Finding Aid to the Harry Benjamin Licenses and Awards, 1915-1975
Coll2014.063

Kyle Morgan
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Abstract: Licenses to practice medicine and awards from medical groups for Dr. Harry Benjamin, 1915-1975. Benjamin was a clinical specialist in transexualism and an advocate for transgender people.
Biographical / Historical
Dr. Harry Benjamin was born in Berlin, Germany, in 1885. He moved to New York in the 1920s and started a practice focusing on endocrinology and gender identity. Up to the 1960s, he was the go-to person for transgender people seeking medical treatment in the United States. Dr. Benjamin assisted Christine Jorgensen, Reed Erickson, Renée Richards, and numerous others to medically alter their physiology. He also provided them and other transgender people with social and legal support. In the 1960s, Benjamin helped establish the Harry Benjamin Foundation to assist transgender people in obtaining surgery. Benjamin retired in the 1970s and the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association (HBIGDA) was named in his honor.

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The collection is open to researchers. There are no access restrictions.
Processing Information
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Scope and Contents
The collection includes Dr. Harry Benjamin's licenses to practice medicine from the University of the State of New York (1915) and the Board of Medical Examiners of the State of California (1934), and awards from the American Geriatrics Society (1950), Association for the Advancement of Psychotherapy (1955), Society for the Scientific Study of Sex (1966), Harry Benjamin International Conference on Gender Identity (1975), and Fifty Year Club of American Medicine (undated).

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Subjects and Indexing Terms
Physicians -- Licenses
Awards
Transgenderism
Benjamin, Harry