

puzzles for developing logical and mathematics skills and other pieces for improving motor functions, originally created by Décoly, Descoudres, and Montessori, and then transformed, reinvented with new pedagogical ideas or simply recreated by Folch for the rehabilitation of the child with mental disorders. In addition we have material relating to the Torre-mar institute.

Last but not least, this collection comprises the professional papers of Folch's task, including personal documents, such as the diaries that he wrote during his travels, between 1926 and 1928, to study in-depth the treatment of abnormal children in European institutions.

Finally, the Archive acquires donations from the services and departments of the faculty of psychology at the Autonomous University of Barcelona. In recent years, the Archive has been provided with some psychological artifacts that are no longer useful for current research. Many of these psychological devices come from the first research done in the Autonomous in the 1970s, when the laboratory of experimental psychology was held in the monumental Sant Pau's hospital in Barcelona. We have rotators for memory studies, apparatus used for the presentation of stimulus, Skinner boxes, T-mazes of wooden for rats' learning, and so forth. For instance we have the Skinner boxes used by the emeritus professor Ramón Bayés—one of the first psychologists who introduced behaviorism in Spain. The Archives also comprises classical mental tests from seventies and eighties, such as: Binet-Simon's test, the Brunet-Lezine, the WPPSI, and the Hamburg-Wechsler or the BL for measuring motor skills of children.

Admission and Visiting Hours

The Archive and Seminar for the History of Psychology is located at the Departament de Psicologia Bàsica, Evolutiva i de l'Educació (Department of Basic, Developmental and Educational Psychology), at the faculty of Psychology in the Autonomous of Barcelona. Admission is free for students, professors and researchers. Taking out the documentation is not allowed but you can review and also photocopy it in the archive, except for a few rare items that could be in danger of damage. First-time visitors are advised to contact Milagros Sáiz (milagros.saiz@uab.es) in advance. At present, the archive is working to make the archive catalogue fully available online.

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RESEARCH NOTES

San Lázaro Psychiatric Hospital, “El Hospicio de Quito”, Ecuador

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In the strong morning light, the white-washed walls of the Hospital Psiquiátrico San Lázaro come alive with lucid sunshine. The beautiful but commanding building looks out over Quito's old town, set back from the historic center, where it retains its ambivalent mixture of the modern and medieval. It's not a welcoming structure and, externally, seems more castle than care facility. Visitors need to enter large metal gates, before climbing an external ramp, and then must announce themselves to reception in the imposing stone gatehouse. I had come, I explained, to visit the hospital, but so far had no luck getting in touch with anyone to organize an appointment.

I had heard of “El Hospicio de Quito” from colleagues in Colombia who had informed me that it was one of the oldest psychiatric hospitals in Latin America, but yet it merits barely a mention in the English language

literature and surprisingly little in the Spanish. Determined to discover more, I visited the hospital and, after arranging to return with a letter officially requesting my visit, I was shown round by one of the staff psychologists.

You can see virtually nothing of the hospital from the gatehouse, but after stepping through the iron doors you find yourself in a courtyard of surprisingly gentle beauty, filled with trees and fountains, and surrounded on all sides by the building's open internal arches. Although built at the dawn of the Renaissance, the hospital feels more like a medieval fantasy and is made up of a collection of multilevel walkways and clinical areas in cobbled courtyards that seem to have been "added on" rather than designed. The consulting rooms are sparse with high ceilings, while the patient wards, both male and female, consist of large dormitories and both indoor and outdoor communal areas around which patients meander until therapy, mealtime or visits take priority. But despite the antique façade there was a determined modernization program in progress, with both the historic chapel being restored and the clinical facilities being renovated.

As I discovered at the time, the hospital itself is not the best place to go to research its history and I have learnt in retrospect that there are much better sources for the serious investigator—albeit ones which necessitate a visit to the city. Nevertheless, I managed to find some background in Luciano Andrade Marín's



(2003) *La Lagartija que Abrió la Calle Mejía; Historietas de Quito* thanks to the assistance of the staff at the Biblioteca Municipal. The hospital lies on the site of a Jesuit seminary originally founded in 1587 as a place of training and spiritual retreat. Although damaged in the volcano eruption of 1698 and the earthquake of 1755, the building retains many of its Jesuit features including an impressive baroque entrance arch. The building lay empty for some years after the expulsion of the Jesuits in 1767, although by 1785 the Royal Order of Spain (a plaque in the hospital names them the Mercedarians) had converted the seminary into a hospice for the poor, disabled, mad, and leprous. By the time of Ecuador's independence, the hospice was notorious for the brutal treatment handed out to its mentally disturbed residents. The hospice was taken over by The Sisters of Charity in 1870 who dedicated the institution to the mentally ill and began altering the building to better accommodate its more singular purpose. Patient care was not so forward thinking, however, and a doctor who visited the hospital in 1903, quoted in Andrade Marín (2003), minced no words in describing the conditions: the patients "were treated like animals . . . writhing in unclean yards, enclosed in dirt and gloomy dungeons, fed like wild beasts . . . naked and maltreated."

Sadly, I found out little about the 20th-century history of the institution, but now considerably more humane and caring, the institution is one of the most important psychiatric hospitals in Ecuador. Those wishing to investigate further may want to obtain Mariana Landázuri Camacho's (2008) book *Salir del encierro. Medio siglo del Hospital Psiquiátrico San Lázaro*, which apparently contains a more complete history, although it seems only available from select shops in Quito. The city libraries I visited could only provided limited help,



but apparently archives relating to the hospital are held in Quito's Museo Nacional de Medicina. The building is not open to the public, but the staff were friendly and welcoming, and, at the very least, the exterior is worth a visit for its architectural beauty and evocative location. There are no histories of this important institution in the English academic literature, and Landázuri Camacho's book is apparently the only serious attempt at historical scholarship anywhere. Clearly, there is still much to be investigated about the history of this important institution.

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NEWS

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See the journal website for additional news items (historyofpsych.org/journal) and the Members Only area of the SHP website for the supplemental reports.

February 2010 Meeting of the Council of Representatives of the American Psychological Association Report

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The Council of Representatives (COR) of the American Psychological Association (APA) considered many significant agenda items at the February 2010 meeting in Washington, DC, but the most important item for the Society for the History of Psychology (SHP) was the budget for 2010. In the budget that was submitted to the COR, the APA's allocation to the Archives of the History of American Psychology

(AHAP) was \$20,000.00, an amount that was a result of action taken at the COR meeting in August, 2009. During the early part of the meeting, I spent much time talking with Steven Breckler, Director of the Science Directorate, Paul Craig, APA Treasurer, and many council representatives, most of whom supported an increase in APA's allocation to the AHAP. I also discussed the situation extensively with Carol Goodheart, the APA President. When the budget was introduced, I submitted an amendment to increase the APA allocation to AHAP from \$20,000.00 to \$60,000.00. Fortunately, Goodheart asked Craig whether he would accept the amendment as a friendly amendment, which he did. Thus, discussion of and a vote on the amendment were not needed, and the increased allocation to the AHAP was incorporated in the budget. The change in attitude of the officers and the COR from the August, 2009 meeting to the February, 2010 meeting was amazing and bodes well for the future of the APA's support for the AHAP.

The COR adopted a revised version of Ethical Standard 1.02 and Ethical Standard 1.03. At the August, 2009 meeting, the COR had directed the Ethics Committee to revise those standards to make them congruent with previously adopted resolutions. The changes mainly involved making a clear statement that violations of human rights cannot be justified on the basis of the standards.

The COR voted to hold its meetings in San Diego at a facility other than the Manchester Grant Hyatt Hotel, which is owned by Douglas Manchester who contributed significantly to supporting a proposition that bans same-sex marriage in California. Subsequently, the August meeting of the COR was moved to the San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina.

The COR approved a revised Model Act for State Licensure of Psychologists and numerous other items that are unlikely to be of direct interest to the members of the SHP. A report of additional actions of the COR was published in the April issue of the *Monitor on Psychology*.