Descriptive Summary

Creator Information  Hoffer, Abram, 1917-2009
Title  Abram Hoffer correspondence
Collection Identifier  MSP 88
Date Span  1967
Abstract  This collection contains one letter from Abram Hoffer to Ralph Metzner, in which Hoffer gives Metzner permission to use his Berkely LSD paper.
Extent  1 Folder
Finding Aid Author  Kristin Leaman
Languages  English
Repository  Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries

Administrative Information

Location Information:  ASC
Access Restrictions:  Collection is open for research
Acquisition Information:  Purchase, Michael Horowitz/Flashback Books, June 1, 2011
Accession Number:  20110601
Preferred Citation:  MSP 88, Abram Hoffer correspondence, Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
Copyright Notice:  Copyright restrictions may apply. Consult a reference archivist for details.
Subjects and Genres

Persons
Hoffer, Abram, 1917-2009
Metzner, Ralph

Topics
LSD

Form and Genre Types
Correspondence

Occupations
Psychology
Psychiatry
Biography of Abram Hoffer

Abram Hoffer was born November 11, 1917 on a farm in southern Saskatchewan, Canada. He earned his BS in 1938 and his MS in 1940 from the University of Saskatchewan; he then completed his PhD in 1944 from the University of Minnesota and his MD in 1945 from the University of Toronto. Upon the completion of his degrees, Hoffer took a position as Director of Psychiatric Research in the Psychiatric Services Branch, Department of Public Health, Saskatchewan. While Hoffer was serving as director, Dr. Humphry Osmond joined the team in 1951 and brought with him the M Hypothesis that he and John Smythies formulated. The M hypothesis of schizophrenia is the idea that sufferers of the disease had a chemical with the psychological properties of mescaline that was somehow related to adrenaline. Later, Hoffer’s team developed the Andrenochrome Hypothesis, which states that adrenaline was oxidized to adrenochrome causing schizophrenia. The team also deduced that large doses of vitamins B-3 and C could be therapeutic; the hypothesis was tested on schizophrenics, and Hoffer asserts that they saw wonderful progress in several patients. He and Osmond published Chemical Concepts of Psychiatry (1960) and Hallucinogens (1967), and both contributed to Clinical and Other Uses of the Hoffer-Osmond Diagnostic Test (1975). Hoffer later concentrated his research on nutrition in the 1970s and published How to Live with Schizophrenia (1978), Orthomolecular Nutrition (1978), and Nutrients to Age Without Senility (1980). In 1976, Hoffer moved to Victoria where he practiced psychiatry; he became a founding member and president of the Senior Physicians Association of British Columbia. On May 27, 2009, Hoffer passed away from a brief illness.

Sources:


Collection Description

Scope

The Abram Hoffer correspondence (1 folder; 1967) contains a typed letter from Abram Hoffer to Ralph Metzner concerning the use of Hoffer's Berkeley LSD paper by Metzner. It also includes Hoffer's opinion of the Liangs and Berkes' ideas on schizophrenia.

Descriptive Rules


Processing Information

Materials have been placed in acid-free housing.
DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Folder 1

Item
1. Letter from Abram Hoffer to Ralph Metzner, 1967