

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

[Dickinson W. Richards Papers](#)

RICHARDS, DICKINSON W.

Dickinson W. Richards papers, 1916-1973.

2.75 cubic feet (9 boxes, 5 volumes)

#M-0160

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Dickinson Woodruff Richards, Jr. was born in Orange, New Jersey on October 30, 1895 to his father, also D.W. Richards and mother, Sally. He had three sisters: Katherine, Josephine, Gertrude, and a brother Edward.

He attended Yale University (B.A. 1917) and upon graduation, joined the United States Army, serving as an artillery officer in France at the end of the First World War. In 1919, he was discharged and entered Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons (M.D. 1923). In addition to his medical degree, he also received a Master of Arts degree (1922) in physiology under the guidance of Professor Ernest L. Scott.

He taught at Columbia beginning in 1925 and served as Intern (1924) and Resident (1925-1927) at Presbyterian Hospital, with later positions there (1928-1961) and at Bellevue Hospital (1933-1961). Before 1968, Bellevue Hospital's First Medical Division was staffed by faculty from Columbia University's College of Physicians & Surgeons. During this time, he collaborated with André Cournand at Bellevue Hospital in the fields of pulmonary and cardiac diseases. Dickinson, along with Cournand and German physician Werner Forssmann, received a Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 1956 for "their discoveries concerning heart catheterization and pathological changes in the circulatory system." [1]

Dickinson also served as Scientific Director (1937-1950), among other roles, to the Merck Institute and edited the *Merck Manual*. The Merck Company Foundation endowed a professorship in medicine in his honor at Columbia University in 1968.

He co-authored the book, *Circulation of the Blood: Men and Ideas* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1964) with Alfred P. Fishman, and *Medical Priesthoods and Other Essays* (Connecticut Printers, 1970). He received the Trudeau Medal from the National Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease Association (1968), the Kober Medal from the Association of American Physicians (1970), and the Diamond Jubilee Medal from Bellevue Hospital (1973).

He retired from Presbyterian and Bellevue hospitals in 1961, serving as a medical consultant for a number of years. He died in Lakeville, Connecticut on February 23, 1973 at the age of 77.

College of Physicians & Surgeons, Department of Medicine:

Assistant	1925-1927
Associate	1928-1929
Assistant Professor	1930-1936
Associate Professor	1937

Associate Professor Clinical	1938-1944
Professor	1945-1946
Lambert Professor	1947 – June 30, 1961 (retired)
Lambert Professor Emeritus	1961-1973
Special Lecturer	1961-1973

Presbyterian Hospital:

Intern	1924
Assistant Resident	1925-1927
Resident	1926-1927
Assistant Visiting Physician	1928-1929
Attending Physician	1948- June 30, 1961 (retired)

Bellevue Hospital:

1 st Medical Division Associate	
Visiting Physician	December 1, 1933-October 31, 1944
Visiting Physician	November 1, 1944-June 30, 1961
Director	January 1, 1945-June 30, 1961
Consultant	1961-June 30, 1968

Merck Institute:

Scientific Director	1937-1950
Member	1940-1957
Trustee	1949-1957
Member, Board Scientific Advisors	1957-1968
Chairman, Board Scientific Advisors	1958-1967

[1]"The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 1956." *The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 1956*. N.p., n.d. Web. 05 Dec. 2016.

SCOPE & CONTENT: These papers contain correspondence written during his military training and deployment in France during the First World War, and correspondence, academic papers, notes, films, reprints, and other material documenting his career as a physician and research physiologist at Columbia University, Bellevue and Presbyterian Hospitals, and the Merck Institute.

ARRANGEMENT/ORGANIZATION: Arranged in three series: Series I. Accession #2013.010; Series II. 2017.008; Series III. Bound Reprints.

SERIES I. ACCESSION #2013.010, 1933-1973.

BOX NUMBERS 1-6

Correspondence; academic papers and talks in the form of manuscripts and reprints; notes, drawings, reports, a photograph album and films document the life and career of Richards. Of note are black and white photographs of Richards and colleagues housed in a custom-made album presented to Richards by Merck & Co; moving pictures depicting Richards and other recipients honored at the Nobel Prize ceremony in Sweden in 1956.

The photograph album entitled, “Dickinson W. Richards, M.D. Merck Institute, 1937-1968,” contains 22 black-and-white photographic prints mounted to leaves. Photos depict Richards and colleagues, interiors and exteriors of Merck facilities, meetings, dinners, etc. The album has a maroon binding and is housed in a clamshell case.

Details for the three films / four reels:

1. “Film [fran?] Nobel festen 1956. 5 minute run with sound track in English” Opening credit: Stockholm Fox Movietone. Black-and-white, 16mm. Depicts Nobel Prize ceremony.
2. Picture and sound reels.
Label: *The Nobel Prize festivities at the Stockholm Concert Hall on December 10th, 1956.* “Given by Leon Warsha[w?] who was on Bellevue staff and then also physician N.Y. staff of Paramount pictures. The synchronous tone on the sound track to be synchronized with No. 8 on the film band.”

Picture reel: Black-and-white, 16mm. appears similar to other Nobel ceremony film, but appears lengthier/greater run time. Sound track in Swedish.

3. Untitled. Black-and-white, 16mm. Depicts Richards and André Cournand conducting procedure with patient?

SERIES II. ACCESSION #2017.008, 1916-1919.

BOX NUMBERS 7-9

Correspondence from Dickinson to his family members, the bulk being letters addressed to his mother, Sally Richards, living at 163 Irving Avenue South Orange, New Jersey; her summer residence at Sunapee, New Hampshire; and her New York City residence at 43 East 72nd Street. He also writes to his father, Dickinson W. Richard; his sisters Katherine, Josephine, and Gertrude; and his brother Edward. Included are postcards, telegrams, and accompanying photographs.

His letters offer details from his summer training at Tobyhanna [Pennsylvania] camp in the Headquarters Company, 10th Field Artillery, National Guard, Connecticut—the training grounds populated by Yale University students and faculty. His training continued in Company 11 at Fort Myer, Virginia; and 1st Training Company at Fort Monroe, VA, with excursions to locales such as Washington DC, Newport News and “surf bathing.” He was transferred on September 17, 1918 to Camp Eustis, VA, and then marched to the embarkation Camp Stuart, located in Newport News, VA on September 27th before deployment, but departed from Hoboken, New Jersey.

A letter to his mother (May 1, 1918) includes five black-and-white photograph portraits of Dickinson’s friends posed in uniform, identified as Sutherland Dows, David Dows, Browne, Parsons, and Griffith. Another photograph of his Fort Monroe’s quarters is found enclosed in a letter to his mother (May 5, 1918). A letter to Dickinson (September 5, 1918) from friend “Ken,” an officer in the American Expeditionary Forces stationed in France, includes Ken’s portrait in uniform. A photograph of Dickinson in uniform—a duplicate from his identification card—is enclosed with his letter to his mother (Nov 24, 1918) from Le Havre, France.

His letters continue after leaving Le Havre. He then served with the 49th Artillery Coast Artillery Corps (C.A.C.) at La Tresne in Bordeaux and Poudrerie Barrack, Bessens. He returned to the U.S. from Europe on March 13, 1919. His correspondence ends April 1, 1919.

SERIES III. BOUND REPRINTS, CIRCA 1920s-1960s.

5 VOLUMES

Five volumes of Richards' writings including scientific articles as well as addresses, essays, and memorial statements, circa 1920s-1960s.

LANGUAGE: English and Swedish.

ACCESS: These records are open for research without restriction.

RELATED COLLECTIONS: Archives & Special Collections' [André F. Cournand Papers](#), also hold papers of Richards in Boxes 35-36 as well as correspondence from Richards to Cournand.

[Reminiscences of Dickinson W. Richards: Oral History](#), 1964, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University.

PROVENANCE: Gift of Mary Chamberlin (granddaughter), 2013 and 2017 (Accessions #2013.010; #2017.008). The 2017 was also the gift of Abigail Woodruff Russell Prior. The bound reprints were the gift of André Cournand, circa 1982 (no accession number).

PROCESSING NOTE: These papers consist of two accessions. The first arranged and described prior to the latter. Photograph album and film physically were separated for preservation. World War I letters were removed from envelopes and with postmark date indicated on letter. Duplicates and copies found in the Cournand papers were deaccessioned.

NAMES

Richards, Dickinson W. – Correspondence.
Merck & Co.
Scott, Ernest L. (Ernest Lyman), 1877-1966.

SUBJECTS

Cardiology.
Cardiologists—Biography.
Medicine—Study and teaching – New York (State)—New York.
Military training camps—United States.
Nobel Prize winners.
Physicians.
Soldiers—United States—Correspondence.
United States. Army—Artillery—Drill and tactics.
World War, 1914-1918—Personal narratives, American.

GENRE

Award presentations (Motion pictures)

Black-and-white photographs

Medical films (Motion pictures)

Photograph albums.

Reprints.

2.5 cubic feet (9 boxes, 5 volumes)

Container List

Box Folder Title

Series I. Accession #2013.010, 1933-1973

1	1	Bellevue Hospital correspondence, circa 1969
1	2	"Boston City Hospital talk" 1964
1	3	Boston City Hospital, Thorndike Memorial, 1964
1	4	CIBA Foundation Symposia "Pulmonary structure and Function" notes, 1961
1	5	"Continuing Education," <i>Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine</i> 47.11 (1971) Part of a symposium titled "Introduction to Old Age"
1	6	Diamond Jubilee Medal for new Bellevue Hospital, 1973
1	7	Dickinson W. Richards Professorship in Medicine, Columbia University, 1968
1	8	Dickinson W. Richards Professorship in Medicine and Merck Company Foundation correspondence, 1968
1	9	Dickinson W. Richards Professoship in Medicine, Merck Company Foundation Dinner on October 21, 1968
stacks		Photograph Album: "Dickenson W. Richards, M.D. Merck Institute, 1937-1968" Films (SEE below)
1	10	"The effect of pancreas extract on depancreatized dogs: Ernest L. Scott's thesis of 1911" manuscript, 1966
1	11	Funeral prayers for Dickinson W. Richards, Sr. (1858-1933), 1933?
1	12	George Merck Memorial Loan Fund, printed report, 1959
1	13	Hippocrates and history manuscript, 1968
1	14	Homostasis correspondence, 1962
2	1	Hyper / Hypo ventilation chapter, circa 1961
1	15	Kober Medal, 1970
1	16	Kober Medal to Dana W. Atchley, reprint, 1969
1	17	Medical ethics course clinical research, January 9, 1973
1	18	Memorial Resolution, Columbia University, 1973
1	19	Merck & Company, Inc. correspondence and agreements, 1967-1971
1	20	Note with drawing of "Radio-krypton injected into pleural space..." September 1956
1	21	"Are our medical schools qualified to teach medicine?" manuscript read at the annual meeting of the Medical Alumni Association of the University of North Carolina School of Medicine April 5, 1968
1	22	"Presentation of the Academy plaque to James Burns Amberson, MD," reprint, <i>Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine</i> , September 1970
1	23	Scott, Ernest: research, 1965
1	24	Trudeau Medal, 1968

Box	Folder	Title
2	2	Textbook chapters [and correspondence, ca 1960s-1971]
2	3	Speeches and other writings, 1957-1973
2	4	Scott, Ernest: research, 1965

Box 2 cross-index:

2	1	Hyper / Hypo ventilation chapter, circa 1961
2	2	Textbook chapters [and correspondence, ca 1960s-1971]
2	3	Speeches and other writings, 1957-1973
2	4	Scott, Ernest: research, 1965

Films:

3		“Film [fran?] Nobel festen 1956. Five minute run with sound track in English” Black-and-white, 16mm. Depicts Nobel Prize ceremony. <i>The Nobel Prize festivities at the Stockholm Concert Hall on December 10th, 1956 .</i>
4		Picture reel black-and-white, 16mm. <i>The Nobel Prize festivities at the Stockholm Concert Hall on December 10th, 1956 .</i>
5		Sound track in Swedish, 16mm.
6		Untitled film, black-and-white, 16mm. Depicts Richards and André Cournand conducting procedure with patient?

Series II. Accession # 2017.008: World War I Correspondence, 1916-1919

From Dickinson W. Richards [Jr.] To Sally Richards:

7	1	July 25-September [?] 1916
7	2	(from "Len") August 1, 1916
7	3	May 15-June 17, 1917
7	4	June 19-July 22, 1917
7	5	July 23-September 3, 1917
7	6	September 5-October 3, 1917
7	7	October 8-28, 1917
7	8	October 29-November 24, 1917
8	1	November 25, 1917-January 12, 1918
8	2	January 13-March 15, 1918
8	3	March 16-April 29, 1918
8	4	May 1-July 8, 1918
8	5	July 11-August 22, 1918
8	6	August 29-November [4?] 1918
8	7	circa November 1918
9	1	November 5, 1918-February 25, 1919
9	2	March 13-April 1, 1919

From Dickinson W. Richards [Jr.]

9	3	To Dickinson W. Richards [Sr.], July 18, 1917-January 5, 1919
9	4	To Edward L. Richards, December 29, 1918

Box	Folder	Title
9	5	To Gertrude W. Richards, August 1, 1917
9	6	To Josephine Richards, June 19, 1917-December 13, 1918
9	7	To Katherine Richards, July 2, 1917-December 8, 1918
		To Dickinson W. Richards [Jr.]
9	8	October 18-September 5, 1918

Series III. Bound Reprints, circa 1920s-1960s

- Vol. 1 Named Lectures, Miscellaneous Addresses, Natural Philosophic Essays
- Vol. 2 Early Physiologic Studies, Textbook Chapters
- Vol. 3 Respiratory Physiology
- Vol. 4 Cardiocirculatory Physiology
- Vol 5 [Untitled: Drafts of addresses, 1950s-1960s]