

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

[Maynard C. Wheeler Papers](#)

WHEELER, MAYNARD C., 1903-1979.

Maynard C. Wheeler papers, 1903-1981.

1.12 cubic feet (4 boxes and 2 folders)

#M-0200

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Ophthalmologist. Maynard C. Wheeler was born in 1903 in Fargo, N.D. to Dr. Ernest and Anita Funk Wheeler. His father, a physician specializing in ear, nose and throat ailments, soon relocated the family to Tacoma, WA where Wheeler attended the local schools. He did a post-graduate high school year at Phillips Exeter in 1920-21 and then attended Dartmouth College, 1921-1924. Deciding upon medicine as a career he transferred to Stanford, graduating in the pre-medical program in 1926. He transferred to the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1927 where he received his medical degree in 1929. In 1938 he was awarded the Doctor of Medical Science degree from Columbia.

After an internship at New York City's French Hospital in 1929-30, Wheeler served a residency in ophthalmology at Presbyterian Hospital's Eye Institute, part of the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, from 1930 to 1933. He remained at the Medical Center for his entire career becoming Attending Ophthalmologist in 1951 and Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology at Columbia in 1952. Wheeler was Chief of the Eye Clinic at the Eye Institute, 1946-62.

Wheeler served as Secretary-Treasurer, 1948-1960, and President, 1964, of the American Ophthalmological Society. He was the author of *The American Ophthalmological Society: The First Hundred Years* (1964); *The Eye Institute in New York: An Intimate History* (1969); and *Ocular Motility* (1970).

Wheeler married Martha Boynton in 1929; they had two children. He died April 24, 1979 in Waterbury, CT.

SCOPE AND CONTENT: Correspondence, biographical materials, financial records, memorabilia, reprints, certificates, diplomas, and photographs documenting the life and career of Maynard C. Wheeler.

The bulk of the papers consists of letters to his parents, 1911, 1920-1949, largely while he was a student at Exeter, Dartmouth, Stanford, and the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, but also covering his years as an intern at French and Presbyterian Hospitals, 1929-1933. There is also correspondence relating to his education and professional activities, 1926-1948, and his publications.

Of special interest is material connected to his role as ophthalmologist to Herbert Hoover. Included are letters, medical records, an oral history Wheeler gave to the Hoover Presidential Library, and material connected to Wheeler's stay at Bohemian Grove in 1960 as Hoover's guest.

In addition, there are letters and printed material Wheeler collected to aid him in writing *The Eye Institute in New York*, and photographs of him, his family and various academic and professional activities.

LANGUAGE: English.

ACCESS: Because the material in Box 3, folder 3 includes 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](#).

REMOVALS: A copy *Maynard Catron Wheeler, M.D., 1903-1979: The Life of a New York City Ophthalmologist* by his son, Maynard B. Wheeler, has been cataloged and added to Archives & Special Collections' M-Collection.

PROVENANCE: Gift of his son, Maynard B. Wheeler, M.D., 2014 (acc. #2014.006), 2018 (acc. #2018.003)

Subjects

Hoover, Herbert, 1874-1964.

Wheeler, Maynard C., 1903-1979.

Columbia University. College of Physicians and Surgeons – Students.

Columbia University. Department of Ophthalmology – History.

Eye Institute – New York (State) – New York – History.

French Hospital (New York, N.Y.)

Institute of Ophthalmology (Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center) – History.

Dartmouth College – Students.

Stanford University – Students.

Medical students – United States – 20th century.

Ophthalmology.

Ophthalmologists.

Certificates.

Diplomas.

Ledgers.

Photographs.

Papers largely processed by the donor; some additional work done, and the finding aid written, by Stephen Novak, 2014; updated by Stephen Novak, 2018.

**Maynard C. Wheeler
Papers, 1903-1981**

Box Fo.

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|----------|----|--|
| 1 | 1 | Autobiographical: synopsis of his diary, 1921-1976; family information |
| | 2 | Newspaper and magazine clippings re M.C. Wheeler, Dr. John M. Wheeler, and the Eye Institute, 1931, 1979 |
| | 3 | Childhood: Letters, report cards, programs, 1909-1927 |
| | | Correspondence |
| | 4 | Re: <i>The Eye Institute in New York</i> , 1970-1976 |
| | 5 | Re: <i>Ocular Motility</i> , 1970 |
| | 6 | Letters from friends, 1925-1977 |
| | 7 | Letters to grandparents, 1910-1917 |
| | 8 | Letters to his parents in Europe, 1911 |
| | | To parents |
| | 9 | 1920-1921 [Exeter] |
| | 10 | Fall 1921-Spring 1923 [Dartmouth] |
| | 11 | Fall 1923 [Dartmouth] |
| | 12 | Winter-Spring 1924 [Dartmouth] |
| | 13 | Sept.-Oct. 1924 [Stanford] |
| | 14 | April-June 1927 [Stanford Medical] |
| | 15 | Oct.-Dec. 1927 [College of Physicians & Surgeons] |
| | 16 | Jan.-Feb. 1928 [P&S] |
| | 17 | March-April 1928 [P&S] |
| | 18 | Sept.-Oct. 1928 [P&S] |
| 2 | 1 | Nov.-Dec. 1928 [P&S] |
| | 2 | Jan.-March 1929 [P&S] |
| | 3 | Apr.-May 1929 [P&S] |
| | 4 | June-July 1929 [marriage; internship at French Hospital] |
| | 5 | Aug.-Sept. 1929 [French Hospital] |
| | 6 | Oct.-Dec. 1929 [French Hospital] |
| | 7 | 1930 [French Hospital] |
| | 8 | 1931-1936 [Eye Institute] |
| | 9 | 1937 [Eye Institute; first child] |
| | 10 | Summer 1938 [trip to Europe] |
| | 11 | 1940-1949 |
| | 12 | From parents, ca.1928-1931 |
| | | From sister, Anita |
| | 13 | 1928-29 |

Box	Fo.	
2	14	1926, 1929, 1940s-1970s
		Professional/Education
	15	1926-1930
	16	Nov. 1930-Dec. 1931
	17	Jan.-June 1932
	18	1936-1948
	19	Professional appointments, 1949-1968
	20	Herbert Hoover: correspondence, medical records, funeral, Wheeler oral history, 1951-1970
	21	Herbert Hoover: his guest at Bohemian Grove, 1960
	22	Diary, European trip, summer 1938
	23	Documents: birth certificate, marriage license, diplomas, passport, 1903-1979
3	1	Documents: death certificate, obituaries, etc., 1979
	2	Documents: estate, donations, 1979-1981
	3	Medical records, including autopsy report, 1979
	4	Ledger, 1919, 1927-1931
	5	Financial documents, 1933, 1970-1972
		Memorabilia
	6	American Ophthalmological Society: Annual meeting, 1964
	7	Medical clubs and organizations, 1928-1965
	8	Non-medical clubs and organizations, 1921-1971
	9	Dartmouth College, 1924-1925, 1950
	10	Medical practice, 1930s-1970s
	11	Professional publications (correspondence), 1937-1954
	12	Professional publications (correspondence, programs, etc.), 1930s-60s
	13	Publications, <i>The Eye Institute in New York</i> : reminiscences of early faculty, printed material, etc., 1930s-1960s
	14	Publications, <i>Ocular Motility</i> : copy of work, proof sheets, correspondence, reviews, 1970-1972
	15	Sheet music, signed/inscribed, ca. 1940s
		Photographs
	16	Wheeler, Maynard C.: portraits, early family photographs, 1904-1970s
	17	Snapshots: mostly family, 1920s-1950s
	18	Group portraits: Exeter, Stanford, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, 1920s-1950s
	19	Group portraits: professional meetings, 1930s-1960s

Box	Folio	Description
3	20	Group portraits: Eye Institute, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, 1930s
	21	Bohemian Grove, 1960
		Reprints
4	1	1928-1949
	2	1953-1972
		Diplomas, Certificates and Awards: In Oversize Materials (25" x 21")
1	9	Diploma, Stadium High School (Tacoma, WA), 1920 Diploma, Phillips Exeter, 1921 Membership certificate, Society of Sigma Xi, Stanford University, 1928 Diploma, Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons, 1929 Internship certificate, French Hospital, New York, NY, 1930 Internship certificate, Presbyterian Hospital, New York, NY, 1932 Residency certificate, Presbyterian Hospital, New York, NY, 1933 Membership certificate, Medical Society of the County of New York, 1934 Membership certificate, New York Academy of Medicine, 1936 Diploma, Doctor of Medical Sciences, Columbia University, 1938 Certificate of service, Selective Service System, ca.1946? (with signature of Harry S. Truman)
	10	Membership certificate, Western Club, Phillips Exeter, [1921] Membership certificate, orchestra & glee club, Phillips Exeter, 1921 Certificate of admission, Dartmouth College, 1921 Membership certificate, Phi Delta Theta, Dartmouth College, 1922 Membership certificate, Nu Sigma Nu, 1926 Certificate as Diplomate of the National Board of Medical Examiners, 1930 Medical license, New York State, 1931 (with copy dated 1933) Fellowship certificate, American Academy of Ophthalmology & Otolaryngology, 1935 Certificate, American Board of Ophthalmology, 1935 Certificate, appointment, Medical Advisory Board of Selective Service System, 1941 Certificate of appreciation for service in US Selective Service System, undated but with signature of Franklin D. Roosevelt Certificate of Service on Medical Advisory Board, US Selective Service System, 1947

Box Fo.

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| 1 | 10 | Twenty-five Year Club, Presbyterian Hospital, 1956
Certificate of attendance, IV Congress, Pan American Ophthalmology/National
Society to Prevent Blindness, 1957
Medical license, Connecticut, 1973
Certificate, Emeritus status, American Academy of Pediatric Ophthalmology,
1976 |
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