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Descriptive Summary

Identifier ICU.SPCL.HIRSCHEF

Title Hirsch, Edwin F. Papers

Date 1905-1972

Size 8.5 linear feet (15 boxes)

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

Abstract Edwin F. Hirsch (1886-1972) was a leading pathologist associated with Rush Medical College and the University of Chicago. He is well-known for having developed a method for determining the amount of fat in arteries, which contributed to the understanding of the relationship between arteriosclerosis and dietary fat. Edwin F. Hirsch’s papers include materials related to the research, publication and distribution of his books, reprints of his published articles and other writings, and collected medical articles pertaining to his research. They also include autopsies he conducted during the Spanish Flu Pandemic at Camp Grant, Illinois (1918-1919). His professional certificates and awards are included, as well as newspaper clippings citing his expertise as a coroner, and memorial materials after his death. His family is represented in the collection by correspondence, as well as his aunt Selma Henke’s history of the Hirsch family intertwined with her memoirs of her time as a missionary in China at the turn of the twentieth century. The collection spans Hirsch’s early years as a student until his death (1905-1972).

Information on Use

Access
Series XII does not include access copies for part of the material in this series. Researchers will need to consult with staff before requesting material from this series.

The remainder of the collection is open for research, with no restrictions.

Citation
When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Hirsch, Edwin F. Papers, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Biographical Note
Edwin F. Hirsch (1886-1972) was a leading pathologist in Chicago associated with Rush College and the University of Chicago. He received his bachelor’s degree from Northwestern University (1910), a master’s degree from the University of Illinois (1911), and a PhD from the University of Chicago in pathology (1915), as well as a medical degree from Rush Medical College (1915). He served on the faculty of both Rush and the University of Chicago until he was made emeritus in 1950, and continued to work as the director of the Henry Baird Favill Laboratories at St. Luke’s Hospital, a teaching and training center for pathologists until 1959. He was also the Emeritus Director of the Columbus Cuneo Cabrini Medical Center.

In 1917-1919, he worked as a doctor at Camp Grant, a U.S. Army facility that was located near Rockford, Illinois. The camp was a training facility during World War I, and was badly affected by the Spanish Influenza Pandemic in 1918, which killed 1,055 soldiers in the camp. Hirsch treated the soldiers who were affected by the disease, conducted autopsies, and researched the virus.

Hirsch is well-known for having developed a method for determining the amount of fat in arteries, which contributed to the understanding of the relationship between arteriosclerosis and dietary fat. He conducted studies and wrote several articles on innervation in vertebrates. Hirsch also profiled his mentor Frank Billings and Christian Fenger, who had influenced Billings – both were influential Chicago doctors who taught at Rush Medical College.


Hirsch fought to reform the Illinois coroner system, lobbying the Illinois legislature to replace the outdated coroner’s system with that of a professional medical examiner. He was also involved as a medical expert in the investigations into several famous murders in the mid-1950s in Chicago, notably, the Schuessler-Peterson case (1955) and the Patricia and Barbara Grimes case (1956).

He served on the Human Relations Commission of Chicago where he worked to gain acceptance for African-American students into medical schools and as interns and residents in local hospitals.

Hirsch received many honors and awards, including an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Morningside College in 1955. He served as president of the Chicago Medical Society in 1958.
and received lifetime honorary membership in the Chicago Pathological society after serving for thirty-five years as its secretary and president.

His wife, Helen Kotas Hirsch, was the first permanent female member of any major American orchestra, playing horn for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO).

**Scope Note**

The Edwin F. Hirsch papers includes materials related to the research, publication and distribution of his books, reprints of his published articles and other writings, and collected medical articles pertaining to his research. They also include autopsies he conducted during the Spanish Flu Pandemic at Camp Grant, Illinois (1918-1919). Included are professional certificates and awards, newspaper clippings citing his expertise as a coroner, and memorial materials after his death. His family is represented in the collection by their correspondence, as well as Selma Henke’s history of the Hirsch family intertwined with her memoirs of her time as a missionary in China at the turn of the twentieth century.

Series I: Biographical, includes materials related to the personal and professional life of Edwin F. Hirsch, as well as memorial services after his death, circa 1920-1972. Two video recordings of his memorial services have been transferred to Series XII.

Series II: Medical Education, includes undated notebooks and sketchbooks from Edwin F. Hirsch’s time as a medical student, circa 1910-1915.

Series III: Frank Billings Biography, includes materials related to the research and publication of Edwin F. Hirsch’s biography of the renowned Chicago physician Frank Billings, Frank Billings: The Architect of Medical Education, an Apostle of Excellence in Clinical Practice, A Leader in Chicago Medicine, circa 1966.

Series IV: Christian Fenger Biography, includes materials related to the research and publication of Edwin F. Hirsch’s biography of the Chicago physician Christian Fenger, Christian Fenger, M.D., 1840-1902: the impact of his scientific training and his personality on medicine in Chicago, circa 1972. Also includes correspondence with Dr. Raleigh R. White, requesting Hirsch’s assistance in retrieving one of the legs of Christian Fenger’s operating tables and turning it into a ceremonial gavel for the Western Surgical Association.

Series V: The Innervation of the Vertebrate Heart, includes materials related to the publication of The Innervation of the Vertebrate Heart, edited by Edwin F. Hirsch, circa 1970. Proofs of The Innervation of the Vertebrate Heart have been transferred to Series XIII.

Series VII: Medical Drawings and Photography, includes medical drawings and photographs produced by Edwin F. Hirsch for his research and publications. Photographs are individually numbered but the set is incomplete, lacking #47 from series 9646, #80 and #89 from series 9642, #116, #121-122, and #124 from series 9643, and #157 from series 9645. One large photograph entitled "Schwann’s Cell" has been transferred to Series XIII.

Series VIII: Autopsies and Pathology, includes autopsies conducted between September 1917 and March 1919 at Camp Grant, a U.S. army facility that was located near Rockford, Illinois. The camp was a training facility during World War One, and was badly affected by the Spanish Influenza Pandemic in 1918, which killed 1,055 soldiers there. Hirsch worked there as a doctor, treating the thousands of soldiers who were affected by the disease, conducting autopsies, and researching the virus. The autopsies are individually numbered but the set is incomplete with no report on file for #3, #125-249 and #348. The series also contains pathology instructional materials. Two folders of loose newspaper clippings about his work as a coroner and a scrapbook containing clippings about his work on several high profile murder cases and deaths in Chicago have been transferred to Series XIII.

Series IX: Professional, includes Edwin F. Hirsch’s professional commendations as a medical doctor, pathologist and coroner, as well as certificates of awards and newspaper clippings citing him as an expert. Also contains The Proceedings of the Institute of Medicine of Chicago, Vol. 27, No. 3, "Negroes and Medicine in Chicago," May 1968, which refers to Hirsch’s work on the Joint Committee of the Chicago Medical Society and of the Institute of Medicine on the integration of African American physicians into Chicago hospitals. 15 oversized certificates have been transferred to Series XIII.

Series X: Medical Articles by Others, includes collected articles by various scholars on topics related to Hirsch’s research and on doctors in his field 1915-1917. Also contains the curriculum vitae of Dr. Theodore Cooper, with whom Hirsch collaborated on several studies of innervation.

Series XI: Family, includes the correspondence and writings of Edwin F. Hirsch’s relatives: his wife Helen Kotas, his niece Norma Jean Hirsch and his aunt Selma Henke. Some of the correspondence to Helen Kotas Hirsch is in Czech. Also includes Selma Henke’s history of the family, as well as memoirs of her time as a Methodist missionary in China 1901-1907.

Series XII: Audiovisual Materials, includes lantern slides for Hirsch’s presentations on innervations, a presentation at the International College of Surgeons (1967), Morningside
Commencement Address (1955), and an audiotape of and video recordings of Hirsch’s memorial service (1972).

Series XIII: Oversize, includes newspaper clippings (1954-1958), a scrapbook containing newspaper clippings related to Hirsch’s work as a coroner on several famous murder investigations in the mid-1950s, photograph of Schwann’s cell, proofs of his book The Innervation of the Vertebrate Heart, and numerous professional certificates and awards. Oversize materials have been moved to this series from Series I, V, VII, VIII, and IX.

Related Resources
The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

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

Billings, Frank. Papers

Rush Medical College. Records

Subject Headings
- Billings, F. S. (Frank Seaver), 1845-1912
- Fenger, Christian, 1840-1902
- Hirsch, Edwin F. (Edwin Frederick), 1886-1972
- Heart -- Innervation
- Spanish Influenza Epidemic, 1918-1919
- Pathologists
- Physicians -- United States -- Biographies
- Hirsch family

Inventory
Series I: Biographical

Box 1
Folder 1
- Photograph of Edwin F. Hirsch, undated

Box 1
Folder 2
- Manuscript, "Biography of Edwin Frederick Hirsch (1886-1972)," undated

Box 1
Folder 3
- Hyde Park Baptist Church, marriage service of Hirsch and Kotas, undated

Box 1
Folder 4
- Newspaper clipping about his 75th birthday, 1961
Box 1
Folder 5
Photograph of Edwin F. Hirsch, circa 1965
Box 1
Folder 6
Photograph of Edwin F. Hirsch and others in Camp Grant with letter from Merritt R. Bach, circa 1917-1919
Box 1
Folder 7
Newspaper clipping about his early life in Wisconsin, undated
Box 1
Folder 8
Memorial Booklets, 1972
Box 1
Folder 9
Memorial book, Columbus Hospital, circa 1972
Box 1
Folder 10
Celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Edwin F. Hirsch, 1986
Box 1
Folder 11
Chicago Medicine, Vol. 75, No. 7, "Death of Dr. Edwin F. Hirsch," 1972
Box 1
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Series II: Medical Education, circa 1905-1915

Box 1
Folder 13
Biology sketchbook, undated
Box 2
Folder 1
Pathology notebook, undated
Box 2
Folder 2
Pathology notebook II, undated
Box 2
Folder 3
Dissection sketches notebook, undated

Series III: Frank Billings Biography

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Folder 1
Photographs for book, Frank Billings, his family, and associates, undated
Box 3
Folder 2
Correspondence with the Billings family, circa 1970

Box 3
Folder 3
Correspondence and newspaper clippings, circa 1966-1967

Box 3
Folder 4
Acknowledgements of receipt for the Frank Billings book, 1968-1969

Box 3
Folder 5
Correspondence with printers, 1967

Box 3
Folder 6
Order forms, circa 1967

Box 3
Folder 7
Book, Frank Billings: The Architect of Medical Education, an Apostle of Excellence in Clinical Practice, A Leader in Chicago Medicine, 1966

Box 3
Folder 8
Book, Frank Billings: The Architect of Medical Education, an Apostle of Excellence in Clinical Practice, A Leader in Chicago Medicine, 1966

**Series IV: Christian Fenger Biography**

Box 4
Folder 1
Collected anecdotes about Christian Fenger, undated

Box 4
Folder 2
Correspondence with publishers, circa 1971

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Correspondence with Judith Nadler, 1966-1971

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Folder 4
Correspondence with Dr. Raleigh R. White, 1971

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Collected articles on Christian Fenger

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Acknowledgement of the book, 1971

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Manuscript, undated
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  Query to Chicago Board of Education, 1971

Series V: Innervation of the Vertebrate Heart

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  Typescripts, The Innervation of the Vertebrate Heart, chapters 1-6, circa 1970
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  Typescripts, The Innervation of the Vertebrate Heart, chapters 7-15, circa 1970
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Folder 10
  Typescript, The Innervation of the Vertebrate Heart, references
Box 5
Folder 11
  Drawing 4, circa 1970
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Folder 12
  Correspondence with publisher, circa 1970
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Folder 13
  Correspondence regarding The Innervation of the Vertebrate Heart
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Folder 14
  Review of Innervation of the Vertebrate Heart, Chicago Medicine, 3 July 1971
Box 5
Folder 15
  Order form, circa 1970

Series VI: Other Writings

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Folder 16
  Untitled manuscript, 1918
Box 5
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Folder 18
Chicago Medical Society Bulletin, Vol. 63, No. 27, "The Hospital Care of Negroes and the Appointment of Negro Physicians to Medical Staffs of Hospitals in Chicago", 31 December 1960

Box 5
Folder 19
Chicago Medicine, Vol. 63 No. 33, "Editorial: Retreat from Excellence", February 11, 1961

Box 5
Folder 20
"The History of Pathology in Chicago," The Proceedings of the Institute of Medicine of Chicago, March 1963

Box 5
Folder 21
Reprints, The Innervation of the Human Heart, parts I-V, 1962-1963

Box 5
Folder 22
Correspondence, 1964

Box 5
Folder 23
Typescript, Introduction and Chapters 1,2 of The Innervation of the Human Heart, undated

Box 6
Folder 1
Typescript, The Innervation of the Human Heart, I: The coronary arteries and the myocardium, undated

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Folder 2
Typescript, The Innervation of the Human Heart, II: The papillary muscles, undated

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Typescript, The Innervation of the Human Heart, III: The conductive system, undated

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Folder 4
Typescript, The Innervation of the Human Heart, IV: 1. The fiber connections of the nerves with the perimysial plexus (Gerlach-Hofmann); 2. The role of nerve tissues in the repair of infarcts, undated

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Typescript, The Innervation of the Human Heart, V: A comparative study of the intrinsic innervations of the heart in vertebrates, undated

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Reprint, "Innervation of the Systemic Heart of the California Hagfish", 1964
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Folder 8
Correspondence regarding "Innervation of the Systemic Heart of the California Hagfish", 1963

Box 6
Folder 9
Reprints, "Experimental Heart Block in the Dog," parts I & II, 1964

Box 6
Folder 10
Reprint, "Regression of the intrinsic nerves and other sequelae of with reimplantation of the lung," The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery Vol. 54, No. 9, 1967

Box 6
Folder 11
Chicago Medicine, Vol. 71, No. 25, "The Influenza Pandemic of Fifty Years Ago," 7 December 1968

Box 6
Folder 12
Typescript, "Chronic Wallerian Degeneration of the Septal Nerves", 1969

Box 6
Folder 13
Reprints, Innervation of the Mammalian Lung, 1968

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Correspondence regarding The Innervation of the Lung, 1969-1970

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Typescript, The Determination of Urea Nitrogen, undated

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Folder 2
Manuscript, Staining of Bacterial Capsules In Films, undated

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Typescript, Chapter 15: Relation of the Neurohormonal content of the Myocardium to the The Innervation of the Heart, undated

Box 7
Folder 4
Typescript, The Cardiac Innervation of Primates, undated

Box 7
Folder 5
Typescript, The Intrinsic Innervation of the Vertebrate Heart, undated

Box 7
Folder 6
Typescript, The Intrinsic Innervation of the Avian Heart, undated
Box 7
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  Typescript, p. 5 on Schwann cells, 5 photographs, manuscript, notes, undated
Box 7
Folder 8
  Typescript, Die Innervation im Herzen der Wirbeltiere (German)
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  Manuscript, "Bielchowski, Hassin – Allegranza", undated
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Folder 10
  Typescript, "The Innervation of Respiratory Tissues in Terrestrial and Aquatic Vertebrates", undated
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  Typescript, Analisi dei Fattori Causali Dell’Aterosclerosi (in Italian), undated
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  Drawing 1, undated
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Reprints of drawings 1-4 and photographs from series 9639-9646, undated

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Folder 2
Enlargements of selected photographs from series 9639-9646, undated

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Folder 3
Photographs labeled Hofmann, Gerlach, Amienors, undated

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Folder 4
Photographs of cells, and of article "Neuromuscular and intercellular relationships in the coronary arterioles. A morphological and quantitative study by light and electron microscopy", undated

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Folder 5
Transparencies, undated

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Folder 6
Photocopy of cells, undated

Series VIII: Autopsies and Pathology

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Box 8
Folder 8
Book, Autopsy Manual, Departments of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force, July 1960

Box 8
Folder 9
Book, Joint Committee on Aviation Pathology of the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States, 1959
Book, Standard Technique of Meningococcus Carrier Detection, adopted by the Medical Departments of the United States Army and Navy and the United States Public Health Service, circa 1917-1919

Correspondence about his work as a pathologist, 1965


Autopsies Exhibit B, #1, #3-125, 1918-1919

Autopsies #250-299-347, #349-369, 1918, 1919

Autopsies #370-386, 1918, 1919

Series IX: Professional

Certificate, Illinois State Board of Health, undated

Certificate, American College of Physicians, 1946

Certificate, College of American Pathologists, 1947

Manuscript and correspondence regarding commencement speech at Morningside College, May 1955

Certificate, Morningside College, conferring Doctor of Science, 1955

Certificate, American Society of Clinical Pathologists, 1961

Certificate, University of Chicago, Department of Pathology, 1964
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Certificate, University of Chicago, Department of Pathology, 1964
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Certificate, Presbyterian-St. Luke's Hospital, 1964
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Certificate, St. Luke's Hospital, 1964
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Achievement Citation, WFJL radio, Lewis College, undated
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Newspaper clippings about St. Luke's hospital, 1959
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Correspondence regarding professional awards, 1957-1961
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Folder 34
Correspondence and accounting documents related to Hirsch's trip to Italy, 1958
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Newspaper clippings regarding colleagues, 1969

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Untitled typescript, circa 1918

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Typescript, Dr. Kliger, "Media and its Titration", March 1918

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Folder 8
Photocopy and manuscript, V. E. Krahl, selection from "Anatomy of Mammalian Lung", c.a. 1964

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Folder 9
Selections from Science magazine, 1971

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Folder 20
Curriculum Vitae, Dr. Theodore Cooper, undated

Series XI: Family

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Helen Kotas Hirsch correspondence and pin "Life Member, American Federation of Musicians," circa 1966-1986

Box 13
Folder 2
Norma Jean Hirsch, correspondence, 1964-1966

Box 13
Folder 3
Selma Henke, correspondence, 1956-1972

Box 13
Folder 4
Selma Henke's history of the family and memoirs of missionary work in China, undated; Typescript, "Mother’s Choice", 1969; letter from O.K.S. noting historical discrepancies in the memoirs, undated

Box 13
Folder 5
Personal correspondence to Mr. and Mrs. Hirsch, 1967
• Series XII: Audiovisual Materials

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Lantern slides, cells, undated

Box 14
Audiotape, memorial service, 1972

Box 14
Video reel, memorial service, 1972

Box 14
Video reel, memorial service, 1972

Box 14
Video reel, untitled, undated

Box 14
Video reel, Morningside Commencement Address, 1955

Box 14
Video reel, Presentation, The Growth of Forensic Pathology in Illinois, 1967

Box 14
Series XIII: Oversize

Box 15
Folder 1
Newspaper clippings about famous murder investigations 1954
Newspaper clippings about famous murder investigations 1958

Box 15
Folder 3
Scrapbook of clippings regarding famous murder cases Hirsch was worked on in the mid-1950s

Box 15
Folder 4
Photograph, Schwann’s cell, undated

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Folder 5
Certificates and photographs
- Certificate, ￿￿Δ
- Certificate, Charles City College, 1905
- Certificate, Northwestern University, 1910
- Certificate, Society of Sigma Xi, 1910
- Certificate, American Medical Association, 1911
- Certificate, University of Illinois, 1911
- Certificate, Alpha Omega Alpha, 1914
- Certificate, University of Chicago, ca 1914, date is written in Latin
- Certificate, Rush College, 1915, date is in Latin
- Photograph, Resident Staff, Presbyterian Hospital, 1915-1916
- Certificate, American National Red Cross, 1917
- Certificate, Interne, Presbyterian Hospital, 1917
- Certificate, American College of Physicians, 1947
- Certificate, College of American Pathologists, 1958

Box 15
Folder 6
Proofs, The Innervation of the Vertebrate Heart, 1968