

# George Alder Blumer correspondence

Ms Coll 50



Toby A. Appel

2015

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Medical Historical Library, Cushing/Whitney Medical Library  
Yale University  
333 Cedar St.  
New Haven, CT 06520-8014  
203-737-1192  
203-785-5636  
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**CALL NUMBER:** Ms Coll 50

**CREATOR:** Blumer, G. Alder (George Alder), 1857-1940

**TITLE:** George Alder Blumer correspondence

**DATES:** 1886–1951

**BULK DATES:** 1886–1896

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.25 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** These letters to George Alder Blumer are mainly about the American Medico-Psychological Association and the *American Journal of Insanity*, edited by Blumer. Several of the writers were, like Blumer, administrators of psychiatric hospitals in the United States and abroad.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.ms.0050>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.ms.0050>.

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

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Most of the letters were given by Miss Mary Blumer, daughter of George Alder Blumer, to George Alder Blumer's cousin, George Blumer, former dean of Yale School of Medicine, who gave them to the Historical Library in April 1951. The Osler letters have a different provenance.

## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The letters to George Alder Blumer are in the public domain.

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## Biographical / Historical

George Alder Blumer (also known as G. Alder Blumer) was born in Sunderland, England in 1857. He attended the medical school of the University of Edinburgh for one year before he came to the United States, and completed his medical education at the University of Pennsylvania in 1879. After a year of residency at Lankenau Hospital, Philadelphia, he was offered a position at the New York State Lunatic Asylum in Utica, New York, later the Utica State Hospital. When the superintendent Dr. John P. Gray died in 1886, Blumer assumed the superintendency. Blumer intervened when the New York State Commission on Lunacy threatened to take over the *American Journal of Insanity* founded by Amariah Brigham in 1844 and owned by the hospital. Blumer arranged for the American Medico-Psychological Association, now the American Psychiatric Association, to purchase the journal, now the *American Journal of Psychiatry*. Blumer served a number of years as editor. In 1899, he became superintendent of the private Butler Hospital in Providence, R.I., a post he held until his retirement in 1921. He served as president of the American Psychiatric Association in 1903-1904. As an asylum director he became known for his humanitarian treatment of patients.

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## Scope and Contents

These letters to George Alder Blumer are mainly about the American Medico-Psychological Association and the *Journal of Insanity*. Several of the writers were, like Blumer, administrators of psychiatric hospitals in the United States and abroad.

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## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	Letters of transmission: Correspondence of George Blumer and Mary Blumer with John Fulton Six items.	1950-1951
b. 1, f. 2	Blandford, G. Fielding, London, to George Alder Blumer	1891 March 4
b. 1, f. 3	Blumer, George, New Haven, to George Alder Blumer, Providence Partly regarding William Osler's visit to New Haven and the "Kernan matter."	1913 April 25
b. 1, f. 4	Bramwell, Byrom, Edinburgh, 5 letters to George Alder Blumer	1886-1891
b. 1, f. 5	Chapin, John B., Philadelphia, to George Alder Blumer	1891 September 2
b. 1, f. 6	Chauvin, P. S., Mauritius, to George Alder Blumer	1892 November 10
b. 1, f. 7	Clouston, Thomas Smith, Sir, Edinburgh, to G. Alder Blumer	1891 March 4
b. 1, f. 8	Earle, Pliny, Northampton, Mass., 5 letters to George Alder Blumer Some of the content concerns a series of letters that Pliny Earle received from Amariah Brigham, who founded the <i>Journal of Insanity</i> .	1891 February 3 - 1891 December 18
b. 1, f. 9	Hurd, Henry M., Baltimore, 3 letters to George Alder Blumer	1896 August 17-1896 September 7
b. 1, f. 10	Needham, Frederick, Sir, Gloucester, England to George Alder Blumer	1891 February 27
b. 1, f. 11	Osler, William, Sir, 14 letters to George Alder Blumer These letters were sent by George Alder Blumer to Harvey Cushing in 1920 and returned. They then were sent by Dr. Arthur H. Ruggles, Providence, to John F. Fulton, in September 1958. Folder includes George Alder Blumer to Harvey Cushing, 1920 April 12; Ruggles to Fulton, 1958 September 20; and Fulton to Ruggles, 1958 September 23. A letter from George Blumer to George Alder Blumer concerning Osler was moved to a folder under George Blumer. George Alder Blumer annotated the context of several of the Osler letters.	1896 June 10 - 1917 February 1
b. 1, f. 12	Parant, Victor, Toulouse, 3 letters to George Alder Blumer French	1890 January 28 - 1896 June 18
b. 1, f. 13	Tuke, Daniel Hack, Hanwell [England], 2 letters to George Alder Blumer	1891 February 28 - 1891 April 2
b. 1, f. 14	Urquhart, A. R., James Murray's Royal Asylum, Perth, to George Alder Blumer	1891 March 9
b. 1, f. 15	Welch, William Henry, Baltimore, to George Alder Blumer	1891 February 28
b. 1, f. 16	Yellowlees, David, Royal Asylum, Glasgow, to George Alder Blumer	1891 February 21

## 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

Medical publishing  
Medicine -- Societies, etc.  
Mental illness  
Physicians  
Psychiatric hospitals  
Psychiatry -- Periodicals

### Genres / Formats

Correspondence

### Occupations

Psychiatrists

### Names

Blandford, G. Fielding (George Fielding),  
1829-1911  
Blumer, G. Alder (George Alder), 1857-1940  
Blumer, George, 1872-1962  
Bramwell, Byrom, Sir, 1847-1931  
Chapin, John B. (John Bassett), 1829-1918  
Chauvin, P. S.  
Clouston, T. S. (Thomas Smith), 1840-1915  
Earle, Pliny, 1809-1892  
Hurd, Henry M. (Henry Mills), 1843-1927  
Needham, F. (Frederick), 1836-1924  
Osler, William, Sir, 1849-1919  
Parant, Victor, 1848-1924  
Tuke, Daniel Hack, 1827-1895  
Urquhart, Alexander Reid, 1852-1917  
Yellowlees, D. (David)

### Corporate Bodies

American Medico-Psychological Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
New York (State). State Lunatic Asylum