ROBITSCHER, JONAS B.
Jonas Robitscher papers, 1966-2001

Emory University
Emory Law Archives
Hugh F. MacMillan Law Library
1301 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30322
404-727-0059

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Robitscher, Jonas B.
Title: Jonas Robitscher papers, 1966-2001
Call Number: L-038
Extent: 11.4 linear ft. (29 boxes)
Abstract: Contains Jonas Robitscher's professional papers from 1967-1981 as well as correspondence, photographs, and audiovisual material.
Language: Materials in English and French.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction
All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

Custodial History
A portion of the collection was received from the Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library in March 2014.

Citation
[after identification of item(s)], Jonas Robitscher Papers, Emory Law Archives, Hugh F. MacMillan Law Library, Emory University.

Processing
Processed by Clayton McGahee, 2013.

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Collection Description

Biographical Note
Jonas Robitscher, J.D., M.D. (1920-1981), lawyer, professor of law, and psychiatrist. Born October 28, 1920 in New York City, Robitscher received his A.B. from Brown University in 1942 where he was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa academic honor society. After working as a Washington Bureau reporter for the Wall Street Journal (1944-46), Robitscher enrolled at George Washington University where he graduated from both the School of Law (1948) and the School of Medicine (1955). During this time Robitscher was an attorney for the Federal Trade Commission (1948-51). His medical training began in 1955 when he served as an intern at the George Washington University Hospital, afterwards beginning his residency in psychiatry at the Institute of the Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia (1956-59). It was during this time as the consulting psychiatrist at Graterford Prison when Robitscher saw firsthand the influence a psychiatrist held in the criminal field, how one poor psychiatric evaluation could dictate the number of years a patient would spend at a mental institution.

Among his many professional accomplishments, Robitscher became a lecturer in law and psychiatry at Villanova University and an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania, where he directed a program on social-legal uses of forensic psychiatry for the National Institute of Health. Then from 1971 to 1981, Robitscher was the Henry R. Luce Professor of Law and the Behavioral Sciences at Emory, serving on the faculty departments of both the law and medical schools. In this role, he was able to pursue the academic questions that remained unanswered within forensic law. His founding of the Annual Interdisciplinary Symposium in Law and the Behavioral Sciences brought scholars, doctors, lawyers, and social scientists together, dealing with topics such as the rights of mental patients and the rights of children.

In addition to numerous professional positions and affiliations, Robitscher published over eighty articles and three books, with a fourth book unfinished at the time of his death. The topics of his extensive collection of writings range from medical ethics, sterilization, abortion, and right to treatment, to forensic psychiatry topics including criminal responsibility, psychiatric testimony, psychiatry conditions in correctional facilities, among many others. His most controversial work was his book titled The Powers of Psychiatry where Robitscher critiqued the abuses of psychiatry and how the psychiatric community long held unconstrained powers over numerous areas of human conduct. Published by Houghton Mifflin in 1980, this work represents the culmination of Robitscher’s life work as a pioneer in forensic psychiatry.

Jonas Robitscher died of cancer in 1981 at his home in Atlanta.

Scope and Content Note
The Jonas Robitscher Papers consists primarily of his professional papers from 1967 to 1981, including two separate drafts of his most recognized work The Powers of Psychiatry, typescript drafts of "The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry" and "Abraham Lincoln," numerous papers, lectures, articles written by Robitscher, and other publications both written by and about Jonas Robitscher. Other materials include personal and professional correspondence, promotional material related to Robitscher's work, papers from the Robitscher Society, photographs of Robitscher and his family, and audiovisual material.
**Arrangement Note**
Organized into the following series: (1) Writings, (2) Publications, (3) Correspondence, (4) Photographs, (5) Collected works, (6) Conferences and other papers, and (7) Audiovisual material.
Description of Series

Series I: Writings, 1967-1980, undated
Series II: Correspondence, 1969-1982
Series III: Photographs, undated
Series V: Collected works, 1966-1994
Series VI: Conferences and other papers, 1968-2001
Series I
Writings, 1967-1980, undated
Boxes 1-10

Scope and Content Note
This series contains the complete, final manuscript draft of *The Powers of Psychiatry*, as well as an early draft of the same work titled "The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry." This draft includes 24 unique chapter manuscripts in addition to drafts of the abstract, outline, and introduction of the book. Also included are manuscripts and printed articles covering a variety of topics including eugenic sterilization, juvenile psychiatry, drug abuse, marijuana, retarded offenders, the right to die, extended life, and abortion.

Arrangement Note
Arranged in alphabetical order.

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"Doctors' Privileged Communications, Public Life, and History's Rights," 1968 May
"Drug Abuse, Structure, and Society," 1968
"Drug-Taking Minors and Physician Responsibility," undated
"The Dynamics of Morality and Marihuana," undated
"Ethical Considerations in De-institutionalization," 1980 March 21
"Eugenic Sterilization: A Biomedical Intervention," manuscripts (1 of 2), undated
"Eugenic Sterilization: A Biomedical Intervention," manuscripts (2 of 2), undated
"Eugenic Sterilization: A Biomedical Intervention," manuscript, undated
"Forensic Psychiatry," undated
"Hearing on the Use of Psychotropic Medicine," 1980 November 25
Henry R. Luce Chair Program, annual report, 1978-1979
"Informed Consent for Psychoanalysis," 1978 May 7
Issac Ray lecture (1 of 2), 1977 October 6
Issac Ray lecture (2 of 2), 1977 October 6
"Issues in Law and Psychiatry," 1973 March 15
"Legal Psychiatry and the Community," 1970 November 11
"Legal Standards and Their Implications Regarding Civil Commitment Procedures," 2 versions, 1974
"The Limits of Psychiatric Authority," 2 versions, [1974]
"The Many Faces of Forensic Psychiatry," undated
"Marriage, Divorce, and Mental Disability," 1966 June
"Medical Limits of Criminality," 1970 November
"Mental Disability and Legal Rights," 1969
"Mental Suffering and Traumatic Neurosis," undated
"Methadone Treatment for Heroin Addicts," undated
"Morality, Marijuana, and the Law," 1969 September
"The New Face of Legal Psychiatry," 1972
"Non-Coercive Therapy," undated
"The Obligation to Die vs. the Price of Survival," undated
"Panel: Biological vs. Psychological Parenthood in Child-Custody Disputes: Implications for the Foster Care System," 1976 December 29
"Paranoia and the Nature of Man," 1971 September 7
Pennsylvania Abortion Law Commission address, 1972 February 24
Pennsylvania Hospital Annual Joint Staff Meeting address, 1972 March 21

*The Powers of Psychiatry*, final manuscript draft (intro-chapter 4)

*The Powers of Psychiatry*, final manuscript draft (chapter 5-chapter 8)

*The Powers of Psychiatry*, final manuscript draft (chapter 9-chapter 11)

*The Powers of Psychiatry*, final manuscript draft (chapter 12-chapter 15)

*The Powers of Psychiatry*, final manuscript draft (chapter 16-chapter 18)

*The Powers of Psychiatry*, final manuscript draft (chapter 19-chapter 21)

*The Powers of Psychiatry*, final manuscript draft (chapter 22-chapter 24)

*The Powers of Psychiatry*, final manuscript draft (chapter 25-footnotes)

*The Powers of Psychiatry*, final manuscript draft (footnotes)

*The Powers of Psychiatry*, "master draft" (chapter 9), 1979

*The Powers of Psychiatry*, "master draft" (chapter 10-16), 1979

*The Powers of Psychiatry*, "master draft" (chapter 17-24), 1979

*The Powers of Psychiatry*, "master draft" (chapter 25-index), 1979

"Predicting Dangerousness: In Whose Interest?" undated

"The Prediction of Dangerousness and the Protection of the Public," 3 copies, undated


"Psychiatric Needs of Georgia Prisoners," 3 copies, 1974 September 14


"The Psychiatrist and the Juvenile Court," 1966

"Public Life and Private Information," 1967

"Pushing the Button," 2 copies, undated


"Response to Ken Anderson," undated

"The Retarded Offender," 1969

"The Right of Society to Protect its Members," undated

"The Right to Die," 1972 November 30

"The Right to Treatment," 1974 August

"Robitscher Lecture I" manuscript, undated

"Robitscher Lecture II" manuscript, undated

"Sensitizing Doctors to Society Through Law," 1974 April 26

"Should Psychiatrists Get Out of the Courtroom?" 1977 December

"Social Legal Psychiatry," undated

"Some Practical Considerations in Legal Psychiatry," undated

"Special Committee on Uniform Narcotic and Hallucinogenic Drugs Act statement, 1958 July 26
"Statement of Jonas Robitscher, J.D., M.D., Meeting on Abortion," 1972 November 18


"Sterilization and Abortion," 1965 October

"Three Forensic Psychiatry Programs in the Greater Philadelphia Area," 1970

"Turning From Hatred," 1971 August 22

"Two Views Through the Kaleidoscope," undated

"United Presbyterian Church Address," 1972 November 18

"Uses and Abuses," Chapter 1 draft, undated

"Uses and Abuses," Chapter 2 draft, undated

"Uses and Abuses," Chapter 4 draft, undated

The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry, outline and introduction, circa 1979

The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry, Chapter 1 draft with corrections, undated

The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry, Chapter 2 draft with corrections, undated

The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry, Chapter 3 draft with corrections, undated

The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry, Chapter 4 draft with corrections, undated

The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry, Chapter 5 draft with corrections, undated

The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry, Chapter 6 draft with corrections, undated

The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry, Chapter 7 draft with corrections, undated

The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry, Chapter 8 draft with corrections, undated

The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry, Chapter 9 draft with corrections, undated

The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry, Chapter 10 draft with corrections, undated

The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry, Chapter 11 draft with corrections, undated

The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry, Chapter 12 draft with corrections, undated

The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry, Chapter 13 draft with corrections, undated

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The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry, Chapter 18 draft with corrections, undated

The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry, Chapter 19 draft with corrections, undated

The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry, Chapter 20 draft with corrections, undated

The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry, Chapter 21 draft with corrections, undated

The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry, Chapter 22 draft with corrections, undated

The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry, Chapter 23 draft with corrections, undated

The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry, Chapter 24 draft with corrections, undated

The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry, Chapter 25 draft with corrections, undated

"The Villanova Papers on Discrimination Against Mental Patients and Former Mental Patients," undated

"Voluntary Imprisonment," 1965
9 12  "What to do About Marihuana," undated
9 13  "Who is Dangerous? Involuntary Psychiatric Patients and Commitment
      Procedures," 1976 June 8
9 14  Unidentified: "Transition-Chapter 2 final," undated
9 15  Unidentified: "Chapter 7-Labeling, Predicting, Stigmatizing," undated
10 1  Unidentified: "Chapter 8-Predicting Dangerousness," undated
10 2  Unidentified: "Chapter 9-Profiles and Automated Diagnoses; Computers; Stigma
      and Discrimination," undated
Series II
Correspondence, 1969-1982
Boxes 10-11

Scope and Content Note
This series contains professional correspondence related to Robitscher's work "Eugenic Sterilization: A Biomedical Intervention," book proposals, speeches and addresses, as well as personal correspondence with friends and colleagues. Also included are condolence letters addressed to Jean Bergmark after Robitscher's passing.

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<td>&quot;Right to Treatment,&quot; 1972</td>
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Series III
Photographs, undated
Box 11

Scope and Content Note
This series contains photographs of Jonas Robitscher, taken mostly during his tenure as the Henry R. Luce Professor of Law and the Behavioral Sciences at Emory. Also included are photographs of Robitscher's family.

Arranged in alphabetical order.

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Series IV  
Box 12  

Scope and Content Note  
This series contains articles written by and about Jonas Robitscher, newspaper clippings, and journals.

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Series V
Collected works, 1966-1994
Boxes 13-18

Scope and Content Note
This series contains a collection of Robitscher writings, clippings, printed ephemera, correspondence, and photographs. These materials were formerly housed in binders that were compiled by Robitscher's assistant. The titles given represent the way the sections were identified in the binders.

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### Jonas Robitscher Papers, 1966-2001

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Series VI
Conferences and other papers, 1968-2001
Boxes 19-20

Scope and Content Note
This series contains material from various conferences attended by Dr. Robitscher during the 1960s and 1970s. Also included are transcriptions, promotional material related to Robitscher's writings, correspondence, memorandums, and newsletters from the Robitscher Society, correspondence and programs related to the Jonas Robitscher Memorial Lecture, and papers from Robitscher's wife, Jean Bergmark.

Conferences

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<td>Mary Scott Newbold Symposium on Drug Abuse, 1968</td>
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<td>Pennsylvania Medical Society Annual Scientific Assembly, 1970</td>
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<td>Rutgers Symposium on Drug Abuse, 1968-1969</td>
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Other Papers

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<td>Jonas Robitscher Memorial Lecture, 1986-1987</td>
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<td>Obituaries about Robitscher, 1981</td>
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<td>&quot;PJR - Praxis Juridique et Religion,&quot; in French, 1997</td>
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<td>Professional writing about Robitscher, 1967, 1971</td>
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<td>Robitscher Society and Fund, 1994-2001</td>
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20  9  Other printed material, 1999-2001
20  10  Writings by others, 1961, 1970, undated
20  11  Miscellaneous
**Series VII**  
**Audiovisual material, 1970-1994**  
**Boxes 21-29**

**Scope and Content Note**
This series contains video and sound recordings of Robitscher lectures, reviews, and interviews. Also included are five videocassettes of the Judicial Archives / Legal History Symposium held at Emory Law School in 1984.

Arranged by format and then alphabetically.

**Videotapes**

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<td>&quot;Dr. Robitscher's talk - #2, Clayton Mental Health Center,&quot; Betamax videocassette, 1976 January 12</td>
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<td>&quot;Interview with Dr. Jonas Robitscher,&quot; Betacam SP videocassette, 1994 October 25</td>
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<td>&quot;Interview with Jonas Robitscher,&quot; aired on The Today Show, Betamax videocassette, 1980 August 19</td>
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<td>&quot;President Jimmy Carter at Emory Law School,&quot; Betamax videocassette, 1991 February 20</td>
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Audiotapes

27  3  "Eugenic Sterilization" cassette tapes (6), 1970
28  "ABC Closeup - Mission: Mind Control," 1979 January 30
28  "Adol Lecture - Kelly Class - Assoc.," 1969 December 1
28  "Adol Lecture - Kelly"
28  "Altsholer," 1978 June 19
28  "Cactus Pryor Show with Jonas Robitscher; Sherry Benn Interview"
28  Cobb County Symposium: "Can 'Professionals' Talk to Each Other?"
28  Cobb County Symposium: "Meaning of Maturity," 1974
28  Cobb County Symposium: Panel Discussion, 1974
28  "Dennis O'Hare Interview, WGST," 1980 December 26
28  "Drummond, Today;" Program on CIA, ABC Network, 1977, 1979
28  "Emory 3rd Year Students," 1977
28  "Howard K. Smith 'Madness and Medicine',' 1977 May 26
29  "Interview by Jay Neoly, WLTL FM," 1980 May 19
29  "Review of The Powers of Psychiatry by Justice Marion Opala of the Oklahoma
   State Supreme Court," 1980 October 6
29  "2nd Sunday Night Meeting Dr Robichaud [sic] on Psych and Crime," 1977
   November 20
29  "Sherry Hardy Show," 1980 May 27
29  "The Right to Die" (43:28) Catacomb Cassettes
29  "The Today Show," 1978 February 27 (1 of 2)
29  "The Today Show," 1978 February 27 (2 of 2)
29  Today in Psychiatry, 1974
29  "Uses and Abuses"
29  "Values"
29  Unidentified cassette (1 of 3)
29  Unidentified cassette (2 of 3)
29  Unidentified cassette (3 of 3)
29  Micro-cassette: "3rd Robitscher lecture, Alan A. Stone MD," 1987 October 14
29  Cassette labels, 1974, 1977