

## **THE NEURON CLUB PAPERS**

**Dates of Papers: 1925-2000**

**Bulk Dates: 1925-1997**

0.4 Linear Feet  
(1 box)

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

Arranged and described by:  
Elizabeth Grab, intern  
June 2017

### **Provenance**

The Neuron Club Papers were donated to the Oskar Diethelm Library, DeWitt Wallace Institute for the History of Psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medical College by Richard T. Kraus, M.D. (1931-2006) in 2003. Richard T. Kraus, a specialist in forensic psychology, served as a Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at University of Rochester Medical Center, the Acting Director of Rochester Psychiatric Center, and the Chief of Psychiatry at VA Medical Center in Canandaigua, NY, among other posts. He was an active member of the Neuron Club from 1975 until its disbanding in 1997.

### **Administrative/Biographical Note**

According to the history of the club compiled by club secretary Nadine D. Hunter, M.D., a group of 17 western New York physicians formed the Neuron Club in 1925 to “foster contact and informational exchange” in the areas of neurology and psychiatry. To this point, the members held meetings at which members and guests could present formal papers and make clinical presentations. Membership fluctuated between 35 members during especially active years (roughly 1940-1965) to only eight members by the last years of the club’s existence.

Active membership in the club began dropping in the mid-1970s due to the flourishing of local and regional branches of the American Psychiatric Association, created in the late 1960s. Subsequently, meetings eventually dropped to only once a year, and the presentations became more eclectic, ranging from “general medicine, biological and physical sciences, history, industry, agriculture and sports” to ornithology, medical law, and contemporary political and social struggles. As Dr. Hunter writes, it was “the unwritten philosophy of the Neuron Club that

human endeavor of any nature is worthy of attention and has implications in the working of the mind, healthy or otherwise.”

At the October meeting of 1993, the members present decided to continue to meet annually and maintain minutes, but the money remaining in the club’s treasury would be donated to the endowment for the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Rochester School of Medicine in the name of Dr. John Romano (1909-1994), founder of the department.

In October 1997, the remaining members agreed that the Neuron Club had accomplished its mission and disbanded. In 2000, Drs. Kraus, Hunter and Barton, along with Dr. Barton’s spouse, began searching for an institution interested in receiving the club’s papers. Drs. Kraus and Hunter donated the papers to the Oskar Diethelm Library in 2003.

## **Scope and Content**

This collection contains club history and bylaws, correspondence, financial documents, membership documents, and minutes dating from 1925-2000, with the bulk of the material dating from 1925-1997. The materials are all in English. The papers are divided into 9 series: **Club History and Bylaws (1925-1993), Attendance Record (1975-2000), Club Dues (1968-1983), Membership (1925-1978), Officers and Committees (1968-1975), Correspondence (1927-1997), Financials (1974-1994), Meeting Locations (1951-1989), and Minutes (1938-2000).**

The papers came to the library already organized by club secretary Dr. Hunter into the categories of attendance, membership, by-laws and organization, committees, correspondence, financials, and minutes. This original order has been predominantly maintained, with the addition of a Meeting Locations series. In most cases, the individual folder structure has also been maintained, as all the papers but the history and bylaws were organized in reverse chronological order. The collection is comprised of one document box.

### **Series 1: Club History and Bylaws, 1925-1993 (Box 1)**

This series, arranged in reverse chronological order, contains histories of the club, organizational and conduct plans, bylaws, and blank letterhead.

### **Series II: Attendance Record, 1975-2000 (Box 1)**

This series, arranged in reverse chronological order, contains the attendance records for meetings.

### **Series III: Club Dues, 1968-1983 (Box 1)**

This series, arranged in reverse chronological order, contains a log of the payment of club dues.

### **Series IV: Membership, 1925-1978 (Box 1)**

This series, arranged in reverse chronological order, contains a certificate of membership, miscellaneous notes, members to be elected and initiated, and membership rolls.

**Series V: Officers and Committees, 1968-1975 (Box 1)**

This series, arranged in reverse chronological order, contains records of officers and committee members.

**Series VI: Correspondence, 1927-1997 (Box 1)**

This series, arranged in reverse chronological order, contains official correspondence between secretary Dr. Hunter and other club members and spouses. The bulk of the correspondence regards the upcoming meeting or whether the member will be paying her or his dues. The communication with spouses usually includes the obituary of the member clipped from a newspaper.

**Series VII: Financials, 1974-1994 (Box 1)**

This series, arranged in reverse chronological order, contains a log of payments from members, banks statements, bank notification letters, deposit slips, and tax forms.

**Series VIII: Meeting locations, 1951-1989 (Box 1)**

This series, arranged in reverse chronological order, contains a log of what institution hosted each club meeting.

**Series IX: Minutes, 1938-2000 (Box 1)**

This series, arranged in reverse chronological order, contains meeting minutes and one journal publication.

**Access Restrictions**

All records or materials in the collection are open access and without restriction. The copyright for all unpublished materials are held by the Oskar Diethelm Library, DeWitt Wallace Institute for the History of Psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medical College as per the deed of gift.

**Box and Folder List:**

**Box 1: Series I: Club History and Bylaws, 1925-1993**

**Folder:**

1 Club History and Bylaws 1925-1993

**Box 1: Series II: Attendance Record, 1975-2000**

**Folder:**

2 Attendance Record 1975-2000

**Box 1: Series III: Club Dues, 1968-1983**

**Folder:**

3 Club Dues 1968-1983

**Box 1: Series IV: Membership, 1925-1978**

**Folder:**

4 Membership 1925-1978

**Box 1: Series V: Officers and Committees, 1968-1975**

**Folder:**

5 Officers and Committees 1968-1975

**Box 1: Series VI: Correspondence, 1927-1997**

**Folder:**

6 Correspondence 1990-1997

7 Correspondence 1979-1989

8 Correspondence 1927-1939

**Box 1: Series VII: Financials, 1974-1994**

**Folder:**

9 Financials 1974-1994

**Box 1: Series VIII: Meeting locations, 1951-1989**

**Folder:**

10 Meeting Locations 1951-1989

**Box 1: Series IX: Minutes, 1938-2000**

**Folder:**

11 Minutes 1979-2000

12 Minutes 1968-1978

13 Minutes 1957-1967

14 Minutes 1938-1956