

# **Peter Heller Papers**

## **A Finding Aid to the Papers in the Sigmund Freud Collection in the Library of Congress**



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**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.**

**2008**

**Revised 2010 April**

Contact information:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/mss.contact>

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms008110>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm90080722>

Prepared by Brian McGuire and Allan Teichroew  
Revised and expanded by Margaret McAleer

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Peter Heller Papers

**Span Dates:** 1925-1992

**ID No.:** MSS80722

**Creator:** Heller, Peter, 1920-

**Extent:** 825 items ; 2 containers ; .8 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in German and English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Summary:** Author and educator. Correspondence, patient case notes, poetry, and other writings by Heller relating to Anna Freud's psychoanalysis of him as a child in Vienna, Austria.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### People

Blos, Peter. Peter Blos papers.

Burlingham, Dorothy T. Dorothy T. Burlingham papers.

Erikson, Erik H. (Erik Homburger), 1902-1994. Erik H. Erikson papers.

Freud, Anna, 1895-1982. Anna Freud papers.

Freud, W. Ernest, 1914- W. Ernest Freud papers.

Heller, Peter, 1920-

Heller, Peter, 1920- Eine Kinderanalyse bei Anna Freud (1929-1932). 1983.

Rosenfeld, Eva Marie, 1892-1977. Eva Marie Rosenfeld papers.

Ross, Victor, 1919- Victor Ross papers.

Schmiderer, Mary Burlingham, 1917-1974. Mary Burlingham Schmiderer papers.

Valenstein, Katrina Burlingham, 1919- Katrina Burlingham Valenstein papers.

### Organizations

Hietzing School.

### Subjects

Child analysis.

Education--Austria--Vienna.

Private schools--Austria--Vienna.

Psychoanalysis--Austria--Vienna.

### Occupations

Authors.

Educators.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The papers of Peter Heller, author and educator, were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1990 and 1992. An addition was given by Heller in 1991.

### Processing History

The papers of Peter Heller were arranged and described in 1991. The collection was expanded and revised in 1996. The finding aid was further revised in 2008.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Peter Heller is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Peter Heller are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Peter Heller Papers, Sigmund Freud Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

| <i>Date</i>   | <i>Event</i>  |
|---------------|---|
| 1920, Jan. 11 | Born, Vienna, Austria   |
| 1929-1932     | Analysand of Anna Freud<br>Student, Hietzing School, Vienna, Austria  |
| 1938          | Fled Austria  |
| circa 1940    | Interned in England and then sent to Canada   |
| 1943          | Married Katrina Burlingham (divorced)   |
| 1944          | B.A., McGill University, Montreal, Canada<br>Immigrated to the United States  |
| 1947          | Naturalized as a United States citizen  |
| 1951          | Married Christiane Menzel<br>Ph.D., Columbia University, New York, N.Y.   |
| 1951-1954     | Instructor in German, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.  |
| 1954-1968     | Associate professor, professor, and Commonwealth Professor, University of Massachusetts,<br>Amherst, Mass.  |
| 1967          | Published with Edith Ehrlich <i>German Fiction and Poetry</i> . New York: Macmillan   |
| 1973          | Appointed professor of German and comparative literature, State University of New York,<br>Buffalo, N.Y.  |
| 1983          | Coedited with Günther Bittner <i>Eine Kinderanalyse bei Anna Freud</i> . Würzburg: Königshausen &<br>Neumann  |
| 1990          | Published <i>A Child Analysis with Anna Freud</i> , translated by Salomé Burckhardt and Mary Weigand<br>and revised by the author. Madison, Conn.: International Universities Press |

1992                      Published *Anna Freud's Letters to Eva Rosenfeld*. Madison, Conn.: International Universities Press

1998, Nov. 7              Died, Buffalo, N.Y.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Peter Heller (1920-1998) span the years 1925-1992 and consist of material relating to the psychoanalysis of Heller by Anna Freud between 1929 and 1932 when he was a child in Vienna. Freud kept notes of Heller's analysis and in 1974 forwarded the entire file to him. Included in the papers are original jottings, drawings, and poetry by the analysand, as well as reproductions and copies of correspondence between Heller and Freud, 1972-1981, discussing Freud's gift of the items to Heller and his subsequent use and publication of the material.

The collection illustrates Anna Freud's early methods as an analyst and represents ideas and values expressed in her book, *The Ego and the Mechanisms of Defence* (1937). Heller marked and numbered the material after receiving it and edited it for two versions he published. The first, *Eine Kinderanalyse bei Anna Freud*, coedited with Günther Bittner, appeared in 1983, and the second, *A Child Analysis with Anna Freud*, translated by Salomé Burckhardt and Mary Weigand, was published in 1990.

The papers also include files relating to the Hietzing School conducted by Dorothy T. Burlingham, Eva Marie Rosenfeld, and Anna Freud in Vienna between 1927 and 1932. Most of the school's students were either undergoing analysis like Heller or had parents in analysis. The files consist of correspondence, transcripts of interviews and conversations, reminiscences, writings, and responses to a questionnaire prepared by Heller concerning the school's founding, administration, and progressive curriculum based on the "project method" and psychoanalytic pedagogy. Correspondents include Dorothy T. Burlingham and Eva Marie Rosenfeld; the school's first teachers, Peter Blos and Erik H. Erikson; and a number of its students, including Mary Burlingham Schmiderer ("Mabbie") and Katrina Burlingham Valenstein, Eva Rosenfeld's son, Victor Ross, and Anna Freud's nephew, W. Ernest Freud.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material or topic and thereunder chronologically.

# Container List

| <i>Container</i> | <i>Contents</i>   |
|------------------|---|
| BOX 1            | Analytic case notes, analysis of Heller by Anna Freud, 1929-1932<br>(4 folders) |
| BOX 1            | Correspondence with Anna Freud, 1972-1981                                       |
| BOX 1            | Writings  |
| BOX 1            | <i>Eine Kinderanalyse bei Anna Freud</i> (first draft), undated                 |
| BOX 1            | Poetry, 1930, undated   |
| BOX 2            | Hietzing School, Vienna, Austria  |
| BOX 2            | Aichhorn, August, 1974  |
| BOX 2            | Blos, Peter, 1931, 1975-1983  |
| BOX 2            | Burlingham, Dorothy T., 1974-1975, undated                                      |
| BOX 2            | "B" miscellaneous, 1974-1992, undated   |
| BOX 2            | DeForest, Judy, 1983-1989   |
| BOX 2            | Erikson, Erik H.  |
| BOX 2            | Correspondence, 1959, 1980-1989, undated  |
| BOX 2            | Writings, 1930-1931, 1975   |
| BOX 2            | Freud, W. Ernest, 1970-1992   |
| BOX 2            | "G" miscellaneous, 1982-1991  |
| BOX 2            | Heller, Peter, 1991-1992  |
| BOX 2            | Inventory of files, undated   |
| BOX 2            | "I-M" miscellaneous, 1982-1990  |
| BOX 2            | Pictorial material, 1925-1935, undated  |
| BOX 2            | Questionnaire, undated  |
| BOX 2            | Rosenfeld, Eva Marie, 1972-1977, undated  |
| BOX 2            | "R-S" miscellaneous, 1973-1991  |
| BOX 2            | "Weihnachtszeitung," school Christmas journal, 1928-1929                        |