



**FINDING AID TO
THE LEO ZEFF PAPERS,
1985-1988**

**Purdue University Libraries
Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections
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Processed by: Kristin Leaman, September 2011
Revised: Jonnie McConnell, October, 2014
Revised: Lauren Haslem, June 2016

Descriptive Summary

Creator Information	Zeff, Leo, 1912-1988
Title	Leo Zeff papers
Collection Identifier	MSP 74
Date Span	1985-1988
Abstract	The Leo Zeff papers (1985-1988; .2 cubic feet) contains photographs, reports, and correspondence that document Zeff's research on ibogaine.
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:	Donation by Sara Zeff Geber, October 21, 2010; Donation by Arthur Friedman, September 22, 2014.
Accession Number:	20101021, 20140922.2
Preferred Citation:	MSP 74, Leo Zeff papers, Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
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Subjects and Genres

Persons

Zeff, Leo

Topics

Ibogaine

Huichol Indians

Form and Genre Types

Color photographs

Correspondence

Manuscripts for publication

Occupations

Psychology

Psychotherapy

Biography of Leo Zeff

Before Leo J. Zeff (May 14, 1912 – April 13, 1988) graduated with his PhD and began his private practice in Oakland, California, he proudly served in the army as a Lieutenant Colonel. He was one of the first psychologists to be licensed as a PhD, and he specialized in Jungian psychology. In 1961, Zeff was introduced to MDMA by Alexander Shulgin. His plans for retirement immediately ceased once he discovered the possible therapeutic benefits of using the drug in some of his patients' sessions. Zeff named MDMA "Adam," and when LSD and like drugs were made illegal, Zeff made the difficult decision to go underground and keep treating his patients with psychedelics. Due to this unorthodox practice, Zeff operated under pseudonyms when mentioned in other researchers' works. It is not until 2004 when Zeff's real name was used. He firmly believed that LSD along with other drugs such as psilocybin, MDA, harmaline, ibogaine, and MDMA was of benefit to several of his patients if administered properly. He invented a specific protocol and a basic set of rules for administering the drug, and music was played during the session. In *The Secret Chief Revealed: Conversations with Leo Zeff, Pioneer in the Underground Psychedelic Therapy Movement*, Myron J. Stolaroff states: "Zeff believed this [playing music] to be very important. This is one area in which I wish the conversation-text had delved more deeply. The music which was considered so important is barely discussed, other than to say that it was always on." Zeff is noted as a pioneer in his field and made many contributions and advancements in psychoactive substances research. The Council on Spiritual Practices established the Zeff Memorial Library in memory of Leo Zeff. Located in, the collection contains books, anthologies, papers, and newsletters about entheogens.

Sources:

"Dr. Leo Zeff." *Utopian Pharmacology*. September 23, 2011.

<http://www.mdma.net/leo-zeff/index.html>

"The Erowid Review." *The Vaults of Erowid*. September 23, 2011.

<http://www.erowid.org/library/review/review.php?ID=195>

"Zeff Memorial Library." *Council of Spiritual Practices*. September 23, 2011.

http://csp.org/practices/entheogens/docs/zeff_cat.html

Collection Description

Scope

The Leo Zeff papers (1985-1988; 0.2 cubic feet) contain photographs, reports, and correspondence that document Zeff's research on ibogaine, and a manuscript of reflections shared with Alcoholics Anonymous members in 1977.

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

Processing Information

Papers have been housed in an acid-free folder; photographs have been housed in mylar sleeves and stored in acid-free envelopes. The collection has been arranged into photographs, papers, and correspondence.

Additions

The manuscript "Reflections Shared at the Sequoia Fall Retreat, November 1977," by Leo J. Zeff was donated on September 22, 2014 by Arthur Friedman, of Berkeley, California. The manuscript was originally given to Friedman by Leo Zeff, who had asked him to read it.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

1 box, Leo Zeff papers, 1977-1988

Folder

1. Photographs, circa 1970s-1980s

Photograph of Leo Zeff in a canoe coming to shore, circa 1970s

Photograph of Leo Zeff riding a packing mule, circa 1970s

Photograph of Huichol man holding a feather above Leo Zeff's head, circa 1970s

Photograph of Leo Zeff holding a walking stick next to Huichol man, undated

Photograph of Leo Zeff holding a walking stick, circa 1970s

Photograph of Leo Zeff and Huichol man holding a bottle, circa 1970s

Photograph of Huichol man sitting in chair with Leo Zeff in background, circa 1970s

Photographs of Leo Zeff observing Huichol men and women holding bottles, circa 1970s

Photograph of Leo Zeff standing with Huichol men and women, circa 1970s

Photograph of Leo Zeff with group of Huichol men, circa 1980s

Photograph of the first ten gram bottle of pure ibogaine to come through Canadian customs amidst grade A iboga from the Cameroons and iboga shavings from Gabon, circa 1980s

Photograph of the first 10 gram bottle of pure ibogaine to come through Canadian customs, circa 1980s

Photograph of Leo Zeff with unidentified group, undated

2. Correspondence, 1987-1988

Correspondence from Howard S. Lotsoff to Leo Zeff, 1987

Correspondence from the Honorable Charles B. Rangel (Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control), to Howard S. Lotsoff, 1988

Correspondence from Arthur E. Jacobson (Chairman, Drug Testing Program, Committee on Problems of Drug Dependence) to Howard S. Lotsof, 1988

Correspondence from Charles R. Schuster (Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse) to the Honorable Charles B. Rangle, 1988

Correspondence from Howard S. Lotsof to Leo Zeff, 1987

3. Research documents, circa 1985-1987

Manuscript of M.R. Dzoljic's "Effect of Ibogaine on Naloxone-Precipitated Withdrawal Syndrome in Chronic Morphine Dependent Rats," 1987

Bio/dynamics, Division of Biology and Safety Evaluation: "A Segment II Teratology Study in Rats," Submitted to the Dora Weiner Foundation, December 1985

Bio/dynamics, Division of Biology and Safety Evaluation: "A Segment II Teratology Study in Rabbits," Submitted to the Dora Weiner Foundation, December 1985

Bio/dynamics, Division of Biology and Safety Evaluation: "A Study of Fertility and General Reproductive Performance in Rats (Segment I)," Submitted to the Dora Weiner Foundation, December 1985

4. Manuscript "Reflections Shared at the Sequoia Fall Retreat, November 1977"