have been divided into three series:

### **CORRESPONDENCE** (1956 – 1974, 8 boxes)

Primarily professional in nature. Composed of letters with colleagues, friends, patients, the public, institutions, and organizations. Correspondence concerns referrals for patients, lecture engagements, recommendations of colleagues, publication of books, personal, familial and business matters, and business activities of the British Psycho-Analytic Society, of which he was president from 1956 - 1959. Occasionally the reverse sides of letters are illustrated with Winnicott's drawings. Most of the correspondents are English; some are American and fewer are from other countries. Some letters from patients or other physicians describe the nature of the patients' illness. This correspondence has been segregated from the general correspondence and access to it is restricted.

Frequent correspondents include:

Wilfred R. Bion of the London Clinic of Psycho-Analysis

Augusta Bonnard

John Bowlby of the Tavistock Clinic in London

Anna Freud

D.E.M. Gardner of the London Institute of Economics

Donald Gough, Tavistock Clinic

David Holbrook

Susanne Isaacs, Winnicott's successor at Paddington Green, London

M. Masud R. Khan, Librarian of the Institute of Psycho-Analysis in London

London School of Economics and Political Science

Freny Mehta of Bombay, India

Tavistock Clinic of Human Relations

### **UNPUBLISHED PAPERS** (1930 – 1968, 2 boxes)

Consist primarily of typed versions of lectures and addresses to colleagues at various professional meetings and conferences, or appear to have been written for journals. However, some of the papers have been published since the time of Winnicott's death, and photocopies of these papers appear in this series. A list providing the titles of published and unpublished works was compiled in 1975 by Dr. D.C. Wallbridge of the Winnicott Publications Committee and is part of this series.

### **ORAL HISTORY** (1983, 1 box)

Consists of three audiotapes of an interview of Mrs. Clare Winnicott concerning her husband's professional work. The interview was conducted by Dr. Michael Neve in June 1983. The tapes have been transcribed.

## Inventory

### Box # 1

#### Series I CORRESPONDENCE

Folder 1	A – C	1957
2	D – G	1957
3	H – K	1957
4	L – N	1957
5	O – S	1957
6	T – W	1957
7	Correspondence re: patients	1957 <b>restricted</b>
8	A –C	1958
9	D – F	1958
10	G – J	1958
11	K – L	1958
12	M – O	1958
13	P – R	1958
14	S	1958
15	T – Z	1958
16	Correspondence re: patients	1958 <b>restricted</b>

### Box # 2

#### Series I CORRESPONDENCE

Folder 1	A – D	1959
2	E – H	1959
3	I – M	1959
4	N – R	1959
5	S – T	1959
6	W	1959
7	Correspondence re: patients	1959 <b>restricted</b>
8	A – C	1960
9	D – J	1960
10	K – L	1960
11	M – N	1960
12	R – S	1960
13	T	1960
14	V – Z	1960
15	Correspondence re: patients	1960 <b>restricted</b>

### Box # 3

#### Series I CORRESPONDENCE

Folder 1	A – B	1961
2	C – E	1961
3	F – K	1961
4	L	1961
5	M – O	1961
6	P – S	1961
7	T – Y	1961
8	Correspondence re: patients	1961 <b>restricted</b>
9	A – D	1962
10	E – J	1962
11	K – L	1962
12	M – O	1962
13	P – R	1962
14	S – W	1962
15	Correspondence re: patients	1962 <b>restricted</b>

**Box # 4**

**Series I CORRESPONDENCE**

Folder 1	A – B	1963
2	C – G	1963
3	H – J	1963
4	K – M	1963
5	N – P	1963
6	R – Z	1963
7	Correspondence re: patients	1963 <b>restricted</b>
8	A – C	1964
9	D – G	1964
10	H – J	1964
11	K – O	1964
12	P – S	1964
13	T – Y	1964
14	Correspondence re: patients	1964 <b>restricted</b>

**Box # 5**

**Series I CORRESPONDENCE**

Folder 1	A – C	1965
2	D – F	1965
3	G – H	1965
4	I – L	1965
5	M – N	1965
6	O – S	1965
7	T – Y	1965
8	Correspondence re: patients	1965 <b>restricted</b>

9	A – B	1 – 8/1966
10	C – E	1 – 8/1966
11	F – H	1 – 8/1966
12	I – L	1 – 8/1966
13	M – P	1 – 8/1966
14	R – S	1 – 8/1966
15	T – W	1 – 8/1966
16	Correspondence re: patients	1 – 8/1966 <b>restricted</b>

**Box # 6**

**Series I CORRESPONDENCE**

Folder 1	A – B	9/1966 – 6/16/1967
2	C – E	9/1966 – 6/16/1967
3	F – G	9/1966 – 6/16/1967
4	H – K	9/1966 – 6/16/1967
5	L – M	9/1966 – 6/16/1967
6	N – R	9/1966 – 6/16/1967
7	S – Z	9/1966 – 6/16/1967
8	Correspondence re: patients	9/1966 – 6/16/1967 <b>restricted</b>
9	A – B	6/17/1967 – 3/11/1968
10	C – F	6/17/1967 – 3/11/1968
11	G – H	6/17/1967 – 3/11/1968
12	I – L	6/17/1967 – 3/11/1968
13	M – O	6/17/1967 – 3/11/1968
14	P – R	6/17/1967 – 3/11/1968
15	S	6/17/1967 – 3/11/1968
16	T – Z	6/17/1967 – 3/11/1968
17	Correspondence re: patients	6/17/1967 – 3/11/1968 <b>restricted</b>

**Box # 7**

**Series I CORRESPONDENCE**

Folder 1	A – B	3/12/1968 – 1/20/1969
2	C – G	3/12/1968 – 1/20/1969
3	H – J	3/12/1968 – 1/20/1969
4	K – L	3/12/1968 – 1/20/1969
5	M	3/12/1968 – 1/20/1969
6	O – R	3/12/1968 – 1/20/1959
7	S	3/12/1968 – 1/20/1969
8	T – Z	3/12/1968 – 1/20/1969
9	Correspondence re: patients	3/12/1968 – 1/20/1969 <b>restricted</b>
10	A – B	1/21 – 8/21/1969
11	C	1/21 – 8/21/1969
12	D – E	1/21 – 8/21/1969
13	F – J	1/21 – 8/21/1969

14	K – L	1/21 – 8/21/1969
15	M	1/21 – 8/21/1969
16	N – R	1/21 – 8/21/1969
17	S	1/21 – 8/21/1969
18	T – Z	1/21 – 8/21/1969

**Box # 8**

**Series I CORRESPONDENCE**

Folder 1	A – B	8/1969 – 6/1970
2	C – F	8/1969 – 6/1970
3	G	8/1969 – 6/1970
4	H – K	8/1969 – 5/1970
5	L – O	8/1969 – 6/1970
6	P – R	8/1969 – 6/1970
7	S	8/1969 – 6/1970
8	T – Z	8/1969 – 6/1970
9	Correspondence re: patients	8/1969 – 6/1970 <b>restricted</b>
10	A – E	6/1970 – 1971
11	F – L	6/1970 – 1971
12	M – O	6/1970 – 1971
13	P – R	6/1970 – 1971
14	S – Z	6/1970 – 1971
15	Correspondence re: patients	1970 <b>restricted</b>

**Box # 9**

**Series II UNPUBLISHED PAPERS**

Folder 1	Comprehensive index of published and unpublished work of Donald N. Winnicott, Compiled by D.C. Wallbridge	8/1975
2	Outlines of planned books	n.d.
3	Volume I	n.d.
4	Volume I	n.d.
5	Volume II	n.d.
6	Volume II	n.d.

**Box # 10**

**Series III UNPUBLISHED PAPERS**

Folder 1	Volume III	n.d.
2	Volume III	n.d.
3	Volume IV	n.d.
4	Volume IV	n.d.

**Box 11**

**Series III ORAL HISTORY**

- Folder 1      “Clare Winnicott: Conversations with Dr. Michael Neve,” three audiotapes (reel to reel). Interview with Mrs. Clare Winnicott about Dr. Winnicott's work. Interviewed by Dr. Michael Neve.
- 2              Cassette tape of above audiotape (made fall 1987)
- 3              Transcription of tape of interview of Clare Winnicott by Dr. Michael Neve