

FRANCIS J. BRACELAND (1900-1985) PAPERS ARCHIVES FINDING AID

[Processed by W. E. Baxter, 3 October 1984; 17 July 1986, edited by D. Gorland, 23 May 23, 2018]

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Francis James Braceland was born in Philadelphia in 1900. His father, John J. Braceland died when Francis was 4, leaving him and three other children to be raised by their mother, Margaret L'Estrange Braceland. Dr. Braceland came to academia by a most unlikely route. He was a semiprofessional baseball player, a swimming instructor and an athletic supervisor in a youth center of Philadelphia's "Brewerytown." He also had a short-lived career as a boxer.

Dr. Braceland chose psychiatry at the end of his residence at the Jefferson Medical College Hospital despite tempting offers as a testament to his recognized potentialities in surgery, pediatrics, obstetrics and internal medicine. Under the tutelage of Bond, Strecker, Smith, Appel and Palmer, Braceland matured professionally in the intimate preceptor-pupil atmosphere of the Pennsylvania Hospital. From 1932 to 1935, he was an assistant physician at 44th Street - the Department of Mental and Nervous Diseases, Dr. Kirkbride's hospital. In 1935 he went to Europe as a Rockefeller Fellow in psychiatry. Braceland studied abroad for a few years, returning to Philadelphia as an assistant professor of psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He also served as an associate professor at the Women's Medical College. In 1941 he became dean of the medical school and professor of psychiatry at Loyola University in Chicago. During the war years, Braceland served with the Medical Corps of the U.S. Navy, service for which he earned the Legion of Merit award.

Concurrent with his position as chief of psychiatry at the Mayo Clinic (a section he had founded in 1946), Dr. Braceland served on several advisory boards over the next several years. In 1951 he moved to the Institute of Living in Hartford, Connecticut. As psychiatrist in chief, Braceland recreated the atmosphere of Butler's day: supervision "admirably conducted on enlightened principles of conciliation and kindness." During this time, he has been involved in many activities related to improving care for the mentally ill.

Braceland has served the American Psychiatric Association in many capacities, on several committees, commissions, etc. His term as president, 1956-1957, saw a marked increase in APA involvement in the movement for improved service to the mentally ill. One of Dr. Braceland's major contributions to the American Psychiatric Association was his editorship of the American Journal of Psychiatry from 1965 to 1978. After his retirement, Dr. Braceland remained active in the field. He authored several articles and delivered many lectures. Dr. Braceland died in February 1985. Daniel Blain spent vacations in Nova Scotia, was an avid sailor, and according to the Chronicle Herald, knew the coastline of that province as well as any of the mariners who sailed in and out of its ports. In 1964, Blain was elected President of the APA. As he finished his term, the APA cited him, noting that to recount his accomplishments was to chronicle the advances in psychiatry over several decades. Many times, he told friends that he did not consider himself to be particularly bright, so he determined at an early age that he would make up for this by working twice as hard. This certainly resulted in the development of an enormously effective physician in the mental health world.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS

Dr. Braceland donated those of his papers that relate to the American Psychiatric Association to the APA Archives in 1983. The collection totals 1.5 linear feet in one sub-group: APA and APA related activities. The papers cover the period between 1950 and 1977 with the bulk falling between 1955 and 1967. The papers are divided into 24 folders following Dr. Braceland's original filing scheme. The papers deal primarily with arrangements for meetings, conferences, authoring reports, and other activities of Dr. Braceland through his close association with the American Psychiatric Association.

After Dr. Braceland's death in 1985, his widow donated materials from Dr. Braceland's activities during and after World War II. These papers deal mostly with Nazism and the Nazi war criminals. There are also materials on the psychiatric conditions of U.S. Servicemen at the end of the war.



SERIES: APA Activities (processed 3 October 1984)

Archives Box 100664

Folders

1. APA General, 1960-1962
2. APA General, 1963-1970
3. Central Inspection Board, Ad Hoc Committee on the Future of...1957, 1960
4. Civilian Health and Medical Advisory Council (Secretary of Defense) 1958-1960
5. Constitutional Rights, APA Sub-committee on...1961
6. Cooper Committee, 1950
7. Hoover Commission, 1954-1955
8. Hoover Commission, 1955-1958
9. Isaac Ray Committee, 1960-1961
10. Joint Commission Report, Ad Hoc Committee on Implementation of...1962
11. LHEW - APA, 1959-1962 (1)
12. LHEW - APA, 1959-1962 (2)
13. Long - Term Policies, APA Commission on. 1955-1960
14. Medallion, APA, 1965-1967
15. Miscellaneous Papers, 1973-1974
16. NIMH, 1960-1965 (1)
17. NIMH, 1960-1965 (2)
18. Nominating Committee, 1960 (1)
19. Nominating Committee, 1960 (2)
20. Principles and Positions on Current Issues in Psychiatry, Commission on...1958-1962
21. World Psychiatric Association, 1958-1969 (1)
22. World Psychiatric Association, 1958-1969 (2)
23. World Psychiatric Association, 1958-1969 (3)
24. World Psychiatric Association, 1962-1977

SERIES: World War II Activities (processed 17 July 1986)

Folders

32. Research on the Forrestal Case
33. U.S. Navy
34. Psychiatric Research reports, 1944-45
35. Reports of Aptitude Board, 1943

Archives Box 100665

Folders

25. Articles related to the Hitler & Germany
26. Hitler, Nazism: Materials gathered by F.J.B., 1946-1980
27. Newspaper from Nuremberg, 1935
28. Nuremberg: research and notes, n.d.
29. 01 Consolidated interrogation report no. 2 & 4 (possibly incomplete?), U.S. Forces, 25. 25. European Theatre, 1945 (Hitler X-rays)
30. Post-war research in Europe, 1946
31. Reports by U.S. Government on Germany and post-war period