

Archives & Special Collections, Columbia University Health Sciences Library

William John Gies Collection

GIES, WILLIAM JOHN, 1872-1956.

William J. Gies collection, 1864-1958.

.5 cubic feet (2 boxes)

#M-0075

SUMMARY: Correspondence, photographs, newspaper clippings, reprints, and memorabilia documenting the life of William J. Gies, biochemist, dental educator, and one of the founders of the Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery

BIOGRAPHICAL TIMELINE:

1872	Born in Reisterstown, Maryland, February 21.
1888	Graduated from Manheim High School, Manheim, Pennsylvania.
1893	B.S., Gettysburg College.
1894	B.Ph., Yale University.
1896	M.S., Gettysburg College.
1897	Ph.D. in biochemistry, Yale University.
1898	Instructor, College of Physicians & Surgeons, Columbia University.
1899	Married Mabel L. Lark (3 sons, 1 daughter). Studied in Switzerland.
1901	Founded department of physiological chemistry (biochemistry) at the College of Physicians & Surgeons, the first to be created in an American medical school.
1905	Created medical section of American Association for the Advancement of Science. Professor of Biochemistry, College of Physicians & Surgeons, Columbia University.
1905-21	Secretary of the Faculty, College of Physicians & Surgeons.
1909	Began dental research at request of Dr. Arthur Merritt.
1916	Member, Committee for a Columbia University Dental School.
1917-22	Secretary, Administrative Board, School of Dental and Oral Surgery.
1919-36	Founding editor of <i>Journal of Dental Research</i> . Founder of International Association of Dental Research.
1921-26	Conducted study on dental education in the U.S. and Canada for the Carnegie Corporation.
1923	Organized American Association of Dental Schools.
1926	Publication of <i>Dental Education in the United States and Canada</i> by the Carnegie Corporation
1937	Retired from Columbia faculty.
1956	Died, Lancaster, Penn., May 20.

Author/co-author of over six hundred articles and eight books.

SCOPE AND CONTENT: This is a created collection of material documenting the life of William J. Gies. Included are his birth and baptismal certificate; many magazine and newspaper clippings; photographs from

throughout his life; and a small amount of correspondence. As additional material is received, it will be added to the collection.

RELATED COLLECTIONS: Gies correspondence may be found in the William B. Dunning Papers; in the School of Dental and Oral Surgery Records, 1892-1976; and in the SDOS Historical Collection, 1892-1989. The Vice President for Health Sciences' Central Records have considerable Gies correspondence in the files on the department of biochemistry and the SDOS. In addition, a ten volume set of photocopies of Gies' collected scientific articles, 1895-1952, is held in the Archives & Special Collections "M-Collection." Other works of Gies can be found in both the circulating collection of the Health Sciences Library and in Archives & Special Collections.

PROVENANCE: Gifts from several donors including members of the Gies family. The collection originally formed part of the "William J. Gies Collection in the History of Dentistry," an amalgam of William B. Dunning papers, Gies memorabilia, SDOS records, and records relating to SDOS that had been removed from the Central Records of the Office of the Vice President for Health Sciences. With the accession of the complete Central Records of the Vice President in 1993 by Archives and Special Collections, Vice President's records in the "Gies Collection" were returned to Central Records and the remainder of the Collection was reorganized into its component parts.

Collection processed and finding written by Stephen E. Novak, 2001. Processing of the collection was made possible through generous funding by the William J. Gies Foundation.

SUBJECTS

Gies, William John, 1872-1956.
Columbia University. School of Dental and Oral Surgery.
Dentistry – Study and teaching – United States.
Education, Dental – New York City.

**William John Gies.
Papers, 1870-1958.**

Box Folder

1

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| 1 | Birth and baptismal certificate, 1872; confirmation certificate, 1890 |
| 2 | Biographical material: largely newspaper and magazine clippings, 1870, 1920s-1950s |
| 3 | Correspondence, 1927-1948 (with gaps) |
| 4 | "The Findings of the Carnegie Foundation's Survey of Dental Education": typescript of Gies address to the New York Academy of Dentistry, no date, but c. 1926 |
| 5 | <i>Journal of Dental Research</i> : prospectus, 1919; appeals for donations to endowment fund, 1924, 1936 |
| 6 | William J. Gies Foundation: correspondence, press releases, 1958 |
| 7 | Writings, articles, 1890s-1940s |
| 8 | Letter from Lafayette Mendel recommending Gies to E. Roos of the University of Freiburg, Germany, May 20, 1899 |
| 9-10 | Photographs, 1864-1951 |

Loose in box:

[Physiological chemistry. Laboratory notes for students] Mimeographed volume of laboratory directions for students in Gies' classes on the physiology of nutrition, 1914-1915 edition. This copy bears signature of C. A. Slanetz and is dated March 17, 1921

Dental Caries: Findings and Conclusions on its Causes and Control. (American Dental Association: Advisory Committee for Research in Dental Caries)

Copy of 1st (1939) and 2nd (1941) editions, each with a special presentation page to Gies signed by members of the Committee.

"William John Gies," reprint from *Journal of the American College of Dentists*, v. 4, no. 4 (Dec. 1937)

Box 2 (flat box)

Volume of printed letters to Gies on his 25th anniversary as chairman of the department of biochemistry at Columbia University, 1926. Includes bibliography, 1891-1926.

Guest book from banquet in honor of Gies given by the American College of Dentists, Atlantic City, NJ, July 11, 1937.

Photograph: dinner in honor of Anna Veronica Hughes given by the faculty of the School of Dental & Oral Surgery, Faculty Club, Columbia University, May 26, 1943

Rolled photograph – depiction unknown: conservation required

William John Gies.

Papers, 1870-1958.

Map Case 2-7

Framed testimonial from nine dental organizations presented to Gies at the 17th
Convocation of the American College of Dentists, Atlantic City, NJ, July 11, 1937