

# Rockefeller University records, History of the University, Confidential papers

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Rockefeller Archive Center

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# **Summary Information**

**Repository:** Rockefeller Archive Center

**Creator:** Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research

**Creator:** Rockefeller University

**Title:** Rockefeller University records, History of the University, Confidential

papers

**ID:** FA913

Date: undated

**Physical Description:** 0.76 Cubic Feet 2 letter document boxes

**General Physical** 

**Description note:** 

2 boxes.

Language of the

English

**Material:** 

## **Preferred Citation**

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

# Biographical/Historical note

The work of The Institute concentrated on basic research. The hope was that the discoveries might, in the long run, be applied to the public welfare, but the basic purpose was to provide an environment for exploratory original research by individuals under no compulsion to produce immediately useful results.

Scientific work of The Institute was first carried on through grants-in-aid made to researchers in scattered laboratories. This program decreased as the Institute's own laboratories developed. July 1, 1904 temporary quarters were rented at 127 East 50th Street, New York and work began there about Nov. 1, 1904. Those recruited for the first staff were Eugene L. Opie, Samuel J. Meltzer, Hideyo Noguchi and Joshua Edwin Sweet. Added to the staff very shortly were Phoebus Aaron Theodor Levene and John Auer. Alexis Carrel joined The Institute in 1906 and Jacques Loeb in 1910. On June 13, 1907 the Board of Directors voted to establish various classes of association with The Institute. The classes were: Member (for an indefinite period); Associate Member (for five year periods; amended in 1911 Rules to

<sup>^</sup> Return to Table of Contents

"a term of years); Associate of The Institute; Fellow of The Institute; Scholar of The Institute (which was dropped in the Rules amended 1928). The first Members of The Institute were Simon Flexner, S.J. Meltzer, E.L. Opie, and P.A.T. Levene.

In April 1906 the Central Laboratory with animal house and power house, located on York Avenue and 66th Street were ready for use. Simon Flexner, the first Director of the laboratories had been unanimously elected Director of The Institute on Oct. 25, 1902. However, not until a meeting on Jan. 17, 1920 did the Board make clear its sense that these were two offices, both held by Simon Flexner. The Office of Director of The Institute was clearly added in amended Rules Oct. 18, 1924. Simon Flexner was Director of The Institute and Director of the laboratories until his retirement in 1935. He was succeeded in both offices by Herbert S. Gasser, 1935-1953.

In 1910, at the York Avenue site a Hospital was opened so that the investigations of the Laboratories could be supplemented by the study of certain diseases as they actually occur in man. The Rules for the Scientific Directors as adopted on Jan. 21, 1911, provided that The Institute be comprised of two coordinate departments, Laboratories and Hospital. Rufus Cole was the first Director of the Department of the Hospital and continued in this post until his retirement in 1937 when he was succeeded by Thomas M. Rivers. The Hospital accepted only a limited number of patients, limited further to classes of diseases under study in the Hospital laboratories. The By-Laws of the Corporation provided that The Institute make no charge to persons treated at the Hospital for professional care rendered or for board and lodging. Classes of appointment to the Hospital were Physician, Assistant Physician, Resident Physician, Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent. In 1946 an amendment to the Rules provided that the titles be as follows: Physician-in-Chief to the Hospital; Physician to the Hospital; Assistant Physician to the Hospital; Resident Associate Physician; Senior Assistant Physician; Superintendent of the Hospital; Assistant Superintendent of the Hospital.

In 1914, at a location about three miles from Princeton, N.J. with Theobald Smith as Director, a new Department of Animal Pathology was established. In June 1915 the Rules were amended to make this coordinate with the Departments of Laboratories and Hospital. When Theobald Smith retired in 1930 Carl TenBroeck became Director of the Department which in 1931 was expanded by the appointment of Louis O. Kunkel who headed the new division of plant pathology into the Department of Animal and Plant Pathology.

The Director of each Department was appointed by the Board of Scientific Directors, and the Director of The Institute by the Corporation. In the different departments separate laboratories were organized under the guidance of a Member or Associate Member. The broad divisions of scientific fields varied from time to time in accordance with scientific developments and the interests of the Members, but always with consultation, approval and direction of the Board of Scientific Directors.

In 1953, after the retirement of Herbert S. Gasser, an extensive reorganization was undertaken. Thomas M. Rivers, who served for two years as Vice-President of the Corporation and at the same time, Director of the Laboratories, Director of the Department of the Hospital and Physician-in-Chief to the Hospital retired in 1955. The position of Director of The Institute was abolished and also the organization into departments.

On and after November 19, 1954 when the Charter of the Corporation was amended so that the Corporation became part of the University of the State of New York The Institute had the power to confer degrees. On June 27, 1958 by amendment to the Charter the corporate name was changed to The

Rockefeller Institute and on May 27, 1965 the Charter of The Institute was amended in its entirety and the name changed to The Rockefeller University.

The University is organized into laboratories, each headed by one or two senior scientists rather than into categorical departments. The scientific work of the laboratories is under the direction of the President.

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# **Scope and Contents**

Background and historical information including but not limited to charter, endowments, financials, and bursars office materials.

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## Arrangement

Arranged in alphabetical order by subject; then in chronological order within subject.

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## File Plan note

Box 1 Former Classification: I 417.

Box 2 Former Classification: I 417-1.

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# **Administrative Information**

#### **Publication Statement**

Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue Sleepy Hollow 10591

archive@rockarch.org

URL: <a href="http://www.rockarch.org">http://www.rockarch.org</a>

## **Conditions Governing Access note**

This collection is open for research. Brittle or damaged items are available at the discretion of RAC.

## **Custodial History**

Box 1 was collected by the Business Manager and arranged because of the historical value. They were labeled confidential and were obviously considered of inflammatory nature (possibly) or private information. None of these attitudes appear to be valid any longer.

Box 2 was placed in a safe in the Bursar's office which later became Comptroller's office or Accounting Office. Other papers were added periodically. In March of 1980 Mr. Lyons turned them over to the Archives. Though they may, at one time, have been considered confidential that is no longer accurate, but does serve for an indentifying label. In some instances the papers are duplicate of items in other holdings.

## **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Box 2: Date received or inventoried: April, 1980.

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# **Controlled Access Headings**

- Medical sciences
- Cell and biomolecular sciences
- Medical research
- Operations management
- Biology -- Research
- Medical education
- Life sciences

# **Collection Inventory**

Title/Description Instances

Campbell, Edith, 1920 October 6-November 1

Related Materials:

#### **Related Materials**

see under Flexner, Simon.

Charter, 1954 box 1 folder 1

## **Scope and Contents note**

Copies of petition to Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York with covering correspondence on application to become a degree granting institution.

Connolly, Bernard, 1926 April 5-1927 December 7 box 1 folder 2

## **Scope and Contents note**

Items covering gas stove explosion, death of Bernard Connolly and settlement and releases from Patrick Connolly running to RIMR.

Couche, Anna

Related Materials:

### **Related Materials**

see under Oxygen Chamber.

Egley, Viola Gray Estate

Related Materials:

#### **Related Materials**

See under Reynolds, Emily E.

Endowment, see under			
Rockefeller, John D., 1908 March 30	box 1	folder 16	
Rockefeller, John D., 1910 October 17	box 1	folder 16	
Rockefeller, John D., 1910 October 28	box 1	folder 16	
Flexner, S., 1920 April 27	box 1	folder 3	
Rockefeller, John D., 1920 February 28	box 1	folder 16	
Rockefeller, John D., 1920 December 15	box 1	folder 16	
Flexner, S., 1921 April 14	box 1	folder 3	
Rockefeller, John D., 1921 May 10	box 1	folder 16	
Rockefeller, John D., 1926 June 3-1928 October 24	box 1	folder 16	
Rockefeller, John D., 1948 June 16	box 1	folder 16	
Flexner, Simon	box 1	folder 3	

Correspondence with Edith Campbell (Publications Division - in self defense), 1920 October 26-November 1 Memorandum of Trustees. meeting Hot Springs, Va. re need for definite and generous endowment for RIMR, 1920 April 27 Letters between P.A.T. Levene and Lillia Trask (handled through Simon Flexner), 1920 January 9-1921 June 16 Letters and notes (handwritten) with P.A.T. Levene on budget matters about which he was most unhappy, 1920 May Covering letter from L.G. Myers listing gift of additional securities to RIMR from John D. Rockefeller, 1921 April 14 From Edwin R. Embree (Peking Medical College) and telegram from John D. Rockefeller in regard to F.C. McLean, 1921 September 12-19 15 letters from Rufus Cole and James B. Murphy expressing satisfaction with X-Ray Department, 1921 December 12 Simon Flexner Cremation Certificate with notes from Peyton Rous (May 8, 1949; April 20, 1958; January 31, 1961 regarding the ashes of Dr. and Mrs. S. Flexner, 1946 May 3 Gasser, Herbert S. box 1 folder 4 Copy of letter to A.N. Richards, Committee on MEDICAL RESEARCH, explaining principles to be followed in planning for support of scientific research, 1945 October 11 Gates, Frederick Taylor and Frederick Lamont box 1 folder 5 Gates, Frederick Taylor Copy of letter written to Wm. Osier expressing admiration and appreciation and inspiration provided in the reading of "Principles and Practice of Medicine" and signed reply dated March 5, 1920, 1902 March 4 Letter to Simon Flexner enclosing the above 1915 December 20 Two copies, one retyped after corrections of letter to Starr J. Murphy telling of Gates recollections of the early thinking behind the establishment of RIMR until the time when Mr. Murphy became involved in the planning, 192[?] December 28 Conference. Extract of letter from F.T. Gates to John D. Rockefeller relating to policy for selection of Institute Board Members as expressed at conference, 1926 December 17 Gates, Frederick Lamont Copy of Address read to Municipal Club of Brooklyn on the story of the Rockefeller Institute, 1927 November 22 Gelarie, Arnold J. box 1 folder 6 Notebook, 1914 January 19-April 1

Letters to Jacques Loeb, 1914 June 30 1914 August 25

Greene, Jerome D.

## Related Materials:

## **Related Materials**

See under James, Henry. Box 1, Folder 9.

Christian Herter to Simon Flexner, 1908 June 13

Tantan Chairting Analthold	how 1	folder 7A 7E
Herter, Christian Archibald	box 1	folder 7A-7E
Custodial History note  Custodial History note		
This entire file was turned over to Peyton Rous by Polly Herter (Mrs. C. di Tough) [Note: Mrs. M.D. Herter Norton Crena de Iongh.] when Herter-Dakin home (Edgehill) in Scarborough, N.Y. was dismantled after H.D. Dakin's death. Deposited at the Institute 1953 June 23.		
Letters from Simon Flexner to Christian Herter and Susan Herter, 1902-1910		
Letters from Helen Flexner		
Dictated notes on talks with Theobald Smith, James Ford Rhodes, Charles Eliot and Robert Koch		
Letters	box 1	folder 7A-7E
Simon Flexner to Christian Herter, 8 November	box 1	folder 7a
Simon Flexner to Christian Herter, "Thursday"	box 1	folder 7a
Simon Flexner to Christian Herter, 1902 December 11	box 1	folder 7a
Simon Flexner to Christian Herter, 1902 January 6 1902 January 8 1902 January 12	box 1	folder 7a
Simon Flexner to Christian Herter, 1903 November 21	box 1	folder 7a
Simon Flexner to Christian Herter, 1906 June 28	box 1	folder 7b
Simon Flexner to Christian Herter, 1906 August 30	box 1	folder 7b
Simon Flexner to Christian Herter, 1906 September 24	box 1	folder 7b
Simon Flexner to Christian Herter, 1906 September 24	box 1	folder 7b
Simon Flexner to Christian Herter, 1907 February 17	box 1	folder 7b
Simon Flexner to Christian Herter, 1907 June 30	box 1	folder 7b
Christian Herter to Simon Flexner, 1907 August 19	box 1	box 7b
Christian Herter to Simon Flexner, 1907 September 7	box 1	folder 7b
Christian Herter to Simon Flexner, 1907 September 23	box 1	folder 7b
Simon Flexner to Christian Herter, "Tuesday PM"	box 1	folder 7c

box 1

folder 7c

box 1	folder 7c	
box 1	folder 7c	
box 1	folder 7	
box 1	folder 7	
box 1	folder 7	
box 1	folder 7	
	box 1	box 1 folder 7c

## **Scope and Contents note**

Folder number is 7d (An Archivists' Toolkit bug is preventing this folder number to be entered as such).

Manuscripts	box 1	folder 7e	
"Notes on a conversation with Dr. Theobald Smith at Seal Harbor, 1905 September 6	box 1	folder 7e	
"Notes on a conversation with Mr. Charles W. Elliot at Seal Harbor, 1907 September 8	box 1	folder 7e	
"Notes on a conversation with Robert Koch" [University Club], 1908 April 10	box 1	folder 7e	
"Notes on a conversation with Mr. John Ford Rhodes at Seal Harbor, 1907 Summer	box 1	folder 7e	
Hospital	box 1	folder 8 and 8A	
Compiled summary of hospital history to date Notes on plans for a Research Hospital to the affiliated with the Research Laboratories of the Rockefeller Institute (may be part of T.M. Prudden plans), 1929 October			
J.D. Rockefeller, Jr. to L. Emmett Holt that father authorizes preparation of a plan for an affiliated hospital which he will consider 1907 June 13 Report of Committee on Hospital presented by Christian Herter at meeting of Board of Scientific Directors. Tentatively approved, 1907 February 28			
Letter from Christian Herter to L. Emmett Holt with outline of plan for the Hospital, 1907 June 27			
letter from Starr J. Murphy to Christian Herter regarding drafts to be made on General Education Board for Hospital construction (copy), 1908 June 24			
letter from Christian Herter to Simon Flexner enclosing copy of letter from Starr J. Murphy regarding early conveyance of land for Hospital, 1908 June 27			
letter from Christian Herter to Simon Flexner regarding use of land abutting Hospital as playground, also includes possible role in Hospital organization for Christian Herter and approval of choice of Rufus Cole as Hospital Director, 1908 August 20			
Correspondence between Christian Herter and Simon Flexner regarding Hospital, 1908 August 22-September 9			
Correspondence between Christian Herter and Starr J. Murphy regarding cost to Institute of land for the Hospital, 1908 September 9-11			
Suggestions in regard to organization of the Hospital of the Rockefeller Institute by Rufus Cole, 1908 December			

## **Scope and Contents note**

See Folder 8a for photocopy.

Letter from Christian Herter to Simon Flexner regarding place on Hospital staff for Foster, 1909 June 25

Letter to Simon Flexner from R. Cole written after October 14 meeting of Board of Scientific Directors on question of relationship between Hospital staff and Department of Laboratories staff in research matters See Folder 8a for photocopy, 1911 (?) October 14

Letter from Theobald Smith to R. Cole on Cole's letter of October 14, 1911, 1911 December 5

#### **Scope and Contents note**

See Folder 8a for photocopy.

James, Henry	box 1	folder 9	
Letter from Jerome Greene to H.S. Gasser recalling visit to Institute of Henry James, author with Henry James, Manager, 1948 February 20			
Letter from Peyton Rous with recollections of Henry James visit, 1948 April 1			
Copy of letter from Homer Swift with recollections of Henry James' visit, 1948 April 21			

Lavoisier portrait

**Related Materials:** 

#### **Related Materials**

See under Rockefeller 1927 Apr. 30, Box 1, Folder 16.

Loeb, Jacques	box 1	folder 10	
deed of gift to RIMR of scientific monographs and papers, 1924 April 24			
correspondence from Leo Loeb regarding Memorial Plaque, 1959 July-September			
see also under Gelarie, Arnold J.			
Noguchi, Hideyo, 1948 May 14	box 1	folder 11	
Scope and Contents note			
Agreement of Purchase and Trust agreement with Woodlawn Cemetery for graves of Hideyo Noguchi and wife Mary.			
Oxygen Chamber fire	box 1	folder 12	

Report of fire in Oxygen Chamber. Patient Anna Couche died., 1922 November 17

## **Scope and Contents note**

Includes signed statements and photographs.

Paresis cure box 1 folder 13

## **Scope and Contents note**

Copy from McClure, received from Wade H. Brown, also original copy as written by Ruby A. Black.

Peking Union Medical College, 1921 September 12-19

Related Materials:

#### **Related Materials**

See under Flexner, Simon. Box 1, Folder 3.

Pestrecov, Konstantin, 1937 December 10 box 1 folder 14

#### **Scope and Contents note**

Release in consideration of \$562.50.

Property, gift of, 1927 November 15

Related Materials:

#### **Related Materials**

See under Rockefeller, John D. Box 1, Folder 16.

Reynolds, Emily E., 1937 November box 1 folder 15

# **Scope and Contents note**

Notorized statements in Viola Gray Egley Estate.

Richards, A.N.

**Related Materials:** 

#### **Related Materials**

See under Gasser, Herbert S. Box 1, Folder 4.

Rockefeller, John D. and John D., Jr. box 1 folder 16

William H. Welch to L. Emmett Holt covering letter with copy of letter to JDR, Jr. 1908 May 30 handwritten copy of letter William H. Welch to JDR, Jr. acknowledging with gratitude news of father's provision for land and construction of hospital affiliated with RIMR, 1908 May 30

Typescript copy of letter from William H. Welch to JDR, Jr. in thanks for father's endowment of \$3,820,000 on to RIMR at agreement on plan of reorganization, 1910 October 17

Letter JDR, Jr. to W.H. Welch acknowledging letter of October 17, 1910 October 28

Copy of letter from W.H. Welch to JDR for additional endowment and great generosity making RIMR a reality, 1920 February 28

Copy of letter listing securities added to Institute endowment, 1920 December 15

Copy of letter from JDR to RIMR additional endowment, 1921 April 5

copy letter from W.H. Welch to JDR inapreciation of latest endowment at par value of \$5,000,000, 1921 May 10

JDR, Jr. to Simon Flexner presenting portrait of Lavoisier and wife by David to RIMR, 1927 April 30

1926 June 3-1928 October 24

#### **Scope and Contents note**

Collection of notes from Board of Trustees meeting where S. Flexner presented report "Development of the first Twenty Years of The Rockefeller Institute and an Outlook for future Growth" Notes of meeting of Scientific Directors 1926 June 5 and correspondence between F.T. Gates, Thomas Debevoise, Simon Flexner, JDR, Jr. and Bertram Cutler involving \$20,000,000 pledge made by JDR, Jr. but fulfilled by gift from JDR, Sr.

Copy of letter from W.H. Welch to JDR, Jr. expressing gratification on his becoming president of the Corporation and gratitude of Board for gift of property. 1929 November 20 reply from JDR, Jr., 1929 November 15

letter from JDR, Jr. establishing trust fund with interest payments to be made to RIMR over a period of 13 years until 1960. Acceptance letter from Trustees dated 1949 October 28. Release running to Chase Bank dated 1952 June 18 and 1952 accounting, 1948 June 16

Letter to Herbert Gasser from JDR, Jr. asking he not be renominated at expiration of term as President of Corporation in 1950. Letter honoring JDR, Jr. signed by all Members of the Board 1950 October 27 (with photographic copy) and acknowledgement 1951 January 19 from JDR, Jr. with photographic copy, 1950 April 17

Rous, Peyton

Related Archival Materials note:

#### **Related Archival Materials note**

See under Flexner, Simon, Box 1, Folder 3. See under James, Henry, Box 1, Folder 9.

Schermerhorn farm house

## Related Materials:

## **Related Materials**

See under Tompkins 1920-1923, Box 1, Folder 18.

Taxation, 1932 October 25-November 11	box 1	folder 17	
Scope and Contents note			
Correspondence with Commissioner of Internal Revenue and affidavit on which Treasury Dept. granted tax exempt status to the Institute.			
Tompkins, A.B., 1920-1923	box 1	folder 18	
Scope and Contents			
Correspondence and water color sent as gift to owners of Schermerhorn farm house			
Treasurer, 1921 April 13	box 1	folder 19	
Scope and Contents			
Letter from L.G. Myers estimating income for 1921-1922.			
Tryparsamide			
Related Materials: Related Materials			
see under Paresis cure. Box 1, Folder 13.			
Anti-vivisection, 1910 January	box 2	folder 1	
Scope and Contents note			
A collection of depositions mainly as of January 1910 in response to an attack on RIMR charging cruelty in animal experimentation.			
Bank certification. Copy of certification of Board vote on Bank choice, 1914	box 2	folder 2	
Bermuda leases, 1920 1930	box 2	folder 3	
Bursar's Office, 1917-1918	box 2	folder 4	
Scope and Contents note			
Job descriptions for personnel in Bursar's Office.			
Charter/By-Laws	box 2	folder 5	
Copy of original certification			

Copy of act to amend charter; became law 1908 (creates Board of Trustees) 1910 May 18 Starr J. Murphy to S. Flexner enclosing first draft of By-Laws for reorganization, 1908

2nd copy of draft

Copy of 2nd draft

2 copies of 3rd draft

Letter L. Emmett Holt to S. Flexner enclosing 1910 June 10 letter from S.J. Murphy enclosing reorganization rules, 1910 October 25

Copy typescript of original By-Laws with amendments, 1911 January 21

## **Scope and Contents note**

Holograph notation "These by-laws were replaced by the "Rules" of the Board of Scientific Directors adopted Jan. 21, 1911" JDG.

Copy typescript of newly accepted By Laws

Copy of consent form of amended By Laws

Amends Art. V sec. 1 and Art. V sec. 3

Copy of Memorandum of Agreement, 1910 October 15

Endowment increased by \$3,820,000 with reorganization

Clyde Farm in New Jersey

box 2

folder 6

Record of purchase and. history 1907-1908, contracts for certain buildings on the farm, 1907-1908

Lease with Dominick Nepote, 1916

Agreement of sale with Moses and Isaac Rubin, 1919

Endowments (property)

box 2

folder 7

Sale agreement JDR and wife Laura to RIMR, 1904 July 7

Indenture for the land within the bed of 65th Street between Ave. A and Exterior Street, 1912 July 18

#### **Scope and Contents note**

1914 Jan. 24 Copy letter JDR to RIMR trustees. Gift of \$2,550,000 to pay for land, building and equipment and additional endowment.

copy of letter JDR to RIMR Trustees giving an additional \$350,000 for cost overruns on new building 1906-1910 copies of correspondence JDR to RIMR regarding land and buildings, 1915 April 17

box 2	folder 8	
box 2	folder 9	
box 2	folder 10	
box 2	folder 11	
box 2	folder 12	
box 2	folder 13	
box 2	folder 14	
box 2	folder 15	
	box 2  box 2  box 2  box 2  box 2	box 2 folder 10  box 2 folder 11  box 2 folder 12  box 2 folder 13  box 2 folder 13

## **Scope and Contents note**

Building costs, agreement, specifications.

Radium, 1920 1933 1952	box 2	folder 16	
Scope and Contents note			
Arrangements and inventory.			
Retirement for employees, 1939 February 1	box 2	folder 17	
Scope and Contents note			
Record of single premium for back service Corrected June 30, 1939.			
Social Security I.D. number	box 2	folder 18	
Taxation exemption, 1916 1920 1932 1935 1959	box 2	folder 19	
Scope and Contents note			
Assorted correspondence with U.S. Treasury and New York City on tax status of RIMR.			
Tryparsamide, 1923-1928	box 2	folder 20	
Scope and Contents note			
Licensing agreements and supplemental agreements with various drug mafg. firms for the manufacture of Tryparsamide.			
Workmen's Compensation Commission, 1914 1928	box 2	folder 21	

## **Scope and Contents note**

Regarding self-insurance of RIMR.