Bibliography of First-Person Narratives of Madness in English (5th edition)

This Bibliography is in four sections: (1) personal accounts of madness written by survivors themselves; (2) narratives written by family members; (3) anthologies and critical analyses of the madness narrative genre; and (4) websites featuring oral histories and other first-person perspectives on madness.

Last revised in December 2011 with assistance from Jenna Medaris, Mona Haddad, and Cheryl McGraw.

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Personal Accounts of Madness by Survivors Themselves


Agnew, Anna. From Under a Cloud; or, Personal Reminiscences of Insanity. Cincinnati: Robert Clarke, 1886.


----- Bedlamiana: or, Selections from the "Asylum Journal." Lowell, for the Compiler, 1846.


----- Five Months in a Mad-house; an Actual Experience, by an Inmate. New York: Press Exchange, 1901.


----- "Illustrations of Insanity Furnished by the Letters and Writings of the Insane." American Journal of Insanity. 4: 290-303, 1848.

----- I Lost My Memory-The Case as the Patient Saw It. London: Faber, 1932.

----- "Insulin and I." American Journal of Orthopsychiartry. 10: 810-14, 1940.


----- "Life in the Asylum." The Opal: A Monthly Periodical of the New York State Lunatic Asylum. Edited by Patients. 5: 4-6, 1855.


----- "Ordeal in a Mental Hospital." The Radical Therapist, 1974.


----- The Petition of the Poor Distracted People in the House of Bedlam. London: 1620.


----- Special issue—“What It's Like—From the Receiving End.” Mind Out, 1974.


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Bruckshaw, Samuel. *The Case, Petition, and Address of Samuel Bruckshaw, who Suffered a Most Severe Imprisonment, for Very Near the Whole Year, Loaded with Irons, without Being Heard in his Defense, Nay Even without Being Accused, and at Last Denied an Appeal to a Jury. Humbly Offered to the Perusal and Consideration of the Public.* London: The Author, 1774.


Clemens, Louisa Perina Courtauld. *Narrative of a Pilgrim and Sojourner on Earth, from 1791 to the Present Year, 1870*. Edinburgh: 1870.


Crowe, Anne Mary. *A Letter to Dr. R. D. Willis: to Which are Added, Copies of Three Other Letters: Published in the Hope of Rousing a Humane Nation to the Consideration of the Miseries Arising from Private Madhouses: with a Preliminary Address to Lord Erskine*. London: The Author, 1811.


----- *Mr. Cruden Greatly Injured: An Account of a Trial between Mr. Alexander Cruden, Bookseller to the Late Queen, Plaintiff, and Dr. Monro, Matthew Wright, John Oswald, and John Davis, Defendants; in the Court of the Common-Pleas in Westminster Hall July 17, 1739, on an Action of Trespass, Assault and Imprisonment: the Said Mr. Cruden, Tho’ in His Right Senses, Having Been Unjustly Confined and Barbarously Used in the Said Matthew Wright’s Private Madhouse at Bethnal-Green for Nine Weeks and Six Days, till He Made His Wonderful Escape May 31, 1738. To Which is Added a Surprising Account of Several Other Persons, Who Have Been Mostly Unjustly Confined in Private Madhouses*. London: A. Injured, 1740.


Davis, Phebe E. *Two Years and Three Months in the New York State Lunatic Asylum at Utica, Together with the Outline of Twenty Years’


Denny, Lydia B. *Statement of Mrs. Lydia B. Denny, Wife of Reuben S. Denny, of Boston, in Regard to Her Alleged Insanity*. n.p., 1862.


Feugilly, Mary Heustis. *Diary Written in the Provincial Lunatic Asylum.* The Author, 1885.


Fleming, E. G. *Three Years in a Mad House.* Chicago: Donohue, Henneberry, 1893.


Gary, Looney Lee [pseud.]. *The Bridge of Eternity.* New York: Fortuny's, 1940.


Greiner, S. *Prelude to Sanity*. Fort Lauderdale: Master Publications, 1943.


Johnson, Donald McIntosh. *A Doctor Regrets, Being the First Part of "A Publisher Presents Himself."* London: Johnson, 1949.

--- *Bars and Barricades, Being the Second Part of "A Publisher Presents Himself."* London: Johnson, 1952.

--- *A Doctor Returns, Being the Third Part of "A Publisher Presents Himself."* London: Johnson, 1956.


Kinder, Elaine F. “Postscript on a Benign Psychosis.” *Psychiatry*. 3: 527-34, 1940.


Lane, Edward X. *I Was a Mental Statistic.* New York: Carlton, 1963.


Lathrop, Clarissa Caldwell. *A Secret Institution.* New York: Bryant, 1890.


Lee, Kate [pseud.]. *A Year at Elgin Insane Asylum.* New York: Irving, 1902.


----- *The Lunacy Laws and Trade in Lunacy in a Correspondence with the Earl of Shaftesbury.* London: Burns, 1872.

----- *Report of a Case Heard in Queen's Bench, November 22nd, 1872, Charging the Commissioners in Lunacy with Concurring in the Improper Detention of a Falsely-Alleged Lunatic and Wrongfully Tampering with her Correspondence.* London: Burns, 1872.


McCarr, Margaret Atkins. *And Lo, the Star*. New York: Pageant, 1953.


----- *Marital Power Examplified in Mrs. Packard's Trial and Self-Defense from the Charge of Insanity; or, Three Years Imprisonment for Religious Belief, by the Arbitrary Will of a Husband*, with an Appeal to the Government so to Change the Laws as to Afford Legal Protection to Married Women. Hartford, CT: Case, Lockwood, 1866.

----- *Mrs. Olsen's Narrative of Her One Year Imprisonment, at Jacksonville Insane Asylum; with the Testimony of Mrs. Minard, Mrs. Shedd, Mrs. Yates, and Mrs. Lake, All Corroborated by the Investigating Committee of the Legislature of Illinois*. Chicago: A.B. Case, 1868.


----- *The Mystic Key; or, The Asylum Secret Unlocked*. Hartford: Case, Lockwood & Brainard, 1886.


----- *This Red Book is Partly a Reprint of What Was Published in 1883, and Later. And Earlier Letters from Prominent Men. Instructions to Dr. Harlow, from Springfield, His Letters from the Hospitals, and Much Else*. Boston: n.p., 1886.

----- *Hospital Revelations*. n.p., 1888.

----- *An Explanation to the Public as to Why Mrs. Lemira Clarissa Pennell Was Confined in the Insane Hospital and the Portland Poor House*. Augusta, Maine: n.p., 188[?].

----- *New Horrors*. n.p., 1890.


----- *A Lawyer’s Story In and Out of the World of Insanity*. Miami: The Author, 1958.


Putnam, Daniel. *Twenty-Five Years with the Insane.* Detroit: John MacFarlane, 1885.


Stone, Elizabeth. *A Sketch of the Life of Elizabeth T. Stone, and of Her Persecution, with an Appendix of Her Treatment and Sufferings While in the Charleston McLean Asylum Where She was Confined Under the Pretence of Insanity.* Boston: The Author, 1842.

--- Remarks by Elizabeth T. Stone, upon the Statements Made by H.B. Skinner, in the Pulpit of the Hamilton Chapel, on Sunday Afternoon, 18th of June 1843, in Reference to What She Had Stated Concerning His Being Chaplain in the Charlestown McLean Asylum: and Also a Further Relation on Her Suffering While Confined in That Place for 16 months and 20 days. Boston: The Author, 1843.


Thaw, Harry K. *The Traitor -- Being the Untampered with, Unrevised Account of the Trial and All that Led to it*. Philadelphia: Dorrance, 1926.


Turner, Cyrus S. *Eight and One-Half Years in Hell*. Des Moines: Turner, 1912.


Wilson, Margaret Isabel. *Borderland Minds.* Boston: Meador, 1940.

Wilson, W. *They Call Them Camisoles.* California: Lymanhouse, 1940.


Narratives by Family Members


**Anthologies, Narrative Analyses, and Criticism**


Bridges Creative Writing Group. *I am God's Goldfish and Other Writings*. UK: Breckland Print Solutions, 1999.


Websites Featuring First-Person Perspectives on Madness

Alaska Mental Health Consumers Website: [http://www.akmhcweb.org](http://www.akmhcweb.org)

Antipsychiatry Coalition: [http://www.antipsychiatry.org](http://www.antipsychiatry.org)

Asylum Magazine: [http://www.asylumonline.net](http://www.asylumonline.net)

Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation: [http://www.bu.edu/cpr](http://www.bu.edu/cpr)

ECT: [http://www.ect.org](http://www.ect.org)

European Network of (Ex)Users and Survivors of Psychiatry: [http://www.enusp.org](http://www.enusp.org)

Freedom Center: [http://www.freedom-center.org](http://www.freedom-center.org)

Hearing Voices Network: [http://www.hearing-voices.org](http://www.hearing-voices.org); Hearing Voices Network (USA): [http://www.hearingvoicesusa.org](http://www.hearingvoicesusa.org); International Community for Hearing Voices: [http://www.intervoiceonline.org](http://www.intervoiceonline.org)

Icarus Project: [http://www.theicarusproject.net](http://www.theicarusproject.net)


Law Project for Psychiatric Rights: [http://psychrights.org](http://psychrights.org)

M-Power: [http://www.m-power.org](http://www.m-power.org)

Mad Not Bad: [http://www.madnotbad.co.uk](http://www.madnotbad.co.uk)

Mad Pride: [http://www.madpride.org.uk](http://www.madpride.org.uk)

Mental Health Client Action Network of Santa Cruz County: [http://www.mhcan.org](http://www.mhcan.org)

Mental Health in the UK: [http://www.mentalhealthintheuk.co.uk](http://www.mentalhealthintheuk.co.uk)


Mind: [http://www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk)

Mind Freedom International: [http://www.mindfreedom.org](http://www.mindfreedom.org)

National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy: [http://www.narpa.org](http://www.narpa.org)

National Empowerment Center: [http://www.power2u.org](http://www.power2u.org)


Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers Association: [http://www.pmhca.org](http://www.pmhca.org)

People Who: [http://www.peoplewho.org](http://www.peoplewho.org)

Psychiatric Survivor Archives: [http://psychiatricsurvivorarchives.com](http://psychiatricsurvivorarchives.com)

Successful Schizophrenia: [http://www.successfulschizophrenia.org](http://www.successfulschizophrenia.org)

Survivors Art Foundation: [http://www.survivorsartfoundation.org](http://www.survivorsartfoundation.org)

Survivors History Group: [http://www.studymore.org.uk/MPU.htm](http://www.studymore.org.uk/MPU.htm)