

# Guide to the Erik Waller Collection

MS 1341



compiled by Bella Z. Berson

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Yale University Library  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	3
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Biographical / Historical .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Collection Contents .....	5
Selected Search Terms .....	6

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1341

**CREATOR:** Waller, Erik, 1875-1955

**TITLE:** Erik Waller collection

**DATES:** 1927-1955

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.5 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The collection consists of correspondence and printed matter which document Erik Waller's bibliophilia. The collection, which was assembled in the Yale Medical Historical Library, includes Waller's correspondence with Harvey Cushing and John Fulton.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1341>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1341>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

b.        box  
f.        folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transferred from the Yale University Historical Medical Library, 1980.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## 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.

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## Preferred Citation

Erik Waller Collection (MS 1341). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Erik Axel Waller was born on November 29, 1875 at Unum, Sweden. He received his medical degree in 1900 from the University of Uppsala where he later taught anatomy and physiology. He also studied with John Berg at the Karolinska Institut, Stockholm.

From 1909 to his retirement in 1933, Waller was physician and surgeon-in-chief at Lidköping. He was the Librarian of the Swedish Medical Library Association in Stockholm from 1940 until his return to Lidköping in 1951.

Waller began collecting medical books in 1910 and by 1950 had amassed an outstanding collection of more than 23,000 volumes, which included not only early surgical texts, but herbals, many incunabula, and literary writings by and about physicians. John Fulton called Waller "the collector of the greatest personal library on the History of Medicine in existence." Waller gave his collection to the University of Uppsala which published a complete catalogue of his library, *Bibliotheca Walleriana*. He died in Lidköping on January 30, 1955.

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## Scope and Contents

The Erik Waller Collection documents the bibliophilic enthusiasms that Waller shared with Harvey Cushing and John Fulton. The collection includes Erik Waller's original letters to Cushing and Fulton and carbon copies of their replies (folders 5-8) These letters document their mutual interest in collecting and the exchange of gifts of significant medical historical books. They also record Cushing's and Fulton's efforts to help Waller recover the 1628 copy of William Harvey's *De motu cordis*, which had been stolen from him. In addition, the collection contains descriptions of Waller's library, the *Bibliotheca Walleriana*, and correspondence about the development of its catalogue. There are also a few photographs, mainly of Waller, his family, and associates.

## Collection Contents

Bibliotheca Walleriana		
b. 1, f. 1 - 3	General	1938, 1950-1955
b. 1, f. 4	Correspondence	1956
b. 1, f. 5	Cushing, Harvey A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	1927-1939
b. 1, f. 6 - 8	Fulton, John A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	1935-1955
b. 1, f. 9	Obituaries	1955
b. 1, f. 10	Photographs	1938-1950s

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## **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**

Bibliomania  
Medicine

### **Names**

Cushing, Harvey, 1869-1939  
Fulton, John F. (John Farquhar), 1899-1960  
Waller, Erik, 1875-1955

### **Corporate Body**

Uppsala universitetsbibliotek. Bibliotheca  
Walleriana