

University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections

Finding Aid - Sir William Osler collection (RBSC- ARC-1739)

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University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections

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Sir William Osler collection

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Summary information

Repository:	University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections
Title:	Sir William Osler collection
ID:	RBSC-ARC-1739
Date:	1886-1958 (date of creation)
Physical description:	10 cm of textual records 6 Photostats 4 illustrations
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

William Osler was a medical philosopher who was born in 1849 in the town of Bond Head, north of Toronto. He and his family lived there until 1857 when they moved to Dundas. In 1867 Osler enrolled in divinity studies at Toronto's Trinity College, where one of his teachers persuaded him to enroll in medicine instead. He graduated with a medical degree from McGill University in 1872, after which he pursued post-graduate studies in London, Berlin, and Vienna. He returned to McGill in 1874 to lecture in medicine and pathology. In 1883 he was elected a fellow of the British Royal College of Physicians. He went on to accept a position as professor of clinical medicine at the University of Pennsylvania in 1884. Five years later he was the top choice to become Chief of Medicine at the new Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, where he taught students at patients' bedsides rather than from a textbook. While teaching at Johns Hopkins, Osler wrote *Principles and Practice of Medicine: Designed for the Use of Practitioners and Students of Medicine* (1892), a notable textbook on modern medicine. In 1898 he was one of the eight founding members of the Association of Medical Librarians, as the Medical Library Association was known until 1907.

In 1905 Osler was offered and accepted the position of Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford University. Six years later he was made a baronet for his contributions to the field of medicine. He died on December 29, 1919 at the age of 70 due to pneumonia developed as a result of influenza.

Custodial history

Letters were bought from Dr. Felix Cuhna in 1965 with Zeitlin and Ver Brugge being the dealers involved in the purchase. The collection formed part of the Charles Woodward Memorial Room collection until it was transferred to Rare Books and Special Collections in 2015.

Scope and content

Collection consists of letters, newspaper clippings, and articles relating to Sir William Osler's career and involvement with the Medical Library Association.

Notes

Title notes

- **Variations in title**: Previously known as Sir William Osler fonds

Arrangement

Collection is arranged by material type. The collection is divided into series of letters according to whether Sir William Osler was the sender or receiver of the correspondence. Arrangement was inherited from Woodward Memorial Library.

Other notes

- **Publication status**: published
 - **Alpha-numeric designations**: The roman numerals are part of the cataloguing system employed at Woodward Memorial Library. They are no longer in sequential order.
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Access points

- Textual record (documentary form)
 - Graphic material (documentary form)
-

Series descriptions

Letters from William Osler

Date: 1889 - 1919 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The majority of the series consists of original letters sent by William Osler, while the remained are typed copies. The letters discuss various publications, doctoral appointments, and patient treatments.

Physical description: 34 p. of textual records + envelope

6 Photostats : b&w				
File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-01	File - To Dr. Edward Clark Streeter (b. 1874); [n.d.]; addressed from Oxford; autograph letter.	[n.d.]		
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-02	File - To Dr. Edward N. Brush; [1910?]; addressed from Baltimore; autograph letter.	[1910?]		
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-03	File - To "Dear Sir"; November 22, 19-; addressed from Oxford; autograph letter.	[19-]		
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-04	File - To Dr. William Snow Miller; postmarked December 8, '09, from Oxford; autograph postcard.	1909-12-08		
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-05	File - To Dr. Edward Clark Streeter (b. 1874); April 14, 1915; addressed from Oxford; typed letter, signed.	1915-04-14		
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-06	File - To Dr. Edward Clark Streeter (b. 1874); March 31, 1919; addressed from Oxford; typed letter, signed.	1919-03-31		
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-07	File - To Dr. Edward Clark Streeter (b. 1874); May 18, 1915; addressed from Oxford; typed letter, signed.	1915-05-18		
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-08	File - To "Dear Sir"; May 31, 1889; addressed from Baltimore; autograph letter.	1889-05-31		
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-09	File - To Dr. Edward N. Brush; postmarked February 2, 1904; addressed from Baltimore; engraved invitation, filled out by hand with envelope.	1904-02-02		
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-10	File - To "Sir William"; September 12, 1910; addressed from Oxford; typed letter, signed.	1910-09-12		
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-11	File - To Dr. Edward Clark Streeter (b. 1874); June 5, [1916?]; addressed from Oxford; autograph letter.	1916?-06-05		
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-12	File - To "Dear kind man"; 26th [no month or year]; addressed from Oxford; autograph letter.	?-?-26		
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-13	File - To Dr. Edward N. Brush; July 15, 1895; addressed from Baltimore; typed letter, signed.	1895-07-15		
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-14	File - To Dr. Helton; January 22, 1902; addressed from Baltimore; typed letter, signed.	1902-01-22		
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-15	File - To Dr. Edward N. Brush; January 7, 1902; addressed from Baltimore; typed letter, signed with envelope.	1902-01-07		
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-16	File - To Mr. Louis Gutman; postmarked December 26, #12, from Oxford; autograph letter with envelope.	1912-12-26		

RBSC-ARC-1739-1-17	File - To "Dear Sir"; -30, 1889 [no month]; addressed from Baltimore; autograph letter.	1889-?-30
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-18	File - To "Dear Sir"; November 13, 19-; addressed from Oxford; autograph letter.	1919?-11-13
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-19	File - To [L.] Litchfield; February 28, 1918; addressed from Oxford; typed letter, signed.	1918-02-28
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-20	File - Photostats of letter from William Osler in envelope to Dr. Cunha.	[n.d.]

Typed copies of original letters from Osler

Date: 1886-1920 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series contains correspondence sent by Sir William Osler to various recipients. The majority of the letters deal with Osler's interest in book collecting, while others discuss possible position appointments. There is also a copy of <i>A physician's anthology of English and American poetry</i>.

Physical description: 68 p. of textual records

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-21	File - Typed copies of original letters from Osler 1 of 2	1895-1920		
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-22	File - Typed copies of original letter from Osler 2 of 2	1886-1919		

Medical Library Association letters

Date: 1907-1940 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of correspondence regarding various aspects of the Medical Library Association. Many of the letters are about the book <i>Osler as a Bibliophile</i> by E.C. Streeter.

Physical description: 21 p. of textual records

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-23	File - Typed copies of letters from Osler to Blodgett and Garrison.	1907-1920		
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-24	File - Postcard and typed letter.	1920-1940		
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-25	File - Typed letter from George David Stewart to Dr. Edward Clark Streeter	1920-02-17		
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-26	File - Typed letter from George David Stewart to Dr. Edward Clark Streeter	1920-02-19		
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-27	File - Letter from Walter R. Bett to Dr. Edward Clark Streeter (b. 1874)	1928-12-09		

RBSC-ARC-1739-1-28	File - Letter from Dr. Boyd Williams to Dr. Edward Clark Streeter (b. 1874)	1921-01-11
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-29	File - Letter from Dr. Harvey Cushing to Dr. Felix Cunha	1939-07-15
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-30	File - Letter from Walter R. Bett to Dr. Edward Clark Streeter (b. 1874)	1928-11-08
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-31	File - Letter from Dr. Julius Victor Scholderer to Dr. Edward Clark Streeter (b. 1874)	1920-01-08
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-32	File - Letter from George Dock to Dr. Felix Cunha	[n.d.]
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-33	File - Letter from Dr. Anita M. Mühl to Dr. Mary V. Church	1936-04-06

Articles and clippings about Sir William Osler

Date: 1909-1958 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of newspaper clippings, articles, and periodicals that in some way refer to Sir William Osler. On occasion he is only mentioned in passing.

Physical description: 174 p. of textual records
4 illustrations

Physical description:

Many of the documents in this series are glued to backing paper.

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34	File - Articles and clippings about Sir William Osler	1909-1958		
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-01	Item - American Association of the History of Medicine Twenty-second Annual Meeting Programme	1949-05-22		
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-02	Item - Newspaper clipping on Leonard Mackall	[n.d.]		
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-03	Item - International Association of Medical Museums: Sir William Osler Memorial	[after 1921]		
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-04	Item - Journal of the American Medical Association, February 27, 1909	1909		
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-05	Item - British Medical Journal, July 5, 1919.	1919-07-05		
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-06	Item - "The Biographical Essays of Sir William Osler and their Relation to Medical History"	1939-01		
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-07	Item - Science Digest, February 1952, "Sir William Osler: Selections from His Writings"	1952-02		
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-08	Item - Reader's Digest, April 1953, "The World's Best Doctor"	1953-04		

RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-09	Item - Notes and Abstracts, vol. XII, no. 2 "Doctor William Osler as a Book-Reviewer; His Attitude Toward Hospitals"	[n.d.]
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-10	Item - The Journal of the American Medical Association, August 1939, "Historical Notes on Coronary Occlusion..."	1939-08-12
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-11	Item - Reader's Digest, August 1951, "Tension's Little Trigger Men"	1951-08
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-12	Item - Second Symposium: The Clinical Problems of Advancing Years. March 15, 1951.	1951-03-15
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-13	Item - "Hypothyroidism in Men in Industry: A Preliminary Report on Chemical Evidence."	1957-11
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-14	Item - The Atlantic: "Exploring the Dangerous Trades by Alice Hamilton"	1942-12
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-15	Item - Pfizer Spectrum "Sir William Osler"	1958-05-01
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-16	Item - Caricature of William Osler over Saint-Johns Hopkins Hospital	[19-?]
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-17	Item - Gastroenterology: "Book Reviews"	1947-06
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-18	Item - San Francisco Chronicle: "For Happier Living" by L. Martin Griffin, Jr. M.D.	1955-02-27
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-19	Item - Medical Pocket Quarterly	1948-03-01
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-20	Item - Current Medical Digest: "Aequanimitas"	1950-08
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-21	Item - Current Medical Digest: "The General Practitioner" "The Physician's Library" and Gastroenterology: "Sir William Osler, Historian and Literary Essayist"	1951-1952
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-22	Item - The Reader's Digest excerpts on William Osler and "The Case of the Valiant Patient"	1945-1948
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-23	Item - The Reader's Digest and Current Medical Digest excerpts.	1948-1952
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-24	Item - Current Medical Digest excerpt "Goodbye, Mr. Chips?"	1951-11
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-25	Item - Physician's Bulletin and The Reader's Digest excerpts.	1952-1953
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-26	Item - Gastroenterology excerpt "When Ill, the Greatest Philosopher of his Time Consulted a Quack"	1948-08
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-27	Item - Current Medical Digest excerpt "Why Do They Do It?"	1948-12
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-28	Item - Journal of the American Medical Association excerpt "Sir William Osler - Centenary Anniversary"	1949-07-30

RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-29	Item - Journal of the American Medical Association excerpt "Book Notices: The Heroic Age of American Enterprise"	1941-04-05
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-30	Item - Journal of the American Medical Association excerpt cartoon	1956-06
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-31	Item - Time Magazine excerpt "A Challenge to Tom Parr"	1950-04-24
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-32	Item - Journal of the American Medical Association excerpt "The Trend of Medical Practice – A Historical Note"	1946-08-03
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-33	Item - Postgraduate Medicine and The Bulletin: San Francisco Medical Society excerpts	1950-1959
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-34	Item - Physician's Bulletin excerpt	1941
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-35	Item - The Bulletin: San Francisco Medical Society excerpt "News and Views"	1955-06
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-36	Item - Ciba Symposia and The Bulletin of the Los Angeles County Medical Association	1941-1947
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-37	Item - Time Magazine and Journal of American Medical Association excerpts	1950-1951
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-38	Item - The Club of Odd Volumes February Meeting Invitation	1920-02-18
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-39	Item - Medical Economics excerpt "Don't Say Osler Didn't Warn You!"	1953-04
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-40	Item - Medical Newsmagazine excerpt "To Navigate – The Essential Thing"	1958-03
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-41	Item - Current Medical Digest excerpt "What Makes the Profession of Medicine Great?"	1952-06
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-42	Item - Current Medical Digest excerpt "Doctor, Are You Anemic?"	1954-01
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-43	Item - Current Medical Digest excerpt "As Others See You!"	1950-12
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-44	Item - Bookplate "Purchased through the William Osler Testimonial Fund for the Advancement of Medicine"	[19-]
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-45	Item - The Bulletin: San Francisco Medical Society and The Doctor and Od Quarterly excerpts	1941-1957
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-34-46	Item - The Canadian Medical Journal reprint "Osler – A Personal Tribute"	1949

Items regarding Osler's death

Date: 1920-03-22 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of announcements, resolutions, and letters on the subject of the death of Sir William Osler.

Physical description: 1 p. of textual records

File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1739-1-35	File - Announcement of a meeting in Osler's memory by John Hopkins Hospital	1920-03-22		