



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

MS 2003-20 Alexander Leighton  
and Jane Murphy oral history

National Anthropological Archives  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Anthropological Archives
<b>Title:</b>	MS 2003-20 Alexander Leighton and Jane Murphy oral history
<b>Date:</b>	2002
<b>Identifier:</b>	NAA.MS2003-20
<b>Creator:</b>	Powers, Willow Roberts, 1943- (Interviewer) Leighton, Alexander H. (Alexander Hamilton), 1908-2007 Murphy, Jane M.
<b>Extent:</b>	5 Sound cassettes (analog) 2 Folders
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

Gift of Dr. Willow Powers.

### Other Archival Materials

See associated ethnology collection.

### Citation

MS 2003-20, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

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## Biographical / Historical

In 1948, Dr. Alexander Leighton initiated the "Stirling County Study," a post-war longitudinal study of the distribution and amount of mental illness in a general population, and one of the first to do so within the framework of epidemiology. When Dr. Leighton retired from Harvard in 1975, Dr. Jane Murphy, who had been a member of the study since 1951, assumed directorship of the study. Dr. Murphy and Dr. Leighton also conducted numerous cross-cultural studies of mental illness, keeping anthropological ideas as central ingredients in their research.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection is comprised of oral history interviews of Dr. Alexander Leighton and Dr. Jane Murphy, conducted by Dr. Willow Powers in 2002 and funded by the Wenner-Gren Foundation's Historical Archives Program. The collection includes recordings of the interviews on 5 audiocassettes, interview transcripts, permission forms, correspondence relating to the interview, and background information collected in preparation for the interview.

## Local Numbers

NAA MS 2003-20

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

### Subjects:

- Cultural psychiatry
- Psychiatric epidemiology
- Values -- Ethnographic study of

### Types of Materials:

- Correspondence
- Interviews
- Notes
- Oral history
- Transcripts

### Names:

- Leighton, Alexander H. (Alexander Hamilton), 1908-2007
- Murphy, Jane M.