

Churchill, Edward Delos 1895-1972

Papers, 1928-1963

MC14

0.67 cubic ft in 2 manuscript boxes

Accession Number: 2011-13

Processed: 2011

By Christine Moynihan and Jeff Mifflin

Acquisition: The papers were transferred by Suzanne Williams
of the Surgery Department on August 25 2011

Copyright: Requests to publish materials from the collection should be directed to the Archivist and
Curator of Special Collections

Biographical Note.

Edward Delos Churchill was born in Chenoa, Illinois in 1895. He received a Bachelors Degree from Northwestern University in 1916; and a Masters degree from Northwestern the following year.

Dr. Churchill graduated cum laude from Harvard Medical School in 1920. After graduating from Harvard he was: appointed Instructor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School in 1924; he was awarded the Moseley Traveling Fellowship for 1927-1927; he was appointed Associate Professor of Surgery in 1928; and he was named John Homans Professor of Surgery, Emeritus in 1931.

Dr. Churchill held a progression of positions at Massachusetts General Hospital. His appointments at MGH include: Intern in West Surgical Service, October 1, 1920-June 30, 1922; Resident Surgeon in West and East Surgical Services, July 1, 1922-September 1923; Dalton Scholarship, 1924-1925; Assistant in Surgery, May 29, 1924-February 3, 1925; Assistant Surgeon to Outpatient Department, February 4, 1925-January 7 1926; Associate in Surgery, January 8, 1926-January 20, 1927; Assistant Visiting Surgeon, January 21, 1927-September 28, 1928 (resigned); Associate Surgeon, March 20, 1930-April 16, 1931; Chief of West Surgical Service, April 17, 1931- March 26, 1948; Chief of General Surgical Services, March 26, 1948-July 1, 1962; and Board of Consultation, July 1, 1962. He retired from MGH on July 1, 1962.

Dr. Churchill served in the Military from 1942-1948. His military service included: Colonel, Medical Corps, AUS ; Consultant in Surgery NATO; Consultant in Surgery MTO; Senior Civilian Consultant to Surgeon General in Thoracic Surgery; Advisory Committee to the Secretary of War; Advisory Committee to the Secretary of Defense; NRC Committee on Surgery; NRC Committee on Burns; and NRC Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Dr. Churchill died on September 2, 1972 in Strafford, Vermont.

Series Descriptions

The Edward Delos Churchill Collection consists of 6 series. The collection contains: administrative material pertaining to Dr. Churchill's work at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School; a humorous song written about Dr. Churchill; transcribed Harvard Medical School lectures; hand-corrected drafts of speeches and papers; printed material used as an information file by Dr. Churchill; and correspondence and contact information for visiting surgeons, including a notebook listing dates of visit. The collection also contains photographs. Photos of special interest include: a group photo from the Semi-Centennial of Anesthesia, October 16, 1896 with an identification key on back; photos of Dr. Churchill in surgery; and photos from Dr. Churchill's time in military service. The collection does not contain any surgery case files or patient material.

Series I. Biographical Information

Series I. contains information on Dr. Churchill's career development, including the name and dates of attendance for his High School, College, and Medical School education; dates of his MGH and Harvard Medical School appointments; dates of his military service; and a brief description of honors that he received.

Series II. Correspondence, 1928-1962

Series II. contains handwritten and typed correspondence. The two main groups of correspondence consist of doctors responding to speeches that Dr. Churchill had presented, and of Dr. Churchill's office interacting with foreign surgeons before and after their informational visits to MGH. Of note also is correspondence between Dr. Churchill and the National Research Council from 1949-1950 regarding Dr. Churchill's resignation as Chairman of the Committee on Surgery, and his related resignation of membership from the Committee on Veterans Medical Problems.

Series III. Lectures and Speeches, 1942-1961

Series III. consists of a collection of speeches and lectures. The collection has: a transcribed Third Year Harvard Medical School Lecture on Primary Tumors of the Lung from 1942; "Pains in the Background, or How Unintelligent Can We Get" Presidential Address Read by Title at the Meeting of the Society of Clinical Surgery in 1949; remarks during a second-year Harvard Medical School clinic conducted by Dr. Churchill in 1956; and "Medical Wants and Needs in Mature and Developing Nations" in 1961. Also contained within this collection are editorials and writing about the purpose of education in surgery.

Series IV. General Files, 1941-1963

Series IV. contains general files related to Dr. Churchill's administrative work overseeing various departments of Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School. Also included are an information file, and an undated, anonymous song about Dr. Churchill's life and surgical career.

Series V. Visiting Surgeons, 1934-1962

Series V. contains administrative material about doctors traveling to MGH from outside the United States. The goal of the Visiting Surgeons was to meet with the doctors at MGH and gain current information about surgical research and techniques of the time. Included in this series is: a Visiting Surgeons Notebook 1949-1953; a file of information kept by Ruth Meehan, secretary for Dr. Churchill; and a file titled Visiting Surgeons: Club Ambroise Paré and Club Jean-Louis Faure. The Club Ambroise Paré and the Club Jean-Louis Faure were clubs of surgeons from France who traveled together to visit hospitals, according to a letter in the file from Dr. André Monsaingeon of Paris, dated 1960. The file includes a list of surgeons who traveled from France to Boston as a part of the Club Jean-Louis Faure in 1960 to visit hospitals in Boston, including Massachusetts General Hospital.

Series VI. Photographs

Series VI. includes a selection of departmental, historical, family, Massachusetts General Hospital, military, surgical, and unidentified photographs. Most of the photos are undated. Included are historical photographs are of the Semi-Centennial of Anesthesia, October 16, 1896. The family photographs appear to span a range from the early 1900s to the 1960s.

Scope and Content Note

The collection contains information about the travel, living arrangements, and visit schedules for the Visiting Surgeon program at Massachusetts General Hospital. The Visiting Surgeon material can be found in Series II. Correspondence, and Series V. Visiting Surgeons.

The publications in this collection are not a comprehensive sampling of the over 100 publications of Dr. Churchill. The speeches included in this collection, such as "Medical Wants and Needs in Mature and Developing Nations", "Pains in the Background", and "After Dinner Talk to the New England and New York Society of Neurosurgeons", tend to reflect on the state of medicine at the time, rather than describe procedures conducted by Dr.Churchill.

Letters from doctors requesting copies of Dr. Churchill's popular Presidential Address to the Society of Clinical Surgery "Pains in the Background", read on November 4, 1949, can be found in Series II. Correspondence; a typed copy of the Address can be found in Series III. Lectures and Speeches.

Information about Dr. Churchill's affiliation with Harvard Medical School, including lectures in a clinical setting, can be found in Series I. Biographical Information; Series III. Lectures and Speeches; and Series IV. General Files.

Departmental information and general information describing Dr. Churchill's administrative experience at Massachusetts General Hospital during the 1940s -1960s can be found in Series II. Correspondence; Series VI. Photographs; and Series IV. General Files.

Material related to Dr. Churchill's family can be found in Series VI. Photographs. A small amount of information about family matters can also be found in Series II. Correspondence.

Related Collections:

For more information about Dr. Edward D. Churchill, see: The Edward Delos Churchill Papers, 1840-1973. HMS c62. Harvard Medical Library, Center for the History of Medicine, Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine, Boson, Mass. Information in the collection includes correspondence, confidential war reports, and personal papers resulting from Churchill's tenure as John Homans Professor at Harvard Medical School and as Chief of Surgical Services at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. Also see: Massachusetts General Hospital Archives and Special Collections Edward D. Churchill Biographical file; and Massachusetts General Hospital Archives and Special Collection, AC26 Edward D. Churchill (Compiler) Time Capsule Predictions Submitted by MGH Staff, 1961.

Processing Note:

The Edward D. Churchill Collection was taken from a large, unorganized box. Loose papers were taken from the box, organized and placed in archival quality folders. Anything in a pre-existing folder was re-housed in an archival folder. Staples, paperclips, and rusty notebook binders were removed from papers. Blank post-it notes were removed from the back of photographs, and the photos were interleaved with archival quality paper. Slides were moved into acid neutral sleeves.

Folder List

Series I. Biographical Information

Biographical Curriculum Vitae

Series II. Correspondence, 1928-1962

Alvarez, Arthur T., Dec 22, 1959

Austria, Gonzalo F., June 15, 1945

Barker St. John, Fordyce, Nov. 2, 1949

Berry, George P., December 21, 1949

Boyd, Athol, February 26, 1960

Brea, Mario, April 6, 1961

Calmenson, Leo, September 20, 1962

Cendron, Jean, September 1, 1960

Churchill, Edward D., August 18, 1928

Faxon, January 3, 1944

Forster, E., September 9, 1960

Gray, Howard, November 9, 1949

Harvey, Samuel, November 29, 1949

Hershey, Falls B., May 11, 1962

Lambert, Robert A., September 9, 1949

Latreille, Rene, n.d.

Lanman, Thomas H. November 26, 1949

Lawrie, Rex, January 31, 1961

Martinez Zamudio, Rafael, March 13, 1961

Meehan, Ruth, August 14, 1956

Moore, Robert M., December 1, 1949

National Research Council, 1949-1950

Rienhoff Jr., William F., May 15, 1950

Rodman, J. Stewart, December 6, 1949

Scarff, John E. December 9, 1957

Traeger, J., February 25, 1960

Whipple, Allen O., November 11, 1949

Womack, Nathan A., December 28, 1949

Yee, Sam, October 6, 1934

Series III. Lectures and Speeches, 1942-1961

"After Dinner Talk to the New England and New York Society of Neurosurgeons" Academy of the Arts and Sciences, Boston, November 22, 1957

"General Education in Surgery" Editorial, Annals of Surgery Reprint, Vol. 144, No. 3, September 1956

"General Surgery" Editorial, Annals of Surgery Reprint, Vol. 131, No. 1, January 1950

Lectures (to be transcribed) October 7, 1942

"Medical Wants and Needs in Mature and Developing Nations" Address for the Harvard Foundation for Advanced Study and Research, Harvard University, June 14, 1961

"Pains in the Background, or How Unintelligent Can We Get?" Presidential Address, Meeting of the Society of Clinical Surgery, Boston, MA, November 4, 1949

"Re: Meeting of Committee of Professors Discussion", March 23, 1950

"Transcript of remarks made during a clinic conducted by Dr. Churchill" February 25, 1956

"Untitled Lecture" n.d.

Series IV. General Files, 1941-1963

Harvard Medical School, 1951-1962

Information File, 1941-1963

Medical Conventions, 1963

Humorous Song, Author Unidentified, n.d.

Series V. Visiting Surgeons, 1934-1962

Visiting Surgeons File, 1934-1962

Visiting Surgeons Notebook, 1949-1953

Visiting Surgeons, Club Ambrose Paré and Club Jean-Louis Faure, 1947-1952

Series VI., Photographs

Departmental Photos, n.d.

Family Photos, n.d.

MGH Photos, n.d.

Military Photos, n.d.

Porter, CA, Negatives of Sargeant Sketch, n.d.

Semi-Centennial of Anesthesia, October 16, 1896

Surgical Photos, n.d.

