

Collection #  
SC 2674

## ANITA MARY MÜHL BIOGRAPHY, CA. 1999

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Processed by

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### COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: 1 folder

COLLECTION  
DATES: 1999

PROVENANCE: Siegmur Muehl, 430 Crestview Avenue, Iowa City, IA, 52245-5222.

RESTRICTIONS:	None
COPYRIGHT:	Owned by Siegmur Muehl.
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	None
RELATED HOLDINGS:	Muehl, Siegmur Freeman, <i>Etchings from a Corner Drug Store</i> , 1920.
ACCESSION NUMBER:	2000.0203
NOTES:	The manuscript in the collection is a photocopy made on acid-free bond paper; the original manuscript was also a photocopy.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Anita Mary Mühl was born on 19 April 1886 to Siegmur and Mary Florence Mühl in Indianapolis, Indiana. Her father worked as a pharmacist and owned a drug store on the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> and Illinois Street.

In 1914 at the age of 28, Mühl enrolled in course work in the field of medicine at Butler College. She then transferred to Indiana University where she earned her Bachelor of Science and received her MD degree in June 1920. She performed her residency at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis where she specialized in psychiatry.

After a year of service at St. Vincent Hospital, Mühl was appointed to the U.S. Medical Service, Psychiatric Division, in Washington, D.C. While in the Washington area she attended George Washington University and received a PhD, possibly in clinical psychology, in 1923.

Mühl briefly returned to Indianapolis in 1924. Later that same year she moved with her widowed father to San Diego, California, where she established a private practice. She also worked for the state counseling troubled children. From 1927 to 1929 Mühl served as psychiatrist for the California State Department of Education and as chief of the Division of Special Education. Mühl resigned her post for the opportunity to study the psychoanalytic style of Karl Jung at the University of Vienna.

In 1931 Mühl returned to the United States to participate in a criminal investigation and became the victim of a crime herself. Her psychological findings of an African-American man charged with the murder of his wife helped to commute his sentence from death to life in prison. On 23 August 1931 Mühl was stabbed fifteen times by one of her female patients, but survived the attack.

In the 1930's Mühl traveled all over the world and met many famous people, including Mohandas Gandhi in 1938. From 1938 through 1941 she taught in Australia as a half-time lecturer in psychiatry and criminology at the University of Melbourne. During the 1930s she developed an interest in graphology, studying the handwriting of manic-depressive and schizophrenic patients.

Mühl was also an author. She published two books: *Automatic Writing* in 1930, and *The ABC of Criminology* in 1941, which was a compilation of her lectures at the University of Australia.

Anita Mühl died from cancer on 14 December 1952. She is buried in Crown Hill Cemetery with her parents. She never married. Her estate was distributed to the Little Sisters of the Poor in Indianapolis, the American Medical Women's Association scholarship fund, and Indiana University's School of Medicine.

Source: Material in the manuscript biography.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection consists of one 29-page manuscript biography entitled: *Anita Mary Mühl, MD, PhD (1886-1952): A Woman of High Ambitions and Noted Accomplishments*, written by her cousin Siegmund Mühl. The biography covers Mühl's life, travels, and medical career. The item also discusses her religious beliefs, and interests in Jungian psychology and parapsychology.

## **CATALOGING INFORMATION**

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://157.91.92.2/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, SC 2674).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.