



# **Rockefeller University records, Director, Simon Flexner, Biographical Materials, Reprints, Phonorecords, and Bas Relief, Series 6**

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Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue  
Sleepy Hollow 10591

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

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

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## Summary Information

<b>Repository:</b>	Rockefeller Archive Center
<b>Creator - aut:</b>	Flexner, Simon
<b>Title:</b>	Rockefeller University records, Director, Simon Flexner, Biographical Materials, Reprints, Phonorecords, and Bas Relief, Series 6
<b>ID:</b>	FA139
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	undated
<b>Physical Description:</b>	2.96 Cubic Feet
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1 box, 1 volume
<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

Simon Flexner (1863-1946) pathologist, Director of The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research from its founding in 1903 until 1935; Emeritus until his death in 1946. Writer of numerous papers and monographs on pathological and bacteriological subjects. Investigated especially the pathology of toxalbumin intoxication, biochemical constitution of snake venoms, experimental pancreatitis and fat necrosis; epidemic cerebrospinal meningitis and its serum treatment; poliomyelitis, its cause and mode of transmission, serum treatment; experimental epidemiology; epidemic encephalitis.

Biographical Note	
1863	Born March 25, Louisville, Ky.; Attended Louisville public schools
1889	M.D. University of Louisville

1891-1895	Post Graduate student, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore; Fellow in pathology, Johns Hopkins University; Associate in Pathology, Johns Hopkins University
1893	Post graduate student, University of Strasburg; Post graduate student, University of Prague
1895-1898	Associate Professor Pathology, Johns Hopkins University
1898-1899	Professor of pathological anatomy, Johns Hopkins University
1899-1903	Professor of Pathology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
1900	Post graduate student, Pasteur Institute
1900-1903	Pathologist, University Hospital and Philadelphia Hospital, Philadelphia
1901-1903	Director, Ayer Clinical Laboratories, Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia
1903-1935	Director, The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York, N.Y.
1904	Post graduate student, University of Berlin
1935	Director Emeritus, RIMR
1937-1938	Eastman Professor, Oxford University
1946	Died May 2, New York, New York

Awards	
1911	Cameron Prize (England)
1915	Order of the Sacred Treasure, Japan
1914	Legion of Honor, France. Chevalier

1919	Legion of Honor, France. Officier
1923	Legion of Honor, France. Commandeur

Served	
1899	Johns Hopkins University Commission to Philippine Islands. Chairman
1900	U.S. Plague Commission. Chairman
1905-1946	Editor: Journal of Experimental Medicine
1917-1919	Lt. Colonel O.R.C. United States Army
1919	Colonel O.R.C United States Army
1919	Assistant Surgeon General. United States Public Health Service
1919	Congress of American Physicians and Surgeons
1919	Congress of the American Association for the Advancement of Science
1919	The Rockefeller Foundation. Charter Member
1919	Chinese Medical Board Commission
1919	American Red Cross. Medical Advisory Committee
1919	Carnegie Foundation. Trustee
1919	National Research Council. Chairman Fellowship Board: Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics
1937	Johns Hopkins University Trustee

Honorary Degrees D.S.C. 1906 Harvard University, 1910 Yale University, 1913 Princeton University, 1929 University of Pennsylvania, 1936 National University of Ireland, 1937 University of Louisville,

LL.D. 1907 University of Maryland, 1915 Brown University, 1915 Johns Hopkins University, 1915 Washington University, 1920 Cambridge University, England, 1929 Western Reserve University, Doctor Honorarius 1923 University of Strasburg, France, 1927 Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, 1930 Université Libre, Brussels, 1937 Fellow of Balliol College, Master of Arts, Oxford University

Member of American Academy of Arts and Sciences (Fellow), New York Academy of Medicine (Fellow), American Association for the Advancement of Sciences, National Academy of Sciences, Association of American Physicians (Pres. 1914), American Philosophical Society, American Association of Pathologists and Bacteriologists, American Medical Association, Sigma Xi (Pennsylvania Chapter 1900), Harvey Society, Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine, Institute of Medicine, Chicago

Foreign Societies Membership British Medical Association, Royal Society of London, Royal Society of Medicine, London, Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, London, Academy of Medicine, Paris, National Academy of Sciences, Paris, Société médicale des Hôpitaux, Paris, Société de Pathologie Exotique, Paris, Société de Biologie, Paris, Royal Academy of Medicine, Brussels, Société Royale des Sciences Médicales et Naturelles, Brussels, Société Belge de Médecine Tropicale, Société Belge de Biologie, Brussels, Institute for Experimental Therapy, Frankfurt a. M., Kaiserlich Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher zu Halle, Germany, Berliner medizinische Gesellschaft, Berlin, Gesellschaft de Aerzte in Wien, Austria, Wiener Gesellschaft für Mikrobiologie, Austria, Reale Istituto Lombardo di Scienze e Lettere, Milan, Medico-Chirurgical Society, Bologna, Royal Danish Scientific Society, Swedish Medical Society, Stockholm, Copenhagen Medical Society, Bataafsch Genootschap der Proefondervindelijke Wijsbegeerte, Rotterdam, Microbiological Society in Leningrad, Russia, Sociedad Argentina de Biología, Buenos Aires, Academy of Medicine, Caracas, Venezuela, Sociedad Medico-Quirurgica del Guayas, Guayaquil, Ecuador, Medical Advisory Board, League of Red Cross Societies, Geneva

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## Scope and Contents note

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Biographical material, articles, photographs, obituary articles, family correspondence.

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## Arrangement

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As received.

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## File Plan note

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Former Classification: I 301-6

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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15 Dayton Avenue

Sleepy Hollow 10591

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

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

### Revision Description

Paper finding aid converted to EAD/XML by AureXus in 2010. Imported into the Archivists' Toolkit by Becky Robbins. 19 August 2010

### Conditions Governing Access

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.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Materials

Simon Flexner papers at the American Philosophical Society Library.

Rockefeller Archive Center has a complete microfilm set of the Flexner papers. Microfilm is available upon request. Consult Archivist for details.

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## Controlled Access Headings

- Medical research
- Medical sciences
- Biology -- Research
- Medicine, Preventive
- Cell and biomolecular sciences
- Biochemistry
- Pancreatitis
- Meningitis
- Epidemiology
- Bacteria
- Bacteriology

## Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Biographical materials		
Obituary notices of Fellows of the Royal Society v. 6, 1949 November	box 1	folder 1
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
Includes bibliography.		
Memorial meeting for Simon Flexner. Speakers: Herbert S. Gasser; Learned Hand; Peyton Rous, Raymond S. Fosdick; John D. Rockefeller, Jr. (Typescript copy of all addresses except Dr. Gasser's), 1946 June 12	box 1	folder 1
Archives of pathology 42 (1946) 234-242, 1946	box 1	folder 1
SCIENCE 107 (1948) 611-613 "Simon Flexner and Medical Discovery", 1948	box 1	folder 1
BULLETIN de l'Académie de Médecine by M.G. Ramon no. 24-25-26 (1946) 429, 1946	box 1	folder 1
LA PRESSE MEDICALE, 1946 Juillet 20	box 1	folder 1



YEARBOOK American Philosophical Society, 289-297, 1946	box 1	folder 1
COMPTEs RENDUS. Read by M. Cartan at Académie des sciences, 1946 May	box 1	folder 1
Bordet, Paul. Notice sur la vie et les travaux de Simon Flexner <sup>1</sup>	box 1	folder 1
Sketch by H. Gasser for Association of American Physicians	box 1	folder 1
Notice released to press from RIMR 2, 1946 May	box 1	folder 1
Biographical note edited by H. Gasser	box 1	folder 1
Bibliography	box 1	folder 1
Photographic prints. Largely of Simon Flexner and family members	box 1	folder 2

### Scope and Contents note

Includes copy prints made from his personal collection of famous scientists, i.e. Alexis St. Marlin; Wm. Osler; S. Weir Mitchell; Billings; Victor Vaughan. Many others not identified. Some photos of items from personal collection from Peking Medical College.

Print of drawing made by Max Broedel of Simon Flexner and Lewellys F. Barker, 1896 in Johns Hopkins Hospital staff room, 1896		
Drawing signed T.M. Rivers, 1926		
Copies of statistical material, correspondence and handwritten notes with material brought together for report of First 20 years of RIMR	box 1	folder 3
Memoir book of Dinner in Honor of Simon Flexner on 10th Anniversary of opening of the laboratories. Delmonicos, 1914 October 16	box 1	folder 4
Reminiscences of Abraham Flexner and other articles	box 2	folder 1
Flexner, Abraham. Oral interview. Transcript Interview by Allan Nevins and Saul Benison for Oral History Research Office, Columbia University. 36pp with index, 1954		
Pamphlet: The New York Academy of Medicine PASTEUR CENTENARY. Catalogue of Exhibit p. 27 Simon Flexner "The contribution of Pasteur to the knowledge of immunity and therapy" (also p. 19 by William Welch), 1922 December 27-1923 January 10	box 2	folder 2
Benison, Saul. "Poliomyelitis and The Rockefeller Institute: Social effects and Institutional response" Photocopy. JOURNAL OF HISTORY OF MEDICINE AND ALLIED SCIENCES, 74-92, 1974 January	box 2	folder 3
Benison, Saul. "Speculation and experimentation in early poliomyelitis research". CLIO MEDICA, 1-22, 1975 April 10	box 2	folder 3
Flexner Family. Papers, 1910-1947	box 2	folder 4

## Scope and Contents

Correspondence with Abraham Flexner; James Flexner in deeding Simon Flexner papers to RIMR; a few items about various family members; material dealing with 1935 Simon Flexner medallion and Memorial pamphlet, 1946.

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Abraham Flexner: an autobiography. A revision, brought up to date, of the author's "I remember", published in 1940. Intro, by Allan Nevins. New York, Simon and Schuster, 1960. 302pp.	box 2
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Ward, Patricia Spain, "The Other Abraham: Flexner in Illinois." Caduceus 2 (Spring 1986) pp 1-66, Spring 1986	box 3	folder 1
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### Scope and Contents note

Includes a 1923 photograph of Abraham Flexner from RU Archives opposite page 1. 2 copies of publication.

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Looseleaf notebook (with copies of memoranda, budget material, and blueprint for Princeton site), 1914	box 3	folder 2
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Collected reprints

#### Processing Information:

### Processing Information

The original bound copies of volumes 3 and 6 could not be found when deposited in the archives.

Second sets were bound writing from bibliography but should not be considered as authoritative.

Some reprints are missing from bound volumes.

### Scope and Contents note

Collected papers of Simon Flexner bound in 5 volumes:

1 1890-1898.

2 1899-1907.

3 1907-1915.

4 1916-1926.

5 1927-1948.

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Reprints of Simon Flexner at RU - folio room

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"The pathologic changes caused by certain so-called toxalbumins - an experimental study" Transactions of the Pathological Society of Philadelphia. 17: 212-31, 1896	envelope 1
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Reprints

#### Custodial History:

## Custodial History

Given to RU by Eric Meyerhoff, Librarian of Cornell University Medical College, July 1984.

1892-1898	envelope 2
1900-1909	envelope 3
1910-1917, 1923, 1928, undated	envelope 4

Phonorecords, Recordings: Retirement of Simon Flexner, 1935  
October 7

### Conditions Governing Access:

### Conditions Governing Access

RAC may be unable to provide access to the original item, depending on the condition of the recordings and due to the specialized equipment necessary to facilitate playback.

## Scope and Contents

Electrical transcription made by Airtone Recording Studio, 485 Madison Avenue, New York City.

Bas relief of Simon Flexner	package 1
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### Scope and Contents note

Bas relief of Simon Flexner. Sculpture by Bashka Paeff. Original is in marble (hangs in Rockefeller University Library).

Sculpture by Bashka Paeff
Marble
Bronze 6" x 8" with a stand was originally prepared for the laboratories at Princeton

Bronze 2 1/2" x 3" medallion

### Scope and Contents note

On reverse addition was made of representation of The Rockefeller Institute from 66th Street gates and legend: From the Members of The Rockefeller Institute, 1935. These were made available for purchase on Simon Flexner's retirement.

Letter from Bashka Paeff Waxman, 1977 March
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