

MC19

Joe Vincent Meigs III, MD, Papers

3 c.f. in 3 containers (2 records cartons and 1 flat box)

Accession #: 2012-7

Processed by: Olivia Mandica-Hart, Christine Moynihan, and Jeff Mifflin, 2012, 2013, 2016

Acquisition: The papers were transferred to the MGH Archives by Suzy McGrail (Vincent Memorial Hospital) on March 22, 2012.

Copyright: Requests to publish materials from the collection should be directed to the MGH Archivist, who can provide further information.

Restrictions: Films showing medical procedures may be subject to restricted access under HIPAA. Consult the MGH Archivist for further information.

Biographical Note:

Dr. Joe Vincent Meigs III (JVM) was born on October 24, 1892, in Lowell, Massachusetts, where his father, Joe Vincent Meigs, was a surgeon. His grandfather, Dr. Josiah Vincent Meigs, was the inventor of the one-track railroad. JVM received an A.B. from Princeton University in 1915 and an M.D. from Harvard Medical School in 1919. In 1921 he married Elizabeth Wallace.

JVM's appointments at the MGH included: Assistant Surgeon to Out-patients, 1922-1927; Surgeon to Out-patients, 1927-1935; Assistant Visiting Surgeon, 1935-1938; Visiting Surgeon, 1938-1941; Chief of the Gynecological Service, 1941-1955; Consulting Visiting Surgeon, 1955-1959; Member of the Board of Consultation, 1959-1963; and Honorary Surgeon, 1963. He was part of the first Gynecological Tumor Clinic at the MGH and was the first man to receive the title of Chief of Staff of the Vincent Memorial Hospital (in 1931), where he served from 1930 to 1955. The Vincent joined the MGH in 1946, functioning as its Gynecological Service. JVM retired as Chief of the Gynecological Service on June 30, 1955.

JVM was an honorary member of many professional societies around the world. He was the author or editor of six books and authored more than 150 articles. The "Meigs Syndrome" (a benign tumor of the ovaries) is named after him. In 1962 Harvard University established the Joe Vincent Meigs Professorship in Gynecology in honor of JVM.

JVM died on October 24, 1963, while returning from a speaking engagement in Rochester, N.Y., to his home in Boston. He was 71 years old.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection consists of six series, containing the following types of material: awards, certificates, honorary degrees, and other documents pertaining to society membership and professional recognition; material pertaining to Vincent Memorial Hospital and Harvard Medical School; documents related to the Joe Vincent Meigs Fund; photographs; newspaper clippings about JVM or related to his activities; correspondence; letters from former students; materials regarding the Meigs family; and films.

The collection does not contain any case files or other protected patient information (with the possible exception of films depicting medical procedures, which have not at this point been screened).

Processing Note:

A large quantity of framed certificates, honorary degrees, etc., were removed from their frames and inserted into or interleaved with Mylar as a space saving and preservation measure in accordance with standard archival practices. Newspaper clippings in various locations in the collection should in the future be photocopied onto acid-neutral paper. Loose materials were re-folded into acid-neutral folders, and all materials were re-housed in acid-neutral boxes.

Series Descriptions:

Series I. Biographical

The series contains information about JVM's career development, including his high school, college, and medical school education; MGH and HMS appointments; and a brief description of honors received. Some information about the history of the Meigs family is also included.

Series II. General Files, 1954-1964

Series II contains photographs, newspaper clippings, speeches, book reviews, articles, and correspondence related to JVM's activities at Princeton University, Harvard Medical School, and the Vincent Memorial Hospital, as well as the MGH.

Series III. Memberships, Awards, Certificates, Honorary Degrees, 1918-1959

Series III consists primarily of awards, certificates, honorary degrees, and similar documents that JVM received from professional societies or educational institutions.

Series IV. Correspondence, 1963

Series IV includes some handwritten and typed correspondence pertaining to JVM or his activities. The bulk of the material consists of condolence letters and telegrams sent after JVM's death in 1963.

Series V. Photographs

Series V includes portraits of JVM, group portraits of committees on which JVM sat, and photos of JVM at various events.

Series VI. Films

The series contains three films. At least one of the films illustrates medical procedures. The others have not yet been identified.

Box and Folder List:

Box 1

Series I. Biographical

Materials pertaining to Meigs family history, 1928-1960

Series II. General Files, 1954-1964

"As We Turn Our Memories Back, First Issue," Princeton Alumni (Class of 1915), n.d.

"Better Health in the Years Ahead; A Plan to Assure the Nation's Primary Medical Resource," 1957

Binder of assorted materials (photographs, clippings, correspondence, etc.), ca. 1955-1957

"Books by Members of the Class of 1915," 1967

Book notices and book reviews for *Tumors of the Pelvic Organs*, ca. 1935

"The Cancer Bulletin," August 1958

Commencement address, Lowell General Hospital School of Nursing, 1959

"Controlled Human Fertility and its Importance to Health in India" (speech, 1959)

Harvard Medical Alumni Bulletin, Christmas, 1963

Harvard Medical School, administrative material, 1959-1964

Harvard University Memorial Minute and related materials, 1954-1964

"J.V.M." (binder containing personal and work-related photographs), ca. 1953-1955, and n.d.

Joe Vincent Meigs Fund, ca. 1956-1961

"The Library at the Heart of Harvard Medical Center," 1957

"Meigs Syndrome" (article reprinted from *Spectrum*), with related material, 1955

MGH Executive Committee Report, March 22, 1962

Newspaper Clippings, 1940-1963

Northwestern University Medical School Centennial Celebration, September 29, 1959

Park East: The Magazine of New York, April 1952

“Princeton Alumni Weekly” vol. lx, no. 6 (October 23, 1959)

“To Dr. Meigs from his Residents” (binder with photos and letters from students), ca. 1949-1953

Series III. Memberships, Awards, Certificates, Honorary Degrees, 1918-1959

American College of Surgeons, Credential Committee Meeting, notes, 1962

American College of Surgeons, memorial certificate, n.d.

American Medical Association Health Education Program Certificate for TV Film “The Living Proof,” 1956

Eastern Surgical Society, medal, 1931

Medallion honoring JVM, presented to his widow by the Society of Pelvic Surgeons, 1975
(photographic reproduction)

Joe Vincent Meigs Conference Room, Vincent Memorial Hospital (photograph of sign), n.d.

“History and Rosters of the American Gynecological Club,” 1962

Box 2

Lowell Technological Institute, Honorary Doctor of Science, diploma and programs, 1960

Miscellaneous, association and membership materials, 1953-1960

Northwestern University, Honorary Doctor of Science, diploma, 1959

Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Honorary Fellowship and related materials, 1949-1960 (1 of 2)

Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Honorary Fellowship and related materials, 1949-1960 (2 of 2)

Transactions of the American Gynecological Society, vol. 87 (1964)

Series IV. Correspondence, 1963

Condolence letters (handwritten and typed), ca. 1963

Condolence telegrams, ca. 1963

Mixed condolences and death notices, ca. 1963

Series V. Photographs, n.d.

Various photographs saved by JVM

Series VI. Films

“Radical Hysterectomy and Bilateral Lymph Node Dissection,” n.d. (16 mm, reel to reel)

Unidentified footage, n.d. (16 mm, reel to reel)

Unidentified footage, n.d. (16 mm, reel to reel)

Box 3 [Oversized Materials]

Series III. Memberships, Awards, Certificates, Honorary Degrees (*continued*)

American Surgical Society, n.d.

Collegium Regium Chirurgorum Edinese, n.d.

[Greek Certificate], n.d.

La Societe Francaise de Gynecologie, Membre Correspondant, n.d.

Universitatis Studiorum Taurinensis, n.d.

Unidentified photograph of formal dinner party with signatures, n.d.

The Aesculapian Club, 1 December 1918

Harvard Medical School, Class of 1919 photograph

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine, 13 March 1919

The Massachusetts Medical Society Certificate of Membership, 6 May 1920

American College of Surgeons, 29 October 1926

New England Obstetrical and Gynecological Society, April 1930

New England Surgical Society, 1 October 1932

American Association of Obstetricians, Gynecologists, and Abdominal Surgeons, 1935

Massachusetts Medical Service, 1 November 1942

Academy International of Medicine, 1944

The American Society for the Study of Sterility, 22 June 1948

Edinburgh Obstetrical Society Honorary Fellow Certificate, November 1949

Sociedad de Obstetricia y Ginecologia de Buenos Aires, 13 April 1950

Miami Obstertrical and Gynecological Society, 12 March 1953

Dr. Rudolph Matas poster, *The Heart Bulletin*, November-December 1953

Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists Honorary Fellow, 13 July 1954

Societas Medicorum Sverana, 1954

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 9 May 1956

American Cancer Society, Inc., 1958

(German Gynecological Society), 9 December 1958

James IV Surgical Association, 5 February 1959

Reno Surgical Society, 21 August 1959

American Gynecological Club, 50th Anniversary Meeting photograph, November 8,9,19, 1962