



# Olitsky (Peter K.) papers

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Sleepy Hollow 10591

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## Summary Information

<b>Repository:</b>	Rockefeller Archive Center
<b>Creator - aut:</b>	Olitsky, Peter K.
<b>Title:</b>	Peter K. Olitsky papers, Rockefeller University Faculty
<b>ID:</b>	FA184
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1925-1964
<b>Physical Description:</b>	3 Cubic Feet 4 boxes, 7 volumes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English

### Preferred Citation

Information regarding the Rockefeller Archive Center's preferred elements and forms of citation can be found at <http://www.rockarch.org/research/citations.php>

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## Biographical/Historical note

Peter Kosciusko Olitsky, 1886-1964, pathologist and microbiologist at The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, 1917-1964. An outstanding virologist and investigator of epidemic diseases of bacterial, viral and rickettsial nature.

Biographical note	
1886	Born August 20, New York, New York
1909	M.D. Cornell University, New York
1909-1911	Internship (Hospital later absorbed by St. Marks Hospital)
1911-1912	Private practice of medicine

1912-1913	New York City Health Department Research Laboratory
1913-1916	Eugene Meyer Fellowship in Pathology, Pathology Laboratory, Mt. Sinai Hospital, New York
1917	Assistant, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York, N.Y.
1918	Associate, RIMR
1923	Associate member, RIMR
1930	Member, RIMR
1952-	Emeritus Member, RIMR
1956	Closed laboratory Worked as consultant and advisor with Howard Schneider on experimental allergic encephalomyelitis (EAE)
1964	Died July 20, Greenwich Hospital, Greenwich, Conn.

Served on:	
1918-1919	1st Lt. USA Medical Corps
1925-1927	U.S. Bureau of Animal Industry
1930-	Consultant in pathology, Greenwich Hospital
1941-1945	U.S. Army Commission on Neurotropic Virus Diseases
1952	WHO/FAO Panel on zoonoses, United Nations, Geneva Associate Editor, Journal of Immunology

Member of: New York Academy of Medicine (Fellow), American Association of Immunologists, Harvey society, Society for Exp. Biology and Medicine, Sigma Xi

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## Scope and Contents note

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Papers, correspondence, photographs, reprints, and employment record.

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## Arrangement note

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Arranged by subject and chronological.

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## File Plan note

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Former Classification: I 450 OL4

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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URL: <http://www.rockarch.org>

## Revision Description

Paper finding aid converted to EAD/XML by AureXus in 2010. Imported into the Archvists' Toolkit by Becky Robbins. 2010 September 23

## Conditions Governing Access note

Open for research. Brittle or damaged items are available at the discretion of RAC.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Archival Materials note

A collection of Peter K. Olitsky Papers, consisting of 2500 pieces is to be found at The American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Rickettsia
- Bacteria
- Viruses -- Research
- Diagnostic virology
- Microbiology
- Epidemics
- Epidemiology
- Medical research
- Pathology
- Life sciences
- Medicine, Preventive
- Cell and biomolecular sciences
- Biochemistry
- Diseases
- Biology -- Research
- Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research
- Rockefeller University

## Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances
Biographical material; bibliography, 1948	box 1
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	
Includes statement on his work written in 1948 at the request of H.S. Gasser.	
Correspondence regarding presentation to RIMR of portrait of PKO at his retirement from his associates, 1953	box 1
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	
Includes holograph drafts of letters of thanks.	
Correspondence dealing with arrangements at closing of laboratory	box 1
Reprint of S. Gard 1954 Nobel Prize presentation quoting Olitsky work on neurotropic virus, 1954	box 1
Reprint of Report of the Foot-and-Mouth-Disease Commission of the U.S. Department of Agriculture	box 1
Photographs	box 1
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	
Primarily of co-workers. Some of PKO. Anslow, R.; Boes; Canti, R.G.; Casals, J.; Cox, H.R.; Forsbock, F.C.; Harford; Gates, F.L.; Kligler; Knutti; Larsen, S.; Lee J.M.; Muller, L.; Long; Morgan; Plotz, H.; Saenz; Straub, E.L.; Syverton, J.; Tal (Max child); Theiler, Max; Yager; Welch, W.H.	
Fishing trip: Parker, Cox, Kaa, Humble, Olitsky, 1936	box 1
Strasbourg: Traum, Schoening, Boez, 1926	box 1
Harold Olden (nephew)	box 1
Strasbourg; Hong Kong; RIMR; Hoof and Mouth Disease	box 1
Passports and visas	box 1
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	
Includes delayed birth registration.	
Framed pencil drawing made by stepdaughter, Louise Tubby Bracken about 1956. Given by W. Goebel	box 1
Oral history (1917-1952) transcript. Interviews by Saul Benison, 1962-63. 91 pp. Indexed, 1917-1952, 1962-1963	box 1

---

 Personal correspondence, 1946-1963

box 1

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes birthday greetings from wife [n.d.]; August 1946 letters from associates on 60th birthday. Letters dealing with health of various family members including daughter, Ruth, and stepson Roger Tubby; a few family letters from nephew H. Sparrow, Louise Sparrow, B. Carpenter and granddaughter, Susue; letters regarding estate of Louis Olden. Thank you letter from daughter Louise Phillips and correspondence with stepson Roger Tubby. Copies of poems composed by PKO on various laboratory occasions.

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 Obituary materials collected on various associates by PKO for use in his own writing, 1888-1930 1950 1952 1954-1960

box 1

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes material on P. Boez, 1888-1930; on Simon Flexner including biographical article written for Collier's Encyclopedia with 1960 correspondence; biographical article on Frederick L. Gates and 1950, 1952, 1954 correspondence with Dorothy Elsmith, widow of F.L. Gates, and also with daughter.

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 Administrative correspondence, 1921, 1942-1963

box 2

**Scope and Contents note**

Primarily official announcements though includes renewals of allowances for supplies and some specialized items.

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 Assorted correspondence, 1944-1963

box 2

**Scope and Contents note**

Correspondents include: C.H. Andrewes ; C.H. Archetti ; Alberto Ascoli ; Gilbert Dalldorf ; Brig. Gen. G.M. Findlay ; Jordi Folch ; Jules Freund ; Chas. L. Goldman ; Joan Fitzgerald Golrick; A. Grumback ; Frank L. Horsfall ; Martin M. Kaplan; Hilary Koprowski; C.L. Le Bouvier; Henryk Makower ; A. Saenz; Kenneth C. Smithburn; Isabel Morgan Mountain; Maria Rudzinska; Madge Stein; Maurizio Terni; Rudolph Wittkower; Ralph W.G. Wyckoff.

**Arrangement note**

Arranged in chronological order.

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 1944-1951

**Scope and Contents**

Items of special interest are listed below this level.



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With John R. Paul and Brig. Gen. S. Bayne-Jones on publication of "Certain affections of the liver that arise spontaneously in so-called Normal stock albino mice." Under Commission on Neurotropic Virus Diseases, 1945 July 11-November 1

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With John R. Paul on publication of "Enduring Immunity following vaccination of mice with Formalin-inactivated virus of Russian Spring-Summer (Far Eastern, Tick borne) encephalitis..." Under Commission on Neurotropic Virus Diseases, 1945 September 12-1945 November 9

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1948 September 14

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1949 January 25

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With David Bodian on "MV" strain of polio virus and monkey immune serum, 1950 September-October

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With Harold K. Faber and A. Sabin work on mechanism of infection in post tonsillectomy bulbar polio, 1951 August 6-10

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1952-1954

### **Scope and Contents**

Items of special interest are listed below this level.

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On dinner in honor of J. Bronfenbrenner, 1952 March 21

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With J. Folch-Pi on Waksman (et al) abstract in Fed. Proc. no. 1526, 1953 March 17-24

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1955-1959

### **Scope and Contents**

Items of special interest are listed below this level.

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Copy of letter from A.B. Sabin to Hilary Koprowski with holograph note to PKO, 1955 March 31

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From M.S. Shahan on retirement of Jacob Traum, 1956 March 30

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With Jules Freund (holographs) on diagnosis of multiple myeloma and his state of health, 1957 November 18-21

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With George W. Corner on history of RI, 1958 January-December

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With John H. Dingle on statement regarding etiology of the common cold. Olitsky refers to work of A.B. Sabin, 1958 October-November

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1960-1963

### **Scope and Contents**

Items of special interest are listed below this level.

With A.A. Hoehling requesting that PKO write an introduction to book for laymen on 1918 influenza epidemic, 1959  
November-1960 October

### Scope and Contents note

Includes holograph note from James P. Leake, and history note from PKO to E. Kone.

From Philip Levine on difficulties in writing an address on Karl Landsteiner, 1960 June 21

To George S. Mirick recommending Labe C. Scheinberg for Health Research Council Fellowship, 1962 January 8

## Correspondence

### Arrangement note

Arranged in alphabetical order where there are more than 25 items for each correspondent. Chronological within folder.

Anslow, Ralph, 1950-1963

box 2

#### Related Materials:

### Related Materials

See also Joan Fitzgerald Golrick's letters from Washington, D.C. describing the work going on in the Army Medical Veterinary Division with Major Anslow.

Avery, Julian, 1947-1949 1958

box 2

### Scope and Contents note

An involved group of letters dealing with interest in a theory of fundamental particles proposed by Mr. Avery and attempts by PKO to aid in its publication.

Includes copies of letters from John A. Wheeler, Princeton University; A. Einstein; George A. Baitzell; Alexandre Rothen.

Bernkoff, Hans, 1946-1950

box 3

Brown, Lenora (Irwin/Simnad), 1951-1958

box 3

### Scope and Contents

Some holograph letters and reports from Dr. Brown and one signed typescript from Jonas Salk.

Casals, Jordi, 1944-1951

box 3

**Scope and Contents note**

Several holograph letters; 2 from Japan while at 406th Medical General Laboratory.

Cox, Herald R., 1952-1960	box 3
Dick, George W.A., 1948-1955	box 3
Flexner, Abraham, 1920 1937 1951	box 3

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes two Simon Flexner reprints: 1920, 1937. On mementos and correspondence relating to S. Flexner.

Flexner, Simon, 1925-1926	box 3
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**Scope and Contents note**

Copies of letters written from Strasbourg on Hoof and Mouth Disease Project.

Lee, Johanna M., 1952-1961	box 3
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**Scope and Contents note**

Many holograph letters written during times of illness. Letters reporting experimental results while PKO away from laboratory.

Schlesinger, R. Walter, 1946-1963	box 3
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**Scope and Contents note**

Includes letter to PKO (1963 Apr. 30) explaining background to T. River's remarks to Saul Benison about A. Sabin's attitude on Schlesinger's work on dengue and sandfly fevers.

Selzer, Golda, 1952-1959	box 3
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Smadel, Joseph E., 1946-1950	box 3
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**Scope and Contents note**

Contains references to H. Bernkoff, Col. Yager.

Syvertson, Jerome T., 1955-1961	box 3
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Tal, Chloe, 1954-1961	box 3
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**Scope and Contents note**

Includes reprint from British Journal of Experimental Pathology, 2 April. 1958.

Subject folders	box 3
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W.E.E. vaccine, 1942-1943

### **Scope and Contents note**

Includes 1942 July 15 signed letter from Albert Sabin and copy of 1942 Nov. 24 letter from A. Sabin on efficacy of allantoic fluid vaccine and potency when stored.

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Diseases of Poultry (Iowa State Press), 1947-1957

### **Scope and Contents note**

Chap. 23: Avian encephalomyelitis by Henry van Roekel and Chap. 27: Foot and Mouth Disease by Harry Schoening including holograph letter 7 Jan. 1957 on his retirement and request to pass on to Dr. Shahan the authorship of the chapter.

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Brennemann's Practice of Pediatrics, 1942-1962

### **Scope and Contents note**

1942 and later revisions of Section II: "Infections of man with the virus of equine encephalomyelitis".

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Viral and Rickettsial Infection in Man, 1951-1959

### **Scope and Contents note**

Copies of Chap. 13 and 14, 3rd ed. mss. 1951-1959.

Includes correspondence with Frank Horsfall and others.

Includes some correspondence on 2nd. ed. under editorship of T. Rivers 1951-1952 including letters from A. Sabin, 22 May 1951; K. Smithburn 19 Mar. 1951; J. Melnick 22 Mar. 1951; Joe Smadel, holograph 12 April 1951.

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Correspondence and employment record, 1925-1964

### **Scope and Contents note**

Consists primarily of the correspondence with directors and business managers during the period of Dr. Olitsky's association with The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.

Included is the original application for employment and many handwritten letters from Dr. Olitsky in response to increased salary letters.

Immediate Source of Acquisition:

## Immediate Source of Acquisition

Received or inventoried June, 1980. This box (5 folders) of papers was deposited by the Office of Faculty and Student Records.

## Arrangement note

Arranged by subject and in chronological order.

Correspondence, 1912-1934	box 4	folder 1
Correspondence, 1935-1964	box 4	folder 2
Correspondence and blueprints for remodeling and air duct arrangement in Olitsky laboratory, 1931-1933	box 4	folder 3
Correspondence from the lay public with various ideas about polio which Peter Olitsky answered, 1940-1941	box 4	folder 4
Signed releases for those vaccinated and working in the Olitsky laboratory with equine encephalitis virus, 1941-1947	box 4	folder 5

Influenza Reprints, 1920-1924

Processing Information note:

### Processing Information note

[removed to RAC library 8/9/88].

Collected Reprints, 1915-1945

Processing Information note:

### Processing Information note

[removed to RAC library 8/9/88].

Lantern slides, 1982 September 15

package 1

## Scope and Contents note

Wm Trager to RUA (9/15/82) [in black case].