

# THE MURRAY BOWEN ARCHIVES PROJECT

2019 Project Update



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## Good News from TMBAP: Mary Bourne Collection

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During the last decade of his life, Murray Bowen chose to conduct seminars at the Minnesota Institute of Family Dynamics, where he could work towards a synthesis of his theory of natural family systems. He gave Mary Bourne, Director, the rights to publish, and during her lifetime, she contributed three transcripts to *Bringing Systems Thinking to Life*, edited by Ona Bregman and Charles White. There remain many recordings and transcripts that are unknown to the world, however, and her daughter Luisa Cannon has worked with Dr. Bowen's daughter, Joanne, to donate the entirety of this collection to NLM, where they will be preserved and available to future generations. To assist this process, TMBAP has provided funds for Luisa and her husband, Patrick, to transport the materials to the National Library of Medicine and meet with NLM's Head of Images and Archives, Rebecca Warlow, who gave her a tour of this state-of-the-art facility and to answer questions about the deeding process. On October 1, 2019, Luisa Cannon delivered these materials to NLM and signed a Deed of Gift. Above photo is from said visit.

*Photo Credit: Joanne Bowen*

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## The Williamsburg Project

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Dr. Joanne Bowen, past president of TMBAP and current Board member, is working closely with NLM as she leads the effort to process Dr. Murray Bowen's materials housed in Williamsburg. Knowing Murray Bowen's research methodology was similar to Darwin's broad inductive observations and that he used his carbon copy letters as scientific field notes to record his observations on the environment, society, and the emergent field of family therapy, Joanne's goal is to work with NLM to develop a redaction system that would permit NLM to open seminal family letters to the public. Though challenging, this system would become the first online catalog of Murray Bowen's search for the biological basis of human behavior. This would also become a model for archives of other well-known families who want to make documents available in their lifetimes and not limit access until many years after the death of the donor.

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## The Audiovisual Collection

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Dr. Bowen was a pioneer in using technology to represent theoretical ideas. There are more than 1000 video tapes in the audiovisual collection at the NLM, including presentations, educational and teaching tapes and clinical interviews. TMBAP has continued to post video clips of some of these tapes on TMBAP's website to provide viewers with an idea of what is available in the Bowen Archives at the National Library of Medicine without viewers having to actually go to the NLM.

*Thumbnail from video taken by Andrea Schara*

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## The Oral History Project

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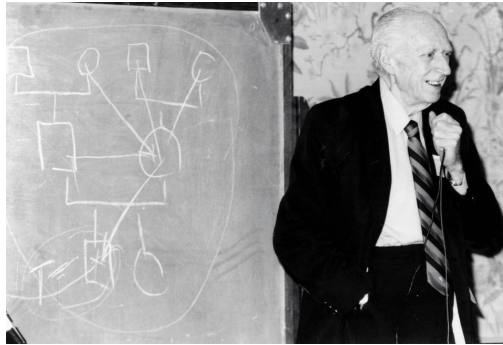


The goal of the Oral History Interviews is to collect a broad range of interviews on those who knew Dr. Bowen personally and professionally to learn how Dr. Bowen influenced and interacted with others. Dr. Bowen grounded his theoretical ideas in how he related to everyone. The impact of the way Bowen understood his theory lives in these interviews. This year we were fortunate to have the interviews and transcripts of Pat Meyer, Victoria Harrison, Sydney Reed, and Jean Blackburn. Currently, 30 interviews have been transcribed and published on TMBAP's website.

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## The Photograph Collection

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Photographer Andrea Schara is deeding all of the photographs that she took of Dr. Bowen, including documenting Bowen Center events from 1980 until his death in 1990. This photograph collection is presently housed at The Bowen Center. Copies of this collection will be made for The Bowen Center and TMBAP for their organizational use, as well as the Bowen family for their personal family use.

*Photo Credit: Andrea Schara*

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