

Preliminary Guide to the Howard Walter Florey Papers

MS 1289



compiled by Staff of Manuscripts and Archives

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1289

CREATOR: Florey, Howard, Baron Florey, 1898-1968

TITLE: Howard Walter Florey papers

DATES: 1930-1940

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist of correspondence and reprints of Howard Walter Florey relating to antibiotics.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1289>

Requesting Instructions

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Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transferred from the Yale University Historical Medical Library, 1980.

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Howard Walter Florey Papers (MS 1289). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Howard Walter Florey was born on September 24, 1898, in Adelaide, Australia. He received a degree in medicine from Adelaide University in 1921, then went to Oxford as a Rhodes scholar and in 1924, attended Cambridge. He spent 1925 traveling in the United States as a Rockefeller traveling fellow and in 1926, married Mary Ethel Reed, with whom he had two children. The next year, he received his Ph.D. from Cambridge. Between 1927 and 1962, Florey held teaching positions at Cambridge, Sheffield, and Oxford, all in pathology. In 1962, he became provost of Queen's College, Oxford. Florey's most significant contribution, however, was the development of penicillin for practical purposes, as a result of which he shared the Nobel Prize for physiology or medicine in 1945. Though penicillin had been discovered in 1928 by Sir Alexander Fleming, it had gone largely unnoticed for over a decade. In 1939, Florey and Dr. Ernst Boris Chain began experiments with a purified form of penicillin and discovered its ability to combat bacterial infections in humans. Their discovery made penicillin available for use during the last two years of the war. In 1944, Florey was knighted and in 1965, he was made life peer, taking the name Baron Florey of Adelaide. He died on February 21, 1968, in Oxford, England.

Scope and Contents

The papers consist of correspondence and reprints of Howard Walter Florey relating to antibiotics.

Collection Contents

b. 1	Correspondence, reprints relating to antibiotics	1930-1940
b. 2	Correspondence, reprints relating to antibiotics	1930-1940

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Antibiotics
Medicine

Names

Florey, Howard, Baron Florey, 1898-1968