

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

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

**Finding Aid To
THE HELEN LINCOLN (1902-2002) PAPERS**

**Dates of Papers:
1935-1974**

**5 Linear Inches
(1 Box)**

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Biography

Helen Burnham Lincoln was born September 25, 1902 in Willimantic, Connecticut. She graduated from Smith College in 1925, after which she attended Drake Secretarial School so that she "would have a handle in getting a job". (Transcript of Interview with Margo Diamond, 1974, p.1) She worked for a short time at publishing house, and then went to the N.J. Orthopaedic Hospital and Dispensary from 1926-1932 and worked on setting up their medical records system. In 1932 she applied at New York Hospital, which would soon open the doors of its new building on East 68th Street, and was hired as a coding clerk in the Medical Records Department. In two years Ms. Lincoln became Director of the Department, a position she retained until her retirement in 1967. In the years following her "retirement", Ms. Lincoln was active as a consultant on medical records, first to the Medical Systems and Computer Services group at the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center (1968-1973) and then to Payne Whitney Clinic (1974-1976).

Helen Lincoln was always very involved in professional activities, over and above her many assigned duties at New York Hospital. She served as an officer of many organizations and sat on many committees. In 1938 she co-authored (with Dr. Bronson S. Ray, a neurologist at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center) a book entitled "The New York Hospital Classified Nomenclature of Operations", which was later joined with the A.M.A. "Standard Nomenclature of Diseases" in 1940) to become the "Standard Nomenclature of Diseases and Operations", a publication still widely used. In 1964 Helen Lincoln received the first N.Y. State Association of Medical Record Librarians Achievement Award, and in 1972 she was given the American Medical Record Association's Distinguished Member Award. Ms. Lincoln also taught Hospital Administration at Columbia University from 1946-1952 and again in 1955

[Helen Lincoln died on August 3, 2002]

Scope and Content

This collection consists mainly of reprints, papers and articles written by Helen B. Lincoln during her career at New York Hospital. There are also a few pieces of correspondence and administrative memoranda scattered throughout the files.

These Papers reflect Helen Lincoln's active involvement in the field of medical records administration. "The Standard Nomenclature of Operations" that she and Dr. Ray developed was of major importance. Ms. Lincoln kept abreast of the changing technologies and health care practices and was a frequent speaker and author on these developments. She was very active in Hospital affairs, serving on several committees and running the busy and ever-growing Medical Records Department.

These files are arranged chronologically. See also the related files on the Medical Records Committee, NYH and the Dr. Bronson S. Ray Papers.

Subjects

Awards
Cornell Medical Index
Medical Records
Nomenclature
Nursing Nutrition Obstetrics Pharmacy Reprints Rules
Speeches

Container List

Box 1

f.1 Alphabetical Index and Resume.
f.2 1935-1937
f.3 1938-1941
f.4 1942-1944
f.5 1945-1946
f.6 1947-1948
f.7 1949-1951
f.8 1952
f.9 1953
f.10 1954
f.11 1955
f.12 1956
f.13 1957
f.14 1958-1959
f.15 1960-1964
f.16 1963-1964-"Sampling...", "Procedure manual, Coding Unit"
f.17 1965-1967
f.18 1968-1974