

History of Medicine in British Columbia Collection / John H. MacDermot (collector)

Compiled by Erwin Wodarczak (2021)

University of British Columbia Archives



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The Library

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Collection Description

History of Medicine in British Columbia Collection / John H. MacDermot (collector).
– 1962-1973.

6 cm of textual records.

Collector's Biographical Sketch

Dr. John H. MacDermot was born in Kingston, Jamaica, in 1883. He completed his high school education there and in 1901 enrolled in medical school at McGill University. Graduating in 1905, he was licensed to practice and moved to British Columbia the following year. MacDermot accepted the post as physician with the Columbia Coast Mission in 1907. He worked at several hospitals along the British Columbia coast, and aboard the hospital ship *MS Columbia*. In 1909, he moved to Vancouver and maintained a private practice until his retirement in 1958. He was also was editor of the *British Columbia Medical Journal* from 1959 to 1967. Beginning in 1962 he began research for writing a history of the medical profession in British Columbia. In this he was supported by William C. Gibson and the UBC Department of the History of Medicine and Science. The project was overseen by the Coordinating Committee of the History of Medicine in British Columbia. Although by 1968 MacDermot had made progress in compiling notes and sources and drafting some chapters, the project was abandoned and the work was not published. He died in 1969.

Custodial History

The materials were held in UBC Rare Books and Special Collections for many years until transferred to the University Archives in 2021.

Scope and Content

Collection consists of records documenting John MacDermot's proposed "History of Medicine in British Columbia", and includes correspondence, written notes, minutes, clippings, completed survey forms, and written and typed manuscripts.

Notes

File list available.

Related records can be found in the [William C. Gibson fonds](#), and in the [Dr. J.H. MacDermot fonds](#) held at the Doctors of BC (B.C. Medical Association) archives.

File List

BOX 1

- 1-1 Correspondence – MacDermot 1962-73
 - correspondence regarding a proposed history of medicine in B.C., and its eventual shelving
 - also includes minutes of the Coordinating Committee of the History of Medicine in British Columbia

- 1-2 J.H. MacDermot – Historical materials [1962-72]
 - removed from manila envelope
 - includes written notes and mss, presumably by MacDermot, and some pieces of correspondence

- 1-3 Names of physicians in Armed Forces 1962-63
 - completed forms “If You Were In H.M. Forces”, related correspondence, and nominal roll of B.C. medical doctors enlisted in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps during World War II

- 1-4 Makers of Canada – John Antle [n.d.]
 - bound typescript of a biography of John Antle, who pioneered medical services to logging camps along the B.C. coast in the early 20th Century