Otto Billig Papers
5
Finding aid prepared by EBL Special Collections Staff

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December 09, 2013
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## Summary Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Repository</th>
<th>EBL Manuscripts Collection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creator</td>
<td>Billig, Otto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Otto Billig Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date [inclusive]</td>
<td>1910 - 1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>1.5 Cubic feet</td>
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</table>

**Abstract**
These personal papers of Vanderbilt psychiatrist and faculty member Otto Billig include biographical material, photographs taken by Dr. Billig, correspondence, clippings, and reprints.

**Preferred Citation**
Otto Billig Papers. Eskind Biomedical Library Special Collections, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN.
Historical or Biographical Note

Professor Otto Billig (1910-1989) was a psychiatrist, author, and teacher. His research interests included schizophrenia, art and psychosis, and cross-culture psychiatry. He published several articles and books. He specialized in the art of schizophrenics and created many new art exhibits of this art. He also compared the art of patients in the US with art from more primitive cultures, noting similarities in the art of the mentally disturbed.

He received his M.D. from Federal Realschule (Vienna) in 1937. Dr. Billig served as the Clinical Director of the Department of Neuro-Psychiatry at the Highland Hospital in Asheville, NC from 1939-1946. Then he joined Duke University's clinical faculty from 1946-1948. After his time at Duke, he became a member of Vanderbilt University School of Medicine's clinical faculty from 1948-1989. He also served as the Acting Chair for the Department of Psychiatry at the Meharry Medical College from 1952-1961, and he was a member of the Metro Board of Health (Nashville) from 1963-1973.

Collection Description

These personal papers of Vanderbilt psychiatrist and faculty member Otto Billig include biographical material, photographs taken by Dr. Billig, correspondence, clippings, and reprints. Biographical material starts with his birth certificate, and also includes grade school report cards, diplomas, letters of recommendation from his medical school, and his resume. Letters from the Vienna police and his naturalization papers document the time period when he moved to the United States. Collection includes photographs and articles by Dr. Billig, photographs and articles about Dr. Billig, and also an advertisement for the Dr. Billig's book the *Painted Message*. 
Administrative Information

Publication Information
EBL Manuscripts Collection 2004-10-26

Notes about Access to this Collection
All collections are subject to applicable VUMC privacy and confidentiality policies. Collection specific restrictions: No Restrictions.

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Subject Headings

Personal Name(s)
Billig, Otto

Subject(s)
Psychiatry
Psychiatry--history
## Collection Inventory

### Series 1: Personal Papers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Box</th>
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<tr>
<td>Birth certificate 1910</td>
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<td>Report cards (Realschule 1922-29), Student books (University of Vienna 1938), School Registration Papers, Certificate of Domicile.</td>
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<td>Diploma - Realschule 1929, Diploma - University of Vienna - 1938, Graduation Certificates - Translations into English, Recommendation letters (Medical School Director), Recommendation letters</td>
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<td>Diploma - Realschule 1929, Diploma - University of Vienna - 1938, Graduation Certificates - Translations into English, Recommendation letters (Medical School Director), Recommendation letters (Psychiatric Director), Certificate of completion of university courses, Translation of official documents (G. Sachs), Copies of official translation.</td>
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<td>Letters from Vienna police. 1938, Naturalization papers.</td>
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<td>Resume</td>
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<td>Photos taken by Dr. Billig</td>
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<td>Journal articles by Dr. Billig.</td>
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<td>Photos of Dr. Billig</td>
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<td>Articles about Dr. Billig</td>
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<td>Newspaper clippings.</td>
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<td>Correspondence (incoming)</td>
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<td>Advertisement letter for the Painted Message. 1977.</td>
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