

JOHN C. WHITEHORN (1894-1973) PAPERS ARCHIVES FINDING AID

[Processed by W. E. Baxter, 14 January 1986.]

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. John Clare Whitehorn was born on December 6, 1894, in a sod hut in Spencer, Nebraska. He grew up in a large family, taught Sunday school and elementary school, and worked around the family homestead. During the First World War, he worked in a shipyard. He graduated from Doane College, Nebraska, and went on to Harvard on scholarships for his M.D. degree. He stayed at Harvard for seventeen years working in the laboratories at McLean Hospital and the Massachusetts General Hospital.

He had notable publications in biochemistry from this period and was said to be the best mathematician in the group with the famous Otto Folin. The "Whitehorn method" listed in medical dictionaries refers to his blood chloride method described in 1921. His physiological and biochemical studies, focused upon the physiology of emotional reactions, were characterized by a scrupulous critical study of methodology. Unfortunately, his method for chemical estimation of epinephrine in blood, which was patiently developed to a sensitivity of approximately one part in 250 million, did not prove to be sufficiently sensitive for the chemical differentiation of the emotional reactions of patients. His methodological papers on "Permutit" as a reagent for amines, published in 1923, were a stimulus to many others in the development of chromatographic methods. Also cited are achievements based on Whitehorn's fundamental study of Base Exchange.

Dr. Whitehorn was interested in language and speech behavior in ordinary people under varying conditions and of schizophrenics. He was also interested in personality functioning; habit patterns; the classical problems surrounding mind-body areas; conditioned reflexes; and instinct theory.

Despite his mastery of laboratory and clinical methods, he was much too critical of existing theoretical models (which he considered simplistic) and current clichés to attempt creation of a unifying theory. Nor did he proselyte disciples for a school, although he had ample opportunity to do so at Washington University at St. Louis (1938-1941), and at Johns Hopkins University (1941-1960) where he succeeded Adolf Meyer.

Whitehorn was a master clinician who was completely devoted to patients and did not distort their messages. They rewarded him and themselves by improving. Doctors and their wives were particularly eager to be his patients. In time he left the laboratory to devote himself to the clinic.

Dr. Whitehorn was president of three organizations, including the APA from 1950-1951, often during turbulent times. He was the only one to be reelected three times to the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology when schism was imminent. He was the only man twice appointed to the National Advisory Mental Health Council. He served his country and psychiatry on the National Research Council's Committee on Neuropsychiatry, was a part-time consultant to the War Department, and served three months overseas studying combat exhaustion. He was on the editorial boards of 6 professional journals and was awarded several medals and honorary degrees.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS

The papers of John C. Whitehorn came to the Archives of the American Psychiatric Association through his daughter, Joan Whitehorn Boggs in 1973. The collection totals 14.5 linear feet and is divided into eight series: family and personal papers, 1900-1973; miscellaneous papers, 1926-1973; articles, speeches, etc., 1916-1973; lectures and related papers, 1938-1958; Johns Hopkins University (JHU) papers, 1941-1959; professional and general correspondence, 1927-1973; staff conferences at Phipps, 1941-1944; and memorabilia/artifacts. As a condition of the gift, the family and personal papers as well as the staff conferences at Phipps are restricted. *Any quotations or other use of them must be approved by the family until 2010.*



SERIES: Family/personal
Archives Box 100698

Folders

1. Autobiographical materials, 1971
2. Biographical/bibliographical data, various dates.
3. Family papers and genealogy, various dates.
4. Family correspondence: 1936-1944
5. Family correspondence: 1945 (includes JCW European trip)
6. Family correspondence: 1958-1969
7. Family correspondence: 1970-1973
8. Family correspondence: 1970-1973 (Gladys Jergenson, sister and Eric Whitehorn, grandson)
9. Family correspondence: 1961-1970 (Joan Whitehorn Boggs)
10. Family correspondence: 1971-1972 (Joan Whitehorn Boggs)
11. Family correspondence: 1973 (Joan Whitehorn Boggs)
12. Family correspondence: 1970-1973 (Richard & Carol Whitehorn)
13. Family correspondence: 1963-1973 (miscellaneous)
14. Whitehorn, Alfred
15. Whitehorn, Alfred
16. Whitehorn, Jeannette M.
17. Whitehorn Boggs, Joan
18. Whitehorn, J. C. and Gildea correspondence
19. Whitehorn, Richard M.
20. Whitehorn correspondence about family members.
21. Whitehorn dinner, 1959
22. University of Nebraska honorary degree, 1955-1956
23. Photographs: John C. Whitehorn
24. Photographs: Jeanette M. Whitehorn
25. Photographs: Family: Alfred, Joan, Richard & Spencer, Nebraska
26. Photographs: Miscellaneous family
27. Photographs: European trip, 1945 (includes Buchenwald and photos taken by Karl Menninger)
28. Groups, conferences, etc.

SERIES: Miscellaneous
Archives Box 100699

Folders

29. American Psychiatric Association Miscellaneous, 1964-1973
30. APA Psychiatric education, 1st & 2nd conferences, 1951-1952
31. APA Research, committee on, 1926-1940 (1)
32. APA Research, committee on, 1926-1940 (2)
33. Cameron, D. Ewen, psychiatric driving, grant request for funding, 1957
34. Commonwealth fund, 1961-1963
35. Ebaugh report, 1942
36. Ebaugh report, 1942
37. Ebaugh report, 1942
38. Ebaugh report, 1942

39. Maryland Board of Hygiene and Mental Health, misc. papers, 1948, 1950, 1963
40. Military/post war psychiatry, 1945

SERIES: Articles/speeches / SUB SERIES: 1916-1920
Archives Box 100699

Folders

41. Student papers
42. Student papers

SERIES: Articles/speeches / SUB SERIES: 1921-1940
Archives Box 100699

Folder 43

- Alienation, 1936
- Chem lab methods by McCallin, 1937-1938
- Concerning chloride determinations, n.d.
- Concerning emotion...1931
- Dementia praecox research, 1935
- Emotion, 1931
- Emotion and sentiment, 1938

Folder 44

- Factors governing the renal excretion, 1920
- Guide to the study of chemistry, 1927
- Hematoporphyrin, 1936

Folder 46

Interpersonal relationships in mental disease, 1937

- Knee-jerk reflex time, 1928
- Metabolic rate in hypnotic sleep, 1930
- Model atoms and molecules, 1931
- Nurses' understanding of science, n.d.
- Obligative and the zestful character, 1934
- Oxygen consumption in dementia praecox, n.d.
- Phosphates, 1924
- Physiology of the sympathetic nervous system, 1931
- Psychotherapy, 1940

Folder 47

- Schizophrenic reaction, 1931
- Sentiments and emotion in psychotherapy, n.d.
- Social significance of reality, n.d.
- Some observations on the chemistry of adrenalin, n.d.
- Suicide study, 1938
- Supportive psychotherapy, 1936
- Theory of the mechanisms of confusion, 1928
- Urea excretion as a test of renal function, 1920-1921
- Word use frequency studies, n.d.



SERIES: Articles/speeches / SUB SERIES: 1941-1953
Archives Box 100699

Folder 48

- Acquiring and imparting of mental health, 1953
- Aims and methods of teaching psychotherapy, n.d.
- APA-third institute, 1941
- Attempts to evaluate...,1953
- Austin Riggs Foundation, 1944
- Basic psychiatry in undergraduate medical programs, 1947
- Biochemistry, endocrinology and neuropathology, 1949
- Changing concepts of psychoneurosis, 1944
- Clinical evaluation, 1948
- Clinical examination, 1946
- Combat exhaustion, 1945
- Concepts of "meaning" and "cause", 1947

Folder 49

- Constructive factors in the personality, 1945
- Development of psychiatry, 1945
- Doctor's evaluation of patient attitudes, 1943
- Encyclopedia Britannica article, 1946
- Evaluation of psychosurgery in psychoneurosis, 1951
- Experiences in the treatment of schizophrenic patients, 1950
- Guide to interviewing and clinical personality study, 1944

Folder 50

- History...standards for psychiatric abnormalities, 1951
- History and scope of psychiatry, 1952
- How does psychiatry affect medical education, 1951
- Individual issues in post-military psycho-therapy, 1943
- Ithaca (2nd) conference on psychiatric education, 1953
- Living, 1950
- Major therapeutic trends in American psychiatry, 1944
- Material in the hands of the biochemist, 1943
- Meaning of medical education in our society, 1952
- Medical interview, 1947
- Mental disorders (the psychoses), n.d.
- Mental health standards, n.d.

Folder 45

- Independent attitude, 1938

Folder 51

- Methods of personality study, 1943
- Morale and personality disorder, 1947
- Motivating pattern of the normal individual, 1952
- On schizophrenic language, 1942
- Patients personality, 1946
- Presidential address, APA, 1951
- Professional psychiatric approach to personal issues, 1947
- Psychiatric diagnosis, 1953

- Psychiatric problems in a thyroid clinic, 1948

Folder 52

- Psychiatric research in America, 1943
- Psychiatric service to the community, 1941
- Psychiatry, 1946
- Psychiatry, 1949
- Psychiatry and medical education, 1952
- Psychiatry as a basic medical science, 1942
- Psychiatry and medical education, 1946
- Psychiatry in 1951

Folder 53

- Psychiatry of today, 1946
- Psychodynamic considerations, 1949
- Psychodynamic principles, 1952
- Psychodynamic psychiatry, n.d.
- Psychodynamics, 1949
- Psychoses, 1949
- Psychosis, 1945
- Psychosomatic problems, 1947

Folder 54

- Psychotherapeutic strategy, 1945
- Psychotherapy, 1946
- Psychotherapy, 1947
- Psychotherapy, 1948
- Psychotherapy and its place, 1948
- Psychotherapy in general medical practice, 1948
- Returning soldier in the home, 1945-1946
- Schizophrenia, 1941
- Schizophrenic language, 1943
- Sex behavior, 1948

Folder 55

- Significance of psychiatry for general medical advancement, 1950
- Social functions of the psychiatrist, 1949
- Social dynamics, 1951
- Social skill and psychiatric science, 1946
- Special commission to study combat exhaustion, 1945-1946
- Therapeutic goals...therapeutic strategy, 1951
- Therapeutic strategy, 1945
- Training for psychiatrists, 1953
- Treatment of psychoneurosis, n.d.
- When doctors disagree, 1951



SERIES: Articles/speeches / SUB SERIES: 1954-1963
Archives Box 100700

Folder 56

- Alienation and leadership, 1960
- American psychiatry, 1956
- Bibliography (JCW), 1958
- Development of mature individuals, 1960
- Doctor's image of man, 1961
- Education for uncertainty, 1961
- Goals of psychotherapy, 1958
- Hateful self-distrust, 1954
- Healthful benefits of stress, 1956
- How do personal attitudes..., n.d.
- Human factors in psychiatry, 1962

Folder 57

- Human personality...mature individuals, 1956
- Interviewing in medical practice, 1959
- Maryland Assoc. for Mental Health, 1963
- (Maryland) state as physician, 1961
- On loneliness and the incongruous self-image, 1958
- Orienting medical students towards the "whole patient", 1957
- Problems of communication between schizophrenic patients and physicians, 1956

Folder 58

- Problems of psychiatric diagnosis, 1959
- Psychiatric education, 1962
- Psychiatric education and progress, 1955
- Psychiatric implications of the "placebo effect", n.d.
- Psychiatric therapy, 1958
- Psychoses, 1955

Folder 59

- Remarks on "diagnosis", 1959
- Report to the Scottish Rite Fund, 1958
- Scope of motivation, 1954
- Situational part of diagnosis, 1963
- Social issues and attitudes involved in schizophrenic reactions, 1958
- Stress and emotional health, 1955

Folder 60

- Stress and mental health, 1959
- Studies of the doctor, 1959
- Study of psychotherapeutic relationships, n.d.
- Theory and practice of psychotherapy, 1956
- Types of leadership involved in psychotherapy, 1961
- Understanding psychotherapy, 1955
- Working concept of maturity of personality, 1961

SERIES: Articles/speeches / SUB SERIES: 1964-1973
Archives Box 100700

Folder 61

- Adolf Meyer, n.d.
- American College of Psychiatrists, 1966
- Diagnostic principles and formulations, n.d.
- Extension of the Whitehorn-Betz A-B scale, 1965
- Future mental health needs, 1965
- Limitation and control of growth, 1972
- Meyer centenary, 1966
- Moody patients, 1966

Folder 62

- Motivational problems in the community mental health center programs, 1965
- National Association of Mental Health (Maryland), 1966
- Privacy, power, influence, 1973
- Psychosocial aspects of the lives of schizophrenic patients, 1967
- Psychotherapy, 1964
- Regularity of atomic size in compounds, n.d.
- Relationship of the therapist to the outcome of therapy in schizophrenia, n.d.
- Teaching clinical psychiatry to medical students, 1971

SERIES: Lectures and related materials

Archives Box 100700

Folders

63. 1938-1941 Saint Louis Washington Univ., 9-12/1940
64. 1938-1941 Saint Louis Washington Univ., 12/1940-6/1941
65. 1938-1941 Saint Louis Washington Univ., misc. papers
66. 1938-1941 Saint Louis Malcolm Bliss Hospital, misc. papers
67. 1938-1941 Saint Louis Malcolm Bliss Hospital, 1940-1941
68. 1941-1943 Phipps, Baltimore 6-7/1942 3rd year Course/psychiatry
69. 1941-1943 Phipps, Baltimore 11/1941-1/1942 2nd yr. psychiatry
70. 1941-1943 Phipps, Baltimore 9-11/1941 3rd year Course/psychiatry
71. 1941-1943 Phipps, Baltimore 1-3/1942 1st yr./medical psych.
72. 1941-1943 Phipps, Baltimore 8-10/1942 2nd year course
73. 1941-1943 Phipps, Baltimore 10-12/1942 medical psychology
74. 1941-1943 Phipps, Baltimore 3-4/1943 3rd year course
75. 1941-1943 Phipps, Baltimore 11/1943-2/1944 3rd yr. course
76. 1941-1943 Phipps, Baltimore 1-2,6-7/1943 4th yr. course
77. 1941-1943 Phipps, Baltimore 8-11/1943 4th year course
78. 1941-1943 Phipps, Baltimore 4-6/1943 2nd year course
79. 1941-1943 Phipps, Baltimore 6-8/1943 1st year course
80. 1944-1955 Phipps, Baltimore 2-3/1945 4th year course



Archives Box 100701

Folders

81. 1944-1955 Phipps, Baltimore lectures/misc. 1941, 1946
82. 1944-1955 Phipps, Baltimore 1/1948-2/24/1948 1st year course
83. 1944-1955 Phipps, Baltimore 2/28/1948-3/1948 1st year course
84. 1944-1955 Phipps, Baltimore 1-3/1952 1st year course
85. 1944-1955 Phipps, Baltimore 2-3/1955 1st year course
86. 1944-1955 Phipps, Baltimore 10-11/1955 3rd year course/psych.
87. 1944-1955 Phipps, Baltimore 11-12/1955 3rd year course/psych.
88. 1956-1958 Phipps, Baltimore 2/1956 1st yr. course/med. psych.
89. 1956-1958 Phipps, Baltimore 3/1956 1st yr. course/med. psych.

SERIES: Johns Hopkins

The papers in this series relate to Dr. Whitehorn's administrative duties as chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at Johns Hopkins University.

Archives Box 100701

Folders

90. Academic freedom, 1952
91. Appointment of JCW and related correspondence, 1941
92. Educational objectives of the School of Hygiene and Public Health, 1957
93. General committee on a JHU clinic, 1945-1947
94. Lattimore affair, 1952-1953
95. Miscellaneous, 1941-1959
96. Revised program of medical education, 1957
97. Study of educational objectives..., 1954

SERIES: Professional and general correspondence

Archives Box 100701

Years 1927-1938

Folders

98. A - B
99. C - D
100. E - G
101. H - J
102. K - L
103. M
104. N - R
105. S
106. T - V
107. W - Z

Archives Box 100702

Years 1939-1941

Folders

108. A - C
109. D - I
110. J - M
111. N - R
112. S - Z

Years 1942-1958

Folders

113. A
114. B-Bm
115. Bn-Bz
116. C
117. D-Gol
118. Gon-Hen
119. Hershey conference
120. Hf-K
121. L-Ma
122. Me-Mi
123. Mj-Mz
124. N 125. O- Q
126. R
127. S - Th
128. Ti - Z

Years 1959-1973

Folders

129. A - B
130. C - F
131. G - K
132. L - Mi
133. Mj - R

Archives Box 100703

Folders

134. S - Wa
135. We - Z and unidentified correspondence

SERIES: Staff conferences

The staff conferences were opportunities for staff at Phipps to discuss patients, treatments, and other clinical matters.

Archives Box 100703

Folders

136. 9/1-10/1941
137. 9/11-19/1941
138. 9/20-30/1941
139. 10/1-9/1941



140. 10/10-19/1941
141. 10/20-31/1941
142. 11/1-16/1941
143. 11/17-30/1941
144. 12/1-9/1941
145. 12/9-31/1941
146. 1/1-15/1942
147. 1/16-31/1942
148. 2/1-13/1942
149. 2/14-28/1942
150. 3/1-17/1942
151. 3/20-31/1942
152. 4/1-17/1942
153. 4/18-30/1942
154. 5/1-13/1942
155. 5/14-31/1942
156. 6/1-15/1942
157. 6/16-30/1942
158. 7/1942

Archives Box 100704

Folders

159. 9/1-19/1942
160. 9/20-30/1942
161. 10/1-20/1942
162. 10/21-31/1942
163. 11/1942
164. 12/1942
165. 1/1943
166. 2/1943
167. 3-4/6/1943
168. 4/7-30/1943
169. 5-7/1943
170. 9-10/18/1943
171. 10/19/1943-11/30/1943
172. 12/1943-1/24/1944
173. 1/25/1944-2/8/1944

SERIES: Memorabilia, etc.

The memorabilia include the personal effects of family members, diplomas and citations of JCW, and other oversize materials.

Archives Box 100705

Small oversize - 1

Memorabilia/artifacts of Alfred Whitehorn

Archives Box 100706

Large oversize - 1

Memorabilia/artifacts of John C. Whitehorn

Archives Box 100707

Large oversize - 2

Memorabilia/artifacts of various family members