WESTERN ARCHIVES

THE OSLER SOCIETY FONDS
AFC 45

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THE OSLER SOCIETY FONDS
AFC 45
FONDS DESCRIPTION

Dates
1870-1968

Extent and Material
16 cm textual records
27 photographs
3 slides

Administrative History

During the early 1900s meetings devoted to medical history were held in the Medical School. This is believed to be the roots of the Medical Historical Society. In 1914 a paper read by Dr. H.O. Foucar stirred the interest of the medical students and prompted additional meetings of the Medical Historical Society. The earliest records from these meetings date to 1921. In 1921 members of the Society began documenting the meetings and electing officers. Membership was open to undergraduates, graduates and members of the medical faculty. In 1921 two memorable papers were delivered: one by Dr. F.G. Banting and the second by Professor J.J.R. Macleod. Both of these papers prompted the idea of a more permanent historical society which in turn became the Osler Society. The 3 founding members of the Osler Society are considered to be Dr. W.D.M. Lloyd, Dr. J.W. Crane, and junior medical student E.A. Bartram. During Dr. Lloyd’s term as Demonstrator in Pharmacology he made frequent references to Sir William Osler. In early 1927, Dr. Crane suggested that a historical society devoted to medical history be formed on a more permanent basis. Lady Osler’s permission was sought to name this club either the Osler Society or the Osler Club. The Osler Society’s membership included honourary and active members as well as alumni of the Medical School. Papers were presented before the membership with a focus on historical topics such as the history of Canadian medicine. An annual banquet was held which included the Annual Osler Oration, delivered by the Honourary President on some aspect of Sir Osler’s life. Keys and scrolls were given to new members. New members were recruited through the early part of 1927 so that on May 14, 1927 there were enough members to elect the first executive. The first banquet was held in October 1927 during which Dr. Lloyd gave the oration on “The Life of Osler.” The year 1941 brought the first significant changes to the Osler Society because it was the first year since inception that no Honourary President was appointed and no banquet was held. The Society had withstood the great depression but could not stand the impact of the war. The last meeting was held on October 6, 1942
at the Ontario Hospital. As the Osler Society was being disbanded a new organization, the Alpha Omega Alpha Honour Society was starting up. Many members of the Osler Society joined this new Society. The Osler Society was revived on November 3, 1948 when under the auspices of the Hippocratic Council a committee was appointed to start a new Osler Society. Dr. Crane was present at this meeting and he stressed the importance of the history of medicine and the value derived from preparing and presenting an original paper. On December 9, 1948 a new constitution was approved and adopted. Its aims and objectives were to perpetuate the memory of Sir William Osler, to further the study of medical history and to provide members with training in the preparation and presentation of papers. Membership was open to all interested students and members of the medical faculty. The society was now called “The Osler Society of the University of Western Ontario.” Instead of giving keys and scrolls to the new members (as had been done in the past) they were now presented at the annual banquet to Society members in good standing in the graduating class. In January 1949 the first “Bulletin of the Osler Society” was published. Once again the Osler Society faced difficulties until its 2nd revival in the late 1980s by Dr. Paul Potter.

Scope and Content

The fonds consists of records related to the activities of the Osler Society. Records include meeting agendas, minutes, banquet programmes, membership lists, financial records, correspondence, historical records, photographs and slides.

Arrangement

The fonds has been arranged into the following series

Series 1  Historical Records
Series 2  Meetings and Events Papers
Series 3  Administrative Records
Series 4  Bulletins
Series 5  Photographs
Series 6  Slides

Finding Aids

File lists available

Custodial History

These records were in the custody of The University of Western Ontario Faculty of Medicine Library.
Immediate Source of Acquisition

The records were transferred to The University of Western Ontario Archives. The date of the transfer is not known.
Series 1  Historical Records

Dates
1902-1950

Extent and Material
1 cm textual records

Scope and Content
Series consists of records documenting the history of the Osler Society. Included is information about William Osler, a history of the Osler Society of London and information about the Medical History Seminars held in London.

File List

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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>History</td>
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<td>Medical History Seminars</td>
<td>1935-1940</td>
<td>AFC 45-1/2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Series 2 Meetings and Events Papers

Dates
1927-1968

Extent and Material
10 cm textual records

Scope and Content
Series consists of documents relating to events held by the Osler Society. Included are meeting minutes, notices of meetings, papers presented at meetings, the Osler Oration, the annual Osler outing and banquet programmes.

File List

Meetings 1927-1929 AFC 45-1/3
Meetings [vol] October, 1930- March, 1941 AFC 45-1/4
Meetings [vol] November, 1941-1943 AFC 45-1/5
Meetings [vol] 1948-1958 AFC 45-1/6
Papers Presented at Meetings 1929-1960 AFC 45-1/7
Papers Presented at Meetings 1968 AFC 45-1/8
Meeting Attendance 1949-1953 AFC 45-1/9
Banquets 1929-1958 AFC 45-1/10
Annual Outing 1957 AFC 45-1/11
THE OSLER SOCIETY FONDS
AFC 45
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS AND FILE LISTS

Series 3  Administrative Records

Dates
1927-1966

Extent and Material
3 cm textual records

Scope and Content
Series consists of membership lists, reports, correspondence, information about past-presidents and related committees including the Osler Memorial Committee and the Osler Advisory Committee.

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<td>Past-Presidents</td>
<td>1957-1962</td>
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<td>Osler Memorial Committee</td>
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Series 4  Bulletins

Dates
1949-1959

Extent and Material
2 cm textual records

Scope and Content
Series consists of bulletins published by the Osler Society to inform members of club activities.

File List

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<th>Bulletins</th>
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<td>1949-1951</td>
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<td>1955-1959</td>
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Series 5  Photographs

Dates
1870-1958

Extent and Material
25 photographs, b&w print

Scope and Content
Series consists of photographs related to the Osler Society and Sir William Osler

Item List

Dr. E.G.D. Murray - b&w print  [19--]  AFC 45-3/1
William Osler - b&w print  [19--]  AFC 45-3/2
Teased Preparation of Fly Muscle –
  Made by Sir Wm. Osler - b&w print  1870  AFC 45-3/3
William Osler - b&w print  [19--]  AFC 45-3/4
Osler Society- b&w print  1938  AFC 45-3/6
  [Includes names]
Osler Society – b&w print  1933  AFC 45-3/7
  [Includes names]
Osler Society – b&w print  1930  AFC 45-3/8
  [Includes names]
McGill University – Osler
  Library - b&w print  [19--]  AFC 45-3/9
Statue of Pinel on grounds of
  Salpetriere Paris – b&w print  1957  AFC 45-3/10
Views at Salpetriere, Paris – b&w print  [19--]  AFC 45-3/11
View of Medical School, Western
  University - b&w print  1921  AFC 45-3/12
Osler Society Annual Outing - b&w print  1957  AFC 45-3/13
St. John’s Anglican Church – b&w print  [19--]  AFC 45-3/14
Osler Society Group Photo – b&w print  [19--]  AFC 45-3/15
  [Includes names]
Dr. Howard Holbrook - b&w print  1958  AFC 45-3/16
Dr. Holbrook and Ian Graham – b&w print  [19--]  AFC 45-3/17
Dr. Holbrook and Mr. Woodhouse –
  b&w print  [19--]  AFC 45-3/18
Dr. Holbrook – b&w print  1932  AFC 45-3/19
Ellen Osler Memorial Home – b&w print  [19--]  AFC 45-3/20
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<tr>
<td>Sir William Osler – b&amp;w print</td>
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<td>AFC 45-3/23</td>
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<td>Sir William Osler – b&amp;w print</td>
<td>[19--]</td>
<td>AFC 45-3/24</td>
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<td>Sir William Osler – b&amp;w print</td>
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<td>Sir William Osler – b&amp;w print</td>
<td>[19--]</td>
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Series 6  Slides

Dates
[19--]

Extent and Material
3 microscope slides

Scope and Content
Series consists of microscope slides prepared by Sir William Osler

Item List

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