

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

[George R. Merriam, Jr. Papers](#)

MERRIAM, GEORGE R., JR., 1913-2004.

George R. Merriam Jr. papers, 1937-1946.

3.25 cubic feet (4 boxes)

#M-0132

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Ophthalmologist. George R. Merriam, Jr. was born May 22, 1913 in Harrisburg PA, the son of the Rev. George R. Merriam, a Baptist minister. He was educated at Brown (A.B. 1934) and Columbia University (M.D., 1941). His internship at Manhattan's Lenox Hill Hospital was interrupted by the U.S. entry into World War II during which he served in the U.S. Army's 12th Evacuation Hospital in the European Theater of Operations, 1942-1946.

After the war he completed a residency in ophthalmology at the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center. He spent his entire career at Columbia-Presbyterian, serving as chief of the department of ophthalmology's outpatient clinic and director of its surgical service. He became Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology at Columbia University in 1972 and was named a Professor Emeritus at his retirement in 1978. Merriam was a noted expert on the use of radiation in the treatment of diseases of the eye.

Merriam maintained an active practice until 1993. He died in New York City on January 13, 2004.

SCOPE AND CONTENT: Merriam's medical school notebooks, 1937-1941, and papers relating to his service in the U.S. Army Medical Corps during World War II.

The student notebooks appear to be almost complete. Every discipline is represented except for psychiatry – though there is a section on child psychiatry in his pediatrics notebook.

The bulk of the World War II papers consists of his letters to his wife, Martha Carlson Merriam, 1943-1945 and some of her replies. In addition there is a journal he kept in 1943; a notebook on military medicine lectures; clinical material – including two surgical casebooks – and a folder of U.S. Army correspondence and documents. There is also a folder of printed material and another folder of snapshots, largely pictures of his wife.

LANGUAGE: English.

ACCESS: Because the World War II surgical casebooks include Confidential Health Information (CHI) as defined by Columbia University policies governing data security and privacy, access is allowed only under the terms of Archives and Special Collections' [Access Policy to Records Containing Confidential Health Information](#).

PROVENANCE: Gift of the Merriam family via John Merriam, M.D. (son), 2012-2014 (accessions #2012.008, 2012.010, 2013.001, 2014.004).

RELATED COLLECTIONS: Merriam's medical school diploma has been added to the Diploma Collection.

Subjects

Merriam, George R., Jr., 1913-2004.

Columbia University. College of Physicians and Surgeons – Students.

Medical education – United States – 20th century.

Medical students – United States – 20th century.

Medicine – Study and learning – United States – 20th century.

Medicine, Military.

Surgery, Military.

World War, 1939-1945 – Medical care.

United States. Army. Evacuation Hospital, 12th.

Military Medicine.

Diaries.

Notebooks.

Patient records.

Photographs.

Papers processed and finding aid written by Stephen Novak, 2012-2014.

Merriam, George R., Jr.
Papers, 1937-1946.

Box Folder

Series I: General correspondence and World War II papers

- | | | |
|----------|----|---|
| 1 | 1 | Letter from Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons Dean Willard Rappleye regarding Class of 1941 graduation, May 26, 1941 |
| | 2 | Appointment as captain, U.S. Army Medical Corps, 1943 |
| | 3 | Carmarthen (Wales) Canine Society: Program, 1943 |
| | 4 | Letters to his wife while in military service in Europe: original letters and enlarged photocopies of V-Mail, 1943-1945 |
| | 5 | Letters to his wife while in military service: original V-Mail and fragile items
[Not to be used; please use copies in folder 4] |
| | 6 | Letters from Martha Carlson Merriam (wife), 1943-1944 |
| | 7 | Letter to Nancy Merriam (sister), 1944 |
| | 8 | Official correspondence and documents, military service, 1942-1946 |
| | 9 | Journal while stationed in England, 1943 |
| | 10 | Notebook on military medicine lectures, England, 1943 |
| | 11 | Patient list notebook, June 1944 |
| | 12 | Surgical casebooks, June-August, 1943; August, 1944 |
| | 13 | Surgical statistics, Nancy, France, Oct.-Dec. |
| | 14 | Printed material, WWII, U.S. Army, including <i>Pocket Guide to France</i> ; <i>Manual Of Therapy – European Theater of Operations</i> ; <i>Hitler's Nemesis: The 9th Inf. Division</i> ; March 9, 1944 issue of <i>Stars and Stripes</i> , etc. |
| | 15 | Artifacts: captain's bars; other insignia, WWII era |
| | 16 | Photographs, 1940s |

Series II: Medical school notebooks

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|----------|-----|--|
| 2 | 1 | Bacteriology/Neuroanatomy/Neurology, 1937-38 |
| | 2 | Biochemistry/Physiology, 1937-38 |
| | 3-4 | Organic chemistry, 1937 [summer, probably not P&S] |
| | 5 | Clinical notebook, ca.1941 [Lenox Hill Hospital?] |
| | 6 | Histology/Clinical anatomy/Special senses, 1937-38 |
| | 7 | Medicine, 1937-40 |
| 3 | 1 | Medicine, 1939-40 |
| | 2 | Obstetrics/Gynecology, 1940-41 |
| | 3 | Pathology, 1938-39 |

Box Folder

	4	Clinical pathology, 1939
	5	Pediatrics/Child psychiatry, 1939-40
	6	Physical diagnosis/Pharmacology, 1938-40
	7	“Specialities”: Dermatology, Otorhinolaryngology, Neurology, Ophthalmology, 1939-41
4	1-2	Surgery, 1937-40
	3	Sample original notebook binder