

Nomination form International Memory of the World Register

Arquivo Pessoal Nise da Silveira

ID Code [2016-39]

1.0 Summary (max 200 words)

The Nise da Silveira Personal Archive is a collection of documents consisting of approximately 8,000 items, including textual, iconographic, bibliographic and press documents. Produced and gathered during the course of psychiatrist Nise da Silveira's professional and personal activities, they bear witness to the essence of her life and work.

Nise da Silveira carried out her professional activity mainly at the National Psychiatric Center, where she founded the Occupational Therapy Section, which in 1952 gave rise to the Museu de Imagens do Inconsciente [Museum of Images of the Unconscious], today the largest museum of its kind in the world.

She was outstanding in the treatment of psychiatric disturbances by the introduction of occupational therapy and activities of artistic expression, being a pioneer in Brazil in the use of animals in therapy. Nise da Silveira corresponded with Swiss psychiatrist Carl G. Jung, and was responsible for the introduction of Jungian psychology in Brazil. She also created Casa das Palmeiras, a rehabilitation clinic, on an outpatient basis, for patients discharged from psychiatric institutions, the first of its kind in Brazil.

Her researches and studies gave rise to exhibitions, courses, symposiums, publications and other intellectual productions, for which she received countless prizes, honors and titles in different areas of knowledge. Her profoundly humanist spirit has exercised a strong influence on Brazilian culture as a whole, and is indelibly engraved in the mindset of our society. (See Attachment 1)

2.1 Name of nominator

Society of Friends of the Museu de Imagens do Inconsciente

2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

Owner

2.3 Contact person(s)

Euripedes Junior

2.4 Contact details

Telephone

+55 21 3111 7464

+55 21 981 685 990

Facsimile

Email

euripedes@mii.org.br

3.0 Identity and description of the documentary heritage

3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated

If inscribed, the exact title and institution(s) to appear on the certificate should be given

The Nise da Silveira Personal Archive consists of a set of approximately 8,000 textual, iconographic, bibliographic and press documents, gathered by Dr. Nise over the course of her life (1905–1999). She donated this archive during her life to the Society of Friends of the Museu de Imagens do Inconsciente, a not-for-profit civil association founded in 1974 with the aim of preserving, empowering and raising awareness about the heritage of the Museu de Imagens do Inconsciente, to where the archive was transferred after her death. Located at the Nise da Silveira Municipal Health Assistance Institute, the museum is a unit of the Municipal Secretary of Health of Rio De Janeiro (until the year 2000 this unit belonged to the Ministry of Health). Here, Nise da Silveira strove in a unique way to create new paradigms for psychiatry, psychology and the arts, introducing the method of treatment through occupational therapy along with other initiatives as early as the 1940s, making her a prolific trailblazer in various fields of knowledge.

The archive bears witness to Dr. Nise da Silveira's uninterrupted struggle against the violent treatments of psychiatry (electroshock therapy, lobotomy, confinement, etc.), as well as the stigma and social prejudice inflicted on the mentally ill, especially at that time. Her correspondence and contacts with scholars and researchers from various parts the world; records of exhibitions where she always sought to shed light on the wealth of the inner world of individuals labeled as insane; texts published by art critics and the journalistic documentation of events related to her main achievements (the Museu de Imagens do Inconsciente and Casa das Palmeiras); records and personal notes of trips; documents and materials announcing events of similar institutions; manuscripts of her books, documentaries, courses, and texts published or presented at conferences; photographs, titles, awards, and other documents, all gathered and organized in accordance with Dr. Silveira's characteristic scientific rigor, making this an unparalleled heritage of the people of Brazil and worldwide.

3.4 History/provenance

The Nise da Silveira Personal Archive consists of a set of textual, iconographic, bibliographic and press documents accumulated by the psychiatrist during the course of her personal and professional activities. The documents most notably include: correspondence with members of her family and professionals from various fields (originals of letters received, and copies of those sent), articles from newspapers and magazines, and manuscripts and printed texts that arose from her studies and researches, most of which resulted in publications. There are many certificates of titles, prizes and awards she received, as well as photographs, postcards and books. The archive thus reflects the functions and activities exercised by Nise da Silveira in her professional life, while also registering her personal and family relations. After her death, in 1999, this archive, in accordance with Nise da Silveira's wishes, was transferred from her residence to the Museu de Imagens do Inconsciente, which has been in charge of its safekeeping until today. Over the years, these documents have given rise to exhibitions, documentaries, audiovisual works, symposiums, conferences, courses, publications, and many other products that involve psychology, psychiatry, visual arts, and museology, but above all, they bear witness to the importance of the symbolism of the images of the unconscious as a revelation of the inner world of psychiatric patients. The importance of her work garnered Dr. Nise da Silveira awards, titles and prizes in various fields of knowledge. Her principles have inspired the creation of psychiatric institutions, museums, cultural centers and workshops/studios in Brazil and other countries.

4.0 Legal information

4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage

Name	Address	Telephone	Facsimile	Email
Sociedade Amigos do Museu de Imagens do Inconsciente	Rua Ramiro Magalhães, 521 – Engenho de Dentro. Rio de Janeiro. CEP 20730-460	+55 21 3111-7471		samii@mii.org.br

4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

Name	Address	Telephone	Facsimile	Email
Museu de Imagens do Inconsciente	Rua Ramiro Magalhães, 521, Engenho de Dentro, Rio de Janeiro – RJ. CEP 20.730-460	+55 21 3111-7464		mii@mii.org.br

4.3 Legal status

Legal responsibility for the Nise da Silveira Personal Archive lies with the Society of Friends of the Museu de Imagens do Inconsciente, and the archive has been in the custody and care of the Museu de Imagens do Inconsciente since 1999.

4.4 Accessibility

Access to the archive for purposes of research and consultation is open to the public, though with some restrictions, such as a requirement for prior scheduling, since visits need to be monitored for conservation purposes. In relation to the part of the archive already totally organized, conditions such as the state of conservation are considered. In this case, research tools are available, such as an inventory summary, index of subjects, name index, and database. Access to the part of the archive still being treated and organized is temporarily more restricted as it is in the process of being inventoried. Despite the need for digitization of the set of documents, the lack of resources and structure have so far prevented this action.

The Society of Friends of the Museu de Imagens do Inconsciente is currently developing a project for the digitization of the archive in partnership with an important Brazilian institution, Itaú Cultural. Once this project is completed, the Society of Friends' goal is to make the database and part of the digitized documents available online.

4.5 Copyright status

The copyrights and intellectual rights for all the work produced by Dr. Nise da Silveira belong, in accordance with her expressed wish, to the Society of Friends of the Museu de Imagens do Inconsciente. Some of the items in the archive, such as photographs, books, etc., bear copyrights held by other authors.

5.0 Assessment against the selection criteria

5.1 Authenticity.

Yes. Since the archive was organized by Dr. Silveira herself, in her residence, coming directly from there to its current place of safekeeping, its integrity and completeness are assured. Moreover, the entire process of posthumous organization and transfer was supervised by Dr. Silveira's collaborator and secretary Luiz Carlos Mello, the current director of the Museu de Imagens do Inconsciente.

5.2 World significance

The set of documents that composes the Nise da Silveira Personal Archive demonstrates that the keynote of her work was her great human compassion, firmly anchored in a universal culture and creative capacity she possessed, as recognized by (and attested to in statements by) psychoanalyst Jurandir Freire, psychiatrist C. G. Jung, art historian Herbert Read, psychiatrist R. D. Laing, Jungian analysts J. W. Perry and M-L. Von Franz, and others. Her work resulted in the Museu de Imagens do Inconsciente, which bears witness to the greatest contribution of Brazilian psychiatry to psychiatry worldwide, while also representing a pioneering step in museology, since this was the first museum in the world to be dedicated to the subject images of the unconscious. Including more than 370 thousand artworks – paintings, drawings and sculptures – the museum's collection is the largest of its kind in the world, and still retains great overall integrity thanks to a continuous and painstaking work of conservation, packaging and cataloguing. Of the total of this unique collection, 128 thousand pieces have officially designated as heritage objects by Brazil's Institute for National Artistic and Historical Heritage (IPHAN). Dr. Nise's pioneering use of animals in therapy and her solidarity with social groups for the defense of animals resulted, for example, in the abolition of the extermination of dogs in the city of Rio de Janeiro and the establishment of a

city secretariat dedicated to animals, which has operated ever since. Her activism for the defense of animals also contributed toward the national prohibition of the cruel popular festival known as Farra do Boi [Bull Spree], which had subjected bulls to various sorts of torture. Gathering around herself a circle of outstanding personalities in various fields of Brazilian art and culture, she began a process of influence and transformations in Brazil and abroad which has continued until today.

The creation of a new sort of treatment for the mentally ill without seclusion, with the creation of Casa das Palmeiras, in 1956, and her lifelong struggle against the inhumane psychiatric treatments that were in use during her time where one of the sources of inspiration for the Anti-Madhouse Movement [Movimento da Luta Antimanicomial], which resulted in the promulgation of the Law of Psychiatric Reform, one of the most modern in the world, drafted by Congressman Paulo Delgado, who consulted Dr. Nise da Silveria on various occasions. The law restored freedom and citizenship to psychiatric patients and gave official priority to keeping them within their family setting and social environment during treatment. The collection that resulted from her activities in workshops for artistic expression, which today make up the archive of the Museu de Imagens do Inconsciente, influenced an entire generation of artists and revealed around a dozen artists currently recognized as part of the history of Brazilian visual art. The documents that she produced and accumulated bear witness to the story of her life and career while constituting a unique and invaluable source for research and study in regard to both the history of mental health in Brazil and worldwide as well as her unique contributions toward a more humane Brazilian mindset.

5.3 Comparative criteria:

1 Time

As a whole, the archive documents the transformation of the psychiatric treatments over the decades, where a regime of isolation and inhuman practices fell away when Dr. Nise da Silveira replaced it with an innovative and humanitarian approach to treatment. It moreover documents how her research developed a transdisciplinary method for reading the images produced spontaneously by individuals labeled as insane. This method allowed for an understanding of psychic processes that take place in the patient's unconscious, allowing the therapist to carry out an effective treatment. As this knowledge led to a proof of the theories of C. G. Jung regarding the psychic basis of all humans, this makes the collection she put together significant for all people worldwide. Besides being the first Brazilian to use animals in the therapeutic process, she also created the first clinic for the treatment of the mentally ill based on freedom, an idea which is used today in clinics all over Brazil, based on her principles of providing care to the patient on an outpatient basis. The first museum ever created in the world dedicated to the artistic production of these individuals, it currently also has the largest collection of its kind (370,000 artworks), and is especially unique insofar as the works are kept and exhibited in the same place where they were created. This musealization process was in itself so significant that it is classified today as an immaterial heritage of Brazil. It is a museum that broke the stigma of insanity, of a community marginalized by science and society, and whose collection is updated each and every day since it is directly linked to the creative studios.

2 Place

The current Nise da Silveira Municipal Health Assistance Institute (in her time it belonged to the Brazilian Ministry of Health) is a psychiatric hospital located in the city of Rio de Janeiro's Engenho de Dentro District. It was the place where Nise da Silveira spent a large part of her life and constructed her work, with scant resources, surrounded by incomprehension and prejudice on all sides. It was in this hospital complex, which at that time housed around 2,000 schizophrenic patients on an inpatient basis, that Nise da Silveira created a more humane psychiatric treatment, used throughout Brazil until today. With the introduction of new mental health policies, the hospital was gradually deactivated, though the museum remains as the repository of an important institutional memory, offering a field of research in different areas of knowledge.

3 People

The Nise da Silveira Archive reflects the anticipated transformation of psychiatry in Brazil and worldwide. Dr. Nise began this transformation in the 1940s, though it was not until the 1980s that the Psychiatric Reform was officially implanted in Brazil. In countries such as England the anti-psychiatry movement, led by Ronald Lang, took place in the 1960s, while in Italy, led by Franco Basaglia, the psychiatric movement occurred in the 1970s. The cultural context that gave rise to the documentation is rich and complex, encompassing various areas of knowledge and culture.

The rise of great artistic talents in the therapeutic workshops organized by Dr. Nise da Silveira was also a great contribution, as it revealed the wealth of the inner world of people formerly considered incapable, and in so doing, she impacted on the practices and discourses of the technicians and activists of the social movement known as the Anti-Madhouse Movement, one of the rare social movements in Brazil to ever take place everywhere throughout the country, penetrating society at all levels. The archive documents this entire range of development, which brought psychiatric patients out of the anonymity of hospital wards to the proscenium of the walls of museums and art galleries, contributing to the shift in the social mindset in regard to mental illness and the individuals afflicted by it.

4 Subject and theme

The set of documents presents the panorama of the transformation in the theory and practice of psychiatry in Brazil and its repercussions around the world. This is what makes these records important for the human sciences in general and, especially, areas such as psychology, psychiatry, art and education. Its influence in politics resulted in the Brazilian Congress passing the Law of Psychiatric Reform. This work had a profound impact on the visual arts world, not only for the artists it revealed and the collection of art that arose, which is impressive in terms of both quality and quantity, but also due to the influence it exercised on various Brazilian artists, from different fields: filmmaking (Leon Hirszman, Marcos Magalhães, Roberto Berliner), theater (Rubens Correa, Ivan de Albuquerque, Domitila do Amaral, Fauzi Arap), dance (Angel Vianna, Rita Serpa), music (Thomaz Lima, Maria Bethânia), visual arts (Ivan Serpa, Almir Mavignier, Francisco Brennand, Abraham Palatnik, Ligia Pape and others), and art criticism (Antonio Bento, Mário Pedrosa, Sérgio Milliet, Marc Berkovitz).

5 Form and style

The set of documents in the archive is outstanding for its content, completeness and integrity, more than for any techniques and media that went into its making. The Nise da Silveira Archive consists of about 8,000 textual, iconographic, bibliographic and printed documents. They are undergoing technical treatment and in principle they are not running a risk of physical degradation insofar as they are in a museological space, always under observation. Nevertheless, they constitute a collection of unprecedented historical relevance; this is why we are applying for the archive to be designated as an International Memory of the World.

6 Social/ spiritual/ community significance:

The Nise da Silveira Personal Archive reflects the development of a completely new and different approach to the treatment of mental disorders. Transcending the concept of illness, it transmuted the way in which people afflicted with psychic suffering were perceived: previously rejected, stigmatized and considered incapable, they found a path of redemption through respect and freedom coupled with the practice of activities of spontaneous artistic expression. The creation of this environment that favors self-healing pointed to a path for various practices in other areas – education, art therapy, popular theater, heritage and museology. More than a set of practices or results, this work is currently perceived as possessing a spiritual significance for Brazilian society, especially for those people afflicted with psychic suffering. Nise da Silveira researched and documented the entire development of Brazilian psychiatry over the years: from the discovery and implantation in Brazil of the method of occupational therapy, to the creation of the Museu de Imagens do Inconsciente. These actions and principles have continued to inspire, until today, the day-to-day treatment of the patients/users of the Nise da Silveira Municipal Health Assistance

Institute and Casa das Palmeiras, as well as at the Centers for Psychosocial Attention in other psychiatric institutions in Brazil. The archive became a symbol of social transformations, lending this heritage a crucial historical significance that remains vitally important in the 21st century.

6.0 Contextual information

6.1 Rarity

The set of documents can be considered rare for its authenticity and uniqueness, since it represents a historical anticipation of the renewal of psychiatry and psychology in Brazil and worldwide. It moreover reveals a singular experiment, combining art and science for the sake of human development. Its contribution to the understanding of the psyche makes its importance extend beyond the borders of Brazil, gaining significance as a heritage of humankind.

6.2 Integrity

The documents are integral as a set, arranged in documental groups/series, according to how they were classified by Nise da Silveira, who at the end of her life dedicated herself to the organization and thematic classification of all the documentation she had produced and accumulated. In this work, she relied on the help of Luiz Carlos Mello, her collaborator for a span of 26 years, today considered the intellectual heir of Nise da Silveira's legacy. Besides serving as director of the Museu de Imagens do Inconsciente, he has the knowledge that allowed for the organization of the Nise da Silveira Personal Archive in the project carried out on a part of the documents, in 2008, by which they were classified, identified, described, cleaned, diagnosed in regard to their state of conservation, provided with proper enclosures, and inserted in a database. He has currently been contributing to the continuation of this project.
