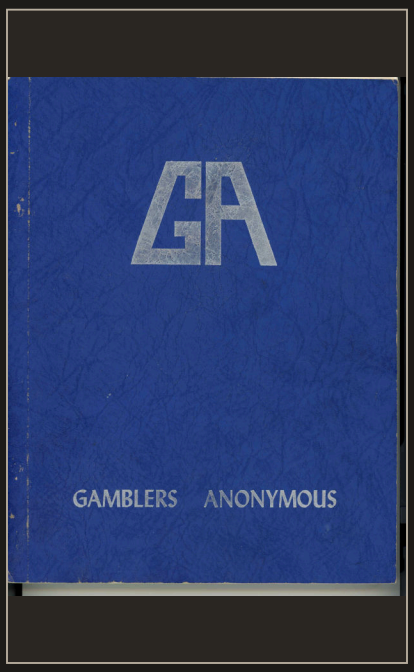
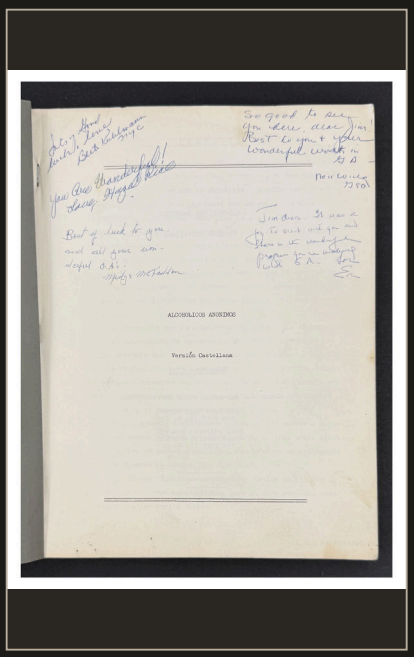






PRIVATE ACQUISITION PORTFOLIO

The Jim Willis & Early Gamblers Anonymous Archive

A founder-family archive documenting the birth, growth and institutional memory of Gamblers Anonymous - with direct Alcoholics Anonymous association material.

FOUNDING-ERA BOOKS | MANUSCRIPTS | CORRESPONDENCE | PRESS | FAMILY PAPERS

Addie Williams family papers | Audited catalog range JWGA-001 through JWGA-063

Prepared for preservation, research, exhibition and private acquisition

MUSEUM-SCALE HISTORICAL ARCHIVE

A Founder-Family Record of the Birth of G.A.

The collection is strongest when presented not as a group of collectibles, but as a coherent documentary archive centered on Jim Willis and the formation of Gamblers Anonymous.

At the center of the archive are four objects that define its institutional significance: an early Spanish-language Alcoholics Anonymous typescript inscribed to Jim Willis by General Service Office staff; the 1964 first edition / first printing of Gamblers Anonymous inscribed by Willis to his stepdaughter Addie Williams; the retained 1964 Bill Wilson letter praising the new G.A. book and the work behind it; and the 1982 founder-recognition plaque presented to Willis at the fellowship's 25th Anniversary Convention.

Around those pieces is a deep body of early literature, convention material, press coverage, internal service documents, historical correspondence, founder-recognition material, Gam-Anon literature and later institutional publications. Together they trace the passage from idea, to fellowship, to national visibility, to formal historical memory.

POSITIONING

The strongest sales angle is institutional: this is a researchable, exhibit-ready founder archive with a documented family provenance and multiple cornerstone objects that can anchor a permanent collection or special exhibition.

FOUR CORNERSTONES

Why the Archive Is Difficult to Recreate

The collection contains several categories of material that rarely survive together: founder association copies, AA-GA correspondence, early fellowship literature, internal historical records and family-retained recognition pieces.

JWGA-001

AA -> G.A.

December 1961 Spanish-language A.A. typescript, inscribed to Jim Willis by G.S.O. staff encouraging his work with Gamblers Anonymous.

JWGA-002

The First G.A. Book

1964 first edition / first printing, personally inscribed by Jim Willis to Addie Williams - a primary founder-family association copy.

JWGA-005

Bill Wilson to Jim

August 25, 1964 retained letter copy in which Bill Wilson praises the new G.A. volume and reflects on the work of assembling Alcoholics Anonymous.

JWGA-004

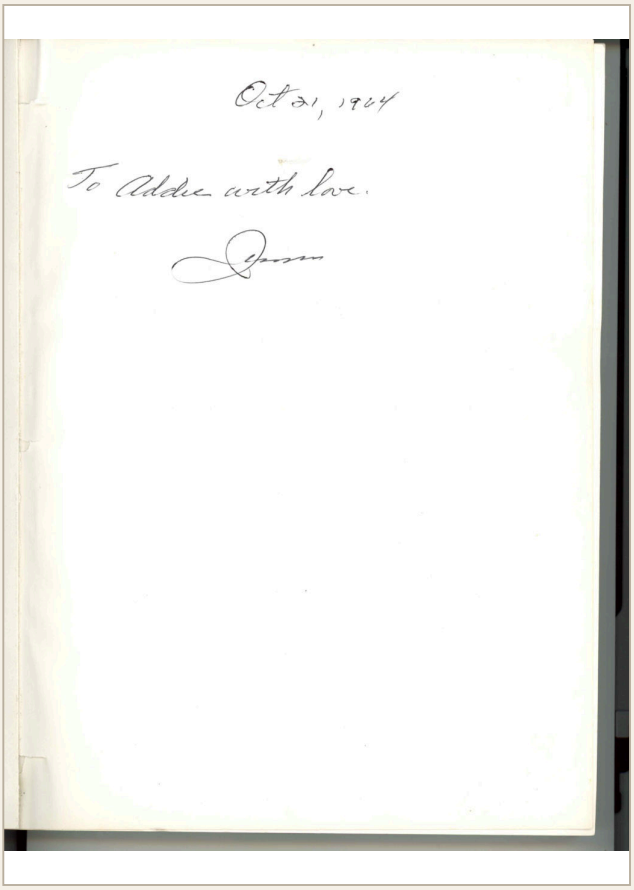
Founder Recognition

Original plaque presented July 2, 1982 identifying Jim W. as “Founder of Gamblers Anonymous” and dating the fellowship to September 13, 1957.

FOUNDER-FAMILY PROVENANCE

The Addie Williams Papers

The archive is presented conservatively as material retained within the Addie Williams family papers. Addie was Sybil's daughter and Jim Willis's stepdaughter.



PROVENANCE PRINCIPLES

- Originals and photocopies are distinguished throughout the audited catalog; retained copies are never represented as originals.
- The 1964 G.A. first edition is described as a founder-family association copy inscribed by Jim Willis to Addie - not as "Jim's personal copy" unless independently proven.
- Original folders, labels and groupings are treated as archival context and preserved where they help explain how the papers were retained.
- The fixed JWGA numbering system preserves the audit trail, including reserved and superseded control numbers.

ARCHIVE INTEGRITY

The value of this collection is not only in individual rare pieces. Its coherence - founder, family, fellowship, correspondence, literature, publicity and recognition - is itself part of the historical evidence.

FROM A.A. TO GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS

A Documentary Timeline, 1946-1983

The archive supports a chronological exhibition narrative rather than a conventional "lot" presentation.

1946 Jim Willis enters Alcoholics Anonymous; later materials frame A.A. as the recovery model he sought to adapt to compulsive gambling.

1955-57 Repeated efforts to gather problem gamblers lead toward the first recognized G.A. meeting on September 13, 1957 in Los Angeles.

1960-62 Early national press coverage, first literature and the 4th Annual Convention show rapid organizational growth.

1961 Spanish A.A. typescript inscribed to Jim by G.S.O. staff provides a physical AA-GA association object.

1964 The first G.A. book appears; Bill Wilson writes Jim after receiving an inscribed copy.

1970s National press, television exposure, institutional bulletins and the 20-year International Conference document expansion.

1980-82 Founder-recognition efforts and internal Twelve Step discussions culminate in the 1982 founder plaque.

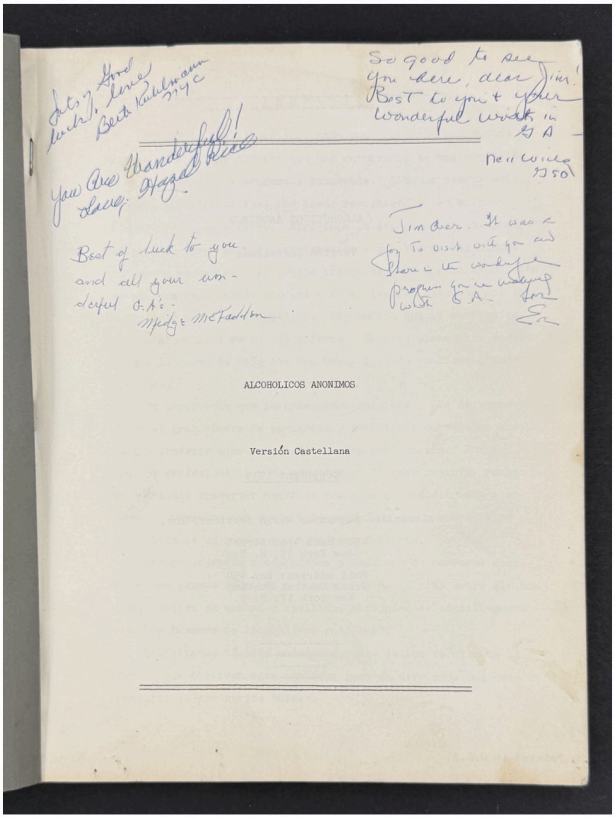
1983 Jim Willis dies; later official G.A. books explicitly memorialize him as founder and acknowledge A.A. as the program he used as a guide.

JWGA-001

Alcoholicos Anonimos - Version Castellana

December 1961 | Bound Spanish-language A.A. typescript | Inscribed to Jim Willis





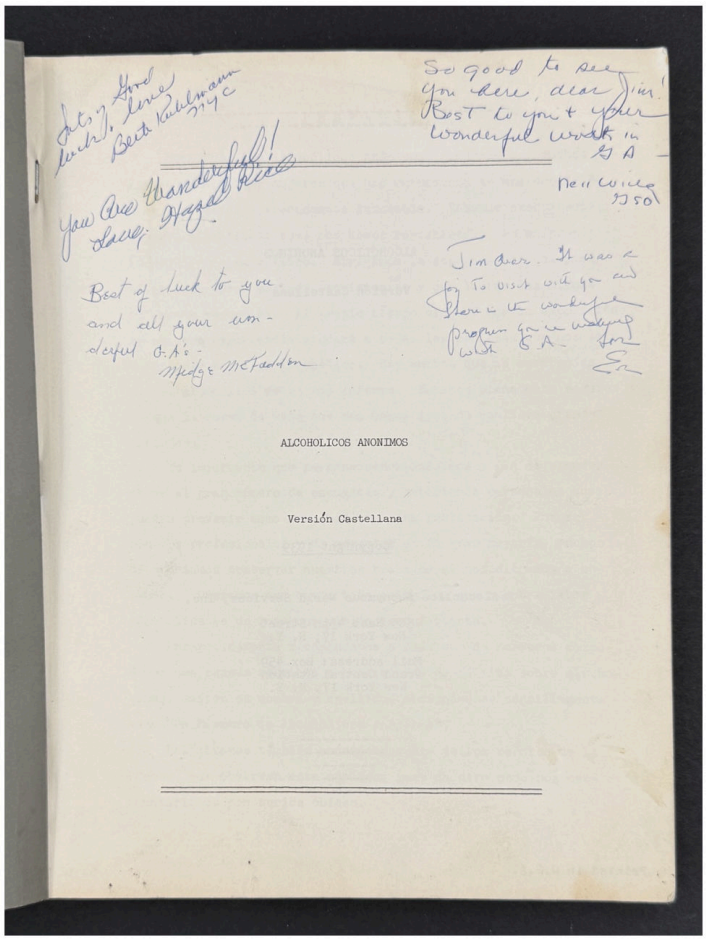
WHY IT MATTERS

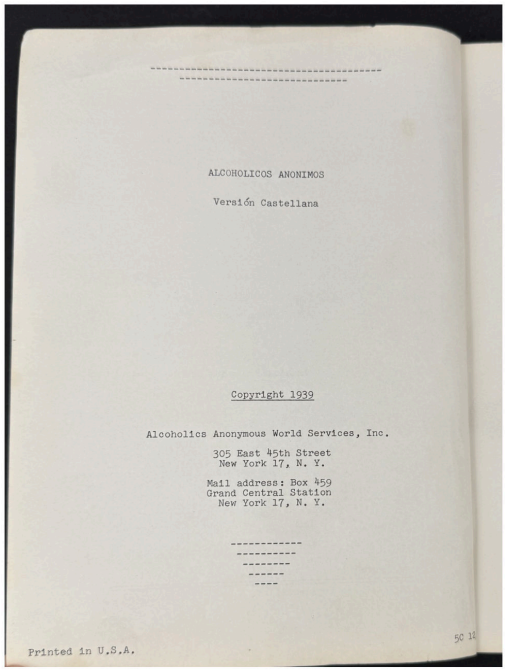
The presentation inscriptions are addressed directly to Jim and encourage his work with Gamblers Anonymous. The object therefore serves as tangible evidence of contact between Willis and the A.A. General Service Office during G.A.'s early development.

AN A.A.-G.A. ASSOCIATION ARTIFACT

The Inscription Page Is the Story

Audited research supports December 1961. The notation "50 12/61" is visible on the object; interpreting "50" as a 50-copy production run remains provisional.





AUDITED IDENTIFICATIONS

- Nell Wing
- Eve Marsh
- Hazel Rice
- Midge M.
- Beth K.

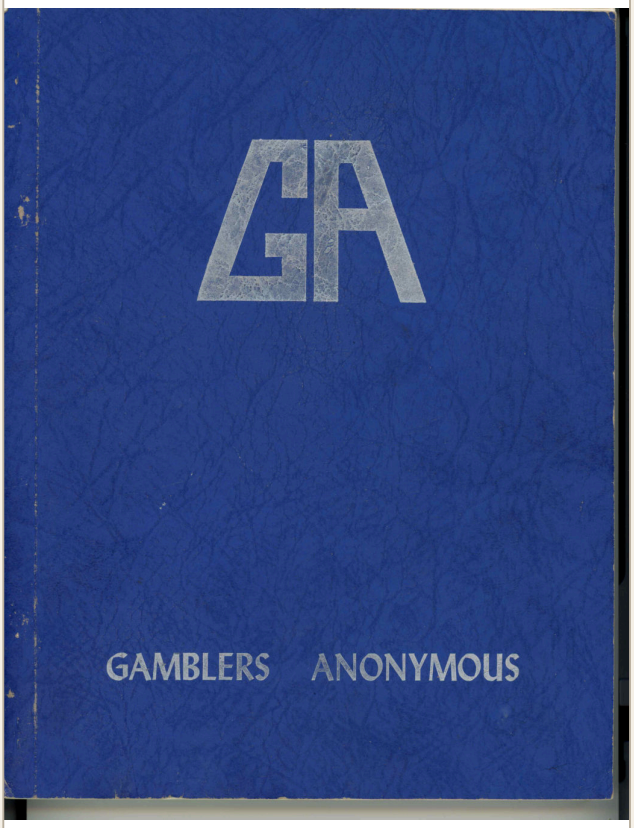
CATALOG RESTRAINT

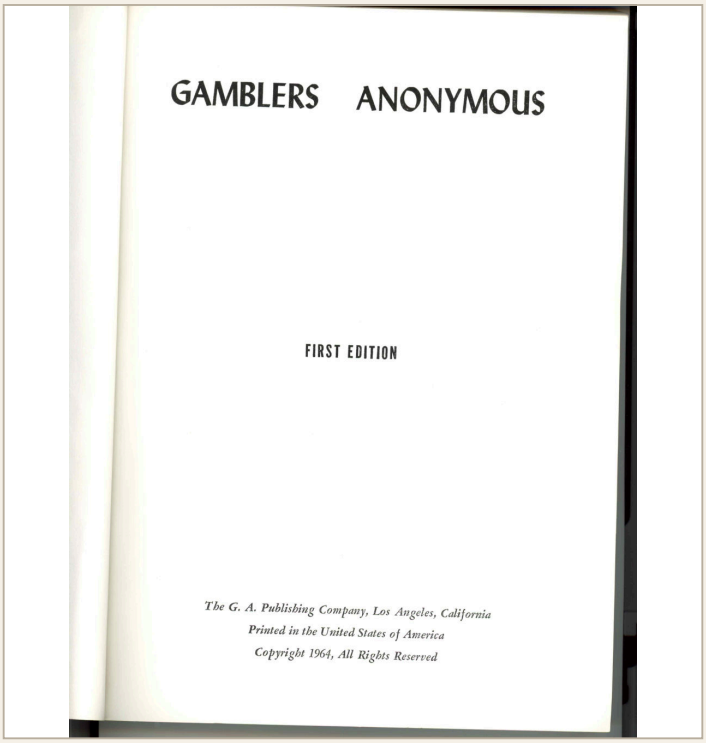
Do not call this the first Spanish Big Book. The portfolio treats it as an early Spanish-language A.A. typescript whose precise production context remains an active research point.

JWGA-002

Gamblers Anonymous - First Edition / First Printin

1964 | Typewritten, stapled book with blue paper cover | Inscribed by Jim Willis to Addie Williams





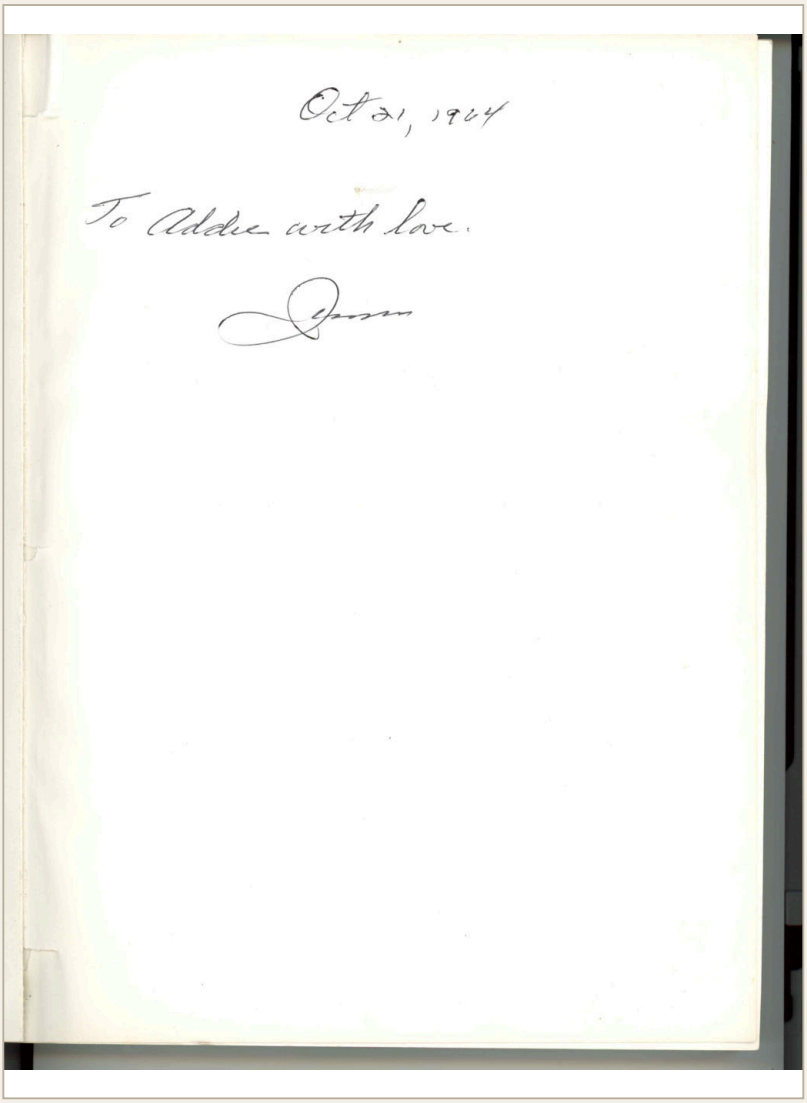
THE FIRST G.A. BOOK

Earlier family documentation and the retained object identify this as the 1964 first edition / first printing. It is one of the archive's central bibliographic objects and the clearest bridge between founder, family and fellowship history.

A FOUNDER-FAMILY ASSOCIATION COPY

Inscribed Directly to Addie

The inscription anchors the book inside the Williams/Willis family papers and gives this copy a significance beyond the bibliographic rarity of the 1964 issue itself.



SALES POSITIONING

This is not simply an early G.A. book. It is a founder-inscribed family association copy preserved inside a larger founder archive - a substantially stronger institutional story than an isolated first edition.

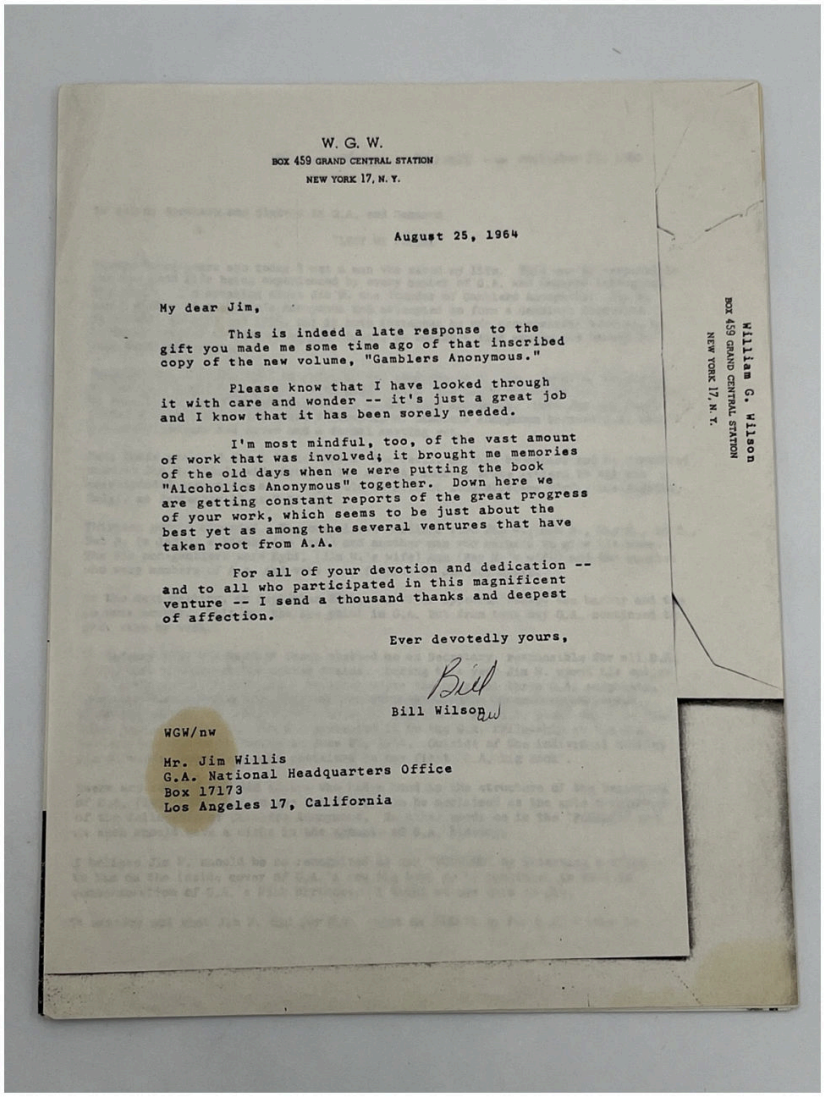
CATALOG WORDING

Use “personally inscribed by founder Jim Willis to his stepdaughter Addie Williams.” Avoid “Jim’s own retained copy” unless future provenance research independently proves that stronger claim.

JWGA-005

Bill Wilson to Jim Willis

August 25, 1964 | Family-retained copy; original letter is not included



W. G. W.
BOX 459 GRAND CENTRAL STATION
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

August 25, 1964

My dear Jim,

This is indeed a late response to the gift you made me some time ago of that inscribed copy of the new volume, "Gamblers Anonymous."

Please know that I have looked through it with care and wonder -- it's just a great job and I know that it has been sorely needed.

I'm most mindful, too, of the vast amount of work that was involved; it brought me memories of the old days when we were putting the book "Alcoholics Anonymous" together. Down here we are getting constant reports of the great progress of your work, which seems to be just about the best yet as among the several ventures that have taken root from A.A.

For all of your devotion and dedication -- and to all who participated in this magnificent venture -- I send a thousand thanks and deepest of affection.

Ever devotedly yours,

Bill

Bill Wilson

WGW/nw

Mr. Jim Willis
G.A. National Headquarters Office
Box 17173
Los Angeles 17, California

William G. Wilson
BOX 459 GRAND CENTRAL STATION
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

WHY THIS LETTER MATTERS

Bill thanks Jim for an inscribed copy of the new volume Gamblers Anonymous, says he has looked through it “with care and wonder,” and reflects on the work of putting Alcoholics Anonymous together.

Even as a retained copy, it is exceptional documentary evidence of direct encouragement from A.A.’s co-founder toward G.A. and its founder.

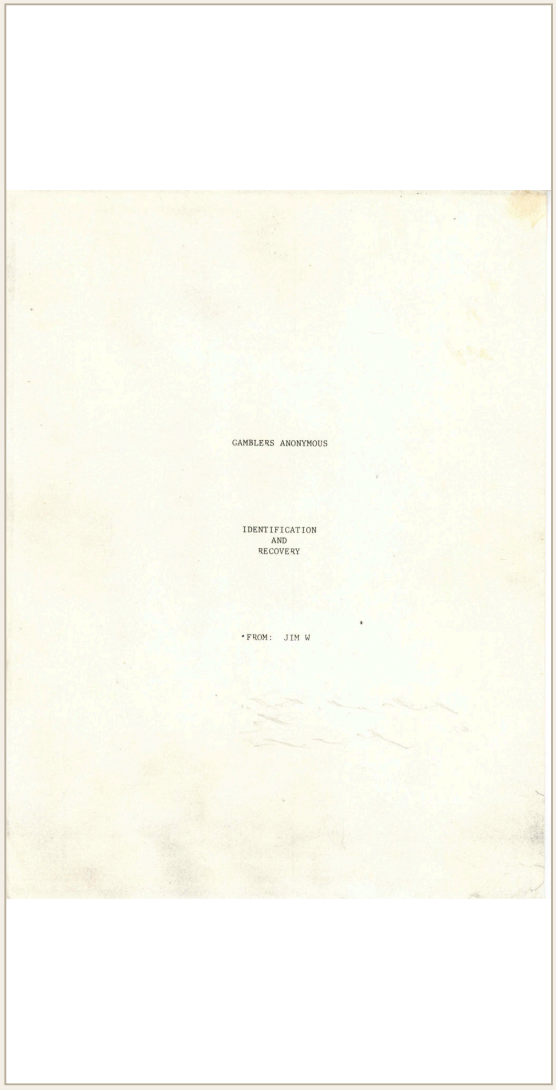
ORIGINALITY

The portfolio deliberately identifies this as a family-retained copy. The strength lies in its content, provenance and role within the larger archive - not in misrepresenting it as the original sheet.

JWGA-003

Identification and Recovery - From: Jim W.

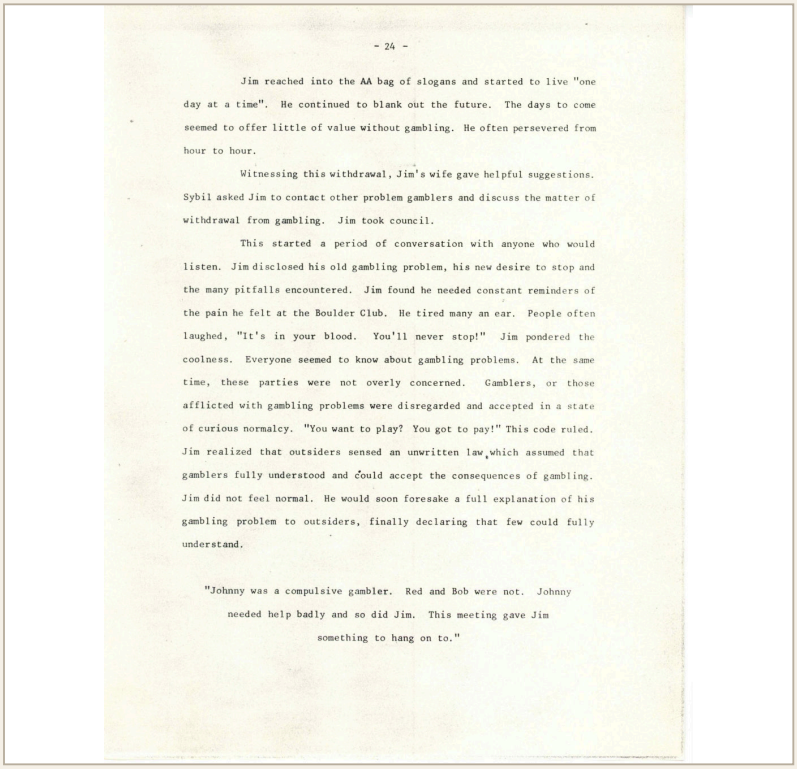
1981-1982 | Approx. 54-page historical typescript developed from Jim Willis correspondence and recollections



GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS

IDENTIFICATION
AND
RECOVERY

FROM: JIM W



- 24 -

Jim reached into the AA bag of slogans and started to live "one day at a time". He continued to blank out the future. The days to come seemed to offer little of value without gambling. He often persevered from hour to hour.

Witnessing this withdrawal, Jim's wife gave helpful suggestions. Sybil asked Jim to contact other problem gamblers and discuss the matter of withdrawal from gambling. Jim took council.

This started a period of conversation with anyone who would listen. Jim disclosed his old gambling problem, his new desire to stop and the many pitfalls encountered. Jim found he needed constant reminders of the pain he felt at the Boulder Club. He tired many an ear. People often laughed, "It's in your blood. You'll never stop!" Jim pondered the coolness. Everyone seemed to know about gambling problems. At the same time, these parties were not overly concerned. Gamblers, or those afflicted with gambling problems were disregarded and accepted in a state of curious normalcy. "You want to play? You got to pay!" This code ruled. Jim realized that outsiders sensed an unwritten law, which assumed that gamblers fully understood and could accept the consequences of gambling. Jim did not feel normal. He would soon foresake a full explanation of his gambling problem to outsiders, finally declaring that few could fully understand.

"Johnny was a compulsive gambler. Red and Bob were not. Johnny needed help badly and so did Jim. This meeting gave Jim something to hang on to."

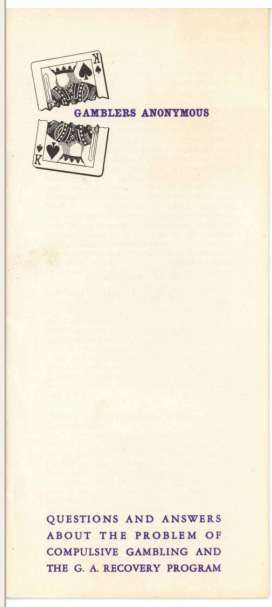
AUTHORSHIP RESOLVED

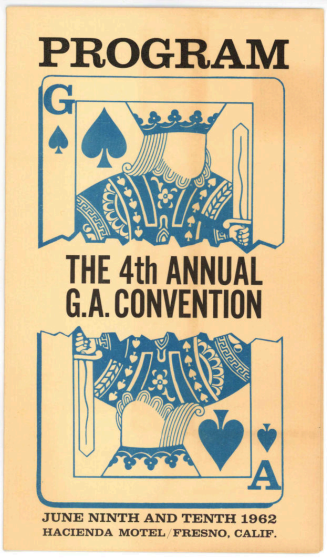
The introduction identifies the writer only as “A GA Member.” The text was compiled from correspondence with Jim during his convalescence and from people present during the early years. It should not be described as a manuscript wholly authored or typed by Jim.

THE FELLOWSHIP TAKES FORM

Literature and Convention Material, 1962

Only five years after the recognized 1957 founding meeting, the archive documents both a formal convention culture and printed literature explaining the recovery program.





JWGA-006

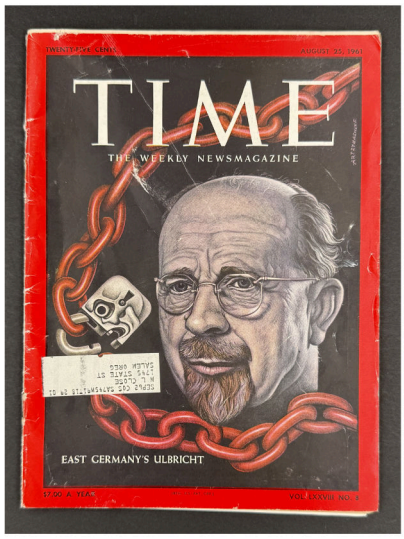
Questions and Answers About the Problem of Compulsive Gambling and the G.A. Recovery Program - First Printing, June 1962. Among the earliest surviving pieces of G.A. literature in the archive.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION ARRIVES EARLY

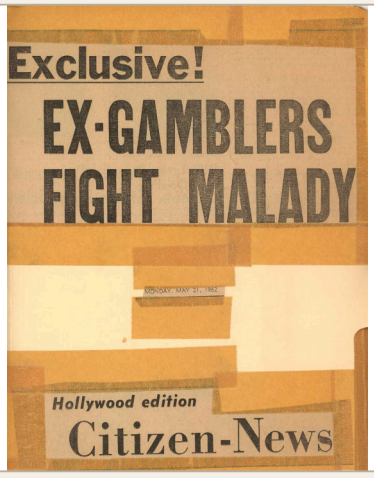
1958-1962 National & Local Coverage

The press file shows that G.A. was attracting public attention well before the first book appeared in 1964.







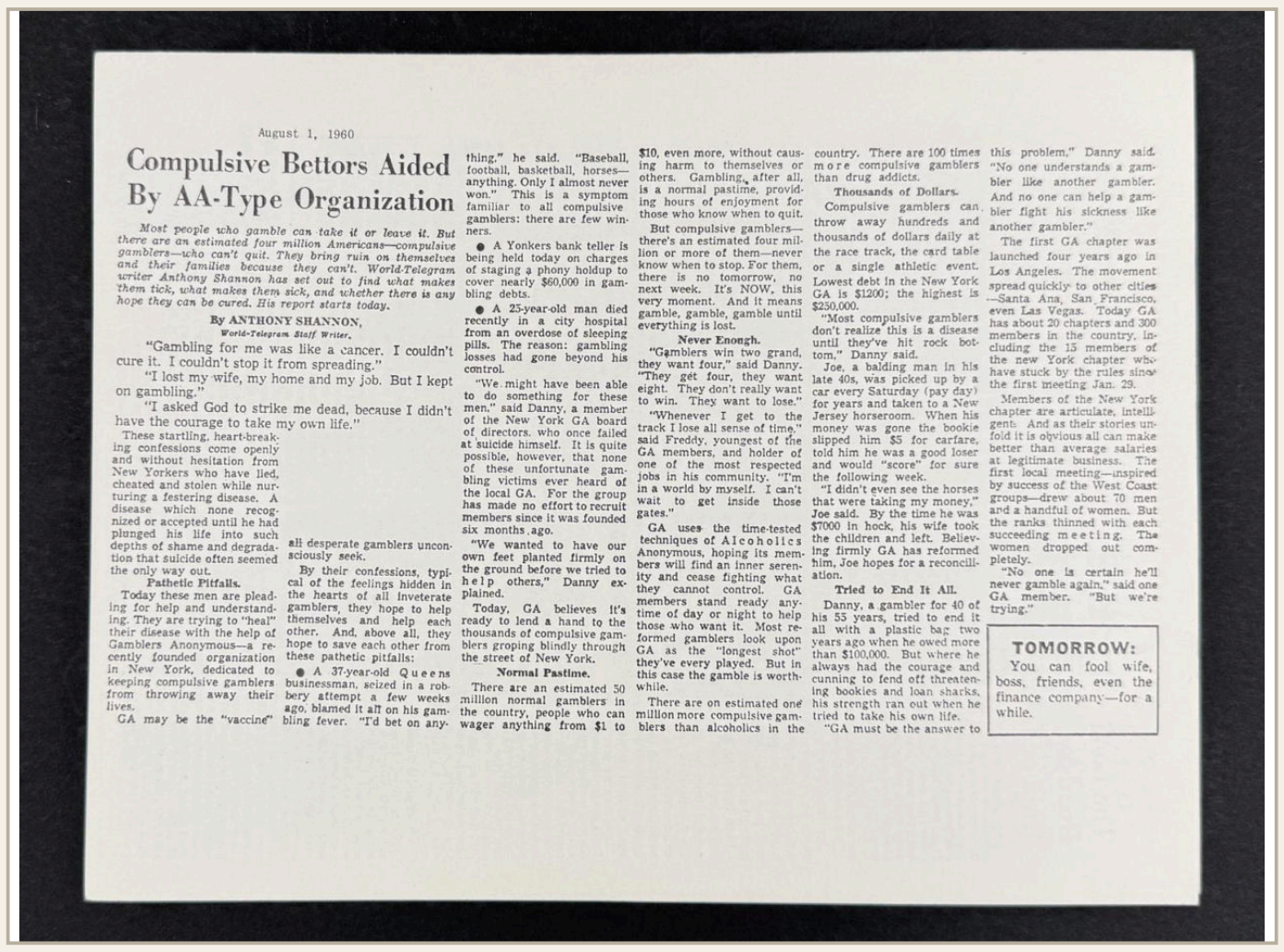


Saturday Evening Post (1958) | TIME (1961) | Saturday Evening Post (1962) | Citizen-News (1962)

A FOUR-PART METROPOLITAN SERIES

New York World-Telegram, August 1-4, 1960

An unusually extensive early newspaper treatment of Gamblers Anonymous, documenting expansion beyond Los Angeles and the public framing of compulsive gambling as a recoverable problem.



August 1, 1960

Compulsive Bettors Aided By AA-Type Organization

By ANTHONY SHANNON, World-Telegram Staff Writer.

"Gambling for me was like a cancer. I couldn't cure it. I couldn't stop it from spreading."

"I lost my wife, my home and my job. But I kept on gambling."

"I asked God to strike me dead, because I didn't have the courage to take my own life."

TOMORROW: You can fool wife, boss, friends, even the finance company—for a while.



August 2, 1960

The Long Road to Ruin or GA

By ANTHONY SHANNON, World-Telegram Staff Writer.

"GA has straightened me out," he says. "For the first time in my life, I'm facing reality."

But there are parts of the grim past Joe never will forget—like listening to his youngest daughter say one night: "Daddy, won't this ever be a happy home?"

TOMORROW: The wife of a compulsive gambler tells of the hell her husband's sickness with bookies made her life.



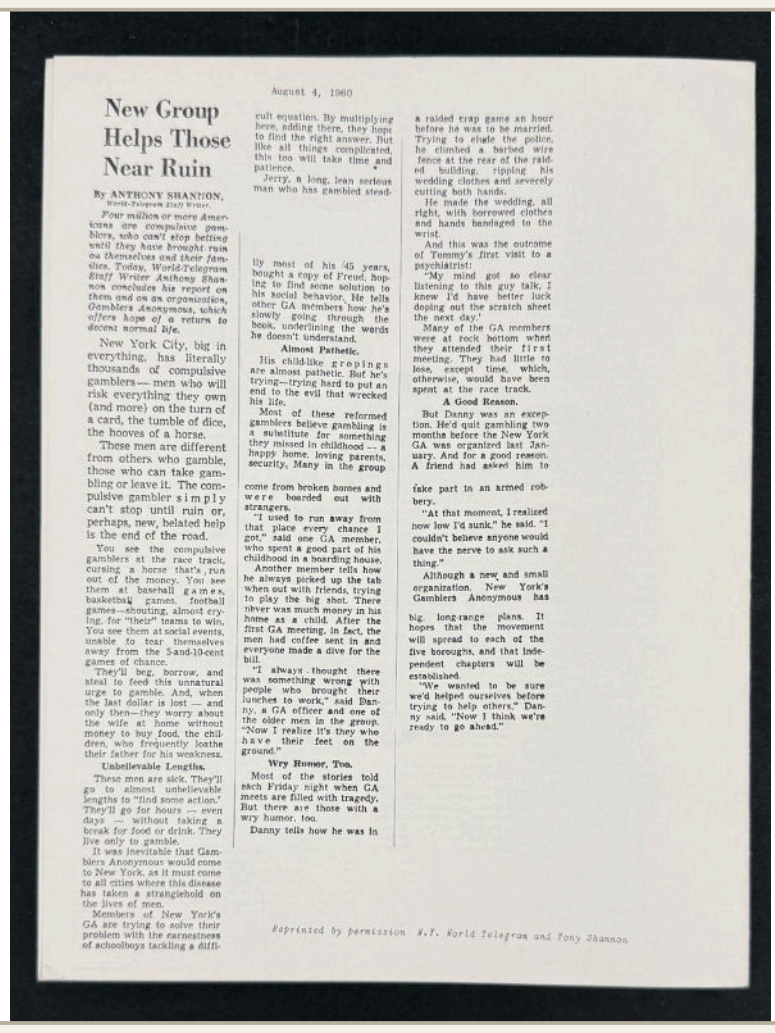
'GA Saved Husband's Life'

August 3, 1960

Bookie Urged Death For Mate

Compulsive gambling is a sickness which shatters the life not only of the gambler, but also the lives of his family. Here, a troubled wife tries to bring reason and consolation to a husband pressed by creditor bookies.

TOMORROW: Is there any cure for the compulsive gambler?



August 4, 1960

New Group Helps Those Near Ruin

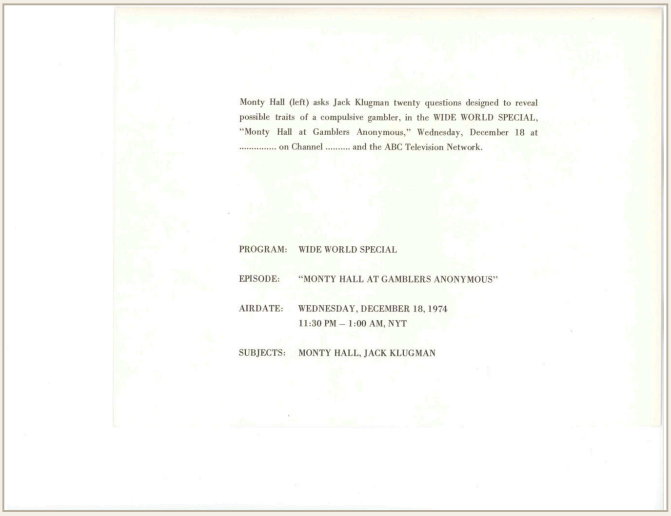
By ANTHONY SHANNON, World-Telegram Staff Writer.

FROM PRINT TO NATIONAL TELEVISION

A Growing Public Profile

The archive follows G.A. from early print coverage into broader late-century visibility, including national television publicity.





Monty Hall (left) asks Jack Klugman twenty questions designed to reveal possible traits of a compulsive gambler, in the WIDE WORLD SPECIAL, "Monty Hall at Gamblers Anonymous," Wednesday, December 18 at ..... on Channel ..... and the ABC Television Network.

PROGRAM: WIDE WORLD SPECIAL

EPISODE: "MONTY HALL AT GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS"

AIRDATE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1974
11:30 PM – 1:00 AM, NYT

SUBJECTS: MONTY HALL, JACK KLUGMAN

JWGA-036

ABC Wide World Special publicity photograph and caption sheet for "Monty Hall at Gamblers Anonymous," scheduled December 18, 1974. The caption sheet - not facial recognition - supplies the documentary identification.



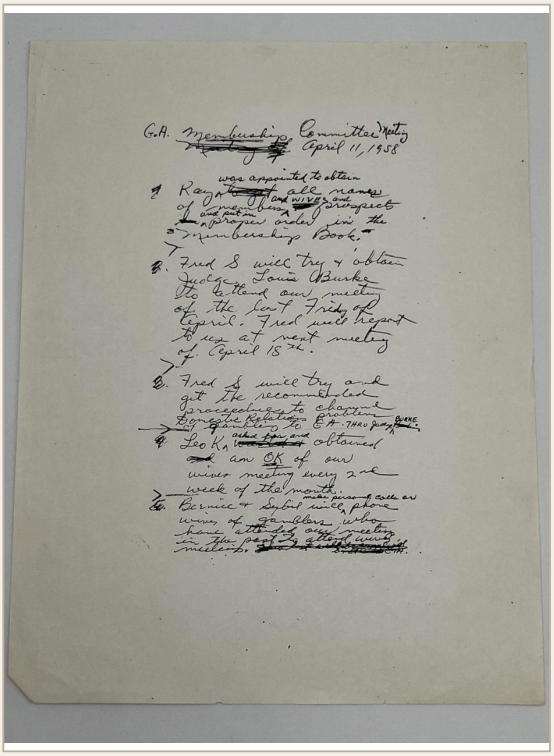




BUILDING AND DEBATING THE PROGRAM

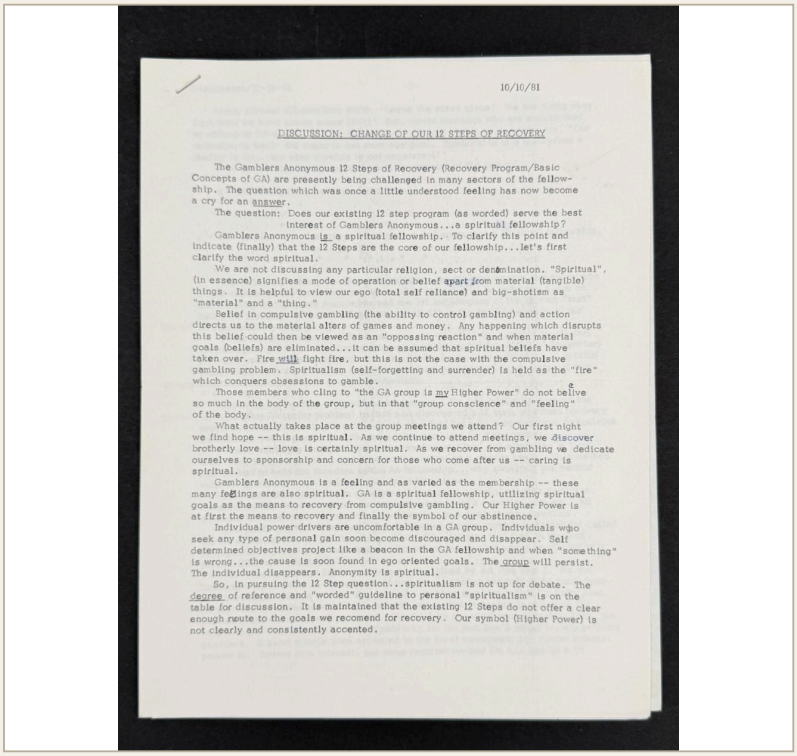
Service, Membership and the Twelve Steps

The archive is not limited to publicity. It contains documents that show the internal work of building a fellowship and later debating how its recovery program should be worded and preserved.



G.A. Membership Committee Meeting
April 11, 1958

was appointed to obtain
1. Roy to get all names and addresses of members and prospects and put in proper order for the Membership Book.
2. Fred S will try & obtain Judge Louis Burke's to attend our meeting of the last Friday of April. Fred will report back at next meeting of April 18th.
3. Fred S will try and get the recommended proceedings to change Original Meeting to 8 P.M. THIS Friday
4. Leo K. added [illegible] are obtained and am OK of our using meeting every 2nd week of the month.
5. Bernie & Sybil will phone names of Gamblers who have left the Gen. meeting in the past 3 months



10/10/81

DISCUSSION: CHANGE OF OUR 12 STEPS OF RECOVERY

The Gamblers Anonymous 12 Steps of Recovery (Recovery Program/Basic Concepts of GA) are presently being challenged in many sectors of the fellowship. The question which was once a little understood feeling has now become a cry for an answer.

The question: Does our existing 12 step program (as worded) serve the best interest of Gamblers Anonymous...a spiritual fellowship?

Gamblers Anonymous is a spiritual fellowship. To clarify this point and indicate (finally) that the 12 Steps are the core of our fellowship...let's first clarify the word spiritual.

We are not discussing any particular religion, sect or denomination. "Spiritual", (in essence) signifies a mode of operation or belief apart from material (tangible) things. It is helpful to view our ego (total self reliance) and big-shotism as "material" and a "thing."

Belief in compulsive gambling (the ability to control gambling) and action directs us to the material alters of games and money. Any happening which disrupts this belief could then be viewed as an "opposing reaction" and when material goals (beliefs) are eliminated...it can be assumed that spiritual beliefs have taken over. Fire with light fire, but this is not the case with the compulsive gambling problem. Spiritualism (self-forgetting and surrender) is held as the "fire" which conquers obsessions to gamble.

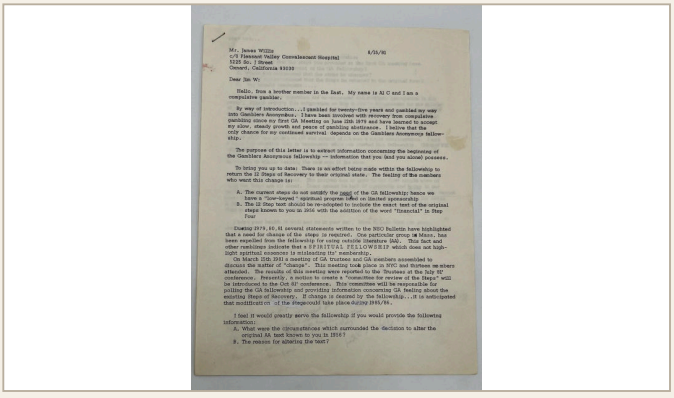
Those members who cling to "the GA group is my Higher Power" do not belive so much in the body of the group, but in that "group conscience" and "feeling" of the body.

What actually takes place at the group meetings we attend? Our first night we find hope -- this is spiritual. As we continue to attend meetings, we discover brotherly love -- love is certainly spiritual. As we recover from gambling we dedicate ourselves to sponsorship and concern for those who come after us -- caring is spiritual.

Gamblers Anonymous is a feeling and as varied as the membership -- these many feelings are also spiritual. GA is a spiritual fellowship, utilizing spiritual goals as the means to recovery from compulsive gambling. Our Higher Power is at first the means to recovery and finally the symbol of our abstinence.

Individual power drivers are uncomfortable in a GA group. Individuals who seek any type of personal gain soon become discouraged and disappear. Self determined objectives project like a beacon in the GA fellowship and when "something" is wrong...the cause is soon found in ego oriented goals. The group will persist. The individual disappears. Anonymity is spiritual.

So, in pursuing the 12 Step question...spiritualism is not up for debate. The degree of reference and "worded" guideline to personal "spiritualism" is on the table for discussion. It is maintained that the existing 12 Steps do not offer a clear enough route to the goals we recomend for recovery. Our symbol (Higher Power) is not clearly and consistently accented.



Mr. James Willis
c/3 Pleasant Valley Convalescent Hospital
5335 So. J Street
Oxnard, California 93030

4/15/81

Dear Jim W:

Hello. from a brother member in the East. My name is Al C and I am a compulsive gambler.

By way of introduction...I quested for seven-five years and gambled my way into Gamblers Anonymous. I have been sober for 3 years and 4 months gambling since my first GA Meeting on June 25th 1978 and have learned to accept my slow, steady growth and peace of gambling abstinence. I believe that the ONLY chance for my continued survival depends on the Gamblers Anonymous fellowship.

The purpose of this letter is to exhaust information concerning the beginning of the Gamblers Anonymous fellowship -- information that you (and you alone) possess.

To bring you up to date: There is an effort being made within the fellowship to return the 12 Steps of Recovery to their original state. The feeling of the members who want this change is:

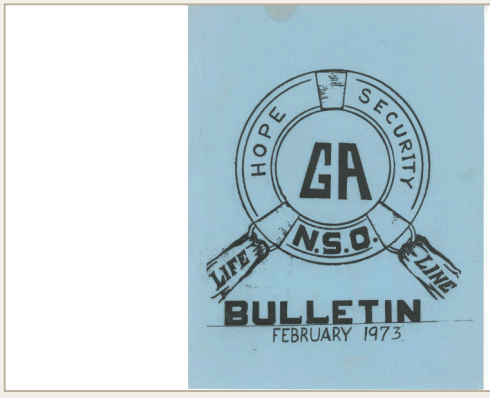
A. The current steps do not satisfy the need of the GA fellowship hence we have a "low-keyed" spiritual program based on limited sponsorship.
B. The 12 Step text should be re-adopted to restore the exact text of the original steps known to you in 1956 with the addition of the word "financial" in Step Four

During 1979, 80, 81 several statements written to the NYC Bulletin have highlighted that a need for change of the steps is required. One particular group in Miami, has been expelled from the fellowship for using outside literature (AA). This fact and other rumblings indicate that a SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP which does not highlight spiritual ascendancy is misleading its' membership.

On March 15th, 1981 a meeting of GA trustees and GA members assembled to discuss the matter of "change". This meeting took place in NYC and thirteen members attended. The results of this meeting were reported to the Trustees at the July NY conference. Presently, a motion to create a "committee for review of the Steps" will be presented to the NY conference in July 1981. This committee will be responsible for polling the GA fellowship and providing information concerning GA feeling about the existing Steps of Recovery. If change is deemed by the fellowship...it is anticipated that modification of the Steps will take place during 1981/82.

I feel it would greatly serve the fellowship if you would provide the following information:

A. What were the circumstances which surrounded the decision to alter the original AA text known to you in 1956?
B. The reason for adhering the text?

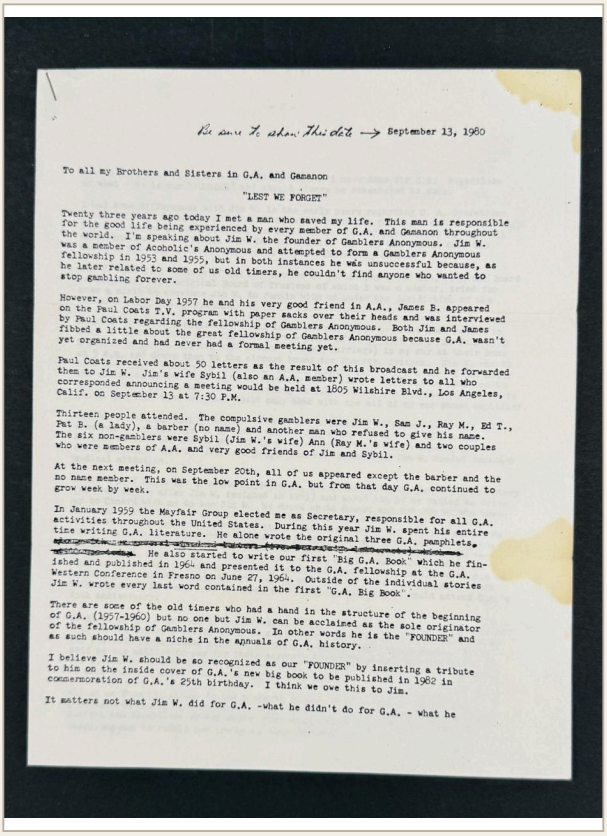


1958 Membership Committee | 1981 Twelve Steps discussion | 1981 Al C. letter to Jim | 1973 N.S.O. Bulletin

REMEMBERING THE FOUNDER

1980-1982

Late-life correspondence and recognition material document an effort inside the fellowship to preserve Jim Willis's historical role as the 25th Anniversary approached.



Re sure To when This did → September 13, 1980

To all my Brothers and Sisters in G.A. and Gamanon

"LEST WE FORGET"

Twenty three years ago today I met a man who saved my life. This man is responsible for the good life being experienced by every member of G.A. and Gamanon throughout the world. I'm speaking about Jim W. the founder of Gamblers Anonymous. Jim W. was a member of Acoholic's Anonymous and attempted to form a Gamblers Anonymous fellowship in 1953 and 1955, but in both instances he was unsuccessful because, as he later related to some of us old timers, he couldn't find anyone who wanted to stop gambling forever.

However, on Labor Day 1957 he and his very good friend in A.A., James B. appeared on the Paul Coats T.V. program with paper sacks over their heads and was interviewed by Paul Coats regarding the fellowship of Gamblers Anonymous. Both Jim and James fibbed a little about the great fellowship of Gamblers Anonymous because G.A. wasn't yet organized and had never had a formal meeting yet.

Paul Coats received about 50 letters as the result of this broadcast and he forwarded them to Jim W. Jim's wife Sybil (also an A.A. member) wrote letters to all who corresponded announcing a meeting would be held at 1805 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. on September 13 at 7:30 P.M.

Thirteen people attended. The compulsive gamblers were Jim W., Sam J., Ray M., Ed T., Pat B. (a lady), a barber (no name) and another man who refused to give his name. The six non-gamblers were Sybil (Jim W.'s wife) Ann (Ray M.'s wife) and two couples who were members of A.A. and very good friends of Jim and Sybil.

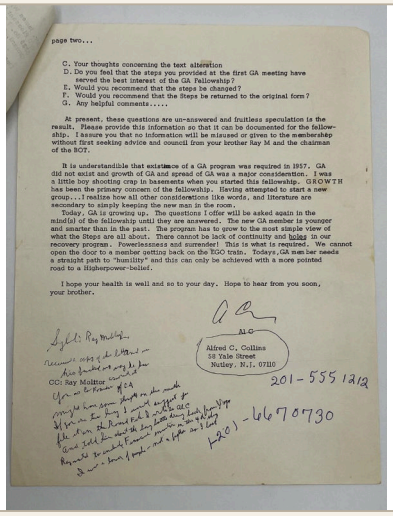
At the next meeting, on September 20th, all of us appeared except the barber and the no name member. This was the low point in G.A. but from that day G.A. continued to grow week by week.

In January 1959 the Mayfair Group elected me as Secretary, responsible for all G.A. activities throughout the United States. During this year Jim W. spent his entire time writing G.A. literature. He alone wrote the original three G.A. pamphlets. He also started to write our first "Big G.A. Book" which he finished and published in 1964 and presented it to the G.A. fellowship at the G.A. Western Conference in Fresno on June 27, 1964. Outside of the individual stories Jim W. wrote every last word contained in the first "G.A. Big Book".

There are some of the old timers who had a hand in the structure of the beginning of G.A. (1957-1960) but no one but Jim W. can be acclaimed as the sole originator of the fellowship of Gamblers Anonymous. In other words he is the "FOUNDER" and as such should have a niche in the annuals of G.A. history.

I believe Jim W. should be so recognized as our "FOUNDER" by inserting a tribute to him on the inside cover of G.A.'s new big book to be published in 1982 in commemoration of G.A.'s 25th birthday. I think we owe this to Jim.

It matters not what Jim W. did for G.A. -what he didn't do for G.A. - what he



page two...

C. Your thoughts concerning the text alteration
D. Do you feel that the steps you provided at the first GA meeting have served the best interest of the GA Fellowship?
E. Would you recommend that the steps be changed?
F. Would you recommend that the Steps be returned to the original form?
G. Any helpful comments.....

At present, these questions are un-answered and fruitless speculation is the result. Please provide this information so that it can be documented for the fellowship. I assure you that no information will be released or given to the membership without first seeking advice and council from your brother Ray M and the chairman of the BOT.

It is understandible that existence of a GA program was required in 1957. GA did not exist and growth of GA and spread of GA was a major consideration. I was a little boy shooting crap in basements when you started this fellowship. GROWTH has been the primary concern of the fellowship. Having attempted to start a new group...I realize how all other considerations like words, and literature are secondary to simply keeping the new man in the room.

Today, GA is growing up. The questions I offer will be asked again in the mind(s) of the fellowship until they are answered. The new GA member is younger and smarter than in the past. The program has to grow to the most simple view of what the Steps are all about. There cannot be lack of continuity and holes in our recovery program. Powerlessness and surrender! This is what is required. We cannot open the door to a member getting back on the TGO train. Todays GA men ber needs a straight path to "humility" and this can only be achieved with a more pointed road to a Higherpower-belief.

I hope your health is well and so to your day. Hope to hear from you soon,
your brother.

AlC

Alfred C. Collins
58 Yale Street
Nutley, N.J. 07110

201-555 1212

CC: Ray Molitor

(201)-6670730



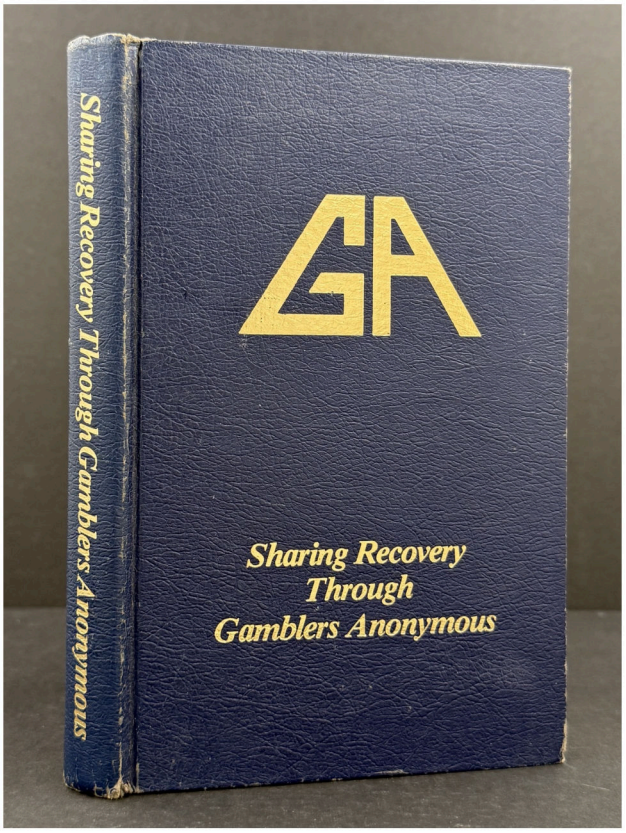
NARRATIVE ARC

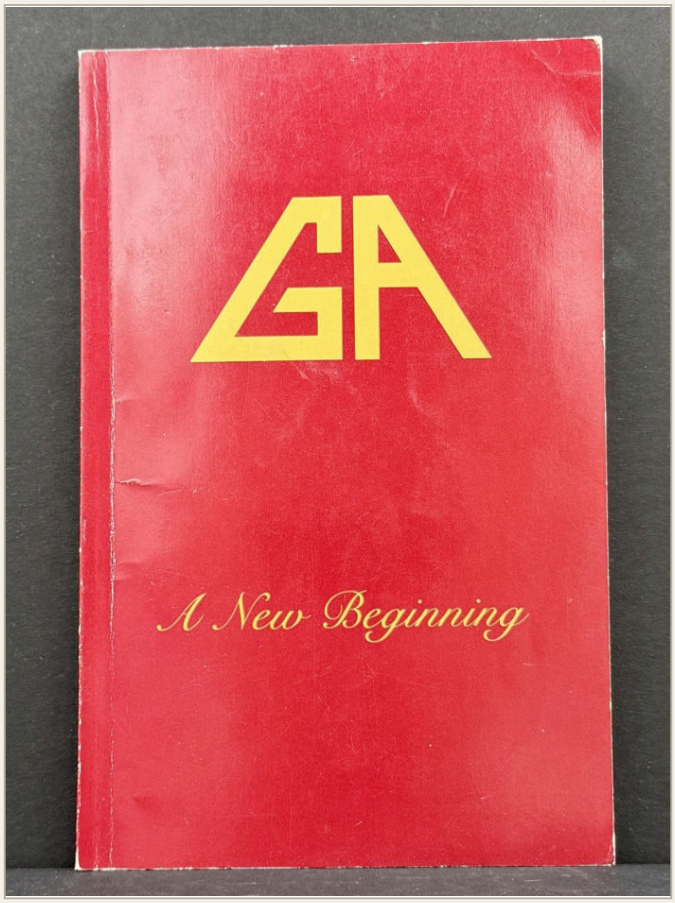
Ray M.'s 1980 "Lest We Forget," the 1981 request for Jim's historical guidance on the Twelve Steps, and the July 1982 founder plaque create a compelling sequence of preservation, consultation and formal recognition.

THE FOUNDER ENTERS THE OFFICIAL RECORD

1984 and 1993 G.A. Books

The post-Willis publications in the archive explicitly memorialize Jim as founder and preserve the A.A.-to-G.A. lineage as part of the fellowship's institutional narrative.





SHARING RECOVERY THROUGH G.A. - 1984

First edition, published immediately after Jim's death, with a dedication to "Jim W. our founder 1912-1983" and an appendix containing a biography of Jim W.

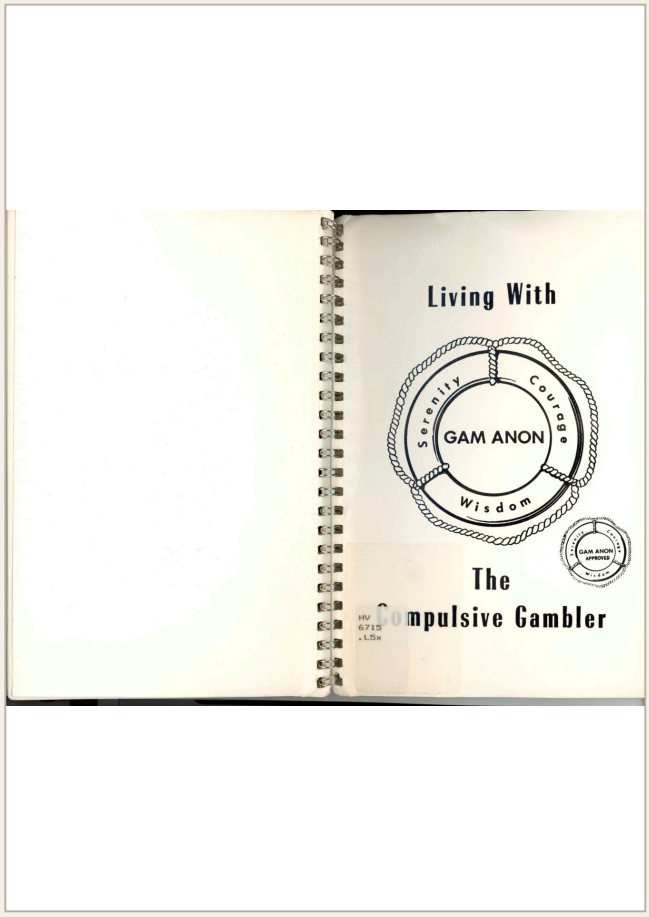
A NEW BEGINNING - 1993

Second edition. Its dedication identifies Jim W. as founder and acknowledges Alcoholics Anonymous for sharing the program he used as a guide in laying the foundation for G.A.

GAM-ANON IN THE ARCHIVE

The Family Story Beside the Founder Story

The presence of Gam-Anon material strengthens the archive as a broader record of the recovery ecosystem that formed around compulsive gambling.



JWGA-052

Living With The Compulsive Gambler - Gam-Anon, First Printing, June 1966. An early family-recovery pamphlet documenting the parallel development of Gam-Anon.

OTHER GAM-ANON RECORDS

The audited catalog also includes The Gam-Anon Way of Life (undated early issue) and a 1979 Gam-Anon statement marked “APPROVED BOD MEETING 1979.”

EXHIBIT VALUE

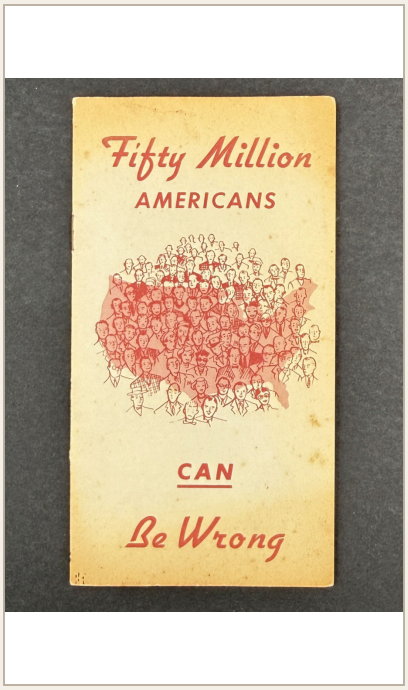
Together these pieces allow an institution to present not only the founder and the compulsive gambler, but also the family response and the emergence of a companion fellowship.

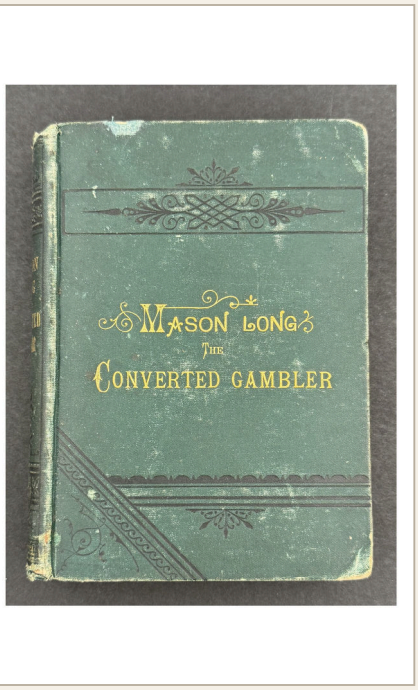
BEFORE AND AROUND GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS

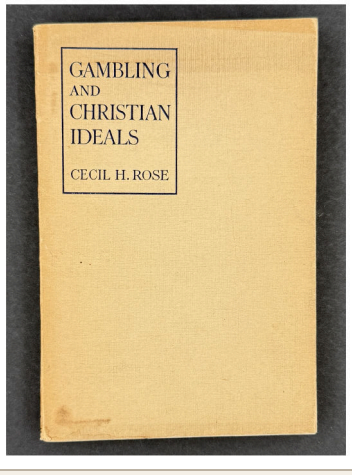
A Wider History of Gambling Reform

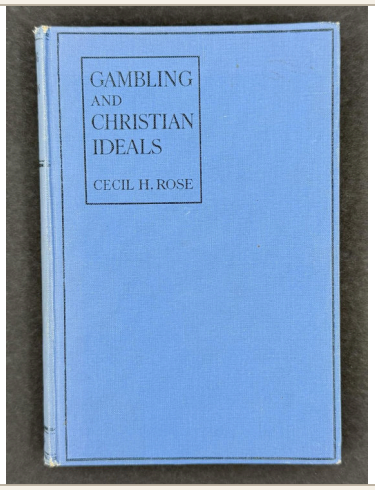
The Willis papers were retained alongside precursor and contextual literature, creating useful exhibit material for the social history of gambling and recovery.

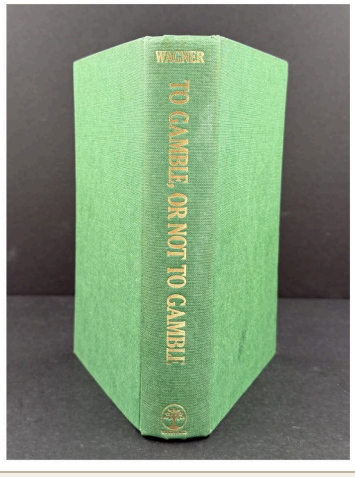












1948 Coronet precursor | 1955 anti-gambling pamphlet | Mason Long | 1930 Cecil H. Rose copies | 1972 Walter Wagner

A RESEARCHABLE ARCHIVE

Fixed Catalog Range JWGA-001 through JWGA-06

The completed audit preserves both active records and control numbers, distinguishing physical objects from reserved and superseded entries.

63
fixed catalog IDs

46
audited / confirmed

4
audited with qualification

13
control / reserved

5
bounded research flags

Cornerstone Founder / AA-GA Association	JWGA-001, 002, 003, 005
Founder Recognition & Historical Memory	JWGA-004, 018, 057
Early / Later G.A. Literature	JWGA-006-008, 038-040, 059-060
Service, Board & Institutional Material	JWGA-013-015, 053-054
Contemporary Press & Publicity	JWGA-020-024, 034-036, 042-051
Historical Gambling Context	JWGA-034, 051, 055-056, 058, 061-062
Provenance & Archive Context	JWGA-032-033

INSTITUTIONAL ACQUISITION THESIS

Why Keep the Archive Intact

The whole is stronger than the sum of its parts: multiple independent documentary strands converge on the same historical narrative.

FOUNDER

Jim Willis is represented through inscribed literature, historical recollection, correspondence, recognition material and later institutional memorialization.

A.A. RELATIONSHIP

The archive contains tangible and documentary evidence of the direct A.A.-to-G.A. lineage, including G.S.O. inscriptions and the Bill Wilson letter copy.

FELLOWSHIP FORMATION

Early literature, convention material, service records and press coverage document a new fellowship moving from experiment to organized national presence.

PUBLIC HISTORY

Magazine, newspaper and television material shows how compulsive gambling entered public discussion and how G.A. became the principal peer-recovery reference point.

PROVENANCE

The Addie Williams family papers keep founder, family and fellowship records together in a way that cannot be recreated by assembling isolated market purchases.

BEST-FIT ACQUIRERS

Recovery-history museums; university special collections; behavioral-health or addiction-history institutions; archives focused on mutual-aid fellowships; private collectors seeking a museum-scale founder archive.

PRESERVATION NOTES

A Collection to Be Kept as a Unit

The portfolio is designed to support institutional review. The audited master catalog should travel with the archive and remain linked to the JWGA identifiers.

- Preserve original folders and family groupings until an archivist completes final arrangement and description.
- Keep each catalog PDF tied to its JWGA identifier; do not collapse duplicate physical copies into one object record.
- Continue to label photocopies / family-retained copies explicitly; originality distinctions are part of the collection's credibility.
- Future research should be additive rather than corrective-by-assumption: the Spanish notation "50 12/61," two G.S.O. surname readings, one undated Gam-Anon issue, a July 1981 pamphlet date, and the Mason Long edition remain bounded questions.
- For exhibition, lead with JWGA-001, 002, 004 and 005; use JWGA-003, early literature and press as the narrative bridge between the cornerstones.

AUDIT COMPLETED

October 10, 2026 | Fixed catalog range JWGA-001 through JWGA-063. The remaining research flags do not change the core archive thesis or principal cornerstone objects.

JWGA-001 THROUGH JWGA-063

Catalog Index

All catalog identifiers are retained, including control and reserved numbers, to preserve the audit trail.

JWGA-001	**Alcoholics Anonymous - Alcoholicos Anonimos: Version Castellana** Original; inscribed to Jim Willis | AUDITED - 1 PROVISIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC POINT	December 1961
JWGA-002	**Gamblers Anonymous - First Edition / First Printing** Original; inscribed to Addie Williams | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	1964
JWGA-003	**Gamblers Anonymous - Identification and Recovery - From: Jim W.** Original family-retained typescript | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	1981-1982
JWGA-004	**G.A. Award of Appreciation and Love - Jim W. - Founder of Gamblers Anonymous** Original artifact | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	July 2, 1982
JWGA-005	**Bill Wilson Letter to Jim Willis** Photocopy / family-retained copy; original not included | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	August 25, 1964
JWGA-006	**Questions and Answers About the Problem of Compulsive Gambling and the G.A. Recovery Program** Original; First Printing | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	June 1962
JWGA-007	**Gamblers Anonymous** Original | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	Printed April 22, 1976
JWGA-008	**The Gam-Anon Way of Life** Original | AUDITED - DATE UNPRINTED	Undated; early issue
JWGA-009	**Additional early G.A. pamphlets / pocket literature - former grouped record** Retired / superseded by item-level records | CONTROL / RESERVED	Various

JWGA-001 THROUGH JWGA-063

Catalog Index - Continued

All catalog identifiers are retained, including control and reserved numbers, to preserve the audit trail.

JWGA-010	**Program for the 4th Annual G.A. Convention - Hacienda Motel, Fresno, California** Original | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	June 9-10, 1962
JWGA-011	**Gamblers Anonymous - 20 Years** Original; association copy signed "Bill G. / Cleve." | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	1977
JWGA-012	**Additional convention / conference material - former grouped record** Retired / superseded / no standalone item currently assigned | CONTROL / RESERVED	Various
JWGA-013	**G.A. Membership Committee Meeting material** Photocopy / family-retained copy | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	April 11, 1958
JWGA-014	**Gamblers Anonymous Bulletin - National Service Office** Original | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	February 1973
JWGA-015	**Gam-Anon statement - Approved BOD Meeting 1979** Original family-retained sheet | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	1979
JWGA-016	**Additional Board / Trustee / National Service Office papers - former grouped record** Retired / superseded by item-level records | CONTROL / RESERVED	Various
JWGA-017	**Guidance Code / related organizational material** Research pending / no standalone final record confirmed | CONTROL / RESERVED	Various
JWGA-018	**Ray M. - "Lest We Forget"** Photocopy / family-retained copy | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	September 13, 1980

JWGA-001 THROUGH JWGA-063

Catalog Index - Continued

All catalog identifiers are retained, including control and reserved numbers, to preserve the audit trail.

JWGA-019	**Additional Jim Willis historical / recognition material - former grouped record** Retired / superseded by item-level records | CONTROL / RESERVED	Various
JWGA-020	**TIME - "Organizations: Gamblers Anonymous"** Original period publication / scan documentation | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	August 25, 1961
JWGA-021	**The Saturday Evening Post - "Gamblers Anonymous" by Stanley Frank** Original period publication - Copy 1 | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	May 26, 1962
JWGA-022	**The Saturday Evening Post - "Gamblers Anonymous" - second physical copy** Original period publication - Copy 2 | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	May 26, 1962
JWGA-023	**Citizen-News - "Ex-Gamblers Fight Malady" by Troy Knighten** Original clipping / mounted or retained press material | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	May 21, 1962
JWGA-024	**The Saturday Evening Post - "I Was a Compulsive Gambler"** Original period publication | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	August 23, 1958
JWGA-025	**Additional contemporary G.A. / compulsive-gambling press - former grouped record** Retired / superseded by item-level press records | CONTROL / RESERVED	Various
JWGA-026	**Miscellaneous letters, notes, papers and printouts retained in Addie G.A. papers - former grouped record** Retired / superseded by item-level records | CONTROL / RESERVED	Various
JWGA-027	**Jim Burwell-related correspondence / material - former grouped record** Retired / superseded by JWGA-037 | CONTROL / RESERVED	Various

JWGA-001 THROUGH JWGA-063

Catalog Index - Continued

All catalog identifiers are retained, including control and reserved numbers, to preserve the audit trail.

JWGA-028	**Additional Bill Wilson-related material - former grouped record** Retired / no additional standalone item presently assigned | CONTROL / RESERVED	Various
JWGA-029	**Later Gamblers Anonymous books and literature - former grouped record** Retired / superseded by item-level records | CONTROL / RESERVED	Various
JWGA-030	**Later Gam-Anon literature - former grouped record** Retired / superseded by item-level records | CONTROL / RESERVED	Various
JWGA-031	**Historical / reference books retained with the archive - former grouped record** Retired / superseded by item-level records | CONTROL / RESERVED	Various
JWGA-032	**Addie Williams provenance / family archive documentation** Original documentary material / mixed | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	Various
JWGA-033	**Original folders / groupings associated with the archive** Original archive context | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	Various
JWGA-034	**Coronet - "Needed: A Gambler's Anonymous"** Original period publication / scan documentation | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	April 1948
JWGA-035	**Sports Illustrated - "Tales of Self-Destruction" - Special Report: Gambling** Original period publication / scan documentation | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	March 10, 1986
JWGA-036	**ABC Wide World Special - "Monty Hall at Gamblers Anonymous" publicity photograph and caption sheet** Original publicity material / documentary copy | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	December 18, 1974

JWGA-001 THROUGH JWGA-063

Catalog Index - Continued

All catalog identifiers are retained, including control and reserved numbers, to preserve the audit trail.

JWGA-037	**Jim Burwell letter to Jim and Sybil Willis** Photocopy / family-retained copy; original not included | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	January 28, 1962
JWGA-038	**Compulsive Gambling** Original | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	September 1975
JWGA-039	**Questions and Answers About the Problem of Compulsive Gambling** Original | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	December 1977
JWGA-040	**Gamblers Anonymous** Original | AUDITED - DATE FROM ARCHIVE LABEL	July 1981
JWGA-041	**Reserved catalog number** Reserved / no separate item presently assigned | CONTROL / RESERVED	-
JWGA-042	**New York World-Telegram - "Compulsive Bettors Aided By AA-Type Organization"** Original clipping / press-file material | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	August 1, 1960
JWGA-043	**New York World-Telegram - "The Long Road to Ruin or GA"** Original clipping / press-file material | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	August 2, 1960
JWGA-044	**New York World-Telegram - 'GA Saved Husband's Life' - Bookie Urged Death For Mate** Original clipping / press-file material | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	August 3, 1960
JWGA-045	**New York World-Telegram - "New Group Helps Those Near Ruin"** Original clipping / press-file material | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	August 4, 1960

JWGA-001 THROUGH JWGA-063

Catalog Index - Continued

All catalog identifiers are retained, including control and reserved numbers, to preserve the audit trail.

JWGA-046	**New York Post - "The Biggest Bet Of Them All"** Original clipping / press-file material | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	March 26, 1961
JWGA-047	**New York Mirror - "These Men Stake Their Lives"** Original clipping / press-file material | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	April 2, 1961
JWGA-048	**LOOK - "If I Don't Show Up, Please, Please Call Me"** Original period publication / press-file material | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	December 10, 1968
JWGA-049	**The New York Times - "Compulsive Gamblers Inch Their Torturous Way From Cliff's Edge"** Original clipping / press-file material | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	June 30, 1968
JWGA-050	**ACE - "Gamblers Anonymous"** Original period publication / press-file material | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	August 1961
JWGA-051	**The Plain Truth - "Gambling: A Growing Problem"** Original period publication / press-file material | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	July 1969
JWGA-052	**Living With The Compulsive Gambler - Gam-Anon** Original; First Printing | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	June 1966
JWGA-053	**Discussion: Change of Our 12 Steps of Recovery** Family-retained typescript / working discussion paper | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	October 10, 1981
JWGA-054	**Alfred C. Collins letter to Jim Willis regarding G.A. Twelve Steps** Family-retained typed letter; appears to be original, with ink signature/annotations | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	August 15, 1981

JWGA-001 THROUGH JWGA-063

Catalog Index - Continued

All catalog identifiers are retained, including control and reserved numbers, to preserve the audit trail.

JWGA-055	**Fifty Million Americans Can Be Wrong** Original | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	1955
JWGA-056	**Mason Long - The Life of Mason Long, the Converted Gambler** Original; association/reference copy with selected annotations | AUDITED - EDITION UNCONFIRMED	c. 1882-1887; edition unconfirmed
JWGA-057	**Ray M. letter to Jim Willis and Norma** Photocopy / family-retained copy | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	January 28, 1980
JWGA-058	**Walter Wagner - To Gamble, or Not to Gamble** Original; First Printing | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	1972
JWGA-059	**Gamblers Anonymous - A New Beginning** Original; 2nd Edition | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	January 1993
JWGA-060	**Sharing Recovery Through Gamblers Anonymous** Original; First Edition | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	1984
JWGA-061	**Cecil H. Rose - Gambling and Christian Ideals - tan cloth copy** Original; First Edition | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	1930
JWGA-062	**Cecil H. Rose - Gambling and Christian Ideals - blue cloth copy** Original; First Edition | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	1930
JWGA-063	**Identification and Recovery - partial duplicate / working segment** Family-retained partial duplicate of JWGA-003 | AUDITED / CONFIRMED	1981-1982

BOUNDED RESEARCH QUESTIONS

What Remains Open - and What Does Not

The remaining questions are narrow bibliographic or attribution points. None undermines the collection's principal historical narrative.

JWGA-001

Meaning of "50 12/61"

December 1961 is secure. The meaning of "50" remains unconfirmed; seek A.A.W.S./G.S.O. production records or another surviving copy.

JWGA-001

Two signer surnames

Use Midge M. and Beth K. unless the original inscriptions clearly support fuller surname readings.

JWGA-008

Publication date

No date is printed in the scanned booklet. Keep undated unless another bibliographic copy establishes an issue date.

JWGA-040

July 1981 printing date

The date comes from archive labeling rather than a visible printed date in the scanned pages reviewed.

JWGA-056

Mason Long edition

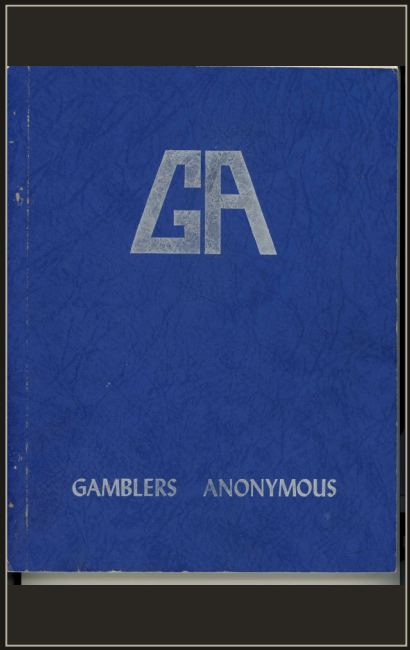
The title/copyright leaf is absent. Current evidence supports a later 280-page edition, likely 1882-1887; do not call it the 1878 first edition.

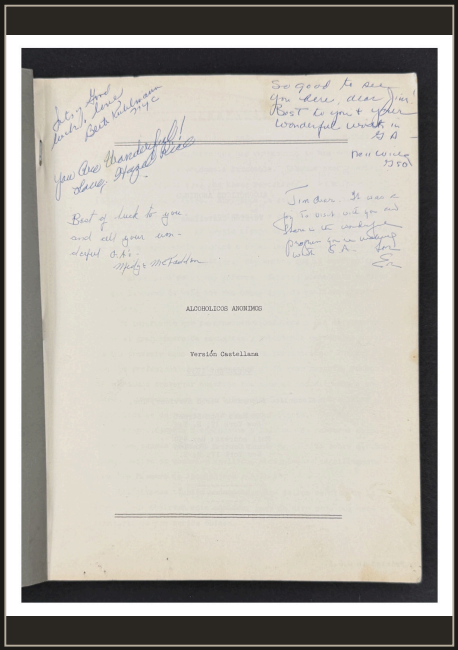
AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE ACQUISITION

The Jim Willis & Early Gamblers Anonymous Arch

Founder-family books, manuscripts, correspondence, literature, publicity, service records and historical context - preserved and offered as a coherent archive.







PRIVATE ACQUISITION PRICE

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Offered intact with the audited master inventory, descriptive catalog and labeled digital reference files. Institutional and serious private inquiries welcome.

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Portfolio prepared from the audited catalog and retained archive scans. October 2026.