

**MEDICAL CENTER ARCHIVES  
OF  
NEWYORK-PRESBYTERIAN/WEILL CORNELL**

**1300 York Avenue # 34  
New York, NY 10065**

**Finding Aid To  
THE BENJAMIN KEAN, MD (1912-1993) PAPERS**

**Dates of Papers:  
1935-1993**

**120 Linear Inches  
(25 Boxes)**

**Finding Aid Prepared By:  
Elizabeth Shepard  
Assistant Archivist  
05/2002**

## **NOTE OF PROVENANCE:**

Mrs. Benjamin Kean donated the papers to the Medical Center Archives of New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell in April 1998.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:**

Dr. Benjamin Kean was born in Valparaiso, Indiana in 1912. He was raised in West Orange, NJ and New York City. He received an AB degree at the University of California, Berkeley in 1933. He graduated from Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1937.

He began his career as an intern at Gorgas Hospital in the Panama Canal Zone in 1937. He continued to work there through the World War II as a physician and pathologist. While there, he became the director of a course in tropical medicine. He also served part of World War II in Europe.

In 1948-1952, he worked at New York University-Bellevue Medical Center as an assistant professor of pathology, a consultant in tropical medicine at the VA Halloran Hospital (1946-1951) and attending physician at University Hospital (1948-1952).

He came to Cornell University Medical College in 1954 as an assistant professor of public health in parasitology and rose in the ranks to full professor. He founded the Tropical Medicine Unit at the medical college in 1962. He was the head of the Parasitology Laboratory at New York Hospital. He also had a private practice on Park Avenue where he was the physician for several famous people including Oscar Hammerstein, Edna Ferber, Gertrude Lawrence, Martina Navratilova and Salvador Dali.

His expertise was in tropical medicine. He did extensive research in amoebiasis, malaria, toxoplasmosis, and schistosomiasis. He coordinated studies in Mexico on Turista (Traveler's Diarrhea) in the 1950s and 1960s. He was well known for his B. H. Kean Tropical Medicine Course at Cornell University Medical College.

He was also known for being the physician for the Shah of Iran during his terminal illness. He followed the Shah through his treatment at New York Hospital in October 1979 and his flight through Panama and Egypt. He was criticized for not accurately publicizing the medical condition and treatment of the Shah to the American public. The treatment of the Shah in the United States led to the Iran Hostage Crisis in 1979-1981.

He died on September 24, 1993.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE:**

The papers are organized into eight series: General Correspondence (1957-1993), Panama Autopsies (1940-1945), Tropical Medicine Unit, (1944-1993), Other Research (1942-1993), Reprints and Publications (1935-1993) and Miscellaneous (1952-1989).

### **Series I: General Correspondence, 1953-1993**

This series arranged alphabetically by subject contains correspondence with various colleagues and medical societies.

### **Series II: Panama Autopsies, 1940-1945**

This series arranged chronologically consists of autopsy reports conducted in his work as the pathologist at Gorgas Hospital in the Panama Canal Zone during World War II. It gives an interesting picture of the health issues in the region. One famous case was the author, Sherwood Anderson, who died after swallowing a toothpick, which punctured his colon. The PHI contained in these records is protected under the federal regulation, HIPPA and are restricted.

### **Series III: Tropical Medicine Unit, 1941-1993**

This series is divided in to five subseries: Early Records (1962-1991), Teaching Materials (1955-1993), Cornell Abroad Program (1955-1993) and Research (1944-1977). The early records subseries includes the reports and proposals for setting up the unit at the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center. The teaching materials sub-series contains lecture and course notes for his popular Tropical Medicine Course. The Cornell Abroad Program sent students on summer trips to Africa, Asia, Cuba, and South America to study tropical medicine in these countries. The research files consists of his research on schistosomiasis, toxoplasma, and turista (traveler's diarrhea).

### **Series IV: Other Research, 1942-1993**

The other research series arranged alphabetically by subject contains his research on Chagas' disease (1942-1945), hepatic amebiasis (1962-1964), maduromycosis in Saudi Arabia (1952-1957) and shark bites (1943-1944). The files also include the Cornell in Haiti Program under the Department of Medicine-Division of Infectious Diseases, which studied AIDS (1983-1986) and infantile diarrhea (1979-1993).

### **Series V: Reprints and Publications, 1935-1992**

This series arranged chronologically includes his speeches, articles, and books on his tropical medicine and parasitology research. It contains copies of his autobiography, M.D.

### **Series VI: The Shah of Iran, 1979-1989**

This series is divided into the Iran Hostage Crisis and the Shah of Iran. Each sub-series is arranged chronologically. The Iran Hostage Crisis sub-series includes clippings of the crisis. The Shah of Iran sub-series includes both clippings and correspondence regarding the Shah's treatment at New York Hospital and then his flight to Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, Panama, and Cairo, Egypt. In addition, Dr. Kean's correspondence with the Shah's family after his death is contained in the files.

### **Series VII: Miscellaneous, 1952-1990**

This series consists of miscellaneous biographical material on Dr. Kean.

### **Series VIII: Photographs, 1983**

The photographs include the photo album of Charles Allen Jr. Fellowship in Medicine, January 1, 1983. The photographs were removed to the personal photographic collections. See photo catalog.

### **ACCESS RESTRICTIONS**

The panama autopsies are restricted in accordance to the HIPAA privacy rule.

### **BOX AND FOLDER LISTING**

#### **BOX 1: SERIES I: GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1953-1993**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	A-D, 1960-1991
2	Allen/Kramer re Charles Allen Fellowship Program, 1985
3	American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, 1973-1993
4	Amoebiasis Research Dispute with Dr. Thomas Doxiades, 1963-1968
5	Articles and manuscript submissions, 1961-1992
6	Asiatic Society, 1978-1979
7	Bass, Sid, 1989-1991
8	Bia, Frank, MD, 1984-1993
9	Browne, Henry, MD, 1962

10	Chowdhury, A. B., 1957-1976
11	Daniels, Farrington, MD, 1987-1993
12	Dennis, David, MD, 1963-1987
13	E-H, 1981-1989
14	Elson, Scott, 1980-1992
15	Emporiatrices, 1985-1990
16	Eyckmans, Luc, 1977-1984
17	Flanigan, Tim, 1982-1994
18	General Motors, 1971-1979
19	Giordano, Michael, 1984-1990
20	Heaver, Lynwood, 1990-1993
21	Hippocratic Oath, 1987
22	Hoffman, Stephen, MD, 1984-1993
23	J-M, 1960-1993
24	Javett, Jonathan, MD, 1981-1982
25	Jemison, Mae Carol, 1979
26	Kammerer, William, MD, 1961-1993
27	Kasier, Robert, 1988-1993

**BOX 2: SERIES I: GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1953-1993**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	Leonard Wood Memorial, 1966-1969
2	Malloch, Christopher, MD, 1963-1964
3	Mayo-Smith, William, MD, 1986
4	Meetings, 1957-1993
5	Mott, Kenneth, MD, 1968-1984
6	O-Z, 1962-1993
7	New York Society of Tropical Medicine, 1953-1993
8	Panama Canal, 1954-1992
9	Plowe, Christopher, 1984-1993
10	Reilly, Philip Jr., MD, 1975-1976
11	Richter, Maurice, MD, 1981-1982
12	Royal Society of Tropical Medicine, 1955-1988
13	Ruiz, Joseph, 1984-1986
14	STAC (Scientific Technical Advisory Committee), for World Health Org, 1978-1979

**BOX 3: SERIES II: PANAMA AUTOPSY NOTES, 1940-1945  
(Restricted)**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
	Panama Autopsy Notes
1-2	Vol 1, April 1940-December 1940
3-4	Vol 2, December 1940-June 1941

**BOX 4: SERIES II: PANAMA AUTOPSY NOTES, 1940-1945  
(Restricted)**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
	Panama Autopsy Notes
1-2	Vol 3, June 1941-December 1941
3-4	Vol 4, December 1941-April 1942

**BOX 5: SERIES II: PANAMA AUTOPSY NOTES, 1940-1945  
(Restricted)**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
	Panama Autopsy Notes
1-2	Vol 5, April 1942-December 1942
3-4	Vol 6, December 1942-March 1943

**BOX 6: SERIES II: PANAMA AUTOPSY NOTES, 1940-1945  
(Restricted)**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
	Panama Autopsy Notes
1-2	Vol 7, May 1943-August 1943
3-4	Vol 8, September 1943-January 1944

**BOX 7: SERIES II: PANAMA AUTOPSY NOTES, 1940-1945  
(Restricted)**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
	Panama Autopsy Notes
1-2	Vol 9, January-July 1944
3-4	Vol 10, July 1944-January 1945

**BOX 8: SERIES II: PANAMA AUTOPSY NOTES, 1940-1945  
(Restricted)**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
	Panama Autopsy Notes
1-2	Vol 11, January-September 1945
3-4	September-November 1945
5	Clinical Pathology Conferences, 1940-1945

**BOX 9: SERIES III: TROPICAL MEDICINE UNIT, 1941-1993  
EARLY RECORDS**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
	Establishing the Unit
1	1962-1976
2	Dr. Lalla Iverson's Final Report, 1962
3	History, 1963-1991
4	Tropical Medicine Clinic, 1963
5	B. H. Kean Professorship in Tropical Medicine, 1983-1990
6	B. H. Kean International Fellowship, 1991
	Original Personnel Records
7	Dennis, David, MD, 1967-1978
8	Jones, Thomas C., MD, 1964-1966
9	Kimball, Anne C., MD, 1963-1990
10	Marsden, Philip, MD, 1964-1989
11	Michaels, Rhoda, 1965-1968
12	Tanaka, Hiroshi, MD, 1967-1989

**BOX 10: SERIES III: TROPICAL MEDICINE UNIT, 1941-1993  
TEACHING MATERIALS**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
	Tropical Medicine Course
1	Articles/Interviews of Dr. Kean Philosophy of teaching, 1974-1990
2	Correspondence on the Teaching of Tropical Medicine, 1967-1983
3	Filariasis: Lecture Notes, 1960's
4	Intestinal Helminthes: Lecture Notes, 1960's
5	Intestinal Protozo: Lecture Notes, 1960's
6	Leishmania and Trpansomiasis, 1960's
7	Malaria: Lecture Notes, 1967-1969

8	Malaria II: Lecture Notes, 1960's
9-11	Parasitology Course, 1955-1993
12	Toxoplasmosis: Lectures Notes
13	Trichinosis: Lecture Notes

**BOX 11: SERIES III: TROPICAL MEDICINE UNIT, 1941-1993  
CORNELL ABROAD PROGRAM**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
	Cornell Abroad Program
1	Summary of Dr. Kean of Program, List of Students, 1973-1993
2	Africa, 1962
3	Asia, 1960 Cuba,
4	1955-1956
5	1956-1957
6	1993
7	Mexico, 1985-1987
8	South America, 1963
9	Student Reports, 1963-1989

**BOX 12: SERIES III: TROPICAL MEDICINE UNIT, 1941-1993  
RESEARCH**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
	Schistosomiasis (Snail Fever) Research
1	Baboons, 1967
2	Clippings, 1966-1968 Correspondence
3	1944-1963
4	1965-1976
5	Filtration of Patients, 1971-1976
6	Grant: Dept. of Health, Education, Welfare, 1966-1968
	Schistosomiasis Haematobium Research
7	Baboon and Snail Permit, 1968-1969
8-13	Baboon subjects: #80004-#80009
14-15	Correspondence, 1963-1969
16	Dog subject: #60398
	Schistosomiasis Japonica Research
17	Baboons-General, 1975
18-19	Baboon Subjects: #90001-90002



**BOX 13: SERIES III: TROPICAL MEDICINE UNIT, 1941-1993  
RESEARCH**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	Schistosomiasis Japonica Research Correspondence, 1968-1970
2	Operative Notes, March 1968
3-22	Schistosoma (Schistosomiasis) Mansoni Baboon Subjects: #60001-60008, 60010-60019, 60021, 1968 Correspondence
23	Brazil, 1967-1968
24	Surgical Treatment of, 1965-1971
25	Dog Subject, 1968
26	Umbilical Vein Procedure, 1969
27	Toxoplasmosis Research Clippings, 1968-1974
28	Correspondence, 1941-1976 Grant
29	Gottesman Foundation, 1970
30	Hartford Foundation, 1966, 1970
31	Macy Foundation, 1967
32	National Foundation-March of Dimes, 1966-1975
33-34	National Institute of Health, 1969-1972

**BOX 14: SERIES III: TROPICAL MEDICINE UNIT, 1941-1993  
RESEARCH**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	Toxoplasmosis Research Meetings, 1972-1974
2	Rogosin Lab Collaborative Effort, 1966-1967
3	Traveler's Diarrhea (Turista) General Background Early Work w/ Wilson Smilie, 1955-1957
4	8 <sup>th</sup> International Congress on Tropical Medicine and Malaria, 1968
5	International Conference on Diarrhea of Travelers, 1976-1977
6	LA Airport Study, 1957-1958
7	Press Coverage, 1955-1976
8	Traveler's Health Institute, 1957-1958

	Traveler's Diarrhea (Turista) Mexico Studies
9	Background material for the First Study, 1957-1958
10	Study, 1957-1958
11	Virus Study, 1959-1962

**BOX 15: SERIES III: TROPICAL MEDICINE UNIT, 1941-1993  
RESEARCH**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
	Traveler's Diarrhea (Turista) Mexico Studies
1	Drug Study, 1960
2	Olympics, 1960-1961
3	Drug Study, 1970-1973
4	Students, 1973
5	Study, 1973-1974
	Traveler's Diarrhea (Turista)
6	NIH Consensus Development Conference, 1985
7-8	S.M.O.N, 1971-1977

**BOX 16: SERIES IV: OTHER RESEARCH, 1942-1993**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	Chagas' Disease, 1942-1945
	Cornell in Haiti (AIDS Research)
2	1983-1986
	Cornell in Haiti (Infantile Diarrhea Research)
3-4	1979
5-6	1980-1982
7	1984-1993
8	Hepatic Amebiasis, 1962-1964

**BOX 17: SERIES IV: OTHER RESEARCH, 1942-1993**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	Maduromycosis in Saudi Arabia, 1952-1957
2	Shark Bites, 1943-1944

## BOX 18: SERIES V: REPRINTS AND PUBLICATIONS, 1935-1992

Folder	Description
1	Early School Papers, ca. 1930's
2	"Malaria: A Historical Survey", 1935
3	"Which of the Communicable Diseases Can be Transmitted to the Fetus?", 1937
4	"The Examination of the Stool", ca. 1940's
5	Reprints, 1941-1943
6	"Death Due to Akee Poisoning in Panama", 1943 (also a short story written in 1947)
7	Reprints, 1944-1946
8	"Ainhumi a Clinical Summary of Forty Five Cases on the Isthmus of Panama", 1946
9	Reprints, 1947-1949
10	Chapter for the San Blas Blood Pressure Story, 1950
11	Reprints, 1952-1959
12	Dr. Kean's Lecture to Students from Harvard University, School of Public Health, March 1959
13	Reprints, 1960
14	Infectious Hepatitis, ca. 1961
15	Reprints, 1962-1966
16	"The Nature of Turista: The Diarrhea of Travelers to Mexico", ca. 1963
17	Reviews of <b><u>Parasites of the Human Heart</u></b> , 1964 Kean, B. H., MD and Roger C. Breslau, MD. <b><u>Parasites of the Human Heart</u></b> , New York: Grune & Stratton, 1964.

## BOX 19: SERIES V: REPRINTS AND PUBLICATIONS, 1935-1992

Folder	Description
1	"A Primer of Immunization for Travelers", 1964 Kean, B. H., MD and Harold Tucker, MD. <b><u>The Traveler's Health Guide</u></b> . Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas, 1965. Kean, B. H., MD and Harold Tucker, MD. <b><u>The Traveler's Medical Guide for Physicians</u></b> . Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas, 1966
2	"The Medical Protection of the Traveler", ca. 1966
3	Reprints, 1967-1969
4	Reprints, 1971-1973
5	"Diarrhea of Travelers," speech presented at the Annual Convention of the AMA, Section on Federal and Military Medicine, Symposium on Diseases & Travel, June 1973
6	Reprints, 1974-1975

- 7 Traveler's Diarrhea speech presented at the Annual Convention of the AMA, Section on Federal and Military Medicine, Symposium on Medical Hazards & Travel, June 1975
- 8 Reprints, 1976-1978
- 9 Carlos Chagas and Chagas' Disease, 1977
- 10 "Drug Failure in the Treatment of Amoebiasis," speech, 1978

**BOX 20: SERIES V: REPRINTS AND PUBLICATIONS, 1935-1992**

Folder	Descriptions
1	Reviews of <u>Tropical Medicine &amp; Parasitology</u> Vols I and II, 1978 Kean, B. H., MD at el, editors. <u>Tropical Medicine &amp; Parasitology</u> Vols I and II, Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1978
2	Reprints, 1979-1982
3	"Biologic Range of AIDS," speech at St. Vincent's Hospital, 1982
4	45 <sup>th</sup> Annual Theobald Smith Lecture: "Patients, Parasites and Paratologists," May 1983
5	Reprints, 1984-1988
6	Diarrhea of Travelers, 1984
7	Cornell Abroad Program, speech, 1985
8	Drug Therapy of Parasitic Diseases: A fifty Year Record of Success and Failure, 1986
9	A History of Amebiasis, 1988
10	Parasites and Man: A Brief History, 1988

**BOX 21: SERIES V: REPRINTS AND PUBLICATIONS, 1935-1992**

Folder	Description
1-3	<u>M.D.</u> Letters from Readers, 1990
4	<u>M.D.</u> Review, 1990 Kean, B. H., MD with Tracy Dahlby. <u>M.D.</u> NY; Ballatine Books, 1990.

**BOX 22: SERIES V: REPRINTS AND PUBLICATIONS, 1935-1992**

Folder	Description
1	<u>Colored Atlas of Ophthalmic Parasitology</u> , Reviews, 1991 Kean, B. H. at el. <u>Colored Atlas of Ophthalmic Parasitology</u> New York: Igaku-Shoin, 1991
2	Why These, Not Those, 1991
3	Coming Out Even, ca. 1992
4	Articles, n.d.

**BOX 22: SERIES VI: SHAH OF IRAN, 1979-1989**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
5	Ayatollah Khomeini, clippings, 1981
	Iran Hostage Crisis, clippings
6	November 1979
7	December 1979
8	January 1980
9	February 1980
10	March 1980
11	April 1980

**BOX 23: SERIES VI: SHAH OF IRAN, 1979-1989**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	Iran Hostage Crisis, Jan-March 1981
2	Shah Telephone Log, 1979
	Shah at New York Hospital
3	Clippings, 1979
4	Correspondence, 1979
	Shah of Iran, Clippings
5	Lackland, December 1979
6	Background, January-July 1980
7	Panama, March 1980
8	Egypt, March-April 1980
9	Final Stages, July 1980

**BOX 24: SERIES VI: SHAH OF IRAN, 1979-1989**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	Death and Family, July 1980-1988
2	The Shah's Physician Looks Back, August 1981
3	AMA Recap article on the Shah's care, 1980-1981
4	Correspondence w/ shah family, 1981-1989
5	<u>Science</u> Lawsuit, 1981

**BOX 24: SERIES VII: MISCELLANEOUS, 1952-1990**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
6	Appointments, NYH-CUMC, 1952-1992
7	Awards, Certificates and Diplomas, 1946-1980
8	Bibliography and Curriculum Vitae, n.d.
9	Biography Materials, 1986-1990
10	Luckey, Hugh, MD Memorial Service, 1989
11	Nomination of B. H. Kean, MD for the King Faisal International Price in Medicine-Diarrheal Diseases, 1983