Collection Summary

Title: David Rapaport Papers
Span Dates: 1911-1997
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1948-1960)
ID No.: MSS37325
Creator: Rapaport, David
Extent: 23,500 items
Extent: 91 containers
Extent: 43 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English and Hungarian
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: [https://lccn.loc.gov/79037325](https://lccn.loc.gov/79037325)
Summary: Psychologist and author. Correspondence, drafts of speeches, lectures, and writings, memoranda, reports, legal documents, and printed matter concerning Rapaport's research and writings in the fields of psychology and psychoanalysis and his association with the Austen Riggs Center, Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

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
Bettelheim, Bruno--Correspondence.
Burnham, John C. (John Chynoweth), 1929- --Correspondence.
Escalona, Syndie K. (Sibylle Korsch), 1915- --Correspondence.
Fenichel, Hanna--Correspondence.
Freud, Anna, 1895-1982--Correspondence.
Gill, Merton M. (Merton Max), 1914-1994--Correspondence.
Hartmann, Heinz, 1894-1970--Correspondence.
Kubie, Lawrence S. (Lawrence Schlesinger), 1896-1973--Correspondence.
Mayman, Martin--Correspondence.
Menninger, Karl A. (Karl Augustus), 1893-1990--Correspondence.
Rapaport, David.
Schafer, Roy--Correspondence.
Sterba, Richard F.--Correspondence.
Wolff, Peter H.--Correspondence.

Organizations
Austen Riggs Center.

Subjects
Behaviorism (Psychology)
Consciousness.
Ego (Psychology)
Emotions.
Kibbutzim.
Memory.
Mental health facilities--Massachusetts--Stockbridge.
Motivation (Psychology)
Psychoanalysis.
Psychological tests.
Psychology.
Spiritualism.
Provenance
The papers of David Rapaport, psychologist and author, were deposited in the Library of Congress by his wife, Elvira Rapaport Strasser, between 1962 and 1997. Strasser and her daughter, Juliet Rapaport Phillips, converted these deposits to gifts between 1962 and 1998. Additional material was given by Phillips in 1976 and 1996 and by the Sigmund Freud Archives between 1961 and 1976.

Processing History
Part I of the papers of David Rapaport was arranged and described between 1963 and 1970. Additional material was processed as Part II in 2002. The finding aid was revised in 2010 and again in 2012.

Transfers
Audio recordings have been transferred to the Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

Copyright Status
Copyright in the unpublished writings of David Rapaport in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

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.

Preferred Citation
Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Roman numeral designating the Part followed by a colon and container number, David Rapaport Papers, Sigmund Freud Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note
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<td>1911, Sept. 30</td>
<td>Born, Munkács, Hungary</td>
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<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>Leader in Hashomer Hatzair, a Zionist youth movement</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Married Elvira Strasser (died 1998)</td>
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1933 Graduated with degree in mathematics and experimental physics, Royal Hungarian University, Budapest, Hungary
1933-1935 Worked as a surveyor in a kibbutz in Palestine
1935-1938 Analysand of Imre Hermann
1938 Ph.D. in psychology, Royal Hungarian University, Budapest, Hungary
1939-1940 Immigrated to the United States
1939-1940 Worked as a surveyor in a kibbutz in Palestine
1940-1948 Staff psychologist, research director, and administrator, Menninger Foundation, Topeka, Kans.
1942 Published *Emotions and Memory*. Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins Co.
1944-1948 Consultant, United States Surgeon General's Committee on Clinical Psychology
1945-1946 Published with Merton Max Gill and Roy Schafer *Diagnostic Psychological Testing*. Chicago: The Year Book Publishers
1946-1948 Staff psychologist, Osawatomie State Hospital, Osawatomie, Kans.
1947 Clinical professor of psychology, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kans.
1948-1960 Consultant, Veterans Administration Hospital, Topeka, Kans.
1951 Published *Organization and Pathology of Thought*. New York: Columbia University Press

**Scope and Content Note**

The papers of David Rapaport (1911-1960) span the years 1911-1997, with the bulk of the material dating from 1948 to 1960. The collection documents Rapaport's research and writings in the fields of psychology and psychoanalysis largely as a research associate at the Austen Riggs Center in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. The papers are in English and Hungarian and are organized in two parts. Part I contains material received by the Library between 1962 and 1970 and is arranged in five series: General Correspondence, Foreign Correspondence, Austen Riggs Center, Miscellaneous Correspondence, and Speeches, Writings, and Lectures File. Part II comprises an addition to the collection and is organized in four series: David Rapaport Papers, Elvira Rapaport Strasser Papers, Formerly Closed, and Closed material.

Rapaport's correspondence dates primarily from 1948 to 1960 during his years at the Austen Riggs Center. It focuses on his research and writings in psychology and psychoanalysis including his development of diagnostic psychological testing and his efforts to clarify and systematize psychoanalytic theory. The General Correspondence series contains Rapaport's extensive correspondence with psychologists, psychoanalysts, and professional organizations in the United States. Correspondence with colleagues overseas is located in the Foreign Correspondence series. Prominent correspondents include Bruno Bettelheim, John C. Burnham, Sibylle K. Escalona, Hanna Fenichel, Anna Freud, Merton Max Gill, Heinz Hartmann, Lawrence S. Kubie, Karl A. Menninger, Martin Mayman, Roy Schafer, Richard F. Sterba, and Peter H. Wolff. Routine correspondence including invitations to speak and requests for reprints is filed in the Miscellaneous Correspondence series. The Austen Riggs Center series largely concerns administrative matters pertaining to committees, funding, programs, research associates, staff, and trustees.

The Speeches, Writings, and Lectures File series documents Rapaport's prolific writing career, his extensive teaching experience, and his numerous speaking engagements. Drafts of articles, books, book reviews, lectures, and speeches, transcripts of discussions, correspondence with colleagues, and research material explore his research interests in psychological diagnostic testing, ego psychology, emotions and memory, metapsychology, motivation, psychoanalytic theory, and thought processes.

Part II contains an addition to the Rapaport Papers. Included are photocopies of outgoing letters, largely dated 1950-1960, and a lengthy letter to friends describing a trip to his native Hungary in 1960. Also included are a series of dream notes.
made by Rapaport as part of his research on consciousness. The addition further includes two of his early psychological works published in Hungary prior to his immigration to the United States.

The bulk of Part II consists of the papers of Rapaport's wife, Elvira Rapaport Strasser, a mathematician and university professor, who resumed use of her maiden name in the early 1970s. Her papers document programs and scholarships established in her husband's name at the Austen Riggs Center and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The bulk of her papers was closed until April 2003 and is now available in the Formerly Closed series. Among the formerly closed material is correspondence with her husband's colleagues including Merton Max Gill, exchanges with fellow mathematicians, and letters from Hungarian friends and family members. The Formerly Closed series also contains her unpublished memoirs describing her early life in Hungary, her experiences on a kibbutz in Palestine in 1933-1935, and her immigration to the United States in 1938.

**Arrangement of the Papers**

The collection is arranged in two parts composed of nine series:

Part I:
- General Correspondence, 1948-1960
- Foreign Correspondence, 1948-1960
- Austen Riggs Center, 1948-1960
- Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1938-1960
- Speeches, Writings, and Lectures File, 1911-1960

Part II:
- David Rapaport Papers, 1936-1993
- Elvira Rapaport Strasser Papers, 1941-1997
- Formerly Closed, 1934-1996
- Closed, 1942
## Description of Series

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<td>BOX I:1-33</td>
<td><strong>Part I: General Correspondence, 1948-1960</strong></td>
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</table>
|           | Correspondence with psychologists, psychoanalysts, and professional organizations.  
|           | Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent or organization.       |
| BOX I:34-40| **Part I: Foreign Correspondence, 1948-1960**                        |
|           | Correspondence with foreign psychologists and psychoanalysts.          |
|           | Arranged alphabetically by country and therein alphabetically by name of correspondent. |
| BOX I:41-44| **Part I: Austen Riggs Center, 1948-1960**                           |
|           | Correspondence, memoranda, reports, notes, and printed matter concerning administrative matters.  
|           | Arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.               |
| BOX I:45-46| **Part I: Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1938-1960**                   |
|           | Correspondence of a comparatively brief duration including invitations to speak and requests for reprints.  
|           | Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.                     |
| BOX I:47-76| **Part I: Speeches, Writings, and Lectures File, 1911-1960**          |
|           | Drafts of articles, book reviews, books, lectures, and speeches, transcripts of discussions and conference proceedings, correspondence, research, and notes.  
|           | Unarranged.                                                            |
| BOX II:1-3| **Part II: David Rapaport Papers, 1936-1993**                        |
|           | Correspondence, drafts of writings and lectures, notes on dreams, biographical material, and bibliographies.  
|           | Arranged alphabetically by type of material.                           |
| BOX II:3-5| **Part II: Elvira Rapaport Strasser Papers, 1941-1997**               |
|           | Correspondence and printed matter.                                     |
|           | Arranged alphabetically by type of material.                           |
| BOX II:6-14| **Part II: Formerly Closed, 1934-1996**                              |
|           | Correspondence, legal documents, and drafts of writings.               |
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| BOX II:X 15| **Part II: Closed, 1942**                                             |
|           | Patient file.                                                          |
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| BOX I:31 | University of California-Western News |
| BOX I:32 | Westley-Wolff |
| BOX I:33 | Wolff-Zinberg |

| BOX I:34-40 | **Part I: Foreign Correspondence, 1948-1960**  
Correspondence with foreign psychologists and psychoanalysts.  
Arranged alphabetically by country and therein alphabetically by name of correspondent. |

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"Some Remarks on Freud's Place in the History of Science," 1946
Review of New Ways in Psychoanalysis by Karen Horney, 1939
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"Present Trends in Psychoanalytic Theory and Practice on Masturbation," 1938
"Ego Strength and Ego Weakness," 1938
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"Brief Psychotherapy Concerning the Anxiety of the Dead," 1922
"A Dream Analysis," 1929
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"Shall the Rorschach Method Be Standardized?" 1938
"Histamine in the Treatment of Psychosis: A Psychiatric and Objective Psychological Study," 1940

"Some Considerations in Connection with the Application of Metrazol Shock Treatment in the Psychosis of General Paresis," 1941
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"The Scatter: Intelligence Testing and Clinical Diagnosis," 1944
"Principles Underlying Non-Projective Tests of Personality," 1946
"Psychological Testing, Its Practical and Its Heuristic Significance," 1947
"Technological Growth and the Psychology of Man," 1949
"The Scientific Basis of Clinical Psychology," 1948
"In Memoriam: Kurt Lewin," 1947
"The Theoretical Implications of Diagnostic Testing Procedures," 1950
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"Diagnostic Testing in Psychiatric Practice," 1950
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|           | Medical Psychology reviews, 1953-1954  
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|           | A History of Experimental Psychology, review, 1950  
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|           | Personality: In Nature, Society and Culture, review, 1948  
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|           | H. H. Wieck's Zur Psychologie und Psychopathologie, review, 1955  
|           | "Scatter in a Battery of Tests," 1940  
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"Outline on the Problem of Emotions"
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<td>Scientific Methodology of Psychoanalysis, 1944-1948 (7 folders)</td>
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<td>Mittelmann, Béla, memoriam</td>
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<td>&quot;A Review and Preliminary Remarks on the Problems of the Psychology of Research&quot; (2 folders)</td>
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- Metapsychology
  - Address before the New York Psychoanalytic Society, New York, N.Y., 1958
  - Correspondence with Merton Max Gill, 1954
  - "A Reassessment of the Concept of Metapsychological Explanation," 1954 Drafts (4 folders)

- "Multiple Personality," 1942
- "On Personality Testing," 1947
- Piaget, Jean, "Play, Dreams and Imitation in Childhood"
- "Psychoanalysis as a Psychology"
- Washburn University, Topeka, Kans., lectures on clinical psychology, 1943
- "Present Professional Status of the Clinical Psychologist"
- "To What End Psychology" (12 folders)

- "Reaction Time and Succession in the Rorschach Ink-Blot Test"
- Rorschach testing, 1937
- "Psychiatric Implications of Rorschach Studies With Metrazol and Sodium Amytal"
- "Rorschach Ink-Blot Test and General Psychology"
- "Superego," 1958 (3 folders)
- "On the Organization of Thought-Processes," Philadelphia, Pa., 1956
- "Time," fragments of a paper
- "Time Experience," circa 1947-1948

- "The Theory of Affects and Some Nosological Problems," 1951
- "Notes on Anti-Semitism"
- Notes from a conference on cognition, Boulder, Colo. 1955
- "States of Consciousness," 1950-1951 (2 folders)
- "The Psychoanalytic Theory of Cognition and Consciousness," 1956
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|           | Ego psychology, various outlines and lectures  
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| BOX 1:71  | Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel, 1953  
| BOX 1:71  | Lecture to patients, "Psychology of Imagination Interpersonal Relations and Psychodynamics," 1951  
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| BOX 1:74  | "The Economic Problem of Institutional Psychiatric Practice," brief outline  
| BOX 1:74  | "Hospital Life of Psychiatric Patients," Patient and Staff Organization, Austen Riggs Center, Stockbridge, Mass., 1954  
| BOX 1:74  | Patient and Staff Organization, Austen Riggs Center, Stockbridge, Mass., 1954

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David Rapaport Papers
"Some Problems in Psychoanalysis and Psychopathology"
"The Psychoanalytic Model," 1951
"Psychoanalysis Versus the Conditioned-Response Theory," 1954
"The Prerequisites of a Psychoanalytic Psychology," 1956
"The Need for Theoretical Orientation in Clinical Psychology"
"Some Problems Facing Psychology and Particularly Clinical Psychology," 1954
"Organic Psychoses"
"Psychoanalytic Theory of Psychoses"
(2 folders)
Future research material
Research interests, Austen Riggs Center, Stockbridge, Mass., circa 1947-1948
"Research Strategy and Tactics," 1951
"Clinical Research, or How to Achieve Validity Without Losing Meaningfulness," 1956
Patient and Staff Organization seminar, Austen Riggs Center, Stockbridge, Mass., 1958
Notes
Various seminars, 1956-1960
Topology talk, 1948
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Miscellaneous notes found in office
Freud, Sigmund, activity and passivity, 1911-1937
Seminars, Austen Riggs Center, Stockbridge, Mass., 1950-1955
"Psychic Structure Development," 1951
"Psychoanalytic Theory of Thinking," Montreal, Canada, 1949
"Thinking," Yale University, New Haven, Conn., 1951
"The Theory of Thinking, Psychodynamics, and Test Rationale, Philadelphia, Pa., 1954
"Research in the Psychology of Thought Processes," Downey, Ill.
"Thought Processes in Schizophrenic Reactions," 1952
"The Psychology of Thought Processes," 1952
"Experimental Studies into the Organization of Thought," 1956
"Time Experience"
Reports of discussions on the metapsychology of time, 1948
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Ego psychology lectures, collected material
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Part II: David Rapaport Papers, 1936-1993
Correspondence, drafts of writings and lectures, notes on dreams, biographical material, and bibliographies.
Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
Part II: David Rapaport Papers, 1936-1993

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Rapaport, Béla and Helen (parents), 1948  
Photocopies of outgoing letters, 1945-1960, undated  
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*Alvás Aluszekonysag Álmatkanság*, 1936  
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*Freud's Influence on American Psychology*, 1959  
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   Brunner, Andrew Michael, 1971-1995
      (3 folders)
   Dietrick, Joyce Minkler, 1964-1996
   Fabian, Eli, 1963-1993
      (2 folders)
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      (2 folders)
   Gill, Harriet, 1962-1990
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BOX II:8      Kramer-Lasser, Edna, 1965-1984, undated
   Krel, Ibi, 1951, 1961-1963, undated
   Kudelka, John and Kay, 1965-1984
   Langer, Bracha, 1964-1977
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