

**The Hermann Rorschach Archives and Museum
Berne**

**Inventory Fonds Olga Rorschach
Location: Rorschach Archives**

Reference Code: Rorsch OR

**Prepared by Rita Signer
Compliant with ISAD
Inventory edited April 2013**

**Berne
2013**

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Introduction

Olga Rorschach (1878-1961), the wife of Hermann Rorschach, never got over the loss of her husband who died in 1922. She jealously kept the papers of her husband from the public for the rest of her life.

General Information

Reference Code

Ref. Code: Rorsch
ISIL: CH-000956-2

Use

The use of the Rorschach Archives and Museum for scientific purposes is open to all, but notice is required in advance. Access to the fonds may be limited due to conservational requirements or for reasons of the protection of personal rights.

Address

Universität Bern
Institut für Medizingeschichte
Archiv und Sammlung Hermann Rorschach
Bühlstrasse 26
CH-3000 Bern 9 (Switzerland)

Contact

<http://biblio.unibe.ch/rorschach/en/allginfo.html>

Links

The Hermann Rorschach Archives and Museum

<http://biblio.unibe.ch/rorschach>

HAN: Manuscripts and archives

http://aleph.unibas.ch/F?func=option-update-Ing&file_name=find-b&p_con_Ing=ENG&local_base=rorschach

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Inventory

1 Fonds Olga Rorschach (Fonds)

2 boxes (21 cm). - 18uu-1961. - Ref. Nr: Rorsch OR.

Ed.: 18uu-1961.

Arrangt.: 1) Biographical material 2) Correspondence 3) Manuscripts.

Access: Only on inquiry.

Biogr.: Olga Rorschach, née Ol'ga Vil'gemovna Štempelin, was born on 27th May / 8th June 1878 in Buinsk, a small town near Kazan, as the eldest child of Wilhelm Karlow Štempelin, pharmacist, and Elisaweta Matwjewa. Her father's family originated in the Baltic States but had settled generations earlier in Russia. Her father belonged to the Lutheran church whereas his wife was an orthodox Russian. Together with her brother one year and sister eight years younger, Olga passed her childhood and youth first in Buinsk and later in Kazan. Having received her first education from her mother at home she entered the Rodionow Institute in Kazan, which had been founded by a grand duchess for daughters of noblemen, officers and state employees with special merits. After qualifying she lived with her brother in Kazan where he went to school while she earned a living for both by giving private lessons. From 1901 to 1902 she attended medical lectures at the Friedrich Humboldt University in Berlin as a guest student, and in autumn 1902 matriculated as medical student at the University of Zurich, where, in 1906, she became acquainted with her fellow student Hermann Rorschach. In 1908, after concluding her studies with her dissertation "Zur Differentialdiagnose der perniziösen Anämie", she travelled to Kazan to prepare for the Russian state examination in medicine. In 1910 she returned to Switzerland to marry Hermann Rorschach. The couple lived in a flat in the psychiatric hospital in Münsterlingen where in summer 1909 H.R. had been appointed assistant and where in 1911 Olga was engaged also as assistant.

At the end of 1913 she together with her husband left Switzerland with the intention of settling in Russia. Her husband found employment in the private sanatorium Krjukovo near Moscow but, unsatisfied with the job, returned to Switzerland six months later to accept a position at the Psychiatric Hospital Waldau in Bern. It was intended that Olga would follow him a couple of months later but, due to the outbreak of World War I, her return to Switzerland was delayed until 1915. In autumn 1915 the couple moved to Herisau where H.R. was engaged as associate director at the psychiatric hospital, but where Olga was not permitted to undertake any medical activities. In 1917 she gave birth to daughter Elisabeth (Lisa) and two years later to son Wadim. After the death of her husband in 1922 she had to support the family. For two years she held the post of her deceased husband, but then she had to leave because the administration came to the view that the post should be filled by a male with a Swiss medical diploma. It proved, however, to be difficult for her to find another job in a clinic and in 1924 she moved with her children to Teufen in Canton Appenzell. With a payment from her husband's life insurance she was able to buy a small house where she provided accommodation and outpatient aftercare for a few discharged psychiatric patients. Furthermore she took the opportunities offered of deputising in Ludwig Binswanger's private sanatorium Bellevue in Kreuzlingen, and in the Psychiatric Hospital Cery in Lausanne. Thanks to Binswanger she was able to accompany wealthy patients abroad as their medical attendant. In 1953 she left her home in Teufen to live with her daughter Elisabeth in Zurich, where she died in 1961.

Reprod.: Only with agreement of the Rorschach-Archives.

Acq.: Bequeathed to the Rorschach-Archives by Wadim Rorschach. 2010.

Creat.: Rorschach, Olga. 1878-1961.

2 **1 : Biographical material** (Series)

13 cm. - 18uu-1961. - Ref. Nr: Rorsch OR 1.

Ed.: 18uu-1961.

Content: Photos; Notebook with records written by Olga Rorschach during her residence in the Rodionow Institute in Kazan; Official confirmation that Olga Rorschach's decision to leave her job at the clinic in Münsterlingen as per 15th July 1913 was accepted; Dining cards and other printed matter of her trips to the USA with the ocean liners "Europa" (1934) and "Cristoforo Colombo" (1955); Enamelled plate "Frau Dr. med. Olga Rorschach"; Various versions of obituaries of Olga Rorschach.

3 **2 : Correspondence** (Series)

118 letters, 6 postcards, various enclosures. - 1913-1960. - Ref. Nr: Rorsch OR 2.

Ed.: 1913-1960.

Content: Contains letters from Wadim Rorschach to his mother Olga Rorschach, Olga Rorschach's correspondence with Wolfgang Schwarz, Walter Morgenthaler, G.A. Roemer, Eugen Bleuler and many other persons.

Aut.: Rorschach, Olga. 1878-1961.

Addr.: Rorschach, Olga. 1878-1961.

4 **2/1 : Letters from Wadim Rorschach to his mother Olga Rorschach** (File)

14 letters. - 1934-195u. - Ref. Nr: Rorsch OR 2 : 1.

Ed.: 1934-195u.

Content: Most of the letters are undated, two are incomplete.

Lang.: German.

Aut.: Rorschach, Wadim. 1919-2010.

Addr.: Rorschach, Olga. 1878-1961.

5 **2/2 : Correspondence with Wolfgang Schwarz 1959-1960** (File)

12 letters. - 1959-1960. - Ref. Nr: Rorsch OR 2 : 2.

Ed.: 1959-1960.

Lang.: English and German.

Aut.: Rorschach, Olga. 1878-1961.

Aut.: Schwarz, Wolfgang. Psychologe. 1926-.

Addr.: Rorschach, Olga. 1878-1961.

Schwarz, Wolfgang. Psychologe. 1926-.

- 6 **2/3 : Correspondence with Walter Morgenthaler 1947-1958** (File)
8 letters, 1 postcard, 1 copie of a letter from Walter Morgenthaler to Hans Christoffel. - 1947-1958. - Ref. Nr: Rorsch OR 2 : 3.
Ed.: 1947-1958.
Content: The correspondence concerns, among other things, Wolfgang Schwarz and G.A. Roemer.
Lang.: German.
Aut.: Rorschach, Olga. 1878-1961.
Aut.: Morgenthaler, Walter. 1882-1965.
Addr.: Rorschach, Olga. 1878-1961.
Morgenthaler, Walter. 1882-1965.
Christoffel, Hans. 1888-1959.
- 7 **2/4 : Handwritten letters from G. A. Roemer to Olga Rorschach 1921-1922** (File)
4 letters. - 1921-1922. - Ref. Nr: Rorsch OR 2 : 4.
Ed.: 1921-1922.
Lang.: German.
Aut.: Roemer, Georg August Hermann. 1892-1972.
Addr.: Rorschach, Olga. 1878-1961.
- 8 **2/5 : Correspondence with Eugen Bleuler and his wife 1923-1932** (File)
8 letters. - 1923-1932. - Ref. Nr: Rorsch OR 2 : 5.
Ed.: 1923-1932.
Content: Two typewritten letters from Eugen Bleuler to Olga Rorschach, 4 handwritten letters from O.R. to Eugen Bleuler, 2 handwritten letters from O.R. to the wife of Eugen Bleuler.
Loc.orig.: The letters from Olga Rorschach to Eugen Bleuler and his wife are located in the Bleuler-Archiv, Psychiatrische Universitätsklinik Burghölzli in Zurich.
Reprod.: The letters from Olga Rorschach to Eugen Bleuler and his wife may be reproduced only with agreement of the Bleuler Archiv.
Lang.: German.
Aut.: Rorschach, Olga. 1878-1961.
Aut.: Bleuler, Eugen. 1857-1939.
Addr.: Rorschach, Olga. 1878-1961.
Bleuler, Eugen. 1857-1939.
- 9 **2/6 : Letters from Oskar Pfister to Olga Rorschach** (File)
2 letters. - 1924-1932. - Ref. Nr: Rorsch OR 2 : 6.
Ed.: 1924-1932.
Lang.: German.
Aut.: Pfister, Oskar. 1873-1956.

- Addr.:* Rorschach, Olga. 1878-1961.
- 10 **2/7 : Letters from Henri F. Ellenberger to Olga Rorschach 1953-1954** (File)
2 letters. - 1953-1954. - Ref. Nr: Rorsch OR 2 : 7.
Ed.: 1953-1954.
Lang.: German.
Aut.: Ellenberger, Henri Frédéric. 1905-1993.
Addr.: Rorschach, Olga. 1878-1961.
- 11 **2/8 : Correspondence with Adolf Friedemann 1955-1960** (File)
3 letters, 1 copy of a letter from Friedemann to H.F. Ellenberger, 1 copy of a letter from Friedemann to Prof. H. Strahm. - 1955-1960. - Ref. Nr: Rorsch OR 2 : 8.
Ed.: 1955-1960.
Lang.: German.
Aut.: Rorschach, Olga. 1878-1961.
Aut.: Friedemann, Adolf. 1902-1981.
Addr.: Friedemann, Adolf. 1902-1981.
Rorschach, Olga. 1878-1961.
- 12 **2/9 : Correspondence with Hans Christoffel 1947** (File)
2 letters. - 1947. - Ref. Nr: Rorsch OR 2 : 9.
Ed.: 1947.
Content: The correspondence concerns G.A. Roemer.
Lang.: German.
Aut.: Rorschach, Olga. 1878-1961.
Aut.: Christoffel, Hans. 1888-1959.
Addr.: Rorschach, Olga. 1878-1961.
Christoffel, Hans. 1888-1959.
- 13 **2/10 : Correspondence with various persons** (File)
30 letters, 4 postcards, 2 enclosures. - 1916-1960. - Ref. Nr: Rorsch OR 2 : 10.
Ed.: 1916-1960.
Arrangt.: Arranged chronologically.
Lang.: German, English, Russian.
Aut.: Rorschach, Olga. 1878-1961.
Addr.: Rorschach, Olga. 1878-1961.
- 14 **2/11 : Correspondence with Hans and Greti Burri-Brauchli** (File)
6 letters. - 1922-19uu. - Ref. Nr: Rorsch OR 2 : 11.
Content: Photocopy of a typewritten letter to O.R. and photocopies of 5 undated handwritten letters from O.R. The first one was most probably written in 1922.

Loc.orig.: The originals are in possession of Christine Kammer, Bern.

Lang.: German.

Aut.: Rorschach, Olga. 1878-1961.

Aut.: Burri, Hans. 1893-1980.

Addr.: Burri, Hans. 1893-1980.

Burri-Brauchli, Greti.

15 **2/12 : Correspondence with Max Müller** (File)

4 letters. - 192u. - Ref. Nr: Rorsch OR 2 : 12.

Content: Photocopy of a typewritten letter from Max Müller and photocopies of 3 undated handwritten letters from O.R.

Loc.orig.: The originals are located at Burgerbibliothek Bern, FA Müller 8.

Lang.: German.

Aut.: Rorschach, Olga. 1878-1961.

Aut.: Müller, Max. Psychiater. 1894-1980.

Addr.: Müller, Max. Psychiater. 1894-1980.

Rorschach, Olga. 1878-1961.

16 **3 : Manuscripts** (File)

2 manuscripts. - 193u-19uu. - Ref. Nr: Rorsch OR 3.

Content: 2 typewritten manuscripts of lectures titled "Über das weibliche und das männliche Prinzip" and "Zur Psychologie und Problematik der Frau" respectively.

Lang.: German.

Aut.: Rorschach, Olga. 1878-1961.

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