

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

[J. Lawrence Pool Papers](#)

POOL, J. LAWRENCE (JAMES LAWRENCE), 1906-2004.

J. Lawrence Pool papers, 1813-2002.

.75 cubic feet (2 boxes, 8 folders)

#M-0153

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: J. Lawrence “Larry” Pool, neurosurgeon, was born Aug. 23, 1906 in New York City and was named for his ancestor, James Lawrence, a naval hero of the War of 1812. Pool came from a long line of physicians and his father, Eugene H. Pool (1874-1949), was a distinguished surgeon and a professor at the medical schools of both Columbia and Cornell.

Pool was educated at Harvard (A.B., 1928) and at Columbia University’s College of Physicians and Surgeons (M.D., 1932); he also received the Doctor of Medical Science degree from Columbia in 1941. After an internship at New York Hospital and a fellowship in neurophysiology at Harvard, Pool returned to the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center where he served as surgical intern (1934-36), neurosurgical resident (1936-38) and finally, chief neurosurgical resident (1938-39).

During World War II, Pool served as a neurosurgeon with the 9th Evacuation Hospital in Europe. He returned to Columbia in 1945 and in 1949 was named professor of neurological surgery and first chairman of the newly established Dept. of Neurological Surgery, a post he held until his retirement in 1972.

Pool developed several important surgical techniques, including the use of the microscope to operate on cerebral aneurysms and the development of the myeloscope in locating problems of the lower spine. With D. Gordon Potts he was co-author of *Aneurysms and Arteriovenous Malfunctions of the Brain* (New York: Harper & Row, 1965), a landmark work in the field. For his achievements, Pool became only the second American to receive the Medal of Honour of the World Federation of Neurological Societies (1985).

After his retirement, Pool and his wife, Angeline James Pool, moved to West Cornwall, CT, where he wrote several books on non-medical topics and pursued his interest in fishing and watercolor painting. He died May 4, 2004 in Canaan, CT, survived by his three sons.

SCOPE AND CONTENT: The Pool papers contain biographical and genealogical records; correspondence; World War II military records; a memoir; photographs; and printed

material. There is only one folder of correspondence which contains letters from such prominent medical figures as Stanley Cobb, Wilder Penfield, Frederick Tilney, and John F. Fulton.

Of particular interest are a memoir, "The Twentieth Century – By a Survivor," written in 2001; a 1944 notebook of medical cases from his time with the 9th Evacuation Hospital; and two volumes of Pool's reprints.

The papers also include documents from John Adams Pool, one of Pool's ancestors, including his 1813 undergraduate diploma from Queen's College (now Rutgers University), his 1816 medical diploma from the College of Physicians & Surgeons in the City of New York, and his awards from the American Institute for "prize cows." Pool's father, Eugene H. Pool, is represented by his Harsen Prize certificate from the College of Physicians & Surgeons (1899) and his New York Hospital House Staff certificate (1900).

LANGUAGE: English.

ACCESS: Open without restrictions.

ADDITIONAL PHYSICAL FORMAT: Pool's World War II surgical notebook is available on microfilm; held by the Dept. of Preservation Reformatting, Butler Library.

PROVENANCE: Gift of J. Lawrence Pool, 2002, 2003 (accession #2002.05.16, 2003.01.23).

RELATED COLLECTIONS: Pool's correspondence with Dr. George L. Becker, Jr., 1962-2003, donated by Becker in 2010, is in Miscellaneous Manuscripts, Box 4, fo. 3; the papers of fellow Columbia University neurosurgeon, Dr. [Edgar Housepian](#) also contain correspondence with Pool.

Subjects:

Pool, J. Lawrence (James Lawrence), 1906-
Columbia University. Dept. of Neurosurgery.
Neurological Institute of New York – History.
Nervous system – Surgery – United States.
World War, 1939-1945 – Medical care.
Surgeons – United States – Biography.
Surgery, Military – United States.
Neurosurgery – United States.
Certificates.
Diplomas.
Medical records.
Photographs.

Reprints.

Collection processed and finding written by Stephen E. Novak, Sept. 2012.

**Pool, J. Lawrence
Papers, 1813-2002**

Box Folder

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|----------|-----|--|
| 1 | 1 | Biographical material, largely 1990s |
| | 2 | "The Twentieth Century – By a Survivor," [memoir], c. 2001 |
| | 3 | Correspondence, 1934-1968, 1991-2002 and undated |
| | 4 | Pool family genealogy: correspondence, reports, 1920s-1930s |
| | 5-6 | Neurology/Neurological Institute: articles, newspaper clippings, etc., 1962, 1990s |
| | 7 | World War II military service: documents and articles, 1940s, 2000 |
| | 8 | World War II: notebook of neurological operations, 9 th Evacuation Hospital, "south of France," August-December, 1944 |
| | 9 | Writings, 1940s-1990s |
| | 10 | Photographs: largely portraits of Pool; includes one drawing, c. 1940s-1990s [see also oversize] |
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| 2 | Loose in box: |
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- J. Lawrence Pool, 2 volumes of reprints, 1949-1962.
- [Eugene H. Pool] "*Don't Give Up the Ship:*" *A Catalogue of the Eugene H. Pool Collection of Captain James Lawrence*. Salem: Peabody Museum, 1942.
- Collected Papers from the Second Surgical Division of the New York Hospital*, 1930.
- St. Paul's School [Concord, N.H]. *Horae Scholasticae* v. 24, 1890-1891 (bound).
- Pool, J. Lawrence. *History of the Hollenbeck Club, 1900-1978*. Privately printed, 1978.
- Japanese translation of one of J.L. Pool's work (small hardcover, with dust jacket)

In Map Case 1, drawer 2:

Certificates and diplomas:

- Diploma, Queens College [Rutgers], John A. Pool, 1813
- License to practice medicine, Medical Society of the State of New Jersey, John A. Pool, 1816
- Diploma, College of Physicians and Surgeons, John A. Pool, 1824

Diplomas for Prize Cows, American Institute, John A. Pool, 1835, 1840
(2 items)
Harsen Prize Certificate, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Eugene H.
Pool, 1899
House Staff Certificate, New York Hospital, Eugene H. Pool, 1900

In Oversize Photographs and Prints, Box 15, folder 23-28:

Pool aboard the *Atlantis* en route from Plymouth, England, to Nova Scotia, 1928

Harvey Cushing's 70th birthday, group portrait, New Haven, CT, 1939

Operating room scenes, c. 1900, unidentified but perhaps New York Hospital?
(2 items, both in poor condition)

Watercolors of scenes in Rome by Pool, undated (2 images on one sheet of paper)

"View of the New York Hospital" engraving, c. 1800, matted.