THE WORLD PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION 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:
Janice Quinter
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Provenance

Dr. Eric T. Carlson was the first chairman of the Section on the History of Psychiatry of the World Psychiatric Association (WPA). Although the Section’s constitution was officially approved in 1971, Dr. Carlson and others were involved in its formation starting in 1967. The records of this Section during Dr. Carlson’s tenure have been maintained in the Archives of Psychiatry, New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center (now the Oskar Diethelm Library). This library is not an official depository of the World Psychiatric Association. Most of the other material was obtained during Dr. Carlson’s chairmanship of the Section on the History of Psychiatry.

The collection is comprised of 2 cubic ft. housed in five .4 cubic ft. boxes.

There are no restrictions regarding use of the collection.

History

The World Psychiatric Association was founded in 1961 to form an association of National Societies of Psychiatry. According to the World Psychiatric Association website, “The WPA is an association of national psychiatric societies aimed to increase knowledge and skills necessary for work in the field of mental health and the care for the mentally ill. Its member societies are presently 135, spanning 117 different countries and representing more than 200,000 psychiatrists.”
The purpose of the Association is to coordinate on a worldwide scale the activities of the member psychiatric societies and to advance inquiry into the etiology, pathology and treatment of mental illness.

Scope and Content

The World Psychiatric Association Records span the years 1968-1988. The collection is arranged into four series. The series and the years they encompass are as follows:

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Series I – World Psychiatric Association Headquarters, 1968-1986, 1 box
The World Psychiatric Association headquarters were located in Geneva, London and Copenhagen at different times. The official records in this collection include statutes and bylaws, minutes of the Executive Committee (incomplete), some reports and related material.

Series II – Section on the History of Psychiatry of the WPA, 1967-1977, 1 box
The bulk of the correspondence in the WPA collection pertains to the Section on the History of Psychiatry. Dr. Eric Carlson began his relationship with the Section in 1967 as its first chairman. The constitution of the Section was officially adopted in 1971.

Dr. Denis Leigh, Secretary General of the WPA in the late 1960’s and 1970’s, was responsible for the organization of the symposia on different topics to members. According to Dr. Leigh’s specific instructions, the purpose of this Section was to further the study of the history of psychiatry through the meetings of expert committees, symposia, arrangement of lectures and other educational events. The Section is self-supporting financially. Although this collection does not contain records after 1977, the Section continues to function under a different chairman.

The records of the Section consist of the Constitution, list of members, and correspondence pertaining to the planning of the Session on the History of Anxiety held at the V World Congress of Psychiatry in Mexico City.
Series III – Newsletters, 1968-1985, 1 box
Newsletters are published by the Secretariat and contain information about upcoming congresses and symposia, committees, individual and organizational members of the WPA, and related matters. A special issue (1986) is devoted to WPA history from 1961-1986, and contains the statutes and bylaws, as well as the Declaration of Hawaii, regarding ethical standards in psychiatry.

Series IV – Publications, 1968-1988, 2 boxes
This series consists of The Bulletin, a publication containing newsworthy items and brief articles on WPA members; both individuals and organizations. The series also contains programs abstracts from some of the World Congresses and symposia.

Inventory

Box 1
Series I  WORLD PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION HEADQUARTERS

Folder 1  Statutes  1972
2  Extract from statutes of WPA bylaws  n.d.
3  Organization and Statutes  1974
4  Individual membership flyer  1969
5  Minutes of Executive Committee  1968-1969
6  Minutes of Executive Committee  1970-1971
7  Minutes of Executive Committee  1974
8  Minutes of Executive Committee  1975-1977
9  Draft of Declaration of Hawaii and cover letter  1976-1977
10  List of officers  1977
11  Report of the Secretary General  1971
12  Program of the 8th European Conference on Psychosomatic Research  1970
13  International Child Mental Health Newsletter of the Child and Adolescent Section  1986
14  Christmas greetings  1971-1975

Box 2
Series II  SECTION ON THE HISTORY OF PSYCHIATRY OF THE WORLD PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

Folder 1  Constitution of the Section on the History of Psychiatry  1971
2  Memoranda on the Constitution of the Section  1971-1974
3  List of psychiatrists being considered for membership in the Section, compiled by Eric Carlson  ca. 1971
4 Members of the Section Committee on the History of Psychiatry 1975
5 Correspondence of the Section on the History of Psychiatry 1967-1968
6 Correspondence of the Section on the History of Psychiatry 1969-1970
7 Correspondence of the Section on the History of Psychiatry 1969-1974
8 Correspondence of the Section on the History of Psychiatry 1970
9 Notes of Dr. Carlson, Chairman of the Section ca. 1970-1971
10 Correspondence of the Section on the History of Psychiatry, session on the History of Anxiety at 1971 WPA Congress 1968-1970

Box 2
Series II SECTION ON THE HISTORY OF PSYCHIATRY OF THE WORLD PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

Folder 11 Correspondence of the Section on the History of Psychiatry, session on the History of Anxiety at 1971 WPA Congress 1970
12 Correspondence of the Section on the History of Psychiatry, session on the History of Anxiety at 1971 WPA Congress 1971-1972
13 Correspondence of the Section on the History of Psychiatry, session on the History of Anxiety at 1971 WPA Congress 1971
14 Correspondence re: Section on the History of Psychiatry 1975-1976
15 Correspondence re: Section on the History of Psychiatry 1977

Box 3
Series III NEWSLETTERS

Folder 1 Newsletters 1968
2 Newsletters 1969
3 Newsletters 1970-1971
4 Newsletters 1972
5 Newsletters 1973
6 Newsletters 1974
7 Newsletters 1975
8 Newsletters 1976
9 Newsletters 1977
10 Newsletters 1978-1979
11 Newsletters 1981-1984
12 Newsletters 1985
13 Newsletters 1986-1987
14 Newsletter – Special issue WPA 1961-86, Statutes and Bylaws Declaration of Hawaii/II 1986
15 Newsletters 1988-1989

Box 4
Series IV PUBLICATIONS

Folder 1 Bulletin 1968
2 Bulletin - written in Spanish 1968
3 Bulletin 1969
4 Bulletin 1970
5 Bulletin 1970
6 Bulletin 1971
7 Bulletin 1972
8 Bulletin 1973
9 Bulletin 1974
10 Bulletin 1975
10A Bulletin 1989
11 Program for Symposium on Anxiety 1969
12 Provisional programme for symposium on Aspects of Anxiety 1969
14 Transactions of the Symposium on Schizophrenia written in Russian 1970

Box 5
Series IV PUBLICATIONS

Folder 1 World Congress of Psychiatry, abstracts 1971
2 General Program of World Congress of Psychiatry 1971
3 Inserts and related material for General Program for World Congress of Psychiatry 1971
4 World Congress of Psychiatry Program of Social and Cultural Activities 1971
5 WPA Regional Symposium – Symposium and Congress information and registration brochure, related papers 1977-1978
6 Psychopathology – “Physiological Basis of Anxiety” Symposium of the NPA. Section Clinical Psychopathology Vienna, July 11, 1983 1/1984