

William G. Niederland Papers

A Finding Aid to the Papers in the Sigmund Freud Collection in the Library of Congress



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<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm83060467>

Prepared by Margaret McAleer, David Mathisen, and Allan Teichrow with the assistance of Brian McGuire

Collection Summary

Title: William G. Niederland Papers

Span Dates: 1810-1982

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1952-1982)

ID No.: MSS60467

Creator: Niederland, William G., 1904-

Extent: 5,950 items ; 17 containers ; 6.8 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Psychoanalyst, educator, and author. Correspondence, writings, lectures, patient files, and other papers pertaining primarily to Niederland's career in the field of psychoanalysis.

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.

People

Arlow, Jacob A.--Correspondence.

Kinzelmann, Dietlind--Art.

Köhler, Lotte.--Correspondence.

Lewin, Bertram David, 1896- --Correspondence.

Lingens, Ella.--Correspondence.

Loch, Wolfgang.--Correspondence.

Niederland, William G., 1904-

Niederland, William G., 1904- Schreber case: psychoanalytic profile of a paranoid personality. 1974.

Quen, Jacques M., 1928- --Correspondence.

Schliemann, Heinrich, 1822-1890.

Schreber, Daniel Paul, 1842-1911.

Organizations

Downstate Medical Center (N.Y.)

New York Psychoanalytic Institute. Kris Study Group. New York Psychoanalytic Institute. Kris Study Group records.

Subjects

Abnormalities, Human--Psychological aspects.

Creative ability.

Geography--Psychological aspects.

Holocaust survivors--Psychology.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Psychological aspects.

Paranoia.

Psychoanalysis--Practice--New Jersey.

Psychoanalysis--Practice--New York (State)

Psychoanalysis--Societies, etc.

Psychoanalysis--Study and teaching--New York (State)--New York.

Psychoanalysis.

Occupations

Authors.

Educators.

Psychoanalysts.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of William G. Niederland, psychoanalyst, educator, and author, were given by Niederland to the Library of Congress in 1982 and 1983. A small addition was given by the Sigmund Freud Archives in 1987.

Processing History

The papers of William G. Niederland were arranged and described in 1993. The finding aid was revised in 2008.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of William G. Niederland is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of William G. Niederland are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, William G. Niederland Papers, Sigmund Freud Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1904, Aug. 19	Born, Schippenbeil, Germany
1929	M.D., University of Würzburg, Würzburg, Germany
1929-1930	Residency, Beelitz Heilstätten, Berlin, Germany
1930-1932	Public health official, Düsseldorf, Germany
1932-1934	Medical director, Rheinburg Sanatorium for Nervous and Mental Diseases, Gailingen, Germany
1934-1938	Private practice in Milan, Italy, after fleeing Nazi Germany
1940	Immigration to United States
1941-1946	Private practice in New York, N.Y., and clinical assistant, Mount Sinai Hospital, New York, N.Y.
1947-1953	Psychoanalytic training, New York Psychoanalytic Institute, New York, N.Y.
1949	Published <i>Man-Made Plague: A Primer on Neurosis</i> . New York: Renbayle House
1952	Married Jacqueline Rosenberg
1952-1974	Private practice in New York, N.Y.
1952-1977	Taught, Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn, N.Y.; professor emeritus after 1977

1958-1974	Chief consulting psychiatrist, Altro Health and Rehabilitation Services, New York, N.Y.
1958-1980	Coeditor, <i>Psychoanalytic Quarterly</i>
1971	Published <i>Psychic Traumatization: Aftereffects in Individuals and Communities</i> . Boston: Little, Brown, and Co.
1971-1973	President, Psychoanalytic Association of New York
1974	Published <i>The Schreber Case: Psychoanalytic Profile of a Paranoid Personality</i> . New York: Quadrangle/New York Times Book Co. Private practice in Englewood, N.J.
1993, July 30	Died, Englewood, N.J.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of William G. Niederland (1904-1993) span the years 1810-1982, with the bulk of the material dating from 1952 to 1982. The collection documents Niederland's work in the field of psychoanalysis as an author, educator, and clinician. The papers consist of correspondence, patient files, drafts of writings and lectures, research files, and material from professional organizations. They are organized in five series: [Correspondence](#), [Patient File](#), [Subject File](#), [Writings File](#), and [Miscellany](#).

Niederland, a native of Germany, practiced medicine in Europe for ten years before immigrating to the United States in 1940. He was born in 1904 in Schippenbeil, East Prussia, the son of an orthodox rabbi. After receiving a medical degree from the University of Würzburg in 1929, Niederland worked for several years in Berlin, Düsseldorf, and Gailingen. In 1934, he fled Nazi Germany and established a private psychiatric practice in Milan. With the signing of the Italian-German military alliance in 1939, Niederland once again fled fascism. After a brief stay in a refugee camp in England, he secured a position as a doctor and surgeon on a British merchant ship. In December 1940, American officials permitted him to enter the United States.

Between 1947 and 1953, Niederland underwent formal psychoanalytic training at the New York Psychoanalytic Institute. For over thirty years, he maintained private practices in New York and New Jersey and held professional positions at Mount Sinai Hospital, Altro Health and Rehabilitation Services, and Haversack General Hospital. He taught for twenty years at the Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York. Niederland served as coeditor of *Psychoanalytic Quarterly* from 1958 to 1980 and president of the Psychoanalytic Association of New York from 1971 to 1973.

Niederland researched and wrote on numerous topics. In 1951, he published his first work on Daniel Paul Schreber, a case made famous by Sigmund Freud's analysis of Schreber's memoirs in 1911. Niederland's analysis focused particularly on Schreber's childhood and his relationship with his father, Dr. Daniel Gottlieb Moritz Schreber. Niederland wrote numerous papers on the subject and in 1974 published *The Schreber Case: Psychoanalytic Profile of a Paranoid Personality*. Beginning in the early 1960s, Niederland developed the concept of the "survivor syndrome" in working with survivors of the Nazi Holocaust. He found that survivors experience unresolved feelings of guilt and grief that lead to depression, anxiety, insomnia, personality change, and hyperamnesia.

Niederland also applied psychoanalytic research methods to the study of creativity and the creative process. He noted the frequency of perplexing and often tragic experiences, such as illness or physical disabilities, encountered by creative people during childhood. He found that such experiences enhanced their emotional reactivity and responsiveness to internal and external stimuli. Niederland also coined the term "psychogeography," a field of study that examines underlying psychological forces operative in geographical pursuits such as exploration and analyzes the anthropomorphic nature of explorers' views of the earth.

The [Correspondence](#) series consists largely of letters sent and received from colleagues in the United States and Europe. The correspondence is primarily personal and largely concerns Niederland's research and writings. Prominent

correspondents include Jacob A. Arlow, Lotte Köhler, Bertram D. Lewin, Ella Lingens, Wolfgang Loch, and Jacques M. Quen.

The [Patient File](#) includes notes from therapy sessions conducted largely in the 1960s. The case of Arline Blackman is particularly well documented and was used by Niederland to study the psychological effect of facial disfigurement.

The largest group of papers in the [Subject File](#) concerns the Kris study group established by Ernst Kris at the New York Psychoanalytic Institute. These files consist of minutes, case presentations, and memoranda dating just prior to Kris' death in February 1957 and continuing into the 1970s. Niederland's work in Europe is documented through correspondence while he was in Milan and a series of reference letters written for him between 1930 and 1940. The series also contains research material on such topics as creativity and psychogeography. The Subject File also includes Niederland's research on Heinrich Schliemann, the "father" of modern archeology. Included are photocopies of original Schliemann correspondence given to Niederland by a member of Schliemann's family.

The [Writing File](#) contains drafts, notes, and correspondence related to Niederland's writings. The largest group of material concerns Niederland's research on the Schreber case, focusing in particular on Schreber's family and childhood. The series also includes published and unpublished writings by others collected by Niederland or sent to him by colleagues.

The [Miscellany](#) series includes information about Niederland's education, awards, and appointments. The series also includes examples of the artwork of Dietlind Kinzelmann who sent her work to Niederland after reading his analysis of the creative process. Also included is printed matter largely from professional conferences and organizations.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [Correspondence, 1946-1982](#)
- [Patient File, circa 1953-1971](#)
- [Subject File, 1868-1981](#)
- [Writing File, 1810-1982](#)
- [Miscellany, 1922-1981](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-3	<u>Correspondence, 1946-1982</u> Correspondence and attached and related material. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.
BOX 3-4	<u>Patient File, circa 1953-1971</u> Notes and correspondence concerning individuals treated by Niederland. Arranged alphabetically by name of patient.
BOX 4-7	<u>Subject File, 1868-1981</u> Correspondence, minutes, research files, biographical material, academic calendars, notes, and printed matter chiefly concerning Niederland's professional associations and research in the United States. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.
BOX 7-15	<u>Writing File, 1810-1982</u> Drafts, correspondence, research files, reviews, and printed matter organized into writings by Niederland and by others. Niederland's writings are arranged alphabetically by type of publication and alphabetically therein by title. Writings by others are arranged alphabetically by name of author, with jointly-written and unidentified works filed last.
BOX 15-17	<u>Miscellany, 1922-1981</u> Awards, certificates, artwork, photographs, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-3	Correspondence, 1946-1982 Correspondence and attached and related material. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.
BOX 1	"A-D" miscellaneous, 1952-1981, undated (4 folders)
BOX 1	Ehebald, Ulrich, 1964-1978
BOX 1	"E" miscellaneous, 1964-1980, undated
BOX 1	"F-G" miscellaneous, 1952-1981 (2 folders)
BOX 1	Herberg, Hans-Joachim, 1976-1981
BOX 1	"H" miscellaneous, 1969-1981
BOX 1	"I-K" miscellaneous, 1952-1982, undated (3 folders)
BOX 1	Lewin, Bertram D., 1950-1970, undated
BOX 1	Lingens, Ella, 1976-1977
BOX 1	Loch, Wolfgang, 1975-1977, undated
BOX 2	"L" miscellaneous, 1952-1981
BOX 2	"M" miscellaneous, 1962-1981
BOX 2	Niederland family, 1974-1980, undated
BOX 2	"N" miscellaneous, 1967-1980
BOX 2	"O-P" miscellaneous, 1961-1980 (2 folders)
BOX 2	Quen, Jacques M., 1975
BOX 2	"R-T" miscellaneous, 1946-1981 (3 folders)
BOX 2	Venzlaff, Ulrich, 1977-1982
BOX 2	"V" miscellaneous, 1958-1981
BOX 3	"W-Z" miscellaneous, 1953-1981 (3 folders)
BOX 3-4	Patient File, circa 1953-1971 Notes and correspondence concerning individuals treated by Niederland. Arranged alphabetically by name of patient.
BOX 3	"A" miscellaneous
BOX 3	Baker, Jo Ann, 1961
BOX 3	Blackman, Arline (2 folders)
BOX 3	"C-K" miscellaneous (8 folders)

Patient File, circa 1953-1971

Container

Contents

BOX 4	"L-Z" miscellaneous (9 folders)
BOX 4-7	Subject File, 1868-1981 Correspondence, minutes, research files, biographical material, academic calendars, notes, and printed matter chiefly concerning Niederland's professional associations and research in the United States. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.
BOX 4	Biographical material, 1954-1981
BOX 4	Italy, private practice in Milan, 1935-1939
BOX 4	Kris, Ernst, study group, New York Psychoanalytic Institute, New York, N.Y.
BOX 4	1957-1958 (2 folders)
BOX 5	1959-1962 (7 folders)
BOX 6	1963-1978 (7 folders)
BOX 6	Miscellany, 1906, 1968-1973, undated
BOX 6	Mount Airy Foundation, Denver, Colo., gold medal award, 1979-1980
BOX 6	Notes, 1961-1977, undated (2 folders)
BOX 7	Psychogeography, 1970-1978
BOX 7	Reference letters written for Niederland, 1930-1940
BOX 7	Requests for publications, 1969-1980
BOX 7	Schliemann, Heinrich, research file
BOX 7	General correspondence, 1961-1976 (3 folders)
BOX 7	Photocopies of Schliemann correspondence, 1868-1870
BOX 7	State University of New York, Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn, N.Y., 1972-1978
BOX 7-15	Writing File, 1810-1982 Drafts, correspondence, research files, reviews, and printed matter organized into writings by Niederland and by others. Niederland's writings are arranged alphabetically by type of publication and alphabetically therein by title. Writings by others are arranged alphabetically by name of author, with jointly-written and unidentified works filed last.
BOX 7	By Niederland
BOX 7	Books
BOX 7	Miscellaneous, 1948-1980, undated
BOX 7	<i>The Schreber Case</i>
BOX 7	Drafts
BOX 7	Editorial note
BOX 7	Introduction
BOX 7	Miscellaneous pages
BOX 7	Table of contents
BOX 8	General correspondence, 1957-1978

Writing File, 1810-1982

Container

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BOX 8	Lectures by Niederland, 1950-1974, undated
BOX 8	Miscellany, 1958-1978, undated
BOX 8	Research file
BOX 8	Biographical material, 1876, 1950
BOX 8	Excerpts from "Denkswürdigkeiten" and medical testimony concerning Schreber, 1899-1901
BOX 8	Genealogical data
BOX 8	Death certificates of maternal antecedents, 1810-1871
BOX 8	General, 1958-1960, undated
BOX 8	Notes
BOX 8	Photographs
BOX 8	Schreber, Daniel Gottlieb Moritz, and early history of the "Schreber-Vereine," 1861-1960
BOX 8	Reviews, 1976-1979, undated
BOX 8	Schatzmann, Dr. Morton, alleged plagiarism of Niederland's work, 1973
BOX 8	Comments on papers, 1961-1980
BOX 9	Discussion transcripts
BOX 9	Aggression study conference and group, 1970-1973
BOX 9	"The Creative Process," 1979
BOX 9	Lectures, 1945-1982, undated (2 folders)
BOX 9	Letters to newspaper editors, 1978-1981
BOX 9	Miscellany, 1965-1981, undated
BOX 9	Papers
BOX 9	"Analytic Approaches to Artistic Creativity," 1975, undated
BOX 10	"An Analytic Inquiry into the Life and Work of Heinrich Schliemann" (1972), 1964-1980 <i>For additional material see Container 7, Schliemann, Heinrich, research file</i>
BOX 10	"An Analytic Inquiry into the Sources and History of the Name America," 1964-1971, undated (2 folders)
BOX 10	"B-C" miscellaneous, 1956-1978, undated
BOX 10	"E-N" miscellaneous, 1959-1975, undated (2 folders)
BOX 10	"On River Symbolism," 1956-1957, undated
BOX 11	"On the Writing of Biographies," undated
BOX 11	"P-R" miscellaneous, 1964-1978, undated (2 folders)
BOX 11	Schreber, Daniel Paul, 1951-1963, undated (3 folders)
BOX 11	"S-T" miscellaneous, 1938-1976, undated
BOX 11	By others
BOX 11	"A-BI" miscellaneous
BOX 12	"Br-J" miscellaneous (5 folders)
BOX 13	"K-L" miscellaneous
BOX 13	Masson, J. Moussaieff (2 folders)

Writing File, 1810-1982

Container

Contents

BOX 13	"M" miscellaneous
BOX 13	"N-St" miscellaneous (2 folders)
BOX 14	"Sw-Z" miscellaneous (3 folders)
BOX 15	Joint authors
BOX 15	Unidentified
BOX 15-17	Miscellany, 1922-1981 Awards, certificates, artwork, photographs, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.
BOX 15	Awards, certificates, and appointments, 1922-1981, undated
BOX 15	Kinzelmann, Dietlind, artwork with comments by Niederland, 1978
BOX 15	Photographs
BOX 16	Printed matter
BOX 16	(4 folders)
BOX 17	(3 folders)