THE SOCIETY OF BIOLOGICAL PSYCHIATRY 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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December 1988

Provenance

The Society of Biological Psychiatry presented its records to the Archives of Psychiatry (now the Oskar Diethelm Library) of New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center in 1988.

The processed collection detailed on this finding aid is comprised of 2 cubic ft. of records housed in five .4 cubic ft. boxes. There are an additional 5 large boxes of unprocessed records that were sent at a later date. They have been stored with the collection but not integrated into it.

There are no restrictions regarding use of the collection.

History

The Society of Biological Psychiatry was founded in 1945 to encourage the study of the biological causes and treatments for psychiatric disorders. According to the Society’s statement of purpose, its role is “is to promote excellence in scientific research and education in fields that investigate the nature, causes, mechanisms, and treatments of disorders of thought, emotion, or behavior.” The Society is composed mainly of physicians in the fields of neurology, psychiatry, psychology, neurophysiology, electro-encephalography, neuroanatomy, neurosurgery, neuropathology and neurochemistry who are interested in the biological basis of behavior. Membership is by invitation only and is international in scope.

The Society holds annual meetings that include the presentation of papers and scientific exhibits, a President’s reception, and an annual dinner. The official journal of the Society is Biological Psychiatry. The officers of the Society are the President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Assistant Secretary.
Scope and Content

The collection includes the constitution, bylaws, incorporation papers, and correspondence of officers. This includes a limited amount of correspondence of the President, 1969-1981, and the Secretary-Treasurer, 1964-1972. Most of the correspondence pertains to annual meetings, research awards, and other business matters. In addition, some material relates to the World Federation of Societies of Biological Psychiatry. There are also drafts of minutes of the 1980 Executive Council meetings, general correspondence regarding the 1980 and 1981 annual meetings, and some financial records.

The collection also includes membership dues ledgers providing names and years of membership from 1947-1983, and published programs of the annual conventions and scientific programs, 1963-1987. In addition, the collection includes an incomplete set of printed membership directories from 1980-1987.

Inventory

Box 1

Folder 1  Constitution and bylaws  1975
2  State of California Articles of Incorporation
   Includes original constitution and bylaws, membership list  1973
3  State of California Articles of Incorporation  1973
4  Office of the President – George N. Thompson  1969-1971
5  Office of the President  1980
6  Office of the President – correspondence re: seeking donations from pharmaceutical companies  1981
7  Office of the Secretary-Treasurer  1964
8  Office of the Secretary-Treasurer  1965
9  Office of the Secretary-Treasurer, includes meeting program  1966
10  Office of the Secretary-Treasurer, includes membership list  1967
11  Office of the Secretary-Treasurer  1968
12  Office of the Secretary-Treasurer  1969
13  Office of the Secretary-Treasurer  1969-1970
14  Office of the Secretary-Treasurer  1971
15  Office of the Secretary-Treasurer, annual meeting  1971
16  Office of the Secretary-Treasurer  1972
17  Copies of agenda, financial statements, and minutes  1972
Box 2

Folder 1  *Journal of Biological Psychiatry*  1968-1971
2  A.E. Bennett Research Award, Gold Medal Award  1976-1979
3  World Federation of Societies of Biological Psychiatry – proposed withdrawal from World Federation  1978
4  World Federation of Societies of Biological Psychiatry  1979-1981
5  World Federation of Societies of Biological Psychiatry  1981
6  Bank records and income correspondence  1969-1971
7  Financial reports  1980, 1983
8  Executive Council agenda, 1980 meeting  1980
9  1980 meeting – general  1980
10  1980 annual meeting – general  1980
11  1981 annual meeting – general  1981
12  Executive Council meeting  1981

Box 3

Folder 1  Membership dues ledger A – E  1960-1983
2  Membership dues ledger F – K  1959-1983
3  Membership dues ledger L – R  1966-1983
4  Membership dues ledger S – V  1959-1983
6  Senior members L – Z, corresponding members  1947-1983

Box 4

Annual convention and scientific programs  1963-1981

Box 5

Annual convention and scientific programs  1986-1987
Folder 1  Membership directory  1980
2  Membership directory  1983
3  Membership directory  1985-1986
4  Membership directory  1986-1987