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Rockefeller Foundation records, Treasurer, RG 7

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rockefeller Archive Center

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rockefeller Archive Center
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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

The 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

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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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Rockefeller Archive Center

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archive@rockarch.org
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Revision Description

Migrated from Re:discovery to the Archivists' Toolkit by Becky Robbins. May 2010

Conditions Governing Access

Material more than twenty years old is open for scholarly research.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Philanthropy
- Humanities
- Life sciences
- Medical sciences
- Charities
- Agriculture
- Philanthropy -- United States
- Public health
- Charitable uses, trusts, and foundations
- Rockefeller Foundation

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

The archival material has been reformatted. Access to the original archival material is restricted. User copies of the microfilm are available for scholarly access.

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Collection Inventory

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