

Charles Brenner Papers

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<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm2012085729>

Prepared by Pang H. Xiong

Collection Summary

Title: Charles Brenner Papers

Span Dates: 1935-2008

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1950-2006)

ID No.: MSS85729

Creator: Brenner, Charles, 1913-2008.

Extent: 4,000 items ; 13 containers ; 5.2 linear feet ; 1,366 digital files (34.35MB)

Language: Collection material in English

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

Summary: Psychoanalyst. Writings, lectures, correspondence, notes, outlines, minutes, transcripts, reports, photographs, awards, printed matter, digital files, and other papers pertaining to Brenner's career in 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

Brenner, Charles, 1913-2008.

Brenner, Erma, 1911-2001. Erma Brenner papers.

Rothstein, Arnold, 1936-

Organizations

New York Psychoanalytic Institute.

New York Psychoanalytic Society.

Subjects

Anxiety.

Compromise formation.

Conflict (Psychology)

Countertransference (Psychology)

Masochism.

Motivation (Psychology)

Psychoanalysis--Societies, etc.

Psychoanalysis.

Transference (Psychology)

Occupations

Psychoanalysts.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Charles Brenner, psychoanalyst, were given to the Library of Congress by his estate in 2012.

Transfers

Audiovisual material has been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division where it is identified as part of the Charles Brenner Papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Charles Brenner is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Charles Brenner 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.

Digital Format

Digital files were received as part of the papers of Charles Brenner. Reference copies were created from the original digital media. Advanced notice is required for access to digital content; consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for more information.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Charles Brenner Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1913, Nov. 18	Born, Boston, Mass.
1931	B.A., Harvard College, Cambridge, Mass.
1935	M.D., Harvard Medical School, Cambridge, Mass. Married Erma (died 2001)
1939-1945	Assistant in neurology, Harvard Medical School, Cambridge, Mass. Sigmund Freud Fellow, Boston Psychoanalytic Hospital, Boston, Mass.
1941-1945	Visiting neurologist, Cambridge City Hospital, Cambridge, Mass.
1944-1950	Associate attending psychiatrist, Montefiore Medical Center, N.Y.
1955	Published <i>An Elementary Textbook of Psychoanalysis</i> . N.Y.: International Universities Press
1955-circa 2008	Instructor and training and supervising analyst, New York Psychoanalytic Society and Institute
1961-1963	President, New York Psychoanalytic Society
1964	Published with Jacob Arlow <i>Psychoanalytic Concepts and Structural Theory</i> . N.Y.: International Universities Press
1967-1968	President, American Psychoanalytic Association
1976	Published <i>Psychoanalytic Techniques and Psychic Conflict</i> . N.Y.: International Universities Press
1981-2008	Associate editor and treasurer, <i>Psychoanalytic Quarterly</i>
1982	Published <i>The Mind in Conflict</i> . N.Y.: International Universities Press
1990	Visiting professor of psychoanalysis, University of Pennsylvania Medical School, Philadelphia, Pa.
1993-1994	Visiting professor of psychoanalysis, Wisconsin Psychoanalytic Institute, Society, and Foundation, Milwaukee, Wis.

2006 Published *Psychoanalysis or Mind and Meaning*. N.Y.: Psychoanalytic Quarterly, Inc.

2008, May 19 Died, New York, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Charles Brenner (1913-2008) span the years 1935-2008, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1950-2006. Writings, lectures, correspondence, reports, printed matter, digital files, and other papers document Brenner's career as a psychoanalyst. In a major contribution to the modern conflict theory, Brenner concluded that mental functioning is motivated by the pleasure-unpleasure principle, not separate systems. Furthermore, conflict and compromise formations encompass all of normal mental functioning, not just pathological mental functioning. The papers are in English. The collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material, topic, or person and therein chronologically or alphabetically.

The majority of the papers is comprised of Brenner's lectures and topical files focusing on different aspects of psychoanalytic theory. Folders chronicle Brenner's work in progress from research to drafts to published or unpublished works. Topics featured are the structure of the mind, the modern conflict theory, conflict and compromise formation, transference and countertransference, anxiety, masochism, mental functioning and development, and the drive theory. The papers also document Brenner's mentorship of other colleagues; his involvement with psychoanalytic organizations, particularly as an instructor and training and supervising analyst at the New York Psychoanalytic Society and Institute; and his project with Arnold Rothstein to demonstrate the validity of conflict and compromise formation. Also included are Brenner's drafts of his memoir that was not published until the year after his death in 2009. There is little documentation of Brenner's early career as a neurologist before entering psychiatry and no documentation of his early or family life.

Digital files in this collection were created from 1993 to 2006 and consist chiefly of word processing files received on fifty-six floppy disks and one zip disk. A list of the digital files, arranged by topic or person and digital ID, was compiled by Library of Congress staff. The digital files are comprised of the works of Brenner and his wife, Erma Brenner, and many of the digital files are not duplicated in the analog portion of the collection. Erma Brenner's digital files consist of drafts of a play, a fictionalized memoir, correspondence, lectures, and other writings. Brenner's digital files include drafts of published and unpublished papers, books, and essays. Also included are Brenner's correspondence, lectures and discussions, documents related to the conflict and compromise formation project with Rothstein, and other writings.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material, topic, or person and therein chronologically or alphabetically.

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