



New York State Archives

**New York State Lunatic Asylum "The Opal" Patient
Newsletter B1480**

New York State Archives
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Overview of the Records

Repository:	New York State Archives
Summary:	This series consists of bound copies of "The Opal," a monthly literary newsletter edited by patients at the State Lunatic Asylum at Utica. The newsletter contains poems, essays, news articles, correspondence, and editorials on national and local events and subjects. Subjects and themes are mostly social, literary, religious, and political.
Creator:	New York (State). State Lunatic Asylum
Title:	"The Opal" patient newsletter
Quantity:	2 cubic feet
Quantity:	10 volume(s)
Quantity:	21 editions
Inclusive Date:	1851-1860
Series:	B1480

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Arrangement

Chronological.

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Scope and Content Note

This series consists of bound copies of "The Opal," a monthly literary newsletter edited by the patients at the State Lunatic Asylum at Utica. The newsletter contains poems, essays, news articles, correspondence, and editorials on national and local events and subjects. Subjects and themes are mostly social, literary, religious, and political. Some topics are covered in a humorous or satirical manner. Some material includes information on currently held theories and attitudes concerning mental illness.

Volume One contains a few pieces of original art work.

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Related Information

Related Material

B1540 Issues of "Marcy News," Marcy Psychiatric Center newsletter, 1968-1976

B1922 Middletown Psychiatric Center Newsletters, 1935-2002

B1585 Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center Newsletters, 1957-1994

B1453 Willard State Hospital Newsletter, 1957-1980

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Other Finding Aids

Available at Repository

Alphabetical title index at fore of each volume.

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Use of Records

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions regarding access to or use of this material.

Alternate Formats AvailableAlternate Formats Available

Samples of artwork from the newsletter have been digitized and are available in State Archives Digital Collections.

["The Opal" patient newsletter, 1851-1860](#)

Administrative Information

Custodial History

These records were transferred to the State Archives on September 16, 1996 from Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center under RDA 19266.

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Access Terms

- Psychiatric hospitals--New York (State)
- Oneida County (N.Y.)
- Treating mentally ill patients
- Publicizing
- Psychiatric hospital care--New York (State)
- Utica (N.Y.)
- Newsletters
- Documenting psychiatric hospitals
- Mentally ill, Writings of the
- Mental health facilities--New York (State)
- New York (State). Office of Mental Health
- New York (State). Department of Mental Hygiene