

[Archives & Special Collections, Columbia University Health Sciences Library](#)

[George F. Crikelair collection](#)

CRIKELAIR, GEORGE F., 1921-2005, collector.

George F. Crikelair collection of Information Council on Fabric Flammability publications, 1967-1975.

.66 cubic feet (2 boxes)

M-0043

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: George F. Crikelair, plastic surgeon, was born in Green Bay, Wisconsin. He graduated from St. Norbert College and received his medical degree in 1944 from the University of Wisconsin.

He arrived at the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in 1952, and by 1960 was named professor of clinical surgery, a position he held until his retirement in 1977. He directed the plastic surgery service at Presbyterian Hospital from 1959 to 1977 and was affiliated with Harlem Hospital and Francis Delafield Hospital.

Crikelair served as chair of the American Board of Plastic Surgery (1970-1971); president of the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons (1971); and was a founder of the Information Council on Fabric Flammability (1967).

He died in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, of a stroke, on February 24, 2005.

HISTORICAL NOTE: The Information Council on Fabric Flammability was founded by George F. Crikelair, a plastic surgeon affiliated with Columbia University, in 1967.

Crikelair founded the organization after becoming interested in burn prevention after treating numerous children with severe burns. With Fritz Agate, a burn expert at Columbia, he conducted experiments that supported the existence of a causal connection between nightwear made with untreated fabrics and severe burns in children.

Based on these observations Crikelair was invited to speak at Senate hearings on the subject, and also appointed to the Consumer Product Safety Committee. This national advisory committee drafted and promoted the federal Flammable Fabrics Act, which was ratified in 1972 and set safety standards for certain fabrics.

He also was instrumental in getting prevention included as part of the mission of the American Burn Association, and started a prevention section with the organization.

SCOPE & CONTENT: Letters from George F. Crikelair to presidents of the Babies Hospital Alumni Association regarding the founding of the Information Council on Fabric Flammability (ICFF) and publications of the ICFF, including annual meeting programs and proceedings.

ARRANGEMENT/ORGANIZATION: The collection has been divided into two series: I. Correspondence and pamphlets; II. Bound volumes.

SERIES I. CORRESPONDENCE AND PAMPHLETS

BOX 1

Two copies of a letter from Crikelair to presidents of the Babies Hospital Alumni Association, detailing the history of the founding of the Information Council on Fabric Flammability.

SERIES II. BOUND VOLUMES

BOX 1-2

Bound copies of the proceedings of meetings of the Information Council on Fabric Flammability. 1967-1975, and related materials.

LANGUAGE: English.

ACCESS: These records are open for research without restriction.

PROVENANCE: Gift of George Crikelair to the Babies Hospital Alumni Association, 1985. Transferred to the Archives with the Babies Hospital Alumni Association records in 2009. (Accession # 2009.12.03)

RELATED COLLECTIONS:

[Babies Hospital Historical Collection](#). Series X: Oversize, includes Conference on Burns and Flame Retardant Fabric, 1966

PROCESSING NOTE:

Separated from the Babies Hospital Alumni Association Records collection, arranged and finding aid written by Jennifer McGillan, October 2013. Title revised by Jennifer Ulrich 2022.

SUBJECTS

Crikelair, George F.

Agate, Fritz.

Babies Hospital Alumni Association.

Information Council on Fabric Flammability.

Information Council on Fabric Flammability. Meeting.

Burns and scalds in children.

Burns and scalds in children--Law and legislation--United States.

Burns and scalds--Prevention.

Burns and scalds—Research.

**George Crikelair International Council on Fabric Flammability Publications.
1967-1998.**

Box Folder

SERIES I: CORRESPONDENCE AND PROGRAMS

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| 1 | 1 | Letters, Crikelair, George, to presidents of the Babies Hospital Alumni Association, re: founding Information Council on Fabric Flammability, 1985, 1998 |
| | 2 | Program, Conference on Burns and Flame Retardant Fabrics, 12/2-3/1966 |
| | 3 | Programs, Annual Meetings of the Information Council on Fabric Flammability, 1967-1968 |

SERIES II: BOUND VOLUMES

"Conference on Burns and Flame Retardant Fabric," *Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine*, v. 43, no. 8, August 1967

Crikelair, G.K. et al, *Textile Flammability and Consumer Safety*, Gottlieb Duttweiler Institute for Economic and Social Studies: Rüslikon-Zurich, 1969

Proceedings of First Annual Meeting, Information Council on Fabric Flammability, Hotel Commodore, New York City, December 14, 1967

Proceedings of Second Annual Meeting, Information Council on Fabric Flammability, Hotel Commodore, New York City, December 3, 1968

Proceedings of the Third Annual Meeting, Information Council on Fabric Flammability, Hotel Commodore, New York City, December 4, 1969

Proceedings of the Fourth Annual Meeting, Information Council on Fabric Flammability, Hotel Commodore, New York City, December 3, 1970

Proceedings of the Fifth Annual Meeting, Information Council on Fabric Flammability, Hotel Commodore, New York City, December 9, 1971

Proceedings of the Sixth Annual Meeting, Information Council on Fabric Flammability, Hotel Commodore, New York City, December 7, 1972

Proceedings of the Seventh Annual Meeting, Information Council on Fabric Flammability, Hotel Commodore, New York City, December 5, 1973

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| 2 | <i>Proceedings of the Eighth Annual Meeting</i> , Information Council on Fabric Flammability, Hotel Commodore, New York City, December 5, 1974 |
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Proceedings of the Ninth Annual Meeting, Information Council on Fabric Flammability,
Hotel Commodore, New York City, December 11, 1975