



Rockefeller Foundation records, Field Offices, Belem, Brazil, RG 6, SG 2

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on October 16, 2020.

English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue

Sleepy Hollow 10591

archive@rockarch.org

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

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Scope and Contents	4
File Plan	4
Administrative Information	5
Controlled Access Headings	6
Collection Inventory	7
Belem Virus Laboratory	7

Summary Information

Repository:	Rockefeller Archive Center
Creator:	Rockefeller Foundation. Belem (Brazil)
Creator:	Rockefeller Foundation
Title:	Rockefeller Foundation records, field offices, Belem, Brazil, RG 6, SG 2
ID:	FA416
Date [inclusive]:	1954-1970
Date [bulk]:	1960-1970
Physical Description:	3.13 Cubic Feet 1 legal document box, 7 letter document boxes.
Language of the Material:	Documentation in these files may be written in languages other than english, including primarily portuguese or spanish.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

The Rockefeller Foundation operated several field laboratories in the 1950s and 1960s, in conjunction with its virus research program centered at the Rockefeller Institute in New York.

The field office in Belem, Brazil, operated from 1954–1971 as a laboratory for the study of arthropod- or insect-borne viruses. Created in collaboration with the Servico Especiales de Saude Publica (Special Service of Public Health), the Belem virus laboratory sought to classify these viruses and examine the way they presented in humans and domesticated animals.

Ottis R. Causey was the first director of the virus laboratory. He and his wife, Calista Eliot Causey, established the laboratory in 1954, and Causey remained director until 1963. Causey received his Doctor of Science degree in entomology, parasitology, and bacteriology from Johns Hopkins University. During his career with the Rockefeller Foundation, Causey devoted himself to the field of arbovirology. Under his tenure, the lab isolated about 1,600 viruses, of which 50 were found to be distinct viruses.

In the mid-1960s, the Rockefeller Foundation began to phase out its virus research program. The New York laboratory was incorporated into the Yale School of Medicine in 1964, becoming the Yale Arbovirus Research Unit, and several of the foundation's field laboratories integrated with universities or government research agencies. Robert E. Shope, M.D., directed the Belem laboratory from 1963 through June 1965, and was succeeded by John P. Woodall, who served until the field office's closing in 1971.

In the course of its existence, the Belem Virus Laboratory was responsible for isolating many viruses. Seeking to determine which viruses were present in their specific region, researchers studied blood samples from monkeys, mice, and humans. This isolation of viruses gave information about the prevalence of certain viruses and the conditions under which they were likely to occur. The laboratory established different methods for rapidly classifying viruses and new ways for monitoring the effects of the viruses on humans and animals. The laboratory made significant contributions to the knowledge of virus activity and lifecycles.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

The Belem Field Office records document the activities of the Belem Virus Laboratory from 1954 to 1970. Records consist of administrative and professional correspondence relating to laboratory operations, research activities, and communications and cooperation with researchers at other virus labs and research organizations, particularly in Latin America, Trinidad, and the U.S.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

File Plan

RG 6.2.

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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue
Sleepy Hollow 10591

archive@rockarch.org

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

Processing Information

Standard Processing by Kate Mockler, Summer 2011. Finding Aid entered into Archivists' Toolkit by Robert Battaly, December 2012.

Conditions Governing Access

Records more than 20 years old are open for research with select materials restricted as noted. Brittle or damaged items are available at the discretion of RAC. Researchers interested in accessing digital media (floppy disks, CDs, DVDs, etc.) or audiovisual material (audio cassettes, VHS, etc.) in this collection must use an access surrogate. The original items may not be accessed because of preservation concerns. To request an access surrogate be made, or if you are unsure if there is an access surrogate, please contact an archivist.

Conditions Governing Use

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 users' responsibility to contact the copyright holder, or make a fair effort to do so, prior to publication.

Conditions Governing Use

Rockefeller Foundation retains title, copyright and literary rights to all Rockefeller Foundation records in so far as it holds them.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Belem Field Office records arrived at RAC during the initial transfer of Rockefeller Foundation records to Hillcrest, August 8-18, 1975.

The material was not officially accessioned at the time of transfer, and was retroactively accessioned by RAC as 2012:086.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Virus diseases
- Virology
- Virologists
- Viruses -- Research
- Viruses
- Virus -- Classification

Collection Inventory

Belem Virus Laboratory, 1954-1970 (1960-1970)

Physical Description: 3.52 Cubic Feet 8 document boxes

Arrangement

Series 1 is arranged alphabetically, and primarily further arranged chronologically.

Title/Description	Instances	
Africa		
1956-1961	box 1	folder 1
1962	box 1	folder 2
Brazil except FSEP		
1954-1957	box 1	folder 3
1958	box 1	folder 4
1961-1962	box 1	folder 5
1963	box 1	folder 6
1964	box 1	folder 7
Field Parties, 1959-1965	box 1	folder 8
South America		
1956-1963	box 1	folder 9
1964-1970	box 1	folder 10
Anthropod Borne Virus Information Exchange		
1954-1959	box 2	folder 11
1960-1961	box 2	folder 12
1962-1963	box 2	folder 13
1964 January-February	box 2	folder 14
1964 March-July	box 2	folder 15
1964 August-December	box 2	folder 16
1965 January-March	box 2	folder 17
1965 April-December	box 2	folder 18
Ottis R. Causey		
1959-1963	box 3	folder 19

1964-1970	box 3	folder 20
Cayenne, 1960-1969	box 3	folder 21
Contracts, Agreements and Authorizations	box 3	folder 22
Wilbur G. Downs		
1960-1962	box 3	folder 23
1963	box 3	folder 24
1964	box 3	folder 25
1965-1966	box 3	folder 26
1967	box 3	folder 27
Grants and Fellowships		
1959-1964	box 4	folder 28
1965-1970	box 4	folder 29
National Institute of Health: Arbovirus Reagents		
1963-1964	box 4	folder 30
1964	box 4	folder 31
1964	box 4	folder 32
Other Countries		
1956	box 4	folder 33
1962-1966	box 4	folder 34
1967-1970	box 4	folder 35
Pan American Sanitary Bureau		
1954-1960	box 4	folder 36
1961-1970	box 4	folder 37

Panama - Colombia - MARU - Bethesda

Scope and Contents

MARU refers to the Middle America Research Unit, which was a facility established in the Canal Zone by the National Institutes of Health. The file contains correspondence with researchers in these organizations and countries.

1956-1961	box 4	folder 38
1962	box 5	folder 39
1963	box 5	folder 40
1964	box 5	folder 41

1965-1970	box 5	folder 42
Personnel	box 5	folder 43
<u>Conditions Governing Access:</u> Conditions Governing Access Restricted from scholarly access; contains personnel records		
Rio		
1954-1959	box 5	folder 44
1960-1963	box 5	folder 45
Rockefeller Foundation: New York		
1954-1956	box 5	folder 46
1957-1959	box 5	folder 47
1960-1961	box 5	folder 48
1962-1963	box 5	folder 49
1964-1970	box 6	folder 50
Rockefeller Foundation: Virus Labs		
1954-1956	box 6	folder 51
1957-1959	box 6	folder 52
1960	box 6	folder 53
1961	box 6	folder 54
1962-1963	box 6	folder 55
Telegrams		
1955-1958	box 6	folder 56
1959-1962	box 6	folder 57
1963-1965	box 6	folder 58
1966-1968	box 6	folder 59
Trinidad		
1954-1959	box 7	folder 60
1960	box 7	folder 61
1961	box 7	folder 62
1962	box 7	folder 63
1963-1964	box 7	folder 64
1965-1970	box 7	folder 65

USA except Rockefeller Foundation		
1950-1959	box 7	folder 66
1960-1961	box 7	folder 67
1962	box 7	folder 68
1963	box 8	folder 69
1964	box 8	folder 70
1965-1966	box 8	folder 71
1967-1968	box 8	folder 72
1969-1970	box 8	folder 73
Visitors		
1959-1966	box 8	folder 74
1967-1970	box 8	folder 75
Yale Arbovirus Research Unit		
1963-1965	box 8	folder 76
1966-1967	box 8	folder 77
1968-1970	box 8	folder 78

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)