



# Avery (Oswald T.) 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

<b>Repository:</b>	Rockefeller Archive Center
<b>Creator - aut:</b>	Avery, Oswald Theodore
<b>Creator:</b>	Rockefeller University
<b>Creator:</b>	Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research
<b>Title:</b>	Oswald T. Avery papers, Rockefeller University Faculty
<b>ID:</b>	FA230
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1913-1955
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1.5 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

Served	
1918-1919	U.S. Army Medical Corps
1942	Member of Board for the Study and Control of Epidemic Diseases Consultant to Secretary of War National Research Council, Subcommittee on Infectious Diseases

### Chronology

1877	Born October 21, Halifax, Nova Scotia
1887	Moved to New York City
1893	Graduated New York City Male Grammar School
1893-1900	Colgate Academy
1900	A.B. Colgate University
1904	M.D. College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York City
1904-1906	Interne, City Hospital, New York City
1906-1907	Commission for the Investigation of Acute Respiratory Diseases, Bacteriological Laboratory, College of Physicians and Surgeons
1907-1913	Hoagland Laboratory, Department of Bacteriology, Brooklyn Associate Director
1913	Assistant, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, NYC
1915	Associate, RIMR
1918	Naturalized citizen of the United States
1919	Associate Member, RIMR
1923	Member, RIMR
1943-	Member Emeritus, RIMR
1949	Retired to Nashville, Tenn.
1955	Died February 20, Nashville, Tenn. Buried Mt. Olivet Cemetery

## Awards

1931	John Mather Smith Prize. Columbia University (?) Value about \$200. Presented to a graduate for an essay on medical research
1932	Paul Ehrlich Gold Medal. See #81 in bibliography John Phillips Memorial Award. American College of Physicians. Value of \$1500. For discovery of method to pierce the protective coat of Pneumococcus. See #80 in bibliography
1944	Gold Medal of New York Academy of Medicine
1945	Copley Medal. Royal Society of London Kober Medal. Association of American Physicians
1946	Charles Mickle Fellowship. University of Toronto
1947	Lasker Award. American Public Health Association Value \$1,000.
1949	Passanao Foundation Award Value \$5,000.
1950	Pasteur Gold Medal. Swedish Medical Society, Stockholm

### Honorary degrees

1921	Sc. D. Colgate University
1935	LL. D. McGill University
1947	Sc. D. New York University
1950	Sc. D. University of Chicago
1954	Sc. D. Rutgers University

### Memberships

Society of American Bacteriologists (President 1942), Association of American Physicians, American Society for Clinical Investigations, American Society of Pathologists and Bacteriologists (President 1934), American Society for Experimental Pathology, New York Academy of Medicine, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, National Academy of Sciences (elected 1933), Harvey Society, American Public Health Association, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Association of Immunologists (President 1923), American Association of Pathologists and Bacteriologists (President 1934)

Honorary Member: New York Academy of Sciences, 1944, Society of Experimental Biology and Medicine, Society of General Microbiology (England), Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland

Foreign Member: Royal Danish Academy of Science, 1951, Der Norske Videnskaps Akademi (Oslo), 1932, Académie Royale de Médecine de Belgique, 1933, Société Philomathique de Paris, The Royal Society (London), 1944

Oswald Theodore Avery, 1877-1955, physician and bacteriologist with The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, 1913-1949. Foremost researcher on pneumonia and one of the founders of the science of immunochemistry and discoverer of the transforming nature of DNA.

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## Scope and Contents note

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Correspondence, photographs, memorabilia; reprints; bibliography.

This collection of papers of about 2½ linear feet consists primarily of memorabilia (honorary capes; medals; musical instrument) which was given to the Rockefeller University Archives by Dr. Avery's sister-in-law. It includes a small amount of administrative correspondence, photographs, bibliography and complete collection of reprints, many obituary articles and several articles about DNA. Includes photocopy of letter (1943) from Avery to his brother, Roy C. Avery, detailing his work on the transforming nature of DNA.

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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 450 Av37

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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>

### Conditions Governing Access note

Access to this collection is restricted pending permission from Rockefeller University.

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of the University and of Mr. Avery's sister-in-law, Mrs. Roy C. Avery. Received or inventoried: November, 1971, June 1977.

### Processing Information

Initially processed in 1972.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Immunology
- Bacteriology
- DNA

- Pneumonia
- Physical Objects
- Medical education
- Genetics
- Medical research
- Medical technology
- Medical sciences
- Life sciences
- Cell and biomolecular sciences
- Biology -- Research
- Biochemistry
- Medicine, Preventive
- Bacteria

## Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Administrative correspondence, 1913-1952	box 1	folder 1
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>  1913 letters between Rufus Cole and Simon Flexner with O.T. Avery application for appointment and approvals from Board Members, L. Emmett Holt and T.M. Prudden. The balance of the correspondence is primarily with the Business Manager on matters of budgeting, laboratory changes and personnel.		
Bibliography	box 1	folder 2
#2 Potter, N.B. and Avery, O.T. Opsonins and vaccine therapy In: Hare, H.A., ed. Modern treatment	box 1	folder 2
#3 White, B. and Avery, O.T. Observations on certain lactic acid bacteria of the so-called Bulgaricus type	box 1	folder 2
#4 Ager, L.C. and Avery, O.T. A case of influenza meningitis	box 1	folder 2
#25 Avery, O.T., Dochez, A.R., and Lancefield, R.C. Bacteriology of streptococcus hemolyticus	box 1	folder 2
Reports to the Board of Scientific Directors or the Corporation	box 1	folder 2
1932 January 16		
1941		
1942		
1943		
Congratulatory message from F. Neufeld on winning Ehrlich medal, 12/20/1932	box 1	folder 2



Citation on American College of Physicians, 1932 award of John Phillips Memorial Prize, 1932	box 1	folder 2
Science, p. 329 Citation on award of Gold Medal of The New York Academy of Medicine, 1944 October 13	box 1	folder 2
Nature, p. 694. Citation on award of Copley Medal, 1945 December 8	box 1	folder 2
Newspaper articles on awards, 1932-1940	box 1	folder 2
Correspondence (4) requests for publicity material to be used on winning of Lasker Award, American Public Health Association, 1947	box 1	folder 2
News release material on \$5,000 award of Passano Foundation, 1949	box 1	folder 2
Letter, Avery to American Ambassador to Sweden on acceptance of Pasteur Medal in Avery's behalf, 1950 November 27	box 1	folder 2
Summaries of work; obituaries; articles	box 1	folder 3
Summary of work on transformation prepared for H.S. Gasser by F.L. Horsfall, R.D. Hotchkiss, and René Dubos, 1952 January 16		
Memorial Minute, 1955		
News release prepared by T.M. Rivers for newspaper obituary notices, 1955 February 21		
NEW YORK HERALD obituary, 1955 February 22		
Lomholt, A. (Danish Academy) to E.B. Smith verifying obituary notice, 1955 May 27		
Record of floral sprays sent for funeral by RI people		
Obituary articles	box 1	folder 3
Chesney, Alan M. IN MEMORIUM. Journal of pathology and bacteriology 74 (1957) 451-460		
Hotchkiss, Rollin D. OSWALD T. AVERY, 1877-1955		
Genetics 51 (1965) 1-10, 1965		
Dubos, R.J. OSWALD THEODORE AVERY Biographical memoirs of the Fellows of The Royal Society 2 (1956) 35-48, 1877-1955		
MacLeod, Colin. OBITUARY ARTICLE, OSWALD THEODORE AVERY, 1877-1955. Journal of general microbiology 17 (1957) 539-549, 1957		
Articles	box 1	folder 3
Stanley, Wendell M. The "undiscovered" discovery. Archives of environmental health 21 (1970) 256-262, 1970		

Wyatt, H.V. How history has blended. Nature 249 (1974)  
803-805, 1974

Cohen, Jack. Chapter VII: Genetic transformation by DNA in: A  
GENERATION OF DNA

### Scope and Contents note

Unpublished. Received for publication permission January  
1976.

M.D. Remembers: A pioneer in DNA research. Medical news  
magazine, March 1977, 72, 1977 March

Letter from Harold C. Anderson to René Dubos on personal recollection, 1977 April 18	box 1	folder 3
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Tennessee State Library and Archives	box 1	folder 3
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### Scope and Contents note

Inventory of Avery papers in the Manuscript Unit. 600 items  
and two volumes. Includes vita and bibliography as per record.

Folder includes two photocopies of letter written 13 May 1943  
to brother Roy (Original with Tennessee State Library papers)  
detailing work on transformation factor and recognition of  
importance. One photocopy supplied by Dr. M. McCarty with  
typescript translation of handwritten letter.

Photographs, 1984	box 1
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### Scope and Contents note

Includes official RIM portraits by Louis Schmidt; snap shots  
by Dr. W. Goebel in laboratory and includes colleagues; a  
number of family photographs supplied by Mrs. Roy Avery  
to René Dubos for THE PROFESSOR, THE INSTITUTE  
AND DNA and given to the archives by Dr. Dubos. Also  
negatives with prints of exhibit prepared to commemorate  
100th anniversary of O.T. Avery birth.

#### Processing Information:

### Processing Information

Originally Box 1, Folder 4.

Annals of Science: DNA 3 part article from THE NEW YORKER 1978 Nov. 27, Dec. 4 and 11 by Horace Freeland Judson, 1978	box 1	folder 5
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Memorabilia	box 2
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Honorary hoods

Colgate University, 1921

McGill University, 1935

New York University, 1947

University of Chicago, 1950	
Rutgers University, 1954	
Medals	
American College of Physicians, 1932	
Paul Ehrlich Gold Medal, 1932	
Gold Medal New York Academy of Medicine, 1944	
Copley Medal. Royal Society of London, 1945	
Kober Medal. Association of American Physicians, 1945	
Pasteur Gold Medal, 1950	
Assorted items	
Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity pin	
Phi Beta Kappa key 1900	
Caduceus (pair) U.S. Army Silver encased thermometer (engraved: 1906 New York City Training School)	
Pince nez in case	
Silver cornet (engraved with name and date)	
Photograph by O.T. Avery. Sunset on Deer Island, Maine, 1930s	box 5
Water color by O.T. Avery (after Cook), 1932 August	box 5
Collected reprints	box 2
Volume 1, 1909-1918	
<u>Processing Information:</u> <b>Processing Information</b>  removed to RAC library 8/9/1988	
Volume 2, 1919-1924	
<u>Processing Information note:</u> <b>Processing Information note</b>  removed to RAC library 8/9/1988	
Volume 3, 1925-1946	
<u>Processing Information:</u> <b>Processing Information</b>  removed to RAC library 8/9/1988	
Griffith, Fred. The significance of the pneumococcal types. Journal of Hygiene 27 (1927/1928) pp. 113-159, 1927-1928	box 2

**Scope and Contents note**

Bound 1979 with note from Joshua Lederberg.

Processing Information note:**Processing Information note**

Relocated to RAC library 8/9/1988

Lewis Thomas. "Oswald Avery and the Cascade of Surprises. "ESQUIRE 100 No. 6 (December 1983) 74-78, 1983 December	box 3	
Avery photographs		
Avery in uniform, circa 1918	box 4	folder 1
Avery - early Louis Schmidt portrait	box 4	folder 2
Avery - portrait sittings, 1942	box 4	folder 3
Avery - portrait sittings, 1946	box 4	folder 4
Avery - portrait sitting, 1947	box 4	folder 4a
Group photos of Avery department, circa 1932	box 4	folder 5
Walther F. Goebel snapshots of Avery in lab, 1930s	box 4	folder 6
Avery - Miscellaneous photos of Avery in lab	box 4	folder 7
Avery in garden and with colleague's child	box 4	folder 8
Avery - Family photos and Colgate University photos	box 4	folder 9
Avery - Paintings	box 4	folder 10
Avery Gateway	box 4	folder 11

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes photos of Drs. Macleod and McCarty.

Avery - Centennial RU Archives Exhibit 1977	box 4	folder 12
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Correspondence between Marjory Stephenson and Sir Walter Fletcher from Archives of the Medical Research Council, London, 1931

**Scope and Contents note**

This correspondence was cited in Robert E. Kohler, "Innovation in Normal Science. Bacterial Physiology" *Isis* 76: 162-181 (June 1985), and requested from MRC Archives at suggestion of Dr. Lederberg. Includes Stephenson/Fletcher, 8 Nov 1931, re visit to America and meeting Avery and Heidelberger.

Immediate Source of Acquisition:

## **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Received September 1985.

Processing Information note:

## **Processing Information note**

In FA259 Rockefeller University records, Campus Office  
Biographical Files