



Rockefeller Foundation records, officers' diaries, RG 12

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rockefeller Archive Center

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rockefeller Archive Center
Creator:	Rockefeller Foundation
Title:	Rockefeller Foundation records, officers' diaries, RG 12
ID:	FA118
Date [inclusive]:	1911-1992
Physical Description:	1 Cubic Feet
Physical Description:	Actual extent is unknown.
Language of the Material:	English

Preferred Citation note

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

Rockefeller Foundation diaries:

Officers of the Rockefeller Foundation in New York and its staff members in the field often visited educational, scientific and research institutions and laboratories in many parts of the world to maintain contacts and assess work being done. Officers and field staff frequently conferred with government officials regarding the operation of the RF's programs. In order to preserve accurate records for the guidance of other RF officers, those who carried on these activities kept diaries of their day-to-day contacts and impressions. These diaries were sent to the RF office, where they circulated among officers and staff to the extent deemed advisable.

Rockefeller Foundation:

The Rockefeller Foundation was established by act of the New York State Legislature approved by the Governor on May 14, 1913, "to promote the well-being of mankind throughout the world." Between 1913 and 1928 the China Medical Board, the International Health Board, and the Division of Medical

Education functioned as divisions of the Foundation, concentrating on the administration of programs in public health and medical education. A Division of Studies was created in 1923 to handle projects outside the medical field. These early years were experimental as the new foundation studied the methods of philanthropy and explored its relationships with other Rockefeller boards.

Although the Rockefeller Foundation is the largest and best known philanthropy founded by the Rockefeller family, it was neither the first nor the last to be established. The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research (1901), the General Education Board (1902), the Rockefeller Sanitary Commission for the Eradication of Hookworm Disease (1909), and the Bureau of Social Hygiene (1911) all existed earlier. When the Foundation was created, the Sanitary Commission was disbanded. After the establishment of the Foundation, the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial (1918) and the International Education Board (1923) were created.

The Rockefeller boards and their programs were reconsidered and reorganized in 1927-1928 in order to avoid overlapping programs. The International Health Board of the Foundation was disbanded and an International Health Division was organized. The China Medical Board, Inc., was established as a separately incorporated institution, and the China Medical Board of the Foundation ceased to exist. The Division of Studies was dropped and the Division of Medical Education was phased out. The Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial was combined with the Foundation and the Spelman Fund of New York was chartered to continue activities of the LSRM that were not absorbed by the Foundation. The International Education Board was disbanded.

As a result of this reorganization, the Foundation adopted a program which included public health work (administered by the IHD), the advancement of knowledge in the medical and natural sciences (in part taken over from the IEB), the social sciences (formerly the field of the LSRM), and the humanities and arts (shared with the GEB). The Rockefeller Institute and the Bureau of Social Hygiene were not affected by the reorganization. The program adopted by the Foundation at this time remained basically the same for the next twenty years.

As its files accumulated, the Foundation maintained a card index recording the names of institutional and individual grantees and correspondents. A microfilm copy of this index is available at the Archive Center.

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Scope and Contents note

Rockefeller Foundation diaries:

Diaries are of two types: regular daily diaries, and special trip diaries. Some diaries have indexes, which are bound in the annual volume; indexing was not a requirement but was left to the discretion of the officers, and not all diaries are indexed.

Diaries frequently contain information given in confidence, and were thus treated as confidential., The period covered is approximately 1911-1992.

The Foundation's archives include:

Projects General Correspondence Administration, Program and Policy China Medical Board
International Health Board/Division Field Offices Treasurer's Office Comptroller Personnel Fellowships
Information Services Diaries Oral Histories Counsel Secretary Minutes and Officers Actions Dockets
Declinations (100F) Non-textual Materials Communications Office

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File Plan note

RG 12

Organization of the Foundation's archives:

RG 1 Projects

RG 2 General Correspondence

RG 3 Administration, Program and Policy

RG 4 China Medical Board

RG 5 International Health Board/Division

RG 6 Field Offices

RG 7 Treasurer's Office

RG 8 Comptroller

RG 9 Personnel

RG 10 Fellowships

RG 11 Information Services

RG 12 Diaries

RG 13 Oral Histories

RG 14 Counsel

RG 15 Secretary

RG 16 Minutes and Officers Actions

RG 17 Dockets

RG 18 Declinations (100F)

RG 19 Non-textual Materials

RG 20 Communications Office

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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archive@rockarch.org

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Conditions Governing Access note

Officers' diaries are open for scholarly research provided that (1) the diarist is deceased and (2) the volume to be examined is at least twenty years old. All reasonable efforts will be made to determine the fate of the diarist(s), but if such efforts are fruitless then the material will remain closed to scholarly research until 100 years after the officer's year of birth.

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Controlled Access Headings

- African Americans
- Philanthropy -- United States
- Diseases
- Charities

- Charitable uses, trusts, and foundations
- Arts
- Medical sciences
- Life sciences
- Humanities
- Epidemics
- Philanthropy
- Race and society
- Public health
- Rockefeller Foundation

Other Finding Aids note

Detailed finding aids for the following portions of the collection are available:

[FA391 Rockefeller Foundation records, Officers' Diaries A-E.](#)

[FA392 Rockefeller Foundation records, Officers' Diaries F-L.](#)

[FA393 Rockefeller Foundation records, Officers' Diaries M-R.](#)

[FA394 Rockefeller Foundation records, Officers' Diaries S-Z.](#)

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Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements note

Materials requiring specialized equipment for access (film, audio, video, slides) may be closed to research dependent on availability of the applicable equipment

Brittle or damaged items, or materials otherwise in need of preservation care, may be closed to researchers at the discretion of the RAC Head of Archival Services/Head of Reference.

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