

<b>Title:</b>	Bettelheim, Tinbergen and Hall fonds, 1972-1981		
<b>Creator:</b>	Bruno Bettelheim, Nikolaas Tinbergen, and Elizabeth Hall		
<b>Dates of Material:</b>	1972-1981	<b>Record Group Number:</b>	RG 516
<b>Summary of Contents:</b>	<p>Fonds contains correspondence, an autobiographical statement by Nikolaas Tinbergen, and three inscribed presentation copies of books by Bettelheim or Tinbergen that were given to Hall. Elizabeth Hall was a managing editor of <i>Psychology Today</i> and was acquainted with Oxford ethologist Nikolaas Tinbergen and psychologist Bruno Bettelheim.</p> <p>The correspondence contains ten typed letters and two autograph letters from Tinbergen to Hall. Two other letters are addressed to “Scott” and “O’Dells” [Elizabeth Hall’s husband], and signed by Nikolaas Tinbergen. One of the letters includes an eight-page typed autobiographical statement by Tinbergen. Several references to his work with autistic children are included in this statement, enclosed with the letter dated Sept. 29, 1973. He mentions his work with his wife Lies and their “plan to collaborate on an interpretation of at least certain forms of autism to which our facts and methods forced us but which was in many respects either very different from professionally held interpretations, and at any rate based on methods not so far used by the medical and therapeutic professionals”. Later he notes that “I...reject fully the idea of genetic engineering (because we simply know too little about the million possible side effects of interfering with our genetic blueprint)...I feel that we need to have more humility in the face of Creation (of what evolution by natural selection has produced) and proceed very cautiously, even where we do advocate some engineering, as in the case of autistic children”. He also writes of his work with autistic children in the letter dated Nov. 27, 1974, noting that “New things are being tried out, all the time being fed by the belief that the initial damage has been of an emotional nature. But since the children we have to do with had already been so severely damaged when this new ‘treatment’ began, recovery—to whatever level will turn out to be possible—is obviously a slow process”. Several letters also refer to Tinbergen’s relationship with his colleague and friend Konrad Lorenz. The two friends were on opposing sides during World War II, with Lorenz associating with the Nazis and Tinbergen detained in a concentration camp in the Netherlands.</p> <p>There are also two typed letters from Bettelheim signed to Hall and one letter signed from Bettelheim to Howard Munson (1978), another former managing editor at <i>Psychology Today</i>. The three books included are <i>The Empty Fortress: Infantile Autism and the Birth of the Self</i> by Bruno Bettelheim; <i>Surviving and other Essays</i> by Bruno Bettelheim; and <i>The Herring Gull’s World</i> by Nikolaas Tinbergen. Each book is inscribed by the author.</p>		

<b>Physical Description / Condition:</b>	17 letters  3 books
<b>Other Notes:</b>	<p>Elizabeth Hall was a managing editor of <i>Psychology Today</i>, who on separate occasions interviewed Oxford ethologist Nikolaas Tinbergen (1907-1988) and psychologist Bruno Bettelheim (1903-1990). Her 1973 interview with Tinbergen, conducted at his vacation home in the Cumberland region of northern England, was published later that year in <i>Psychology Today</i>. She left the magazine in 1976 to run the journal <i>Human Nature</i>, but left this position in 1979. She continued to contribute articles to various magazines, but most notably to <i>Psychology Today</i>. Her interview with Bruno Bettelheim appeared in that magazine in 1981.</p> <p>In 1973, Nikolaas (Niko) Tinbergen was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine with Karl von Frisch and Konrad Lorenz for their collaborative work. Tinbergen and Lorenz worked well together and enjoyed a collegial friendship. However, their friendship was tested by the second World War and Lorenz's Nazi party affiliation, due in part to Lorenz's interest in eugenics. Tinbergen was held in a concentration camp in the Netherlands, while Lorenz spent four years as a German POW in the hands of the Russian army. After the war, Lorenz disassociated himself from the Nazis, and renewed his friendship with Tinbergen. Tinbergen writes of his relationship with Lorenz in his letter addressed to Elizabeth, dated April 25, 1974. He writes "...I was a little taken aback that you want to raise that old nazi business once more...I had advised Konrad that in my opinion it would seem to be the wisest course not to evade the issue, and to admit that he was politically simply incredibly naïve at the time, and that he now disagreed with what he had then written." Tinbergen also makes the point that some of Lorenz's comments had been misunderstood by the media. He writes that Lorenz had been "attacked vigorously for his writing that we must 'ausmerzen' bad qualities in 'domesticated' Man, and this has been taken as meaning killing people. 'Ausmerzen' (roughly to stamp out) is a generally used technical term, and applies to <u>genes</u> not men; in other words he advocated a kind of eugenics. I can say from personal conviction that Lorenz was never a man to advocate the killing of <u>people</u>; the term was, probably deliberately, misunderstood, as no biologist would misunderstand it". He makes several other references to his relationship with Lorenz in his autobiographical statement, enclosed with the letter to Elizabeth dated Sept. 29, 1973.</p> <p>Tinbergen also comments on his feelings about his work a year after being awarded the Nobel Prize. In a letter dated Nov. 27, 1974, he writes that he read an article in <i>New Scientist</i> about how Nobel Laureates react to receiving</p>

	<p>this award. He notes that “very many people, particularly when they got the prize late in their career, were for a year or more rather unhappy. One feels one is not up to what the outside world expects. I am still very much in that stage, and I am still worrying about where to go from here...I feel that I have the duty to give all my attention to ‘the human predicament’, and this involves trying to cope with a veritable bombardment with information, opinions, etc. in which it is extremely difficult to distinguish ripe from green, or corn from chaff”.</p>		
<b>Location:</b>	Brock University Archives		
<b>Source Information:</b>	Acquired from Kuenzig Books in September 2014.		
<b>Described by:</b>	Chantal Cameron	<b>Date:</b>	September 2014