Finding Aid To
THE CHARLES RUPERT STOCKARD, PHD (1879-1939)
PAPERS

Dates of Papers:  
1903-1938

22 Linear Inches  
(2 Boxes, 10 Volumes)

Finding Aid Prepared By: 
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Assistant Archivist  
10/2001  
Revised 11/2009
NOTE OF PROVENANCE

Dr. Stockard’s daughter, Marie Louise Stockard Cullinan on June 12, 1990, donated the Charles Rupert Stockard Papers to the New York Weill Cornell Medical Center Archives. Additional materials were added from Marie Louise Cullinan’s estate in 2009.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Charles Rupert Stockard, a pioneer in the fields of embryology and zoology, was born on February 27, 1879, in Washington County, Miss. He received a BS at the Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College in 1899 and a MS at the same school in 1901. At the same school he started his teaching career as an acting professor of Military Science and later at the Jefferson Military College. From there he went on to receive a PhD in Zoology at Columbia University in 1906. In 1922, he received a Doctor of Medicine Degree at Wurzburg, Germany.

His first faculty position at the Cornell University Medical College was as an Assistant in Embryology and Histology in 1906. In 1908, he was the Instructor of Comparative Morphology and in 1909 the Assistant Professor of Embryology and Experimental Morphology. By 1911, he was the Professor of Anatomy and the Head of the Department of Anatomy.

His early studies focused on fish embryology, birds, and botany. He was particularly interested in the development of the eye lens of fish and chick embryos.

Later he spent 13 years doing various studies on the effects of alcohol on germ cells, embryos and offspring. He did prove that alcohol had adverse affects on the offspring of male guinea pigs. He used over 100 guinea pigs. During his studies, he noticed that some of the guinea pigs had an extra toe. He did studies of the extra toe in guinea pigs and dogs and how this was inherited.

Other studies focused on the study of the origin of vascular endothelium and blood cells and the study of the origin of identical twins in humans and other animals.

He also worked with George Papanicolaou on the sexual cycle of guinea pigs. This proved useful to George Papanicolaou’s studies on the female human sexual cycle through the study of vaginal smears.

His final 12 years of his life he was studying the premise that "the constitutional differences in humans may depend upon definite heredity patterns of the endocrine complex of the individual."* For this study he established the Experimental Morphology Farm of Cornell University in Mohegan Lake, NY. At this farm he crossed bred hundreds of dogs to study "the inheritance of
morphological characters, behavior and instincts, and histological exams of the endocrine glands." Through this research he also advanced veterinary medicine in his treatment of canine distemper and rickets.

He died on April 7, 1939, after suffering a possible stroke at the age of 60.

**"Charles Rupert Stockard." pp. 29-30 article found in the biography files.

**SCAPE AND CONTENTS NOTE**

Charles Rupert Stockard Papers offers a comprehensive documentation of his pioneer medical research in the fields of embryology, morphology, zoology, veterinary medicine, and anatomy, 1904-1938. The collection is divided up into six series.

**Series I: Publications: Reprints of Articles and Books, 1906-1936**

This series, arranged alphabetically, includes reprints of articles and books covering his pioneer research in the fields of embryology, morphology, zoology, veterinary medicine, and anatomy from 1906-1936. The articles include his famed studies in eyes of fish and chick embryos, the affect of alcohol on embryos, germ cells and offspring, and studies on physical inheritance. Also included is George Papanicolaou's *Sexual Cycle in the Human Female as Revealed by Vaginal Smears.* (1933). This study was influenced by Stockard's studies on the sexual cycle of guinea pigs.

**Series II: Speeches, undated**

This series, arranged alphabetically by title, includes unpublished speeches to various unidentified medical institutions.

**Series III: Correspondence, 1908-1938**

A small correspondence file, arranged alphabetically by subject, contains letters to Dr. Stockard from various people regarding professional lecture requests, membership activities, and visits, 1908-1938.

**Series IV: Biographical Information, 1927-1939**

Memorials and biographies give background information about Dr. Stockard's life and his important contributions to the history and advancement of medicine in the early twentieth century.
Series V: Miscellaneous, 1903-1938

This series, arranged alphabetically by subject, includes invitations and membership certificates, 1903-1938.

Series VI: Photographs, 1920-1936

This series, arranged alphabetically by subject, includes photographs of Charles Stockard, Rockefeller Institute, and the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA, 1920-1936. These images were removed to the personal photographic collections. See photo catalog.

BOX AND FOLDER DESCRIPTION LIST

BX/FL DESCRIPTION

SERIES I: PUBLICATIONS-ARTICLE REPRINTS, 1906-1936
Arranged alphabetically by title

Biology Papers, Vol I, 1906-1909, bound
Bound volume contains articles on his research on fish embryology, eye lens of fish embryos, nectar glands of plants, walking sticks (insect), frog eggs, woodpeckers, and Mississippi birds

Biology Papers, Vol II, 1910-1913, bound
Bound volume contains articles on his research on eye lens of fish and chick embryos, influence of alcohol on mammal embryos and germ cells, tissue growth, and mammal embryology

Biology Papers, Vol III, 1914-1918, bound
Bound volume contains articles on his research on origin of blood in fish embryos, fish eggs, alcohol influence on mammal embryos, and guinea pig sexual cycle

Biology Papers, Vol IV, 1919-1923, bound
Bound volume contains articles on his research on twins’ embryology, armadillo embryology, guinea pig sexual cycle, modifications in body structure, human and mammal embryology, vertebra eye, inherited deficiences of sense of smell, and centennial celebrations of medical training in the USA
Biology Papers, Vol V, 1924-1929, bound
Bound volume contains articles and lectures on constructive medicine, inheritance and its relationship to disease, cattle sexual glands, constitution and type and relation to disease, medical education, physical inheritance, hormones, rejuvenation, canine rickets, alcohol and its biological effects, and morphology

1/1  “Biological Science,” n.d.

on shelf Development of Artificially Produced Cyclopean Fish-The Magnesium Embryo. n.d.

1/2  “An Experimental Study of the Origin of Blood and Vascular Endothelium in the Telost Embryo,” 1915


1/4  “The Presence of A Factorial Basis for Characters Lost in Evolution: The Atavistic Reappearance of Digits in Mammals,” 1930

1/5  “Oestrus and Ovulation,” 1936

1/6  “Sexual Cycle in the Human Female as Revealed by Vaginal Smears.” By George Papanicolaou, 1933

1/7  “The Spirit of the Laboratory,” 1937

SERIES I: PUBLICATIONS-BOOKS, 1915-1933
Arranged alphabetically by author

Marine, David et al. De Lamar Lectures 1925-1926. (Johns Hopkins University) Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins, 1927. (includes Stockard speech on the "Constitutional Types in Relation to Disease.")


Stockard, Charles. Genetic and Endocrinic Basis for Differences in Form and Behavior. Philadelphia: Wistar Institute, 1941.

Wilson, Frank et al. *The Distribution of the Currents of Action and of Injury Displayed by Heart Muscle and Other Excitable Tissue.* Ann Arbor: University of Michigan, 1933.

**SERIES II: SPEECHES, no dates**
Arranged alphabetically by title


1/9  “How Does Medicine Advance?” unpublished address to an unidentified medical school in Georgia, n.d.


1/12 “The Problem of Development in Adult Constitution,” published address to Dedication of the Medical School Building at the University of Virginia, 1929.

1/13 “Welcoming Address,” unpublished address for an unidentified medical school, n.d.

**SERIES III: CORRESPONDENCE, 1908-1937**
Arranged alphabetically by subject

Correspondence by various people to Dr. Stockard

1/14 re. lecture requests, 1936-1937.

1/15 re. membership to various professional organizations, 1908-1937

1/16 re, references, 1903

1/17 re: visits, 1927-1935.
SERIES IV: BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION, 1927-1939
Arranged alphabetically by Subject

2/1 Articles about Dr. Stockard's work, 1927, 1936.

2/2-3 Memorials and biographies about Dr. Stockard, ca. 1939.

SERIES V: MISCELLANEOUS, 1903-1938
Arranged alphabetically by subject

2/4 Catalog from W. W. Norton & Co listing his book The Physical Basis of Personality, 1931.

2/5 Invitations, 1907, 1935-1938.

2/6-7 Membership certificates, nominations and elections, 1903-1925.

2/8 Rockefeller Institute of Medical Research, Tribute, n.d.