



**FINDING AID TO
THE WILLIAM RICHARDS PAPERS,
circa 1962-2009**

**Purdue University Libraries
Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections
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West Lafayette, Indiana 47907-2058
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Processed by: Kristin Leaman, September 15, 2011

Descriptive Summary

Creator Information	Richards, William, 1940 -
Title	William Richards papers
Collection Identifier	MSP 67
Date Span	1962-2009
Abstract	The William Richards papers (1962-2009; 0.2 cubic feet) is a collection of articles and article reprints by William Richards. The articles discuss the use of LSD, DPT, psilocybin, and other entheogens for treating cancer patients and alcoholism, as well as for the study of religious and spiritual experiences. There is also a CD of a <i>Sixty Minutes</i> interview concerning LSD with Richards and a summary of the interview written by Richards.
Extent	0.2 cubic feet (1 box)
Finding Aid Author	Kristin Leaman, 2011
Languages	English and German
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:	March 30, 2009; William Richards; Donation
Accession Number:	03302009.1
Preferred Citation:	MSP 67, William Richards papers, Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
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Subjects and Genres

Persons

Richards, William A.

Organizations

Council on Spiritual Practices
Johns Hopkins University. Dept. of Psychiatry
League for Spiritual Discovery
Harvard Crimson
Harvard Law School Forum

Topics

LSD (Drug)--Therapeutic use
Hallucinogenic drugs and religious experience--Cross-cultural studies
Psilocybin
DPT
Psychotherapy
Alcoholism

Form and Genre Types

Clippings (information artifacts)
Newsletters
Programs (documents)
Reprints
Reviews (document genre)

Occupations

Psychology
Psychiatry
Psychotherapy
Pharmacology

Biography of William Richards

William A. Richards earned his BA (cum laude) in Philosophy and Psychology from Albion College in 1962 and his M.Div. from Yale University in 1965. In 1966, he graduated with an Master of Sacred Theology (cum laude) in Psychology from Andover-Newton Theological School and later obtained a PhD in Counseling from the Catholic University in Washington DC in 1975. He has also completed graduate work at Georg-August University in Göttingen, Germany and Bradeis University. Richards has held several impressive positions as a research assistant to Hanscarl Leuner, an interim minister, a research fellow, a psychotherapist, a research associate, an assistant professor, an associate professor, and a clinical supervisor. He researched the use of entheogens in the treatment of alcoholism, severe neuroses, narcotic addiction, and the psychological distress associated with terminal cancer, and also their use in the training of religious and mental-health professionals from 1967 to 1977. Currently, Richards is a psychologist in the Department of Psychiatry, Bayview Medical Center, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and the senior fellow for the Council on Spiritual Practices. He is widely published in the field of psychoactive substances research and has collaborated with scholars such as Walter Pahnke, Stanislav Grof, R. R. Griffiths, Ralph Metzner, and several others.

Source(s):

“Johns Hopkins Medicine Behavioral Pharmacology Research Unit.” *William Richards Faculty Biography*. September 15, 2011. <http://www.bpru.org/bio/richards.html>

Winkelman, Michael J. and Thomas B. Roberts (eds.). *Psychedelic Medicine: New Evidence for Hallucinogenic Substances as Treatments*. Westport, Conn.: Praeger Publishers, 2007.

Collection Description

Scope

The William Richards papers (1962-2009; .2 cubic feet) is a collection of articles and article reprints by William Richards. The articles discuss the use of LSD, DPT, psilocybin, and other entheogens for treating cancer patients and alcoholism, as well as for the study of religious and spiritual experiences. There is also a CD of a *Sixty Minutes* interview concerning LSD with Richards and a summary of the interview written by Richards.

Descriptive Rules

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

Processing Information

All materials have been housed in acid-free folders, acid-free inserts, and an acid-free box. The materials have been ordered in folders by articles and article reprints, unpublished reviews, magazine articles and clippings, and manuscripts. Rusty staples and paper clips were also removed from clippings and articles for preservation.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

1 Box, William Richards papers, 1962-2009

Folder

1. Articles and Article Reprints, 1966-2008

“Implications of LSD and Experimental Mysticism” by Walter Pahnke and Bill Richards, 1966

“Die Toxische Ekstase” by H. Leuner, 1968

“LSD-Assisted Psychotherapy with Terminal Cancer Patients” by Watler H. Pahnke, Albert A. Kurland, Louis Goodman, and William Richards, 1969

“Psychedelic Drug-Assisted Psychotherapy with Persons Suffering from Terminal Cancer” by William Richards, 1979-1980

“DPT as an Adjunct in Brief Psychotherapy with Cancer Patients” by William Richards, John C. Rhead, Stanislav Grof, Louis Goodman, Francesco Di Leo, and Lockwood Rush, 1979

“Entheogens in the Study of Religious Experiences: Current Status” by William Richards, 2005

“The Phenomenology and Potential Religious Import of States of Consciousness Facilitated by Psilocybin” by William Richards, 2007

“Psilocybin can occasion mystical-type experiences having substantial and sustained personal meaning and spiritual significance” by R. R. Griffiths, W. A. Richards, U. McCann, and R. Jesse, 2006

2. Unpublished Review of *LSD and Alcoholism* by Charles Savage, undated

3. Articles and Article Reprints, 2003-2009

“Mystical-type experiences occasioned by psilocybin mediate the attribution of personal meaning and spiritual significance 14 months later” by R. R. Griffiths, W. A. Richards, M. W. Johnson, U. D. McCann, R. Jesse, 2009

“Insights from Four Decades of Psychotherapy Research with Imagery, Music, and Entheogens” by William Richards, 2003-2004

“Human Hallucinogen Research: Guidelines for Safety” by M. W. Johnson, W. A. Richards, and R. R. Griffiths, 2008

“The Rebirth of Research with Entheogens: Lessons from the Past and Hypothesis for the Future” by William Richards, 2009

4. Magazine Article, 2008

“Sacred Intentions: Inside the Johns Hopkins Psilocybin Studies” by Michael M. Hughes, 2008

5. Manuscripts, Reprints, Clippings, and Advertisements, 1962-1976

Text of presentation by Timothy Leary, unknown

“Reactions to Psilocybin Administered in a Supportive Environment” by Timothy Leary, George H. Litwin, and Ralph Metzner (Signed by William Richards and Ralph Metzner), 1963

“The Religious Experience: Its Production and Interpretation” by Timothy Leary, 1970

“Timothy Leary is loose again and headed for the stars” by Robert Anton Wilson, 1976

“A New Behavior Change Program by Using Psilocybin” by Timothy Leary, Ralph Metzner, Madison Presnell, Gunther Weil, Ralph Schwitzgebel, and Sara Kinne, 1965

Research Program on Consciousness-Altering Substances
Staff includes: Timothy Leary, Richard Alpert, Michael Kahn, George Litwin, Ralph Metzner, Ralph Schwitzgebel, Gunther Weil, Michael Hollingshead, Pearl Chan, 1962

A Bibliography of Psychedelic and Related Research, 1963

IFIF Newsletter, 1963

Program for the Harvard Law School Forum, 1966

The Illumination of the Buddha: A Psychedelic Celebration presented by The League for Spiritual Discovery, unknown

“Psychologists Disagree on Psilocybin Research” by Robert E. Smith, 1962

Newspaper Clippings, 1962-1965

Subscription Advertisements for *The Psychedelic Review*, undated

6. Media, 1976

Sixty Minutes “LSD” interview with William Richards, January 4, 1976
[DVD – digital copy of the film reel that can be viewed in our reading room]

Sixty Minutes “LSD” interview with William Richards, January 4, 1976
[film reel]

Summary of *Sixty Minutes* interview written by William Richards, August
2011