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Guide to the Gregory Zilboorg Papers

YCAL MSS 258



by Lisa Conathan

2007

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New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	3
Requesting Instructions	3
Administrative Information	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition	3
Conditions Governing Access	4
Conditions Governing Use	4
Preferred Citation	4
Associated Materials	4
Gregory Zilboorg, 1890-1959	4
Scope and Contents	4
Arrangement	5
Collection Contents	6
Series I: Correspondence, 1927-1957	6
Professional	6
Personal	6
Series II: Writings, 1910s-1960	7
Background Materials	7
Articles and Lectures	7
Books	7
Translations	7
Other Writings	8
Series III: Photographs, 1920s-1950s	9
Oversize	11
Selected Search Terms	12

Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 258

CREATOR: Zilboorg, Gregory, 1890-1959

TITLE: Gregory Zilboorg Papers

DATES: circa 1910-1960, circa 1910-1960

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 6.26 linear feet (9 boxes)

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LANGUAGE: Materials in English, Russian and French.

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SUMMARY: Correspondence, writings and photographs that document the translations, psychoanalytic practice and scholarship of Gregory Zilboorg, the relationship between Gregory and Margaret Zilboorg (née Stone), and Gregory Zilboorg's photographic portraiture.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.zilboorgg>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.zilboorgg>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Margaret Zilboorg, 1992.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Gregory Zilboorg Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Gregory Zilboorg Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Associated Materials

[James and Eugenia Zilboorg Papers, YCAL MSS 259](#)

Gregory Zilboorg, 1890-1959

Gregory Zilboorg was a psychoanalyst and historian of psychiatry. His many writings and lectures situated psychiatry within a broad sociological and humanistic context at a time when psychoanalysis was gaining importance in literary culture.

Zilboorg was born in Kiev on December 25, 1890 and studied medicine in Petrograd (St. Petersburg). In 1917 he served in the Ministry of Labor for two presidents (Aleksandr Kerenskii and Georgii L'vov). In 1919 he emigrated to the United States and for a time translated plays from Russian to English while studying medicine at Columbia University. After graduating in 1926, he worked at the Bloomingdale Hospital and eventually established a psychoanalytic practice in New York City. From the 1930s onward, Zilboorg produced several volumes of lasting importance on the history of psychiatry. *The Medical Man and the Witch During the Renaissance* began as the Noguchi lectures at Johns Hopkins University in 1935. This volume was followed by *History of Medical Psychology* in 1941 and *Sigmund Freud* in 1951.

Zilboorg's analytic practice brought him into contact with prominent figures in New York's literary and theater milieu. His patients included Marshall Field, George Gershwin, Lillian Hellman, Ralph Ingersoll, Kay Swift and James Warburg. Another of his patients, Moss Hart, drew on his experience in psychoanalysis when writing the musical *Lady in the Dark*.

Zilboorg was also an avid photographer. His portraits of John Farquhar Fulton and Henry Sigerist were featured in obituaries published in the *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences, Inc.*

Zilboorg married Ray Liebow in 1919 and they had two children (Nancy and Gregory, Jr.). He married Margaret Stone in 1946 and they had three children (Caroline, John and Matthew).

Scope and Contents

The correspondence, writings and photographs in this collection document the translations, psychoanalytic practice and scholarship of Gregory Zilboorg, the relationship between Gregory and Margaret Zilboorg (née Stone) and Gregory Zilboorg's photographic portraiture. Most of the papers date from the 1940s and early 1950s and document Zilboorg's personal life and writings (including translations and writings on the history of psychiatry). The papers illustrate the work of a prominent analyst at a time when psychoanalysis had a significant influence on the New York literary circle in which Zilboorg worked.

Writings (Series II) consists of notes, drafts and proofs of several of Zilboorg's publications. The publications include short articles and lectures, books (*History of Medical Psychology* and *Sigmund Freud*), translations from Russian to English (including the play "He, the One Who Gets Slapped") and two original playscripts.

Photographs (Series III) includes informal snapshots and studio portraits of Gregory Zilboorg and several portraits of others (likely by Zilboorg). Subjects of these portraits include Diego Rivera and Jean Piaget.

While the papers described here do not date from Gregory Zilboorg's early years in Kiev and Petrograd (St. Petersburg), readers may consult the [James and Eugenia Zilboorg Papers, YCAL MSS 259](#) for his letters to his brother James Zilboorg, 1915-1959.

Arrangement

The collection consists of three series: Correspondence, Writings, and Photographs.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1927-1957

0.83 linear feet (2 boxes)

Professional correspondence dates mostly from 1940 to 1941 and includes incoming, outgoing and third party letters. The topics addressed include Zilboorg's professional travel, speaking engagements, publishing arrangements, financial matters and medical patients. While Zilboorg discusses patient cases in his correspondence, the papers do not include patient records or case files.

Personal correspondence consists chiefly of letters between Zilboorg and his future wife, Margaret Norton Stone. Zilboorg and Stone met in 1940 when Stone became Zilboorg's research secretary. They married in 1946. There is also one folder of general correspondence addressed to Gregory and Margaret Zilboorg. This folder includes several letters of congratulations on their marriage.

Series I consists of two subseries: Professional and Personal. Professional correspondence is arranged alphabetically and reflects Zilboorg's organization of his files. While most correspondence is filed under the name of correspondent or patient, some filing is based on subject (for example, letters related to Zilboorg's passport are filed under "P"). Correspondence related to *History of Medical Psychology* is filed in [Series II](#).

Most personal correspondence is undated and remains in the order in which it was received.

Professional		
b. 1, f. 1-6	"A" - "F" general	1928-1959
b. 1, f. 7	Field, Marshall	1933-1941
b. 1, f. 8	Freud, Anna	1929 October 14
b. 1, f. 9-14	"G" - "K" general	1940-1941
b. 2, f. 15-16	"P" - "R" general	1940-1941
b. 2, f. 17	Rolland, Romain French	1920-1921
b. 2, f. 18	"S" general	1940-1941
b. 2, f. 19	Semelaigne, René French	1927-1930
Personal		
b. 2, f. 20-26	Zilboorg, Margaret (née Stone)	1940-1955, undated
b. 2, f. 27	General correspondence A-Z, addressed to Gregory and Margaret Zilboorg Also stored in: Oversize Box 8, folder 93. Includes correspondence related to an essay Margaret Stone wrote for <i>PM</i> in 1941 Letters signed by first name only are filed at the end of the folder	1941-1957, undated

Series II: Writings, 1910s-1960*1.67 linear feet (4 boxes)*

The writings in Series II include notes, drafts and proofs for several of Zilboorg's publications and lectures. Background materials consist of notes from articles and books that Zilboorg read prior to 1925. Articles and lectures consist of typescripts, printed versions and holograph drafts of lectures and short articles. Authorship is not certain for one pseudonymous article, "A Psychiatrist Looks at Hitler." Books consist of drafts, proofs and correspondence for two of Zilboorg's major publications, *History of Medical Psychology* and *Sigmund Freud*. Translations consist of typescripts for three plays that Zilboorg translated from Russian to English. Other writings include typescripts of two original plays, a transcript of Isaac Ray's 1828 diary, complete bibliographies of Zilboorg's work and an obituary.

Series II consists of five subseries: Background Materials, Articles and Lectures, Books, Translations, and Other Writings. Each subseries is arranged chronologically.

Background Materials		
b. 3, f. 28-31	Research notes, holograph English	1910s-1925
Articles and Lectures		
b. 3, f. 32	"Most Common Mechanisms met with in Psychopathology," corrected typescript	1928 January
b. 3, f. 33	"The Medical Man and the Witch During the Renaissance," abstract, printed version	1935
b. 3, f. 34	"A Psychiatrist Looks at Hitler" Written under the pseudonym Medicus	1939 April 26
b. 3, f. 35	"Legal Aspects of Psychiatry," printed version	1944
b. 3, f. 36	"The Ever-unfinished Chain of Learning," holograph and program	1958 October 5
b. 3, f. 37	"Psychology of the Criminal act," broadside for a lecture at Boston University	1959 Feb 26
Books		
<i>History of Medical Psychology</i>		
b. 3, f. 38-41	Research notes	undated
b. 4, f. 42-50	Holograph draft, corrected	1940-1941
b. 4, f. 51-53	Correspondence	1931-1940
<i>Sigmund Freud</i>		
b. 5, f. 54-55	Research notes	undated
b. 5, f. 56-66	Drafts	1951
b. 6, f. 67-68	Proofs	[1951]
Translations		
b. 6, f. 69	"He, The One Who Gets Slapped," by Leonid Andreyev, printed version	1921

Books > Translations (continued)

b. 6, f. 70	"The Violins of Autumn," by I. Sourgoucheff, typescript	1922
b. 6, f. 71	"The Main Thing," by N. N. Yevreyev, typescript	1923
Other Writings		
b. 6, f. 72	Untitled play, typescript	1944
b. 6, f. 73	"They Know Not," play, typescript	undated
b. 6, f. 74	Transcript of the diary of Isaac Ray from 1828, typescript	undated
b. 6, f. 75-84	Bibliographies of Gregory Zilboorg's work, 1920-1958	undated
b. 6, f. 85	"Gregory Zilboorg -- A Memorial, 1891-1959," reprints from the American Journal of Psychiatry	1960 January

Series III: Photographs, 1920s-1950s*0.21 linear feet (1 box)*

The series contains snapshots and portraits of Gregory Zilboorg, Margaret Zilboorg and others. Gregory Zilboorg counted photography among his interests and it is likely that he took many of the photographic portraits in this series. He is, however, definitively identified as the photographer for only three of them.

Series III is arranged alphabetically by subject.

	Barrett, Bill Stored in: Oversize Box 8, folder 94	1940s or 1950s
	Castiglioni, Arturo, two portraits by Gregory Zilboorg Stored in: Oversize Box 8, folder 95	1942, 1950
	Covarrubias, Señora, portrait by Gregory Zilboorg Stored in: Oversize Box 8, folder 96	1930s
	Field, Ruth Stored in: Oversize Box 8, folder 97	1939
	Hartmann, Heinz, Anna Freud, Ernest Jones and others Stored in: Oversize Box 8, folder 98	1950s
	Holmes, Jesse (professor of Philosophy at Swarthmore) Stored in: Oversize Box 8, folder 99	circa 1938
	Ingersoll, Ralph Stored in: Oversize Box 8, folder 100	1940
	Jones, Ernest Stored in: Oversize Box 8, folder 101	1950s
	Koussevitsky, Serge Stored in: Oversize Box 8, folder 102	1940s
b. 7, f. 86	Piaget, Jean	1950s
b. 7, f. 87	Pichel, Irving, portrait by an unknown photographer (not Zilboorg)	undated
	Rivera, Diego Stored in: Oversize Box 9, folder 103	1930s
	de Saussure, Raymond Stored in: Oversize Box 9, folder 104	1953
b. 7, f. 88	Sigerist, Henry Also stored in: Oversize Box 9, folder 105	1945, circa 1949
	Tannenbaum, Frank (professor of History at New York University) Stored in: Oversize Box 9, folder 106	undated
	Warburg, Felix Stored in: Oversize Box 9, folder 107	1930s
	Zilboorg, Gregory	
b. 7, f. 89	Portraits by Berenice Abbott and others Also stored in: Oversize, Box 9, folder 108	1920s-1950s

Zilboorg, Gregory (continued)

b. 7, f. 90	Snapshots Includes: one photograph with Franz Alexander	undated
b. 7, f. 91	With Columbia University class Includes: one photograph by Eve Arnold	1926
b. 7, f. 92	Zilboorg, Margaret and Gregory Jr.	1944 or 1945

Oversize*3.34 linear feet (2 boxes)*

b. 8, f. 93	General correspondence A-Z (Series I)	1941 May 11
b. 8, f. 94	Barrett, Bill (Series III)	1940s or 1950s
b. 8, f. 95	Castiglioni, Arturo, two portraits by Gregory Zilboorg (Series III)	1942, 1950
b. 8, f. 96	Covarrubias, Señora, portrait by Gregory Zilboorg (Series III)	1930s
b. 8, f. 97	Field, Ruth (Series III)	1939
b. 8, f. 98	Hartmann, Heinz, Anna Freud, Ernest Jones and others (Series III)	1950s
b. 8, f. 99	Holmes, Jesse (Series III)	circa 1938
b. 8, f. 100	Ingersoll, Ralph (Series III)	1940
b. 8, f. 101	Jones, Ernest (Series III)	1950s
b. 8, f. 102	Koussevitsky, Serge (Series III)	1940s
b. 9, f. 103	Rivera, Diego (Series III)	1930s
b. 9, f. 104	Saussure, Raymond de (Series III)	1953
b. 9, f. 105	Sigerist, Henry	circa 1949
b. 9, f. 106	Tannenbaum, Frank (Series III)	undated
b. 9, f. 107	Warburg, Felix (Series III)	1930s
b. 9, f. 108	Zilboorg, Gregory, Portraits by Berenice Abbott and others (Series III)	1920s-1950s

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Psychoanalysis
Psychoanalysts
Psychoanalysts
Psychology -- History
Russian drama
Translators
Translators

Genres / Formats

Photographs -- 20th Century

Names

Freud, Anna, 1895-1982
Freud, Sigmund, 1856-1939
Piaget, Jean, 1896-1980 -- Portraits
Rivera, Diego, 1886-1957 -- Portraits
Saussure, Raymond de, 1894-1971 -- Portraits
Sigerist, Henry E. (Henry Ernest), 1891-1957 --
Portraits
Zilboorg, Gregory, 1890-1959
Zilboorg, Margaret