



Commonwealth Fund records, Educational Research, SG 1, Series 15

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Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue
Sleepy Hollow 10591

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rockefeller Archive Center
Creator:	Commonwealth Fund
Creator:	Harkness, Anna M. Richardson
Title:	Commonwealth Fund records, Educational Research, SG 1, Series 15
ID:	FA287
Date [inclusive]:	1920-1928
Physical Description:	0.19 Cubic Feet half-letter box
Language of the Material:	English

Preferred Citation note

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

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

Only two files from the Commonwealth Fund's Educational Research Program remain. The rest were destroyed on February 25, 1949, under Barry C. Smith's instructions. The first file, The Survey of Rural Education in New York State, was appeal #287 and received the Commonwealth code designation 1225-S. This survey, begun in 1920, represents one of the earliest projects funded by the CF. A "Committee of Twenty One" comprised of noted New York educators oversaw the survey project. Members from the Dairyman's League, The New York State Department of Education, the Farm Bureau Federation, the State Grange, the State College of Agriculture, the New York State Teachers Association, and the New York State Federation of Home Bureaus actively participated in the survey. Samuel C. Fairley, assistant director of the Commonwealth Fund, George M. Wiley of the University of the State of New York, and John H. Finley, New York State Commissioner of Education, directed the survey.

The Social Science Research Council, appeal #1754 and code 1225-B, was organized on May 17, 1923, on the recommendation of the Committee on Political Research, a division of the American Political Science association. The purpose of the Research Council was threefold: 1) abstract and index current material in the social sciences, 2) survey the organization and work of research agencies active in the social sciences, and 3) lobby the United States Congress to initiate the publication of an annual digest or index to state legislature. Representatives from the American Economic Association, the American Statistical Association, the American Psychological Association, the American Anthropological Association, the American Historical Association, the American Sociological Society, and the American Political Science Association sat on the Council.

The existing files for both grants contain correspondence relating to general and financial matters, memoranda, and also progress reports. A miscellaneous file concerning the entire Educational Research Program is also included in this series.

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File Plan note

Former Classification: IX; IV 4B 4;

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access note

Open for research with select materials restricted as noted. Brittle or damaged items are available at the discretion of RAC.

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Controlled Access Headings

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

- Medicine, Rural
- Medical research
- Medical education
- Legal research
- Legal issues
- Harkness, Charles W.
- Social Science Research Council
- Phillips Exeter Academy
- Harvard University
- Yale University
- Columbia University
- Harkness, Edward Stephen
- Harkness, Mary Emma Stillman

Other Finding Aids

Other available finding aids describing the Commonwealth Fund records include:

[FA247 Commonwealth Fund Harkness House drawings](#)

[FA276 Commonwealth Fund records, Annual Reports, SG 1, Series 4](#)

[FA277 Commonwealth Fund records, Archives/Library, SG 1, Series 5](#)

[FA278 Commonwealth Fund records, Austrian Program, SG 1, Series 6](#)

[FA279 Commonwealth Fund records, Board of Directors, SG 1, Series 7](#)

[FA280 Commonwealth Fund records, Capital Grants, SG 1, Series 8](#)

[FA281 Commonwealth Fund records, Child Health Demonstrations, SG 1, Series 9](#)

[FA282 Commonwealth Fund records, Division of Community Clinics, SG 1, Series 10](#)

[FA283 Commonwealth Fund records, Division of Health Studies, SG 1, Series 11](#)

[FA284 Commonwealth Fund records, Division of Public Health, SG 1, Series 12](#)

[FA285 Commonwealth Fund records, Division of Publications, SG 1, Series 13](#)

[FA286 Commonwealth Fund records, Division of Rural Hospitals, SG 1, Series 14](#)

[FA287 Commonwealth Fund records, Educational Research, SG 1, Series 15](#)

[FA288 Commonwealth Fund records, English Mental Hygiene Program, SG 1, Series 16](#)

[FA289 Commonwealth Fund records, Finance Committee, SG 1, Series 17](#)

[FA290 Commonwealth Fund records, Grants, SG 1, Series 18](#)

[FA291 Commonwealth Fund records, Harkness Family, SG 1, Series 19](#)

[FA292 Commonwealth Fund records, Harkness Fellowships, SG 1, Series 20](#)

[FA428 Commonwealth Fund records, Harkness Fellowships, Fellows Reports, SG 1, Series 20A](#)

[FA293 Commonwealth Fund records, Institute for Child Guidance, SG 1, Series 21](#)

[FA294 Commonwealth Fund records, Interface Program, SG 1, Series 22](#)

[FA295 Commonwealth Fund records, Legal Research Program, SG 1, Series 23](#)

[FA296 Commonwealth Fund records, Living at Home Program, SG 1, Series 24](#)

[FA297 Commonwealth Fund records, Mental Hygiene Program, SG 1, Series 25](#)

[FA298 Commonwealth Fund records, Miscellaneous - unprocessed](#)

[FA299 Commonwealth Fund records, Personnel - unprocessed](#)

[FA300 Commonwealth Fund records, Pilgrim Trust, SG 1, Series 28](#)

[FA301 Commonwealth Fund records, Program for the Prevention of Delinquency, SG 1, Series 29](#)

[FA302 Commonwealth Fund records, Reference Files, SG 1, Series 30](#)

[FA303 Commonwealth Fund records, Reports of the General Director, SG 1, Series 31](#)

[FA304 Commonwealth Fund records, Treasurer, SG 1, Series 32](#)

[FA305 Commonwealth Fund records, Turndown Lists, SG 1, Series 33 - unprocessed](#)

[FA306 Commonwealth Fund records, Vertical File \(R. Fitz\), SG 1, Series 34 - unprocessed](#)

[FA307 Commonwealth Fund records, Visual Materials, SG 1, Series 35](#)

[FA389 Commonwealth Fund records, Administration - Historical Files, SG 1, Series 1](#)

[FA390 Commonwealth Fund records, Administration - Officers Files, SG 1, Series 2](#)

[FA429 Commonwealth Fund records, President, Margaret E. Mahoney, SG 2, Series 1](#)

[FA430 Commonwealth Fund records, Book Program, SG 2, Series 2](#)

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Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Educational Research Program - Miscellaneous Correspondence, Memoranda and Reports, 1921-1927	box 1	folder 1
New York State Survey of Rural Education - Correspondence, Memoranda and Reports, January-November, 1920	box 1	folder 2
New York State Survey of Rural Education - Correspondence, Memoranda and Reports, 1921-1922	box 1	folder 3
New York State Survey of Rural Education - Correspondence, Memoranda and Reports, 1923-1927	box 1	folder 4
Social Science Research Council - Correspondence, Memoranda and Reports, 1923-1928	box 1	folder 5