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Descriptive Summary
Title: W. (William) Noordenbos Papers,
Date (inclusive): 1955-1989
Collection number: 129
Origination: Noordenbos, W. (William)
Forms part of: The John C. Liebeskind History of Pain Collection
Extent: Two cubic-foot cartons, three letter-size document boxes
Repository: Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library
History and Special Collections Division
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Shelf location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library's online catalog.
Language: English.
Access
Collection is open for research, with the following exceptions: Folders in Box 5 are restricted. Contact the manuscript curator at the Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library, History and Special Collections Division, for information on access to these files.

Acquisition
The William Noordenbos Papers were given to the John C. Liebeskind History of Pain Collection by his children, two of whom, Corinne Noordenbos and Ada van Mourik-Noordenbos, hand-delivered them to Los Angeles in January, 1997.
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], W. (William) Noordenbos papers (Manuscript collection 129). Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library, History & Special Collections Division, University of California, Los Angeles.

UCLA Catalog Record ID
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Access Points
Noordenbos, W.

Pain. (MeSH)
Neurophysiology. (MeSH)
Neurosurgery. (MeSH)
International Association for the Study of Pain.

Biography
William Noordenbos (1910-1990) was a Dutch neurosurgeon whose contributions to the field of pain helped inaugurate the current era of research in pain mechanisms. Noordenbos was born in Utrecht, the Netherlands, on August 11, 1910, the third child and only son of a family prominent in medicine and science. His father was Willem Noordenbos, a general surgeon and later dean of the medical school at the University of Amsterdam, and his mother, Jacoba Cornelia Noordenbos-Kapteijn--the daughter of J. Kapteijn, a distinguished academic astronomer--was one of the first female doctors in the Netherlands.

Noordenbos, planning a career in medicine like his parents, began his studies in Amsterdam, but working under his father's considerable shadow proved to be too much pressure, and he went on to study medicine at the University of Edinburgh, graduating in June, 1937. He continued his surgical training in Scotland, then somewhat reluctantly returned to the Netherlands in late 1939 when mobilization was called due to the threat of war. During the war, both William Noordenbos and his father were taken away by the Germans: his father as a hostage to a concentration camp, and William to prison for his angry outburst over this. Both terms were brief. During this turbulent period, he married Jonkvrouwe [a Dutch title equivalent to the British "Lady"] Cornelia ("Cox") van Heemskerck van Beest, a medical analyst who worked in a laboratory at the hospital, in January 1943, and over the next ten years they had four children: three girls and one boy.

Throughout the 1940s Noordenbos worked as a clinical neurosurgeon at the University of Amsterdam Surgical Clinic. In 1946 he spent six months visiting several neurosurgery departments in Great Britain, and then in 1950 he spent another half-year as the only neurosurgeon in the Dutch East Indies. He returned to Amsterdam to begin at Wilhelmina-Gasthuis, a hospital at the University of Amsterdam, eventually setting up the hospital's department of neurosurgery. During the late 1950s, Noordenbos worked on applying his clinical knowledge and experience to the more theoretical realm of academia, and he produced his first and only monograph.

Noordenbos's book *Pain: problems pertaining to the transmission of nerve impulses*, a "preliminary statement" published by Elsevier in 1959, began as his dissertation to become a Doctor in de Geneeskunde (Doctor in Medicine), equivalent to a Ph.D. in the United States and necessary for his professorship. In this 182-page book, he "launched the present era" of pain research, according to Pat Wall, with three new methods: a broader system of clinical examination of the pain patient's feelings and sensations; recognition, through this new way of examining, of the role of temporal summation in the provocation of pain; and the idea of fibre dissociation as a possible explanation of the temporal summation problem. Examination of nerve fibers biopsied from patients he was treating for postherpetic neuralgia had led Noordenbos to recognize relationships between large and small nerve fibers. Noordenbos described the relationship between these fibers as "fast blocks slow." Wall always gave Noordenbos credit for laying, with his clinical work, the practical foundation upon which he and Ron Melzack built their gate control theory of pain, which they published in *Science* in 1965 as "Pain mechanisms: a new theory."

Noordenbos's research and academic writing continued throughout his career. He wrote and published about pain, neural function, surgical technique, and was very involved in the development of a taxonomy of pain. He studied phantom limb pain in amputees in Israel with Pat Wall after the Yom Kippur War, circa 1973. Noordenbos was also a founding member of the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP), and was instrumental in arranging for the publication of its journal, *PAIN*, by Elsevier in Amsterdam.

An avid sailor his whole life (at 18 he sailed alone to Copenhagen in a cabinless "Dragon"), Noordenbos built a number of boats, culminating in the *Lucipara* and the *Lucipara II*. He involved his family in sailing and yachting, and he and Cox made transatlantic crossings in 1962 and 1978. Applying his scientific mind to his avocation, he always dreamed of developing a
portable instrument to render seawater fit for drinking by removing salt through electrolysis. He apparently succeeded on a larger-scale level, but was unable to devote the time necessary to scaling down the instrument enough to make it practical. William Noordenbos died in March, 1990.

Sources:
"Curriculum Vitae" [Box 2, Folder 6], William Noordenbos Papers, Manuscript collection number 129, Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library, History & Special Collections Division, University of California, Los Angeles.


Scope and Content
Information in brackets was collected from material inside the folder. Information in parentheses was supplied by Noordenbos's daughters in an inventory list sent prior to the delivery of the Noordenbos papers. Information neither in brackets nor parentheses was part of or all of the original folder title. If additional relevant material was written on the original folder, or if the transcribed information was in question, or if there was information that would have been transcribed had it been legible, then the original folder cover has been cut to a manageable size and included in the final, acid-free folder.

Noordenbos wrote in Dutch, English, and French. His handwriting is very difficult to read, sometimes bordering on illegible. Generally he wrote in English; materials in Dutch or French are noted as such in the container list.

Papers and Lectures
Scope and Content Note
1955-1976
Lectures given at the University of Amsterdam and elsewhere. There are twenty-four folders in this series. The processor has attempted to match files in the collection to the list of lectures provided by Noordenbos's daughters. As a result, there are a few entries for lectures that are within other, broader files. In such a case, a "see also" reference is provided.

Correspondence
Scope and Content Note
1955-1989
Ninety-three folders of alphabetical correspondence, incoming and/or outgoing, largely to individuals.

General
Scope and Content Note
1955-1989
The General series, comprising fifty-seven folders, contains all files not included in Correspondence or Lectures. Includes reprints from 1944-1973, scientific information on nerve injuries, phantom limb pain, pharmacology, epilepsy, multisynaptic systems, notebooks of handwritten notes on various subjects related to pain.

Correspondence
Box 1, Folder 1
Abu-Saad, Huda, [1982-83].

Box 1, Folder 2
Adam, Henry (language, computer, math., books), [1983-87].

Box 1, Folder 3
Bibliotheek (library), [1978-88].

Box 1, Folder 4
Bonica, John, [1980-81].

Box 1, Folder 5
Bosch, Dr. D.A. (pain), [1987].

Box 1, Folder 6
Bowsher, David (pain relief foundation), [1976-83].

Box 1, Folder 7
Cahill, Jonathan, [1971-81].
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<th>Box 1, Folder 8</th>
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<td>Cousins, Michael J., [1986].</td>
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<td>Douw v/skrap. [D.v.D. Crab], [1976].</td>
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<td>Endtz, [Dr.] L. J., [1986-87].</td>
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<td>Hoorweg, Piet (speech), [1956-84].</td>
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<td>I.P.F. (International Pain Foundation), [1987].</td>
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<td>Jeans, Mary Elen (McGill University), [1987].</td>
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<td>Kremer, Michael, 1955.</td>
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<td>[Nathan, Peter] PETER. (Correspondence Peter Nathan), [1972-73].</td>
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<td>National Trust of Scotland, [1973].</td>
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<td>Neurologen Vereeniging (about honorary membership), [1979-80].</td>
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Correspondence

Box 1, Folder 65  Salcman, Michael, [1987].
Box 1, Folder 66  Samii, [M.], [1983].
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Box 1, Folder 70  Simmons, L. Banks, [1985-86].
Box 1, Folder 71  Slooff, Bart, [1979-88].
Box 1, Folder 72  Soroko, Mrs. Ewa, [1988].
Box 1, Folder 73  Strupp,er, [1980].
Box 1, Folder 74  Swerdlov, M., [1980-81].
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Box 1, Folder 76  Teijen, H.J.; Tilburg, [1976].
Box 1, Folder 77  Ter Braak, J. W. G. (induction/deduction), [1965].
Box 1, Folder 78  Tilburg (’79 meeting), [1975-76].
Box 1, Folder 79  Tuchtcollege (complaint), [1978].
Box 1, Folder 80  van Cranenburgh, Ben, [1987-88].
Box 1, Folder 81  van Crevel, Hans, [1980-89].
Box 1, Folder 82  van der Mei, Gerrit [also: van der Mey] (contains photo), [1983-84].
Box 1, Folder 83  Van Manen, [J.], 1986.
Box 1, Folder 84  Vanderspek, Hans G., [1972].
Box 1, Folder 85  Verbiest, [H.], [1975-82].
Box 1, Folder 86  [Wall, Pat] ATLAS. PAT, [1971-88].
Box 1, Folder 87  Ward Jr., A.A., [1978-80].
Box 1, Folder 88  Watson, C.P.N., [1986-89].
Box 1, Folder 89  Weber, G., [1986-87].
Box 1, Folder 90  Werman, Guela, [1979].
Box 1, Folder 91  Zeider, E.H., [1970].
Box 1, Folder 92  Ziekenhuizen (?), [1965].
Box 1, Folder 93  Zimmermann, Manfred, [1981-82].

Lectures

Box 1, Folder 94  Concepts relative to recurred pain (New York), 1969.
Box 1, Folder 95  Britten (Speech), [1976].
Box 1, Folder 96  Traumatische zenuwletsels [Traumatic nerve injuries; Folder empty--see General file of same title, Box 2, F 13], (1965?).
Box 1, Folder 97  Een mogelijk mechanisme van paroxysmale verschijnselen [Empty folder] (In file "Begin Nerve-Nets," [Box 2, F 19]), [1960s?].
Box 1, Folder 98  The Genesis of Epilepsy [Empty folder] (In file "Begin Nerve-Nets," [Box 2, F 19]) [see also "Muscle Spindles," Box 2, F 10], [1960?].
Box 1, Folder 99  The Behaviour of Multisynaptic Systems [Empty folder] (In file "Begin Nerve-Nets," [Box 2, F 19]) [see also "Muscle Spindles," Box 2, F 10], [1965?].
Box 1, Folder 100  Remarks concerning mechanisms and concepts of pain [Typescript], 1970?.
Box 1, Folder 101  LERe [Annotated typescript in Dutch], [nd].
Box 1, Folder 102  Gedragingen van multisynaptische systemen, Een mogelijk mechanisme van paroxysmale [Typescript in Dutch, 1 illustration], (1969).
Box 1, Folder 103  Sensory findings in painful traumatic nerve lesions (Toronto) [Montreal; typescript with glued-on illustrations], [nd].
Box 1, Folder 104  Some observations on cases of leprosy with polynervitic lesions [Annotated typescript], [nd].
Box 1, Folder 105  The neuritis in leprosy [Annotated typescript], [nd].
Box 1, Folder 106  Causalgia [Typescript], [ca. 1950s?].
Box 1, Folder 107  Enkele aspecten van de anatomie en fysiology van de pijn [Typescript in Dutch], [1974-76].
Box 1, Folder 108  Problems concerning taxonomy of pain; Tilbury, Holland; Version 1, 2, 3, 4 [Annotated typescripts in English, correspondence and notes in Dutch], 1976.
Box 1, Folder 109  Pain and functional neurosurgery [Annotated typescript], 1975.
Box 1, Folder 110  Problemen...[rondom pijn?] [Annotated typescript in Dutch; see also Seattle, Extra Copien file], 1975.
| Box 1, Folder 111 | [No title] Studieclub, April [Annotated typescript, notes in Dutch], 1972. |
| Box 1, Folder 112 | [No title] Queen Square [Annotated typescript], 1955. |
| Box 1, Folder 113 | The causes of failure of surgical treatment [Annotated typescripts], [nd]. |
| Box 1, Folder 114 | Discussion remarks on afferent systems in the antero-lateral quadrant [Annotated typescripts, reprint in French, correspondence], [1971?]. |
| Box 1, Folder 115 | Discussion remarks concerning measurement [Annotated typescripts], [nd]. |
| Box 1, Folder 116 | Bishop [Discussion on Dr. Bishop's paper; Folder empty--see General file of the same name, Box 3, F 4], 1961. |
| Box 1, Folder 117 | Pathological aspects of central pain states [See also Seattle file; Box 5, F 3], 1973. |
| General | |
| Box 2, Folder 1 | Elsevier [Correspondence in English re: PAIN journal. Contains correspondence envelope "Phantoom"], [1975-76]. |
| Box 2, Folder 2 | Geneesmiddelen (Medications) [handwritten notes], [1975]. |
| Box 2, Folder 3 | Guanethidine (Guandine) (? handwritten notes on The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics], [nd]. |
| Box 2, Folder 4 | Acupunctuur (Acupuncture, various notes) [and product literature], [1975]. |
| Box 2, Folder 5 | [Acupuncture] [Clippings and reprints on acupuncture], [1972-83]. |
| Box 2, Folder 6 | [CV] (Curriculum Vitae), [nd]. |
| Box 2, Folder 7 | [Reprints] [Reprints of articles in English and Dutch], [1944-73]. |
| Box 2, Folder 8 | Edinburgh (Congress Oct. 1980, reunion medical school), [nd]. |
| Box 2, Folder 9 | B9, The Cell Assembly [Non-WN reprints and notes in English and French], [1962]. |
| Box 2, Folder 10 | B4, Muscle spindles (E.M.G.) [Notes in English and French on visual cortex, epilepsy; typescripts in Dutch and , [1963-65]. |
| Box 2, Folder 11 | [The ingestion of seawater] [English typescript with annotations; contains photos], [1955-58]. |
| Box 2, Folder 12 | F.I.T., Foundation for Independent Thinking [Postcards, information, correspondence on trepanation]. See also file Bart Hughes [enclosed ?], [1973]. |
| Box 2, Folder 13 | Traumatische Zenuwletsels (Traumatic nerve injuries) [correspondence, typescripts, in Dutch], [1962-63]. |
| Box 2, Folder 15 | Vezelspektra. Graphs and Calculations (Various research notes on fibrespectra) [in Dutch and English. Case Studies and Research , 1975?]. |
| Box 2, Folder 16 | Onderzoekingen door Professor Verhaart. Db Sie Peh Fiok. (Research by Professor Verhaart) [contains photos, correspondence in Dutch], [1956-60]. |
| Box 2, Folder 17 | Textbook of Pain [Contribution to Wall's textbook], [1981-83]. |
| Box 2, Folder 18 | B6, Association Fibres [?], Synapse, 37/2 [Non-WN reprints, notes in English on synaptic transmission, sleep deprivation, cerebral cortex], [1957-63]. |
| Box 2, Folder 19 | Begin Nerve-Nets [Notes and typescripts in Dutch and English on epilepsy, multisynaptic systems, MAS], [1965-67]. |
| Box 2, Folder 20 | Colleges [Lecture notes in Dutch?], 1971-?8. |
| Box 2, Folder 21 | RA (Various subjects) [photographs, notes, typescripts, largely in Dutch], [1964-65]. |
| Box 2, Folder 22 | B7, Synchron[...] Learning [Notes in English on synaptic function, stimulation of nerve fibres, neural basis of learning, [nd]. |
| Box 2, Folder 23 | B8 [Notes in English on spinal cord], [nd]. |
| Box 2, Folder 24 | Programs, Congress Meetings, Various [Announcements, programs, etc.], [1960-73]. |
| Box 2, Folder 25 | [Notes] [Handwritten notes, correspondence], [1970-89]. |
| Box 2, Folder 26 | [Notes] [Handwritten notes, correspondence], [1969-70]. |
| Box 2, Folder 27 | Colleges (Lectures for students) [correspondence, notes, typescripts in Dutch], 1972-78. |
| Box 2, Folder 28 | Israel, Tonia III (Meeting, phantom pain) [two folders inside: correspondence, program, notes], 1974. |
| Box 2, Folder 29 | Herpes. The disaster [?] with Peter Nathan, Tonia 3 (General on subject over several years) [Unpublished post-herpetic neuralgia drafts with P. , [1970-74]. |
| Box 2, Folder 30 | Voorgrachten Vanaf, Sept. 1969 [Notes in English?, quizzes by Voor..., two WN reprints, illustrations, Dutch typescripts], [1955-76]. |
| Box 3, Folder 1 | Onderwijs. Teaching: course pain and pain relief. Syllabus + various notes [Printed matter, typescripts, notes; all in Dutch], [1979-80]. |
| Box 3, Folder 2 | Wood's Hole [Massachusetts] [Meeting, May 8-11, to honor Pat Wall's contributions to neurobiology; correspondence, schedule], [1989]. |
| Box 3, Folder 3 | Joke, "clippings" (Map joke) [Newspaper clippings largely in Dutch], [1982-88]. |
| Box 3, Folder 4 | Bishop [Discussion on Dr. Bishop's paper: the anatomy and physiology of the pathways and central , [1961]. |
| Box 3, Folder 5 | Stockholm (Meeting) [Correspondence, abstracts; contains photos], [1986]. |
| Box 3, Folder 6 | Neurochir--Neurologien [Overzicht over het ontstaan van de afdeling neurochirurgie; typescript in Dutch], [1972]. |
| Box 3, Folder 7 | [Photographs] [Quantimat screen shots of nerve fibres], [1974]. |
| Box 3, Folder 8 | [Journal Articles and Notes] [Also notes; annotations like: C182/21], [1977]. |
| Box 3, Folder 9 | [Case Study ?] [Contains photos, subsections "Goniometrie" and "Anatomie", notes in Dutch and English, no , [1974-75]. |
| Box 3, Folder 10 | [Notes on Pain?] [Hundreds of pages of notes in English and Dutch], [1981-89]. |
| Box 4, Folder 1 | [Reprints] [Articles by WN], [1975-87]. |
| Box 4, Folder 2 | IASP [Subcommittee on taxonomy] [Correspondence; folder 1/2], [1980-88]. |
| Box 4, Folder 3 | IASP [Subcommittee on taxonomy] [Correspondence; folder 2/2], [1980-88]. |
| Box 4, Folder 4 | Taxonomy [Reis Lucipara] [Notes, correspondence], [1976-80]. |
| Box 4, Folder 5 | Lagendijk, Aphorismen, Dec./Jan [Printed four pages: Uitspraken van Dokter Lagendijk], [1972]. |
| Box 4, Folder 6 | The Wampanoag, Tonia II [Ships], [1968]. |
| Box 4, Folder 7 | First William Noordenbos Lecture [Lecture given by Paul E. Voorhoeve], [1988]. |
| Box 2, Folder 31 | Onderzoekingen door Professor Verhaart. Db Sie Peh Fiok. [Photo montages from Box X, Folder XX], [1956-60]. |
| Box 2, Folder 32 | [Acupuncture] [Oversize clippings from Box X, Folder XX]], [1972-83]. |
| Box 5, Folder 1 | BAUL, de HEUS, MILA [RESTRICTED] [Case histories] [Contains photos], [1976-77]. |
| Box 5, Folder 2 | Vezelspectra + Prgnt' (?) Weddell [RESTRICTED] [On fibrespectra] [contains photos], [1957-58]. |
| Box 5, Folder 3 | Seattle, Extra Copien [RESTRICTED] [Lectures for students] [Correspondence, notes, typescripts in Dutch, , [1973-75]. |
| Box 5, Folder 4 | Pictures of cases, case histories [RESTRICTED] [Phantom limb pain; correspondence, questionnaires, notes], [1972-77]. |
| Box 5, Folder 5 | [Patient photos] [RESTRICTED] [Four patients], [nd]. |
| Box 5, Folder 6 | [Functions Remaining After Subtotal Section of the Cord. Part of the Left Antero-Lateral [RESTRICTED] [Individual patients' "Poliklinische Controle"], [1976]. |
| Box 5, Folder 7 | PAT [RESTRICTED] [Correspondence Pat Wall] [includes case histories], [1979]. |
| Box 5, Folder 8 | Patients [RESTRICTED] [Patient files], [nd]. |