

December 7, 1994

Edward Shorter, Ph.D.  
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University of Toronto  
88 College Street  
Toronto, Canada M5G 1L4

Dear Dr. Shorter,

In 1983, in preparation for the 50th anniversary of the first induction of seizures for mental illness, I sought historical data from Meduna's family [could not find any member] and from his co-workers. One sent me a hand edited copy of an autobiography, seemingly written in response to a shorter version prepared for Marti-Ibanez, Sackler, Sackler & Sackler: *The Great Physiodynamic Therapies*, 1956, Hoeber-Harper, New York.

The text needed much editing. As Editor of *Convulsive Therapy*, I published the text in the first two numbers of *Convulsive Therapy* [1985; 1:43-57; 121-138]. I used this text and the shorter Marti-Ibanez *et al* text for my 1984 article.

Another version of Meduna's history was written by Walter Freeman, M.D. in *The Psychiatrist: Personalities and Patterns*, Grune & Stratton, New York, 1968.

Of the various versions, the edited autobiography rings truest. I met Meduna on a number of occasions, and was impressed by his modesty, sincerity, and appreciated him as a 'gentleman'.

The journal *Convulsive Therapy* is available at the Clarke Institute.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry  
and Neurology