



**FINDING AID TO
THE SANFORD UNGER PAPERS,
1961-1974**

**Purdue University Libraries
Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections
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Processed by: Kristin Leaman, September 2011
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Descriptive Summary

Creator Information	Unger, Sanford, 1931-
Title	Sanford Unger papers
Collection Identifier	MSP 69
Date Span	1961-1974, predominant 1961-1971
Abstract	The Sanford Unger papers (1961-1974; 0.2 cubic feet) contains writings exploring the therapeutic potential of psychedelic substances. The collection also contains the correspondence between Aldous and Laura Huxley and Sanford Unger, and an excerpt from the 1966 CBS Reports feature, "LSD The Spring Grove Experiment."
Extent	0.2 cubic feet (1 box)
Finding Aid Author	Kristin Leaman, 2011
Languages	English
Repository	Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries

Administrative Information

Location Information:	ASC
Access Restrictions:	Collection is open for research.
Acquisition Information:	May 6, 2009; Sanford Unger; Donation
Accession Number:	20090506.1 and 20090903
Preferred Citation:	MSP 69, Sanford Unger papers, Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
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Subjects and Genres

Persons

Unger, Sanford, 1931-
Huxley, Aldous, 1894-1963
Huxley, Laura Archera

Organizations

Maryland Psychiatric Research Center
Spring Grove State Hospital (Catonsville, Md.)

Topics

Alcoholism – treatment
Altered states of consciousness in literature
Brain stimulation
Experience (religion)
Hallucinogenic drugs
Hallucinogenic drugs – Therapeutic use- History
Hallucinogenic drugs and religious experience
LSD (Drug)
LSD (Drug) – Therapeutic use – History
Mysticism – psychology
Psychiatry – case studies
Psilocybin
Psilocybin – Therapeutic use – History
Psychedelic medicine
Psychedelic psychiatry
Psychedelics – Therapeutic use
Psychotherapy – case studies
Psychotherapy patients

Form and Genre Types

Articles
Correspondence
Documentary film
Manuscripts (documents)
Reprints
Typescripts

Biography of Sanford Unger

Sanford Unger received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy from Antioch College in 1953. He earned his Master of Arts degree in 1955 from Cornell University while serving as a Teaching Assistant in the Department of Anthropology & Sociology. From 1955 until 1957, he served in the U.S. Army. Following his enlistment, Unger returned to Cornell, where he earned his Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1960 in the Department of Human Ecology. During his final year at Cornell, he was named Senior Fellow of the Cornell University Graduate School. Subsequently, Dr. Unger was certified as a clinical psychologist by both the Maryland Psychological Association and the National Association of Caregivers in Psychology.

From 1960 until 1965, Unger served as a psychologist in the Laboratory of Psychology of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) in Bethesda, Maryland. In 1963, after publishing the highly regarded paper “Mescaline, LSD, Psilocybin, and Personality Change,” he, with colleague Albert Kurland, pioneered exploratory research with LSD at the Spring Grove State Hospital in Catonsville, Maryland. Over the next decade, the psychedelic research program at Spring Grove evolved into a major center for research into the therapeutic potential of psychedelics. In 1969, Unger was appointed Chief of Psychosocial Research at the newly founded and highly distinguished state-of-the-art Maryland Psychiatric Research Center. Clinical research projects included studies with alcoholic patients, neurotic and depressed patients, and those with terminal cancer, as well as a study on the training of professionals involved in psychedelic psychotherapy. These activities are detailed in his article “The Psychedelic Use of LSD: Reflections and Observations.”

In 1973, during the reorganization of the Maryland Psychiatric Research Center, Unger was invited by the Superintendent of the Springfield State Hospital in suburban Eldersburg, Maryland to direct an experimental program for the treatment of hospitalized alcoholic patients. Unger developed and directed this innovative program, known as SPAR (Springfield Program for Alcoholic Rehabilitation), over the next several years. It was subsequently written up and circulated to all publicly administered institutions in the country to serve as a model which was widely and successfully followed by many facilities.

In 1978, Unger founded and directed the Stillwater Institute, a private psychotherapy practice. He oversaw this program until his retirement.

In 1992, Dr. Unger retired to Sedona, Arizona where he has taught classes on a variety of topics at the Yavapai College Lifelong Learning Program, including a course on the history of psychedelic research.

Source: Information provided by the donor.

Collection Description

Scope

The Sanford Unger papers (1961-1974; 0.2 cubic feet) contains writings concerning the therapeutic potential of psychedelic substances and the impact of those substances on spirituality and mysticism. The collection also contains correspondence between Aldous and Laura Huxley and Sanford Unger, as well as an excerpt from the CBS Reports feature "LSD: The Spring Grove Experiment."

Descriptive Rules Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2nd Edition /
Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Processing Information

All materials have been placed in archival housing.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

1 Box, Sanford Unger papers, 1961-1974

Folder

1. Typescripts

“The Current Scientific Status of Psychedelic Drug Research,” by Sanford Unger, Presentation delivered to the Conference on Methods in Philosophy and the Sciences, New York, 1964

“Electrical Brain Stimulation and LSD-Type Drugs: A Study Document Prepared for The National Council of the Churches of Christ,” by Sanford Unger, Conference on Church Renewal, 1967

“A Study of The Religious Relevance of guided Psilocybin Session” (draft), by Joel Fort and Sanford Unger (Co-Principal Investigators), Glide Urban Center, San Francisco, 1970

2. Publications

“The Hallucinogenic Fungi of Mexico: An Inquiry into the Origins of the Religious Idea Among Primitive Peoples” by R. Gordon Wasson, 1961 (photocopy from the *Psychedelic Review*)

“Mescaline, LSD, Psilocybin, and Personality Change, a Review,” by Sanford M. Unger, 1963 (reprint from *Psychiatry: Journal for the Study of Interpersonal Processes*, Volume 26, Number 2)

“Do Drugs Have Religious Import” by Huston Smith, 1964 (photocopy)

“LSD and Psychotherapy: A Bibliography of the English-Language Literature” by Sanford M. Unger, 1964 (Reprint from the *Psychedelic Review*, Volume 1, Number 4, 1964)

“The Seven Tongues of God” by Timothy Leary, 1964 (photocopy)

“Implications of LSD and Experimental Mysticism” by Walter N. Pahnke and William A. Richards, (Photocopy of a reprint from the *Journal of Religion and Health*, Volume 5, Number 3, July 1966)

“Psychedelic Therapy Utilizing LSD in the Treatment of the Alcoholic Patient: A Preliminary Report,” by Alber A. Kurland, Sanford Unger, John W. Shaffer, and Charles Savage, (Reprint from the *American Journal of Psychiatry*, Volume 123, Number 10, April 1967)

“LSD-Type Drugs and Psychedelic Therapy” by Sanford Unger, Albert A. Kurland, MD, John W. Shaffer, Charles Savage, Sidney Wolf, Robert Leihy, O. Lee McCabe, and Harry Shock (Reprint from *Research in Psychotherapy*, Volume 3, 1968)

“The Psychedelic Use of LSD: Reflections and Observations” by Sanford Unger (Reprint from *Psychedelic Drugs*, 1969)

“The Experimental Use of Psychedelic (LSD) Psychotherapy” by Walter N. Pahnke, Albert A. Kurland, Sanford Unger, Charles Savage, and Stanislav Grof (Reprint from the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Volume 212, Number 11, 1970)

“Psychedelic (LSD) Therapy of Neurotic Disorders: Short Term Effects” by O. Lee McCabe, Charles Savage, Albert Kurland, and Sanford Unger, (Reprint from the *Journal of Psychedelic Drugs*, Volume 5, Number 1, 1972)

“Stereospecific Actions of DOET (2,5-Dimethoxy-40Ethylamphetamine) in Man” by Solomon H. Snyder, Sanford Unger, Robert Blatchley, and Charles Barfknecht (Reprint from the *Archives of General Psychiatry*, Volume 31, July 1974)

3. Correspondence with Aldous and Laura Huxley, 1963-1969

4. “LSD: The Spring Grove Experiment,” recorded excerpt, 1966

“LSD: The Spring Grove Experiment,” CBS Reports, produced by John Sharnik and Harry Morgan, Narrated by Charles Kuralt, 1966 (Reformatted from VHS tape provided by donor; 30 minutes, 53 seconds)