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.
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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6  23  "Sterilization and Abortion," 1965 October
6  24  "Three Forensic Psychiatry Programs in the Greater Philadelphia Area," 1970
6  25  "Turning From Hatred," 1971 August 22
6  26  "Two Views Through the Kaleidoscope," undated
6  27  "United Presbyterian Church Address," 1972 November 18
7  1   "Uses and Abuses," Chapter 1 draft, undated
7  2   "Uses and Abuses," Chapter 2 draft, undated
7  3   "Uses and Abuses," Chapter 4 draft, undated
7  4   The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry, outline and introduction, circa 1979
7  5   The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry, Chapter 1 draft with corrections, undated
7  6   The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry, Chapter 2 draft with corrections, undated
7  7   The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry, Chapter 3 draft with corrections, undated
7  8   The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry, Chapter 4 draft with corrections, undated
7  9   The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry, Chapter 5 draft with corrections, undated
7 10   The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry, Chapter 6 draft with corrections, undated
7 11   The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry, Chapter 7 draft with corrections, undated
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9  7   The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry, Chapter 23 draft with corrections, undated
9  8   The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry, Chapter 24 draft with corrections, undated
9  9   The Uses and Abuses of Psychiatry, Chapter 25 draft with corrections, undated
9 10   "The Villanova Papers on Discrimination Against Mental Patients and Former Mental Patients," undated
9 11   "Voluntary Imprisonment," 1965
9 12 "What to do About Marihuana," undated
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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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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<td>&quot;The Emory Wheel&quot; (2 copies), 2001 May 11</td>
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<td>&quot;The Human Life Review,&quot; 1979</td>
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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. Arranged in original order.

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<td>&quot;Report of the Medical Advisory Committee to the Department of Offender Rehabilitation,&quot; 1974 January</td>
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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>&quot;PJR - Praxis Juridique et Religion,&quot; in French, 1997</td>
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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;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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### Audiotapes

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