

Walker Winslow correspondence

Section 92, Pages 2731 - 2760

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

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Walker Winslow correspondence

~~Doctors Bulletin~~
~~Board~~

Maine

Walker Winslow
3845 Lavell Drive
Los Angeles 65, Calif.
April 21/57

Karl A. Menninger, M.D.
Menninger Foundation
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Doctor Karl:

By now I'm sure that my article in Readers Digest has been called to your attention. And I'm sure that the biographical note irritates you as much as it does me. The material was originally supplied by my agent. When Digest sent me the note for approval I changed the part where they said I had been a consultant to you to a dateless, "have been a consultant to several well know institutions and organizations in the mental health field.." There's no use complaining for the damaging implication that I worked for you while doing part of your father's story is already in print and if I argue with them I'll lose whatever chance I have to selling them the book. However, if any organization or individual brings this matter up as evidence that you in anyway subsidized me, I have documentary evidence to prove that I didn't start on the book until many months after I left your payroll.

It seems to me that a sort of an aura of gloom accompanies everything I do. I'd like to really enjoy a sense of accomplishment just once. Digest also cut out some of the best things I said about your father. I'm having some copies made of the original script and I'll send you one. I hope you're right about the Digest taking your father's story. Not only would it kill off some of the adverse propoganda but it would get me in the clear. As it is I still owe Doubleday over \$2000. My hope was that this article and the condensation would boost sales. I'd also hoped that the book would be of help to the Foundation in raising money. As it is, it's even unethical for Dr. Will to mention the book.

A thing that alarms me, and about which I want to do something, is the current, fascist-like, assault on psychiatry. What gives it more danger than it would ordinarily have is the inadvertent support the hate merchants are getting from Alvarez, De Kruif, Fromm, Gengerelli, et al, and may get from BATTLE FOR THE MIND. Dr. Alvarez is undoubtedly a great physician, or has been. But his persistent pro-heridity and anti-Freudian attack most certainly is the product of some fixed idea. He's really gone overboard when he endorses the grossly exaggerated success of serpasil and ritalin. I wish I could get some organization to finance me in an investigation of Dr. Ferguson's miracles.

But what I'd really like to get at is the group that is represented by that Mercury article. I'll have copies made of the petition they're circulating. One of the group even had the crust to ask me to join in a march on Washington.

~~6-2-57~~

Walker Winslow correspondence

-2-

This business is going to stir up hundreds of sick people and they'll find themselves being used for a pro-segregationist, isolationist, and anti-civil rights stand. I'll make a bet that one tie in will be that the man who has been indicted for creating a riot in Clinton, Tenn., was a frequent visitor to Pound. This was reported in LOOK some time ago. It might be that when I've collected a little more material I could get LOOK interested.

I'm already in bad with the anti-psychiatric group on the Coast. When they write to the Bar Association they are referred to me and told that I'm on a grant from the Fund for the Republic. Then when I refuse to join them in their idiocy they complain to both organizations. Some of their complaints seem rational to inexperienced people and they simply confuse the whole of the civil rights issue. I doubt if I could get another grant. Unless something miraculous happens this week I'll be looking for a job.

If there is any anti-psychiatric material that I haven't seen I'd appreciate knowing about it. I'm still a little too much of a crusader to know when to let go.

With very best wishes,

Sincerely

Harold

Walker Winslow correspondence

MAINE

April 30, 1957

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

Dear Harold:

I was glad to get your letter of April 21.
Don't worry about this note in the Garden City article.
It sounds all right to me.

Sincerely,

Karl Menninger, M.D.

KM:R



Walker Winslow correspondence

Walker Winslow
3845 Lavell Drive
Los Angeles 65, Calif.
May 24/57

Dear Doctor Karl:

I've tried to cut down on my correspondence with you because I well realize it is a burden. And yet you are the person who is most apt to understand what I'm trying to do and what some of the problems are, especially in my crusading efforts and even in my well intended but poorly executed works. There are three or four problems tonight and I will try to take them in their order.

1) Today I recieved a letter from Robert S. Dougherty, Jr., who says that he was a patient at the clinic for some time and who admits that he still has an active problem with alcohol. He had read in Digest that I had been doing s study of the civil rights of the mentally ill and seemed to feel that if he used his legal training in a similar effort he might do some good as well as helping himself with his own problem. If he wants to do this more than he wants to drink all will be well and good. Do you know anything about him that you feel you can or should tell me, I'm sure that you know that I keep clinical confidences. I wrote him an encouraging note.

2) Hallock Hoffman has suggested that I make an application for another grant. This would probably be a short book that defined the civil rights status of the mentally ill. Since, as he puts it, the Fund is no longer concerned with "fire fighting" my job would be to lay the groundwork and supply the background for those who do. I'm convinced that commitment and guardianship statutes are the least important aspect of the total situation. The question I want answered and am putting up to you and Dr. Will, with the promise that I won't quote you without permission, is: "What right, inherent from the Bill of Rights is the mentally ill person most commonly deprived of?" In the majority of states, does he become a serf of a state within a state. Does the phrase, "The right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" imply a right to the health to enjoy these rights of man -- the state having taken him into custody and in doing so having made itself responsible for him? There must be a basic, overall# concept I haven't hit upon.

3) Whatever the answer to the above, there will be the delicate problem of what may appear to be a form of socialized medicine, or state medicine, the level of which is supposed to be prescribed by laymen. When treatment becomes a civil right -- and it seems to me that it does when the judge commits a patient for such -- there has to be some yardstick of medical practice. Unknowingly, I think you hit upon one measurement of this. When the V.A. called you it was as a 1st class physician with a proven clinical record. The state, then, has the choice of doctors in the same sense as the individual. If it choses 3rd rate physicians for people who are no longer able to make a choice, it seems to me that you clarified that issue when you were at Winter. If you and Dr. Will would have something to say about this situation you will be quoted only as "outstanding physicians and educators." It also occurs to me that if the Blue Cross and Blue Shield would include psychiatric

The Court



Walker Winslow correspondence

-2-

hospitalization and treatment in their policies mental illness could be kept from becoming a civil rights issue. A new standard of care and treatment could be reached.

I am also writing to Wright Mills, the sociologist, and to Dr. Allan Gregg for opinions.

My reason for undertaking this job is that I feel that now as never before there is a need for a calm and dispassionate summing up of the problems in psychiatry, both institutional and general. A crackpot fringe is mounting a fairly well organized attack on psychiatry which at the least will create an atmosphere of fear and an opportunity for stupid economy. For background material I can use some samples of current attacks by exposing the threat to human rights that arises out of public hysteria and a palliative defense. So long as this is done for the Fund for the Republic the civil rights issue must remain in the fore. As an example, prejudice can be dealt with by using the article in the current Sat. Eve. Post, "They Said I Was Neurotic." The implication is that it is all right to nearly kill your wife if you have a pituitary tumor but wrong if you are neurotic or psychotic. There is also the implication that if psychiatrists were any good they would have discovered the tumor. Actually, this man was referred to psychiatrists by internists and the disease ~~##~~ apparently wasn't discernable until the pt., himself, noted the enlargement of the extremities on one side. Yet in the past three days I've had letters and phone calls telling me that this discredits psychiatry for once and for all.

I don't think that I feel sorry for myself, but I've certainly ended up in a strange sort of pocket. Although I simply want to help the institutions in this area in combatting the attacks against them, I've been listed as a potential Communist because of my affiliation with The Fund for the Republic. Although I've been cleared by the FBI, and CIA, the LAPD can put the jinx on me by simply saying that they are keeping an open file on me. At the same time the Bar Association refers all the cranks to me and when I refuse to go along with their baseless complaints they write to the Ass'n. and the Fund and say that I'm obviously a state man and in league with the devil. Because of the recent reaction, I wouldn't publish any adverse material even if I ran into it. It would be misused. I'm a puzzled guy with a heavy emotional investment that I'm hard put to protect.

Please understand, I'm simply asking for advice in this new project and I'm not going to jeopardize you or Dr. Will by asking for your backing. One thing I would welcome, and it wouldn't go any further than to him, is a letter of introduction to Dr. Franz Alexander.

I hope that you like my review of Dr. Gregg's book in the next issue of Manas. I admire him greatly but I wish that he had some of your lucidity when it comes to writing. I had a feeling that he had a great deal more to say but that it simply wouldn't break through.

With very best wishes,

over

As ever

Walker Winslow correspondence

PS: My reason for talking to Dr. Alexander would simply be in line with my work. He probably has some positive opinions on civil rights and psychiatry.

I'm still seeing Jim Mott once a week and it is he more than anything else that keeps me in L.A. at this point.

I continue to get wonderful tributes to your father from the various medical journals. No further word from Digest and I doubt if there ever is. They can't understand a man who walked with God all the way

Walker Winslow correspondence

Inter Office Memo

Date Sent 6/12/57

Date Rec'd _____

Date Ans. _____

To: Dr. Robbins

From: Dr. Karl/R

Subject: Harold Maines letter of May 24, 1957

I have recently received a letter from Harold Maines that contains the following paragraph:

"Today I received a letter from Robert S. Dougherty, Jr. who says that he was a patient at the clinic for some time and who admits that he still has an active problem with alcohol. He had read in Digest that I had been doing a study of the civil rights of the mentally ill and seemed to feel that if he used his legal training in a similar effort he might do some good as well as helping himself with his own problem. If he wants to do this more than he wants to drink all will be well and good. Do you know anything about him that you feel you can or should tell me. I'm sure that you know that I keep clinical confidences. I wrote him an encouraging note."

I have learned from Medical Records that you are the doctor who saw him most recently. What do you suggest?

MF-216-11-50

Walker Winslow correspondence

Inter Office Memo

Date Sent _____ Date Rec'd _____ Date Ans. _____

To:

From:

Subject: Harold Maine writes about two things in particular:

1. Robert Dougherty (a patient here off and on from 1943 to 1951, Doctors Crank, Barnard, Knight and Robbins) has written Harold to ask if his legal training can be of help to Harold in ^{Harold's} study of the civil rights of the mentally ill. Harold asks if you can tell him anything about Mr. Dougherty? -- Might Dr. Robbins answer this? *Please*
2. Harold is making application for a grant to write a book on the civil rights status of the mentally ill, and asks you and/or Dr. Will "What right, inherent from the Bill of Rights, is the mentally ill person most commonly deprived of?" *does he mean*

Is this something Mr. Roach or Mr. Sheffel might write Harold about, or should I just tell him you're too busy now to give it the proper thought?

MF-216-11-50

*illegally or
improperly
or do you mean incidentally
& necessarily?*

Walker Winslow correspondence

June 12, 1957

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

Dear Harold:

I'm taking up with some of our staff who knew him, your question in a recent letter about Robert S. Dougherty. I'm not sure I understand your question, "What right, inherent from the Bill of Rights is the mentally ill person most commonly deprived of?" Do you mean illegally or improperly deprived or do you mean incidentally and necessarily?

Sincerely,

Karl Menninger, M.D.

KM:R

Walker Winslow correspondence

file *unans* *H. Maine*

Walker Winslow
3845 Lavell Drive
Los Angeles 65, Calif.
June 14/57

Karl A. Menninger, M.D.
Menninger Foundation
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Doctor Karl:

Robert S. Dougherty, Jr., whoever he may be, is doing an excellent job for me and I think indirectly for himself. He has gone into St. Christopher's Inn, a monastery at Garrison, New York State, and has already sent me a fine summary of the application of constitutional law to the rights of the mentally ill. However unbalanced he may be as a person, he is extremely dispassionate on points of the law. He tells me that he had himself released from the sanitarium on a writ of habeas corpus in 1949, but he acknowledges that he was full of paraldehyde and very foolish. He has made it clear that he has only the greatest admiration for you and the staff. Apparently he has been committed to a Pennsylvania state hospital since that time. He is now doing some legal writing and seems willing to give me legal advice without writing himself in on anything I may do. I had one lawyer check his opinions and he said they were brilliant.

My question was meant to be, "What rights, inherent from the Bill of Rights is the mentally ill person most often deprived of by inept statutes, the poor application of the statutes, and by arbitrary and dictator-like administrative codes?"

I realize that the question is rather complex but I know your own feelings about a patient having enough freedom in which to get well. I'm also sure that the patient who already feels persecuted and rejected, and then has had his basic rights violated by the court, may be more difficult to reach.

Since I know how busy you are, I had hoped that you or Dr. Will had written something about civil rights, or made some statement that had been printed. Or perhaps you have a committee on civil rights in one of the hospitals and they could write to me.

It has come to seem to me that you must dread hearing from me, knowing that I'll be asking some favor. But I'm in a sort of a pocket. I respect you and Dr. Will above anyone else.

Apparently the Reader's Digest has backed out on the book; at least I would assume so after a year. God knows what they want or what points they're trying to make when they publish something like De Kruif's recent book.

Thanks for the April reading notes. Henry Gieger and I share them.

With very best wishes,

Sincerely
AW

Walker Winslow correspondence

Inter Office Memo

Date Sent June 24, 1957

Date Rec'd _____

Date Ans. _____

To: Dr. Karl

From: Dr. Robbins:hwb

Subject: Harold Main's Letter of May 24, 1957

Although I had the last contact with Mr. Dougherty it was only a one-hour consultation. As you may recall, he has a very long record of illness as both an inpatient and outpatient here and elsewhere.

I don't believe that there is anything that it would be either helpful or ethical to share with Harold Maine about him. I think it is fine that Main is encouraging him and possibly he can help this fellow whereas all the rest of us have failed to do so.

MF-216-11-50



MAINE

June 26, 1957

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

Dear Harold:

We prefer to say nothing about
the man you ask about in your letter of
May 24.

Sincerely,

KM:s

Karl Menninger, M.D.



Walker Winslow correspondence

Walker Winslow
3845 Lavell Drive
Los Angeles 65, Calif.
Sept. 7/57

Karl A. Menninger, M.D.
Menninger Foundation
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Dr. Karl:

I've been puzzled by your recent silence and the seeming coolness of the two extremely short notes that I last got from you. As you must know, your friendship has been one of the most meaningful things in my life. I'm not at all concerned with getting any help or material on the proposed continuation of the civil right project. I've dropped it and other than that mental health as a subject comes directly out of writing from my own experiences. I'm dropping out of that field as a writer who restricts himself by specialization. I'll keep on with general writing. At my age the only work I can get is that of an attendant and even these people are suspicious of me if they find out who I am.

The last two or three months have been trying in the extreme. Even though my agent had several things of mine, and there still seemed a slight chance that Digest my publish the condensation of the book on your father, I stopped hearing from her. There was no explanation, especially when her last letter had ended on a cordial and optimistic note, and apparently no way of even finding out if she got my letters and mss's. The only communication I got was the semi-annual report on THE MENNINGER STORY. (There had been more returns than sales and that put me \$2,500 in the hole.) I got an agency in Hollywood and although there is enthusiasm over my work all I've had that paid was a very short job as technical director on a law enforcement documentary.

About two weeks ago I got what may be the explanation for all the silence from the East and this business may have reached you and even Reader's Digest. Two detectives from the fugitive detail knocked at my door after talking to my landlord and told me rather sheepishly that a Walker Winslow, an author, and driving a car registered in my name, was wanted in Michigan for grand theft bunco. He had papers of mine and letters written to me but it happened that he was in his early 30's. Of course the local detectives only had a request from Michigan to check my "former" address -- the place where I have been all the time -- and couldn't tell me the extent of the investigation in other areas.

What had happened was that my car had been stolen in March. I'd reported this at once and the insurance company had even replaced the car. For some reason neither the Michigan police or the local fugitive detail had checked with the department of motor vehicles. I have no idea how much damage this imposter has done to others and to me. They'd been looking for the guy for at least three months before they got around to me.



Walker Winslow correspondence

-2-

There undoubtedly were letters and papers in the glove compartment of the car. At the time it was stolen I was in Mt Sinai Hospital for treatment of my bad shoulder, and the car was on the hospital parking lot. When I came home it seemed to me that someone had been in my apartment and gone through my things. At the time I couldn't find that anything of importance had been taken; later I found that a pair of engineer's boots and some blankets were missing.

If this theft business is what has been silencing everyone, they must either have a poor opinion of my character or think that I've become mentally ill. A person like myself is vulnerable to rumors in any case. I could do without this sort of "material" for the new autobiography I'm outlining.

I'd been planning to drive East when the book came out in Reader's Digest, and I could afford to. At that time I planned to visit Topeka and return the papers, etc. that I have, and have carefully cared for. Now, as soon as I can afford to I'll ship them. Sometime I'm going to find out just what it was that discouraged Reader's Digest. I'm sure that it wasn't you but I'm equally sure that the source of doubt stems from Topeka. I antagonized the wrong people and I'm being taught a costly lesson. Since the book has sold only a few over 6,000 copies I can only conclude that it hasn't served the purpose in public relations that I thought it would. By the way, I'm saving the original mss. and galleys for your library, if you want them.

in Dr. Mott's

I know how busy you are and that long letters are demanding. I'd just like a note of reassurance, if you are able to give it. The "Reading Notes" haven't come since April; I enjoy them almost as much as being able to attend your colloquiums.

Each week I see Jim Mott for an hour but we seem to have shifted from the impersonal therapy to a supportive friendship. It's amazing the number of people you've trained that I run into on the streets of Beverly Hills.

Please let me hear from you,

Sincerely

Harold

PS: Have you read THE HEDGEHOG AND THE FOX by Isaiah Berlin: or JOURNEY TO THE EAST, by Hermann Hesse? I'd like to see your reaction as it would appear in your "Reading Notes."

Walker Winslow correspondence

maine

October 8, 1957

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

Dear Harold:

I am just back from Europe, and I find your letter of September 7 wondering if we have stopped loving you because you haven't heard and so forth. I have been away for several months and I shall be extremely busy for the next month, but please don't jump to conclusions like that. I am not that kind of a changeable person. I do not know what is the matter with the READERS DIGEST and I am distressed to hear this news. We have bought hundreds of copies ourselves and will be buying some more. My brother may know something about the READERS DIGEST and I will ask him when next I see him. I have not seen him for months either, but will discuss this with him next week.

Sincerely,

of the book

KM:s

Karl Menninger, M.D.



Walker Winslow correspondence

Oct. 9/57

Dear Don :

I don't know what the P.O. Dept. does with books and letters that go to the wrong addresses. My last letter to you was simply addressed, Information Service, Topeka, was returned, and is now enclosed.

The option date on THE MENNINGER STORY for Digest has expired without any payment being made and so I still don't know where I stand and neither, it seems, does anyone else. Digest has a habit of sending the galley proofs and the check in the same letter so that may be what is happening. If by any long shot chance there is a rejection, Ken McCormick intends to find out the reason. Digest's enthusiasm for the book and the subject matter were too great to account for any rejection on literary grounds, he feels. From what you said, I feel fairly certain that there were no other blocks to publication.

Did you see the review in the big Catholic weekly, AMERICA, for Sept. 29. It was done By Dr. Francis Bracelend who was Dr. Will's opposite number in the Navy during the war. It is warm and enthusiastic and the average reader will assume that the Menninger family were Catholic. Piety is often mentioned but not its variety. This is an important review in more ways than one. A small Catholic magazine in Kansas was very anti-psychiatric.

Things are touch and go with me at the present, since my only immediate income from the book can come from the Digest check. The Fund for the Republic are still up in the air. My contract for the new book should come through any day but Shirley has been holding it up until we found out how long I might be with the Fund.

I'm curious to know if my book is brought up at the annual meeting and what the general response is.

I'll recapture my reviews from the lecture agency tomorrow and perhaps the simple thing to do will be to type a list which Helen can compare with hers. This way I'll be sending only the reviews you don't have.

At least the weather is breaking here and I've been more productive this past week.

My best to everyone,

Onward

Harold



Walker Winslow correspondence

MAINE

Walker Winslow
3845 Lavell Drive
Los Angeles 65, Calif
Oct. 10/57

Karl A. Menninger, M.D.
Menninger Foundation
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Doctor Karl:

I knew you were in Europe through reading about you in TIME and then the Foundation informed me. Now that you have just returned I know how busy you will be and won't bother you further until you get caught up.

The man who was impersonating me was caught in Florida last week and some of my papers have been returned. He certainly caused me a lot of misery and the Eastern police weren't helpful in letting me know the degree to which my name had been used. At least I'm reinstated with my publisher and agent and an option has been taken on a book.

It was the new book that caused me to write to Dr. Will as I did. I was brought to the realization that not only was I broke but that I was going to go right on paying for "The Menninger Story." It didn't seem to me that with a modicum of co-operation from the Foundation the book could possibly do so poorly. My publisher and agent despair of the Digest and agree that I'm not the problem since Digest has bought an article from me in the meantime and interested themselves in another. What has happened to that book is mysterious; it's failure defies reason. If the Foundation hadn't bought hundreds of copies I hate to think what the returns would be -- most of the first and only edition. Since I'd had to borrow and scrape this Summer due to the other situation, and I had depended on the Digest sale, I'm in the worst shape financially I've ever been in. Instead of helping the Foundation, as I had hoped, I've paupered myself.

It's a long, slow, and sometimes provoking, drag to get out of a hole such as I'm in and I'm sorry that I've conveyed this in letters to the foundation. I don't know how I'm going to get through the next few months but, as always, I presume I'll survive. My advances from Doubleday will go for debts the moment I get them.

Anyway, my health is good and at fifty-two I should have some productive years ahead.

I didn't seriously think I'd lost your friendship; you're too great a man for that. But it was good to hear from you again.

Sincerely

Harold



Walker Winslow correspondence

Maine

October 19, 1957

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

Dear Harold:

I am holding in my hand your letter to Doctor Will dated October 7 and one addressed to me dated October 10.

In addition to this I have earlier letters you wrote and I can see how distressed and unhappy and tormented and troubled you are and I would like to be of some help in enabling you to get on top of these feelings and enjoy life and hope again.

I am glad you felt inclined to tell us frankly how you feel, even though you seem to realize that some of your feelings are not quite justified by the facts even though others are perhaps more than justified. To take your letter up in some order, you mention not being on the mailing list for Foundation publications. Now we don't have mailing lists any more. We have a list of members of the Foundation, but these are not conferred like honorary degrees, you know. I hadn't realized that you weren't seeing the QUARTERLY and I am going to get ahold of some of these for you and send them to you at once. I doubt if you would be interested in the fund raising material, but even some of that could be sent to you and will be.

next (2)

Now you say you have been completely in the dark as to the attitude of the Foundation toward the book. Upon reflection I know you will realize that the Foundation isn't capable of forming attitudes and one can only speak of the attitudes of various members of the staff here who have read the book. I doubt if more than a few of the people here have read it. I know you wouldn't expect my brother and me to force it down their throats, since they have probably more than enough of us already. Furthermore, I think most of them think they are already familiar with the story, ^{even though} as you might well point out, they are not. Will and I feel just a little sensitive about urging people to read it because it is so very personal, Harold. I know you understand this. You say you don't believe the book could be damaging to us. I am sure no one thinks it has been damaging to us. *It is true that some don't feel*

*comfortable reading about the
childhood etc. or their present
superiors.*



Walker Winslow correspondence

Mr. Walker Winslow

- 2 -

October 19, 1957

(3) But now what really is wrong with the sales? Frankly, I don't know. I agree that it has had excellent reviews. I gave about 40 copies to friends of mine at Christmas time and most of them liked it. I can see how disappointed you are from many stand-points -- it was a lot of work, you put a lot of heart into it, you wanted to accomplish a certain purpose, and so on. I don't blame you for being depressed about it and puzzled. I would be myself.

I don't agree
But I do think that you handicap a calm inquiry into this by some of the conclusions you jump to. For example, you say that when a magazine like the DIGEST makes an editorial review and so on they will only suppress a book because they believe it will be dangerous or else feel that they may be offending an important source of material. Well, one of the editors of the DIGEST was here last weekend and he assures me that so far as he knows they are still expecting to run the abbreviated version of the book and explained that it was postponed only because of that de Kruif article, which impressed one or two of the editors so greatly and which I hope they now regret, because it was a poor article. No editor who visited Topeka was told by anyone here that the book had to be entirely rewritten. The editor did visit and ~~we~~ took up ^{with me} some of the details that were not quite accurate, but on the whole both they and we were highly enthusiastic about the condensation and kept looking for it.

When you say you feel that you have been "taken for a ride" and so forth I am afraid you tend to alienate the feeling of closeness and joint concern that I think you want to see develop. No one that I know of wants to take you for a ride.

I agree with what you say, that something about the poor sale is mysterious, and I would be interested in Doubleday's opinion about that. Then I would be interested in Doubleday's opinion as to what we might do to improve it.

I am writing a much longer letter now that I have got time to write, but I am fond of you and I am distressed to perceive that you are distressed and I share your disappointment about the sale of the book and I express my brother's sympathy in the matter, too, but I hope I can stimulate you to take a new look at it. There are lots of things you must go on doing.

Affectionately,

KM:s

Karl Menninger, M.D.

P.S. I bought 75 copies but wanted them in a hurry and bought most of them in a local bookstore with no discount, ~~but we~~ are not negotiating with the publisher for a wholesale shipment. There are three copies on my desk right now.

Walker Winslow correspondence

wcm
KAM to answer

Walker Winslow
3845 Lavell Drive
Los Angeles 65, Calif.
Oct. 22/57

Karl A. Menninger, M.D.
Menninger Foundation
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Doctor Karl:

Thanks a lot for your long and sympathetic letter. Knowing how filled your days are, I feel guilty for taking so much of your time. As you reviewed the accumulation of letter you must have thought that I was perhaps feeling persecuted to an abnormal degree.

The business about my car being stolen by a man who later impersonated me was factually correct. When I learned about it I thought that might account for the fact that my agent and others had seemingly dropped me. Actually, the reasons given for a silence that had kept me inactive for most of the Summer made less sense. In any case, the man and the car were picked up by the FBI in Florida about three weeks back. But the net results left me broke and in debt -- aside from my indebtedness to Doubleday.

I think I made it clear that I was sure that neither you or Dr. Willm would do anything to hamper or damage me. Certainly both of you have always given me help and encouragement. The reasons why neither of you can plug the book have a sound ethical basis that I've always understood. It did seem to me that perhaps the Information Service and fund raising groups in other localities were failing to recommend and utilize the book in ways that could be helpful to the Foundation. I'm sure that Don doesn't like the book, and that is certainly his personal privilege. Just how far this dislike carries over into his work, I have no way of knowing. I do know that the review in the Topeka paper did much more damage than I thought it could.

Re the Digest editor being told before publication that the book had to be entirely rewritten, I have only my agent's report of what a Digest editor told her. I doubt that the editor was quoting you or your brother. It is encouraging to know that you have so recently talked to an editor and he felt that the book would still be used. I think that the fact that you were interested will bear a lot of weight. You're right that their decision to use that De Kruif fairy tale was a mistake.

As you suggested, I'm going to inquire of Ken McCormick about his present opinions of why the book failed so badly. I do know that there was some disappointment because mental health organizations didn't give the book some backing. In the main, medical support has come from the general medical journals and only rarely from psychiatric journals. I realize that my ineptitude in dealing with Dr. Morse had something to do with this.



Walker Winslow correspondence

-2-

I don't know if you know it, but just at the time IF A MAN BE MAD Was much in demand, and when I was writing articles favorable to the V.A., the V.A. brought enough pressure to bear on Doubleday to cause them to keep the book out of print for nearly two months. I wasn't told about this until the statute of limitations for a suit had run out. This experience probably conditions my attitude toward the misuse of pressure in the mental health field and makes me overly suspicious.

The failure of THE MENNINGER STORY, taken alone, would simply be a disappointment. But magazines backed out on assignments because of the failure, I had to pay off the lecture bureau, the Digest sale which I had depended on appeared to have collapsed, and I found myself broke and unable to get even an attendants job. The option money I got for the new book went for imperative debts and I was left without anything to write the amount required to get an advance. Even if this book is a moderate success it would barely get me out of the hole to Doubleday. You can see how the prospect might be depressing.

My situation hasn't improved but I think that my state of mind has.. If I can manage to survive the next few weeks I'll bring off something to relieve the situation. Having an unexpected failure at 52 doesn't mean it's the end of the world.

About being on the mailing list -- I'd appreciate the Quarterly but I'm more interested in your reading notes and the annual reports, which I haven't had since 1952. I didn't even get them in 1953 and 54 when they would have helped me greatly in improving the factual accuracy of the book.

I'm extremely grateful for your very full and personally thoughtful letter. I will try not to bother you again unless I have some positive suggestion to make.

My very best regards to Dr. Will,

Sincerely

Winslow

Walker Winslow correspondence

Inter Office Memo

Date Sent Nov. 4, 1957

Date Rec'd _____

Date Ans. _____

To: Dr. Karl

From: Dr. Will

Subject: Walker Winslow's letter of Oct. 22

I enjoyed reading this letter and he sounds a little more healthy in his attitude.

*bel
admire
etc*

[Signature]

MF-216-11-50

Walker Winslow correspondence

I hope that you will have the patience to read this letter.
It will be the last long one with which I will bother you.

Walker Winslow
3845 Lavell Drive
Los Angeles 65, Calif.
Dec. 28/57

Karl A. Menninger, M.D.
Menninger Foundation
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Doctor Karl:

This is to wish you the successful year that I know beforehand that you are going to have. In almost any year of your professional life your accomplishments have equalled or surpassed the lifetime contributions of most outstanding men.

When I last wrote to you it appeared that things were picking up but for reasons that were purely political, and had nothing to do with my competence or intentions, the book had to be dropped. I'm in worse shape than I was before, since my indebtedness to Doubleday has increased. I'm headed into the New Year with less than ten dollars to my name, no chance of getting a job, and only the slimest of chances that the business office of Doubleday will allow an advance on a historical novel about which the editorial department is enthusiastic. It's a story based on an incident in which my grand parents were involved during the post-gold rush period in California.

Don Lawder's letter telling of his resignation came as a big surprise to me. While I'm sure that in the long run he was a loyal and effective representative of your organization, I'm equally sure that his attitude toward me and THE MENNINGER STORY cost me thousands of dollars and left me in a hole I'll be years getting out of. I was at his mercy since any inquiries about the book would be made to him and he could be supposed to represent you. Since I wrote the book to help the Foundation rather than cause it trouble he was able to pauperize me with utter immunity. I'm not being paranoid or obsessive; the results of his activities are present and active. Now that he's gone I at least have a fair chance of straightening things out with Digest, etc. So long as he worked for you I couldn't involve editors in what was essentially a personal issue.

I'm quite sure that you are aware that he planted that libelous review in THE TOPEKA CAPITAL. More important than the fact that such a review appearing in a local paper owned by a trustee of the Foundation could damage me nationally was the fact that it revealed the attitude of the Information Service toward me and my book. It represented just what I could expect. I was warned at the time that I had grounds for libel and should have demanded a retraction. If your press service were at all interested in seeing the story of your father get a fair treatment it would have been a simple matter to have called the reviewers distorted version of things I had said about you father to the attention of Mr. Stoffer. Actually, the only



Walker Winslow correspondence

-2-

Foundation people who came to my defense did so secretly by letting me know what went on.

I'm convinced that review set the tone for information that was passed out relative to the book and that researched reviews in the big magazines were thus discouraged. It is only reasonable to assume that the Digest editors were given a biased view of me. Busy men such as Dr. Will and yourself could only meet the editors casually. Doubleday saw which way the wind was blowing and quietly gave up. They wouldn't make an issue of the situation and I would have only killed whatever slight chances I had with Digest by getting them into a controversial position. The job Don did on me is a masterpiece of negative public relations. While I'll grant that it wasn't his job to sell the book, it most certainly wasn't his job to block its sale and acceptance.

Since you, personally, were so generously helpful to me I can understand how you might feel that I'm a very poor sport in keeping my gripe alive. Also, when you are confronted with the problem of raising millions to keep the Foundation going the few thousand I lost and went in debt isn't too impressive. The fact is that Don effectively cancelled out almost everything you did and since you trusted him I was helpless to protest.

I'll give you an example of something that happened while the book was being written. There had been an agreement that Don would supply me with factual and statistical material and, realistically, this was for the protection of the Foundation. When you generously helped me get a grant at Huntington Hartford I desperately needed factual information, reports, etc.. In a six month period I wrote to Don at least a dozen times and not even my letters were answered. Finally I appealed to you for help. After the fellowship had been used up Don wrote me a letter, which I still have, telling me that he had been in love with some girl and writing poetry while he neglected all but the immediate demands of his job. He'd told you that he had given me material and he asked me to pre-date a letter to him thanking him for what he hadn't done so that he could clear himself with you. I did nothing and I'm sure that you were lead to believe that my complaints were but a part of my personality disorder, or something. The moment Don had re-instated himself in your good graces he became quite vindictive and insistent on editing the book. Since he had even neglected to send me annual reports and generally sabotaged my research I couldn't be too impressed with his intentions toward me. Except for sporadic bursts of co-operation he had left me dangling for two years and intended to rush in at the last minute and put out my book the way he would a Foundation report. I may have appeared to be a stubborn and suspicious fool to you and Dr. Will but I'd used up all the Money Doubleday could give me and was working as an attendant in order to see the book through the press. I felt that I'd about made my contribution without working another year on the night shift while I rewrote the book to suit Don and Dr. Morse, especially when I heard that the pre-publication sale had been knocked in the head by someone in Topeka telling a Digest editor that the book had to be entirely rewritten.

Walker Winslow correspondence

-3-

I'd be the last to pretend that I turned in a perfect performance and there was a time when work on the book was slowed because of my own personal involvements. I did almost a whole book using a method Karen Rye was infatuated with, but which I knew was bad, in order to get to do the book with more dignity, if less color. Where I may have seemed to have made things over personal, I tried to do so through the use of harmless incidents and in good taste in order to establish a frame of reference for the extraordinary achievements of your family. Possibly I over-stressed certain points in your life in attempting to explain something that can't be explained -- genius. I'm not trying to flatter you, but only after it was too late did I really recognize that I wasn't merely dealing with a medical genius who changed the whole concept of treatment and education but rather with a universal genius who thought and worked in the terms of the total of our culture. I think this accounts for the fact that some of your contributions aren't as generally recognized as they should be. You are too vastly impatient to stop and capitalize on that which is accomplished. I was making a rather pitiful attempt to get you the recognition that I felt was due you.

This is the last letter I'm going to write about the beating I took over that book. Perhaps with Don gone my complaints will make more sense than they did in the past. If Digest does publish the condensation, a chance that is remote at this late date, I will be out of debt to Doubleday and have about \$2,000 for myself. It would be a big break if they did for I'm going through the very worst period of my life financially.

In the event you may have missed the LETTER FROM THE NIGHT feature that I'm doing for MANAS I'm enclosing a clipping.

With very best wishes,

Sincerely

Harold

Walker Winslow correspondence

Walker Winslow
3845 Lavell Drive
Los Angeles 65, Calif.
Jan. 4/58

Karl A. Menninger, M.D.
Menninger Foundation
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Doctor Karl:

I've just reread the carbon of my last letter to you and it certainly appears to be the production of an unhappy, desperate and sick man. I'm in no position to measure the magnitude of the latter, since such illness as there may be isn't self-inflicted as with alcohol or chemicals. Nor is it complicated by marital or extramarital factors. I've been living alone for two years.

My personal situation has worsened since I wrote to you -- Doubleday couldn't pay a further advance. Now I'm losing my car, the rent is three months overdue, the phone is being cut off and with it such hopes as I have of a job, and I no longer can borrow. I have no place to go but the skidrow, or to a state hospital if Jim Mott can get me in. If I were on my feet and had a car -- I can still recover mine by making two back payments -- I have a chance of getting a job at Las Encinas as an aide. Other places are sure that there's something wrong when a person of my reputation, and the income they imagine I get from my books, asks for an attendants' job. Since I'm 53 there are no other jobs. But with an attendant's job at Las Encinas I'd have a chance of writing myself out of a hole. In the state hospital, where I would have to go for the lack of \$500, there is a very poor chance of writing and I would simply have found a means of survival until something happens.

I've been depending on the Digest condensation to directly or indirectly finance my next book. The lecturing and writing side money I could have made with the book was knocked in the head by the book's commercial failure and my consequent lack of conviction about interest in it. I don't for a minute think you are responsible for this -- quite the opposite -- but I'm convinced that Don's role in the failure of the book was great and much more active than you had any way of knowing.

This is a humiliating letter to write but I'm at the end of my rope. All I want is a fighting chance to get a job and make my own future. I know that however much you might wish to you couldn't loan me \$500. There is certainly no obligation on your part and only in an indirect sense is the Foundation obligated. If through the latter you could make me a loan, to be repaid when Digest uses the book, or requiring me to do some work for you on the Coast, it would be a humane and just thing to do. And it would leave me feeling less used and discarded.

One thing I want to make very clear. Although this appeal may be based on the feeling that I was treated less than justly by the Information Service Director, it is not based on any legal claim and whatever you decide to do I will never make such a claim or publicize what has happened. I wouldn't even sue Lawder since I would only damage his family. I have no malice; I'm simply a guy who's trying to salvage the last of his possession so that he can face the future with an even chance.

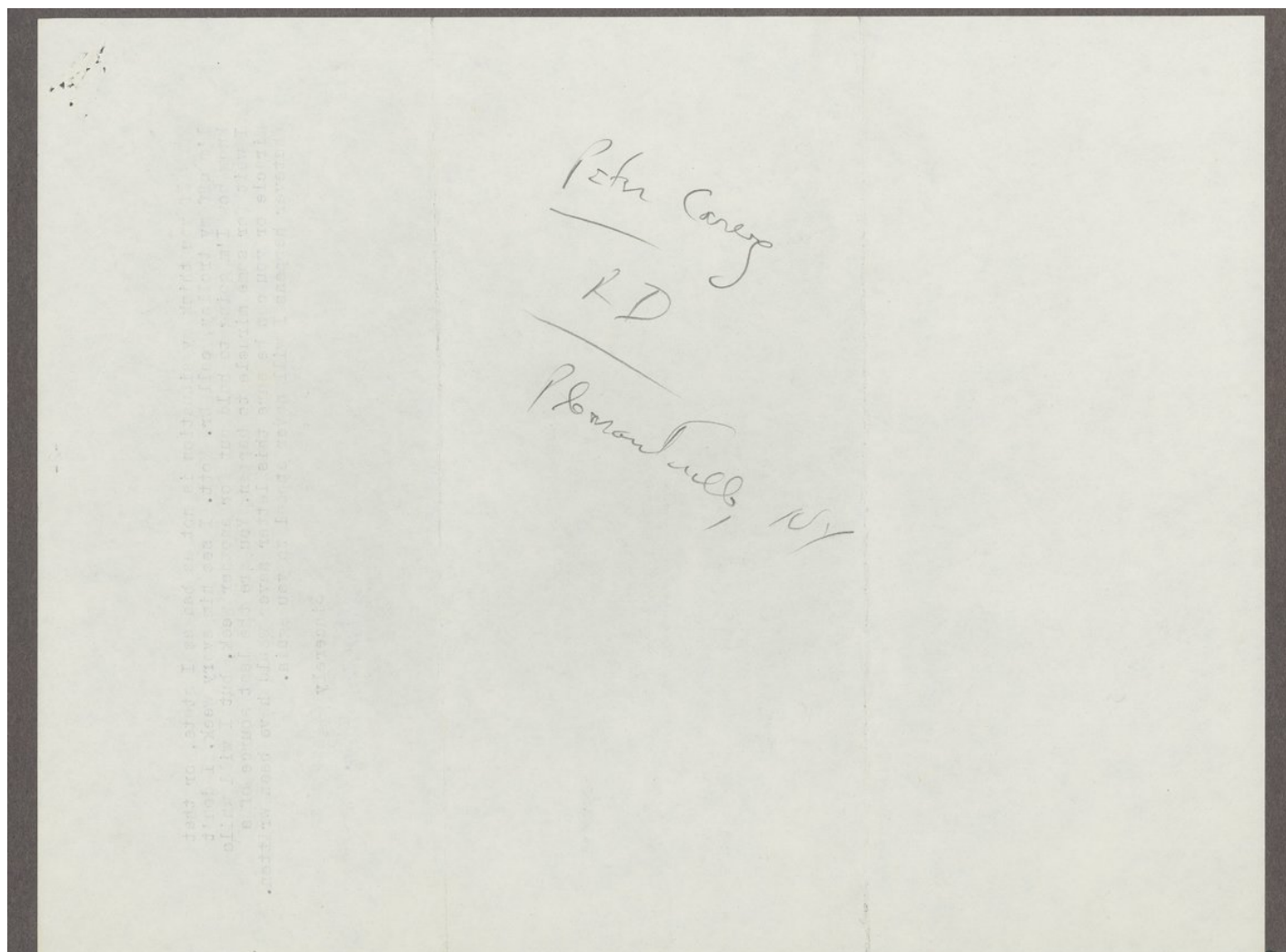
Walker Winslow correspondence

-2-

If you think my situation is not as bad as I state, or that I'm off my trolley, call Dr. Mott. I see him every week. I don't know how I'm going to hold out for another week, but I will while I wait for some miracle to happen. You are the last source of a miracle or you can be sure this letter never would have been written. Whatever happens I will never appeal to you again.

Sincerely *Harold*
Walker Winslow

Walker Winslow correspondence



Walker Winslow correspondence

Inter Office Memo

Date Sent 1/6/58

Date Rec'd _____

Date Ans. _____

To: Dr. Karl

From: WCM

Subject:

Just for the sake of the record--because I think poor Walker Winslow is understandably so bitter and distressed, he is quite wrong, I am confident, about the review that appeared in the Topeka Daily Capital. This chap who wrote it, Kenneth David, who is the son-in-law by the way of Mrs. Simon Galitski, was always a rabble rouser. He was the one who caused all the trouble with the Board of Education and took great delight in muck raking and personally I thought was very difficult. He was once in my Sea Scout unit and I loaned him the money to buy a uniform and then never got this back, even though he was right around in town for many years afterwards. He called me before this review was published and asked my opinion and had to report at that time that I hadn't read the book. I just know he is the kind who always has been a difficult guy and I would bet ten to one that he never even talked to Lawder about it and I would also question--though this is open to question--whether Lawder knew anything about the review about to appear. I think it just expressed Kenny David's criticism of most everything and everybody.

WCM

MF-216-11-50

