

# The Duke University Medical Center Archives and Memorabilia Department

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## Inventory of the Irving E. Alexander Papers, 1940 - 2006

Irving E. Alexander was a clinical psychologist and full professor in Duke University's Department of Psychology and Neuroscience for 45 years. During this time he served seven years as department chair, taught and counseled undergraduates, trained clinicians, treated patients, served on Duke's Academic Council, was a consulting psychologist at the Durham VA Hospital and in the Halifax County (N.C.) school system, and was a consultant to programs for gifted children including the Presidential Scholars program.

### Descriptive Summary

**Collection Title:** Irving E. Alexander Papers, 1947 - 2006

**Creator:** Alexander, Irving E.

**Extent:** 4.5 linear feet 3 boxes

**Processed By:**

**Date Completed:**

**Encoded By:**

### Biographical Note

Irving E. Alexander was born in 1922 on the Lower East Side of Manhattan and raised in Harlem and the Bronx. In 1940, Alexander began attending the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. He married Pearl Fisher in 1944 while he was on leave from the Army Air Corps. In the Army Air Corps, he served as a bombardier, completing 35 missions over Germany before being discharged in March 1945 with the rank of second lieutenant.

After completing his interrupted undergraduate education at Tuscaloosa, he obtained a masters degree in experimental psychology. In 1947, he began graduate studies in psychology at Princeton University, and by 1949 had completed both a second masters and a Ph.D. His dissertation, which concerned the relationship between tonal stimulation and hearing loss, led in part to the now-standard requirement for airfield work personnel to wear protective ear-gear.

Alexander attained the position of associate professor at Princeton and spent part of his first sabbatical (1955-1956) at the Jung Institute. In 1958, he began an administrative position at the National Institute of Mental Health in Bethesda, Md., and in 1962 was offered a full professorship in Duke University's Department of Psychology and Neuroscience and served there as a clinical psychologist. Alexander's accomplishments during his 45 years at Duke include seven years as department chair; seeing patients; service on the Academic Council; work in undergraduate teaching and counseling; training of clinicians; and stints as a consulting psychologist at the Durham VA Hospital and in the Halifax County school system. He also had visiting professorships at Harvard (1966-1967), Hebrew University, Jerusalem (1971, 1977-1978) and Tel Aviv University (1973). He was a member of the American Psychological Association, chairman of the Presidential Scholars Selection Committee during the Clinton administration, and a co-founder of the Society for Personology, which honored him with a lifetime achievement award in 2003. The American Association for Gifted Children (AAGC) received the Jimmy Carter Award for Outstanding Contribution by an Association the year he became its president (1995). He continued to work closely with AAGC until his death on 3 January 2007.

### Collection Overview

The Irving E. Alexander papers contains Dr. Alexander's correspondence, his written notes, articles, reviews of articles, and various personal documents and photographs.

### Collection Arrangement

This collection contains the following series: Slides and Photographs, 1940-2000; Personal Documents and Items, 1943-1999; Correspondence, Articles and Papers, 1947-2006; Notes, 1955-1993; Lecture

## Inventory of the Irving E. Alexander Papers, 1940 - 2006

Materials, 1952-2000; Professional Organizations, 1989-2003; and Research Data, 1959-1994.  
Professional Organizations, 1989-2003 is broken up into the following subseries: Association for Academically Gifted Children (AAGC), 1992-2003; and The Society for Personology, 1982-2000.

### [Online Catalog Headings](#)

Alexander, Irving E.

Duke University. Dept. of Psychology and Neuroscience.

Duke University--Faculty.

Psychology.

Psychology--Biographical Methods.

Personality.

Personality assessment.

Inventory of the Irving E. Alexander Papers, 1940 - 2006

Container List

**1. Slides and Photographs, 1940-2000.**

This series contains the slides, photographs, and negatives of the collection.

**Box 1**

Photographs and Negatives, circa 1940-2000

Slides: Unknown, 1973 (2 folders)

Slides: Israel Summer, 1974

Slides: L85957, 1975

Slides: 667211, 1976

Slides: "C.G. Jung: the Man and His Work, Then and Now," 1985

**2. Personal Documents and Items, 1943-1999.**

This series contains the Dr. Alexander's personal documents and items.

**Box 1**

RESTRICTED: Military Record, 1943-1953

Programs: Graduation from University of Alabama and Southern Society For Philosophy and Psychology, 1947

Bird Watching Pavilion Dedicated to Pearl Alexander, 1998-1999

Personal Documents, undated

**3. Correspondence, 1947-2006.**

This series contains general and personal correspondence.

**Box 1**

Correspondence, 1947-1980

Silvan S. Tomkins Correspondence, circa 1958-1992

Reprint Requests, 1966-1991 (bulk 1966)

Harold Basowitz Correspondence, circa 1971-1978

Letters from Pearl Alexander, circa 1974

Correspondence, 1981-1982

Correspondence, 1983-1987

Correspondence, 1988

Correspondence, 1989-2006

Undated Correspondence

#### **4. Articles and Papers, 1947-2006.**

This series contains the Alexander's articles and article reviews, as well as reviews of his work written by others. Due to the size of the paper in the file, Jungian Typology Summary Paper is stored separately in box 3.

##### **Box 1**

Published Articles, 1947-1981

*An Exploration of Public School Approaches To Meet The Problem of Emotionally Disturbed Children*  
, 1956

*Joint Conference on Community Programs For Emotionally Disturbed Children and Adolescents*  
, 1957

Article Reviews and Comments, 1958-2001

*Death and Religion*  
, 1959

*Studies In the Psychology of Death*  
, 1960

Family Therapy  
and  
*Family Therapy a Second Look*  
, 1963

*The Play of Forces on a Program Director in Planning the Future of a Clinical Program*  
, circa 1963-1970

Untitled Papers and Speeches, circa 1963-1970

*A Training Paradigm for Clinical Psychologists*  
, circa 1967

*Means-End Relationships*  
, 1970

*Death, Anxiety, Dissent and Competence*  
, 1973

Reviews of Irving E. Alexander's Work, 1975, 1990

*If Freud was Moses*

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, circa 1977

*Examine the Everpresent but Overlooked*  
, 1981

*Shrinking History: On Freud and the Failure of Psychohistory*  
, 1981

*The Freud-Jung Relationship, the Other Side of Oedipus and Countertransference. Some Implications for Psychoanalytic Theory and Psychotherapy*  
, 1982

*Returning the Smile of a Stranger: Developmental Patterns and Socialization Factors*  
, 1983

Marge's Journal of Psychology, 1983-1989

Obituaries: Norman Guttman, Silvan Tomkins, 1984, 1992

*Challenging the Prevailing Vision*  
, 1986

*Psychobiography: Can the Historian Practice It?*  
, circa 1989

*Affective Scripts as Organizers of Personal Experience*  
, circa 1990

*A Brief Look at Psychology at Duke*  
, post 1991

Drafts of  
*Silvan S. Tomkins: The Heart of the Matter*  
, post 1991

"Irving E. Alexander's Nine Identifiers of Salience," circa 1993

*Science and the Single Case*  
, 1993

*Odds and Ends*  
, 1998

*Erikson and Psychobiography - Psychobiography and Erikson*  
, circa 2001(3 folders)

**Box 2**

*Affect and Personality Development - The New and Old*  
, 2004

Drafts of  
*My Life*  
, circa 2006 (3 folders)

*My Path to Personology and Beyond*

, 2006

An Autobiography, undated

Ideas on the Generation Problem, undated

Jungian Typology Summary Paper, undated

Pages On Addiction, undated

Papers of Unknown Authorship, undated (3 folders)

Rereading Tomkins on Ideology, undated

*The Evolution of a Scientist-Professional Model Over 5 Years*  
, undated

Wittengeist Introduction: Edited Drafts, undated (2 folders)

## **5. Notes, 1955-1993.**

This series contains the notes of Irving E. Alexander regarding specific subjects, and loose handwritten notes pulled together.

### **Box 2**

Notes on Sullivan's "Interpersonal Theory of Psychiatry," 1946-1947

Tomkins Seminars (Readings), 1952

Jung Institute Notes - Dream Series, 1954-1955

Notes from the Jung Institute, 1955

Jung Notes, circa 1955

Freud - Outlines of Major Works, circa 1963

Icarus, post 1977

Notes on Provost Committee, post 1979

Freud - Masson, circa 1980-1989

Sullivan Notes: Notes on Meeting with Hellen Swick Perry, 1983

Berkeley College Outline, 1987

Notes for Freud - "A Jew In Vienna" Presented Chapel Hill, 20 July 1987

Wittgenstein Notes, 1989-1993 (2 folders)

Adler Notes, undated

Hornly Notes, undated

Lewin and Field Theory Notes, undated

Loose Handwritten Notes, undated (2 folders)

Rorschach Notes, undated

Sullivan Notes, undated (2 folders)

## **6. Lecture Materials, 1952-2000.**

Contains Irving E. Alexander's lecture materials and related notes, course materials, and outlines for classes and lectures.

### **Box 3**

Philosophy of Science Lectures, 1952

Jung Lectures, circa 1965

Lecture Notes Psychology 104, circa 1979

MALS Course, 1986-1993

Freud Lectures Psychology 114, circa 1988

Psychobiography, The Study of Lives (Course Materials), 1988-2000

Psychology 270: Lecture Notes and Course Material, circa 2000

Duplicate Lectures, Jung and Sullivan, undated

Lecture on Freud and His Jewishness, undated

## **7. Professional Organizations, 1989-2003.**

This series contains material related to Irving E. Alexander's work for the Society for Personology and for the Association for Academically Gifted Children.

### **7.1. The Society For Personology, 1982-2000.**

#### **Box 2**

The Society For Personology, 1982-2000

Murray Center Conference May 11-12, 1990

### **7.2. Association for Academically Gifted Children (AAGC), 1992-2003.**

#### **Box 2**

Residual AAGC Material, 1992-2002

Presidential Scholar Thank You Letters, 1998

Board Meetings AAGC, 1999-2000

Javits Grant Proposal 4/20/2000 (Bright Idea), 1999-2000

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AAGC Letters and Memoranda, 1999-2003

Working Paper Number 4, November 2000

US Department of Education Grant For Middle Schools, 2002

AAGC Research, undated

**8. Research Data, 1959-1994.**

This series contains research data and case studies undertaken for experiments and as part of Dr. Alexander's work with patients. All materials within this series is restricted.

**Box 3**

Restricted:Patient Research Data and Case Studies, 1959-1994 (6 folders)