

Walker Winslow correspondence

Section 89, Pages 2641 - 2670

This collection of papers largely consists of handwritten and typed correspondence between Walker Winslow (also under the name Harold Maine) and his third wife, Edna Mansley Winslow, the bulk of which dates from 1948-1951. The letters can be chatty and newsy, providing details about each of their daily lives and activities, what they were reading or music they were listening to, their work (his writing and therapy, her writing and painting), and other related topics. The letters could also be very self-reflective and analytical regarding their relationship to each other, discussing their sexuality and concepts of fidelity, relationships with others, their health and various injuries and illnesses they each had, money, their mutual loneliness, Edna's drinking, and other topics.

Some of the letters were written while Winslow was working at and writing in Topeka. They were also written while the Winslows lived separately in Santa Fe, New Mexico; various parts of California (especially Big Sur or Oakland); various parts of New York (especially Rochester and New York City); and in Kansas. The letters document the rise and fall of their brief and intense relationship.

Also in the materials are a few of Winslow's typed manuscripts and poems, many with copy-editing marks and annotations or corrections, including a copy of *If a Man Be Mad*, as well as two published versions of the book (one in French). There is also correspondence with friends and relatives of Winslow and/or Edna; Winslow family photographs; some sketches Edna drew, with her handwritten notes on the back, perhaps for letters to Winslow; a letter of recommendation from 1889 for Winslow's father; and extensive correspondence between Winslow and Dr. Karl Menninger. Some of this correspondence regards articles and the book Winslow wrote about the Menninger Clinic; there are also interview notes and transcripts from interviews Winslow conducted with Dr. C.F. Menninger. Topics of Winslow's writings include Henry Miller, psychiatry and life in asylums, and the Synanon Foundation.

Creator: Winslow, Walker, 1905-1969

Date: circa 1943 - 1969, undated (bulk 1948-1951)

Callnumber: Menninger Historic Psychiatry Coll., Winslow, Boxes 1-7

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 223249

Item Identifier: 223249

www.kansasmemory.org/item/223249



Walker Winslow correspondence

sherry file
WCH
lawder
stahl
Mains

Walker Winslow
% Box 32112
El Sereno Station
Los Angeles, Calif.
Aug 1/56

Dear DoctorrrKarl::

I'm extremely grateful to you for your kind and tolerant letter about my book. In a sense I wrote the book for you and certainly a major aim was to show what a magnificent physician and human being you are. It has always been my feeling that you were never given the credit that was due you for your courage and your scientific foresight.

I am as distressed as you are over the errors I made. However, I did not indulge myself in flights of imagination. The errors were based on faulty information and the blame rests on me for not checking it out. As you know, there was no way of doing this without jeopardizing the book as a whole. Had you or Dr. Will read the book you would have been accused of self-aggrandizement. Don now admits that he would have felt forced to lay a heavy hand on the personal side of the book. Yet the book has been as successful as it has simply because the characters in it were humanized.

However, the fact that the over-all impact of the book is good and favorable is no excuse for injuring anyone and I am made uncomfortable by the knowledge that your first wife should feel injured. That feeble minded business distresses me, too.

I'm sure that you understand that up to this point Reader's Digest has simply taken an option on the book. They have not paid the full price and they are not committed to bring it out. For that reason I hope that at this time there will be no objections or suggested changes made from the family of Foundation. I'm sure that I will be given approval rights on the condensation and that I can pass the galley on to you. Most certainly I will not allow the two above mentioned errors to be reiterated.

As you may know, Reader's Digest had the script for the book at the time of that unfortunate business with Dr. Morse. A RD editor was also in Topeka at that time. Whatever happened, RD decided that the book was too dangerous to touch. It would be easy to frighten the Digest off again. Had they bought pre-publication rights I would have gotten all the money. As it is I now share it with Doubleday and my indebtedness to them is so great that very little will come to me from the sale. It will only mean that future royalties are mine. So far I haven't realized a cent on the book.

Right now I'm giving up my job and returning to Los Angeles so that I can return to writing and capitalize on the prestige the publication of the book has given me. It's a gamble, but one that I have to take. Henry Geiger, the publisher of MANAS, is letting me use his studio for a short time.

Walker Winslow correspondence

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One assignment that I have in the works is to do an article on Topeka for HOLIDAY. This may not materialize but if it does it will give me the opportunity to see you again. Somehow or other, I've come to feel that Topeka is my home town.

I agree with you that the review in New Republic is the best so far. But with the exception of the one in The Capital I haven't seen an unfavorable review. Reviews are always slow in the Summer and there will be many more. The first that have appeared in medical journals are very enthusiastic.

Thank you again for the thoughtful letter.

With very best wishes,

As always

Harold

Walker Winslow correspondence

August 8, 1956

Walker Winslow
c/o 32112 El Sereno Station
Los Angeles 32, California

Dear Harold:

Just a note to set your mind at ease on one point. From time to time you have expressed some concern as to whether Dr. Morse's attitude toward the book might interfere with the sale to the Digest. I don't think this is very likely. Besides, I just saw a copy of a note he wrote to Dr. Will the other day in which he referred to the book as "infinitely better than the manuscript copy I saw." Apparently he liked it quite well in its final version, whatever comfort that might be to you.

We got a note recently from the fellow at the Digest saying he was going to come out to get a little help in preparing their version and we have offered him our assistance so you can see it is in the works. Also, I have sent off those pictures of Dr. C. F.

Your note to me said that you sent the book to my dad to Goshen, New York. I hope that was a misprint because the address is Goshen, New Hampshire!!!!

All of my best,

Donald Lawder, Jr.

DL/jc



Walker Winslow correspondence

Walker Winslow
3845mLavell Drive
Los Angeles 65, Calif.
Aug. 9/56

Dear Helen:

In all the uproar of coming down here for treatment for my aching ribs and then deciding to move down here and spend full time on freelancing I didn't write you and thank you# for the last reviews you sent. The New Republic review arrived at just the right time since Dr. Karl had especially remarked on its excellence. I wonder how you are getting all these reviews. Do you have a clipping service? If you don't have and think that you may be missing reviews I would be glad to loan you some of the ones Doubleday send me so that you could have them photostated. I got about 15 reviews yesterday.

I'm pleased that you'll be doing the review for the local medical journal. From their point of view that's a generous amount of space. There was a fine review of about that size in one of the Southern medical journals. What pleases me is that in spite of all the foreboding the book has been heartily accepted by the medical group as a whole. I'm still somewhat puzzled as to why the big newsmagazines haven't carried reviews but perhaps they will. Summer was a poor time to have published the book and Doubleday are planning on some Fall and Christmas advertising. If the Readers's Digest deal goes through they'll be able to afford it since they get half the fee.

One of my reasons for moving down here, aside from medical treatment, is that this seems to be the appropriate time to turn to full time writing. Every time I do a book it turns out fairly well and there's no reason why they should be seven years apart. It also happens that another publisher will commission me to do a book if Doubleday will release me for one book. And of course I'm planning to do some magazine writing. It was a recent magazine article that brought me the commission from the other publisher.

Luckily, I found an almost ideal place to live -- an apartment that is on a high hill and out of the fog and smog. And it's isolated enough that no one will bother me.

I'll appreciate any other reviews you run across .

Give my best to everyone and pass my new address on to Don. He in turn can pas it on to Drs. Karl and Will.

As ever

Walker Winslow correspondence

Walker Winslow
3845 Lavell Drive
Los Angeles 65, Calif.
Aug. 13/56

Dear Don:

I'm living in the Tibet of Los Angeles, which is to say in what appears to be a monastery on a hill top. On an adjoining hill is another cloister, inhabited by people in robes who call themselves the Self-Realization Fellowship. It so happens that my apartment is in a private residence and I don't have to wear a robe. It's a fairly ideal place to work if I can hang on to it.

I wonder if you have been queried by any Reader's Digest editor in regards to publishing the biography in their magazine. It seemed to me that Drs. Karl and Will were all for its publication but when a RD editor had the mss. prior to publication something happened in Topeka that discouraged him. I hope this doesn't happen again. If it does I will have lost my final chance of coming out even on the book and the Foundation will have lost some valuable publicity. I'll get to see the galleys and will be able to correct the one point Dr. Karl felt should be corrected.

The sale of the book is not spectacular but it is steady and seems to be increasing. Summer was a poor time to bring it out and if the RD sale goes through Doubleday will spend most of their take on advertising in the Fall and Winter. Reviews are always slow in the Summer. Most of the reviews I've seen have been very favorable and not one has placed the Foundation or the family in a bad light. Most of my fan mail has come from ministers. As you probably know, Dr. Dan Poling endorsed the book and I imagine most other religious publications will review the book favorably.

I'm still awaiting word on the assignment that might bring me to Topeka. If it goes through I'll drive and bring the historical material with me. I have the original mss. and the first galleys if the Foundation wants them for its library.

I'm starting free-lancing at the worst time of the year and on a shoestring. Vacation slows editorial offices down to a crawl and it seems to me that I spend most of my time waiting. As you know, RD has yet to take up the option. COLLIER'S have been fooling around with a piece I could have sold to any magazine and after three months still can't make up their mind how to use the story. HOLIDAY is obsessing about the Topeka piece, and so it goes. Another publisher is trying to get me released from Doubleday so that I can do one special book for them. This is something I won't talk about until I'm in the clear.

Walker Winslow correspondence

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The first time you're near a pocket book stand pick up THE DEVIL IN PARADISE by Henry Miller. I think you'll get a kick out of it. It's part of a longer book, BIG SUR AND THE ORANGES OF HIERONYMOUS BOSCH, which will have a section in it on me. Apparently biographers aren't immune from getting biographed.

I hope that your father got his book okay. If there's anything else I can do for you in that line just let me know.

With my best to everyone,

as ever

*My typewriter seems to have sustained
some injury during my trip down here.*

Harold

Permanized
ARTESIAN BOND
PAGE CONTENT
JAN 1953



Walker Winslow correspondence

Walker Winslow
3845 Lavell Dr.
Los Angeles 65, Calif.
Aug. 14/56

Dear Don:

I just wrote to you last night but now there are a couple of things I want to catch up on after having received your letter.

First, I can't honestly remember whether I sent your father's book to Goshen N.H. or N.Y. Write to him air mail and if he hasn't gotten it I'll send another copy through you. The other will be returned eventually and I can tear the fly leaf out and use it as an author's copy. If it was returned to Santa Rita Dr. Terry is probably holding it since he expects me to be up that way soon.

It pleases me that Dr. Morse likes the printed version of the book much better than the mss. version. The two are almost precisely the same as you can determine for yourself when I turn the original mss. over to your library. This doesn't make me especially bitter at him, for I'm not in any case. It's just that any manuscript looks inept and poorly constructed to anyone but a professional editor. This is especially true if you carry the slightest prejudice against an author and his intentions. So far, no reviewer has mistaken the book for anything but a biography of Dr. C.F. and Dr. Morse was sure that I was simply using Dr. C.F. as a vehicle. In one or two reviews I've been reproached for not writing more about the clinic and foundation.

In regards to the Digest editor who is coming to Topeka I can't presume to tell you how to do your job. I know that by now you and Drs. Karl and Will have accepted the book as being quite effective in spite of a few errors. These errors, with the exception of the bit about Dr. Karl being mistaken for being feeble minded at Washburn, do not damage anyone and perhaps are as accurate as certain lore about the Clinic that continually finds its way into print. Instead of being mistaken for feeble minded Dr. Karl says that it was his strangeness, arrogance and egocentricity that caused him to be turned down by the fraternity. Since he says that this rejection was one of the important experiences of his life I think it should stay, but with the change in reasons. I'm sure he would agree to this. I know that you feel that the rift between Dr. C.F. and Flo in the early part of the century wasn't properly validated. But you can check this with Dr. Karl; he was aware of it. I think that the way in which this was handled strengthens rather than weakens their characters.

What I'm getting at is this; by making all the changes that you as a public relations man feel should be made you can easily tout RD off the story and off me. On the other hand if you are content to work within the structure of the book all will be well and the Foundation will gain thereby. I know that you want to be fair to me; but I also know that I injured you and that some unconscious

Walker Winslow correspondence

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hostility can enter in in spite of yourself.

Actually our differences are all settled. I went about keeping you from reading the mss. in the wrong way but you admit that because of your position you would have probably have been compelled to destroy the general structure of the book# by editing out the personal stories. We both want one thing, that is to have the Foundation publicized in a believable and compelling way.

I think that you feel that I'm a little arrogant because the book has had some success. The opposite is true. I made such a mess of things while I was doing the book that not even winning a Pulitzer prize could diminish the self-reproach. All I want now is for the book to succeed enough to make the trouble we all went through worth while. I do get some satisfaction when letters and reviews tell me that I've successfully memorialized Dr. C.F.

Good luck with the RD man. I know you will be helpful in every way possible.

With best wishes,

as ever

Harold

August 22, 1956

Mr. Walker Winslow
3845 Lavell Drive
Los Angeles 65, California

Dear Harold:

Regarding the Reader's Digest, I am sure
you don't have a thing to worry about. Certainly
not from this end or from Dr. Morse.

Sincerely,

Donald Lawder, Jr.
Director of Information
Services

DL/jc



Walker Winslow correspondence

Walker Winslow
3845 Lavell Drive
Los Angeles 65, Calif.
Aug 23/56

Dear Helen:

Have any more interesting reviews come in? I got a batch of about fifteen from Doubleday last week, mostly from the smaller cities. All but one were enthusiastic. The exception was short and indifferent. There were also scripts for a couple of radio reviews, both excellent. So long as they give an enthusiastic report on the story I don't mind if the writer is ignored.

Pyke Johnson, the publicity man for Doubleday has a strong feeling that the two big news magazines have been pressured into cutting down on publicity on the Menningers. At least he was told that the quality of the book had nothing to do with it not being reviewed. Where there have been blank spots, as in L.A., for example it has been due to the summer decrease in book review space and the fact that books of local interest have crowded mine out. However, I was interviewed by the ~~####~~ Mirror-News yesterday and they hope to feature the interview in the ~~the~~ book page on Monday. Of course a lot of reviews are running late, as was indicated by the batch I got last week. One interesting thing that I've learned is that many ministers are reviewing the book. I've been told about some of these and others have written to me. If the Reader's Digest deal goes through, and at this point it seems that only pressure from the Foundation could stop it, Doubleday plan to renew an advertising program in the fall and Winter. I feel sure that no one at the Foundation is going to block the condensation.

I'm going to ask you for some help that only you could give me. HOLIDAY Magazine has expressed an interest in having me do a piece on TOPEKA, AMERICA'S MENTAL HEALTH CITY. But before they will forward traveling expenses they want a little better idea of what the story will be. It should deal with the city as a whole and only with the Foundation in an incidental way. You belong to one of the old families and have some idea of the social structure of the city. Perhaps you know of something that has been written about Topeka that would be of help to me. The things I need to know would have to do with how the city was founded; what role the early first families play in its present social life; who are the leading families now; what are the leading social events of the year, etc? What are the important clubs? Where did the early wealth come from -- farming, railroads, livestock?

I don't want to stick you with a research job. What I need is evidence that there is enough of a story in the city to make it worthwhile for me to be sent there to do the actual research. I don't want to show the town as being dependent on the Menninger Foundation for its fame; I want to show it as a city that was capable of nurturing the Foundation and possibly has become more mature than most cities of its size because of the Foundation.



Walker Winslow correspondence

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I know this is presuming a lot on your time but it's possible that you can answer most of what I want to know from your own knowledge of the city. My outline can't be over four or five pages; what I need is enough material to make those pages impressive. Perhaps there is some book that tells of the history of Kansas and has a section in it on Topeka.

I'm asking you this as a personal favor; it isn't the sort of information I have any right to ask the Information Service for. As I recall, you are something of an authority on Topeka.

Thanking you in advance for the help I know you will give me.

With very best wishes,

Sincerely

Harold

Walker Winslow correspondence

Walker Winslow
3845 Lavell Drive
Los Angeles 65, Calif.
Aug. 23/56

Dear Doctor Karl:

If I have ever cursed Topeka weather in the Summertime I now eat my oaths. No heat could be more miserable than that Los Angeles is now enjoying. Luckily I have a hilltop where there is an occasional breeze and where I'm out of the smog. I now appreciate the bit you had in your "Reading Notes" about Kansas weather. Incidentally, I hope that you will always see to it that I get your notes.

The special reason for this letter is to enclose a letter from a minister in Grosse Pointe, Michigan -- one of America's wealthiest areas, I believe. It seems to me that he has caught the spirit of your father just as I wished to convey it and just as I'm sure you wished it conveyed. Other ministers have told me they were making use of the book but this man seemed so genuinely moved that I thought you might like to share the letter. Incidentally, women seem to see the problems your mother encountered with your father. One wrote me quite a vicious letter on the "tyranny of righteousness" she seemed to see in your father. It has been gratifying to me that as the reviews keep coming in they remark pretty consistently on your father's greatness. It seems to me that reviews by doctors are especially appreciative of your father's accomplishments.

I've been disappointed that the two big news magazines haven't reviewed the book but the Doubleday publicity man told me that both had become sensitive to criticism for writing too much about the Menningers. He said there was no deal that the book had quality and seriousness. The blank spots we've drawn in some large cities are due to the season or prejudice on the part of local psychiatrists who had been asked to review the book. Los Angeles is one such city. The Times has skipped the book for reasons best known to themselves. I'd relied on a friend who is book columnist for the Mirror-News. Yesterday a reporter from the Mirror-News interviewed me and I've never been more at odds with a man. He wanted a lot of quotable indictments of Medicine in general. I tried to make clear to him that the crusade for better care for the mentally ill was for the first time in history in the hands of the psychiatrists themselves and that "crusaders" like myself were obsolete. The interview will be published on Monday and I'll send you a copy for better or worse.

Don has told me that a man from Reader's Digest was coming to Topeka to do some checking in relation to the condensation.

Walker Winslow correspondence

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I'm sure you're all for the condensation, even though you can't overtly sponsor such a project. My own feeling is that it would do the Foundation a lot of good and perhaps make money raising a little more easy. It certainly could do no harm and would give psychiatry as a whole a base in American life that has been lacking.

This much I do know, if the attitude shown toward the book is critical, and multitudinous corrections are made, the Digest will back out as they did before when someone told them that the script they had would have to be completely redone. That placed me under a cloud, so to speak, and is probably the reason they took an option at this time instead of buying rights outright as they usually do. As I told you in a previous letter, I think that the two errors you pointed out should be corrected and I would insist that they were whether a Digest editor came to Topeka or not. I only want a fair break. The people at the Foundation know of some of the research handicaps I worked under and the Digest man does not.

I know that Don wants to be fair and that he's been quite gracious over such reception as the book has had. He has a right to bear me some resentment but I'm sure that he'll do his best to over-come his feelings. I'd like him as a friend again and I am sure that he will be. But he's going to be put in the position where he'll have to struggle against some powerful unconscious feelings. I think that an encouraging word from you or Dr. Will to the Digest man will turn the tide, if it needs turning. I've already written to Don and explained the situation to him.

Incidentally, Don told me that he thought I'd written a pretty good book on the whole. He did, however, accuse me of concocting the near break between your father and mother at the turn of the century. You, yourself, told me about this and your father confirmed it. I think that the fact that your parents had an obstacle to overcome made them much stronger people. There was no scandal, or hint of it; simply an explanation of the sort of tension that is bound to arise between two people at some time in their married life. I think that Don understands this now but it would be deadly if it were suggested to an editor that I made something like this up out of whole cloth.

I don't think that I'm being paranoid, merely cautious. That book represents much more than work or money to me. It was a sort of crusade on my part and I want it to reach the widest possible audience, so long as no one will be actually hurt by its doing so. Actually, I don't have to write you all of this; I've always been able to rely upon you as my friend at court.

I also realize that most of the adverse things that have happened I brought upon myself. Dr. Mott has skilfully and patiently brought me to a realization of this. I don't think that I've told you, but I've been single and living by myself for well over a year.



Walker Winslow correspondence

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This is already an overly long letter but since I've gotten this far I might as well bring up a project that is on my mind and might be of interest to you. The possibility of an assignment from Holiday, which I mentioned in an earlier letter, has now reached the point where I have to present them with enough tentative material about Topeka, aside from the mental Health city angle, to convince them that it's worthwhile forwarding me expenses to do the story. I've asked Helen Morrison for some data on Topeka's first families and the social structure -- the things she would know from having been a life-long resident and the member of one of the old families. I've also queried the Chamber of Commerce.

With your memory, sense of story and history, you could probably give me more leads in an hour than anyone else could in a month. I don't want to presume on your time but it might be that you would have at hand some printed material that would be helpful. Odd facets of the town's history and character are what I most need. The C. of C. will present me with enough pedestrian material.

And with your permission I'd like to use the bit on weather that I spoke of earlier.

I see a lot of Henry Geiger, of MANAS, these days. He's an amazingly dedicated and unassuming man. It is good for me to be around him.

With best wishes, as always,

Sincerely

Walker Winslow
Walker Winslow

Walker Winslow correspondence

August 24, 1956

Dear Harold:

What fun it is to have you ask me to help you, especially when I know some of the answers already. I am mailing you today a booklet I did on Topeka history for our centennial celebration in 1954. Of course, it is terrifically ~~abbreviated~~ abbreviated, even beyond the original copy, but I tried to suggest in it something about what brought people here, what kinds of problems they had, and how they went about solving them through enterprise, schools, churches, etc., together with some suggestion of the current state of affairs as they point to the future.

Topeka has held a number of its early families, and there are a good many people here who also contributed newspaper articles, sections in Historical Society Bulletins, etc., which I do not have on hand. Quite a number of these people are now active in business, social life, cultural activities -- I mean supporting concert series, art centers, the university, churches, etc., -- and most of the Topeka supporters of the Menninger Foundation come from this group.

Actually the bulk of the early settlers were educated people, strong enough to build this kind of life on the Kansas prairies, ~~Probably~~ Dr. Ruth(?) Brown, the sociologist with the Russell Sage Foundation, seemed to understand everything about this community when she learned that the founding fathers were predominately Congregational and New Englanders. It seems that Topeka expressed to her a development based on a different set of values than if the original planners had been something else.

If you can sell HOLIDAY on an expense account, our Kansas Historical Library, 10th and Jackson, under Nyle Miller, has a wealth of material, and an able ^{Shawnee} staff to dig it out for you. And there is a/County Historical Society that could give you documented material on Topeka -- much better than I.

Walker Winslow correspondence

In trying to answer your questions it is hard for me to think what the leading social events of the year may be. We are a state capitol. Therefore, we have an Inaugural Ball every two years -- but this is political, and politicians and useful persons are invited. There are Country Clubs, and maybe to the newcomer, membership in these is considered important. We do not have a University Club, City Club -- but we have various kinds of groups pretty much restricted to their own circles. There is a Junior League, and a large number of alumni groups from a large number of sororities, fraternities, and universities.

Topeka has been known as a railroad town, a publishing center (the Gapper Publications cater to farm populations all over the country, and publish Household, kind of a Better Homes & Gardens, that costs a little less money. Also there is a lot of insurance business here, and heads of state organizations of all kinds. I don't know how much agriculture, but there have been flour mills here for a long time, and for years -- until 1951 -- one of the big Packing Plants of the company. One firm processes chickens, other poultry and eggs, and ships all over the world. And of course, since World War II, there have been the Goodyear Tire & Rubber plant, ~~and~~ an airbase with better than 8,000 men, and an Air Force Supply Depot.

Now on THE MENNINGER STORY. We have more reviews than I thought, but I suspect you see a good many more than we do, thanks to Doubleday. If you would care to trust your copies to the mail we would be glad to photostat them for our historical collection. And, Mr. and Mrs. James Monohan, senior editor's of the Reader's Digest are due here on September 2 for about a week, and I know of no inclination to block what they want to do.

I have not done the review for Kansas Medical Journal yet -- too hot to think, but had an alibi in thinking we would get the review in print in time to coincide with Doubleday's fall advertising.

Best wishes,

Helen
Helen Morrison

Walker Winslow correspondence

Inter Office Memo

Date Sent Aug. 28, 1956

Date Rec'd _____

Date Ans. _____

To: Dr. Karl

From: Dr. Will

Subject:

I believe I told you but in the event I didn't, this fellow Mr. James Monahan, the senior editor of Reader's Digest comes on the Tuesday after Labor Day to spend a few days and probably bringing his wife, also a senior editor of the Reader's Digest, Lois Maddox Miller Monahan. They are coming for the purpose of getting our ideas about changes or corrections or whatever the Reader's Digest is going to do to "The Menninger Story."

MF-216-11-50

August 29, 1956

Mr. Walker Winslow
3845 Lavell Drive
Los Angeles 65, California

Dear Harold:

Thanks for your letter of August 23.
I shall encourage the Reader's Digest man if
and when he comes, and I think my brother Will
will also. I'll be glad to see you when you
come.

Sincerely,

KM:s

Karl Menninger, M.D.

Walker Winslow correspondence

File

Walker Winslow
3845 Lavell Dr.
Los Angeles 65, Calif.
Sept 3/56

Dear Don:

I did send the book to your father to NY instead of NH. Since you implied this was his summer address I'm now mailing the book to you and with profound apologies. What I can't understand is why it took the book so long to get back.

You can't blame me for having felt some nervousness over the Readers Digest business. Besides the good breaks, this book has gotten some pretty tough ones that my publishers find impossible to explain. However, things seem to be clearing up and there is evidence that a good book can't be held back.

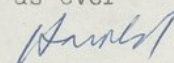
Apparently where the RD are having the real difficulty is in condensing the book. Besides the two editor visiting you, I now understand that another will call on me soon. It seems it isn't a question of anyone being against the book or afraid of it any longer but simply the mechanical factor of being able to get the best qualities of the longer book into a shortened version. I know you'll do all you can and it may be that you can make some valuable suggestions. For example, I'm sure that the RD editors would welcome having any statistical data brought up to date, especially if they understood that the 1956 report of the Foundation hadn't been available to me. The later factual data can be used in almost the same text.

For some reason or other, I've been busier working for myself than I was working even if so far no great income has been produced. Just a lot of things going on at once. Among them is an attempt to make me a consultant to the "Fund for the Republic" -- Ford Foundation. This, oddly enough, comes from IF A MAN BE MAD which was brought to their attention by the present book.

Tell Helen she'll be hearing from me in the next day or two and thank her for her help.

With very best wishes,

as ever





Walker Winslow correspondence

Walker Winslow
3845 Lave'll Drive
Los Angeles 65, Calif.
Sept. 6/56

MAINE
Steff
advice?

Dear Doctor Karl:

Something has come up that I think will be of interest to you. On occasion I realize that I'm presumptuous in the requests I make of you, as with asking you for help on that Holiday Magazine business. The current project is something I know you would wish me to keep you informed about and it relates to you and the Foundation in only the most indirect way.

About ten days ago Hallock Hoffman, the son of Paul Hoffman of the Ford Foundation, and assistant to Dr. Hutchins of The Fund For The Republic, called on me. He had read THE MENNINGER STORY and that directed him to IF A MAN BE MAD. The latter book convinced him that his organization should make use of me as a consultant. As you know, The Fund For The Republic is pretty much restricted to matters of civil rights and liberties. Naturally, the Fund has had many complaints from mental patients who feel that they have been wrongfully committed, etc. It hasn't taken them long to realize that most of the complaints come from people who are still ill.

At lunch today Mr. Hoffman and I worked out a plan for a preliminary survey and investigation on civil rights as a mental health problem. After making it clear that commitment laws and procedures were in the domain of the forensic psychiatrists, I suggested that the best service I could offer would be that of an investigator and reporter and that the initial phase of the study be restricted to California, Kansas and New York State.

So far as I know, California commitment laws are generally fair but I intend to study and follow through on every type of a civil commitment; that is, I will find out how the patient is apprehended; observe the conditions under which he is held and observed; see what chances he has to obtain legal aid, or outside psychiatric consultation; study the methods of transportation and registration at the hospital to which he is committed, and then follow through up to the point of discharge. Where the patient is "paroled" I will ascertain the quantity and quality of supervision and what transpires before the patient again has full civil rights. One of my major concerns will be the situations where the person's privacy and human dignity ~~are~~ ^{are} violated.

There are some things I know are wrong before I start. One is that information concerning all sorts of commitments leaks out to private identification bureaus. Former patients have gone to banks for loans, or to title companies when arranging to buy or sell property, and found that their former mental status was known. Such information is, I'm almost certain, available to some employers.



Walker Winslow correspondence

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Just before I left Santa Rita, people in on voluntary commitments were being served with a notice that their driver's license had been canceled. Since we didn't release any information on those patients, the Dept. of Motor Vehicles must have been getting it from the Board of Health or the court that processed the papers. In any case, the attending physician had no chance to protect at least one of the patient's civil rights.

The above is simply to give you an idea of some of the areas my research will cover. The aim of this study will be to determine if a larger grant should be made for a more comprehensive study and perhaps some form of action. At no time in the discussions did I trade on knowing you or having had any connection with the Foundation. I did say that I had at one time acted as a consultant on a Rockefeller Grant relative to aide training. The reason I gave for ringing in Kansas was that it is a typical mid-western state and that at one time some inequities to the mentally ill came about by a justice of peace being allowed to appoint guardians for committed people.

My hope is that if this project goes through -- I will know on the 17th -- it may develop into something that could eventually be turned over to The Menninger Foundation. I know that your concern with the legal end of psychiatry goes back to your first year of practice.

I don't need anyone to pull for me or recommend me; apparently Hutchins and Hoffman have decided I'm the person they want if they make the final decision to go into this matter. I'm sure that they could have made a much better choice but since this is the opportunity to get something started that may be worthwhile, I'm not going to argue with them. If they want to go ahead with the project I'll put the best I have into it and seek the best available counsel.

Hoffman did tell me that their one other attempt to enter into anything in the mental health field had been with Dr. Hacker. This had to do with hate and prejudice, which is more exactly in your field, and I understood that it had fallen through.

If you wish, I'll keep you informed as this business progresses. I would have given anything to have had a half hour with you before that conference today.

I had a very nice letter from Dr. Romano who is reviewing your father's book for a club in Rochester.

I'm still in the dark about Reader's Digest. The last I heard an editor was supposed to come and see me.

With very best wishes,

Sincerely
Winslow



Walker Winslow correspondence

Walker Winslow
3845 Lavell Drive
Los Angeles 65, Calif.
Sept 10/65 56

Dear Helen:

I've neglected thanking you for the very valueable material you sent me. The problem is no longer that of a lack of material; at this point my ineptness as a writer enters in. I did one draft of an outline, held it for a few days, and saw that it wouldn't do at all. It's a sort of a delicate business, this selecting material with a special eye to the needs and conventions of Holiday.

I wish that I'd had Dr. Karl's 'my town' while I was writing the book as well as your TOPEKA'S 100 YEARS. It seems to me that everything that comes up shows me how much better that book could have been. But the book has been and there's nothing that can be done about it now.

I'm wondering how Don, et al, did with the Digest editors and just what it was that they wanted. I've had no word on anything, nor from the Digest editor who was supposed to come and see me.

The lecture bureau currently has my clippings. As soon as they are returned I will forward those you might have missed. There was an interview-review in the LA Mirror-News today. I'm enclosing a copy of it. The guy misquoted me. I didn't say that all psychiatrists were villians prior to 1947; I simply said that prior to that time reform had been brought about by laymen and that the work of the Menningers enabled psychiatry to take care of its own reform, etc.

Oddly enough, my remark in the review that there was still a need for lay vigilance was appropriately timed. Just a short time back I was approached by an official of The Fund for the Republic -- Hallock Hoffman, the son of Paul Hoffman, and asst. to the President of the Fund, Dr. Hutchins. He said they wanted to use me as a consultant on mental health. Reading the Menninger Story lead them to If a Man Be Mad and that's what got them interested. I had lunch with Hoffman the latter part of the week and we set up a project he feels sure will go through. This has to do with Civil Liberties and the mentally ill. As if to demonstrate the need for such an investigation, there has been an upsurge of brutality on two California institutions -- one death due to a beating. It looks as if some work is cut out for me in the field where I function best. We'll just hope there are no slip ups. This could be the beginning of a major research project that could be turned over to the Foundation. I didn't in any way trade on my relationship with the Menningers. My merit as a writer seemed to be the big thing.

I'll be interested to know how the Digest people did and what their attitude was. Don should have that long delayed book to his father by now.

With very best wishes,

over

as ever

Harold

Walker Winslow correspondence

PS: I wrote to the Topeka C of C at the same time I did you. Apparently they didn't read my letter throughly until the later part of #### last week for I'd had one reply offering me help when I got there. This weekend they've deluged me with material. The only thing they really sent me that was worth a damn was the booklet you'd edited. It seems to me that they play down the Menninger's importance even in a payroll sense.

Walker Winslow correspondence

Walker Winslow
3845 Leavell Drive
Los Angeles 65, Calif.
Sept. 23/56

Dear Don:

Since I haven't heard from Topeka in a couple of weeks or more I'm wondering if the Digest editors arrived and what happened. The silence is a little ominous, but on the other hand things may have gone so smoothly that you felt the Digest would have done something by now. They haven't and no editor has appeared at my door as was promised. I'm not going to plague you with my apprehensions but I would appreciate some report of what went on, and by air mail, if you can find the time. I know this is your busy season.

Nothing much of significance has happened except that the outline for a new book was greeted with enthusiasm in spite of the way I fooled around with the other in a time sense. I'm still dangling on The Fund For the Republic deal but should know this week. The Digest option has less than two weeks to run and so I'm bound to find out about that in a short while. One thing I do know, if this latter falls through I'm going to use every means to find out how and why.

The woman at the lecture bureau has most of my clippings but when I get them back this week I will see to it that they are mailed to your office so that you may photostat any you wish to keep or circulate. They continue to be good and one critic proposed me for the Pulitzer prize. I'm sure that Drs. Karl and Will would enjoy seeing some of these reviews. One thing is consistent; the book is universally recognized as a biography of Dr. C.F. and where I have been put on the pan it has been for not telling more of the story of the clinic. I wish that Dr. Morse could see all of these reviews and take note of this. When I come to Topeka, which I hope may be before too long, I will deliver all the material I have and will present the original mss. and galleys to the Foundation Library.

I know that the family may wonder why the book isn't a best seller. Actually, it may be better than that; books dealers tell me the demand is constant and growing and that they expect an upswing around the holidays. I hope that the Board of Governors feel kindly toward it at their annual meeting.

You must have the book I signed for your father by now. It seems to me that in my last letter to you I recommended a new pocket book by Henry Miller --THE DEVIL IN PARADISE. I'm recommending it again just on the chance that I didn't.

Hoping to see you fairly soon,

as ever
Walker

Walker Winslow correspondence

September 25, 1956

Mr. Harold Maine
3845 Lavell Drive
Los Angeles 65, California

Dear Harold:

Sorry that I underestimated your uncertainty about this Digest deal. Jim Monahan of the Digest seemed so definite about everything that I just assumed that by then the deal had been settled.

From what I was able to observe, I see no stumbling blocks on the horizon at all. Monahan, who is a senior editor there, was certainly all for the book and his coming out here for several days represents already a considerable investment by the Digest. We treated him royally, and I am positive that he was enthusiastic about his experiences here and that they strengthened his feeling about doing the job, if indeed that was necessary. Without being blunt about it, I tried to get some kind of idea as to whether there was any possibility of a hitch on the horizon and, frankly, I just wasn't able to see a one.

If it does fall through, it will certainly be for some reason which is unrelated to Monahan's feelings about the book or to his visit here. He is certainly sure that it is all set.

So much for setting your mind at ease. The book with the very nice inscription arrived safely, and I have shipped it on to Dad. Let me know what I owe you for it, cost of book, and your postage charges, and so on.

Thanks for recommending the Henry Miller book. I will look for it.

Sincerely,

Donald Lawder, Jr.

DL/jc



Walker Winslow correspondence

Walker Winslow
3845 Lavell Drive
Los Angeles 65, Calif.
Sept. 27/56

Dear Don:

Thanks a lot for your very swift reply. I wasn't the only one who was nervous; both Ken McCormick and Shirley were sweating this out and wondering if there were any steps they should take. It seems that where an option is taken on a book the payoff usually comes fairly quickly. At one point Shirley was told that it was the toughest book they ever tried to condense. This same complaint had also come from a magazine that spent considerable time trying to serialize it prior to publication.

It so happened that I heard from Shirley yesterday and she had been talking to another senior editor, Ken Wilson, at a party. He said that they all felt that it was very important for them to use the book. It seems that because of previous difficulty they have had in condensing non-fiction a new plan has been devised in the last couple of months and I was caught up in this. In this the editor assigned to the condensation gets out and researches the material so that he can ad lib, so to speak. From my point of view this is probably better. By just cutting from a book like mine minor personal incidents can get blown up and give a completely different impression than they do in the book as a whole.

Thanks to your letter, I now feel a lot better about the whole thing. I'm sure you treated Monohan royally, and just at a time when you have the most to do -- annual reports, etc. I'm grateful to you for your help in this matter.

I hope the book wasn't too beaten up from all of its travels. You don't owe me anything and if you want copies sent to any other members of your family just say the word. It appears that IF A MAN BE MAD is being reissued and the same goes for that when it comes out.

The Fund for the Republic Grant and my new book seem to be running a dead heat. Whichever comes in first with the money will claim my services, but eventually I'll do both.

I'll lay hands on the Miller book and mail it to you; that way I know you'll get to read it.

Tell Helen that the Holiday outline has gone in. It's being held up like many other things until we're sure of the prestige of the RD condensation.

My very best to everyone,

As ever

Harold



Walker Winslow correspondence

Lawder *main*
Walker Winslow
3845 Lavell Drive
Los Angeles 65, Calif.
Oct. 9/56

Dear Doctor Karl:

Since you haven't answered my last letter, I've assumed that you had been on vacation and were busy in catching up. I most sincerely hope that I haven't done anything to provoke or offend you. I wanted your response to the consultantship that the Fund for the Republic had offered me -- but more about that later. *Lawder*

What I wanted to call your attention to is the review of your father's story in the Sept. 29 issue of the big Catholic weekly AMERICA. It was done by Dr. Francis J. Braceland and is warm and favorable. As I think I remarked to you before, the reviews by physicians have been among the best. *?*

Even though the option date has expired on the Digest condensation, I haven't heard what the final decision will be. Don assured me that the editors recieved no discouragement in Topeka. A couple of weeks back, my agent talked to a senior Digest editor and he said it was just the sort of story they'd been looking for and wanted to use. If it is rejected now, I can only presume that some peculiarly adverse forces are at work. But I won't unleash my paranoid tendencies until I'm sure this has happened. *Ed - Est*

I'm enclosing a fan letter that I think you should have. This is a testament to the love and respect I'm sure thousands feel toward you. I envy the person who is allowed to write your biography but the hope I cherish is that one day I'll see your autobiography. *Kay del this*

Hallock Hoffman and Dr. Hutchins were apparently all set to give me a sort of a free-lance consultantship with which to explore mental health and civil liberties when Adam Yarmolinsky, an attorney on the staff of the Fund, revealed that the American Bar Association was conducting a well organized survey of that field. Yarmolinsky came clear out to L.A. to see me last week for the purpose of evaluating my capabilities, preparatory to offering the Bar Ass'n. my services, with the Fund financing me. He was supposed to present the paper I'd prepared to the Bar's mental health committee this Monday.

I'm somewhat dubious about the Bar group accepting me. The areas in which I proposed to work aren't in the classic categories; i.e., the M'naughten Rule, due process in civil commitment, etc. I'm more concerned with the outworn Welfare and Institutions Codes that were designed to protect hospital administrators instead of the patient. You are more familiar with this material than I am, but most of it has to do with the patient being denied the protection that is promised by the law. For example, I want to study the routing of incident and injury reports and find out how it is that seven unexplained deaths and scores of beatings can take place in three or four wards in one hospital without the entire chain of command knowing

Walker Winslow correspondence

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what is going on. By using a modern system, there's no reason why the state Director of Mental Hygiene shouldn't have a continuously clear picture of what is happening in all of the wards of his many hospitals. I can offer examples where other departments, equally short staffed, are able to keep a graphic log of much more complex activities.

The above would offer a vehicle for tentative explorations into other situations. At most, the work proposed would be a search for situations that might require thorough study by specialists.

One thing that struck me when I last worked at Santa Rita was the active knowledge that deputies had of the inmates civil rights. In contrast to this, and in the fairly progressive hospital where Jim Mott is teaching, I discovered that one of the patient's chief source of worry was that their commitment would go on record in police files and this be available to anyone who might wish to hire them. I couldn't find a ward physician or section chief who knew whether or not such material was released or if it would be an infringement on the patient's civil rights to release it.

My best service, as I see it, would be to use my peculiar experience and aptitudes in unobtrusive investigations within the hospital setting, working upward from what the patients feel to be abuses, invasions of privacy, assaults on dignity, and the like. This is an area where I have some competence and one which is missed by specialists who have to work within the discipline of their specialty.

Should the Bar Association reject my services as offered by the Fund, I will be given a grant in aid with which to pursue my exploratory investigations. The catch here is that I will have to be sponsored by some approved institution or organization. My feeling is that perhaps I've leaned too heavily on your organization and that perhaps the turmoil attending the writing and publication of the book has resulted in some loss of confidence. At any rate I'm chary about asking anything more than counsel from you. You know full well that I would give you the first right to reject anything of this sort. But I would rather have this rejection off the record. If the matter of sponsorship does come up I can then look elsewhere with a clear conscience.

My esteem for you and Dr. Will would in no way be decreased if you should at this moment have negative feelings about me and this potential project. I do know that if possible I would like to consult with you on this project as it progresses.

I'll let you know as soon as I have any positive news from Digest. If the news is negative I'm going to do a thorough search for the reasons.

With very best wishes,

As ever

*By all means get "Men to Match my Mountains" by James
Stone - a fine history of the West*

Walker Winslow correspondence

Walker Winslow
3845 Lavell Drive
Los Angeles 65, Calif.
Oct 12/56

Dear Don:

I've been promising you and Helen that I'd type of a list of reviews and make available to you those that you don't have. The text following the list explains that. You can pass these to Helen. Tell her that at long last the Holiday outline went to Holiday.

The news from Digest is this -- they've asked for and have been given 60 additional days. This puts me in a spot financially, but it will enable them to get galleys around for approval and that will be more satisfactory even if I do miss a few meals. McCormick said he had been expecting this delay since the editors didn't get to Topeka until the last minute.

McCormick also reports that the book is selling quietly and steadily. He hopes to be able to nudge it along in the late fall and winter. One thing that he reiterates is that Doubleday is proud to have published this book. What has happened hasn't netted me a cent so far but my conscience is somewhat cleared. There's been no run away best seller to give me a big head. The aura of fear that attended the books publication militated against ^{that} and book club selections of spectacular success. If Digest collapses on the book now it will probably be because it took them too much time to feel that the book was safe.

What the hell, there will be other books and I've learned a lot. Doubleday apparently feel the same way. They refused to loan me ^{to} Prentice-Hall for the book the latter wanted and said they'd take the same sort of book if I wanted to do it. Moreover, they still have faith in me. When I do enough of the book they will finance me if need be.

What I'm keeping my fingers crossed on now are some articles and The Fund For The Republic deal. This latter could get me off the hook, and I'm really on the hook, a situation you can thoroughly understand.

If you or anyone else needs some pocket editions of IF A MAN BE MAD let me know. Some are now available.

Since I may be doing some talking, I would deeply appreciate it if you'd send me the 1955 and the current annual report.

My best to everyone,

Onward

Harold

Walker Winslow correspondence

Walker Winslow
3845 Lavell Drive
Los Angeles 65, Calif.

LIST OF REVIEWS

N.Y. Herald Tribune --BOOKS	June 10 ✓
The Virginia-Pilot (Same as The Portsmouth Star)	June 10
The Kansas City Times	June 10
Dallas Morning News	June 10 ✓
L.A. Free Press (Stephen Longstreet)	June 10
Daily Sentinel (Grand Junction, Colo.)	June 17
Pensacola News-Journal	June 10
The Erie (Pa) Dispatch	June 10
The Stuart News	June ?
Boston Sun Herald	June 10 ✓
The Chicago Tribune (T.R Van Dellen, M.D.)	June 10 ✓
The West Virginia Med. Journal (H. Sinclair Tait, M.D.)	July
Evansville Press	June 14 ✓
Nashville Tennessean	June 17
Charlotte Observer (R.E. Hoke, Ph. D.)	July 1 ✓
Orange County Post (N.Y. State)	July 12
New Republic	July 16
Oregon Journal (Portland)	July 22
Christian Herald (Dr. Daniel Poling)	June ?
Cedar Rapids Gazette	June ? ✓
Newsday (N.Y.)	June 9
Dallas Times Herald	June 10 ✓
Washington Post (Mike Gorman)	June 17 ✓
S.F. Chronicle	June 24 ✓
Oakland Tribune	July 1 ✓