



Commonwealth Fund records, Austrian Program, SG 1, Series 6

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rockefeller Archive Center
Creator:	Commonwealth Fund
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Preferred Citation note

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Biographical/Historical note

The Commonwealth Fund was established in 1918 with an endowment of \$10 million from Mrs. Stephen V. Harkness for "benevolent, religious, educational and like purposes." The early grants supported a variety of programs while generally promoting welfare, especially child welfare. Several grants were made in the field of medical research, but the Board of Directors decided in 1920 that this field was already sufficiently supported by other philanthropic organizations.

Despite this decision, by the mid-1920s the chief interest of the Fund had become public health, including mental hygiene, community health, rural hospitals, medical research, and medical education. Other grant areas included war relief, educational and legal research, child welfare, and international medical fellowships.

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Scope and Contents note

An outgrowth of the Commonwealth Fund's relief activities in Eastern and Central Europe after World War I, the Austrian Program provided vital help in improving the health of children in Austria. From 1923 until 1929 the CF maintained an office in Vienna, and conducted a program of health and preventive medicine for children. Child health demonstrations were conducted in Salzburg, and similar activities transpired in Vienna, Klagenfurt, Graz, and elsewhere.

Emphasis was placed on bettering the Austrian type of health service, rather than the introduction of American methods. Additional educational training was provided through fellowships. Austrian support for the program was gradually increased, and by 1929 sufficient success and stability had been attained to ensure continuance of the work without Commonwealth Fund support.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Controlled Access Headings

- Public health
- Public welfare
- United States
- War relief
- Child psychology
- Child mental health
- New York (N.Y.)
- New York (State)
- Hygiene
- Law
- Child welfare
- Education, Rural
- Medical education
- Medical research
- Legal issues
- Legal research
- Mental health
- Medicine, Rural
- Medicine -- Scholarships, fellowships, etc.

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Administrative Policies, 1923-1929	box 1	folder 1
Audits and Correspondence, March 3, 1926-July 23, 1929	box 1	folder 2
Budget, July 1926-June 1927	box 1	folder 3
Budget, July 1927-June 1928	box 1	folder 4
Budget, July 1928-June 1929	box 1	folder 5
Expenditures, July 1928-1929	box 1	folder 6
Financial Correspondence, June 8, 1923-December 20, 1926	box 1	folder 7
Financial Correspondence, January 13, 1927-June 8, 1929	box 1	folder 8
Financial Statements - Austria, July 1923 to June 1925	box 1	folder 9
Financial Statements - Austria, July 1925 to June 1926	box 1	folder 10
Financial Statements - Austria, July 1926 to June 1927	box 1	folder 11
Financial Statements - Austria, July 1927 to June 1928		

	box 1	folder 12
Financial Statements - Austria, July 1928 to June 1929	box 2	folder 13
Financial Statements - New York, June 1923 to June 1925	box 2	folder 14
Financial Statements - New York, July 1925 to June 1926	box 2	folder 15
Financial Statements - New York, July 1926 to June 1927	box 2	folder 16
Financial Statements - New York, July 1927 to June 1928	box 2	folder 17
Financial Statements - New York, July 1928 to June 1929	box 2	folder 18
General Austrian Financial and Economic Information, March 4, 1924-July 5, 1928	box 2	folder 19