

# **Winfred Overholser Papers**

## **A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



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**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
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LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm78035287>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Winfred Overholser Papers

**Span Dates:** 1911-1965

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1950-1965)

**ID No.:** MSS35287

**Creator:** Overholser, Winfred, 1892-1964

**Extent:** 5,000 items ; 34 containers ; 10 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**Summary:** Psychiatrist, educator and superintendent of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Washington, D.C. Correspondence, letters scrapbooks, writings, printed matter, and other papers relating to Overholser's career in psychiatry and his research in forensic psychiatry.

## 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

Burton, Harold H. (Harold Hitz), 1888-1964--Correspondence.

Jung, C. G. (Carl Gustav), 1875-1961--Correspondence.

McLean, Evalyn Walsh, 1886-1947--Correspondence.

Menninger, Karl A. (Karl Augustus), 1893-1990--Correspondence.

Nixon, Richard M. (Richard Milhous), 1913-1994--Correspondence.

Overholser, Winfred, 1892-1964.

Pound, Ezra, 1885-1972--Correspondence.

Rockefeller, Nelson A. (Nelson Aldrich), 1908-1979--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945--Correspondence.

Santayana, George, 1863-1952--Correspondence.

Zilboorg, Gregory, 1890-1959.

### Organizations

Massachusetts. Department of Mental Diseases.

Massachusetts. Department of Mental Diseases. Division for the Examination of Prisoners.

Saint Elizabeth's Hospital (Washington, D.C.)

### Subjects

Forensic psychiatry.

Mental health--Massachusetts.

Prisoners--Mental health services--Massachusetts.

Psychiatric hospitals--Washington (D.C.)

Psychiatry.

### Occupations

Administrators.

Educators.

Psychiatrists.

# Administrative Information

## Provenance

The papers of Winfred Overholser, psychiatrist, educator, and superintendent of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Washington, D.C., were given to the Library of Congress by the co-executors of his estate, Winfred Overholser, Jr., and the American Security and Trust Company in 1965.

## Processing History

The papers of Winfred Overholser were arranged and described in 1966. The finding aid was revised in 2010.

## Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Winfred Overholser in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Winfred Overholser 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, Winfred Overholser Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

# Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1882, Apr. 21	Born, Worcester, Mass.
1912	B.A., Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
1916	M.D., Boston University, Boston, Mass.
1916-1917	Resident physician, Evans Memorial Hospital, Boston, Mass.
1917-1920	Assistant physician, Westborough State Hospital, Westborough, Mass.
1918-1919	Lieutenant, Neuropsychiatric Section, Medical Corps, United States Army
1920-1921	Assistant superintendent, Gardner State Hospital, Mass.
1924-1925	Assistant to commissioner, Massachusetts Department Mental Diseases
1925-1930	Director, Division for Examination of Prisoners, Massachusetts Department Mental Diseases
1930-1934	Assistant commissioner, Massachusetts Department Mental Diseases
1934-1936	Commissioner, Massachusetts Department Mental Diseases
1925-1934	Instructor (1925-1926), assistant professor (1926-1932), associate professor (1932-1934), and professor of psychiatry (1934), Boston University, Boston, Mass.

1937-1962	Superintendent, St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Washington, D.C.
1948	Chairman, United States delegation, International Congress on Mental Health, London, England
1948-1954	Member, National Board of Medical Examiners
1950	Vice-president, First World Congress of Psychiatry, Paris, France
1964, Oct. 6	Died, Washington, D. C.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Winfred Overholser (1892-1964) span the years 1911-1965, with the bulk from 1950 to 1965. The collection is organized in eight series: [Selected Correspondence](#), [General Correspondence](#), [Subject File](#), [Writings File](#), [Manuscript Index Cards](#), [Collected Reprints](#), [Printed Matter](#), and [Scrapbooks](#).

[Scrapbooks](#) in the collection include announcements, invitations, newspaper clippings, photographs, and printed matter reflecting Overholser's career as a psychiatrist from 1925 to 1962. The scrapbooks treat his appointment as director of the Division for the Examination of Prisoners of the Massachusetts Department of Mental Diseases in 1925, his term as commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Mental Diseases, 1934-1936, including his removal from the latter position by Governor James M. Curley, and his appointment and tenure as superintendent of Saint Elizabeth's Hospital, Washington, D.C., 1937-1962. The [Subject File](#) is dated largely after Overholser's retirement from Saint Elizabeth's Hospital in 1962. A series of [writings](#) includes typed, printed, and photocopied works that Overholser contributed to the literature of psychiatry. Also in the collection are a few drafts and typescripts of articles, lectures, and book reviews, and a card file of a bibliography compiled by Overholser on forensic psychiatry.

Prominent correspondents include Harold H. Burton, C. G. Jung, Evalyn Walsh McLean, Karl Menninger, Richard M. Nixon, Ezra Pound, Nelson A. Rockefeller, Franklin D. Roosevelt, George Santayana, and Gregory Zilboorg.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in eight series:

- [Selected Correspondence, 1911-1963](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1921-1965](#)
- [Subject File, circa 1920-1964](#)
- [Writings File, 1945-1963](#)
- [Manuscript Index Cards](#)
- [Collected Reprints, 1917-1962](#)
- [Printed Matter, circa 1920-1965](#)
- [Scrapbooks, 1925-1962](#)

## Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1	<b><u>Selected Correspondence, 1911-1963</u></b> Letters received from prominent individuals. Alphabetically arranged by name of correspondent.
BOX 2-3	<b><u>General Correspondence, 1921-1965</u></b> Letters received and a few letters sent. Arranged chronologically by month.
BOX 4-6	<b><u>Subject File, circa 1920-1964</u></b> Correspondence, biographical material, certificates, diplomas, lists, photographs, printed matter, and records relating to organizations of which Overholser was a member. Arranged alphabetically by subject.
BOX 7	<b><u>Writings File, 1945-1963</u></b> Drafts and typed copies of addresses, lectures, book reviews, and miscellaneous writings. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 8-12	<b><u>Manuscript Index Cards</u></b> Cards comprising a bibliography by Overholser on forensic psychiatry. Arranged in the order received.
BOX 13-15	<b><u>Collected Reprints, 1917-1962</u></b> Bound and unbound printed reprints. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 16-21	<b><u>Printed Matter, circa 1920-1965</u></b> Printed transcripts of court decisions and opinions, reprints of works by others, and miscellaneous material. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 22-34	<b><u>Scrapbooks, 1925-1962</u></b> Scrapbooks. Arranged chronologically.

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Selected Correspondence, 1911-1963</b> Letters received from prominent individuals. Alphabetically arranged by name of correspondent.
<b>BOX 1</b>	Alexander, Franz, 1963, Sept. 26
<b>BOX 1</b>	Baruch, Bernard M., 1951, June 13
<b>BOX 1</b>	Bleuler, Manfred, 1963, Jan. 23 and Apr. 25
<b>BOX 1</b>	Brennan, William J., 1963, Sept. 30
<b>BOX 1</b>	Burton, Harold H., 1946, Nov. 28, and 1958, Oct. 18
<b>BOX 1</b>	Celebrezze, Anthony, 1962, Oct. 2 and 4
<b>BOX 1</b>	Conant, James B., 1935, Nov. 12
<b>BOX 1</b>	Davies, A. Powell, 1956, Jan. 3
<b>BOX 1</b>	Davis, Bette, 1943, Dec. 7
<b>BOX 1</b>	Ervin, Sam J., 1962, Oct. 11
<b>BOX 1</b>	Ewing, Oscar R., 1954, Jan. 6
<b>BOX 1</b>	Flemming, Arthur S., 1962, Dec. 19
<b>BOX 1</b>	Folsom, Marion B., 1958, May 22, and 1962, Oct. 5
<b>BOX 1</b>	Godfrey, Arthur, 1948, Feb. 28
<b>BOX 1</b>	Grant, Ulysses S. (1881-1968), 1955, Feb. 21
<b>BOX 1</b>	Hobby, Oveta Culp, 1955, July 27
<b>BOX 1</b>	Hooton, E. A., 1936, July 30
<b>BOX 1</b>	Ickes, Harold L., 1937, Sept. 21
<b>BOX 1</b>	Judd, Walter H., 1962, Oct. 6
<b>BOX 1</b>	Jung, C. G., 1954, Sept. 11
<b>BOX 1</b>	Kennedy, John F., 1962, Sept. 12
<b>BOX 1</b>	Lewis, Nolan D. C., 1963, July 8
<b>BOX 1</b>	Lowell, A. Lawrence, 1911, Dec. 27
<b>BOX 1</b>	McCormack, John W., 1937, Sept. 28 and Oct. 9
<b>BOX 1</b>	McLean, Evalyn Walsh, 1941, Aug. 12, and undated (2 folders)
<b>BOX 1</b>	Menninger, Karl, 1938, Dec. 17; 1963, Jan. 23; and 1963, Oct. 17
<b>BOX 1</b>	Nixon, Richard M., 1955, Apr. 18
<b>BOX 1</b>	Pound, Ezra, 1950, July 12; circa 1950; 1957, Dec. 28; and 1959, Aug. 1
<b>BOX 1</b>	Rockefeller, Nelson A., 1954, Jan. 8, and 1955, Mar. 3
<b>BOX 1</b>	Roosevelt, Eleanor, 1954, Jan. 6
<b>BOX 1</b>	Roosevelt, Franklin D., 1941, Aug. 27
<b>BOX 1</b>	Roosevelt, James, 1937, Sept. 23-24 (2 folders)
<b>BOX 1</b>	Saltonstall, Leverett, 1962, Oct. 8
<b>BOX 1</b>	Santayana, George, 1952, Apr. 20
<b>BOX 1</b>	Warren, Earl, 1949, Mar. 15
<b>BOX 1</b>	White, William A., 1934, Oct. 9, and Nov. 2; 1936, June 21

## Selected Correspondence, 1911-1963

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Zilboorg, Gregory, 1946, July 6; 1951, Oct. 11; 1953, Apr. 1 and Apr. 16; 1954, Oct. 9; and 1955, Jan. 31
BOX 2-3	<b>General Correspondence, 1921-1965</b> Letters received and a few letters sent. Arranged chronologically by month.
BOX 2	1921-1962
BOX 3	1963-1965
BOX 4-6	<b>Subject File, circa 1920-1964</b> Correspondence, biographical material, certificates, diplomas, lists, photographs, printed matter, and records relating to organizations of which Overholser was a member. Arranged alphabetically by subject.
BOX 4	Academy of Religion and Mental Health, 1963-1964
BOX 4	American Psychiatric Association, 1962-1963
BOX 4	Biographical material, circa 1920-1964
BOX 4	Book lists, personal library, circa 1964
BOX 5	Certificates and diplomas
BOX 5	Child Center, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., 1963
BOX 5	Cosmos Club Award, 1964
BOX 5	Forensic psychiatry, circa 1960-1964
BOX 5	Harvard Club of Washington, D.C. 1963
BOX 5	<i>International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences</i> , 1964
BOX 5	Photographs
BOX 6	<i>Psychiatry Digest</i> , 1962-1963
BOX 6	Social Security Administration, 1963-1964
BOX 6	Special Committee to Investigate the Rejection of Mental Cases at Induction Stations, 1943
BOX 6	Miscellany
BOX 7	<b>Writings File, 1945-1963</b> Drafts and typed copies of addresses, lectures, book reviews, and miscellaneous writings. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 7	Addresses and lectures, 1945-1963
BOX 7	Book on early medicine, background material for a work not undertaken, 1963
BOX 7	Book reviews, 1962-1963
BOX 7	Miscellany
BOX 8-12	<b>Manuscript Index Cards</b> Cards comprising a bibliography by Overholser on forensic psychiatry. Arranged in the order received.
BOX 8	Forensic psychiatry references
BOX 8	England
BOX 8	Germany
BOX 8	France

## Manuscript Index Cards

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 8	Spain
BOX 8	United States
BOX 9	Legal citations
BOX 9	Commitment
BOX 9	Compulsory examination
BOX 9	Definitions
BOX 9	Drunkenness
BOX 9	Drugs
BOX 9	Sex psychopaths
BOX 9	Habeas corpus
BOX 9	Marriage
BOX 9	Divorce
BOX 9	Privileged communication
BOX 9	Blood tests
BOX 9	Drug interrogation
BOX 9	Insane as parties and witnesses
BOX 9	Procedure
BOX 9	Insane convicts
BOX 10	Criminal responsibility tests
BOX 10	Impulse test
BOX 10	Deeds and contracts
BOX 10	Experts appointed by court
BOX 10	Expert evidence
BOX 10	Guardianship
BOX 10	Insurance
BOX 10	Opinion
BOX 10	Wills
BOX 11	Torts
BOX 11	References on legal literature
BOX 11	Medical
BOX 11	Briggs law
BOX 12	Durham rule
BOX 12	Fitness to plead
BOX 12	Diminished responsibility
BOX 12	Miscellany
BOX 13-15	<b>Collected Reprints, 1917-1962</b> Bound and unbound printed reprints. Arranged chronologically.
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BOX 13	Vols. 1-2, 1917-1942
BOX 14	Vols. 3-4, 1943-1955
BOX 15	Vol. 5, 1956-1961



## Collected Reprints, 1917-1962

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 15	Unbound, 1924-1962
BOX 16-21	<b>Printed Matter, circa 1920-1965</b> Printed transcripts of court decisions and opinions, reprints of works by others, and miscellaneous material. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 16	Court decisions and opinions, 1954-1964
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BOX 18-21	Miscellany, circa, 1920-1965
BOX 22-34	<b>Scrapbooks, 1925-1962</b> Scrapbooks. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 22	Vol. 1, 1925-1938
BOX 23	Vol. 2, 1938-1941
BOX 24	Vol. 3, 1941-1944
BOX 25	Vol. 4, 1944-1947
BOX 26	Vol. 5, 1949-1951
BOX 27	Vol. 6, 1949-1951
BOX 28	Vol. 7, 1951-1953
BOX 29	Vol. 8, 1953-1954
BOX 30	Vol. 9, 1954-1955
BOX 31	Vol. 10, 1955-1956
BOX 32	Vol. 11, 1956-1958
BOX 33	Vol. 12, 1958-1960
BOX 34	Vol. 13, 1960-1962