

K. R. Eissler Papers

A Finding Aid to the Papers in the Sigmund Freud Collection in the Library of Congress



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2023**

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm89078926>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010081>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2010
Revised 2023 January

Collection Summary

Title: K. R. Eissler Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1907-2015

Bulk Dates: 1950-1988

ID No.: MSS78926

Creator: Eissler, K. R. (Kurt Robert), 1908-1999

Extent: 650 items

Extent: 2 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 1.8 linear feet

Extent: 1 digital file (84.47 MB)

Language: Collection material in English and German

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm89078926>

Summary: Psychoanalyst and author. Correspondence, writings, research files, and printed matter concerning Eissler's writings on Sigmund Freud and his activities as secretary of the Sigmund Freud Archives. Material in digital format also includes a book draft.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Eissler, K. R. (Kurt Robert), 1908-1999 Freud und Wagner-Jauregg vor der Kommission zur Erhebung militärischer Pflichtverletzungen. 1979.

Eissler, K. R. (Kurt Robert), 1908-1999.

Erikson, Erik H. (Erik Homburger), 1902-1994--Correspondence.

Federn, Ernst--Correspondence.

Fichtl, Paula, 1902-1989--Correspondence.

Freud, Anna, 1895-1982--Correspondence.

Freud, Ernst L., 1892-1970--Correspondence.

Freud, Sigmund, 1856-1939.

Kafka, John S., 1921-2020--Correspondence.

Roazen, Paul, 1936-2005. Brother animal : the story of Freud and Tausk. 1969.

Tausk, Victor, 1879-1919.

Trauteneegg, Margarethe von, 1900-1999--Correspondence.

Wagner-Jauregg, Julius, 1857-1940.

Weiss, Edoardo, 1889-1939--Correspondence.

Organizations

Sigmund Freud Archives.

Subjects

Psychoanalysis--Societies, etc.

Psychoanalysis.

War neuroses.

World War, 1914-1918.

Occupations

Authors.

Psychoanalysts.

Acquisition Information

The papers of K. R. Eissler, psychoanalyst and author, were given to the Library of Congress by Eissler and the Sigmund Freud Archives between 1960 and 1997. Additional items were given by John S. Kafka in 2015. A digital file was emailed to the Library by Louis Rose on behalf of Emanuel E. Garcia in 2018.

Processing History

The papers of K. R. Eissler were arranged and described in 2002 by Margaret McAleer. The finding aid was revised in 2010 by Margaret McAleer when a portion of the restricted material opened for research use. The 2022 Addition was processed and the finding aid revised in 2022 by Pang H. Xiong. The finding aid was revised in 2023 by Pang H. Xiong when the remaining restricted material opened for research use.

One digital file was received as part of the K. R. Eissler Papers by email. The digital file was downloaded to a USB drive and bagged from the USB drive. The USB drive was assigned a unique digital ID number. Use the digital ID number to request access copies of the digital file. A description of the standard processes taken on all born digital records can be found in the Processing History Note: Born Digital Collection Material at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.digital>.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of K. R. Eissler is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of K. R. Eissler are open to research. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use. Access to digital content is available onsite only in the Manuscript Reading Room and requires advanced notice. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting.

Technical Requirements

The digital file is in .pdf format (Adobe Acrobat v. 1.6) and can be accessed using a standard PDF viewer.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or digital ID number, K. R. Eissler Papers, Sigmund Freud Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1908, July 2	Born, Vienna, Austria
1934	Ph.D., psychology, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria
1936	Married Ruth Selke (died 1988)
1937	M.D., University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria
1938	Member, Vienna Psychoanalytic Society Emigrated to the United States
1943	Volunteered for active military duty, Army Medical Corps
Post-1945	Established a private psychoanalytic practice, New York, N.Y.

1951	Cofounded and named secretary, Sigmund Freud Archives
1955	Published <i>The Psychiatrist and the Dying Patient</i> . New York: International Universities Press
1971	Published <i>Talent and Genius: The Fictitious Case of Tausk Contra Freud</i> . New York: Quadrangle Books
1979	Published <i>Freud und Wagner-Jauregg vor der Kommission zur Erhebung militärischer Pflichtverletzungen</i> . Wien: Löcker
1985	Resigned as secretary, Sigmund Freud Archives
1999, Feb. 17	Died, New York, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Kurt Robert Eissler (1908-1999) span the years 1907-2015, with the bulk of material dating from 1950 to 1988. The papers are in English and German and contain correspondence, writings, research files, and printed matter documenting Eissler's research and writings on Sigmund Freud and his activities as secretary of the Sigmund Freud Archives, an organization founded by Eissler and other psychoanalysts in 1951 to collect and preserve Freud's letters and writings. Several of Eissler's writings are represented in the papers. Also included are research files related to his book, *Freud und Wagner-Jauregg vor der Kommission zur Erhebung militärischer Pflichtverletzungen* (1979), concerning Freud's testimony in an investigation of Julius von Wagner-Jauregg's treatment of war neuroses during World War I. Prominent within these files is a large assemblage of photocopied Viennese newspaper articles dated 1913-1922. The collection also includes an article written by Eissler in 1981 critiquing Paul Roazen's 1969 book on Freud and Victor Tausk entitled *Brother Animal: The Story of Freud and Tausk*. Accompanying a draft of Eissler's article is correspondence between Eissler and Freud family members, associates, and scholars written soon after the publication of Roazen's book. Among those with whom Eissler corresponded about Roazen are Erik H. Erikson, Ernst Federn, Anna Freud, and Edoardo Weiss.

Additions include the 2010 Addition and the 2022 Addition. The 2010 Addition contains formerly closed material and includes correspondence with Paula Fichtl, Ernst L. Freud, and Margarethe von Trauteneck, among others. The 2022 Addition includes Eissler's correspondence with John S. Kafka and a digital file containing a scan of Eissler's unpublished, typed book draft from 1947 on war and the army. A few chapters are not included in this draft, and some chapters were eventually published as articles.

Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein alphabetically by name of person, title of work, or type of material. Additions are filed at the end followed by oversize material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	General correspondence
BOX 1	"B" miscellaneous, 1953-1984
BOX 1	Freud, Ernst <i>See Container 2, same heading</i>
BOX 1	"F-R" miscellaneous, 1958-1975, undated <i>See also Container 2, "F" miscellaneous</i>
BOX 1	Severn, Margaret, 1986-1988, undated
BOX 1	Trautenegg, Margarethe von <i>See Container 2, same heading</i>
BOX 1	Miscellany, 1920-1991, undated
BOX 1	Writings
BOX 1	Articles
BOX 1	“An Unknown Autobiographical Letter by Freud and a Short Comment,” 1907, 1951
BOX 1	“A Warning to Freud Biographers about Paul Roazen’s Methods and Findings”
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1968-1970, undated (2 folders)
BOX 1	Draft, 1981
BOX 1	Miscellany, 1970, undated
BOX 1	Reviews of Roazen's book, 1969-1970
BOX 1	Book, <i>Freud und Wagner-Jauregg vor der Kommission zur Erhebung militärischer Pflichtverletzungen</i>
BOX 1	Research files, 1913-1929, 1959 <i>See also Container OV 1, same heading</i> (2 folders)
BOX 1	Reviews, 1979-1982
BOX 2	Additions
BOX 2	2010 Addition
BOX 2	General correspondence
BOX 2	Freud, Ernst L., 1954-1969, undated (5 folders)
BOX 2	"F" miscellaneous, 1955-1957 <i>See also Container 1, "F-R" miscellaneous</i>
BOX 2	Trautenegg, Margarethe von, with attachments, 1920, 1969-1988, undated (10 folders)
BOX 2	2022 Addition
BOX 2	Correspondence with John S. Kafka, 1983
DF	Writings, book, "War and Army" (unpublished), 2015 Digital ID: mss78926_166_001 Digital file is a scan of typed book draft from 1947.
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	Writings
BOX OV 1	Book, <i>Freud und Wagner-Jauregg vor der Kommission zur Erhebung militärischer Pflichtverletzungen</i>
BOX OV 1	Research files, 1913-1922 (Container 1) (4 folders)