



# MARKINGS

YOUR ARCHIVES INTERCHANGE

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## SCRAPBOOKS PROVIDE INSTANT RETROSPECTIVE FOR ARCHIVES VISITORS

A familiar sight to the G.S.O. Archives staff is the intent figure of A.A. visitors poring over 19"x19" scrapbooks of press clippings — reaffirming the “now” of his/her recovery by getting in touch with the Fellowship's past.

On display so far are 16 volumes spanning the years 1939-1961. Within their pages, in headline articles, columns and editorials, the reader can trace the beginning and growth of A.A.; the changing opinions about alcoholism, and the hard lessons of our own transformation that helped us forge our Traditions of anonymity, self-support, unity and singularity of purpose.

Cataloguing of the scrapbooks began in summer 1983. Those presently on display represent a total of nearly 4,000 clips; these have been repaired, deacidified, encapsulated in mylar and bound into volumes. The full collection, totaling 16 scrapbooks to date, is expected to be available within the next year.

Many of the older clippings, couched in formal, sometimes even prim, language reveal the reporter's unfamiliarity with the “new” A.A. approach to alcoholism. Others, of more recent vintage, issue brisk reports on a wellknown if anonymous organization. Some examples:

ITEM, Chicago Herald — Examiner, Feb. 9, 1939:

“John D. Rockefeller Jr., who has tried to hide many of his philanthropies and social reform activities under the bushel of anonymity, was revealed today as interested in a ‘secret’ organization aimed at recovering alcoholics that today numbers 120.”

ITEM, Christian Science Monitor, Aug. 17, 1939:

“The Book Alcoholics Anonymous, on the subject of Liquor addiction and its remedy, seems designed for a wide usefulness . . . It has indeed been proved true — . . . that something more than individual will

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## MARKINGS IS BACK

*Markings: Your Archives Interchange* was first developed as the result of shared interest expressed at the Archives Workshop held during the 1980 International Convention in New Orleans. The name of the newsletter was selected from approximately 40 entries.

A year's hiatus in publication resulted from numerous factors including the Archives' move to new quarters on the fifth floor of the General Service Office building; staff changes (Frank M. of the G.S.O. staff became Archivist in 1982 upon the retirement of Nell Wing); unprecedented growth and activity of area archives, the tapering off of information supplied by you, the area archivists; and planning transference of nearly 50,000 A.A. group records to microfiche — a process that has involved cataloging and storing of the original document in the Archives, in acid-free folders and boxes that will preserve them indefinitely for those who come after us.)

Now the moving cartons are unpacked, the staff has two more pairs of willing hands, and *Markings* is back again on a regular basis. Many of you write to say that you have missed this lively archival forum for the exchange of information and ideas. *Markings* is your newsletter, your ongoing collective “workshop.” Please let us hear from you.

## INFORMATION EXCHANGE

*British Columbia:* “Archivist Roy has contributed his complete collection of newsletters of the Vancouver Area Intergroup to the area Archives. Please help this fine effort.

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*Late Illinois Governor Adlai E. Stevenson, whose shoes became his hallmark of fame, you might say, had nothing on A.A. co-founder Bill W. Above, Bill sits comfortably in his old G.S.O. office on East 45th Street, New York, oblivious to his need of a shoemaker's services — at least until he went out in the rain. The year was 1966 and A.A. was 31 years old.*

## IN THE NEWS

### MARTY MANN A.A. PAPERS ACQUIRED BY ARCHIVES

One of the first women to join A.A. back in 1939, Marty Mann carried the message of sobriety far and wide throughout her life, which was ended in 1980. Many of her papers related to A.A. have been acquired by the G.S.O. Archives. Among them are personal letters written by Bill W.; articles by Dr. William D. Silkworth and others; a pre-publication copy (1957) of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*; and various newspaper clippings about A.A. and the early groups.

Other recent acquisitions include two papers: "A History of the Start and Growth of A.A. in the West of England," donated by Travers C. and "Stepping Stones to Recover: a Comparison of the Healing Practices of Jesus Christ, Carl Jung and The Twelve Steps of Recovery in A.A.," presented by James Douglas N.

Bill P., who worked this past summer as an intern archivist at G.S.O., gave the Archives several books, among them *The Church Can Save the World*, by Samuel Shoemaker, and a book about Sam, *Twice Born Minister*, by his son, Samuel Shoemaker, Jr.

### ARCHIVES COMMITTEE GAINS TWO SEASONED TRUSTEES

Two trustees — Dr. Kenneth H. Williams (Class A), from eastern Pennsylvania; and Garrett T. (Class B), Northeast Regional trustee from Washington, D.C. — bring strong service records to the trustees Archives Committee:

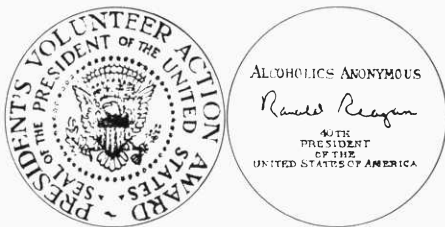
- Dr. William is director of Addictive Diseases Services at Northwestern Institute of Psychiatry, Ft. Washington, PA. and also serves as fulltime faculty member at the Schools of Medicine of both Yale and Pittsburgh Universities. An alumnus of the Louisville, Ky. School of Medicine, he brings years of expertise in the field of addiction to his work in the Fellowship. His personal involvement in A.A. came about, he says, "as the result of watching a family member recover in the program," and he has been active in service work ever since.

- \* Garrett T., sober 28 years in A.A., is chairperson of the trustees Archives Committee. "We are working on procedures that will facilitate availability of the G.S.O. archival material to all the area archives," he reports. "This means looking for eco-

nomical ways to duplicate original documents and photos so they will withstand the erosion of time." Garrett is encouraged by the amount of archival materials coming into G.S.O. "Input from the area archives is definitely on the increase," he says, "and it is important that we provide guidelines and information to accommodate the two-way flow of A.A. memorabilia. We're hopeful that the reissuance of *Markings* on a regular basis will speed this important process."

Dr. Williams has been a trustee since 1979; Garrett T., since 1983. (Class A, or nonalcoholics, trustees serve a term of nine years; Class B, or alcoholic, trustees, a term of four years. In all, there are seven nonalcoholics and 14 A.A.'s on the General Service Board.) Their fellow Archives Committee members include: Joan K. Jackson, Ph.D., first woman Class A Trustee; and Joe K., Class B Trustee; Shep R., and Jim S., Corporate Directors; retired G.S.O. Archivist Nell Wing and George G. serve as consultants.

### PRESIDENT'S AWARD REMINDER OF AN EARLIER TIME



When the President's Volunteer Action Award — for "exemplary volunteer achievements in communities throughout the United States" — was presented to A.A. last year, it came as a reminder of another time, another award.

Back in 1949, the college of Steubenville (Ohio) sought to honor Bill W. with its Poverello Medal for



his contribution to humanity, "thereby expressing in our age the Christ-like charity which filled the life of Saint Francis of Assisi," and wrote to tell him so.

Bill responded graciously but firmly, suggesting that the medal be awarded not to an individual A.A. founder but to the Fellowship as a whole.

Thus, on December 7, 1949, Sister Ignatia received the Poverello Medal on behalf of "the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous." In a letter of thanks to the President of the College of Steubenville, The Very Reverend Daniel W. Egan, Bill wrote:

"From the A.A. point of view, an interesting and helpful precedent has been established. We shall be able to say with confidence when other donors put in an appearance that they would do quite as well, even better in fact, if they chose to honor the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous rather than any of its founders . . . This happy concept was not mine . . . it came from the founder of your own order, St. Frances of Assisi, whose example and spirit have already done so much for me and for A.A."

## LETTERBOX

• From New Zealand, Auckland Archivist Tom P. writes: "There has been a bit of a stalemate recently because I've been out of action owing to four serious operations. The influence of the A.A. programs, backed by the attentions of members of the Fellowship, made my experience and thoughts in the hospital more than bearable and free of fear of the unknown."

• Archivist Robert W., Eastern Pennsylvania, writes: "Thank you for the great amount of help you gave me during my two visits to G.S.O. to research Eastern Pennsylvania history. You all made me feel that my visit and the information I was looking for (and I wasn't exactly sure what that was) were the only things that mattered those days. I know you had work to do; but anytime I asked a question, everyone dropped what they were doing and came to my aid."

• Says Archives committee member Parker E., Orlando, FL: "I think we've done a good job on tapes. We got a lot of the "oldtimers" and even a few original members of our older groups. Sadly, but fortunately, we obtained seven tape interviews within a month of death. Many of the oldtimers down here have given our Archives some real treasures, simply because they know we keep them under adequate safeguards."

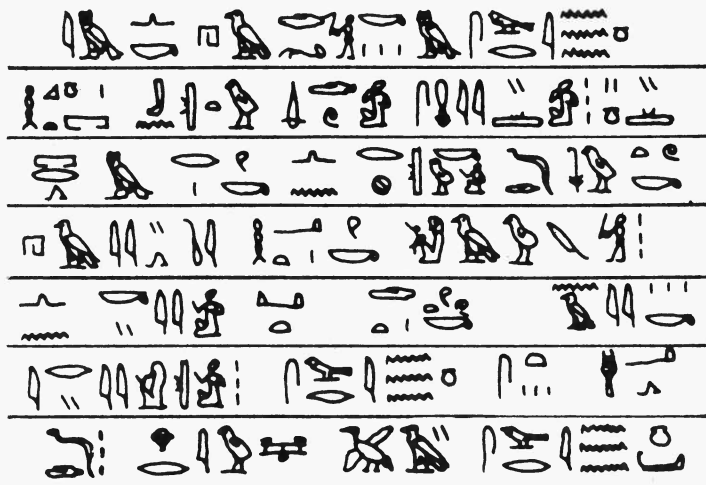
## ACTIVITIES OF THE ARCHIVE'S COMMITTEE

A policy for facilitating the handling of early Latin-American group files has been formulated by the trustees Archives Committee. This is how it will work:

After microfilming important documents, with the help of a Spanish-speaking member, the files would be sent directly to the General Service Office in the Latin-American country involved for permanent disposition.

The committee also reports that, in 1983, the G.S.O. Archives helped to research a record number of important books and television programs that focus on elements of A.A. history, including: the public service

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About 3,500 years ago, the ancient Egyptians issued caveats, in hieroglyphics, to offending imbibers that remarkably resemble modern etiquette: "Make not thyself helpless in drinking in the beer shop. For will not the words of (thy) report repeated slip out from (thy mouth) without (thy knowing) that thou hast uttered them? Falling down thy limbs will be broken (and) no one will given thee a hand (to help) thee up. As for thy companions in the swilling of beer, they will get up and say, 'Outside with this drunkard.'" (from *The Making of Ani*, a book of etiquette dating from 1500 B.C.)

## RX FOR AGING DOCUMENTS

Playing doctor to aging documents without assistance from a professional is risky business. Experience has shown that it is best to be conservative in what you attempt to do on your own. Your success will depend on your understanding of the physical and chemical properties of archival materials, your skill with your hands, and the adequacy of your space and equipment. Some tips:

• *Dry Cleaning*: Surface soil on paper not embrittled by acid can often be removed with ground art gum, available at art supply houses. Never attempt on your own to bleach paper or remove stains with solvents.

• *Relaxing records*: Tightly folded documents should be relaxed before opening and flattening. Place them in an improvised humidity chamber made by putting damp blotters in the bottom of a cookie tin, old-fashioned bread box or any other container with a relatively tight cover. After several hours or even a day in such a homemade "pettifogger," even the worst case can be safely unfolded. Then place the records between slightly damp blotters under a light weight for several days to flatten them. Lightly folded or moderately wrinkled documents can bypass the pettifogging and simply be placed between damp blotters for relaxing and flattening.

• *Deacidification*: Records that are definitely acid can be deacidified with a commercial, nonaqueous chemical. Another procedure, using a water solution, is less expensive; but it is advisable to consult a professional before settling on this method since some records react negatively to aqueous treatment. For the "soda water" procedure, as it is sometimes called, add to one quart of carbonated water a crushed milk of magnesia tablet or one tablespoon of milk of magnesia emulsion. Recap tightly and let stand overnight. Pour the solution into a shallow baking pan or photographer's tray; then place the paper to be deacidified in the solution, seeing that each sheet is well saturated before adding the next. Let stand two hours. Dry the deacidified paper on blotters or paper towels or on a nylon screen.

• *Cleaning leather-bound volumes*: Carefully clean beginning, end and interior pages as necessary, using ground art gum. If mildew is evident, spray with a 10 percent solution of thymol in methyl alcohol. Unless the leather is powdering, wash covers with castile soap suds froth (not liquid) and let dry. Sponge covers with a seven percent aqueous solution of potassium lactate and let dry for 24 hours. Rub with Neats foot oil or Bees Wax. Stand book upright until dry. Buff.

## Information Exchange (continued from page 1)

It's your history!" (Vancouver Intergroup meeting report)

**CALIFORNIA:** "In July, the Calif. No. Coastal Area (CNCA) Archives moved from the Hayward Alano Friendship Club to 2917 MacDonald St., Richmond, Ca....— Salona South (District 09) is having a workshop on Oct. 20; an archives display is planned...On an archival note, our new area newsletter Good News reports that in fall 1955, The Watsonville group, with 20 members, hosted the North Ca. Fall Conference. Housing was scarce, but the Chamber of Commerce found people in the community who opened their homes to the A.A. visitors. The Chamber also provided fresh strawberries, apples and cider throughout the conference, which featured Marty Mann as speaker." (Letter, CNCA Archives committee report: (Buzz G., CNCA Archives committee, Aptos, CA.)

**FLORIDA:** "The Orlando area Archives utilized a three-drawer file (4" high, 2" deep, 36" wide) to store documents. On the top of the cabinet, we built a glass case with one glass tray for display purposes. The display gets a lot of attention as long as we keep changing it, which we do monthly." (Letter: Joe H., Archives of the Central Florida Intergroup, Winter Park, Fla.)

**FRANCE:** "The Archives Bureau, finally built, appeals to all friends who possess documents concerning most particularly the years 1960 to 1970 that might help us to reconstruct the history of A.A. in France. We ask these friends of good will to contact the secretary of the General Service Office here." (Newsletter: B.S.G. Bulletin Des Services Generaux, 21 rue Trousseau, 75011 Paris, France.)

**ILLINOIS:** "Northern Illinois Area is assembling an archives and would welcome information, conference flyers, minutiae." Please forward to Trudy Preissing, 452 Palace St., Aurora, IL 60506 (Newsletter: *Concepts*)

**IOWA:** "Our state is divided into 15 districts. Therefore, we asked each district to elect an Archives

Representative who, of course, collects data for his area. The response has been most favorable. The state treasury was very generous in contributing monies for mailing, etc." (Letter: Jackie O., Des Moines, IA)

**OKLAHOMA:** "I have given 450 different copies of the *Grapevine* to an A.A. who visits all our prisons. Also, I have been sharing excess Archives material with Missouri and have gathered up some things in duplicate that I'll be glad to share with others." (Letter: Earl H., Oklahoma Archives Committee, 3101 N.W. 35th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73112)

**VIRGINIA:** "We still need volunteers to do taped interviews in Virginia; to type transcripts of interviews we already have. The Archives now has a recorder with a foot-switch attachment that makes the job easier. We now have all the old Northern Virginia Intergroup files, and we're still looking for group histories and contributions of all sorts." (*Virginia Area Newsletter*; "Country Bill" L., Vienna VA)

**WEST GERMANY:** "The Munich Archives, established in March 1982, have collected more than 30 volumes of written material, more than 30 tape recordings. A.A. members of the U.S. Army founded the first A.A. group in West Germany in 1953. We celebrate 31 years of the program on Oct. 29th." (Letter: Horst H., Munich)

### Archive's Committee

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program, *Nova*; a new vista program, *We've Been There*, prepared by TV-Ontario; a biography of Bill W. called *Pass It On*, prepared by A.A. World Service; a history of the Archives scheduled for presentation at the 1985 International Convention; and several area histories.

As part of the Archives' continuing preservation project, 19 original dust jackets from various printings of the first edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous* have been repaired and restored. These "circus" dust jackets, so called because of their yellow, red and black coloring, are rarer than first editions of the Big Book itself and a favorite with visitors to the Archives.

### Scrapbook (continued from pg. 1)

power — or won't power — is necessary to heal what at least one special sanitarium recognizes in its advertising as a 'disease'."

ITEM, Philadelphia Bulletin, Sept. 1940: "... Some 1,500 Americans, including 100 in Philadelphia, are proving that one alcoholic can lead another . . . under the invisible flag of Alcoholics Anonymous."

ITEM, Atlanta Constitution, June 10, 1941: "Alcoholics Anonymous, responsible over the past years for the recovery of nearly 2,000 alcoholics, many of them considered hopeless by doctors, is moving into Atlanta . . ."

ITEM, Cleveland Plain Dealer, Oct. 6, 1941: "A pair of chronic drunkards who first met six years ago in Akron yesterday addressed an audience of nearly 900 alcoholics and their friends . . . and not even the most careful observation disclosed any evidence of liquor in the group."

ITEM, Saturday Evening Post, Nov. 22, 1941: "Jack Alexander's Alcoholics Anonymous article, on the association of ex-alcoholics which cures dipsomaniacs by argument and good example, has resulted in more than 2,500 inquiries, the association tells us. They've already run through 10,000 reprints of the piece. This amounts, roughly, to a saving of 5,000 hangovers a week — a substantial gain for national defense."

ITEM, A Boston newspaper, April 5, 1942: Captioned "Women Drunkards, Pitiful Creatures, Get Helping Hand," the report states that "A.A.'s reformed lady tipplers do not mind being referred to as elbowbenders, ex-inebriates or lady drunks . . ."

ITEM, Variety, April 1, 1945: "Alcoholics Anonymous has come to Broadway . . . the organization that has helped lift 12,000 drunks onto the water wagon, many straight from the gutter, is now established in a new clubhouse on West 41st Street, a few minutes from Times Square."

ITEM, Paterson Call, April 12, 1945: "Alcoholics in New Jersey in the future will be treated as sick persons rather than as criminals, under the new law recently signed by Governor Walter E. Edge . . ."