

THE HENRY PHIPPS PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC RECORDS

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

There are no formal records of acquisition of the Henry Phipps Psychiatric Clinic collection. However, the records belonged to Dr. Oskar Diethelm during his affiliation with Johns Hopkins Medical School where he was an Instructor and Associate in Psychiatry from 1927-1932 and Associate Professor of Psychiatry from 1932-1936. In 1936 Dr. Diethelm was appointed Professor of Psychiatry at Cornell University Medical College and the collection has been housed here.

The collection is comprised of 1.2 cubic ft. housed in three .4 cubic ft. boxes.

Access Restrictions

Box 2 folders 3, 4, 6-8, 17, 19 and Box 3 folder 1 are restricted due PHI (private health information). The folders have been removed from Box 2 and 3 and stored separately.

History

The Henry Phipps Psychiatric Clinic was opened in 1913 and is a division of Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. The clinic was funded in part by Henry Phipps. Dr. Adolf Meyer was Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the Psychiatric Clinic of Johns Hopkins Hospital beginning in 1909.

At the Phipps Clinic the leadership of Meyer shaped developments along two mutually supporting lines. First, Meyer strove to gain scientific recognition of the functioning human being as the central feature in psychiatry. He strove toward insuring a practical

acknowledgement of, and a realistic dealing with, the psychological modes of human functioning. To this end he developed and taught a philosophical orientation to psychiatry known as psychobiology. Second, in the practical work of the clinic Meyer insisted upon a pluralistic and pragmatic collection of all available facts about a given patient as the basis for action. The voluminous case records so gathered became the main research material of the Phipps Clinic.

Scope and Content

The collection is arranged into three series. The names of the series and the years they encompass are as follows:

Name	Years
I Staff Conferences	1929 – 1936
II Patient Interviews	1932 – 1941
III Teaching and Course Material	1926 – 1932

STAFF CONFERENCES (Series I, 1929 – 1936, 1 1/4 boxes) were attended by the entire staff of psychiatrists and residents every morning six days a week. Dr. Diethelm, as Chief Resident Physician, selected the speaker who was to present the discussion. Dr. Meyer presided and occasionally spoke during the entire conference. Often there were invited guests who spoke about specific topics such as psychobiology, history and psychoanalysis. Nearly every patient admitted was discussed at some time during the staff conferences.

PSYCHIC RESEARCH (Series II, 1932 – 1941, 1 1/4 boxes) consists of transcripts of interviews conducted by Dr. Meyer with three women. These people professed to be psychics and the interviews were conducted along these lines.

TEACHING AND COURSE MATERIAL (Series III, 1926 – 1932, 2 folders) consists of some of Dr. Meyer's material he used in teaching psychiatry to first through fourth year students at Johns Hopkins University. These include examinations, outlines, and handouts prepared by Meyer for distribution to students about various aspects of psychiatry.

Inventory

Box 1

Series I	STAFF CONFERENCES	
Folder 1	Background information about staff conferences	1968
2	Discussion of panic	1/1930

3	General topics, education and psychiatry, delinquency, schizophrenic deterioration	5-6/1932
4	Introductory staff presentation by Adolf Meyer	9/1932
5	Historical discussion. Dr. Rosett's description of his neurological research	1-2/1933
6	Dr. Meyer on symbolization Dr. Diethelm on panic	2-4/1933
7	Interview with Dr. Kubie. Dr. Diethelm on Rorschach and handwriting analysis. Dr. Meyer on psychobiology	11-12/1933
8	Dr. Meyer on teaching first year psychopathology course Dr. Meyer on teaching staff	2/1934
9	Teaching psychobiology Historical review Dr. Guttmacher on court psychiatry	2-5/1934
10	General discussion Dr. Meyer on psychobiology and behaviorism Social medicine	5/1934-4/1935
11	Psychoanalysis Dr. Barbu on state hospitals Dr. Meyer on teaching	4-5/1935
12	Introductory staff meeting Dr. Meyer on teaching Dr. Meyer on current psychiatric concepts	9/1935
13	Description of treatment Dr. Rado	9-10/1935
14	Compulsion neurosis	10/1935

Box 2

Series I STAFF CONFERENCES

Folder 1	Case presentations Dr. Diethelm on chronic alcoholism Clinical description of schizophrenia	11/1933 and 1/1936
2	Relationship to state hospitals Frank Leiton	3/1932
3	Case presentations RESTRICTED Three case descriptions Form for test for hospital attendant	n.d.
4	Notes on cases examined at Spring Grove State RESTRICTED	1-4/1932

	Hospital by Dr. Barbu		
5	Report of Dr. Meyer re: Spring Grove and Springfield State Hospitals		5/1932
6	Description of patient	RESTRICTED	1929
7	Legal case, defendant	RESTRICTED	1929
	Testimony by Dr. Diethelm		
8	Case presentation by resident	RESTRICTED	1929
Series II PSYCHIC RESEARCH			
9	Psychic research - Miss Cross		1/26/1933
	Interviewed by Dr. Meyer		
10	Psychic research - Mrs. Garrett		11/14/1932
	Interviewed by Dr. Meyer		
11	Mrs. Garrett		11/15/1932
12	Mrs. Garrett		11/16/1932
13	Mrs. Garrett		11/17/1932
14	Mrs. Garrett		11/18/1932
15	Mrs. Garrett		11/19/1932
16	Mrs. Garrett		11/21/1932
17	Mrs. Garrett	RESTRICTED	11/22/1932
18	Mrs. Garrett		11/23/1932
19	Dr. David Levy's results of Rorschach Test given to Mrs. Garrett and related material	RESTRICTED	1-9/1933
Box 3			
Series II PSYCHIC RESEARCH			
Folder 1	Psychic research - Mrs. Massingbird-Rogers	RESTRICTED	4/1940
	Interviewed by Dr. Meyer		
2	Mrs. Massingbird-Rogers		4/1940-1/1941
3	Mrs. Massingbird-Rogers		1/1941
4	Mrs. Massingbird-Rogers		1-2/1941
Series III TEACHING AND COURSE MATERIAL			
5	First through fourth years		1926-1932
6	First and second years		n.d.