

Yale University Library
Medical Historical Library, Cushing/Whitney Medical Library

Yale Medical Library Opening and Dedication

Ms Coll 12



Toby A. Appel

2016

Yale University
333 Cedar St.
New Haven, CT 06520-8014
203-737-1192
203-785-5636
historical.library@yale.edu
<http://historical.medicine.yale.edu/>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Medical Historical Library, Cushing/Whitney Medical Library
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CALL NUMBER: Ms Coll 12

CREATOR: Harvey Cushing/John Hay Whitney Medical Library

TITLE: Yale Medical Library opening and dedication

DATES: 1939-1942

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1 linear foot (2 boxes)

LANGUAGE: Materials are almost all in English. A few incoming letters are in other languages.

SUMMARY: Correspondence, printed materials, and clippings saved by Madeline Stanton, Secretary of the Historical Library, concerning the building, opening, and formal dedication of the Yale Medical Library on June 15, 1941.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.ms.0012>

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.0012>.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Custodial History

The correspondence and first set of pamphlets were maintained by Madeline Stanton, Secretary of the Historical Library, and held by the Historical Library since its inception. Stanton collected a variant set of pamphlets and clippings which she pasted on backing and annotated for a possible notebook or scrapbook.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Biographical / Historical

The Yale Medical Library (now the Harvey Cushing/John Hay Whitney Medical Library), an addition to the Sterling Hall of Medicine designed by Grosvenor Atterbury (Yale College 1891), began to be built in late 1939, and was dedicated in a large formal ceremony on June 15, 1941. It was designed in the shape of a Y with the Historical Library in one wing and the General Medical Library in the other. The founders of the library were three physicians, book collectors, and historians of medicine: neurosurgeon Harvey Cushing (Yale College, 1891), then Sterling Professor of Neurology; John Fulton, Sterling Professor of Physiology; and Arnold C. Klebs of Nyon, Switzerland. They had agreed to donate their rare book collections to Yale if Yale would build a place to house them. That offer coalesced with the need of the Medical School to build a larger library located on the Medical School campus for current medical books and journals. The Medical School had a small library but the main collection of medical books and journals was then housed at Sterling Memorial Library. By February 1941, the General Medical Library was open for patrons. The dedication marked the opening of the Historical wing of the Library. Cushing, who had been the main advocate for the library, knew that the Library would be built, but died in October 1939 before the construction began. The year 1941 coincided with the 50th anniversary of Cushing's Yale class of 1891, which donated funds as part of its class gift to decorate the rotunda of the library in commemoration of Cushing.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of correspondence, printed materials, and clippings. The correspondence by John Fulton and others includes letters on organizing the program for the dedication, hundreds of handwritten and typed RSVPs to the Dean of the School of Medicine, Francis G. Blake, accepting the invitation or declining, and letters of congratulation after the ceremony. The printed materials include pamphlets issued while the library was being constructed, the invitation to the dedication, a map of the library and the exhibits on display, the "Blessing of the Books" by the Reverend George Stewart, reprints of the speeches, and an illustrated reprint on the architecture of the library. Clippings include articles from the *New York Times*, the *New Haven Register*, other newspapers, and journals.

Arrangement

Organized in three series: 1. Correspondence. 2. Printed materials. 3. Clippings.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1941

Correspondence related to the dedication of the Yale Medical Library.

b. 1, f. 1	Plans for the opening ceremony Correspondence by John Fulton, Madeline Stanton, and others, maintained by Madeline Stanton.	1941 March-1941June
b. 1, f. 2	Invitation lists	
b. 1, f. 3	Correspondence with individuals after the invitation was sent	
b. 1, f. 4	Acceptances of invitation 1 Letters of acceptance were originally in one large folder and regrets in another large folder. They have been divided into several folders for preservation.	
b. 1, f. 5	Acceptances of invitation 2	
b. 1, f. 6	Acceptances of invitation 3	
b. 1, f. 7	Acceptances of invitation 4	
b. 1, f. 8	Acceptances of invitation 5	
b. 1, f. 9	Regrets 1 Letters of regret by those who could not attend the dedication ceremony.	
b. 1, f. 10	Regrets 2	
b. 1, f. 11	Regrets 3	
b. 1, f. 12	Regrets 4	
b. 2, f. 1	Correspondence after the dedication ceremony Includes some letters of congratulation and plans to print the speeches in the <i>Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine</i> .	1941 June-1941 August

Series II: Printed materials, 1941-1942

b. 2, f. 2	<p>Invitation to the opening of the Yale Medical Library</p> <p>The formal invitation came from the President and Fellows of Yale University but responses were to be sent to the Dean of the School of Medicine. Speakers included Wilmarth S. Lewis, representing the Yale Corporation; Starling W. Childs representing Harvey Cushing's Yale Class of 1891; Charles Seymour, President of Yale University; Francis G. Blake, Dean of the School of Medicine; John Homans, a Harvard surgeon who had recently spent a year at Yale; and the Rev. George Stewart, Minister of the First Presbyterian Church, Stamford, and son-in-law of Arnold C. Klebs.</p>	
b. 2, f. 3	<p>Yale Medical Library, "Special Collections and Exhibits Arranged for Opening Ceremonies, 15 June 1941"</p> <p>Four-page brochure showing the arrangement of the Historical Library and General Medical Library.</p>	
b. 2, f. 4	<p>George Stewart, The Blessing of the Books; Scripture and Prayer Read at the Dedication of the Yale Medical Library on Sunday XV June MDCCCXLI</p> <p>Four-page brochure.</p>	
b. 2, f. 5	<p>Yale University News Bureau, Press releases of speeches</p> <p>Mimeographed press releases "not to be used before 5 p.m., June 15," of the remarks at the dedication by Charles Seymour and Francis G. Blake.</p>	
b. 2, f. 6	<p>"Dedication Ceremony of the Yale Medical Library, June 15, 1941," reprint from Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine</p> <p>Brochure, 28 pages, reprinted from <i>Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine</i> 13 (1941): 863-889. It contains all the speeches from the dedication and a frontispiece consisting of a photograph of the Historical Library and a transcription of George Stewart's engraved words over the fireplace.</p>	
b. 2, f. 7	<p>"The Yale Medical Library, Dedicated June 15, 1941," reprinted from <i>Pencil Points</i></p> <p>This ten-page brochure reprinted from <i>Pencil Points</i> focuses on the architecture of the Yale Medical Library, designed by Grosvenor Atterbury, and contains photographs and diagrams.</p>	1942 January
b. 2, f. 8	<p>Memorabilia collected by Madeline Stanton on the Yale Medical Library</p> <p>These materials were pasted on backing and annotated by Madeline Stanton. In addition to pamphlets already mentioned, the folder contains a note by Wilmarth Lewis stating that the decisive date for the building of the library was September 22, 1939; two pamphlets dated May 24, 1940 and April 1941 on the progress of construction and asking "Patrons of the Yale Medical Library" for funds; an undated list of exhibits and note about a reception for the Connecticut Clinical Congress; a formal pledge of the Collection of Arnold C. Klebs dated June 16, 1941; and <i>Report of the Historical Library</i> for 1940-1941.</p>	1939-1941
b. 2, f. 9	<p>"Documents printed in connection with the opening ceremonies"</p> <p>In addition to previous materials on the dedication, there is a variant program with the notice of serving tea in the Beaumont Room; a variant printing of "The Blessing of the Books"; and a page on an exhibit of selected Yale University Press books at Sterling Memorial Library presented by the Class of 1891 in memory of Harvey Cushing.</p>	1941-1942

Series III: Clippings, 1939-1941

b. 2, f. 10	Newspaper clippings on the Yale Medical Library Clippings from the <i>New Haven Register</i> , the <i>New York Times</i> , and other papers on the building of the Yale Medical Library and on Cushing's donation of his collection.	1939-1940
b. 2, f. 11	Newspaper clippings on the Yale Medical Library	1941 January-May
b. 2, f. 12	Newspaper clippings on the Yale Medical Library	1941 June-October
b. 2, f. 13	Journal clippings on the Yale Medical Library	1939-1941

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 libraries -- Connecticut
Rare books

Genres / Formats

Clippings
Correspondence
Pamphlets

Names

Atterbury, Grosvenor, 1869-1956
Bishop, Lottie Genevieve, 1885-
Blake, Francis G. (Francis Gilman), 1887-1952
Childs, Starling Winston, 1870-1946
Cushing, Harvey, 1869-1939
Fulton, John F. (John Farquhar), 1899-1960
Homans, John, 1877-1954
Klebs, Arnold C. (Arnold Carl), 1870-1943
Lewis, W. S. (Wilmarth Sheldon), 1895-1979
Seymour, Charles, 1885-1963
Stanton, Madeline E. (Madeline Earle)
Stewart, George

Corporate Bodies

Yale College (1887-). Class of 1891
Yale University. School of Medicine

Contributors

Harvey Cushing/John Hay Whitney Medical
Library
Yale Medical Library
Yale Medical Library. Historical Library