

Guide to the Theodore C. Ruch Correspondence

Ms Coll 37



Finding aid by Toby A. Appel

2012

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Medical Historical Library, Cushing/Whitney Medical Library
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CALL NUMBER: Ms Coll 37

CREATOR: Ruch, Theodore Cedric, 1906-

TITLE: Theodore C. Ruch correspondence

DATES: 1932-1960

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.5 linear feet (1 box)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Theodore C. Ruch, physiologist and primatologist, received his Ph.D. at Yale in physiology in 1933. The collection contains both sides of the correspondence between Ruch and his mentor, John F. Fulton, as well as related correspondence to/from Ruch or Fulton and others. Subjects include the publishing of Ruch's *Bibliographia primatologica* in 1941, Ruch's work with Fulton on editions of William Henry Howell's *Textbook of Physiology*, and the organization of physiology at Washington University, where Ruch became department chairman, and at Yale. The collection also includes material on Fulton, including a report, committee work, and two photographs of empty animal cages in Fulton's Laboratory of Physiology.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.ms.0037>

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.0037>.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Correspondence donated by Ruch's daughter, Libby O. Ruch, 2009. Photographs and Ruch's guide for feeding primates were donated by Libby Ruch in 2011.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Yale University does not own copyright.

Preferred Citation

Theodore C. Ruch Correspondence, Historical Library, Cushing/Whitney Medical Library, Yale University

Biographical / Historical

Theodore C. Ruch received a B.A. in psychology from the University of Oregon in 1927 and a master's degree from Stanford University in 1928. As a Rhodes Scholar he studied physiology at Oxford University where he obtained a B.A. in 1930 and a B.Sc. in 1932. He received his Ph.D. in physiology at Yale in 1933 working with John F. Fulton. He remained in the department as a fellow, an instructor, and, from 1938 to 1946, as an assistant professor. In 1946 he left New Haven to become chairman of the department of physiology and biophysics at the University of Washington School of Medicine. From 1961 to 1971, he served as the first director of the Regional Primate Center at the University of Washington. He remained associated with the Center until his retirement in 1976. Ruch died in Santa Barbara, California in 1983.

Scope and Contents

The collection contains both sides of the correspondence of Theodore C. Ruch with John F. Fulton, as well as letters to and from publishers and others, regarding the publication of Theodore C. Ruch, *Bibliographia primatologica: a classified bibliography of primates other than man* (1941); Ruch's work on later editions of William Henry Howell's *Textbook of Physiology*, edited by Fulton; and general correspondence with Fulton. Ruch discusses his organization of the department of physiology and biophysics at the University of Washington and his work on primates. The two photographs show (empty) animal cages in Fulton's Laboratory of Physiology.

Arrangement

Organized in two series: 1. Correspondence. 2. Additional material on John F. Fulton.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence

b. 1, f. 1	Primate bibliography Correspondence of Theodore C. Ruch and John F. Fulton on Ruch's plan to publish a bibliography on primates and his attempt to get money from the Guggenheim Foundation.	1935, 1938
b. 1, f. 2	Primate bibliography Correspondence of Ruch and Fulton with the publisher Charles C Thomas, manufacturing publisher George Banta Publishing Company, and others regarding Theodore C. Ruch, <i>Bibliographia primatologica: a classified bibliography of primates other than man</i> , with an introduction by John F. Fulton. (Springfield, Ill.: Charles C Thomas, 1941). Fulton's original letters and carbons of Ruch's letters are included.	1940 January-June
b. 1, f. 3	Primate bibliography	1940 July-September
b. 1, f. 4	Primate bibliography	1940 November-December
b. 1, f. 5	Primate bibliography	1941 January-March
b. 1, f. 6	Primate bibliography	1941 April-December
b. 1, f. 7	Primate bibliography	1942-1943
b. 1, f. 8	Bibliography of primate malaria Small amount of correspondence concerning Theodore C. Ruch, <i>Malaria in simian primates: a classified bibliography with annotations, prepared at the request of the Board for the coordination of malaria studies, National Research Council</i> . [New Haven, 1944].	1944
b. 1, f. 9	Organization of <i>Howell's Textbook of Physiology</i> , 15th ed. List of section editors, instructions for section editors, and section outlines. William Henry Howell, a physiologist at Johns Hopkins, published the first edition of this text under the title <i>Text-book of physiology</i> , in 1905. Fourteen editions were edited by Howell, who died in 1940. Fulton took on the task of editing the 15th edition which appeared as <i>Howell's Textbook of Physiology</i> (Philadelphia: Saunders, 1946). Ruch wrote the section on sensation consisting of several chapters.	. ca. 1944
b. 1, f. 10	<i>Howell's Textbook of Physiology</i> , 15th ed. Folder contains correspondence, especially between Ruch and Fulton, but also with others, regarding the preparation of the book.	1944
b. 1, f. 11	<i>Howell's Textbook of Physiology</i> , 15th ed.	1945
b. 1, f. 12	<i>Howell's Textbook of Physiology</i> , 15th ed.	1946-1947

b. 1, f. 13	General correspondence with John Fulton On Ruch's new position at University of Washington, the Medical Historical Library at Yale, and a little on the 16th edition of Howell titled, <i>A Textbook of Physiology</i> , published in 1949.	1944, 1946-1948
b. 1, f. 14	General correspondence with John Fulton	1949-1950
b. 1, f. 15	General correspondence with John Fulton	1951
b. 1, f. 16	<i>Textbook of Physiology</i> , 17th ed. This appeared as <i>Textbook of physiology</i> , 17th ed., ed. John F. Fulton (Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders, 1955). Ruch continued to serve as a section editor. These items were in a folder labelled "Textbook."	1953-1954
b. 1, f. 17	General correspondence with John F. Fulton There is overlap in content with the previous folder.	1954-1955
b. 1, f. 18	General correspondence with John F. Fulton There is no correspondence with Fulton after 1956. For the 18th edition of the textbook, <i>Medical Physiology and Biophysics</i> , edited by Theodore C. Ruch and John F. Fulton (Philadelphia: Saunders, 1960), Ruch became the lead editor, with Fulton as second editor. This collaboration is not documented in this collection.	1956
b. 1, f. 19	Praise of Ruch and Fulton, eds, <i>Medical Physiology and Biophysics</i> The folder contains fourteen pages of testimonial quotes for the 18th edition. For the 19th edition, Ruch became the sole editor.	ca. 1960
b. 1, f. 20	Ruch's instructions for feeding laboratory primates Photocopy. Libby Ruch has retained the original.	n.d.

Series II: Additional material on John F. Fulton

b. 1, f. 21	John F. Fulton's report to the Secretary of Yale University on the Department of Physiology 26 leaves. Fulton describes the organization of the department, the facilities of the Laboratory of Physiology, and his plans for medical education and training of graduate students. He complains about the excessive amount of administrative and committee work. This is a carbon copy presumably given to Ruch, who was a graduate student at the time.	1932 January 28
b. 1, f. 22	Fulton's service on committees and boards, 1946-1947, and "Bibliography of John Farquhar Fulton," ca. 1932	1932-1947
b. 1, f. 23	Photographs of primate cages at Yale Two photographs of primate cages (without animals) in Fulton's laboratory.	ca. 1933-1946

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

Physiology
Primates as laboratory animals
Publishers and publishing

Genres / Formats

Photographs

Occupations

Physiologists
Primatologists

Preferred Titles

Bibliographia primatologica
Howell's textbook of physiology

Names

Ruch, Theodore Cedric, 1906-
Thomas, Charles C.

Corporate Bodies

George Banta Publishing Company
University of Washington. School of Medicine
Yale University. Department of Physiology

Contributors

Ruch, Theodore Cedric, 1906-
Fulton, John F. (John Farquhar), 1899-1960