

Guide to the Helen Forbes Collection on Medical Wives

Ms Coll 31



Finding aid by Toby A. Appel.

2011

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Medical Historical Library, Cushing/Whitney Medical Library
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CALL NUMBER: Ms Coll 31

CREATOR: Forbes, Helen Allen, 1906-2003

TITLE: Helen Forbes collection on medical wives

DATES: 1947-1969

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.5 linear feet (1 box)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: This collection documents some of Helen Forbes's activities as a medical faculty wife in the mid-twentieth century. Papers include lists of which faculty wives were responsible for daily student teas; account books and statistics on attendance at teas; newspaper clippings and other information on the annual Aesculapian Frolics; bylaws and a small amount of information and newspaper clippings on the activities of the Medical Dames/Wives; lists of married students; and a recetion for the retirement of Medical Dean Vernon Lippard in 1967 that Mrs. Forbes helped to organize. Among the items is a Yale Medical Wives Association certificate conferring the degree of P.H.T. (putting husband through) to wives of graduating medical students.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.ms.0031>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.ms.0031>.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Presumably donated to the Historical Library by Helen Forbes.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Yale does not own copyright.

Biographical / Historical

Helen Allen Forbes, wife of medical professor and assistant/associate dean for education, Thomas Rogers Forbes, was a leader among medical faculty wives, organizing daily afternoon teas served by faculty wives to medical students; acting as a perennial sponsor and advisor for the annual Aesculapian Frolic, a benefit dance held by first year medical students; and serving as a sponsor for the Medical Dames or Medical Wives, an organization for wives of medical students. Yale Medical Dames appears to have been an early 1950s offshoot of Yale Dames, an organization for the wives of Yale graduate students. By 1960, the group was called the Medical Wives Association. During much of this period, most male medical students were married and there were only a handful of female students.

Scope and Contents

This collection documents some of Helen Forbes's activities as a medical faculty wife in the mid-twentieth century. Papers include lists of which faculty wives were responsible for daily student teas; account books and statistics on attendance at teas; newspaper clippings and other information on the annual Aesculapian Frolics; bylaws and a small amount of information and newspaper clippings on the activities of the Medical Dames/Wives; lists of married students; and a reception for the retirement of Medical Dean Vernon Lippard in 1967 that Mrs. Forbes helped to organize. Among the items is a Yale Medical Wives Association certificate conferring the degree of P.H.T. (putting husband through) to wives of graduating medical students.

Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	Student teas	1947/48-1950/51
b. 1, f. 2	Student teas	1951/52-1954/55
b. 1, f. 3	Student teas	1955/56-1958/59
b. 1, f. 4	Student teas	1959/60-1965
b. 1, f. 5	Aesculapian Frolics	1947-1956
b. 1, f. 6	Aesculapian frolics	1957-1969
b. 1, f. 7	Account book for student teas and Aesculapian Frolics	1947-1959
b. 1, f. 8	Account book for student teas and Aesculapian Frolics (includes Frolic invitations)	1960-1964
b. 1, f. 9	Yale Medical Dames/MedicalWives Bylaws	1954-1955, 1962-1963
b. 1, f. 10	Medical Dames/Medical Wives	1950-1956
b. 1, f. 11	Medical Dames/Medical Wives Newspaper clippings	1951-1968
b. 1, f. 12	Lists of married medical students	1948-1956
b. 1, f. 13	Miscellaneous correspondence	1950-1955
b. 1, f. 14	Retirement reception for Dean Vernon Lippard	1967

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

Medical students -- Connecticut
Medical students -- Social life and customs
Physicians' spouses -- Connecticut

Names

Forbes, Thomas Rogers, 1911-1988
Lippard, Vernon W., 1905-

Corporate Bodies

Yale Dames
Yale University. School of Medicine

Contributors

Forbes, Helen Allen, 1906-2003
Yale Medical Dames
Yale Medical Wives Association