

Commonwealth Fund records, Harkness Family, SG 1, Series 19

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Summary Information

Repository: Rockefeller Archive Center

Creator - aut: Harkness, Edward Stephen

Creator - aut: Harkness, Charles W.

Creator - aut: Harkness, Mary Emma Stillman

Creator - aut: Harkness, Anna M. Richardson

Creator: Commonwealth Fund

Title: Commonwealth Fund records, Harkness Family, SG 1, Series 19

ID: FA291

Date [inclusive]: 1863-1982

Physical Description: 15.67 Cubic Feet

Language of the

Material:

English.

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

The Harkness Family Papers are the private records of Edward S. and Mary S. Harkness. These documents are concerned with their donations to universities, schools, institutions and individuals. There is a great quantity of information on donations to schools and universities like Phillips Exeter Academy, Columbia, Harvard, Yale and others. There is a book on the residential halls of Yale University in the Harkness Family Volumes. The Harkness Family provided funds for organizations like the Pilgrim Trust in which further information can be found in the Harkness Family Volumes. There are other institutions which the Harkness family contributed to like Presbyterian Hospital, New York Public Library and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Gifts and donations for servants, friends and family are documented. Members of the family include the Russels, the Stillmans and the Taylors. There are records of the Harkness family. These are mostly concerned with Edward S. Harkness' Estate and Trust after his death. The Harkness Family Volumes contains condolences offered at his death. The Harkness Family papers were examined by Malcolm P. Aldrich, Trustee of the Edward S. Harkness Estate. These documents consist mostly of correspondence, financial data, legal documents and reports.

The Harkness Family Volumes are the business, personnel and condolence documents of Anna M. (AMH), Charles W., Edward S. (ESH), Mary S. (MSH) and Stephen E. Harkness. The business and personnel records relate to the Family. The condolence volumes are concerned with the death of Edward S. Harkness. Information concerning his death can be found in the Harkness Family Papers too. There are two volumes on institutions in which Edward S. Harkness was involved, the Pilgrim Trust and Yale University. Further information on these institutions can be found in the Harkness Family Papers. This collection contains correspondence, legal documents and volumes.

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Arrangement note

This series is arranged in two subseries:

Subseries 1: Documents

Subseries 2: Bound Volumes and Ephemera

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File Plan note

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Administrative Information

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Processing Information

Standard processing of Subseries 2 by Richard Torres, February 2014.

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Mental health

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

Collection Inventory

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