



Center for The Study of The History of Nursing

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA - SCHOOL OF NURSING - NURSING EDUCATION BUILDING - PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104-6096 - (215) 898-4502

Anne Ramsey Somers

Papers, 1933-1982

MC 26

Extent:

0.4 linear feet (16 folders)

Provenance:

Anne Ramsey Somers

Access:

This collection is unrestricted

Citation:

Anne Ramsey Somers Papers, Center for the Study of the History of Nursing, School of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania

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Biographical Sketch. Anne Ramsey Somers (1913-), educator, author, consultant, was educated at Vassar College (B.A., 1935) and the University of North Carolina (1939-1940). She is an influential health policy analyst, who along with her husband Herman Miles Somers, wrote the important 1961 publication *Doctors, Patients, & Health Insurance* (RA 410 S63 1961). Somers served as a research associate of the Industrial Relation Section of Princeton University's Department of Economics during the bulk of the time represented in this collection.

Summary. This collection consists of a typescript study written by Anne Somers, a report and some publications she collected relating to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

The 1964 study is entitled "The Pediatrician, The Hospital and The Community: A Case Study In Metropolitan Hospital Planning." Somers and her colleagues investigated modern pediatrics, its place in Philadelphia, and the plans for Children's Hospital in its future site in West Philadelphia. The U.S. Public Health Service funded this study which contains a forwarding comment by Richard D. Wood, president of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Somers conducted this study with Andrew Dickson Hunt, Jr., dean of the College of Human Medicine at Michigan State University and Robert Morris Sigmond, director of the Hospital Planning Association of Allegheny County. The study consists of eleven chapters and is accompanied by one folder of figures and tables. The authors have extensively annotated the study.

In addition to the typescript study this collection also includes the transcripts of a 1961 meeting of the Advisory Committee on Children's Medical Center held at the University of Pennsylvania. Anne Somers, who with her husband Herman M. Somers, were among the 23 in attendance. The proceedings of the meeting describe plans for the new Children's Hospital site in West Philadelphia and to make it a comprehensive pediatric care medical center. This collection also includes some annual reports and brief histories of Children's Hospital by Arthur H. Lea (1933) and Richard D. Wood, Jr. (1955).

Related Collection. Anne Ramsay Somers Papers are located at Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library, MS 1237, RLIN Record ID CTYV84-A683.

Box 1

Typescript

- The Pediatrician, The Hospital and The Community: A Case Study In
Metropolitan Hospital Planning
- f.1 Forward, Preface, Summary
 - f.2 Part One, Background
 - f.3 Chapter I, Modern Pediatrics: A Profession in Transition
 - f.3 Chapter II, Philadelphia: People, Progress, Paradox

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Typescript

**The Pediatrician, The Hospital and The Community: A Case Study In
Metropolitan Hospital Planning, cont.**

- f.4 Chapter III, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia: The Evolution of
a Hospital
- Part Two, Major Policy Issues: Analysis and Recommendations
- f.5 Chapter IV, General Aims and Objectives
- f.6 Chapter V, Programs and Facilities: Education and Research
- f.7 Chapter VI, Programs and Facilities: Patient Care and Community
Service
- f.8 Chapter VII, Medical Staff Organization
- f.9 Chapter VIII, Nursing and Other Personnel
- f.10 Chapter IX, Financing: Operating Expenses and Income
- f.11 Chapter X, Financing: Capital Costs and Funds
- Part Three
- f.12 Chapter XI, The Planning Process: Analysis and Recommendations
- f.13 Tables, Charts, Footnotes

Publications

- Advisory Committee on Children's Medical Center, 1961
- f.14 Proceedings of Meeting
- f.15 Notes on Proceedings
- f.16 Annual Reports, Histories, 1933-1982

ANNE R. SOMERS

Anne Ramsay Somers, educator, author, and consultant, has been an influential figure in American public health policy, hospital administration, prepaid health insurance plans, ^{and health policy in the elderly.} and consumer health education. Born in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1913, she was educated at Vassar College (B.A., 1935) and the University of North Carolina (1939-1940). Her early interests were labor economics and industrial relations, and she served as educational director of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union from 1937 to 1942 and as a labor economist with the U.S. Department of Labor from 1943 to 1946.

In 1947, she married Herman Miles Somers, then an economist at the U.S. Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion, and spent the next seven years studying and raising a family. In 1954 she and her husband published Workmen's Compensation, their first collaborative work. The study was the first to fully emphasize the importance of the health benefits provided under Workmen's Compensation. After 1954 the Somers became gradually more involved in the area of health economics and in 1957 Anne was appointed a research associate (1957-1963) at Haverford College, where her husband was professor and chairman of the Department of Political Science (1948-1963).

They published a second joint work on health care, Doctors, Patients, and Health Insurance, in 1961. As the first modern full-scale exposition of the organization and financing of health care in the United States, the ~~monograph~~ ^{book} was widely acclaimed and brought them a great deal of recognition.

During the 1960s and 1970s Anne Somers published a succession of incisive and influential studies of American health care and health policy: Medicare and the Hospitals, 1967, with Herman Somers; Health Care in Transition, 1971; and Health and Health Care: Policies in Perspective, 1977, with Herman Somers.

Anne Somers has also published in the field of hospital administration and has conducted studies exploring new areas of health policy such as geriatrics, health education, violence, and various aspects of preventive medicine.

Besides her extensive work as a consultant in the public and private sectors, Somers has served as a research associate in the Industrial Relations Section, Princeton University, since 1964 and as professor of community and family medicine, College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-Rutgers Medical School since 1971. From 1972 to 1974 she was also director of the Office of Consumer Health Education, College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, and she has participated in policy making and administration in a variety of other positions, including one term as a member of the Health Insurance Benefits Advisory Council (1972-1975).

DESCRIPTION OF THE PAPERS

The Anne Ramsay Somers Papers consist of 10 linear feet of office files which contain correspondence, project files, and writings. They extend from 1955 to 1978, although the bulk of the papers covers the years 1960 to 1978.

The Somers Papers are incomplete; they contain no material documenting her academic appointments. In addition, they provide only limited information on her service in professional organizations, on her work as a consultant, and on her membership on the Health Insurance Benefits Advisory Council. The papers do, however, contain correspondence with a number of significant figures in health care and health policy,

and they provide extensive coverage of her publications and speeches. The papers are organized in three series: GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, WRITINGS, and PROJECT FILES.

Series I, GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE is arranged alphabetically and dates primarily from the mid 1960s through 1978. The series contains exchanges with acquaintances, colleagues, professional organizations, public officials and others, and it covers a wide range of areas in health and health policy. Somers corresponded with important figures in public health and health economics such as: Odin W. Anderson, Robert M. Ball, Frederick W. Brown, Wilbur J. Cohen, Melvin A. Glasser, Philip R. Lee, James Mackenzie, Robert J. Myers, Ernest W. Seward, Robert M. Sigmond. Her exchanges with Brown, Du Val, Glasser, Lee and Myers contain lengthy, informal discussions of her views on health care and health insurance. However, most of the series is limited to one or a few exchanges with specific correspondents or is routine in nature.

Series II, WRITINGS, is divided into two sections, Monographs and Speeches and Shorter Writings. Monographs is arranged chronologically by title and covers books and book chapters which Somers authored or co-authored between 1960 and 1977. The section includes drafts, outlines, correspondence, reviews and other items.

The Speeches and Shorter Writings section spans the years 1968 to 1977, although most of the material dates from 1969 to 1974. The section is arranged chronologically by the date papers were first presented or published. Revisions of papers which were subsequently published or presented (including those with variant titles) are filed with the original version of the paper. The section includes speech texts, reprints, tear sheets, and correspondence. The major topics represented

are hospital administration, the role of hospitals in health care, consumer health education, and health insurance.

Series III, PROJECT FILES, dates from 1966 to 1979 and covers a variety of Somers' professional activities, including organizations, conferences, and panels on which she served; consulting work; informal consultations with colleagues; and production of a television series on health services organization, financing and health consumerism. The series also includes a few materials from her appointment to the Health Insurance Benefits Advisory Council.

The series includes more than twenty separate organizations and projects, although the coverage for each is very limited. Most of the activities described in the series relate to consumer health education.

The Anne Ramsay Somers Papers were donated to Yale University Library by Mrs. Somers in 1980. The papers are part of the Contemporary Medical Care and Health Policy Collection, which also includes the papers of Somers' husband, Herman M. Somers (Ms. Group No. 1238).