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Descriptive Summary

Identifier  ICU.SPCL.FANTUSB

Title  Fantus, Bernard. Collection

Date  1874-2009

Size  6.25 linear feet (6 boxes)

Repository  Special Collections Research Center
            University of Chicago Library
            1100 East 57th Street
            Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract  The Bernard Fantus Collection primarily consists of correspondence, photographs, professional documents, biographical materials and newspaper clipping focused on the life and death of Bernard Fantus. Also contained within the collection are articles and newspaper clippings about blood banks and the Cook County Medical Center.

Information on Use

Access  This collection is open for research.

Citation  When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Fantus, Bernard. Collection, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Biographical Note  

Bernard Fantus was born in 1874 in Hungary, and came to the United States in 1889. He began working in a drugstore, and by 1899 he had received an M.D. from the University of Illinois, College of Medicine. In 1902, Fantus moved with his family to Chicago and began to teach at the University of Illinois college of Medicine. He was in charge of the Medical Dispensary at the University of Illinois from 1902 to 1913, and was appointed Professor of Pharmacology and Therapeutics at Illinois in 1903 until his death in 1940. From 1924 to 1932, he worked as Associate Professor of Medicine at Rush Medical College.

Fantus worked primarily in therapeutics, and with many pharmaceutical companies. He also wrote two important textbooks: “Text-book of Prescription-Writing and Pharmacy” and “Essentials of Prescription-Writing.” In 1937, while Director of Therapeutics at Cook County
Hospital, Chicago IL, Fantus brought together the technologies and processes for collecting, storing, and distribution of blood in a hospital or clinical setting and coined the term “blood bank” to describe it.

**Scope Note**

The Bernard Fantus Collection primarily consists of correspondence, photographs, professional documents, biographical materials and newspaper clipping focused on the life and death of Bernard Fantus. Also contained within the collection are articles and newspaper clippings about blood banks and the Cook County Medical Center.

The collection is organized into seven series. Series I Correspondence; Series II Academic and Professional; Series III Biographical; Series IV Writings by Others; Series V Photographs; Series VI Artifacts; and Series VII Oversized. Originally, most of the collection was contained within two large scrapbooks created by Emily Fantus, the wife of Bernard Fantus, and Maurice Fulton, his niece. While some of the materials contained within the scrapbooks were created during his lifetime, many of the documents were articles written after his death and referenced his life and accomplishments.

Series I, consists of the correspondence of Bernard Fantus and his family. The letters written to Bernard Fantus after his death are form letters requesting information. Also included are photocopies of letters Bernard Fantus wrote to Emily Fantus during their courtship.

Series II, consists of material of Bernard Fantus that pertains to his professional and academic career.

Series III, consists of newspaper clippings, articles and other documents summarizing the life and honoring the achievements of Bernard Fantus. The distinction between the obituaries and tributes folders and the posthumous honors, retrospectives and anniversaries folders is that obituaries and tributes occurred near the time of the death of Fantus, while the posthumous honors, retrospectives and anniversaries occurred sometime after the death of Fantus.

Series IV, contains writings by others that relate to Fantus, his medical discoveries, or the organizations he was involved in. This series contains several folders of newspaper clippings; effort was made to distinguish between the dated and undated articles.

Series V, contains various photographs of Bernard Fantus and his family. Series VI, consists of artifacts from Bernard Fantus’s life and various artifacts from memorials and other events honoring Fantus. Series VII, Oversized, consist of oversized documents and artifacts from other series within the collection.
Related Resources
The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html

Subject Headings
- Fantus, Bernard, 1874-1940
- Biomedical Research
- Blood Banks

INVENTORY

Series I: Correspondence

Box 1
Folder 1
  Personal Correspondence, 1910-1940
Box 1
Folder 2
  Academic Correspondence, 1913-1927
Box 1
Folder 3
  Professional Correspondence, 1897-1943
Box 1
Folder 4
  Department of State Correspondence, 1904-1909
Box 1
Folder 5
  Letters of Promotion, 1903-1928
Box 1
Folder 6
  Letters of Condolence to Emily Fantus (wife), 1940
Box 1
Folder 7
  Letters of Condolence to Emily Fantus (wife), 1940
Box 1
Folder 8
  Correspondence of Emily Fantus (wife), 1940-1954
Box 1
Folder 9
  Correspondence of Maurice Fulton (niece), 1987-1990

Series II: Academic and Professional Papers

Box 1
Folder 10
  Academic Documents, 1885-1915
Box 1  
Folder 11  
Professional Documents, 1891-1922  
Box 1  
Folder 12  
Biographic entries, 1938 and Undated  
Box 1  
Folder 13  
Bibliographies, Undated  
Box 1  
Folder 14  
Typed Manuscripts, 1937 and Undated  
Box 1  
Folder 15  
Published Articles, 1910-1939  

**Series III: Biographical**  
Box 1  
Folder 16  
Obituaries and Tributes, 1940  
Box 1  
Folder 17  
Obituaries and Tributes, 1940  
Box 1  
Folder 18  
Obituaries and Tributes, 1940  
Box 2  
Folder 1  
In Memoriam resolution from University of Illinois, 1940  
Box 2  
Folder 2  
In Memoriam resolution from Phenolphthalein Research Inc., 1940  
Box 2  
Folder 3  
Posthumous Honors, Retrospectives, and Anniversaries, 1943-1961  
Box 2  
Folder 4  
Posthumous Honors, Retrospectives, and Anniversaries, 1987-2009  

**Series IV: Writings by Others**  
Box 2  
Folder 5  
Newspaper Clippings, 1910-1940  
Box 2  
Folder 6  
Newspaper Clippings, 1940-1970
Box 2
Folder 7
   Newspaper Clippings, 1970-2000
Box 2
Folder 8
   Newspaper Clippings, Unidentified
Box 2
Folder 9
   Blood Bank Articles, 1938-1987
Box 2
Folder 10
   Cook County Medical Center Articles, 1944-1949
Box 2
Folder 11
   Cook County Medical Center Articles, 1957-1990
Box 2
Folder 12
Box 2
Folder 13
   Complete Magazines and Newspapers, 1990-1996

Series V: Photographs
Box 3
Folder 1
   Photographs without Fantus, Undated
Box 3
Folder 2
   Photographs of Fantus with family and others, Undated
Box 3
Folder 3
   Photographs of Fantus, Undated

Series VI: Artifacts
Box 3
Folder 4
   Illustrated book, The True Story of Christopher Columbus. Given to Ruth (daughter), 1922
Box 3
Folder 5
   Posthumous Alumnus of the Year Plaque, 1996
Box 3
Folder 6
   40th Anniversary American Blood Association Packet, 1987
Box 4
Folder 1
Bernard Fantus Lifetime Achievement Award awarded to Patrick L. Mollison, 1987

Box 4
Folder 2
Fantas Coffee Mug, 1977

Box 4
Folder 3
Jane Addams memorial tokens, 1935

Series VII: Oversized

Box 5
Folder 1
Fantus’s Hungarian Birth Certificate, 1874

Box 5
Folder 2
Photograph of Cook County Hospital, Undated

Box 5
Folder 3
Photograph of Bernard Fantus, Undated

Box 5
Folder 4
Certificate of Appreciation from the State of Illinois, 1987

Box 5
Folder 5
50th Anniversary of the Founding of the First Blood Bank Poster, 1987

Box 6
Plaque of Fantus with damaged corner, Undated

Box 7
Anniversary of the Founding of the First Blood Bank Banner, 1987