



**FINDING AID TO
THE WILLIAM RICHARDS COLLECTION OF
WALTER PAHNKE PAPERS,
circa 1964-1971**

**Purdue University Libraries
Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections
Research Center
504 West State Street
West Lafayette, Indiana 47907-2058
(765) 494-2839**

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Processed by: Kristin Leaman, September 2011

Descriptive Summary

Creator Information	Pahnke, Walter, 1931-1971
Title	William Richards Collection of Walter Pahnke papers
Collection Identifier	MSP 68
Date Span	1952-1972, predominant 1964-1971
Abstract	The William Richards Collection of Walter Pahnke papers (1952-1972; 0.2 cubic feet) contains materials that document the life and work of Walter Pahnke. Article reprints, a list of his publications, a photograph of Pahnke, a summary of his doctoral thesis, his curriculum vitae from 1970, an account of his first LSD experience, a poem by his wife, personal manuscripts, and his obituary are included in the collection.
Extent	0.2 cubic feet (1 box)
Finding Aid Author	Kristin Leaman, 2011
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:	April 17, 2009; William Richards; Donation
Accession Number:	20090417
Preferred Citation:	MSP 68, William Richards Collection of Walter Pahnke papers, Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
Copyright Notice:	Copyright restrictions may apply. Consult a reference archivist for details.

Subjects and Genres

Persons

Pahnke, Walter

Organizations

Maryland Psychiatric Research Center
Spring Grove State Hospital (Catonsville, Md.)

Topics

LSD (Drug)--Therapeutic use
Death Psychological aspects
Hallucinogenic drugs and religious experience
Psychopharmacology

Form and Genre Types

Black-and-white photograph
Correspondence
Curriculum vitae
Manuscript for publication
Manuscripts (handwriting)
Obituary
Poems
Program (document)
Reprints
Test report

Occupations

Psychiatry
Psychology
Psychopharmacology
Minister

Biography of Walter Pahnke

Walter Pahnke (1931-1971) earned his Artium Baccalaureus (magna cum laude) from Carleton College in 1952, his MD from Harvard Medical School in 1956, his BD (cum laude) from Harvard Divinity School in 1960, and his PhD from Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences in 1964. He completed training in LSD therapy and research with Hanscarl Leuner at the University of Göttingen and completed his psychiatric residency at the Massachusetts Mental Health Care Center. Pahnke's main research interests were psychopharmacology (especially psychedelic drugs in regard to psychotherapeutic usefulness, sociological abuse, and religious implications), psychiatric and ethical issues in the care of the dying patient, and psychology of religion. He held many esteemed positions in the field of psychiatry and served as the Director of Clinical Sciences at the Maryland Psychiatric Research Center and an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine before his untimely death in 1971. Pahnke wrote many articles concerning the therapeutic use of LSD including his 1969 article "The Psychedelic Mystical Experience in the Human Encounter with Death." He was a Phi Beta Kappa member, a Kent Fellow, and an Ingersoll Lecturer at Harvard University. Pahnke passed away at the age of forty in a scuba diving accident in the Atlantic off the coast of Maine on July 10, 1971 leaving behind his wife and three children. Pahnke was "admired by his friends for his boundless energy and enthusiasm and for the diversity of his interests."

Source:

"William Richards Collection of Walter Pahnke papers." Purdue University Special Collections and Archives.

Collection Description

Scope

The William Richards Collection of Walter Pahnke papers (1952-1972; 0.2 cubic feet) contains materials that document the life and work of Walter Pahnke. Article reprints, a listing of his publications, a photograph of Pahnke, a summary of his doctoral thesis, his CV from 1970, an account of his first LSD experience, a poem by his wife, personal manuscripts, and his obituary are all included in the collection.

Descriptive Rules Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2nd Edition / Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Processing Information

The photograph of Walter Pahnke has been housed in a mylar sleeve, and the manuscript materials has been placed in an acid free folder.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

William Richards Collection of Walter Pahnke papers, 1952-1972

Folder

1. Scholarly writings, 1963-1971

Summary of the thesis: *Drugs and Mysticism An Analysis of the Relationship between Psychedelic Drug Experiences and the Mystical State of Consciousness* by Walter Pahnke, 1963

“Drugs and Mysticism” by Walter Pahnke, 1966

“The Psychedelic Mystical Experience in the Human Encounter with Death” by Walter N. Pahnke, 1969

“The Experimental Use of Psychedelic (LSD) Psychotherapy” by Walter N. Pahnke, Albert A. Kurland, Sanford Unger, Charles Savage, and Stanislav Grof, 1970

“The Use of Psychedelic Drugs in Parapsychological Research” by Walter N. Pahnke, 1971

2. Curriculum vitae, 1970

3. Personal writings, 1950-1989

Hand written letter by Walter Pahnke to himself in the year 2000, 1950

Walter Pahnke’s typed account of his first LSD experience, 1964

Walter Pahnke’s typed account of a disturbing dream he had, 1971

Typed letter from Eva Pahnke to friends concerning Walter’s death and the finding of a file named “Wally – Biographical Material,” which contained Walter’s account of his disturbing dream in 1971. Eva writes a personal note to William Richards at the end of the letter, 1989

4. Miscellaneous items, circa 1955 - 1964

Photograph of Walter Pahnke, circa 1955

“Death of a Child” A poem written by Eva Sontum Phanke, Walter’s wife, 1964

5. Walter Pahnke’s funeral, 1971

Typed letter from William Richards, Robert Soskin, Stanislav Grof, and Charles Savage to friends concerning the death of Walter Pahnke and his memorial service, 1971

Obituary of Dr. Walter N. Pahnke, 1971

Obituary of Dr. Walter N. Pahnke in the *Parapsychology Review*, 1971

Walter Pahnke's memorial service program, 1971

Prayer written by Howard Thurman, 1971

"In Memory of Walter Pahnke" poem written by William Richards, 1972