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**Archives of the History of American Psychology**  
University Libraries, The University of Akron

**Irwin A. Berg Papers**

COLLECTION DATES: 1955-1978

VOLUME: 0.5 linear feet

ACCESS: Open Access/ Photocopying Restrictions

PROCESSED BY: Lizette Royer, May 2007

**Biographical Note**

Irwin August Berg was born October 9, 1913 in Chicago, Illinois. He received his BA in psychology from Knox College in 1936 and his doctoral degree in physiological psychology from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in 1942. Berg worked for a brief time at the Western Electric Company during high school and returned to the company after finishing his undergraduate degree. He worked as the cost accounting clerk and was later transferred to the personnel research department to work as a counselor. During this time Berg worked with W.J. Dickinson and Fritz Roethlisberger, two of the psychologists working on the Hawthorne hypothesis, and was introduced to the method of non-authoritarian interviewing. Berg left his job at Western Electric in order to attend graduate school and upon earning his PhD accepted a position at the State Prison of Southern Michigan. He remained in this position only a short time before accepting his first academic appointment at the University of Illinois (1942-1947). In 1947 Berg accepted a faculty position at Pomona College in Claremont, California but only remained in the position for a year before accepting an appointment at Northwestern University where he stayed for seven years. In 1955 he accepted the position of chair of the Department of Psychology at Louisiana State University in order to assist in furthering the development of the clinical psychology graduate program. In 1965 he became the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Louisiana State University and remained in this position until his retirement in 1978.

Berg is best known for his work in clinical and counseling psychology. Berg and his colleague, L.A. Pennington, published one of the first textbooks in clinical psychology, *An Introduction to Clinical Psychology*, in 1948. The edited volume would be printed three times. Berg is also known for his research surrounding the deviation hypothesis, a topic that spurred over 100 articles, half of which were written by Berg and/or his students. During his long career in psychology Berg wrote over 100 articles and wrote or edited five books. In 1959 Berg chaired a committee appointed by the American Psychological Association's (APA) Education and Training Board to research the status of counseling psychology. The committee's final report suggested that APA Division 17 (counseling psychology) and APA Division 12 (clinical psychology) should merge as counseling psychology did not warrant its own division and in fact

should not be considered a sub-field of psychology. Members of APA Division 17 protested the committee's report and thus it was never published.

Berg was an active leader in psychology serving as president of the Illinois Psychological Association, the Southwestern Psychological Association, as well as APA Division 17 (1964). He served three terms on APA's Council of Representatives as well serving as chairman of APA's Convention Committee and program chairman of the National Vocational Guidance Association. He served as the book review co-editor for the Journal of Counseling Psychology and editor of Counseling News and Views. Berg died March 1, 2001 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

\* Baker, D.B. (2002). Irwin August Berg (1913-2001). *The American Psychologist*, 57(9), 723.

\* Berg, I.A. (1972) A venture in autobiography. In T.S. Krawiec (Ed.), *The Psychologists* (Vol. 1, pp. 39-66). New York: Oxford University Press.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The Irwin Berg Papers are organized in the following series:

1. Confederate Psychological Association
2. Raymond Cattell Festschrift
3. Counseling Psychology Material.

The bulk of this small collection contains correspondence, reports, memorandums, and reprints regarding Berg's work with the American Psychological Association's Special Committee of the Division of Counseling Psychology. Of particular interest is the correspondence between Berg and other committee members as well as various counseling psychologists regarding what eventually became the committee's final report.

Also of interest is material related to Berg's work with the Confederate Psychological Association. Included within this series is correspondence with fellow members, membership lists and cards, programs for meetings and events.

Biographical information is very limited and the collection itself lacks information and material regarding other areas of research that Berg was involved in beyond the special committee.

Access to the collection is open, however photocopying is restricted.

### **Series Descriptions**

#### **I. Confederate Psychological Association**

Series contains material related to Berg's work with the Confederate Psychological Association. Included are correspondence, membership lists, membership cards, and meeting programs.

## **II. Raymond Cattell Festschrift**

Series includes material regarding a biographical chapter Berg wrote about Raymond Cattell. Included are rough drafts of Berg's work which are annotated by Cattell as well as lengthy correspondence between the two psychologists regarding the chapter.

## **III. Counseling Psychology Material**

Series contains material related to Berg's work on the American Psychological Association's Special Committee of the Division of Counseling Psychology. Included are correspondence, rough drafts of the committee's final report, the committee's final report, and various written works by Berg and others regarding the past, present, and future of counseling psychology.

### **Related Materials**

Materials related to Irwin Berg appear in the following AHAP collections:

SPSSI Archives, APA Division 12 Papers, APA Division 14 Papers, APA Division 16 Papers, Midwestern Psychological Association, Southwestern Psychological Association, Adkins Papers, Allen Papers, Bass Papers, Crissey Papers, Halstead Papers, Holt Papers, Ives Papers, Knapp Papers, MacLeod Papers, Maslow Papers, Murphy Papers, Pascal Papers, Rokeach Papers, Shaffer Papers, Shakow Papers, Tyler Papers, Verplanck Papers, and Waldrop Papers.

### **Inventory**

#### **Box 1: [M3542]**

Folder 1: Confederate Psychological Association Material, [1956-4960]

Folder 2: Raymond Cattell Festschrift Material, [1960-1978]

Folder 3: "Status of Counseling Material", [1959-1962]

Folder 4: "Schoben-Berg Committee on Counseling" [1955-1960]

Folder 5: "Schoben-Berg Committee on Counseling" [1960-1978]