



# Smithburn (Kenneth C.) papers

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Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue  
Sleepy Hollow 10591

[archive@rockarch.org](mailto:archive@rockarch.org)

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Rockefeller Archive Center
<b>Creator:</b>	Rockefeller Foundation. Division of Medicine and Public Health
<b>Creator:</b>	Rockefeller Foundation. International Health Division
<b>Creator:</b>	Rockefeller Foundation
<b>Creator:</b>	Rockefeller University
<b>Creator - aut:</b>	Smithburn, Kenneth C.
<b>Creator - ctb:</b>	Kitchen, Stuart
<b>Creator - ctb:</b>	Haddow, A. J. (Alexander John)
<b>Creator - ctb:</b>	Sabin, Albert B. (Albert Bruce)
<b>Creator:</b>	United States. Army Epidemiological Board
<b>Creator - ctb:</b>	Kokernot, Robert H.
<b>Creator:</b>	United States. Army
<b>Creator:</b>	United States. Armed Forces
<b>Creator - ctb:</b>	Strode, George K.
<b>Title:</b>	Kenneth C. Smithburn papers
<b>ID:</b>	FA040
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1922-1974 (bulk 1938-1959)
<b>Date [bulk]:</b>	bulk
<b>Physical Description:</b>	6.4 Cubic Feet
<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

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Kenneth C. Smithburn was born October 19, 1904, in Noblesville, Indiana. He received the B.S. (1926) and the M.D. (1928) degrees from Indiana University.

From 1930-1938, Smithburn was a staff member of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research in New York (later known as The Rockefeller University). In 1939, he joined the Yellow Fever Research Institute, Entebbe, Uganda, becoming director in 1946, a post he held until 1948. In 1953 he organized and directed a unit for research in Johannesburg, South Africa, on arthropod-borne viruses under the joint sponsorship of the Rockefeller Foundation, the South African Institute for Medical Research, and the Poliomyelitis Research Foundation. He remained there until 1959 when he retired.

Smithburn was appointed to the Hemorrhagic Fever Commission (1952-1954), and the Virus and Rickettsial Disease Commission (1953). He was a member of the following organizations: American Association of Immunologists, American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, and the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. He was a fellow of the New York Academy of Sciences and an honorary member of the British Medical Association.

Smithburn was a prolific writer publishing both individually and jointly over ninety monographs. Subjects covered in these publications include: meningococcal disease, meningitis, anemias, experimental tuberculosis, epidemiology of yellow fever, neurotropic viruses isolated in Africa, immunological relationships between viruses, and antiviral immunity surveys.

Kenneth C. Smithburn died in Indianapolis, Indiana, on November 23, 1973.

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## Scope and Contents note

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The Kenneth C. Smithburn papers document the career of research scientist Kenneth C. Smithburn in the identification and isolation of viruses, particularly the Yellow Fever virus in Africa. The papers also document more broadly the Foundation's interest in public health through the International Health Division and its successor, the Division of Medicine and Public Health. The papers span the years 1922 to 1974, with the bulk falling between the years 1938 through 1959.

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## Arrangement note

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The papers are arranged in four series:

Series 1 - Subject Files

Series 2 - Professional Diaries

Series 3 - Personal Papers

Series 4 - Printed Materials

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## File Plan note

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Former Classification: IV 2A 15

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue

Sleepy Hollow 10591

[archive@rockarch.org](mailto:archive@rockarch.org)

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

### Revision Description

Migrated from Re:discovery to the Archivists' Toolkit by Marisa Hudspeth. 9/23/09

### Conditions Governing Access

Open for scholarly research, except where particular restrictions are noted.

## Conditions Governing Use

RAC users must abide by all applicable provisions of United States copyright law. Reproduction/ duplication of archival items is routinely provided in accordance with "fair use." If the RAC does not hold copyright for an archival collection, or items within a collection, it is the user's responsibility to contact the copyright holder, or make a fair effort to do so, prior to publication.

## Processing Information note

Candace Shuluk completed processing of this collection in December 1995. Processing Level 3: Standard Processing. All material is available in acid free manuscript boxes and folders.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Africa
- Entebbe (Uganda)
- Public health
- Johannesburg (South Africa)
- Korea
- Japan
- Yellow fever
- Viruses -- Research
- Medical research
- Arboviruses
- Rockefeller Foundation. Division of Medicine and Public Health
- Rockefeller Foundation. International Health Division
- Rockefeller Foundation
- Rockefeller University
- Smithburn, Kenneth C.
- Kitchen, Stuart
- Haddow, A. J. (Alexander John)
- Sabin, Albert B. (Albert Bruce)
- United States. Army Epidemiological Board
- Kokernot, Robert H.
- United States. Army
- United States. Armed Forces
- Strode, George K.

## Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

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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## Collection Inventory

### Subject Files

#### Scope and Contents note

Series 1, Subject Files, contains Smithburn's professional correspondence and experimental data arranged in the order in which they were received. Thus, within these files, both unique and routine materials are intermingled. Information about Smithburn's appointment in 1938 to the Yellow Fever Unit in Entebbe is found in correspondence with the Rockefeller Foundation in folder 60. Correspondence with colleagues Alec Haddow (1943-1964), Stuart Kitchen (1946-1964), and Paul Maurice Weinbren (1955-1959) contain ongoing discussions of experiments and scientific findings in Entebbe following his departure in 1948. Correspondence with George Strode in 1947, located in folder 67, reveals Smithburn's concern about the impending transfer of the Entebbe Unit to London control and his desire to return to the States. A brief history of the Entebbe Unit, written by Smithburn, is located in folder 54.

Also present in Series 1 are reports, memoranda and correspondence (folders 12, 14-16) relating to work done on behalf of the Army Epidemiological Board with Hemorrhagic Fever in Japan and Korea from 1952 to 1953. There is extensive correspondence with Robert Kokernot (1955-1973), primarily personal in nature, with early letters describing laboratory experiments in Johannesburg, South Africa. Smithburn's correspondence with the Rockefeller Foundation is of a routine nature and concerns reimbursements for supplies, salary and retirement, housing, insurance, and other personal matters.

Scientific data and experiment files contain information on a variety of viruses, their carriers, and protocols used. A 1953 letter between Smithburn and John Craig in folder 28, discusses linkages between Japanese B Encephalitis and the arthropod-borne viruses. An epidemic similar in nature to Chikungunya disease is described in a report located in folder 4. There are nine letters from Albert B. Sabin relating to experiments with the dengue and sandfly fever viruses.

#### Arrangement note

In Series 1, the files are arranged alphabetically by name and subject.

Title/Description	Instances	
American Type Culture Collection, 1957-1961, 1968	box 1	folder 1
Army Epidemiological Board, 1952	box 1	folder 2

Arthropod-borne Virus Research Unit - South Africa, 1957-1962	box 1	folder 3
Arthropod-borne Virus Research Unit - South Africa, 1957-1962	box 1	folder 4
Arthropod-borne Virus Research Unit - South Africa, 1957-1962	box 1	folder 5
Belgian Congo Programs, 1940-1941, 1948, 1952-1953	box 1	folder 6
Bunyamwera Virus, 1943-1945, 1948	box 1	folder 7
Bwamba Fever Viruses, 1939-1941, 1943	box 1	folder 8
Cox, Herald R., 1950, 1952	box 1	folder 9
Commission on Virus and Rickettsial Disease, 1952-1953	box 1	folder 10
Dick, George W. A., 1948-1952, 1969	box 2	folder 11
Epidemic Hemorrhagic Fever Commission - Administrative Correspondence, 1952-1953	box 2	folder 12
Epidemic Hemorrhagic Fever Commission - Expense Records, 1952-1953	box 2	folder 13
Epidemic Hemorrhagic Fever Commission - Reports and Memoranda, 1952-June 25, 1953	box 2	folder 14
Epidemic Hemorrhagic Fever Commission - Reports and Memoranda, 1952-June 25, 1953	box 2	folder 15
Epidemic Hemorrhagic Fever Commission - Reports and Memoranda, 1952-June 25, 1953	box 2	folder 16
Expense Accounts and Vouchers, 1941, 1948-1959	box 2	folder 17
Expense Accounts and Vouchers, 1941, 1948-1959	box 2	folder 18
Findlay, G. M., 1949-1950	box 3	folder 19
Gear, James H. S., 1959-1960	box 3	folder 20
Gould House Conference on Arthropod-borne Virus, 1959	box 3	folder 21
Hackett, Lewis W. - The American Journal of Tropical Medicine, 1952-1953	box 3	folder 22
Haddow, Alec J., 1943-1955, 1959-1964, 1973, n.d.	box 3	folder 23
Heidelberger, Michael J., 1937-1938, 1949	box 3	folder 24
Horgan, E. S., 1948, 1950, 1952, n.d.	box 3	folder 25
Hughes, Thomas P., 1940, n.d.	box 3	folder 26
Human Immunization, 1949-1951	box 3	folder 27
International Health Division/Division of Medicine and Public Health Correspondence, 1949-1953	box 3	folder 28
International Health Division/Division of Medicine and Public Health Memoranda, 1949-1955, n.d.	box 3	folder 29



International Health Division/Division of Medicine and Public Health Memoranda, 1949-1955, n.d.	box 3	folder 30
Jacobs, Henry R., December 9, 1951	box 3	folder 31
Kerr, J. Austin, 1952-1955, n.d.	box 3	folder 32
Kidd, John G., 1942-1972, n.d.	box 4	folder 33
Kitchen, Stuart F., 1946-1953, 1959, 1961, 1964	box 4	folder 34
Kokernot, Robert H., 1955-1973	box 4	folder 35
Kokernot, Robert H., 1955-1973	box 4	folder 36
Kokernot, Robert H., 1955-1973	box 4	folder 37
Kokernot, Robert H., 1955-1973	box 4	folder 38
Lennette, Edwin H., 1951-1953	box 4	folder 39
Lumsden, W. H. Russell, 1948, 1951, 1962	box 4	folder 40
Mahaffy, Alexander Francis, 1946-1967	box 4	folder 41
Mason, Richard P., 1952-1953	box 4	folder 42
McIntosh, Bruce M. and Worth, C. Brooke, 1958-1973	box 4	folder 43
Meillon, Botha de, 1958-1973	box 5	folder 44
Miles, John A. R., 1951-1956	box 5	folder 45
Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1928-1953	box 5	folder 46
Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1928-1953	box 5	folder 47
Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1928-1953	box 5	folder 48
Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1928-1953	box 5	folder 49
Ntaya Virus, 1943-1950	box 5	folder 50
Paul, John R., 1942, 1948-1953	box 5	folder 51
Pinner, Max, 1935-1938	box 5	folder 52
Poliomyelitis - Mauritius, 1945	box 5	folder 53
Publications - Editor's Correspondence, 1949-1962	box 5	folder 54
Rift Valley Fever, 1944-1947	box 6	folder 55
Rockefeller Foundation - Comptroller's Office, 1958-1963	box 6	folder 56
<u>Conditions Governing Access:</u> <b>Conditions Governing Access</b> Restricted - Confidential material.		
Rockefeller Foundation - Director's Correspondence, 1957-1970	box 6	folder 57
<u>Conditions Governing Access:</u>		

## Conditions Governing Access

Restricted - Confidential material.

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Rockefeller Foundation - Director's Correspondence, 1957-1970	box 6	folder 58
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Conditions Governing Access:

## Conditions Governing Access

Restricted - Confidential material.

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Rockefeller Foundation - Director's Correspondence, 1957-1970	box 6	folder 59
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Conditions Governing Access:

## Conditions Governing Access

Restricted - Confidential material.

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Rockefeller Foundation - Personnel Matters, 1938-1954	box 6	folder 60
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Conditions Governing Access:

## Conditions Governing Access

Restricted - Confidential material.

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Rockefeller Foundation - Personnel Matters, 1938-1954	box 6	folder 61
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Conditions Governing Access:

## Conditions Governing Access

Restricted - Confidential material.

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Rockefeller Foundation - Personnel Matters, 1938-1954	box 6	folder 62
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Conditions Governing Access:

## Conditions Governing Access

Restricted - Confidential material.

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Rockefeller Foundation - Personnel Matters, 1955-1958	box 7	folder 63
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Conditions Governing Access:

## Conditions Governing Access

Restricted - Confidential material.

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Rockefeller Foundation - Salary and Retirement, 1938-1967	box 7	folder 64
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Conditions Governing Access:

## Conditions Governing Access

Restricted - Confidential material.

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Rockefeller Foundation - Salary and Retirement - Monthly Statements, 1938-1952	box 7	folder 65
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Conditions Governing Access:

**Conditions Governing Access**

Restricted - Confidential material.

Rockefeller Foundation - Salary and Retirement - Monthly Statements, 1938-1952	box 7	folder 66
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Conditions Governing Access:**Conditions Governing Access**

Restricted - Confidential material.

Rockefeller Foundation - Virus Program, 1947-1951	box 7	folder 67
Ross, R. William, 1950, 1952, 1959, 1964, n.d.	box 7	folder 68
Sabin, Albert B., 1945, 1950-1953, 1958	box 7	folder 69
Semliki Forest Virus - Experiments, 1942-1944	box 7	folder 70
"Semliki Forest Virus" - Manuscript Draft, 1943	box 7	folder 71
Sixth International Congress of Tropical Medicine and Malaria, Lisbon, 1958-1959	box 7	folder 72
Smadel, Joseph E., 1946-1963	box 8	folder 73
Talks and Lectures, 1949-1954	box 8	folder 74
Talks and Lectures, 1949-1954	box 8	folder 75
Taylor, Richard M., 1949-1973, n.d.	box 8	folder 76
Taylor, Richard M., 1949-1973, n.d.	box 8	folder 77
Taylor, Richard M., 1949-1973, n.d.	box 8	folder 78
Taylor, Richard M., 1949-1973, n.d.	box 8	folder 79
Technique Book - Pages 1-145, ca. 1922-1938	box 8	folder 80
Technique Book - Pages 1-145, ca. 1922-1938	box 8	folder 81
Technique Book - Experiments, pp 83-140, ca. 1922-1938	box 9	folder 82
Virus Research Institute, Entebbe, 1949-1953	box 9	folder 83
Virus Research Notes - South Africa, 1956	box 9	folder 84
Viruses - Miscellaneous, 1942-1955	box 9	folder 85
Viruses - Miscellaneous, 1942-1955	box 9	folder 86
Viruses - Miscellaneous, 1942-1955	box 9	folder 87
Warren, Andrew J., 1939-1946, 1955	box 9	folder 88
Weinbren, Paul Maurice, 1955-1959	box 9	folder 89
Weinbren, Paul Maurice, 1955-1959	box 9	folder 90
Weinbren, Paul Maurice, 1960-1970 (?)	box 10	folder 91

Weinbren, Paul Maurice, 1960-1970 (?)	box 10	folder 92
West Nile Virus, 1939-1943	box 10	folder 93
World Health Organization - Expert Advisory Panel on Virus Diseases, 1959-1964	box 10	folder 94
World Health Organization - Expert Advisory Panel on Yellow Fever, 1952-1960	box 10	folder 95
Yellow Fever Experiments - Protection Tests and Vaccines, 1938-1950	box 10	folder 96
Yellow Fever Experiments - Susceptibility of African Wild Animals, 1942-1948	box 10	folder 97
Yellow Fever Experiments - Sentinel Program - Aedes Africanus, 1948-1949, n.d.	box 10	folder 98
Zerfas, L. G., 1932-1937	box 10	folder 99

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## Professional Diaries

### Scope and Contents note

Series 2, Professional Diaries, contains Smithburn's personal copies (handwritten) of the diaries he kept on a daily basis while in Africa. Typed copies of the diaries and monthly summaries were sent to the Rockefeller Foundation on a regular basis. These are located in the Rockefeller Foundation Archives, Record Group 12.1, Box 56. There is a gap for the period from 1949 through most of 1953, during which time Smithburn worked in the New York offices.

### Arrangement note

In Series 2, diaries are arranged chronologically.

Title/Description	Instances	
November 19, 1938 - April 15, 1939 - Manuscript Typescript, 1938-1939	box 11	folder 100
November 19, 1938 - May 17, 1939, 1938-1939	box 11	folder 101
May 17, 1939 (continued) - September 4, 1940, 1939-1940	box 11	folder 102
September 5, 1940 - September 25, 1941, 1940-1941	box 11	folder 103
May 5 - December 31, 1942, 1942	box 11	folder 104
January 1 - May 7, 1943, 1943	box 11	folder 105
May 8, 1943 - February 5, 1944, 1943-1944	box 12	folder 106
February 6 - December 22, 1944, 1944	box 12	folder 107
December 22, 1944 (continued) - January 12, 1947, 1944-1947	box 12	folder 108
January 9, 1947 - July 16, 1948, 1947-1948	box 12	folder 109

July 17 - December 31, 1948, 1948	box 13	folder 110
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
With loose material.		
October 20, 1953 - December 31, 1954, 1953-1954	box 13	folder 111
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
Unbound material.		
January 1 - November 3, 1955, 1955	box 13	folder 112
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
Unbound material.		
January 1 - November 21, 1956, 1956	box 13	folder 113
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
Unbound material.		
January 1, 1957 - September 15, 1958, 1957-1958	box 13	folder 114
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
Unbound material.		
March 3, 1958 - March 2, 1959, 1958-1959	box 13	folder 115

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## Personal Papers

### Scope and Contents note

Series 3, Personal Papers, contains correspondence with friends and colleagues following Smithburn's retirement in 1959. A concise and thorough documentation of Smithburn's illness is contained in folder 133.

### Arrangement note

Materials in Series 3 are arranged alphabetically by type of material and thereunder alphabetically or chronologically.

Title/Description	Instances	
Awards and Memberships, 1938-1973	box 14	folder 116
Certificates of Identification, 1904, 1940, 1957-1961	box 14	folder 117
Certificates of Vaccination, 1942, 1945, 1957	box 14	folder 118
Correspondence - Bugher, John C., 1962-1972	box 14	folder 119

Correspondence - Davis, David H. S., 1959-1966	box 14	folder 120
Correspondence - Dowdeswell, Cecil, 1959-1972	box 14	folder 121
Correspondence - Hampton, John W. F., 1959-1963	box 14	folder 122
Correspondence - Kofsky, Rosemary, 1960-1971	box 14	folder 123
Correspondence - Miscellaneous, 1948-1964, n.d.	box 14	folder 124
Correspondence - Miscellaneous, 1948-1964, n.d.	box 14	folder 125
Correspondence - Miscellaneous, 1948-1964, n.d.	box 14	folder 126
Correspondence - Miscellaneous, 1965-1974	box 15	folder 127
Correspondence - Miscellaneous, 1965-1974	box 15	folder 128
Correspondence - Serafini, Eugene T., 1959-1972	box 15	folder 129
Correspondence - Sympathy Messages (Incoming), 1959, n.d.	box 15	folder 130
Correspondence - Trent, R. Max, 1959-1972, n.d.	box 15	folder 131
Diplomas and Licenses, 1926, 1928-1929, 1954	box 15	folder 132
Emphysema - Papers Related to the Treatment of, 1952, 1955-1971	box 15	folder 133
Travel Diaries, 1938, 1952	box 15	folder 134

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## Printed Materials

### Scope and Contents note

Series 4, Printed Materials, contains two bound volumes of Smithburn's published works. There is also a loose monograph not included in the bound volumes, entitled "Studies on Arthropod-Borne Viruses of Tongaland."

### Arrangement note

In Series 4, printed materials are arranged chronologically.

Title/Description	Instances	
"Collected Papers of Kenneth C. Smithburn", 1930-1939	box 16	folder 135
"Collected Papers of Kenneth C. Smithburn", 1940-1961	box 16	folder 136

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