

Alfred Adler Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.**

2016

Revised 2016 August

Contact information:

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LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm83082306>

Prepared by David Mathisen and Margaret McAleer
Revised and expanded by Amanda L. Loeb

Collection Summary

Title: Alfred Adler Papers

Span Dates: 1885-2001

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1928-1997)

ID No.: MSS82306

Creator: Adler, Alfred, 1870-1937

Extent: 9,300 items ; 27 containers plus 2 oversize ; 10.6 linear feet ; 4 microfilm reels ; 972 digital files (306.2 MB)

Language: Collection material in English and German, with Russian

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

Summary: Psychologist. Family and professional correspondence, writings, lectures, an appointment book, notes, reports, certificates, clippings, printed matter, and photographs relating to Adler's career as a psychologist, his family, and the careers of two of his children, Alexandra Adler and Kurt A. Adler.

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

Adler family--Correspondence.

Adler family.

Adler family. Adler family papers. 1885-2001.

Adler, Alexandra, 1901-2001.

Adler, Alexandra, 1901-2001. Alexandra Adler papers. 1911-2001.

Adler, Alfred, 1870-1937.

Adler, Freyda, 1908- --Correspondence.

Adler, Kurt A. (Kurt Alfred), 1905-1997.

Adler, Kurt A. (Kurt Alfred), 1905-1997. Kurt A. Adler papers. 1929-1997.

Adler, Raissa Epstein--Correspondence.

Allen, G. Margery--Correspondence.

Bottome, Phyllis, 1882-1963--Correspondence.

Einstein, Albert, 1879-1955--Correspondence.

Freud, Sigmund, 1856-1939.

Gregersen, Halfdan, 1896-1980--Correspondence.

Sas, Valentine Adler, 1898-1942.

Organizations

Cocanut Grove (Boston, Mass.)--Fire, 1942.

Subjects

Depression, Mental.

Dreams.

Labor camps--Soviet Union.

Multiple sclerosis.

Neurology.

Neuropsychiatry.

Post-traumatic stress disorder.

Psychiatry.

Psychoanalysts--Correspondence.

Psychology.

Psychotherapy.

Schizophrenia.

Suicide.

Visual agnosia.

Occupations
Psychologists.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Alfred Adler, psychologist, were given to the Library of Congress by his son, Kurt A. Adler, and daughter, Alexandra Adler, between 1973 and 1995. Several items were purchased in 1974 and 1999. Additional material was given to the library by Kurt A. Adler's daughter, Margot S. Adler, between 2005 and 2014.

Processing History

The papers of Alfred Adler were arranged and described in 1984. The collection was expanded and revised in 1996 and 2001. The finding aid was revised in 2009. The Adler Family Papers series was added to the collection in 2016, and the finding aid was subsequently revised.

Transfers

Sigmund Freud's *Psychopathologie des Alltagslebens*, inscribed by Freud to Adler, has been transferred to the Rare Book and Special Collections Division. Three audiocassettes have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the Alfred Adler Papers.

Related Material

Related collections in the Manuscript Division include the Alfred Adler Papers in the Sigmund Freud Collection and the [American Society of Adlerian Psychology records](#).

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Alfred Adler in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for further information.

Access and Restrictions

Restrictions apply governing the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for information concerning these restrictions. In addition, many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on four reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Note

Alfred Adler

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1870, Feb. 7	Born, Vienna, Austria
1895	Graduated, University of Vienna Medical School, Vienna, Austria

1895-1897	Gained clinical experience working in the Polyclinic, Vienna, Austria
1897-1927	Private practice, Vienna, Austria
1897	Married Raissa Timofeivna Epstein
1902	Joined Sigmund Freud's Psychological Wednesday Society, Vienna, Austria
1907	Published <i>Studie über die Minderwertigkeit von Organen</i> . Berlin: Urban & Schwarzenber
1910	President, Vienna Psychoanalytic Society
1911	Resigned from the Vienna Psychoanalytic Society Founded the Society for Free Psychoanalytic Study
1912	Published <i>Über den Nervösen Charakter</i> . Wiesbaden: J. F. Bergmann
1914	Founded the Society for Individual Psychology and its journal, <i>Zeitschrift für Individualpsychologie</i> Published with Carl Furtmüller <i>Heilen und Bilden; Ärztlich-Pädagogische Arbeiten des Vereins für Individualpsychologie</i> . Munich: Ernst Reinhardt
1916-1918	Served as a physician in the Austrian army
1920	Established a network of child guidance clinics attached to public schools, Vienna, Austria Appointed director, Individual Psychological Clinic for Problem Children, Franz-Josef Ambulatorium, Vienna, Austria
1924	Published <i>Praxis und Theorie der Individualpsychologie</i> . Munich: J. F. Bergmann
1926	First American lecture tour
1927	Published <i>Menschenkenntnis</i> . Leipzig: Hirzel
1928	Conducted a course on individual psychology, New School for Social Research, New York, N.Y.
1929	Published <i>Problems of Neurosis: A Book of Case Histories</i> . London: Kegan Paul, Trench Truebner & Co.
1929-1930	Visiting professor, University Extension, and director of child-guidance clinic, Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
1930	Resigned from Columbia University and opened the Advisory Council of Individual Psychology clinic at the Community Church, New York, N.Y. Published <i>Guiding the Children on the Principles of Individual Psychology</i> . New York: Greenberg
1932	Visiting professor of medical psychology, Long Island College of Medicine, Brooklyn, N.Y. Established the Adler Medical Psychology Clinic, Brooklyn, N.Y.
1937, May 28	Died, Aberdeen, Scotland

Alexandra Adler

Date	Event
1901, Sept. 24	Born, Vienna, Austria
1926	Graduate, University of Vienna Medical School, Vienna, Austria
1926-1935	Intern, resident, visiting physician, University of Vienna Neuropsychiatric Clinic, Vienna, Austria
1935-1944	Resident fellow, assistant and instructor of neurology, Harvard University School of Medicine, Boston, Mass. Graduate assistant in neurology, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass. Resident associate and senior visiting physician, Boston City Hospital, Boston, Mass.
1937	Published "Vascular Architecture of the Lesions of Multiple Sclerosis." <i>Archives of Neurology and Psychiatry</i> 38 (July 1937): 1-15
1938	Published <i>Guiding Human Misfits: A Practical Application of Individual Psychology</i> . New York: Macmillan Co.
1943	Published "Neuropsychiatric Complications in Victims of Boston's Cocoanut Grove Disaster." <i>Journal of the American Medical Association</i> 25 (Dec. 1943): 1098-1101
1944-1946	Assistant psychiatrist, Duke University Hospital, Durham, N.C.
1946-1969	Assistant and associate clinical professor of neurology, New York University, New York, N.Y. Assistant and associate attending neurologist, Bellevue Hospital, New York, N.Y.
1946-1955	Adjunct psychiatrist, Mt. Sinai Hospital, New York, N.Y.
1946-1956	Associate visiting physician, Goldwater Memorial Hospital, New York, N.Y.
1948-1968	Psychiatrist, Department of Correction, New York, N.Y.
1948-	Medical director, Alfred Adler Mental Hygiene Clinic, New York, N.Y.
1950	Published "Course and Outcome of Visual Agnosia." <i>Journal of Nervous and Mental Disorders</i> 111 (Jan. 1950): 41-51
1959	Married Halfdan Gregersen (died 1980)
1969-2001	Clinical professor of psychiatry, New York University, New York, N.Y. Associate attending psychiatrist, Bellevue Hospital, New York, N.Y.
2001, Jan. 4	Died, New York, N.Y.

Kurt A. Adler

Date	Event
1905, Feb. 25	Born, Vienna, Austria
1935	Ph.D. in physics, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria

1937	Married Freyda Nacque (divorced)
1941	Graduated, Long Island College of Medicine, Brooklyn, N.Y.
1942-1946	Major, Medical Corps, United States Army, chief of neuropsychiatric services, general, regional, and station hospitals, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana
1947-1948	Psychiatrist, Youth House, New York, N.Y.
1947-1997	Associate psychiatrist, Lenox Hill Hospital, New York, N.Y. Private practice, New York, N.Y.
1950-1979	Consulting and supervising psychiatrist, Alfred Adler Mental Hygiene Clinic, New York, N.Y.
1952-1997	Lecturer, training analyst, and supervisor, Alfred Adler Institute, New York, N.Y.
1958-1997	Medical director and president of the board, Advanced Institute for Analytic Psychotherapy, Jamaica, Queens, N.Y.
1959	Co-editor and contributor, <i>Essays in Individual Psychology: Contemporary Application of Alfred Adler's Theories</i> . New York: Grove Press
1997, May 28	Died, New York, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Alfred Adler (1870-1937) span the years 1885-2001, with the bulk of material dating from 1928 to 1997. The papers are in English, German, and Russian and are organized into the following series: [Alfred Adler Papers](#) , [Adler Family Papers](#) , [Closed](#) , [Oversize](#) , and [Digital Files](#) .

The [Alfred Adler Papers](#) series contains correspondence, lectures, articles, the manuscript of a book, an appointment book, patient case studies and record books, reports, notes, photographs, certificates, clippings, and printed matter. It chiefly consists of letters written by Adler to his wife and children between 1897 and 1937 and drafts of lectures and articles, many of which Adler wrote while residing in the United States. Correspondence with people outside the Adler family includes a letter written by Albert Einstein in 1937 comparing the theories of Sigmund Freud and Adler. A small amount of material was added to the Alfred Adler series in 1996 and 2001, and includes correspondence, congratulatory letters on Adler's sixtieth birthday, lecture drafts, a photograph, and correspondence concerning Adler's death.

The [Adler Family Papers](#) series is organized into the following subseries: General Family Papers, Alexandra Adler Papers, and Kurt A. Adler Papers. The [General Family Papers](#) consist chiefly of correspondence, photographs, writings, printed matter, and other materials concerning Alfred Adler, his wife, Raissa Epstein, and their four children: Valentine ("Vali") Adler Sas; Alexandra ("Ali"); Kurt; and Cornelia ("Nelly"). Family correspondence is mostly in German, with some letters from Raissa's family in Russian. There are several letters written by Valentine from her home in Moscow. Photographs consist of portraits and snapshots of the Adler family, his students, and colleagues. Writings include a manuscript copy of the English translation of *Social Interest: A Challenge to Mankind*. Other material documents his trips to Europe after immigrating to the United States in 1929. Phyllis Bottome, a former student and biographer of Adler, and her husband, A. Ernan Forbes-Dennis, were active in arranging lecture tours for Adler in England during the summer of 1936 and 1937. Material from the lecture tours includes correspondence regarding scheduling, invitations, patrons, travel arrangements, and expenses. Adler's sudden death in 1937 led to the decision to engage Alexandra Adler to fulfill her father's lecture commitments. Other items relating to the death of Adler include programs from his funeral, a certificate of cremation, condolence letters, and obituaries. At the time of her father's death, Valentine Adler's whereabouts were unknown, having been arrested in January of that year in Moscow on charges of association with Trotskyists. Letters describe the Adler

family and friends' efforts to locate Valentine and transport her out of Russia. Photocopied documents, released from Russian archives in 1956, reveal that she died in a labor camp in 1942. Other materials include Bottome's correspondence discussing her books about Adler, and several German translations of Russian works by Raissa.

The papers of [Alexandra Adler](#) are comprised of correspondence, writings, research, and other materials that document her personal life and career as a psychiatrist in Austria and the United States. Correspondence is in German and English, and includes letters from psychoanalysts and mentors in Vienna, her husband, Halfdan Gregersen, Kurt A. Adler and his wife, Freyda, and various colleagues and professional organizations. There is a significant amount of correspondence regarding her early challenges in obtaining a position in neurology or neuropsychiatry in the United States. In correspondence from 1934, there is some discussion of the Fatherland Front, the ruling austrofascist political organization in Austria, and the forced closure of her child guidance center in Vienna. Other material from Vienna is comprised of documents regarding her clinical work, student identification cards, passports, driver's licenses, and school and university report cards and diplomas. Later correspondence primarily concerns the work and legacy of Alfred Adler. Writings include research and publications on post-traumatic stress disorder, psychological causes of industrial accidents, and instances of multiple sclerosis and visual agnosia in victims of Boston's Cocoanut Grove nightclub fire in 1942. There are also articles on her psychiatric work with female offenders in the New York Department of Corrections. Other materials include program and publicity information for events commemorating the centennial of Adler's birth, addresses given to the International Congress for Individual Psychology, and documents regarding her work with the Alfred Adler Mental Hygiene Clinic.

The papers of [Kurt A. Adler](#) consist of professional correspondence, speeches and lectures, publications, writings and research material, notes, and other printed matter. Correspondence is in German and English, and primarily concerns publications about Alfred Adler, and translations and edited collections of Adler's works. There is also correspondence regarding various Adlerian professional organizations and individual psychology conferences. Speeches and lectures span several decades and include multiple speeches on schizophrenia and the legacy of Alfred Adler. Prominent topics of research include depression and suicide, dreams, psychotherapy, and schizophrenia. There are also notebooks and a dissertation from his time as a student of physics at the University of Vienna, Austria.

A microfilm edition of the first three containers is available. Patient record books and material added to the collection in 1996, 2001, and 2016 have not been filmed.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged in five series:

- [Alfred Adler Papers, 1888-1975](#)
- [Adler Family Papers, 1885-2001](#)
- [Closed, 1937-1977](#)
- [Oversize, 1896-1979](#)
- [Digital Files, 1994-2013](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-5	<u>Alfred Adler Papers, 1888-1975</u> Correspondence, lectures, writings, patient records, reports, photographs, certificates, clippings, and printed matter concerning Alfred Adler. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 6-26	<u>Adler Family Papers, 1885-2001</u>
BOX 6-11	<u>General Family Papers, 1885-1977</u> Family and personal correspondence, clippings, photographs, writings, and other materials concerning Alfred Adler, his wife, and children. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically or alphabetically by topic, title of work, or name of individual.
BOX 11-17	<u>Alexandra Adler Papers, 1911-2001</u> Professional and personal correspondence, licenses and certifications, writings, publications, research, and other materials belonging to Alexandra Adler. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically or alphabetically by topic, title of work, or name of individual.
BOX 17-26	<u>Kurt A. Adler Papers, 1929-1997</u> Professional correspondence, speeches and lectures, publications, writings, and research material and notes of Kurt A. Adler. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically or alphabetically by topic, title of work, or name of individual.
X 1	<u>Closed, 1937-1977</u> Correspondence, psychiatric interviews and evaluations, notes, and other records concerning patients of Alexandra and Kurt Adler. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.
OV 1-OV 2	<u>Oversize, 1896-1979</u> Diplomas, certificates, awards, and promotional posters. Arranged according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.
DF	<u>Digital Files, 1994-2013</u> A thirty-second audio clip of Alfred Adler, and duplicate images of correspondence, with accompanying summaries and translations. The audio clips are CDA files and the images and accompanying documents are JPEG and Microsoft Word files. The series is comprised of 972 files and 306.2 MB of data.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 20,322

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
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BOX 2	"A Brief Comparison of Individual Psychology and Psycho-Analysis," undated
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BOX 2	Courage, undated
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Alfred Adler Papers, 1888-1975

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Alfred Adler Papers, 1888-1975

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BOX 6	Adler, Valentine Arrest documents, 1922-1956 Efforts to locate, 1937-1939, undated Adler family tree, undated Bottome, Phyllis, and A.E. Forbes-Dennis, 1933-1956, undated (2 folders) Certificates, notes, and other materials, 1885-1962, undated <i>See also Oversize See also Digital Files</i> (2 folders) Clippings, circa 1920-1970, undated (7 folders)
BOX 7	Correspondence Family Adler, Alexandra ("Ali"), 1912-1962, undated Adler, Alfred, 1897-1935, undated Adler, Cornelia ("Nelly"), 1920-1928, undated Adler, Kurt A., 1920-1944, undated Adler, Raissa Epstein, 1920-1955, undated Adler, Valentine ("Vali"), 1919-1937, undated Epstein, Timofei and Russian family, 1912-1922, undated General, 1917-1972 Death of Adler, 1937 (2 folders) Diary, 1925 Furtmüller, Carl, undated History of individual psychology, 1913-1970, undated
BOX 8	Lectures "Compulsion Neurosis," 1918 English translations, 1932-1935 "On the teaching and practice of individual psychology," 23 Feb. 1931

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	Photocopies and translations, undated <i>See also Digital Files</i>
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	Translations by Raissa Epstein Adler
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	Adler's individual psychological questionnaire for the understanding and treatment of problem children, undated
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	Preface to the diary of Vaslav Nijinsky, 1936, 1980, undated
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	International Congress for Individual Psychologie, 1960-1973
	International symposium, "Displaced Reason: Emmigration of Austrian Science," Vienna, Austria, 1987
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	Adler, Alfred, 1966-1970, undated (2 folders)
BOX 24	Anxiety, 1972-1984, undated
	Autobiographical writings, 1981-1986, undated
	"The Birth Order Position: A Case of Phobia," undated

	<p>Book review, "Sexuality and Class Struggle," by Reimut Reiche, 1969</p> <p>"The Changing Image of the Male Hero," undated</p> <p>Dante Alighieri, undated</p> <p>Depression and suicide, 1961-1986, undated (6 folders)</p> <p>Dreams, 1952-1982, undated (3 folders)</p>
BOX 25	<p>Foreward to <i>The Drive For Self</i>, by Edward Hoffman, 1994-1996</p> <p>Fragments, undated</p> <p>Freud, Sigmund, 1980-1981, undated</p> <p>Hysteria, 1977-1981, undated</p> <p>"Individual Psychological Outline of Psychopathological Types," by Dr. Alfred Adler, drawing by Kurt Adler, undated</p> <p>Narcicism, 1986, undated</p> <p>Neurology, 1942-1970, undated</p> <p>Neuroses, 1976-1988, undated (3 folders)</p> <p>"Philosophical and Sociological Concepts in Adlerian Psychology," undated</p> <p>Psychological testing, 1960-1963, undated</p> <p>Psychopathology, 1982, undated (2 folders)</p> <p>Psychoses, undated</p> <p>Psychosomatic conditions, 1960-1993, undated</p> <p>Psychotherapy and treatment, 1968-1972, undated (5 folders)</p>
BOX 26	<p>Schizophrenia, 1954-1990, undated <i>See also Closed</i> (4 folders)</p> <p>"The Sexual Function: Homosexuality," undated</p> <p>Socialism, the Soviet Union, and psychoanalysis, 1957-1994</p> <p>"The Technique of Treatment," undated</p> <p>Youth grievances, 1970</p> <p>Zurich, Switzerland, supervision, 1988-1989</p>
X 1	<p>Closed, 1937-1977</p> <p>Correspondence, psychiatric interviews and evaluations, notes, and other records concerning patients of Alexandra and Kurt Adler.</p> <p>Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.</p>
X 1	<p>Adler Family Papers</p> <p>Alexandra Adler Papers</p> <p>Patient records</p> <p>1937-1945 (Container 15) <i>Closed until 2020</i></p> <p>1949-1959 (Container 15) <i>Closed until 2034</i></p> <p>1971-1977 (Container 15) <i>Closed until 2052</i></p> <p>Kurt A. Adler Papers</p> <p>Writings and research</p>

Schizophrenia, 1951-1959 (Container 26) *Closed until 2034*

OV 1-OV 2

Oversize, 1896-1979

Diplomas, certificates, awards, and promotional posters.

Arranged according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

OV 1

Alfred Adler Papers

Addition

Sixtieth birthday

Certificate of honorary citizenship, Vienna, Austria, 1930 (Container 5)

OV 2

Adler Family Papers

General Family Papers

Certificates, notes, and other materials, 1896 (Container 6)

Summer lecture tour, 1937 (Container 9)

Alexandra Adler Papers

Gregersen, Halfdan

Certificates, photographs, and other material, 1946-1979, undated (Container 14)

Medical licenses, certifications, and professional memberships, 1936, undated (Container 14)

Vienna

Education, 1926-1934 (Container 15)

DF

Digital Files, 1994-2013

A thirty-second audio clip of Alfred Adler, and duplicate images of correspondence, with accompanying summaries and translations. The audio clips are CDA files and the images and accompanying documents are JPEG and Microsoft Word files.

The series is comprised of 972 files and 306.2 MB of data.

Adler Family Papers

General Family Papers

Certificates, notes, and other materials, 1994 (Container 6)

Digital ID: mss82306_114_001

Photocopies and translations, 2012-2013 (Container 8)

Digital ID: mss82306_114_002