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A GUIDE TO  
THE PAPERS OF  
F. E. COBURN

MG 49

Initially prepared by Stan Hanson, May, 1986  
Revision with new accruals by Cheryl Avery in 2004 and 2009

## MG 49 -- F.E. Coburn fonds

**Dates:** 1944-2004 (inclusive) ; 1960-1996 (predominant)

**Extent:** 3.5 meters of textual records, 16 audio cassettes, 6 photographs, 1 video cassette, memorabilia.

**Biography:** Frank Emerson Coburn was born in Toronto, Ontario, on 25 April 1912. He earned both a BA (1936) and MD (1939) from the University of Toronto, and from 1940-1943 received postgraduate psychiatric training at the University of Iowa. From 1943 to 1946 he served as a psychiatric specialist for the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps. Following the end of the war, Coburn returned to the University of Iowa as an assistant professor; and remained there until accepting a position with the University of Saskatchewan in 1955 as associate professor, Psychiatry. By 1957 he had been promoted to full professor. In addition to his academic career, Coburn was active in the community. He helped form the Unitarian Fellowship in Saskatoon, and served as its first president; ran for Alderman; and was active in the NDP, serving as president of the Saskatchewan NDP and running (unsuccessfully) for office. He was a member of the planning group for the Saskatoon Community Clinic, and served on the boards of the Saskatoon Community Health Foundation and AIDS Saskatoon. He passed away in 2004.

**Scope and Content:** This fonds contains materials relating to Coburn's work as a psychiatrist, as well as records relating to his involvement in community affairs, particularly relating to issues of social welfare, community health, and politics.

**Arrangement:** It has been organized into 7 series:

- Personal
- General – Alphabetical Subject-Nominal
- Forensic psychiatric case files
- Medical / Health Organizations & History
- Unitarian Church
- University of Saskatchewan
- Publications

**Restrictions:** Materials containing third party personal information is restricted according to the guidelines in the *Local Authorities Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. These files have been designated "restricted" in the guide. Please consult with an archivist.

Donated to the University Archives by Frank Coburn (1986) and Judi Coburn (2004).

Related collections: Department of Psychiatry fonds; and Merv Vincent fonds, MG 249

**Series 1: Personal**

This series is divided into two subseries: a. General and b. Photographs

**Subseries 1a: Personal – General**

1. Alderman. - 1969.  
Statement re: candidacy
2. Arscott, Hugh – “Homofisheraul.” – 1969.
3. Biographical Material, 1946-74. – textual records, 7 photographs.  
Includes photographs of staff of Iowa City psychiatric department, 1940; 60-year reunion of 1939 University of Toronto class; portraits; etc.
4. City Hospital. - 1955-1970.  
Annual appointment to general medical staff.
5. Coburn, John. – 1942. – 78 rpm sound recording.  
Sermon given by John Coburn, Frank Coburn’s father, in Newfoundland.
6. Correspondence. – 1946 - 1979. – 4 folders.  
Correspondence and memoranda re family, colleagues, friends, acquaintances, etc. pertaining to health, finances, activities, etc.
7. Letters of Recommendation. - 1955-1976. – **RESTRICTED.**
8. Miscellaneous Thoughts.  
Notes on humanism; death with dignity; Myers-Briggs “shortcut;” together with miscellaneous materials relating to organizations such as the Open Door Society; etc.
9. St. Paul’s Hospital. – 1955-1969.  
Correspondence re: consulting, psychiatric services, by—laws of medical staff, etc.

**Subseries 1b: General – Photographs**

1. Alaska. – 1993. – 3 folders.
2. Alaska, Victoria. – 1993.
3. Alaska, Victoria, Seychelles. – 1993. – 2 folders.

## **Box 2**

4. Clinton Iowa. – 1991.
5. Clinton Iowa; Caddy Lake. - 1991
6. Costa Rica. – 1996.
7. 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday. – 1992.
8. Family and Friends. – 2 folders.
9. Family Wedding, Victoria, and Buchart Gardens. – 1993.
10. Family Wedding, Victoria. – 1996.
11. K's Cabin.
12. New Zealand. – 1995.
13. New Zealand, Rarotonga, Solomon Islands. – 1995.
14. Russia and New Zealand. – 1995.
15. Seychelles. – [1993]. – 2 folders.
16. [Spain and Portugal].
17. Unidentified [Primarily Europe].
18. Various. – 1997.

### **Series 2: General - Alphabetical Subject-Nominal Files**

1. Anti-Nuclear. – 1961, 1996-1999.
2. Arbitration. - 1976.  
Re: Local # 160 C.U.P.E. and City of Prince Albert concerning 1975 collective agreement.
3. Canadian Committee for the Control of Radiation Hazards. - 1959-1963. - 2 folders.  
Correspondence, publications, minutes, etc. pertaining to the Committee for the Control of Radiation Hazards.

4. Correspondence – General. – 1957-1977.  
Mainly concerning the profession, associations and activities.

**Box 3**

5. Correspondence – Miscellaneous. - 1965-1978.  
Mainly concerning conferences, research programs, lectures, etc. Includes some information on sex education in schools, and information concerning legal and medical considerations for psychiatrists regarding therapeutic abortions.
6. Miscellaneous Forms.
7. National Council of Welfare Reports. – 1989-1991. – 2 folders.  
Includes reports on women and poverty; pensions; the Canada Assistance Plan; funding for health and education.  
See also series, *Health, Health Care and Medicare*.
8. New Democratic Party - Crocus (Douglas- Coldwell) Foundation. - 1970-1971.
9. New Democratic Party - General. - 1960-2002. - 3 folders.  
Includes essays on “an intra-party dispute within the Saskatchewan NDP, 1970-1971,” and on Woodrow Lloyd; a campaign poster from Ontario; correspondence with E.Y. Spencer and Roy Romanow; “A Tribute to Allan Blakeney;” notes, etc.
10. New Democratic Party - Provincial Secretary (Applications). – 1968-1969.
11. Saskatchewan Environmental Society. – nd, 1990-1992.
12. Western Cooperative College. - 1962-1968.  
Minutes, correspondence and courses offered.
13. Western Institute for Public Policy. – nd, 1990-1993.

**Series 3: Forensic Psychiatry Patient and Case Files – CLOSED.**

Records within this series will be restricted to ensure individuals cannot be identified. Specific closures will vary, based on content and date of birth of the youngest individuals identified in each file. Please consult with archivist.

This series is divided into two subseries: a. Forensic Files and b. Patient Files

**Box 4**

**Series 4: Medical / Health Organizations & Their History**

1. AIDS Saskatoon – AIDS and Development Network. – nd, 1991-1995.
2. AIDS Saskatoon – AGM – 1994. – 1993-1994.  
Includes minutes, agendas, and reports from meetings; together with “AIDS Community Action Program Funding Guidelines” and the AIDS Saskatoon “Funding Proposal.”
3. AIDS Saskatoon – Binder for Volunteers. – 1992.  
Binder of materials for volunteers, including information for speakers, volunteer opportunities; about AIDS, and about support groups, etc.

**Box 5**

4. AIDS Saskatoon – Board of Directors. – 1992-1996. - **RESTRICTED**. – 2 folders.  
Bylaws, budgets, some minutes and agendas for AGMS.; draft policies; a report from the Advocacy/Education Committee concerning a gay men’s outreach project; etc.  
Documents identifying medical histories are closed; please consult archivist.
5. AIDS Saskatoon – Board of Directors - Handbook. – 1991-1996. – 2 folders.  
Includes incomplete handbook for board members,
6. AIDS Saskatoon – Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development (ICAD). – nd, 1991-1995.  
Materials primarily relating to ICAD; includes local groups. Considerable reference materials relating to the problem of AIDS in Africa and the third world.
7. Community Health Services Landlord Committee. – Optometry. - 1962-1971.  
Correspondence re: a lease contract for an optometrist.
8. *Future Directions for Health Care in Saskatchewan*. – 1990.
9. *Health, Health Care and Medicare*. – 1990.
10. History of Medicare. – nd, 1992-2003.  
Includes “Reminiscences about the Origin of Medicare;” “30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Medicare;” “The Development of Medical Care in Canada: Nursing and the Health Care System;” notes, etc. Includes certificate recognizing the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Medicare.
11. History of Mental Health Care in Saskatchewan.
12. Immigrant Mental Health Coalition. – 1991.
13. Minister’s Task Force on the Provision of Psychiatric Services. - 1976.  
Report.

14. *Nurses and the Medicare Crisis: 1962. – 1989.*
15. Psychiatric Services. – nd, 1960-1979. – textual records, 1 photograph. Includes photograph of [Griff McKerracher]; materials relating to a symposium on general hospital psychiatry; and various papers [by McKerracher, Coburn and others] relating to the history of psychiatry in Saskatchewan, including “General-Practice Psychiatry: Two Canadian Experiments;” “The Undergraduate Teaching of Psychiatry and Mental Health Promotion;” “Patients Make Good Teachers;” “Ten Years of Psychiatric Innovation in a General Hospital;” “Saskatchewan Innovations in Psychiatry.”
16. St. Walburg Medical Clinic. – 1992-1995. – **RESTRICTED.** Concerning a residency and placement. Restricted due to employment history information. Please consult with the archivist.
17. Saskatoon Community Health Foundation. – nd, 1963-1992. Includes minutes, memoranda and reports for the Foundation; materials relating to the Community Clinic; letters in support of C.A. Robinson nomination for Saskatchewan Order of Merit; a letter to Roy Romanow (see also CCF/NDP file); letters of recommendation; etc.
18. Saskatoon People Centre. – 1974-1975. Letters of support; brochure.

**Series 5: Unitarian Fellowship Files.**

1. Administration. – nd, 1990-1994. Includes material relating to budget; information mailed out from the Canadian Unitarian Council; memorandum.
2. Congregational Resource Manual. – 1982, 1986-1987. Includes policy and procedures manual.
3. Correspondence. – 1960-1978.
4. Letterhead.
5. Minutes. – 1989-1991.
6. Newsletters and Publications. – nd, 1990-2004. Includes *The Welcoming Congregation: Resources for Affirming Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Persons*; *Justnews*; *The Challenge*; *The Canadian Unitarian*; *The*

**Box 6**

*Honeybee; The Coffee Bean; Fieldstone; etc.*

7. Personal. – 1991-1998.  
Includes notes, biographical material, and a citation.
8. Services. – 1987-1992.

**Series 6: University of Saskatchewan**

1. Accounts. - 1956-1972.  
Expense accounts, travel records, etc.
  2. Child Study Centre. – 1962-1963.  
Correspondence, minutes, etc. re: proposed centre.
  3. Dean of Medicine. - 1967.  
Re: Leave of absence during election campaign.
  4. Dr. Ian McDonald. - 1972-1975.  
Departmental memoranda re: activities, committees and studies.
  5. Lecture Notes - Birds and Bees
  6. Lecture Notes - History of Psychiatry
  7. Lecture Notes - Miscellaneous
  8. Lecture Notes - Psychodynamics
  9. Lecture Notes - Undergraduate (Psychiatry)
  10. Lectures - Psychosomatic Medicine. - glass slides.
- Box 7**
11. Other Medical Schools. - 1959-1960.  
Arrangements for Coburn's visit to Britain.
  12. Other Universities. – 1961-1972. - 2 folders.  
Correspondence re: curriculum, staffing programs, etc. in psychiatry.
  13. President Spinks. - 1960-1968.  
Annual report of activities, outside consulting work, etc.



14. Sabbatical Leave – Itinerary. - 1972-1973.
15. Sabbatical Leave – Europe. - 1972-1973.
16. Sabbatical Leave – Montreal. - 1972-1973.
17. Sabbatical Leave – Toronto. - 1972-1973.
18. Sabbatical Leave - Wisconsin (Madison) – Correspondence. - 1972-1973.
19. Sabbatical Leave – Wisconsin (Madison) – Offprints. – 3 folders.

**Box 8**

20. Study on Court Referrals. - 1971. – **RESTRICTED**.  
Notes re: interviews.
21. Study on Court Referrals - Follow-up Study. - 1975. – **RESTRICTED**.  
Correspondence, notes re: interviews and report by Philip Sestak.

**Series 7: Publications**

1. Articles. – 10 folders.  
Divided into the following files:
  - a) F.E. Coburn
  - b) A.A. Bolton
  - c) Dept. of Social and Preventive Medicine
  - d) Forensic Psychiatry
  - e) General Practice Psychiatry
  - f) Group for Advancement of Psychiatry
  - g) Reprints – University of Saskatchewan staff. - 2 folders
  - h) Reprints - Others. - 2 folders

**Box 9**

2. Books Reviews. - 1963-1977.
3. Requests for Articles and Reprints. - 1955-1965.
4. Speeches and Addresses. - 1955-1975. - 3 folders

**Accession 2007-114**

**Box 10**

**Series 1: Personal**

Academic Hood.

Awards – American Psychiatric Association. – 1978, 2003.  
Life Fellow and Distinguished Life Fellow awards.

Awards – C. A. Robson Award. – 2000.

Awards – Chancellor’s Circle, University of Toronto.

Awards – Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons. – 1972. – **Oversize.**

Awards – Senior Citizens’ Provincial Council. – 1983.

Awards – Sophomore Award for Outstanding Instruction. – 1957.

Awards – Unitarian Congregation of Saskatoon. – 1992.

Awards – University Hospital Board.

CV. – 1970.

Miscellaneous.

Includes clippings; cards; reference materials; etc.

Personal Correspondence. – 1974-1981.

Includes information about family health matters; a talk at the public library about the implementation of medicare; etc.

**Box 11**

Personal Library.

Includes “The Territorial Imperative;” “The Lonely Crowd;” “On Aggression.” Occasional annotations.

Photographs.

Family photographs; portraits; unidentified group photo (includes Robert Begg).

Photograph – University of Toronto 1939 Medicine Class 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion. – 1969. –

**Oversize.**

Torontonensis. – 1939.

Coburn's graduation yearbook from U of T Medicine.

Travel – Costa Rica. – videotape.

**Series 2: General Alphabetical Subject-Nominal**

Bell Homestead.

Postcard and copy of "Bell Telephone Memorial and Bell Homestead," by AJ Whitaker.

A Crane That Cannot Come Back. – 1961.

Translated from the Japanese by Sumiko Hashizume; the journal of a young woman dying from the effects of the atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

Depression.

Notes, together with "Coping with Depression" by Beck and Greenberg.

1885 Resistance.

Maps and chronology of events.

Estate / Memorial. – 2004.

Jim Scott Song Notebook. – 1998.

Law and Medicine Seminar. – 1977.

NDP. – 1968.

NDP – Correspondence. – 1968, 1988.

NDP – Executive Meeting Minutes. – 1968.

NDP – Federal Council. – 1968.

NDP – News Releases / Newsletters. – 1968-1969.

**Box 12**

NDP – Prebble, Peter.

Election brochures, canvassing instructions.

NDP – Provincial Council. – 1968.

NDP – Speeches. – 1968.

NDP – Taylor, George.  
Election brochure.

The Newlyweds. – 1984.  
First draft of a skit.

Plans for Progress. – 1944.  
Government brochure outlining achievements during the provincial Oct-Nov 1944 session.

**Series 3: Forensic & Clinical Psychiatric Case Files – CLOSED**

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**Box 13**

**Box 14**

**Series 4: Medical / Health Organizations & Their History**

An Act Respecting Mentally Disordered Persons. – 1978.

Aids Saskatoon. – 1993.

Brains and Bricks: The History of the Yorkton Psychiatric Centre. – 1965.

Canada's Mental Health. – 1964.

"Canada's National-Provincial Health Program for the 1980's: A Commitment for Renewal." – 1980.

Emmett Hall, Special Commissioner.

Community Health Co-op Federation. – 1985.

Contract for Services. – 1979-1986.

"The Forgotten Constituents." – 1983.

Report by the Task Force on the Mental Health Services in Saskatchewan.

Health Promotion Pilot Project. – 1987.

Health Promotion Pilot Project – Revised. – 1987.

Health 2000. – 1986, 1987, 1996.

How Industry can help Veterans' Rehabilitation. – 1944.  
Includes article by Coburn.

More for the Mind: A Study of Psychiatric Services in Canada. – 1963.

“My Twelve Hours as a Madman.” – 1954.

Maclean's Magazine article by Sidney Katz, having taken LSD under the supervision of Saskatchewan researchers Charles Jillings, Humphry Osmond, Ben Stefaniuk and Elaine Cumming.

An Outline of Neuropsychiatry. – 1944.

Physical Standards and Instructions. – 1943.

For the medical examination of serving soldiers.

## **Box 15**

Planned Parenthood. – 1983-1985.

Reference Material – Health Frameworks. – 1974, 1986.

Includes “A New Perspective on the Health of Canadians” by Marc Lalonde; “Achieving Health for All” by Jake Epp; and “The Meaning of ‘health for all by the year 2000’” by Halfdan Mahler.

Regional Psychiatric Centre. – 1983.

Includes a copy of the memorandum of agreement between the Government and the University as well as Ian Macdonald's summary of the Centre.

“Report of the Advisory Planning Committee on Medical Care.” – 1962.  
Interim and Final Reports.

Report of the Planning Subcommittee of the Children's Committee of the Mental Health Forum.

Saskatchewan Health Survey Report. – 1951.

Volume 1: Health Programs and Personnel.

Saskatchewan Psychiatric Association. – 1980-1983. - 2 folders.

Task Force on Mental Health in Saskatchewan. – 1980.

Ten Giant Steps: Strides in Mental Health.

Tentative Proposals for a Compulsory Mental Health Care Act. – 1981.

“Trends in Psychiatric Care.” – 1964.

D.G. McKerracher; for the Royal Commission on Health Services.

### **Series 6: Unitarian Church**

General. – 1986, 1988, 2004.

India Trip. – 1985.

### **Series 7: Publications**

1. Articles – Coburn. – 1943-1956.

Includes “Meeting the Needs of the Patient in Psychiatry;” “Psychiatric Study of One Hundred Battle Veterans;” “Emotional Problems in the Treatment of Tuberculosis;” “Psychopharmacologic Study of Schizophrenia and Depressions;” “Transportation of the Psychotic Patient;” “Amnesia and the Law.”

2. Speeches and Addresses – Coburn. – nd, 1951, 1954.

Includes “Some fallacies about Psychiatry;” “Referral of Children for Psychiatric Examination;” “Mental Health in the Tuberculosis Program;” “Emotional Problems in the Treatment of Psychiatry.”

### **Subseries 7a – McKerracher Biography**

Dr. Coburn had begun work on a biography of D.G. McKerracher; no complete finished manuscript has been found, but this subseries contains background research and notes.

Archives Key & Publications.

Basic box list, together with list of lectures and other publications.

Biographical Sketch.

Biography – McKerracher.

Includes lecture, “Office Psychotherapy;” correspondence to or from John Griffin and Humphrey Osmond; brief to the Advisory Planning Committee on Medical Care; briefs and articles on mental health; memos re: department of psychiatry; etc.

Correspondence.

Correspondence – Fred Heal. – 1964.

Draft Manuscript.

Note: partial manuscript only.

**Box 16**

Interviews. – 16 audio cassettes. – 2 folders.

Note: 7 microcassettes are unidentified.

Interview Transcripts.

Interview Transcript – Alex Richmond.

Manuscript – Comments. – 1984.

Notes. – 10 folders.

Some include additional reference materials.

Folder 1-4: Box 16

Folder 5-10: Box 17

**Box 17**

Notes – Annotated. – 8 folders.

Folder 1-6: Box 17

Folder 7-8: Box 18

**Box 18**

Proposed Biography – Info Etc. – 1966, 1970, 1979.

Primarily materials establishing office space, proposed budget, etc. concerning work on the biography.

Reference Material. – 4 folders.

Includes speeches and articles by McKerracher.

Reference Material – Miscellaneous.