

Clifford W. Beers papers

Section 2, Pages 31 - 60

Beers' papers, largely, consist of handwritten and typed incoming and outgoing letters, as well as some correspondence about Beers. Correspondents include some family members, such as his wife Clara's parents and Clifford's brother George, but mostly include friends and acquaintances, such as Erua Geuil Perriu, Marie O.Ley, Paul "Mac" McQuaid, Elizabeth Warner, Louise Gaffney, Dr. and Mrs. Toulouse, Mary Louise Bok, William and Alice James, and others. The subjects of the letters mostly concern Beers' efforts toward bettering the lives of patients with mental illnesses and the publication of his book, *A Mind that Found Itself*. The materials also include Beers' courtship letters to Miss Jepson (parts of which were removed by Clara before she donated them to the Menninger Foundation, as she deemed them too personal) and letters he wrote to her after they were married. Some letters are in French.

Creator: Beers, Clifford Whittingham, 1876-1943

Date: 1903-1955

Callnumber: Menninger Historic Psychiatry Coll., Beers, Box 1-4

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 223254

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6-5-73

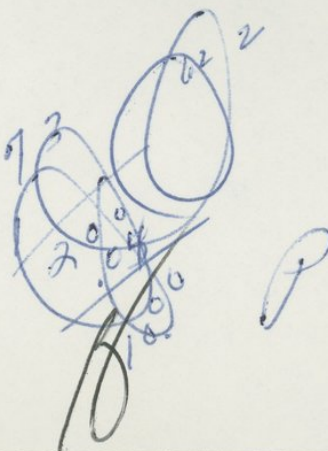
Norothy -

Count & mail to

Dr. Norman Dain
110 Crescent Ave.
Leonia, N.J. 07605

and bill him for Xeroxing
(Can it be sent "book rate"?)

222
A .05
11.10



from the desk of _____

VERNE B. HORNE



June 7, 1973

Norman Dain, M.D.
110 Crescent Avenue
Leonia, New Jersey 07605

Please remit \$11.10 payable to the
Menninger Foundation and mail to:

Mrs. Connie Johnson
Menninger Foundation
Box 829
Topeka, Kansas 66601

for the enclosed zeroxed material.

Mrs. Dorothy Rabe
Mrs. Dorothy Rabe, Secretary.
Museum and Archives

from the desk of _____

VERNE B. HORNE

Clifford W. Beers papers

Bad - This is self-explanatory. Will you or
Dr. Harl write to thank him? Or
maybe you prefer to wait until I send the
picture, which may not be until after Xmas,
for I have some more things from Mrs. B. to send.
November 29, 1962
Let me know if I have said anything you
prefer not to have said - or to say differently.

Dr. William B. Terhune
Silver Hill
New Canaan, Connecticut

N.T.C.
11/29/62

Dear Dr. Terhune:

On behalf of the Menninger Foundation I wish to thank you most warmly for the painting by Clifford Beers which I picked up at your office yesterday. Of all the paintings Clara Beers has given me for the Menninger Foundation, this is by far the best, and I am sure they will be delighted to have it for their permanent collection.

I understand from Clara that it was with some reluctance that you agreed to part with the picture and I can certainly understand your feelings. I believe, however, that if you knew what was going on out at Menninger Foundation you would be happy to have this picture out there as part of the Beers Collection. (I have put a sticker on the back saying this is a gift from you.) I don't know just how much Clara has told you about the Menninger Foundation's plans for developing archives and an historical library in psychiatry and the related behavioral sciences. They have a fine fireproof air-conditioned room where all manuscripts, letters, and other documents are properly catalogued by a curator particularly trained for them by the Library of Congress -- which incidentally is enthusiastic about the plan, saying that no such archives exist elsewhere in the country. They already have some exceedingly interesting items -- letters of Freud and many of the other early pioneers, photographs, recordings, films, first editions of books and journals, early hospital reports -- the gamut. In fact you may wish to give a moment's thought to your own files in view of your long association with psychiatry because you may find you have items which you would be glad to feel were being taken care of for posterity and meanwhile made available to scholars. I have already sent them two cartons of material from my own files and have found immediate interest on the part of a number of associates with whom I have discussed the matter.

It is too!

Please note.

He asked me for it. I didn't know he was going to do that.



Clifford W. Beers papers

- 2 -

Clara Beers has given me for the Menninger Foundation about eight different editions of Clifford's book, including two first editions; thirty or forty other books inscribed by the author to him and in some instances inscribed by him; and those few of his personal and unofficial papers which she still had in the house. She does not have his official papers, but it seems to me that it would be highly appropriate for them also some day to be in the hands of the Menninger Foundation Historical Library.

Possibly you know that my own interest in Beers stems from a variety of experiences -- the dramatized version of his book entitled, "My Name is Legion," which I wrote with a co-author in 1950 and which was produced in 26 states; my book, "Mental Health in the United States; a 50 Year History;" and the fact that I have come to count Clara as a friend, dating back to the several summers my husband and I lived in her house. Ever since I was first connected with the National Committee for Mental Hygiene I have been deploring the fact that Clifford's papers were not properly being cared for. That explains some of my enthusiasm about the Menninger Foundation project.

I do not know whether you are interested in all this detail but I thought in view of your long standing acquaintance with Clifford and Clara, and your many years in the field, you would like to know more about the archives, and what is being done with Clifford's things.

Again I thank you most cordially for this particular picture.

Sincerely yours,

Nina Ridenour
Secretary

Clifford W. Beers papers

Inter Office Memo

To: Dr. Will cc: Madeleine Aitken, Hazel Bruce Date: 10/30/63
From: Dr. Hall/ga
Subject: Nina Ridenour

A recent letter from Nina Ridenour which I received would indicate that her feelings toward us are improved. I repeat that the blunder over this is mine and I am all for taking responsibility for what I do and what I don't do. I would point out, however, that Hazel did acknowledge the materials that Dr. Ridenour sent, and she seems to have forgotten that.

I would remind all of you that I personally think Nina Ridenour's furor that has clipped Dr. Will and Madeleine has absolutely nothing to do with the Beers material. Nina Ridenour was wooed by us, and when it was decided that it was probably not the best thing to bring her here to work as the person in charge of the archives, she felt realistically or unrealistically that she was dropped. I think this was a great personal disappointment for Nina, and I personally continue to think that this is the primary source of the anger.

I do not mean to rationalize my failure to be able to take care of the archives as they should have been taken care of during that period after Carl's death. But I do think that we all ought to recognize that Hazel did do her job, and despite that Nina was furious with us.

I hope now this whole thing can be buried and we can go on again. I am impressed that Dr. Wheelock is taking over in a way that only could please Nina.



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A NON-PROFIT CENTER FOR TREATMENT AND PREVENTION, RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION IN PSYCHIATRY

829 Madison Avenue
New York 21, N. Y.

Topeka, Kansas

October 25, 1963

Doctors Hall and Wheelock and Mrs. Bruce
The Menninger Foundation
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Bud, Dr. Lewis and Hazel:

May we please close the Ridenour book? All three of you have turned the trick for which I am heartily grateful and more than slightly embarrassed at having stirred things to such a pitch.

What pleased me above all is that Nina has been placated and plans to send more for your collection.

This time,

Very humbly yours,

Mrs. Madeleine M. Aitken



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Clifford W. Beers papers

Inter Office Memo

Date Sent Oct. 25, 1963

Date Rec'd _____

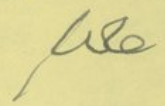
Date Ans. _____

To: Dr. Wheelock

From: Dr. Will

Subject:

Thanks ever so much for sharing all of this with me. I think it is very well done and I am grateful that we have gone this extra mile to calm down this person--whom I think we really did ignore too much but who also over-reacted.



MF-216-11-50

Clifford W. Beers papers

ITTLESON FAMILY FOUNDATION

654 Madison Avenue • New York 21

NINA RIDENOUR, Ph. D. *Secretary*

October 24, 1963

Dr. Lewis F. Wheelock
The Menninger Foundation
Topeka, Kansas

My dear Dr. Wheelock:

I was pleased indeed to receive your letter of October 18th and to hear how much is happening in connection with the archives.

The "ill-feelings" to which you refer stemmed from a series of incidents, but all that is now past. Do not feel that you must keep "thanking" me, although I do appreciate being kept informed of any major developments related to the Beers collection.

As soon as I had read your letter I telephoned Mrs. Beers and you would have been gratified to hear her delight. Her immediate response was "I must look around and see whether I have anything else." I told her I would try to get out to Englewood to see her soon and go over things with her.

She would appreciate receiving an annotated set of the photographs. May I suggest that the annotations not be done in pencil because the pressure shows through on the picture side.

Since Mrs. Beers does not know either Dr. Will or Dr. Karl personally, I believe a letter from you would please her just as much. I was embarrassed last year because it was five and a half months before she finally received an acknowledgment from The Menninger Foundation for the things she had entrusted to me and she was puzzled, but now the news about the Beers Room will more than make up. Her address is:

Mrs. Clifford W. Beers
171 Sherwood Place
Englewood, N. J.

Recently I received from Dr. J. D. Griffin, Medical Director of the Canadian Mental Health Association, a personal gift of a reproduction of a charcoal sketch of Clifford Beers, which the Canadian Association has had made from that one favorite picture. Although it is only a reproduction it is quite handsome and I think you would like to have it. I shall send it as soon as I can find a proper mailing tube.

Clifford W. Beers papers

- 2 -

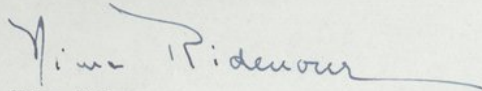
October 24, 1963

I am still hanging on to the chopped-up love letters from Clifford to Clara, hoping she will let me send those out eventually.

You asked for suggestions. I would encourage you to try gradually to assemble a complete collection of the thirty-odd different editions and printings of "A Mind that Found Itself" for the reasons I described in my memorandum to Dr. Hall last November.

Do not hesitate to call on me if there is any way in which I can be helpful.

Sincerely yours,



Nina Ridenour
Secretary



ITTLESON FAMILY FOUNDATION

654 Madison Avenue • New York 21

NINA RIDENOUR, Ph. D. *Secretary*

October 24, 1963

Dr. Bernard H. Hall
The Menninger Foundation
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Bud:

Thanks for your letter of the 17th.

You do not owe me any protestations of gratitude. If I am fortunate enough to do something that proves useful that in itself is ample reward. But I do admit that the year-long series of incidents vis a vis MF did finally get to be a bit much -- topped off by the combination of no acknowledgment of the things I sent in August plus hearing about the Clifford Beers Room only indirectly and by happenstance so to speak. Hence my explosion to Madeleine. However, all that is past now and I am happy to hear that things are going well with the archives.

Mrs. Beers was overjoyed at the news of the Beers Room. I am writing Dr. Wheelock.

Sincerely yours,

Nina Ridenour
Secretary

Clifford W. Beers papers

Inter Office Memo

Date Sent Oct. 24, 1963

Date Rec'd _____

Date Ans. _____

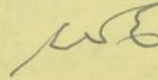
To: Hazel Bruce

From: Dr. Will

Subject:

Dear Hazel:

This is a very sweet note. Thanks a lot for taking the trouble to show me a copy of the letter you wrote to Nina and her response to you. I understand that Dr. Wheelock has also written her and Bud has written her though as yet I haven't had a chance to see those letters. I just want to fortify myself so that if ever it comes up with Nina again I can tell her I have seen these letters.



MF-216-11-50

Clifford W. Beers papers

829
mullins
date on 10/21

Inter Office Memo

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

To: _____

From: _____

Subject: _____

Oct 24/63

Sent my (only) copy of
Aitken letter to Dr Will
(to maitken from LFW Oct 18
enclosing my letter to
Riderson)

Mrs Aitken wrote Dr Will Oct 21 '63
referring to "Dr Wheeler wrote
such a charming letter to Nina that
I feel certain the troubled waters
have been smoothed."

MF-216-11-50

Clifford W. Beers papers

Inter Office Memo

Date Sent October 23, 1963 Date Rec'd _____ Date Ans. _____

To: Dr. Will, cc to Dr. Hall

From: Hazel Bruce

Subject:

Gee, this business with Dr. Ridenour has really blossomed out into a full-blown mixup hasn't it! I'm terribly sorry for my part in the whole thing and I guess we all feel the same way about it. I have written Madeleine, as you suggested, and enclosed a copy of the exchange between Dr. R. and myself. Attached is another yellow carbon for you to see too, Dr. Will. So Madeleine will know what has gone on from this end, having my correspondence, Dr. Hall's, and Dr. Wheelock's. And Dr. Wheelock has sent her pictures of the display room, individual cases, etc. so she (Dr. R.) can see for herself that we have really made use of her donations.

If there is anything else I can do to help straighten this out, I'll be glad to.
(And I'm trying not to feel "reciprocally paranoid" - whatever that means!)

MF-216-11-50



October 23, 1963

Dear Madeleine: *(authem)*

Having just returned from a week's vacation I am a little bit out of touch with the Doctor Ridenour developments but I take it you have been placed in an awkward situation about the Beers material which you saw at Annual Meeting. Doctor Will has suggested that I send you a copy of my correspondence with Doctor Ridenour during Doctor Hall's vacation and I'm happy to do so. Our Thermofax machine doesn't take kindly to copying yellow sheet carbons so I have retyped it, and at the bottom I have typed a copy of Doctor Ridenour's reply to my note. From the dates (August 12 and August 15) you can see that her letter saying she was sending more material was really acknowledged, at least by me since I was the only available person at the time. Of course I should have known that Doctor Will should have been notified too (and I have apologized to him for my thoughtlessness) but I just plain forgot to tell him about the correspondence at that time.

I'm terribly sorry for my own part in this mix-up which has resulted in your being placed in this difficult spot. I realize how hard it is for you to try to represent all of us here when we fail to keep you informed of what has gone on that would also affect you. Please forgive me for being so lackadaisical, I'll try harder next time, believe me!

It was so good to see you at Annual Meeting. I kept hoping for a moment to chat with you longer but you were just too busy every time I saw you. I'm always so interested in your reaction to the increased activity in our museum and archives project, since you have watched its growth practically from the beginning, including the early education of the archivist. Now that we have a professional curator we will be writing more reports, leaflets, articles, etc. and I'll be glad to send copies of our efforts if they will be of interest to you and helpful in any way.

Please let me know if I can do anything further to help straighten out the difficulty. And all my very best wishes to you.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Hazel Bruce
Archivist

Enc.



Clifford W. Beers papers

Inter Office Memo

Date Sent Oct. 23, 1963

Date Rec'd _____

Date Ans. _____

To: Dr. Wheelock, Hazel Bruce, Dr. Hall

From: Dr. Will

Subject:

I wonder if I could bother you to let me see a copy of the letter you wrote to Nina Ridenour-- I am almost sure to bump into her again and I would feel very much fortified to know our end of the story as well as knowing hers. Madeleine, of course, overreacted as I felt she did and mentioned it in my note to you when I saw a carbon of her letter to Hazel and Bud. I think she did only because Nina is so effective in her castigation and as I was in the same boat I think I appreciate Madeleine's reaction--one just feels helpless not knowing what the story is at this end and can't really believe that it was all that Nina says it was. But in any event I guess between us all I guess we are all getting it straightened out but I would be grateful to see a copy of the letter that Doctor Wheelock has written and Bud has written her, a copy of that one, too.

*Dr Hall - I sent along
a copy of your letter to
Dr Will.
to Wheelock
10/24/63*

*Fine!
Rx*

Leslie

MF-216-11-50



THE MENNINGER FOUNDATION

A NON-PROFIT CENTER FOR TREATMENT AND PREVENTION, RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION IN PSYCHIATRY

829 Madison Avenue
New York 21, N. Y.

Topeka, Kansas

October 21, 1963

Dr. William C. Menninger
The Menninger Foundation
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Dr. Will:

Dr. Wheelock wrote such a charming letter to Nina that I feel certain the troubled waters have been smoothed. Like you I agree, Nina was so overwrought that day at lunch that she may have forgotten a few of Hazel's letters. I am the one now who feels guilty for writing to Bud and Hazel as I did, for I really have no business stating things so firmly, and should have slept on the matter before taking pen in hand. Bud just wrote me a sweet letter, so I don't think he harbors too ill a feeling.

About seeing Mrs. Harry P. Bingham who renewed her \$500. for the fourth year through Lucy's appeal, the plan is for her to be Lucy's guest at the Waldorf luncheon on December 10th. While Mrs. Bingham is rich and generous, her main interest appears to be playing bridge morning, noon and night.

Cordially,

Mrs. Madeleine M. Aitken

MMA:jbs

*Dr. Wheelock
Hazel Bingham
Dr. Hall
Dr. Will*



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Clifford W. Beers papers

Inter Office Memo

To: Dr. Bud Hall and Hazel Bruce

Date: October 18, 1963

From: Dr. Will

Subject:

I saw this rather castigating letter from Madeleine and she makes it pretty rough. I hope it doesn't get your ire up. I only send you this note to empathize because as I told both of you, I was just parboiled by this nice sweet, lovable person at Mrs. Ittleson's cocktail party in mid-September when I wrote to both of you.

I have this thought. I would suggest that Hazel send Madeleine a photostatic copy of the letter she wrote to Nina. I know Bud told me just before the annual meeting he written her--which incidentally I don't understand if just two days ago Madeleine sees her and she didn't get Bud's letter. In any event I would send her photostatic copies of your letters. Incidentally, I would be much interested in seeing what you said, too, because of the fact that I am going to have to bump into Nina again.

It isn't just the fact that Nina is mad about the things she has sent us. I honestly think she is the kind of girl who, if she were on our team, could be with a little encouragement, I believe, or at least I think she could have been--I know she would just run her legs off finding stuff. It seems to be one of her kind of natural bents.

In addition though, as you well know, she has been responsible for \$3,000 a year from the Ittleson Family Foundation and this last year it was raised, I think, to \$5,000. Here again, I don't know whether I told you, she took me to task because she didn't get an acknowledgement of this increase. I wrote to Henry, the boss and and laid it on, I thought, kind of heavily, of our delight and pleasure that the amount had been increased, but I guess Nina assumed I ought to know that the increase came because of her encouragement and hence I should have written to thank her. This was just another one of the semi-paranoid thoughts she had but she took me to task. Then, of course she was responsible for the \$100,000 for the Extrasensory Perception and she carried that ball entirely--we didn't even apply for it until she told us to, and she had done all the sales work before we came along, so that really she is terribly important.

Hence, I hope both of you will not feel reciprocally paranoid--if there is such a concept and of course, I don't think there is, but you know what I mean--for us to go the extra mile and try to make her feel we are really sincerely regretful of what seems to be a concatenation of unhappy events.

file



October 18, 1963

Mrs. Madeleine A. Aitken
The Menninger Foundation
829 Madison Avenue
New York 21, New York

Dear Mrs. Aitken,

I was so sorry not to have been able to see more of you during our Annual Meeting. I joined the staff October 1, just in time for the activity (sic) involved. For the last three years I had been a visiting lecturer in history (my field is American intellectual history) at the University of Kansas. Dr. Karl who it had been my honor to know from the past had encouraged me in my desire to write an institutional history of the Foundation and I was spending every free moment in the Archives. Thus when I was asked to be curator of the Museum and Archives and Historian in Residence, I was delighted. I'll be in New York with my family visiting my sister who lives near Lincoln Center (her husband teaches at Manhattansville Catholic Girls College in Westchester) from December 22 to January 4, and will hope to see you then.

As you know, full well we are desperately trying to do "repair work" in the Ridenour-Beers affair. You know the details first hand (too first hand, I would judge from your letters in the correspondence file given to me). I believe Dr. Hall sent you a copy of his letter to Dr. Ridenour and I am following suit. Naturally we want to do any and everything in our power to repair "bridges" possibly damaged but certainly not intentionally and with the greatest and most contrite regret. If there is anything further I can do please let me know. Of course if we can ever be of service to you we will be flattered to be asked here at the Museum and Archives.

By the way, Mary Benjamin, director of Walter R. Benjamin Autographs, from whom we first acquired so very important William James items, writes she is moving into offices just above yours and has been delayed due to the fact the building is behind schedule. I hope all of this has not added too many burdens to your moving.

Most sincerely,

Lewis F. Wheelock, Ph.D.
Curator of the Museum and Archives
The Menninger Foundation

LFW/bj

cc to Ridenour letter
Oct 18, 1963



Clifford W. Beers papers

copy for HWB

*Perfect copy
sent. HWB.*

R

October 18, 1963

Dr. Nina Ridenour, Ph.D., Secretary
Ittleson Family Foundation
654 Madison Avenue
New York 21, New York

Dear Dr. Ridenour,

Toward the end of last month I joined the staff of The Menninger Foundation as Curator of the Museum and Archives and Historian in Residence. My first activity was to arrange the displays in the just finished Clifford Beers Room in time for our Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors, October, 4-6. The collection is so remarkable and so complete that I was quite overwhelmed at the good fortune of the Foundation in such a truly remarkable acquisition. I quickly learned that you, Dr. Ridenour, were responsible for that "good fortune" and wanted to write you immediately expressing our gratitude just as soon as the photographs were completed.

Of course there is a "book" in this collection for some suitable scholar. The room was of particular interest to our Board of Governors, and continues to fascinate groups of visitors. On the bottom of the placard outlining Clifford Beers' life (which can be read with a magnifying glass) we had printed the following: "Largely through the effort of Dr. Nina Ridenour, Mrs. Clifford Beers donated a major portion of this collection - a selection of which appears here."

I have enclosed pictures with penciled annotations on the reverse and we would be delighted to send you a non-annotated set if you might wish them for any purpose. We treasure the collection and it is cataloged and preserved - as are the remarkable paintings - with the greatest care. The International Congress materials have also been a rich addition to our holdings and are carefully preserved.

Do you feel, Dr. Ridenour, that now it might be appropriate to have Dr. Will and Dr. Karl and myself write directly to Mrs. Beers expressing our gratitude? Would, for example, Mrs. Beers like some pictures such as the ones enclosed for you?

Nedone
I really do not fully understand the background of any possible ill-
will in these matters but realize that delay and confusion was caused by Dr. Epstein's sudden death. I can only plead that I share the horror of the fine people concerned here lest in any way we have offended people who have been so kind and generous to us. *feel-*



Dr. Nina Ridenour

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October 18, 1963

Although I am stranger and new to the situation here I have some knowledge of the great effort you expended in obtaining this collection for The Menninger Foundation.

We do so hope that one day you will be able to come again in person to see what we are accomplishing. You certainly must know what a great honor such a visit would be for us. Dr. Bernard Hall and Mrs. Hazel Bruce particularly join me in expression of personal admiration and the deepest gratitude for your effort and interest. Any suggestions you may have at any time will be most eagerly received.

I am most sincerely yours,

Lewis F. Wheelock, Ph.D.
Curator of the Museum and Archives
The Menninger Foundation

LFW/bj
Enc.

*enclosed
annotated
pictures.*

Clifford W. Beers papers

Inter Office Memo

To: Dr. Lewis Wheelock

Date: 10/17/63

From: Dr. Hall/ga

Subject: Ridenour Correspondence

Lewis -- This is one of the things that I feel very badly about that occurred during the last year and I take full responsibility for it and for having allowed it to be terribly neglected. I would appreciate it if you would review the correspondence with Doctor Ridenour, and Hazel can fill you in on the details. We are in very bad straits with her and that is my fault. I wish you would immediately correspond with her, seeking her advice as to what we can do to right things. Ask her if it is appropriate now to have Dr. Will and Dr. Karl as well as yourself write directly to Mrs. Beers and send pictures, or just what she suggests we do to get things straightened out.

Nina Ridenour is a dear, and that's why I feel particularly bad about my neglect of her. She is potentially in a position to contribute enormously important things to our collection, as she already has done. I hope she will come to understand that it was not through any malice that this neglect occurred, but simply that the tragedy of Doctor Epstein's death threw things completely out of joint here and that I had to take care of the clinical services and that if Hazel hadn't been who she is we simply would not have been able to keep things going during that period until you joined us.

I'll be glad to go any of your letters that you formulate to Doctor Ridenour if you think I could be of help. I am so guilty at this point that I would do most anything to try to get things straightened out. It might be well to send carbons of your letters to Madeleine Aitken so that she knows we are concretely trying to correct things.

I have told Doctor Will that I have written to Doctor Ridenour and that you and I are trying to get things straightened out again.

Many thanks.

BHH



Clifford W. Beers papers

October 17, 1963

Dear Madeleine,

The whole thing with Nina Ridenour has been very poorly handled and I am entirely responsible for the neglect. Unfortunately, since Carl Epstein's death I simply let the archives part of my work slide, in fact I had to. One of the unfortunate consequences of that was that Nina has been neglected and not properly appreciated by us for what she did for us.

I have written her quite a long letter apologizing, telling her it was my fault and expressing our sincere appreciation for what she has done for us and my wish that she will continue to help us.

Now that Dr. Lewis Wheelock is there to work with Hazel on the archives and museums, this kind of thing won't happen again. Doctor Wheelock is very cognizant of the necessity of taking care of people who donate things to us, and I know he will do a much better job of it than I did. I am asking him to pick up immediately with Doctor Ridenour and try to correct some of my clumsy errors.

It was awfully good seeing you at Annual Meeting but as always I really didn't feel like I had much of a chance to visit with you. We have all now practically recovered from the Annual Meeting and are back to work.

Thanks for taking time to write to me to remind me to straighten things out with Doctor Ridenour, and I hope my letter to her will be of some help in that direction.

Cordially,

Bernard H. Hall, M.D.

BHH:ga
Air Mail

Clifford W. Beers papers

*This is a copy of
Dr Hall's letter which we
have as we now keep the
"Ridenour file" here at the
Archives - H.F. Wheelock*

October 17, 1963

Dr. Nina Ridenour
360 Roaring Brook Road
Chappagua, New York

Dear Nina:

I am sitting here in my office feeling very sad about the course of events with reference to your sincere and earnest and most successful efforts to help The Menninger Foundation with its archival collection and with its museums. I am sad because we have been dreadfully negligent in showing our appreciation for your efforts and acknowledging them. I say "we" when I should very properly say "I." It was my responsibility and I fumbled it very badly.

I'm afraid that the course of events in the last year made me neglect a number of responsibilities and particularly those to the archives and to the libraries here. As you may remember, on October 13th last year, Dr. Carl Epstein, who was Director of our Psychotherapy Service, suddenly died of a coronary heart attack. This was a terrible shock for us personally, and particularly for me since I cherished him as a wonderful friend. It was an even greater shock for the whole Foundation in that he was one of our most able leaders and carried a great many heavy responsibilities for the total clinical operation here. Things drug along for a week or two as we were all in our mourning about his death, and then as of the 29th of October of last year I took over his work as well as the work I was already doing.

This led to a very difficult year for me, but unfortunately it had the side effect of rather devastating neglect of the archives and libraries. There were months on end that I never even saw Hazel, nor had time to visit the archives. We carried on as best we could through inner-office memos, but that never is very satisfactory. It was hard for us to find someone to take over this area, and Doctor Karl felt we should get along as best we could for a while until things settled down and we came to some realistic decision about the administration of the archives and libraries.

Finally, in the late spring, it was decided that the libraries and archives would come under the administrative direction of the Education Department, and at that time Dr. Paul Pruyser took over what I was neglecting. It wasn't much better actually when Doctor Pruyser took over because as you will remember he is head of the total Education Department, and he already had a job that kept him jumping. Doctor Pruyser did find time, however, to try to work out some kind of solution to our problem, and just recently we were able to obtain the help of Dr. Lewis Wheelock,



Clifford W. Beers papers

-2-

October 17, 1963

a professional historian who is now working as our archivist and together with Hazel Bruce they are beginning to pull things together again.

In this dreadful interim of my neglecting things, I am afraid the marvelous things that you were able to obtain for the collection, particularly the Clifford Beers material, were, unfortunately, not even acknowledged. Needless to say, we are grateful, even if we are clumsy and awkward and forgetful about expressing that gratitude. Independent of you and I, I cannot help but be very excited about the fact that the Clifford Beers materials are in a place where they are being taken care of, where they are being exhibited, and where plans are afoot to do something with them in a scholarly way as far as the writings of some publications.

This is mostly a letter of apology, as well as a request that you don't lose faith in us despite our lack of evidence of courtesy toward you. I can assure you that things are well in hand now, and I am going to turn all of the collected correspondence with you over to Dr. Lewis Wheelock and ask him to immediately pick up with you on the things that have not been done. I am sure he can look into this matter of appropriate letters to Mrs. Beers, as well as photographs of the materials that are on exhibit. There is a separate Clifford Beers Room in the museum area now and there is a beautiful exhibit now and it commands a tremendous amount of attention. Doctor Wheelock is much more skillful than I in knowing how he can report this in a way to Mrs. Beers which will reassure her that we can live up to the trust that you and she have placed in us.

In the meantime, I hope things are going well with you. Doctor Will has mentioned seeing you on a couple of occasions and it's always good to have news of you. Things continue to be just as busy for me and I'm still carrying the total Outpatient Service job, but we are in the process of planning some further integration and reorganization which I know are going to make things better for our patients and will evidence better use of some of our staff.

Bless you for your continued faith in us, and I hope one of these days soon you will be able to come to Topeka and see what great strides are really being made with the archives and museum.

Cordially,

Bernard H. Hall, M.D.

BHH:ga
Air Mail



THE MENNINGER FOUNDATION

A NON-PROFIT CENTER FOR TREATMENT AND PREVENTION, RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION IN PSYCHIATRY

829 Madison Avenue
New York 21, N. Y.

Topeka, Kansas

October 15, 1963

Mrs. Hazel Bruce and Dr. Bernard H. Hall
The Menninger Foundation
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Hazel and Bud:

Nina Ridenour kindly sent me some seeds for my garden just before I left for Topeka. Yesterday I took her to lunch to thank her and give her the highlights of the Annual Meeting. Then hoping to please her, I spoke enthusiastically about the Clifford Beer's room and how beautifully his books, papers, pictures and paintings were displayed. How was I to know I was walking into a veritable hornet's nest and that you people have been remiss in not acknowledging the last gifts which were sent in August, or that you had assembled the collection?

Suffice it to say, her hostilities rose to a fine pitch and that I could hardly blame her. She has given The Menninger Foundation things you wanted and value, and a great deal more will be forthcoming if simple courtesy and a bit of court is played.

May I suggest both of you write her within the week and thoughtfully include a picture of the exhibit, for her to show to Mrs. Beers?

Restrainfully yours,

MMA Madeleine A. Aitken

MMA:jbs

Call P.P.

Clifford W. Beers papers

Inter Office Memo

Sept. 19, 1963

Date Sent _____

Date Rec'd _____

Date Ans. _____

To: Dr. Bernard Hall cc/Hazel Bruce

From: Dr. Will

Subject:

Bud, tonight we had a little cocktail party with some guests at the home of Mrs. Blanche Ittleson. I was delighted to see that Nina Ridenour was there. I was embarrassed as hell though to learn from her that about six or seven weeks ago, she says, she sent a bunch of books, apparently some more of Biers stuff to us in Topeka. I think addressed to you. She doesn't know whether it has ever reached there. She has never had any kind of acknowledgment from anyone and, of course, having told you the situation before you can be well damn sure my face was as red as hell. I don't know who is responsible for this. I wish Hazel Bruce would acknowledge stuff like that if it comes in or for heavens sake let me know and I would be glad to. I told her that you had just gotten home from your holiday two or three days before I left which was correct and so maybe you hadn't had the time to even go through your mail but I hope you will look into this pronto, Bud, and for heavens sakes a bad situation is bad now but I think this is adding salt to the wound and I am sure you will feel the same way as we talked together about the problem. I don't know whether you ever did write her as you planned to but I hope so.

MF-216-11-50



FROM THE DESK OF

NINA RIDENOUR

*Very
Sincerely*

Dear Mrs. Bruce,

Thank you so
much for your note.
It was good to have
a word from you.

Sincerely,

Nina Ridenour

8/15/65

Clifford W. Beers papers

Inter Office Memo

Date Sent August 12, 1963

Date Rec'd _____

Date Ans. _____

To: Purchasing, cc - *Gerry*

From: Hazel Bruce, Historical Library

Subject:

I understand from a letter which Dr. Hall received that Dr. Nina Ridenour is sending some materials to the Historical Library which will arrive collect, very soon. The packers are Murphy Brothers, Packers, Mount Kisco, New York. I have no idea how big a box this will be but I know it will contain some books and pictures, so probably a good-sized package.

Please accept this package, charge it to Historical Library, and deliver it to me, here in the Tower Building. Thanks very much.

MF-216-11-50