

Clifford W. Beers papers

Section 3, Pages 61 - 90

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

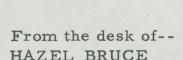
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KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Clifford W. Beers papers



August 12, 1963

Gerry:

I answered Dr. Ridenour's letter as I think Dr. Hall would want me to, so please call it to his attention when he comes back. Apparently Dr. Will hinted that some "changes" have been made here, and I suppose she should be told that Dr. Hall is no longer administratively responsible for the libraries, but I'd rather he told her himself, so I just hinted at it and added that he would write her when he comes back.

Attached is the carbon of my letter to her, and also a carbon of my note to Purchasing, asking them to accept, pay for the package and send it out here. Again, I trust this is what Dr. Hall would want me to do. I'm sure he will want to come out when he has time to see what is contained in the package. When the "Golden Anniversary issue" arrives to Dr. Hall, you may want to keep it and let him see it before sending it to me, whatever you think best.

Haze1



Clifford W. Beers papers

August 12, 1963

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

Dear Doctor Ridenour:

Doctor Hall's secretary, Mrs. Alumbaugh, sent me the letter of August 8 which you wrote Doctor Hall and asked me to write to you since Doctor Hall is on vacation now until after Labor Day. As a matter of fact, he is in Europe at present and we hope he is really having a wonderful time. He has been working so very hard this past year especially and we are just delighted that he is taking time off for a change of scenery and a change of pace.

Speaking for Doctor Hall and all of us here I can tell you very definitely that we are very much interested and, in fact, delighted that you are sending us some more Beers material. I'm glad Doctor Will assured you about this when you spoke with him. It is true that a few changes have been made in the administration of the libraries, etc. and I should imagine Doctor Hall will tell you about these when he writes you after his return, but we still have plans to display the Beers materials in a place of their own. So the additional items you are sending and will send later are most welcome.

I am glad you are sending this material collect and I will notify our mail room so it will be accepted, paid for, and sent directly to the Historical Library. Should there be any other charges I will be glad to see that they are paid, if you will let me know.

My very best wishes to you and a hope that you will pay us a visit some time soon.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Hazel Bruce Historical Librarian





Clifford W. Beers papers

ITTLESON FAMILY FOUNDATION

654 Madison Avenue . New York 21

NINA RIDENOUR, Ph. D. Secretary

August 8, 1963

Dr. Bernard Hall The Menninger Foundation Topeka, Kansas

Dear Dr. Hall:

Within a few days you should receive another box of books and some pictures from Murphy Brothers, Packers, Mount Kisco, New York. This is the last of the lot of Beersiana in my possession.

I had intended to write you in advance before sending them to make sure that you still wanted them because I did not know whether your policies out there had changed so that perhaps you no longer wish to collect this material. When I saw Dr. Will in the spring, however, he assured me that The Menninger Foundation was still interested and said to go ahead and send it collect, addressed to you.

The books are not very important and you may not even wish to keep them. All of them are books given to Mr. Beers by the author and signed by the author. One of the pictures is better than any you have and quite possibly is the best one he ever did -- the one of the three trees in the snow. You will notice in the montage of an exhibition of his paintings which I sent you earlier that it is mentioned that this painting received some kind of award for excellence. Note also the interesting comment on the back in Mr. Beers' own handwriting.

Under separate cover I am sending you by first class mail a copy of the Golden Anniversary issue (1958) of the Connecticut Association for Mental Health because it contains an interesting story about Beers. I am also sending a handful of newspaper clippings from the 1920's and 1930's which were



Clifford W. Beers papers

- 2 -

recently given to Mrs. Beers by a personal friend. They relate to some of the European travels of the Beers' and to the book.

When I talked to Dr. Will in the spring I told him that Mrs. Beers seemed to have failed a great deal in recent months and that she was very confused. Since that time she has made a remarkable recovery, is entirely clear, and has left the nursing home and returned to her own home.

Mrs. Beers has one more item which she would like to donate to The Menninger Foundation but she keeps it in her safety deposit box in the bank and has not been able to get to it. It is a set of stones of some sort given to Mr. Beers by the president of some South American country. If she gives it to me I will send it on to you.

Sincerely yours,

in Ridenous

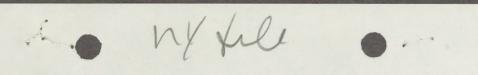
Nina Ridenour Secretary



| Inter Office Memo |
|--|
| To: Dr. Will From: h- Wheelock Date: 11/4/63 |
| Subject: "Ridenour - Bus = |
| Merros Prat you might want |
| 6 He The Jast corves vendence |
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| Can fu, te undersand your Shooting "to right back unnead. Though I would like it eventually for my files. Whieloch |
| for my Liles. |
| L. Whieloch |
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Clifford W. Beers papers

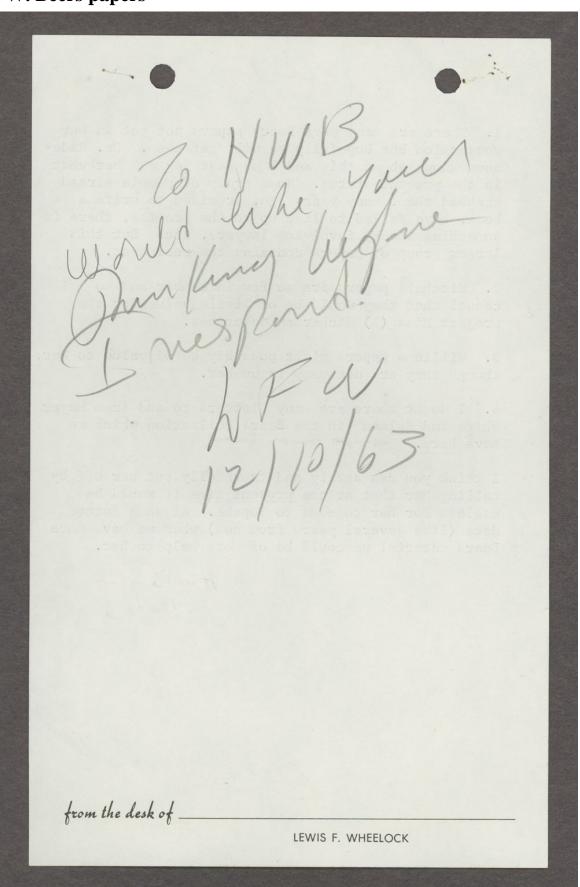


- 1. There are many more Beers papers not yet in our possession but hopefully we will get them. Dr. Ridenour knows about this and I suggest you ask her what is the present status. Some group of people already grabbed them, many years ago, promised to write a book, have failed to live up to the promise, there is something sticky involving lawyers, etc. But this larger group of papers contains the real meat.
- 2. Mitchell papers are so few in number and so casual that they would be of little value for the project Miss (?) Sicherman describes.
- 3. Williams papers might possibly be of value to her, though they are not many in number.
- 4. I doubt there are many "letters to and from Meyer White and Salmon" in the Beers collection which we have here. Parkages one or two.

I think you can safely and truthfully put her off by telling her that at the <u>present time</u> it would be useless for her to come to Topeka. At some future date (like several years from now) when we have more Beers material we could be of more help to her.

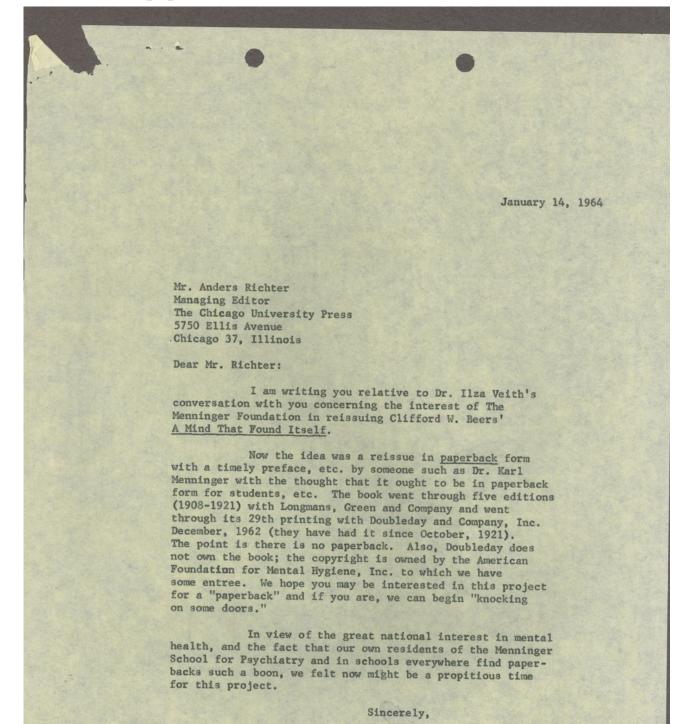
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Clifford W. Beers papers



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LFW: hwb

Lewis F. Wheelock, Ph.D. Curator of Museum and Archives



Beers

Clifford W. Beers papers



December 23. 1963

Dr. Lewis F. Wheelock Curator of Museum and Archives The Menninger Foundation Topeka, Kansas

Dear Dr. Wheelock:

Dr. Ilza Veith has conveyed to us your interest in Recissure Clifford Beer's A Mind That Found Itself.

Following the holiday hiatus, I am very much looking forward to reviewing the book. I assume it is no longer in print with the Doubleday Company.

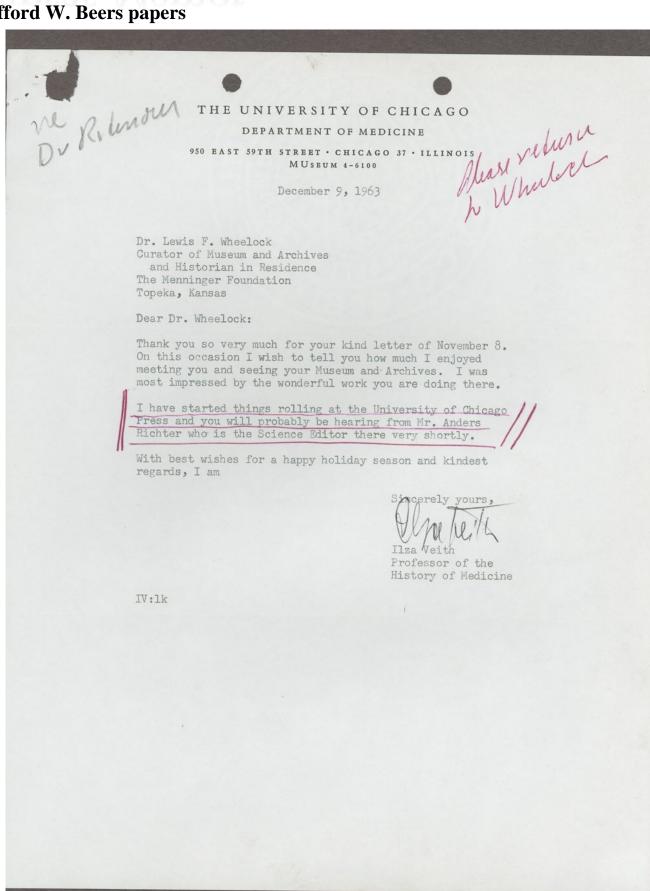
I will be in correspondence with you early in the New Year.

Sincerely yours,

Anders Richter Managing Editor

fk









ITTLESON FAMILY FOUNDATION

654 Madison Avenue . New York 21

NINA RIDENOUR, Ph. D. Secretary

By Jun now with

January 17, 1964

Dr. Lewis F. Wheelock Curator Museum and Archives The Menninger Foundation Topeka, Kansas 66601

Dear Dr. Wheelock:

It was a great pleasure meeting you the other day and I hope your enthusiasm holds up and that you are going to accomplish all that you would like to do.

Mr. Beaty's name is spelled with one t, otherwise your address is correct. For your own information, Mr. Beaty is Executive Director of the World Federation for Mental Health and the address 124 East 28th Street is the WFMH. The regular address for the American Foundation for Mental Hygiene would be 10 Columbus Circle but since Mr. Beaty was recently appointed Secretary, it is better to address him at his own office. After you were here I cleared the question of the chairman and found out about Mr. Beaty's recent appointment.

The name of the person at the National Association for Mental Health who has been there for 48 years and is about to be retired on such a small pension (\$53 a month) is Miss Emily Martin. Due to some pressure brought to bear by a number of us the situation has been improved somewhat and she is to receive a little more. She worked closely with Mr. Beers. I asked her if she would be willing to pick up the plaque for you and she said she would do it some time this winter. As soon as I get it from her I will send it to you.

Sincerely yours,

ledenous Nina Ridenour Secretary

Dictated by Dr. Ridenour, signed in her absence.



Clifford W. Beers papers

January 13, 1964

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

Dear Dr. Ridenour,

I can't tell you how much your kindness and consideration meant to me and how much your confidences (which will be scrupulously respected) helped me to understand various previously obscure things. Thank you so very much. I fear I will be periodically seeking your advice but I shall endeavor to intrude into your busy schedule as rarely as possible.

I called your secretary about the people to write relative to the Beers papers when and if the University of Chicago shows real interest in a paperback edition (during my absence I received a letter indicating this interest might possibley really materialize.) Your secretary gave me Mr. Beatty's address as follows (is this correct?— any error being mine over the phone)=

Mr. William T. Beatty, Secretary American Foundation for Mental Hygiene 124 East 28th Street New York 10, New York

In care of= WFMH

But you had suggested I write a man who I gathered is a kind of honorary chairman first. You indicated I probably wouldn't get very far but that this was the proper first channel and then to approach Mr. Beatty. This name had slipped your mind during our luncheon and your secretary could not locate it. Please, bye the bye, thank your secretary for her kindness in phoning me, etc.

I have reported to Dr. Karl in detail about the case of Miss Miller and I certainly hope something can be done about what seems to be an outrageous case of exploitation.



Clifford W. Beers papers

Dr. Nina Ridenour -2-January 13, 1964 I explained to your secretary (endeavoring to avoid bothering you at home) that my schedule unfortunately included a visit to Mrs. Clifford Beers! home. We will do anything possible from this end to aid Mrs. Beers relative to paying for messenger pickup service or whatever you might suggest. Actually my schedule was so tight that in addition to the question of time, I was concerned that any visit of mine might be on a day when things might be difficult for Mrs. Beers. Again, my thanks, Dr. Ridenour, for being so very gracious and kind. If ever in any way I can be of any possible service to you, please do give me the opportunity. Most sincerely, Lewis F. Wheelock, Ph.D. Curator Museum and Archives LFW/bj The Menninger Foundation



| THE MENNINGER FOUNDATION |
|---|
| ACQUISITIONS COMMITTEE FOR MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES |
| TO: Dr. Reul W. Pruyser Dr. Ernst Ticho Dr. Bernard H. Hall Special Consultant: none |
| FROM: Lewis F. Wheelock, Fh.D./Kb |
| DESCRIPTION OF ITEM: BEERS, CLIFFORD W., A Mind that Found Itself. N.Y., 1908. With a returned full page signed inscription by the author to Robert N. Reid. |
| also |
| Preliminary ProspectusConn. Society for Mental Hygiene. New Haven, 1908. With two autograph notations by Beers. **TRICE: \$35.20 |
| FRICE: \$35.20 |
| Doctor Pruyser: On Vacation yes; no. |
| Doctor Ticho: On Vacation yes; no. |
| Doctor Hall: yes; no. |
| Doctor Wheelock: X yes; no. |
| Although the price seems a bit high, I think it is a wise principle to "enrich' the Beers' collection, and this will be the first addition we have made to that collection with our own purchase since the Ridenour-Beers Donation. PIEASE RETURN TO DOCTOR WHEELOCK |
| Doctor Karlt On Vacation yes; no. |
| Comments: |
| mwith Bur duplay |
| Bur dieplan |
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| PLEASE RETURN TO DOCTOR WHEELOCK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE |
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Clifford W. Beers papers

September 15, 1964

Paul C. Richards Autographs 1023 Beacon Street Brookline 46, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Richards:

As usual, thank you for your continued good service. We will have to decline the autograph poem signed by Dorothea L. Dix, as it does not fit into our Dix collections specifically. From now on, we will only be interested in Dix items when they deal directly with mental illness and hospitals.

We are enjoying the Beers' pamphlet, <u>Preliminary Prospectus...Conn.</u>
<u>Society for Mental Hygiene</u>, New Haven, 1908, with the two annotations by Beers.
We hope you received our check for this item for \$15.00 which we sent along the first of August, and that the Beers' book, <u>A Mind that Found Itself</u>, which we returned under separate cover, reached you alright.

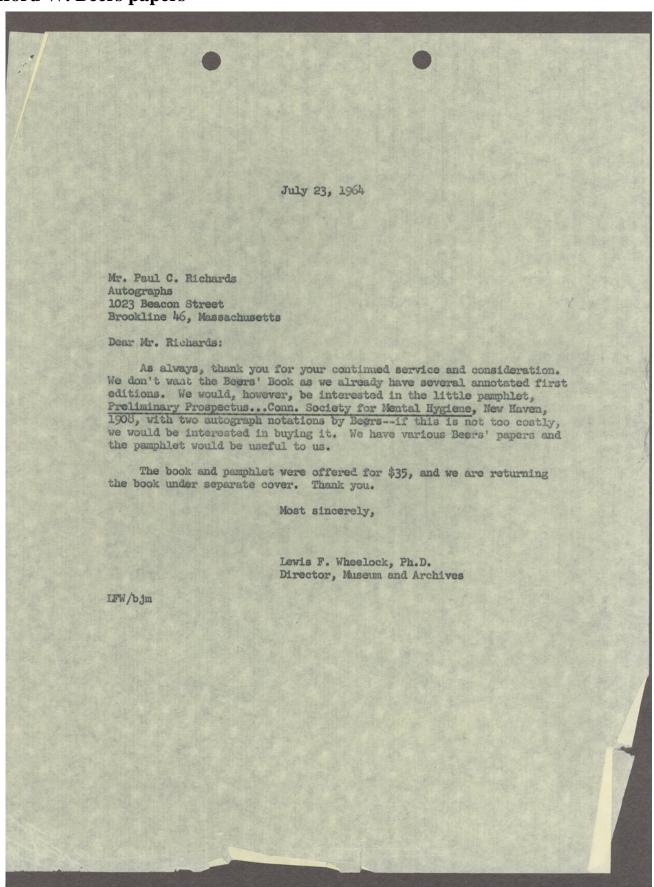
We will look forward to hearing from you in the future. Enclosed is the above mentioned Dix item. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Morgan, Asst. to Director Museum and Archives

Enclosure - Dix item Air Mail Registered

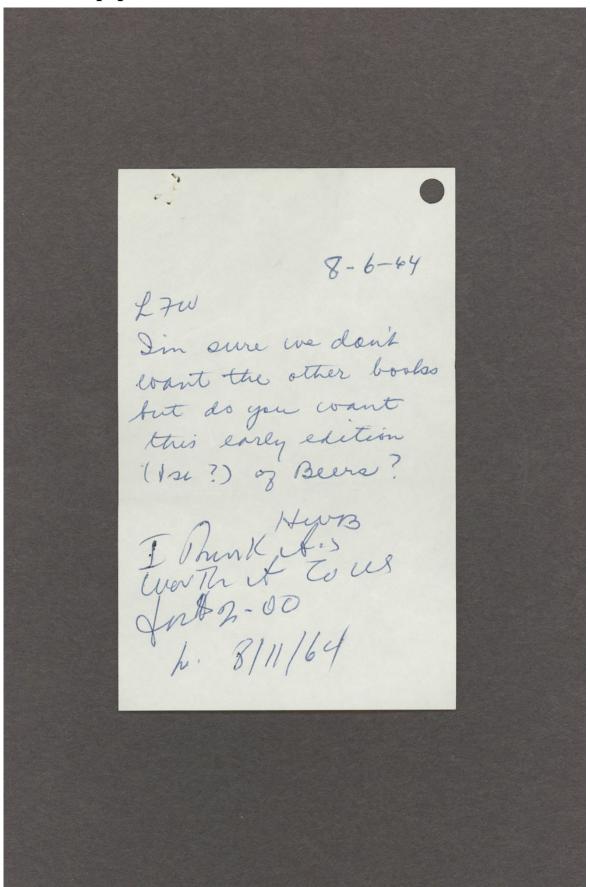




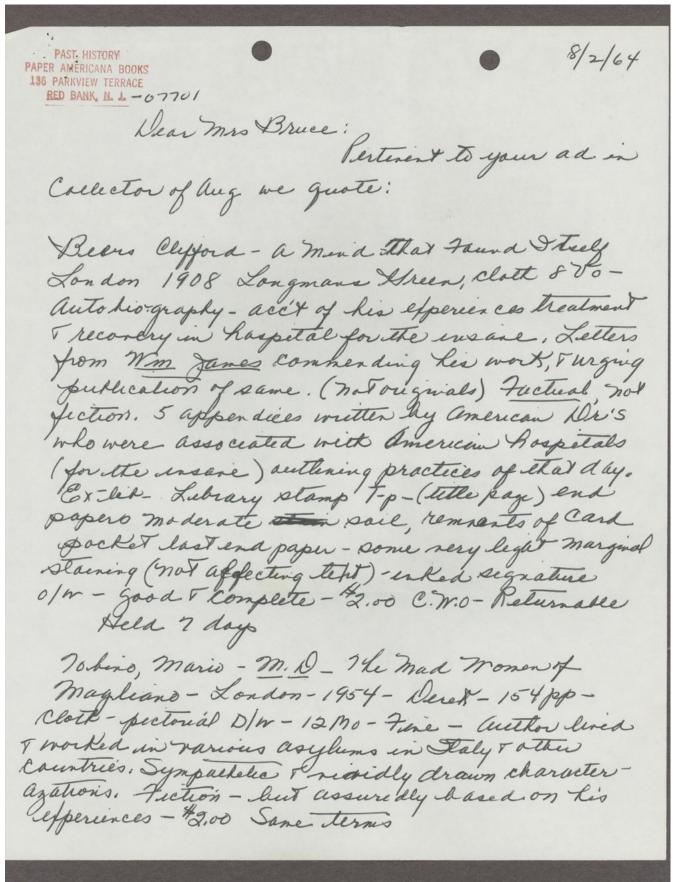


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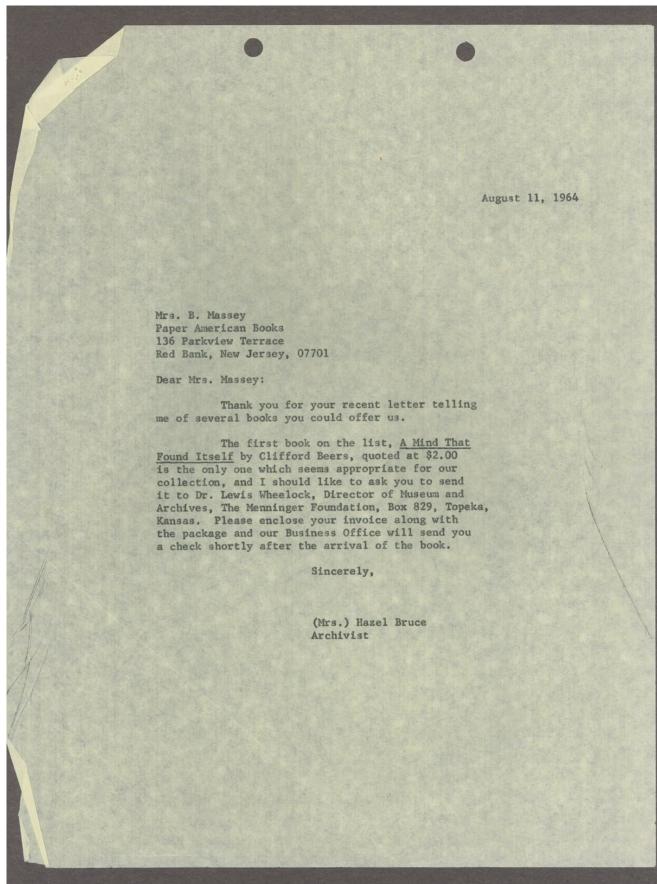




Clifford W. Beers papers

Worthy, a. M- M. W - a treatise on the Bolanic Theory & Practice of medicine, compiled from various sources, with additions Trevesions. (Proj of Theory & Practice of medicine, Southern Botterico medical Callege) Seargia 1842 - 628pp -Calf - 8 Vo - Symptoms V treatment for rarious ellnesses with one chapter on madness ery scuffed - Toped & stained end papers, hinges neatly, lot foring & staining in Contents marqual only) few marqual percelings - 0/4 Please a dress if these are of interest (Mrs) B. marrey P.S - Various early magazines (Scretners, Harpers, Tete - from 1860 three 1910) with - articles on symptoms, treatment of the insane, Will describe in detail of interested.









cop for scholars vers + file

THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL-CORNELL MEDICAL CENTER

525 EAST 68th STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y., 10021

TRAFALGAR 9-9000



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY

THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL
CORNELL UNIVERSITY MEDICAL COLLEGE
CORNELL UNIVERSITY — NEW YORK
HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING
PAYNE WHITNEY PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC
WESTCHESTER DIVISION

April 26, 1966

Lewis F. Wheelock, Ph.D. Director, Museum and Archives The Menninger Foundation Topeka, Kansas 66601

Dear Dr. Wheelock:

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of the Beers Collection list. As Dr. Norman Dain has been authorized to do the Beers biography I will send it on to him.

I look forward to receiving the $\ensuremath{\text{d}} \dot{\alpha} plicate$ tape on that case of possession by the Devil.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

Tue Tarlson

Eric T. Carlson, M. D.



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY





THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL-CORNELL MEDICAL CENTER 525 EAST 68th STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y., 10021

TRAFALGAR 9-9000



CORNELL UNIVERSITY MEDICAL COLLEGE CORNELL UNIVERSITY - NEW YORK HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING PAYNE WHITNEY PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC

April 19, 1966

WESTCHESTER DIVISION

Dr. Karl Menninger The Menninger Foundation Topeka, Kansas

Dear Dr. Menninger:

Just a note of further congratulations for your foresight in developing the Museum and Archives. It has continued to grow impressively both in quality and quantity.

I hope that we can look forward to some more writing on your part on various aspects of the history of psychiatry and psychoanalysis. For that matter I hope you will consider an autobiography in which you would discuss all the ramifications of your dynamic career in American psychiatry.

I am glad I had the opportunity to say hello -- and could well realize that the Board of Trustees could not leave you much time for history last Saturday.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

En Tarlson

Eric T. Carlson, M.D.



Clifford W. Beers papers

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY

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525 EAST 68th STREET

THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL—CORNELL MEDICAL CENTER

NEW YORK, N.Y., 10021

TRAFALGAR 9-9000

THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL
CORNELL UNIVERSITY MEDICAL COLLEGE
CORNELL UNIVERSITY — NEW YORK
HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING
PAYNE WHITNEY PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC

April 28, 1965

Dr. Karl Menninger The Menninger Foundation Topeka, Kansas

Dear Dr. Karl:

I wish to thank you for the most pleasant and instructive visit I had to the Menninger Foundation last week. You are to be heartily congratulated on the fashion in which you are developing the history of psychiatry at the Menninger Foundation. You certainly are proceeding with an optimum degree of quality and quantity.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

Eric T. Carlson, M. D.

Hed Carlin

P.S. I also thank you for the copy of your inscused book - The Vitel Balance





THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL-CORNELL MEDICAL CENTER 525 EAST 68th STREET NEW YORK, N.Y., 10021

TRAFALGAR 9-9000



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY

CORNELL UNIVERSITY MEDICAL COLLEGE CORNELL UNIVERSITY - NEW YORK HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING PAYNE WHITNEY PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC WESTCHESTER DIVISION

April 21, 1966

Lewis F. Wheelock, Ph.D. Director of Museum and Archives The Menninger Foundation Tower Building, West Campus Topeka, Kansas 66601

Dear Dr. Wheelock:

Thank you for showing me around your Museum -- it continues to grow in strength and importance. As usual I enjoyed my visit very much.

One of the doctors in the audience mentioned the case of a person at the Denver State Hospital who was "possessed" and who had been discussed at some talk that was recorded and is in your Archives. Could I order a copy of this tape? The doctor said she would check and let you know who the speaker was.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

Lie Tarlson

Eric T. Carlson, M. D.



Clifford W. Beers papers

April 19, 1966

Eric T. Carlson, M.D.
Department of Psychiarty
Cornell University Medical College
525 East 68th Street
New York, New York 10021

Dear Dr. Carlson:

Congratulations on another superb lecture. I certainly hope you will be back soon.

I am sorry to have been a bit maladroit in the absence of my archivist. She is redoing the Beers' collection. Here is our list, however. In addition we have some autographed books and several dozen of has paintings. At your leisure, please tell me about the project on Beers' life. Who is doing it? Are you? Also let me know how to help. I am very curious to know how corpus of the Beers' papers was retrieved from that lady. (sic).

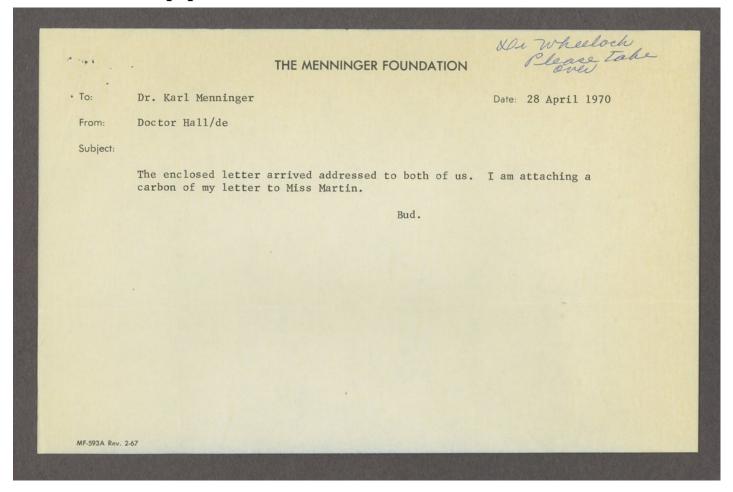
I am having a duplicate tape of that case "demoniac possession" run for you. Use at your leisure and simply return to me when convenient and we will erase it and reuse. No hurry at all. If the material is used or cited in print we will have to get permission, etc.

As ever it was fine to talk with you. Your past critique of the work here was most helpful to me. Do send any thoughts or suggestions which occur to you.

Sincerely,

Lewis F. Wheelock, Ph.D. Director, Museum and Archives









Clifford W. Beers papers

THE MENNINGER CLINIC PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY TOPEKA, KANSAS

28 April 1970

Miss Emily L. Martin 71 West 12 Street New York, New York 10011

Dear Miss Martin:

Your letter addressed to Dr. Karl Menninger but directed to my attention arrived at my desk before it reached Doctor Karl's. I do remember you very well and I continue to be grateful for that fine list of books written by former psychiatric patients. I have used it a number of times and I still collect such books and now must have about fifty of them.

I am so glad to learn you are working with historical materials of these outstanding men you have worked with at the National Association of Mental Health.

I was very interested in your remarks about the Clifford Beer's material. I am no longer active with our archives and museum so I cannot speak for what the director, Dr. Lewis Wheelock, would think of your request. I am going to forward your letter to Doctor Karl and I am sure that he, in turn, will ask Doctor Wheelock to get in touch

We are very grateful for your continued interest in our historical collection.

Cordially yours,

Bernard H. Hall, M.D. Senior Clinical Consultant

BHH/de CC: Dr. Karl Menninger





June 1

71 West 12th Street New York, N. Y. 10011

April 20, 1970

Dr. Karl Menninger The Menninger Foundation Topeka, Kansas

Dear Dr. Menninger:

Attention: Dr. Bernard H. Hall

For forty-eight years I was a member of the staffs of the National Committee for Mental Hygiene and the National Association for Mental Health, and in the early years worked with Dr. Thomas W. Salmon, Dr. Frankwood E. Williams and Clifford W. Beers. I am now retired, and have been spending the past few years working on historical materials of these persons.

Dr. Bernard H. Hall of your Foundation may recall that I assisted him by furnishing him with a list of autobiographies of former mental patients; his letter is dated Jan. 11, 1955.

In the Beers material, I found several photographs of the Clifford W. Beers exhibit at your Foundation. Do you have an extra set of these photographs? I would like to send a set to the Sterling Memorial Library, Yale University, to which I have furnished some of Mr. Beers memorabilia. Po

Mrs. Beers presented to my sister, Mrs. Richard P. Carrigan, several cartons of materials which she has presented to the Oskar Diethelm Historical Library, Payne Whitney Clinic, New York Hospital. There were some duplicate materials which she has retained, including a photograph of Mr. Beers taken in 1906, when he was preparing the manuscript for his book, "A Mind That Found Itself;" a xerox copy of a clipping, dated March 14, 1908, entitled "Brutalities to Insane told by Yale Man Who was a Victim," and a few original clippins of early dates, and other photographs.

Would your Foundation be interested in exchanging one of your paintings by Clifford Beers - for instance Mostly Clouds - of which I think your Foundation has two copies - for some of her collection? If so, she would present the painting to the Oskar Diethelm Historical Library.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Emily L. Martin

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