

## **THE WILLIAM H. DUNN 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**

Dr. William Dunn was chief of the Out Patient Department at the Payne Whitney Psychiatric Clinic of New York Hospital in the 1940's. His papers were retained by Dr. Oskar Diethelm. When Dr. Eric T. Carlson became Director of the History Section in the Department of Psychiatry in 1958, he decided to retain Dr. Dunn's papers for the library. The papers by no means represent the entirety of Dunn's professional life. The papers held by the Oskar Diethelm Library are only what was saved initially and are minimal.

The collection occupies .8 cubic ft. housed in two .4 cubic ft. boxes.

There are no restrictions regarding use of the collection.

### **Biography**

William H. Dunn, M.D. was born on April 13, 1898 in Scottsville, New York. He received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Rochester in 1923 and his M.D. from Harvard Medical School in 1927. He was appointed Assistant Physician at Bloomingdale Hospital in 1929. He served as Assistant and then Associate Attending Psychiatrist at New York Hospital. Dunn also served as Chief of the Outpatient Department of the Payne Whitney Clinic and also taught at Cornell University Medical College.

Dunn was a consultant at the post-World War II crime trials at Nuremberg, Germany. During the war, Dr. Dunn was a lieutenant colonel in the Army Medical Corps, serving in the United States

and in the Southwest Pacific, and winning the Legion of Merit. Some of his publications pertain to psychiatric problems in the Armed Forces and to the Nuremberg trial.

He died in February 1955 in New York City.

## Scope and Content

The William H. Dunn Papers consist of a diverse assortment of papers spanning the years 1946-1954. Dunn's professional correspondence consists of letters of recommendation for colleagues and students along with other matters. A grouping of papers prepared for the International Congress on Mental Health which took place in London in August 1948 is included in the collection. Under the stimulus of Dr. Frank Fremont-Smith of the Josiah Macy Foundation, a Preparatory Commission made a study of the Nazi hierarchy, based particularly on material accumulated in the Nuremberg prison, in an effort to discover possible implications for world mental hygiene. Drs. Margaret Mead and William Dunn were members, as were Drs. Richard M. Brickner, John Frosch, and G. M. Gilbert. These papers consist of correspondence among the various planners, and drafts of papers dealing with guilt and authoritarian trends in German culture, aggression, and studies of German prisoners of war in the United States. Dunn served as associate editor of the *Bulletin of the American Psychoanalytic Association* and resigned in December 1951 due to ill health. Folders pertaining to the Association contain additional recommendations for colleagues and a report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Institutes and Societies of the Committee on Affiliate Societies.

Background data for the Preparatory Commission and summary reports for a Conference on Psychiatric Education held at Cornell University in Ithaca on June 21-27, 1951 are also included. The conference was organized and conducted by the American Psychiatric Association and the Association of American Medical Colleges. A published report of this conference can be found in *Psychiatry and Medical Education*, American Psychiatric Association, Washington, D.C. 1952.

## Inventory

### Box # 1

Folder 1	Biographical Information	ca. 1950-1955
2	Correspondence A – E	1948-1955
3	Correspondence F – L	1946-1954

4	Correspondence M	1946-1953
5	Correspondence N – R	1946-1953
6	Correspondence S – T	1947-1954
7	Correspondence W – Z	1946-1954
8	Obituary of Dr. Ross McClure Chapman	1948
9	International Congress on Mental Health Includes correspondence re: Preparatory Commission and guilt and authoritarian trends in German culture	1947-1948
10	International Congress on Mental Health “The Problem of German Authoritarianism and Aggression” - report, drafts	1947
11	International Congress on Mental Health Preparatory Commission	1947-1948
12	American Psychoanalytic Association	1948-1952
13	American Psychoanalytic Association Ad Hoc Committee on Relationship of Institutes and Societies of the Committee on Affiliate Societies	1954
<b>Box # 2</b>		
Folder 1	“A Program Dealing with the Interrelationship of Psychiatry and Religion at Union Theological Seminary” preliminary draft	n.d.
2	American Psychiatric Association Dunn - Chairman, Committee on Membership	1949-1950, 1954
3	U.S. War Department	1946-1952
4	Conference on Psychiatric Education	1951
5	Conference on Psychiatric Education	1951

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| 6  | Conference on Psychiatric Education “The Sociological Background Social Change and Emotional Problems”                                   | 1951                     |
| 7  | Conference on Psychiatric Education “Anxiety and its Relation to the Culture Pattern and Personality Development Among Primitive People” | 1951                     |
| 8  | Conference on Psychiatric Education<br>Summaries of group discussions, etc.  | 1951                     |
| 9  | Conference on Psychiatric Education<br>Summary reports   | 1951                     |
| 10 | Photographs  | late 1940’s-early 1950’s |