



**FINDING AID TO THE  
ABRAM HOFFER CORRESPONDENCE, 1967**

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Processed by: Kristin Leaman, December 2, 2011

## Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator Information</b>	Hoffer, Abram, 1917-2009
<b>Title</b>	Abram Hoffer correspondence
<b>Collection Identifier</b>	MSP 88
<b>Date Span</b>	1967
<b>Abstract</b>	This collection contains one letter from Abram Hoffer to Ralph Metzner, in which Hoffer gives Metzner permission to use his Berkely LSD paper.
<b>Extent</b>	1 Folder
<b>Finding Aid Author</b>	Kristin Leaman
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Repository</b>	Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries

## Administrative Information

<b>Location Information:</b>	ASC
<b>Access Restrictions:</b>	Collection is open for research
<b>Acquisition Information:</b>	Purchase, Michael Horowitz/Flashback Books, June 1, 2011
<b>Accession Number:</b>	20110601
<b>Preferred Citation:</b>	MSP 88, Abram Hoffer correspondence, Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
<b>Copyright Notice:</b>	Copyright restrictions may apply. Consult a reference archivist for details.

## **Subjects and Genres**

### **Persons**

Hoffer, Abram, 1917-2009

Metzner, Ralph

### **Topics**

LSD

### **Form and Genre Types**

Correspondence

### **Occupations**

Psychology

Psychiatry

## Biography of Abram Hoffer

Abram Hoffer was born November 11, 1917 on a farm in southern Saskatchewan, Canada. He earned his BS in 1938 and his MS in 1940 from the University of Saskatchewan; he then completed his PhD in 1944 from the University of Minnesota and his MD in 1945 from the University of Toronto. Upon the completion of his degrees, Hoffer took a position as Director of Psychiatric Research in the Psychiatric Services Branch, Department of Public Health, Saskatchewan. While Hoffer was serving as director, Dr. Humphry Osmond joined the team in 1951 and brought with him the M Hypothesis that he and John Smythies formulated. The M hypothesis of schizophrenia is the idea that sufferers of the disease had a chemical with the psychological properties of mescaline that was somehow related to adrenaline. Later, Hoffer's team developed the Adrenochrome Hypothesis, which states that adrenaline was oxidized to adrenochrome causing schizophrenia. The team also deduced that large doses of vitamins B-3 and C could be therapeutic; the hypothesis was tested on schizophrenics, and Hoffer asserts that they saw wonderful progress in several patients. He and Osmond published *Chemical Concepts of Psychiatry* (1960) and *Hallucinogens* (1967), and both contributed to *Clinical and Other Uses of the Hoffer-Osmond Diagnostic Test* (1975). Hoffer later concentrated his research on nutrition in the 1970s and published *How to Live with Schizophrenia* (1978), *Orthomolecular Nutrition* (1978), and *Nutrients to Age Without Senility* (1980). In 1976, Hoffer moved to Victoria where he practiced psychiatry; he became a founding member and president of the Senior Physicians Association of British Columbia. On May 27, 2009, Hoffer passed away from a brief illness.

### Sources:

"Abram Hoffer." *Encyclopedia of Occultism and Parapsychology*. Detroit: Gale, 2001. *Gale Biography In Context*. Web. 9 Dec. 2011.

<http://ic.galegroup.com/ic/bic1/ReferenceDetailsPage/ReferenceDetailsWindow?displayGroupName=Reference&disableHighlighting=false&prodId=BIC1&action=e&windowstate=normal&catId=&documentId=GALE%7CK1656000767&mode=view>

Hoffer, Abram. "Dr. Hoffer's Autobiography." *Orthomolecular.org*. 9 December 2011. <http://orthomolecular.org/history/hoffer/index.shtml>

## **Collection Description**

### **Scope**

The Abram Hoffer correspondence (1 folder; 1967) contains a typed letter from Abram Hoffer to Ralph Metzner concerning the use of Hoffer's Berkeley LSD paper by Metzner. It also includes Hoffer's opinion of the Liangs and Berkes' ideas on schizophrenia.

### **Descriptive Rules**

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

### **Processing Information**

Materials have been placed in acid-free housing.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

### Folder 1

#### Item

1. Letter from Abram Hoffer to Ralph Metzner, 1967