

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

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

**Finding Aid To
THE HERBERT TRAUT, MD (1894-1963) PAPERS**

**Dates of Papers:
1931-1943**

**20 Linear Inches
(4 Boxes)**

**Finding Aid Prepared By:
The Archival Staff
Undated**

Provenance

This collection was part of a group of files that were found in the sub-basement of the Lying-In Hospital area of the Medical Center in early 1983. This material contained 3 series: the files of Dr. Henricus J. Stander, Obstetrician and Gynecologist-in-Chief, 1931-48, Dr. R. Gordon Douglas and Dr. Herbert F. Traut all attendings in the Department of OB/GYN. (Dr. Douglas became head of the department in 1949.) These three series have been processed separately. Within the Traut Collection there was a large amount of yellowed, fragile paper. These have been photocopied and the originals destroyed.

Biography

Herbert F. Traut was born April 3, 1894 in Muscotah, Kansas. His family moved a great deal in his youth (His father was a clergyman), and Dr. Traut attended various public schools. He ultimately graduated from high school in Sheridan, Wyoming in 1912. After this he worked for a year in a steel mill to raise money for further schooling. The Fall of 1913 saw him entering Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington. Dr. Traut received his Bachelors Degree in 1917 and that summer he enlisted in the Army. He received training for three months in France in early 1918 and then went to the front, until his return home in June of 1919. Three months later, he entered Johns Hopkins Medical School, and was awarded his M.D. degree in 1923, Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Omega Alpha (A.O.A.). There followed a series of appointments at Johns Hopkins:

Teaching

Asst. in Surgery, 1923-25
Asst. in Pathology, 1925-26

Asst. in Gynecology, 1926-28
Instructor in Gynecology, 1928-29
Instructor in Obstetrics, 1929-31

Clinical

Intern in Surgery, 1923-24
Asst. Resident in Surgery, 1924-25

Asst. Resident in Gyn., 1925-28
Resident in Gynecology, 1928-29
Asst. Resident in Obs, 1930-31

In 1931, Dr. Traut was appointed to the staff of the new OB/GYN unit of the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center as an attending physician and an associate professor of OB/GYN. He toured the obstetrical and gynecological clinics of Europe for a year to aid in planning the Woman's Clinic of the New York Hospital. This opened with the new facilities in September of 1932.

Although Dr. Traut's early medical years centered on surgery (including writing a chapter on plastic surgery in Lewis Practice of Surgery), his

main focus of interest and research was gynecological pathology and he was in charge of the Pathological Lab of the OB/GYN Department. He worked with Dr. George N. Papanicolaou and later, Dr. Andrew Marchetti, on the development of the vaginal smear as a means of testing for cancerous cells. (This research was supported by the Commonwealth Fund.) Their work was made complicated by the fact that in October of 1942 Dr. Traut left the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center to become Chairman and Professor of OB/GYN at the University of California Medical School. Two monographs were published from this early collaboration: Diagnosis of Uterine Cancer By Vaginal Smear, Papanicolaou and Traut (NY: Commonwealth Fund, 1943) and Epithelia of Woman's Reproductive Organs by Papanicolaou, Traut and Marchetti (NY: Commonwealth Fund, 1948).

Dr. Traut was a member of many professional societies: American Gynecological Society; American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, American College of Surgeons, Harvey Society, etc. He was an avid fisherman and sportsman, played the cello, and collected and repaired antique clocks. He died on January 28, 1963.

For a detailed history of the Ob/Gyn Department during this period, see the finding aid for the Henricus J. Stander Collection.

Scope and Content

It is apparent from the collection that Dr. Traut was a very multi-faceted man. He loved sports, fishing and the outdoors, studied the cello, was interested and active in alumni affairs of Whitman College, held conservative political views, and was very patriotic. Dr. Traut was absolutely devoted to his lab and research. All of these things are brought out in the correspondence that makes up a large part of this collection. Here there is seen little of his research, aside from references to it in letters or in reports to the Commonwealth Fund regarding his work with Dr. Papanicolaou (see list following of locations of material relating to this research). Still, it is easy to trace his interest in pyelitis, the use of stilbolstrol, his pathology work and the refining of the vaginal smear technique. The latter is found especially in the 1941-1942 correspondence.

This collection also adds another piece into the picture of the OB/GYN Department of the 1930's and 1940's that was begun in the Stander and Douglas Collections. The "D" Correspondence file (Box 1, f.15) and the Memorandums of Dr. Stander file (Box 3, f.5) contain letters to Drs. Douglas and Stander during their absences from New York. Other files show Dr. Traut's concern over obtaining proper teaching specimen's for his course in gynecological pathology and, as an adjunct to this,

maintaining a museum collection of interesting material.

Items of special note in these Papers relate to Dr. Traut's political views and comments on his times: In the "E" Correspondence (Box 1, f.17), a letter outlines his thoughts on big government, with Dr. Traut sounding like a die-hard states' righter. He also mentions a "pink" tinge in the government. There is a 1939 letter to a Dr. Wilson (Box 4, f.8) on the need for neutrality in such hostile times. Finally, in his correspondence with Dr. Robert Meyer, beginning in 1933, Dr. Traut occasionally expresses a view on the situation in Germany. (Dr. Traut studied with Dr. Meyer, a noted gynecological pathologist, during his 1931-32 tour of European clinics and helped arrange his immigration in 1938.) Seldom are Dr. Meyer's letters of a political nature, but the correspondence is interesting nonetheless. Another sign of the times is found in correspondence with the Commonwealth Fund (Box 1, f.14) from 1941-42 regarding the hiring of a medical illustrator of Japanese origins to work on the vaginal smear project.

Subjects

Commonwealth Fund
 Douglas, R. Gordon
 Endocrinology
 Equipment
 Inventories
 Lying-In Hospital
 Ethnic Groups
 Nursing
 OB/GYN
 Papanicolaou, George N.
 Pathology
 Pharmacology
 Stander, Henricus J.
 Stimson, Philip
 Wartime Activity
 Woman's Clinic

Papanicolaou Material

A	Correspondence	5/19/1942	Alter
B	Correspondence	10/1941	Benson
B	Correspondence	12/5/1941	Batchelor
H	Correspondence	10/21/1941	Henrickson
H	Correspondence	05/11/1942	Herradora
J	Correspondence	03/13/1941	Johnston
K	Correspondence	09/23/1941	Kennedy
L	Correspondence	11/26/1941	Lucke

M Correspondence 03/06/1942 Martzloff
 M Correspondence 04/25/1941 Mount
 Memos: Stander 06/08/1933
 Memos: Woman's Clinic 1940
 Commonwealth Fund
 Papers: Transcripts & Discussions, 1934-1942

Container List

Box 1

- f.1 "A" Correspondence, 1933- May 1942.
- f.2 Academy of Medicine--Letters of Recommendation, 1938-1940.
- f.3 American Board of OB/GYN--Correspondence with Congress and Regarding Board Exams, 1937-1941.
- f.4 American Gynecological Society—Correspondence Regarding His Election and Meetings, 1938-1942.
- f.5 American Journal of OB/GYN—Correspondence Regarding Articles, 1934-1939, April and May 1942.
- f.6 American Journal of Surgery—Correspondence Regarding Articles on Pyelitis in Pregnancy, 1936- Feb.1937.
- f.7 Apartment--Correspondence Regarding Leases, etc., 1934-1937.
- f.8 Applicants--Correspondence Regarding Positions, 1934-1942.
- f.9 Automobile--Correspondence Regarding Accidents, Insurance, etc., 1934-1940.
- f.10 "B" Correspondence, 1932- Sept. 1942.
- f.11 Bausch & Lomb Optical Company—Correspondence Regarding Equipment, 1932-1937.
- f.12 Bills, 1934-1939.
- f.13 "C" Correspondence, 1932-September, 1942.
- f.14 Commonwealth Fund--Correspondence and Reports Regarding Funding of Vaginal Smear Work with Papanicolaou and Progress, 12/1940-09/1942.
- f.15 "D" Correspondence, 1932-Feb.1942.
- f.16 Drugs--Correspondence with Pharmacy Companies Regarding Supplies of Drugs, Some Experimental and Their Uses Here, 1932-1941.
- f.17 "E" Correspondence, Nov. 1934- May 1942.
- f.18 Endocrine Clinic--Correspondence with Drug Company Regarding Providing Hormones For Clinic, Jan-March 1934.

Box 1 (cont)

- f.19 Equipment--Correspondence, Mostly Regarding Setting-Up of Department in 1932, 1932-July 1940.

Box 2

- f.1 "F" Correspondence, 1933-June 1942.
 f.2 Farnsworth: Camp Hanoum--Correspondence, 1932.
 f.3 Flagg Apparatus--Correspondence Regarding Its Merits, Sept.-Oct, 1934.
 f.4 "G" Correspondence, 1932-June 1942.
 f.5 Gynecological Pathological Society--Membership List, Correspondence Regarding, Statement of Purpose, 1936-Feb. 1942.
 f.6 "H" Correspondence, 1932-Aug. 1942.
 f.7 Handbook of the Woman's Clinic—Correspondence Regarding Creation, March-August 1933.
 f.8 "I" Correspondence, Dec. 1932, 1940-41.
 f.9 Inventories of Equipment at Lying-In Hospital, Manhattan Maternity and Dispensary, New York Hospital and Cornell Clinic, 1931-1932.
 f.10 "J" Correspondence, 1932-June 1942.
 f.11 Journal of the American Medical Association--Correspondence Regarding Articles, Aug. 1938-July 1940
 f.12 "K" Correspondence, 1932- July 1942.
 f.13 "L" Correspondence, 1932-Aug. 1942.
 f.14 "Mc" Correspondence, 1932-1941.
 f.15 "M" Correspondence, Feb. 1932-April 1942.
 f.16 Medical Advisory Committees of OPD, Nursing Principles and Practices, and Medical Students. November 1934- July 1942.

Box 3

- f.1 Meetings: Fort Worth, Texas; Cleveland, Ohio (A.M.A); Colorado Springs (A.G.S); Roanoke, Virginia, 1940-1941.
 f.2 Memorandum: College Regarding Setting-Up of Museum, Student Affairs, June 1932-Jan. 1941.
 f.3 Memorandum: NYH Regarding Department, Labs, Patients, Library Committees, etc., March 1932-Aug. 1942.
 f.4 Memorandum: Nursing Regarding Doctor's Orders, Student Exams and Results, Procedure, Nov. 1932- Feb. 1942.
 f.5 Memorandum: Dr. Stander Regarding Department, Procedures, Museum, 1932-1941.
 f.6 Memorandum: Woman's Clinic

Box 3 (cont)

- f.7 Meyer, Dr. Robert--Correspondence Regarding Germany, Meyer's Immigration to America in 1938, 1933-May 1942.
- f.8 Meyer Fund--Correspondence Regarding Fundraising to Support Dr. Meyer's Position at University of Minnesota, 1939-1941.
- f.9 "N" Correspondence, 1932- Sept. 1942.
- f.10 New York Obstetrical Society--Correspondence Regarding Payments of Bills, Papers, Membership, 1935-Sept. 1942.
- f.11 "O" Correspondence, 1934-Aug 1942.
- f.12 "P" Correspondence, April 1932-Sept. 1942.
- f.13 Papers: Transcripts and Discussions, 1934-1943.
- f.14 Pelves, Index to, 1934.
- f.15 Plastic Surgery, Chapter on, n.d.
- f.16 Practitioner's Library" Series—Correspondence Regarding Writing Chapter for, Oct. 1936-March 1937
- f.17 "Q" and "R" Correspondence, 1931-March 1942

Box 4

- f.1 Recommendations, Letters of, Written by Traut for Students & Staff, Oct. 1935-Aug. 1942. (Restricted)
- f.2 "S" Correspondence, 1932-Aug. 1942.
- f.3 Surgery, Gynecology & Obstetrics--Correspondence regarding Articles & Reviews in, April 1935-Dec. 1939, Aug. 1942.
- f.4 "T" Correspondence, Oct. 1933-Sept. 1942.
- f.5 Traut, Herbert: Personal--Bibliography, List of Albums, etc. 1932-1941.
- f.6 "U" & "V" Correspondence, 1932-July 1942.
- f.7 University of California--Letters from Traut Arranging Visit There & Regarding Appointment, Jul-Aug. 1942.
- f.8 "W" Correspondence, 1932, July 1942.
- f.9 Whitman College--Correspondence received Through Traut's Role in Alumni Affairs, 1932-March 1942.
- f.10 Willkie Campaign--Correspondence regarding Fundraising at NYH for Republican Finance Committee, July- Nov. 1940.
- f.11 "Y" & "Z" Correspondence, April 1935-Sept. 1941.