

The New York Bloomingdale Insane Asylum records14329111

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027
Business Number: (212) 854-5153
Fax Number: (212) 854-1365
rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu
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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Bloomingdale Asylum for the Insane
Title:	The New York Bloomingdale Insane Asylum records
ID:	14329111
ID:	MS#1988
Date [inclusive]:	1880-1910
Physical Description:	5 Linear Feet Eight volumes in individual cmi cases; 1 document box; 2 prints and 2 mounted letters in 3 oversize folders (in Mapcase 15-H-15)
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); The New York Bloomingdale Insane Asylum Records; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Biographical / Historical

The asylum was established as a private institution in New York City during the early 19th century, and was the only facility of its kind in the state. By the 1830s, it maintained a large, thriving operation in northern Manhattan that housed more than 100 inmates. In 1890 the asylum relocated to White Plains, and sold its Manhattan property to Columbia University, which established its present-day main campus on the site. This archive, with materials dating from 1880 to 1910, spans thirty years and two locations of the asylum.

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Content Description

Eight large ledgers that record nearly 750 case studies of both female and male inmates, with their medical histories, background information, patient notes, and, in many instances, photographs.

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Scope and Contents

The earliest two volumes cover a consecutive period from 1880 through 1885, and contain the cases of nearly 300 women, including two with photographs. Three volumes from the 1890s all contain photographs of the inmates -- usually a single image, occasionally two. These comprise two volumes of female patients and one of male patients, listing 255 women, with 108 photos, and 138 men, with sixty-four photos. The final volume covers December 1908 to December 1909, and describes fifty-nine women and their cases.

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Scope and Contents

Also, "History, Description and Statistics of the Bloomingdale Asylum for the Insane" (New York, 1848) and Guide for the Attendants at the Bloomingdale Asylum for the Insane (New York, 1844) which has been annotated and updated in the 1890s; Two manuscript documents relating to the Asylum, a later framed manuscript map of the grounds, and a lithograph of the Asylum buildings.

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Arrangement

Each volume [except for volume 2] contains in the front a tabbed alphabetical index by patient surname.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

This collection is located on site.

Conditions Governing Use

Reproductions may be made for research purposes. Permission to publish material from the collection must be requested from the Curator of Manuscripts/University Archivist, Rare Book and Manuscript Library (RBML). The RBML approves permission to publish that which it physically owns; the responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

Processing Information

Processed by Patrick T. Lawlor on 1/14/2020.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchase, McBride Rare Books, 2019.

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

[Bob Scott on the Bloomingdale Asylum](#). Morningside Heights Digital History. Columbia University Libraries.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Psychiatric hospitals
- Case histories
- Mentally ill -- New York (State) -- New York

Collection Inventory

Series I: Admission Records and Daily History

Scope and Contents

Each volume begins with an alphabetic index of patients, which is cross referenced to numbered pages in the volume. Each case history comprises two or more pages. The case histories begin with a printed form filled out in manuscript upon admission. This form contains 50 items, such as: Name of Patient; Date of Admission; Occupation; Habits; Suicidal Tendencies; Insane Relations and Inheritance; Approved by Judge, etc.

Following the printed items are detailed case notes, sometimes accompanied by a photograph of the patient, letters of referral, and status of patient (discharged, transferred, or deceased).

Title/Description	Instances
Women:	
Admission records for 149 women, January 1880-June 1882	volume 1
Scope and Contents	
(with Index at front of volume)	
Admission records for 149 women, June 1882-September 1884	volume 2

Scope and Contents

(No Index or volume cover)

Admission records for 106 women, May 1896-December 1897 volume 3

Scope and Contents

(With Index)

Admission records for 110 women, March 1900-November 1902 volume 4

Scope and Contents

(With Index and some photographs)

Admission records for 59 women, December 1908-December 1909 volume 5

Scope and Contents

(With Index)

Men:

Admission records for 154 men, 1888-1889 volume 6

Scope and Contents

(With Index and some photographs)

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Series II: Case Books (Continued from Daily History)

Title/Description	Instances
Women:	
Case Book Histories Continued from Daily History, 1890-1899	volume 7
Men:	
Case Book Histories Continued from Daily History for 138 men, 1891-1910	volume 8
Scope and Contents	
(With some photographs)	

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Series III: Letters, Prints, and Printed

Title/Description	Instances	
Letters:		
<p>Autograph letter, signed by Dr. Samuel B. Lyon, to Frederick D. Tappan, 18 June 1901</p> <p><u>Physical Description</u>: 4 pages</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>(Related to the purchase of the Onderdonk farm. Includes a hand drawn map entitled "Bloomingdale and Surroundings")</p>	box 1	folder 1
<p>Two formal letters to the Governors of the Bloomingdale Insane Asylum petitioning for the internment of Calvin Thayer, 3 July 1822 & 2 July 1829</p> <p><u>Physical Description</u>: 2 pages</p>	mapcase 15-H-15	folder 1
Prints:		
<p>Map of the grounds of the New York Hospital, Bloomingdale Hospital in White Plains (in color and scale 1" = 360 Ft)</p>	mapcase 15-H-15	folder 2
<p>"Bloomingdale. White Plains", 1894</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>(Black and white print, showing front elevation of the buildings. Accompanied by a one paged typed description of the print and its history)</p>	mapcase 15-H-15	folder 3
Printed:		
<p><i>Guide for the Attendants at the Bloomindale Asylum for the Insane</i>, 1844</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>(With manuscript annotations throughout)</p>	box 1	folder 2
<p><i>History Description and Statistics of the Bloomindale Asylum</i>. New York: Egbert, Hovey & King, Printers, 374 Pearl Street, 1848</p> <p><u>Physical Description</u>: 1 volume</p>	box 1	folder 3

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