

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

[John Kingsley Lattimer Papers](#)

LATTIMER, JOHN K. (JOHN KINGSLEY), 1914-2007.

John Kingsley Lattimer papers, 1931-1996 (bulk 1940-1988).

1.75 cubic feet (6 boxes)

#M-0115

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Urologist and collector. John Kingsley Lattimer was born October 14, 1914 in Mount Clemens, Michigan, and raised in New York City. He received his undergraduate (1935), medical (1938) and Doctor of Medical Science (1943) degrees from Columbia University. After service in the U.S. Army Medical Corps during World War II – during which he was one of the physicians assigned to provide care for the Nazi war criminals at the Nuremberg Trials – Lattimer returned to Columbia. He spent his entire career there and served as Chairman of the Department of Urology, 1955-1980.

Lattimer's most notable scientific achievements were his development of a cure for renal tuberculosis and his role in the creation of pediatric urology. He authored 375 scientific articles and played a leading role in American urology. He was also a renowned collector of historical, military, and medical memorabilia. Lattimer created significant collections relating to Nazi leaders and American presidential assassinations as well as an important collection of armor and arms. He is probably best known for having acquired Napoleon's penis. As a ballistics expert, he was the first nongovernmental physician allowed to examine the evidence from the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

Besides his medical publications, Lattimer was the author of *Kennedy and Lincoln: A Medical and Ballistic Comparison of Their Assassinations* (1980); and *Hitler's Fatal Sickness and Other Secrets of the Nazi Leaders* (1999).

Lattimer died in Teaneck, New Jersey, on May 10, 2007.

ARRANGEMENT: Arranged in four series: I. Correspondence and Subject Files; II. Bound Volumes; III. Professional Meetings; IV. Medals and Oversize Photographs.

SCOPE AND CONTENT: The Lattimer papers include correspondence, photographs, notebooks, drafts of scientific articles and lectures, reprints, and medals. Many of the best-known aspects of his life are not documented here, including his work at the Nuremberg Trials, his involvement with the Kennedy assassination investigations, and his renowned collections of military, medical, and historical memorabilia.

Much of the collection documents Lattimer's role in annual Medieval Festival in Manhattan's Fort Tryon Park of which he was a founder. Included are correspondence, budgets, and photographs. Additionally, there is considerable material relating to his chairmanship of the Department of Urology, largely from the 1970s, and to his role in urology generally including

research notes and programs from scientific meetings. The general correspondence, 1942-1953, 1961-1983, documents a mixture of personal and professional affairs.

LANGUAGE: English.

ACCESS: Because of the presence of Confidential Health Information (CHI) as defined by Columbia University policies governing data security and privacy, access to **Box 1, folders 2 and 12** is allowed only under the terms of Archives and Special Collections' [Access Policy to Records Containing Confidential Health Information](#).

Access to the rolled-up photographs is closed pending conservation work.

PROVENANCE: Gift of Evan Lattimer, daughter, 2015 (accession #2015.002).

RELATED RECORDS: Records relating to Lattimer's tenure as Chairman of the Department of Urology can be found in the [Central Records, Office of the Vice President for Health Science/Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, 1883-2003](#).

Subjects

Lattimer, John K. (John Kingsley), 1914-2007.

Columbia University. Department of Urology.

Historical reenactments.

Urology – United States – 20th century.

Fort Tryon Park (New York, N.Y.)

Ledgers.

Medals.

Notebooks.

Photographs.

Reprints.

Container List

Box	Fo.	Title	Date
Series I: Correspondence & Subject Files			
1	1	American College of Surgeons: Case reports and abstracts submitted for admission to ACS,	1942-1943
1	2	American College of Surgeons: Correspondence,	1940-1942
1	3	Columbia University: Commencement program,	1943
1	4	Correspondence, General,	1942-1948
1	5	Correspondence, General,	1950
1	6	Correspondence, General,	1951
1	7	Correspondence, General,	1952-1953
1	8	Correspondence, General,	1961-1965, 1975, 1981-1983
1	9	Cosman, Madeleine Pelner,	1986
1	10	Drafts of articles, lectures,	undated but circa 1950s?
1	11	Graduation exercises, Officers' Class, Medical Field Service School,	Oct. 7, 1943
1	12	Medical/scientific notes,	undated but circa 1940s?
2	1	Medieval Festival, Fort Tryon Park, Agenda & minutes,	1983-1987
2	2	Medieval Festival, Fort Tryon Park: Budget,	1985-1987
2	3	Medieval Festival, Fort Tryon Park: Correspondence	1974-1983
2	4	Medieval Festival, Fort Tryon Park: Correspondence	1984
2	5	Medieval Festival, Fort Tryon Park: Correspondence	1985
2	6	Medieval Festival, Fort Tryon Park: Correspondence	1986-1988
2	7	Medieval Festival, Fort Tryon Park: Miscellaneous,	1980s
2	8	Medieval Festival, Fort Tryon Park: Personnel & performers	1985-1988
2	9	Medieval Festival, Fort Tryon Park: Press kit,	1984
2	10	Medieval Festival, Fort Tryon Park: Programs,	1979? 1996
2	11	Medieval Festival, Fort Tryon Park: Suggestions,	1983-1985
2	12	Medieval Festival, Fort Tryon Park: Photographs,	1984
2	13	Medieval Festival, Fort Tryon Park: Photographs,	1980s
3	1	Medieval Festival, Fort Tryon Park: Slides	1983
3	2	Photographs: Lattimer at Columbia commencement, 1943; portrait in army uniform, 1940s	
3	3	Presbyterian Hospital: Fragment of script for historical pageant? Meal tickets,	undated

3	4	Department of Urology, Columbia University: Chairman's report,	1977
3	5	Department of Urology, Columbia University: Correspondence,	1961, 1976-1978
3	6	Department of Urology, Columbia University: Documents re: departmental review?	1977
3	7	Department of Urology, Columbia University: Departmental history	1993 & undated
3	8	Department of Urology, Columbia University: "New data relevant to review"	Jan. 20, 1978
3	9	Department of Urology, Columbia University: Progress report,	1976
3	10	Department of Urology, Columbia University: Response to review committee	1973
3	11	Urology reprints (others),	1935-1941

Series II: Bound Volumes

4	1	High school notebooks: Physics, chemistry	1931
4	2	Ledgers	1946-1950
4	3	Medical school notebook: surgery	1930s

Series III: Professional Meetings

4	4	Programs	1950-1952
4	5	Programs	1950-1952
4	6	Programs	1950-1952
5	1	Programs	1952-1953
5	2	Programs	1952-1953
5	3	Programs	1952-1953

Series IV. Medals & Oversize Photographs

Loose in box:			
6		American Association of Genito-Urinary Surgeons, Edward L. Keyes Medal for Contributions to the Advancement of Urology	undated
6		American Geriatrics Society, Edward Henderson Award,	1978
6		American Urological Association, New York Section, 80th Annual Meeting, Copenhagen/Stockholm	1982
6		American Urological Association, New York Section, President's medal [Belgian medal of gratitude to those who liberated her in 1945], 2 copies	1966 1945
6		College of Physicians & Surgeons, Recognition of chairmanship	undated
6		Columbia University, Department of Urology	undated
6		[Commemorative medal, Battle of Saratoga. Obverse: Bust of Horatio Gates; Reverse: Burgoyne surrendering his sword. Bronze?]	18th century?
6		Lattimer Portrait Medal, 5 copies	undated

- 6 New York Academy of Medicine, Ferdinand C. Valentine medal 1983
- 6 Past President, American Urological Association undated
- 6 Past President, Société Internationale d'Urologie undated
- 6 Button: American Urological Association, New York Society, Post Graduate Urological Convention 1950

Two rolled-up oversize photographs:

- 6 36th Officers' Training Battalion, Medical Field Service School, Carlisle Barracks, PA, Sept. 20, 1943 1943
- 6 115th General Hospital, U.S. Army, March 1945 [Harrogate, Yorkshire] 1945