

American College of Surgeons
633 N. Saint Clair St.
Chicago, IL 60611

Arch Desc Number 135

Reference Code RG5/SG7/S2

Title Eleanor Grimm Notebooks
Eleanor K. Grimm's History of the American College of Surgeons
Basic Material for the History of the American College of Surgeons

Dates 1953-1967, bulk 1953-1957

Extent 13.75 linear feet (see inventory for breakdown)

Creators Grimm, Eleanor K., 1891-1975
American College of Surgeons. Public Relations Department

Administrative/Biographical History

Eleanor K. Grimm (EKG) was secretary to Franklin H. Martin from 1913 (the year of the founding of the College) until his death in 1935. Throughout the years that they worked together, they initiated many of the departments and programs that currently exist at the College. Miss Grimm edited all College publications, performed all secretarial work in connection with the business of the Regents, Governors, Councils, and Committees, handled details of the Clinical Congresses, aided in the establishment of Sectional Meetings, and presided over the medical motion pictures program. After Martin's death in 1935 she served on the Administrative Board as Administrative Executive and Secretary to the Board of Regents.

During 1951, in preparation for Miss Grimm's impending retirement at the end of the year, all of her duties had to be reassigned. Among the many roles that EKG filled was her role as Editor of Publications. Laura Jackson, who had been responsible for public relations and publicity, was to become Editor of Publications, and Greer Williams was hired as Director of Public Relations as of August 1, 1951. After her retirement on December 31, 1951, Miss Grimm moved to Florida.

In April 1953, the Board of Regents authorized the preparation of a history of the ACS and Miss Grimm was engaged to work on it with Greer Williams. She was to collect, compile, and organize the material on which Williams would base his written history. She spent the summer in Chicago doing research and worked from her home in Florida the rest of the year.

At the suggestion of Evarts Graham, Chairman of the Board of Regents, Williams conducted oral history interviews with at least three college notables -- short ones with Judge Harold M. Stephens and John Bowman, and a longer with Rudolph Matas. The correspondence alludes to a planned interview with Alton Ochsner, but no transcript of this interview has been found.

To prepare the background material for the history, Miss Grimm recorded her spoken recollections on a wire recorder; these sound recordings were then transcribed into text by a typist. (The reels of wire on which Miss Grimm's notes were recorded have been lost or destroyed.) The typescript notes were interfiled with supplementary materials and placed into green cloth-covered 3-ring binders, one set of binders for the original typescript, and a second set for a carbon copy. EKG also created an alphabetical subject index of the entire work.

On July 15, 1955, Greer Williams left the College to continue his career as a medical writer in Washington, D.C. After his departure, EKG worked with Bonnie E. Williams of the Public Relations Department, supervising the transcriptions and the final details of assembling the Notebooks. Her work on the history, much of which was done by correspondence from her home in Florida, was completed in December of 1957. Also during that month, the task of writing the history itself was given to Dr. Loyal Davis, as part of his job as

the editor of *Surgery Gynecology & Obstetrics* (SG&O). Based on the EKG Notebooks and some of his own research and recollections, he wrote "Fellowship of Surgeons," which was published in 1960.

Scope and Content

This series consists of six subseries.

I. Correspondence related to the creation of the Notebooks

This correspondence is bound in a brown 3-ring report cover containing letters, notes, and cards providing information about the context of creation of the EKG Notebooks. The principal correspondents are Miss Grimm, Greer Williams, and later, Bonnie Williams. Laid in is a cover letter from EKG to George (Stephenson?) dated Jan. 30, 1967 attached to a letter to Dr. Nesbit.

II. The Notebooks

The Notebooks themselves are 3-ring binders covered in green cloth. The core of each volume is the typescript transcription of EKG's recorded notes. These transcripts are interfiled with supplementary materials including: tear sheets and reprints from published sources (such as the *Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons*, *Surgery Gynecology & Obstetrics*, and the *ACS Yearbooks*), EKG's notes on events and activities, and interviews with leading figures in the history. At the suggestion of Evarts Graham, Chairman of the Board of Regents, the history opens with a description of surgery prior to the founding of the College, and does not repeat at length the events covered in Franklin Martin's "The Joy of Living."

The Notebooks consist of two sets: the original typescript set and a carbon copy set. Identical hand-written corrections have been made to both sets, but the two are not identical in all respects. For example, the original set has some supplementary materials that do not appear in the carbon set. The original set consists of 27 numbered volumes (in 29 binders) and the carbon set consists of 27 numbered volumes (in only 20 binders).

III. Transcripts of individual reels of the wire recordings

The transcripts are bound in 3-ring report covers (some blue, some green) containing carbon copies of transcripts of individual reels of the voice recordings. The material is organized categorically, with each reel of the recorded notes devoted to one of the various areas of College activities. Most are labeled with the volume number of the Notebook binder and the reel number of the recording. Handwritten edits have been made to the texts. Some transcripts are in multiple copies, but the copies are not necessarily identical.

A survey made of a sample of Vol. VII, Reel 40, indicates that these typewritten transcriptions are carbon copies of those in the original set of the Notebooks, but lacking 95% of the tearsheets, reprints, and other inserts.

IV. ACS History

The copies of this history are bound in brown 3-ring report covers. They contain carbon copies of a compilation of transcripts of Reels 1-47.

V. Index to the Notebooks

The Index is bound in a blue 3-ring report cover containing a 59-page (single-sided) booklet, typewritten and reproduced on a duplicating machine.

The content consists of a location key, a list of reels with the topic covered on each reel, and an alphabetical subject list with locations. Not all copies are identical.

The first two pages provide a list of the wire recording transcripts by reel number or letter stating the topics covered on each reel. The first set of reels is numbered (1 through 40a) and the second set is lettered (A

through Z). Pages 3 through 59 of the booklet provides an alphabetical subject index to the content of the transcripts giving volume, reel, and page number, from "Abell, Irwin" to "World Events - 1905, 1910, 1913." In addition to the subject entries, the index also includes "see" and "see also" references.

Laid into at least one copy is a separate 3 page "ACS History by Volumes." This is a table of contents listing the subjects covered by each of the twenty-seven volumes of the Notebooks.

VI. Reference photocopies of excerpts

The reference photocopies are bound in black vinyl-covered 3-ring binders containing photocopies of Notebook volumes on hospital standardization and a photocopy of the ACS History.

Arrangement/File Inventory

Subseries:

- I. Correspondence related to the creation of the Notebooks (in reverse chronological order)
- II. The Notebooks (by volume number)
- III. Transcripts of individual reels of the wire recordings (by reel number)
- IV. ACS History (by reel number)
- V. Index to the Notebooks (topics alphabetical within index)
- VI. Reference photocopies of excerpts (by title and volume number)

Inventory:

I. Correspondence related to the creation of the Notebooks (0.5 inches)

-- 1 binder of correspondence, 1953-1967

II. The Notebooks

A. Original typescript set (XXVII volumes in 29 binders) (69 linear inches)

Binder list:

- Vol. I: History of Surgery; Modern Surgery; Medical Education; Founders of ACS; Surgical Practice when Founders began Practice; Surgical Practice by Specialties
- Vol. II: SG&O; Clinical Congress of Surgeons
- Vol. III: Clinical Congress concluded; Changes in Fees; Forum on Fundamental Surgical Problems; "Firsts and Lasts;" Summary of Session 1910; compared with 1954
- Vol. IV: Who were Founders?; Biographical; Development of Surgical Societies; Surgery in 1913; Organization Charts 1922-50; Summarized Chronology, 1905-1954; ACS a Reality; How Accomplished; Organizational Meeting 1913
- Vol. V: Criticisms of ACS; Selecting FACS; Gown; Fee Splitting; Detailed Chronology, 1914-1937; Criticisms, Suggestions, 1933; Boston Publicity, 1934; Planned Retirement of Dr. Martin, 1934
- Vol. VI: Detailed Chronology, 1938-1953; Fellowship in ACS; Junior Candidate Group; Senior Candidate Group; Chapters of ACS
- Vol. VII: Judiciary Committees, ACS; Insignia, Convocations, Bylaws; Legal Matters; Latin America; RCS

England; ACS Co-operation A.C|.P.; International College of Surgeons; Australia & New Zealand

- Vol. VIII: Division of Fees; Early History; Western Surgical; New York Academy of Medicine; Pearson's Magazine; Indiana & Fee-Splitting; ACS & Fee Splitting; Declaration; Pledge
- Vol. IX: Hospital Standardization: Early Hospital History; ACS Program Origin, Chronology, Methods, Results
- Vol. IX-1: Hospital Standardization: ACS Program cont.; Minimum Standard; Problem Years- Depression, War Changes thru Years for Departments
- Vol. X: Hospital Standardization – No. 2; Surveys of Hospitals; Approved Lists & Certificates, Statistics, Financing Individuals; Nursing
- Vol. XI: Hospital Standardization – No. 3: Manual; AMA & Standardization; Standardization of Surgical Dressings; Standardization of Medical, Surgical, & Hospital Equipment, Instruments, & Supplies; Control of Catgut; Nomenclature of Diseases; Health Inventorium & Periodic Examinations; Hospital Research & Information Department; Licensing of Hospitals; Hospital Administrators, Training of; Cooperation with Latin America – Hospital Standardization; Chronology of Hospital Organizations; Hospital Publications; Cooperation in Hospital Standardization Program, 1917-1948
- Vol. XII: Hospital Standardization – No. 4: Joint Commission; Problems Encountered under Hospital Standardization; Statements re Hospital Standardization; The Beginnings of Better Hospitals – Who Deserves the Credit?
- Vol. XIII: Cancer & ACS; Concurrent Action of various Organizations; American Cancer Society; ACS & Cancer Program; Registry of Bone Sarcoma; Cancer Clinics; Cancer Detection Centers
- Vol. XIV: Fractures: Historical; American Surgical Association; ACS & Fracture "Outline;" Minimum Standard
- Vol. XV: Industrial Medicine & Traumatic Surgery: Historical; Minimum Standard; Approved Lists; "Digest;" AMA and Subject Program Transferred
- Vol. XVI: Dept. of Clinical Research, ACS; Chronology; Hall of the Art and Science of Surgery; Scientific Exhibits; Committee on Nutrition of Surgical Patient; Committee on Blood Transfusions and Allied Problems; Vivisection; Individuals Concerned with the Dept. of Clinical Research and its Various Committees
- Vol. XVII: Graduate Training(1); Historical Data; Committees Appointed; American Surgical Association; American Medical Association & American College of Physicians; Minimum Standard; American Board of Surgery; Surveys; Publications; Department of Graduate Training; First approval list
- Vol. XVIII: Graduate Training (2): Cooperation; Publications; War Years; Fund Raising; Expanded Program; AMA - ACP - Boards; Scholarships; Approved Lists; Individuals Concerned; Fundamental Principles
- Vol. XIX: Sectional Meetings: Historical 1919-54; Operative Clinics; Community Health Meetings; Technical Exhibits; Forum; Objectives; War Sessions; Counseling Committees; Meetings Abroad; Recapitulation; Individuals Concerned
- Vol. XX: Motion Pictures: Historical; Eastman Kodak Co.; ACS Produced Films; AMA & Motion Pictures; U.S. Government Cooperation; Films - Other Countries; Johnson & Johnson; Davis and Geck; Becton, Dickinson; Surveys, Reviews, Awards, Cine Clinics; Guiding Principles; Approved Lists; Committees
- Vol. XXI: Medical Economics: Historical; Medical Service Board; ACS Interest; Blue Cross-Blue Shield; AMA - AHA-Catholic Hospital Association.; Joint Meeting, AMA-ACS; USA vs. AMA; ACS Guiding

Principles; Storm Loosed - AMA; Socialized Medicine; AMA Adopts Program, asks ACS support; New ACS Committee

- Vol. XXII: Public Relations: General Statement; Chronology; Radio Programs; Special Articles; Committees; Individuals Concerned; Fee-Splitting. Publications, ACS: Directory; Bulletin; Miscellaneous publications
- Vol. XXIII: Officers; Regents; Governors; Administrators; Committees; Advisory Councils; Insurance Programs; Scholarship Funds
- Volume XXIV: World War I: Volunteer Medical Service Corps; Doctor Franklin H, Martin; Gorgas Memorial; Cary T. Grayson
- Volume XXIV-A: World War II
- Volume XXV: ACS & Specialty Boards: Development of the Boards; Endowment Fund, 1914-1953; Fund Raising: Proposal – Grunow; Proposed \$5-\$10 Million Campaign; Permanent Home: Murphy Memorial; 650-660 Rush Street; S.E. Corner of Erie and Wabash; Fees and Dues, Finances, 1913-1955; Bequests and Gifts (to come)
- Volume XXVI: Library and Department of Literary Research: John Crerar Library, Cooperation with; Gifts: Orr Collection; Portraits and Bookplates; "Hospital Medical Library:" Minimum Standard; Bibliography of Blood Banks; Bibliography of War Medicine and Surgery; Mrs. Martin's Scrapbooks; Bibliography of Graduate Training; World Events, 1905, 1910, and 1913 (to come)
- Volume XXVII: Interview by Greer Williams with Doctor Rudolph Matas, New Orleans

B. Carbon copy set (XXVII volumes in 20 binders) (48 linear inches)

This set is not identical in content to the original typescript set. It does not include all of the supplementary materials. The volume numbers and headings are the same, but because there is less material, it is filed into fewer binders.

Binder list

(volume headings are the same as those given for original typescript set above):

- Vol. I
- Vol. II
- Vol. III
- Vol. IV
- Vol. V
- Vol. VI (Carbon copy does not include Reel 31 pgs. 1a-1c)
- Vol. VII
- Vol. VIII
- Vol. IX
- Vol. X
- Vol. XI
- Vol. XII
- Vol. XIII
- Vols. XIV, XV, XVI
- Vols. XVII, XIII
- Vols. XIV, XV, XVI
- Vols. XVII, XVIII
- Vols. XIX, XX, XXI
- Vols. XXII, XXIII
- Vols. XXIV, XXIV-A
- Vols. XXV, XXVI, XXVII

III. Transcripts of individual reels of the wire recordings bound in report covers (4 boxes) (21 inches)

BOX 1

- Vol. I, Reels 1-5
- Vol. II, Reels 5-10
- Vol. III, Reels 10-11
- Vol. IV, Reels 12-21
- Vol. V, Reels 21-27
- Vol. VI, Reels 28-31
- Vol. VI, Reels 32-40
- Vol. VII, Reels 40-A, 41-47, X-1, X-2, X-3
- Vol. VII, Reels 40-A, X-1, X-2, X-3
- Vol. VIII, Reels A1-A10

BOX 2

- Vols. IX through XIIa, Reels B1 -B12 (2 copies)
- Vols. IX through XIIb, Reels B13-B14 (2 copies)
- Vols. IX through XIIc, Reels B15-B17 (2 copies)
- Vols. IX through XII d, Reels B18-B20 (2 copies)
- Vols. IX through XIIe, Reels, B21-B24 (2 copies)
- Vols. XIII, Reels A1-A10 (2 copies)
- Vols. XIII, Reels C1-C8 (3 copies)

BOX 3

- Vol. XIV, Reels D1-D3 (3 copies)
- Vol. XV, Reels E1-E2 (3 copies)
- Vol. XVI, Reels F1-F3 (3 copies)
- Vol. XVII-XVIII, G1-G4, G5-G10 (3 copies)
- Vol. XIX, Reels H1-H2 (2 copies)

BOX 4

- Vol. XX, Reels I1-I3 (2 copies)
- Vol. XXI, Reels K1-K3
- Vol. XXII, Reels M1-M2 (2 copies)
- Vol. XXIII, Reels N1a, N1b, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U
- Vol. XXIII, Reels N1a, N1b, O, P, Q
- Vol. XXIII, Reels R, S, T, U
- Vol. XXIV, Reel W, p.1-26
- Vol. XXIV-A, Reel W, p.1-41
- Vol. XXIV-A, Reel W, p. 27-41
- Vol. XXV, Reels L1-L6 (2 copies)
- Vol. XXV, Reels L5-L6
- Vol. XXVI, Reels J1-J2 (2 copies)
- Vol. XXVII, Reels 1-2

IV. ACS History (6 inches)

Binder list:

- Carbon A includes an additional untitled piece about the College (seven chapters on 11 unnumbered leaves)
- Carbon B same as Carbon A
- Carbon C lacks pages for Reels 5, 6 and 7

V. Index to the Notebooks (5 inches)

1 BOX

-- Index (9 copies)

VI. Reference photocopies of excerpts from the Notebooks (5 binders) (17.5 inches)

A. Hospital Standardization photocopy

-- Vol. IX

-- Vol. X

-- Vol. XI

-- Vol. XII

B. ACS History

-- Photocopy of ACS History carbon C

Physical Condition

I. Correspondence related to the creation of the Notebooks: Fair.

II. The Notebooks: Fair. Binders and pages of all volumes were given deacidification treatment by a professional conservator to halt the deterioration of the paper. This process, however, does not restore strength to paper already weakened over time. The weight of publications and excerpts from publications stapled to some pages is causing hole punches to tear and pages to loosen. Care should be used in handling the contents and turning the pages.

III. Transcripts of individual reels of the wire recordings: Fair.

IV. ACS History: Fair.

V. Index: Fair.

VI. Reference photocopies of excerpts: Good.

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