

**Marian C. Putnam (1893-1971)**  
**Papers, 1878-1972**

**Ms-N011**

**Biographical Note:**

Marian Cabot Putnam (MCP) was born April 9, 1893, the daughter of James Jackson Putnam and Marian Cabot. After receiving the A.B. from Radcliffe in 1917, she earned her M.D. from Johns Hopkins in 1921. Initially a pediatrician at New Haven Hospital, MCP later studied psychiatry. In 1933 she went to Vienna for psychoanalytic training, being analyzed herself by Helene Deutsch. Following her European sojourn she returned to Yale, where she held the post of Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Mental Hygiene.

Returning to her native Boston in 1938, MCP focused on the clinical problems of children up to the age of 4. She lectured on the subject of child development at Boston University and Harvard Medical Schools, M.I.T. and the Simmons School of Social Work. In 1943 she founded the Children's Center, described as "the first nursery school-child guidance center in this country." The center was renamed the James Jackson Putnam Children's Center in 1946. MCP retired in 1955.

A member of BPSI since 1937, Marian Cabot Putnam died in November, 1971

**Scope and Content**

The collection consists primarily of correspondence and writings of Marian Putnam. The collection also includes a small number of Putnam family letters. Of particular note is one folder containing photographs of Sigmund Freud, a card signed by him, and two letters to MCP from Anna Freud. Also of note is a folder of correspondence including a letter from Helene Deutsch and one from Erik Erikson.

**Amount**

One box

**Container List**

- f.1 Putnam family letters, n.d., 1878-1969
- f.2 Correspondence, 1941-1971
- f.3 Photographs and correspondence, Sigmund Freud and Anna Freud, n.d., 1936-1971
- f.4 Account of J.J. Putnam, obituaries, n.d., 1918
- f.5 Applications for memberships, data re personal training, 1932-1938
- f.6 Lectures, talks and writings, 1930-1933
- f.7 Bibliographies - child development, n.d., 1959-1972
- f.8 Miscellaneous typescripts, newsclippings, photograph, n.d., 1932-1946
- f.9 "Coordination of Pediatrics and Psychiatry in the Medical School" (typescript), n.d.
- f.10 "A Study of Child Care in the First Two Years of Life", 1933

- f.11 Notes taken from "Anatomy and the problem of behaviour" by G.E. Coghill, n.d.
- f.12 Marian (Molly) Putnam's letter to Marianne Stein, a kindergarten teacher at the Putnam Children Center - Dec 27, 1959. Donated by Marianne Stein and accompanied by the postcard describing and dating the letter.

**See also:** The bulk of the papers of Marian Cabot Putnam are held at the Countway Library, Harvard Medical School