

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. A member of the Administrative Board as Administrative Executive and Secretary to the Board

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

In April 1953, the Board of Regents authorized the preparation of a history of the College. EKG was engaged to work on it with Greer Williams. She was to collect, compile, and edit the material. Williams would base his written history. She spent the summer in Chicago doing research at her home in Florida the rest of the year.

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

To prepare the background material for the history, Miss Grimm recorded her own recollections. (Some of Grimm's notes were recorded have been lost or destroyed.) The typescript notes, along with supplementary materials and placed into green cloth-covered 3-ring binders, and a second set for a carbon copy. EKG also created an alphabetical index of the work.

On July 15, 1955, Greer Williams left the College to continue his career as a

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 ex

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; Committ

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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