

**Charles Brenner Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the 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/mm2012085729>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms016048>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2016  
Revised 2024 February

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Charles Brenner Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1935-2008

**Bulk Dates:** 1950-2006

**ID No.:** MSS85729

**Creator:** Brenner, Charles, 1913-2008

**Extent:** 4,000 items

**Extent:** 13 containers

**Extent:** 5.2 linear feet

**Extent:** 1,366 digital files (34.16 MB)

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2012085729>

**Summary:** Psychoanalyst. Writings, lectures, correspondence, notes, outlines, minutes, transcripts, reports, photographs, awards, printed matter, digital files, and other papers pertaining to Brenner's career in psychoanalysis.

## 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

Brenner, Charles, 1913-2008.

Brenner, Erma, 1911-2001. Erma Brenner papers.

Rothstein, Arnold, 1936-

### Organizations

New York Psychoanalytic Institute.

New York Psychoanalytic Society.

### Subjects

Anxiety.

Compromise formation.

Conflict (Psychology)

Countertransference (Psychology)

Masochism.

Motivation (Psychology)

Psychoanalysis--Societies, etc.

Psychoanalysis.

Transference (Psychology)

### Occupations

Psychoanalysts.

## Acquisition Information

The papers of Charles Brenner, psychoanalyst, were given to the Library of Congress by his estate in 2012.

## Processing History

The Charles Brenner papers were arranged and described by Pang H. Xiong in 2016. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

Digital files were received in the Charles Brenner Papers on a variety of digital storage media. Each digital storage media was assigned a unique digital ID number. Use the digital ID number to request access copies of the files associated with each media. 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>.

## Transfers

Audiovisual material has been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division where it is identified as part of the Charles Brenner Papers.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Charles Brenner is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Charles Brenner are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. 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.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or digital ID number, Charles Brenner Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1913, Nov. 18	Born, Boston, Mass.
1931	B.A., Harvard College, Cambridge, Mass.
1935	M.D., Harvard Medical School, Cambridge, Mass. Married Erma Brandt (died 2001)
1939-1945	Assistant in neurology, Harvard Medical School, Cambridge, Mass. Sigmund Freud Fellow, Boston Psychoanalytic Hospital, Boston, Mass.
1941-1945	Visiting neurologist, Cambridge City Hospital, Cambridge, Mass.
1944-1950	Associate attending psychiatrist, Montefiore Medical Center, N.Y.
1955	Published <i>An Elementary Textbook of Psychoanalysis</i> . N.Y.: International Universities Press
1955-circa 2008	Instructor and training and supervising analyst, New York Psychoanalytic Society and Institute
1961-1963	President, New York Psychoanalytic Society
1964	Published with Jacob Arlow <i>Psychoanalytic Concepts and Structural Theory</i> . N.Y.: International Universities Press
1967-1968	President, American Psychoanalytic Association
1976	Published <i>Psychoanalytic Techniques and Psychic Conflict</i> . N.Y.: International Universities Press
1981-2008	Associate editor and treasurer, <i>Psychoanalytic Quarterly</i>
1982	Published <i>The Mind in Conflict</i> . N.Y.: International Universities Press
1990	Visiting professor of psychoanalysis, University of Pennsylvania Medical School, Philadelphia, Pa.

1993-1994	Visiting professor of psychoanalysis, Wisconsin Psychoanalytic Institute, Society, and Foundation, Milwaukee, Wis.
2006	Published <i>Psychoanalysis or Mind and Meaning</i> . N.Y.: Psychoanalytic Quarterly, Inc.
2008, May 19	Died, New York, N.Y.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Charles Brenner (1913-2008) span the years 1935-2008, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1950-2006. Writings, lectures, correspondence, reports, printed matter, digital files, and other papers document Brenner's career as a psychoanalyst. In a major contribution to the modern conflict theory, Brenner concluded that mental functioning is motivated by the pleasure-unpleasure principle, not separate systems. Furthermore, conflict and compromise formations encompass all of normal mental functioning, not just pathological mental functioning. The papers are in English. The collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material, topic, or person and therein chronologically or alphabetically.

The majority of the papers is comprised of Brenner's lectures and topical files focusing on different aspects of psychoanalytic theory. Folders chronicle Brenner's work in progress from research to drafts to published or unpublished works. Topics featured are the structure of the mind, the modern conflict theory, conflict and compromise formation, transference and countertransference, anxiety, masochism, mental functioning and development, and the drive theory. The papers also document Brenner's mentorship of other colleagues; his involvement with psychoanalytic organizations, particularly as an instructor and training and supervising analyst at the New York Psychoanalytic Society and Institute; and his project with Arnold Rothstein to demonstrate the validity of conflict and compromise formation. Also included are Brenner's drafts of his memoir that was not published until the year after his death in 2009. There is little documentation of Brenner's early career as a neurologist before entering psychiatry and no documentation of his early or family life.

Digital files in this collection were created from 1993 to 2006 and consist chiefly of word processing files received on fifty-six floppy disks and one zip disk. A list of the digital files, arranged by topic or person and digital ID, was compiled by Library of Congress staff. The digital files are comprised of the works of Brenner and his wife, Erma Brenner, and many of the digital files are not duplicated in the analog portion of the collection. Erma Brenner's digital files consist of drafts of a play, a fictionalized memoir, correspondence, lectures, and other writings. Brenner's digital files include drafts of published and unpublished papers, books, and essays. Also included are Brenner's correspondence, lectures and discussions, documents related to the conflict and compromise formation project with Rothstein, and other writings.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material, topic, or person and therein chronologically or alphabetically.

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BOX 1	Accomplishments, appointments, and awards, 1953-1956, 1991, 1999-2007
BOX 1	Alternative psychoanalytic theories, 1974-1977
BOX 1	Appendix on anxiety, 1957
BOX 1	Applied psychoanalysis, 2002-2003
BOX 1	Arlow, Jacob A., 2005-2006, undated
BOX 1	Baird, Janet, 2002
BOX 1	Balter, Leon, 2004-2005
BOX 1	Bell, Silvia M.V., 2003-2006
BOX 1	Book group, 2000-2008
BOX 1	Book review, 2007
BOX 1	Beyond the ego and the id, 1987-2007 (3 folders)
BOX 2	Casebook on conflict and compromise formation project, 1998-2003 (7 folders)
BOX 3	Childhood hallucinosis, 1935, 1946-1950, 1956-1957
BOX 3	Clinical, 1950, 1959, 1979, 1987-2002
BOX 3	Cohen, Theodore B., 1998-2004
BOX 3	Conflict, compromise, and structural theory, 1992-2005 (2 folders)
BOX 3	Continuity and change in mental conflict, undated
BOX 3	Creativity and psychodynamics, 2003-2004
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BOX 3	Dreams, 1952-1960, 2007
BOX 3	Drive theory, 2007-2008
BOX 4	Early publications, 1938-1950, 1956
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BOX 4	Evenly hovering attention, 1994, 2000, undated
BOX 4	First year of life, 1978, undated
BOX 4	Freud's great voyage of discovery, 2003-2007
BOX 4	Genesis of psychic conflict, 1967-1975
BOX 4	Glossary, 2006
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BOX 4	Jaffe, Susan, 2006
BOX 4	Kaywin, Ralph, undated
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BOX 6	1970-1978 (9 folders)

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BOX 9	List of lecture engagements, 1957-1971
BOX 9	Manson, Daniele, 2000-2004
BOX 9	Memoir, 2004-2007
BOX 9	Mind in conflict, 1998
BOX 9	Miscellaneous correspondence, 1951-1961, 1982-1983, 2002-2007
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BOX 9	Moral masochism, 1954-1956
BOX 9	Nature of therapeutic action of psychoanalysis, 2006 (2 folders)
BOX 9	New York Psychoanalytic Institute case report, 1947, 1983, 2008
BOX 10	Outline of chapter seven, 1959-1964, 1993
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BOX 10	Primer on psychoanalysis, 1990-1996 (2 folders)
BOX 10	Problems of symptom formation, 1951-1952
BOX 10	Psychic apparatus, 1959
BOX 10	Psychoanalysis and behavioral science, undated
BOX 10	Psychoanalysis or mind and meaning, 2005-2007
BOX 10	<i>Psychoanalytic Quarterly</i> , 1996-2008 (2 folders)
BOX 11	Psychoanalytic supplement, 1952, 1969, 1984, 1990-1999, undated
BOX 11	Psychotherapy and pharmacotherapy, undated
BOX 11	Reflections on psychoanalysis, 1998-2002 (2 folders)
BOX 11	Repression, 1956-1958 (2 folders)
BOX 11	Richards, Arlene K., 2002
BOX 11	Richards, Arnold, 2003-2006
BOX 11	Role of psychic conflict in mental life, undated
BOX 11	Rothstein, Arnold, undated
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BOX 11	Seminar on psychoanalysis and psychoses, 1941-1942
BOX 11	Sander, Fred M., 2002-2003
BOX 11	Scientific collaboration in psychoanalysis, 1992
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BOX 12	Structural model, 1964, 1986-1992, 2002-2004
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BOX 12	Summaries of psychoanalysis articles, 1958-1960, undated
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BOX 12	Tawil, Mariam, 1993-2005
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DF	Digital files, 1993-2006 Brenner, Erma (wife) <b>Digital ID:</b> Mss85729_109_016 <b>Digital ID:</b> Mss85729_109_033 <b>Digital ID:</b> Mss85729_109_058 to _061 Casebook on conflict and compromise formation project <b>Digital ID:</b> Mss85729_109_008 <b>Digital ID:</b> Mss85729_109_016 <b>Digital ID:</b> Mss85729_109_031 <b>Digital ID:</b> Mss85729_109_034 <b>Digital ID:</b> Mss85729_109_041 <b>Digital ID:</b> Mss85729_109_045 Correspondence <b>Digital ID:</b> Mss85729_109_005 <b>Digital ID:</b> Mss85729_109_008 <b>Digital ID:</b> Mss85729_109_016 <b>Digital ID:</b> Mss85729_109_035 <b>Digital ID:</b> Mss85729_109_043 <b>Digital ID:</b> Mss85729_109_048 Lectures and discussions <b>Digital ID:</b> Mss85729_109_005 to _008 <b>Digital ID:</b> Mss85729_109_014 <b>Digital ID:</b> Mss85729_109_016 <b>Digital ID:</b> Mss85729_109_030 <b>Digital ID:</b> Mss85729_109_034 to _035 <b>Digital ID:</b> Mss85729_109_043 <b>Digital ID:</b> Mss85729_109_048 <b>Digital ID:</b> Mss85729_109_051 to _055 <b>Digital ID:</b> Mss85729_109_058 Papers, books, essays, and other writings <b>Digital ID:</b> Mss85729_109_005 <b>Digital ID:</b> Mss85729_109_009 to _013 <b>Digital ID:</b> Mss85729_109_015 to _016 <b>Digital ID:</b> Mss85729_109_030 to _031

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