

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

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

**Finding Aid to the  
RECORDS OF THE BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE,  
NEW YORK HOSPITAL**

**Dates of Records:  
1960-1972**

**30 Linear Inches  
(6 Boxes)**

**Finding Aid Prepared By:  
Steve Novak  
Assistant Archivist  
May 1988  
Updated  
Elizabeth Shepard  
Associate Archivist  
November 2015**

---

**PROVENANCE:**

These records were received directly from the Bicentennial Committee ca. 1976. Jeremiah Barondess donated two document boxes of additional materials on January 31, 2007.

---

**ADMINISTRATIVE/BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:**

The plans to celebrate the New York Hospital's two hundredth anniversary in 1971 began in 1963 when the Board of Governors formed the Ad Hoc History Committee to look into publishing a bicentennial history of the hospital. They succeeded in May 1965 in hiring Eric Larrabee, a noted magazine editor, author, and educator to write this history, which was eventually entitled "The Benevolent and Necessary Institution." A Bicentennial Committee was not formed, however, until May 1967. It consisted of eleven New York Hospital physicians and administrators under the chairmanship of Dr. Henry N. Pratt, director of the hospital from 1948 to 1966. This committee was reorganized in September 1968 with the addition of six members of the Board of Governors and two Co-Chairmen, Board member Stanley de J. Osborne and Dr. Pratt. In addition, numerous subcommittees were established to plan specific aspects of the bicentennial. These included subcommittees on Logistics, Employee Activities, the Colloquium, and the Trinity Church ceremony. To coordinate overall bicentennial planning a public relations specialist, George B. Eager, was hired in January 1969. For reasons that are not clear, Peter Model whose services were retained for the remainder of the anniversary year replaced George Eager in March 1971. The bicentennial celebration was inaugurated on May 16, 1971 by a special service at Trinity Church commemorating the speech made by Dr. Samuel Bard in 1769, in an earlier Trinity Church, calling for the establishment of "A Public Hospital for the Reception of the Poor Sick." This became New York Hospital. The ceremony featured a reenactment of Bard's speech followed by a keynote address delivered by Kingman Brewster, President of Yale University. The other major bicentennial observance was a two-day (May 17-18) colloquium on "The Future Role of the University-Based Metropolitan Medical Centers" held at Rockefeller University's Caspary Auditorium. The colloquium was organized by Dr. Walsh McDermott and featured such luminaries as David Rogers, Rene Dubos, and Vernon Jordan. The Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation published its proceedings in 1972. Other bicentennial events included a Block Party for Hospital employees; the issuance by the U. S. Postal Service of a postcard featuring New York Hospital to commemorate "America's Hospitals," and a WNBC-TV documentary film of the hospital entitled "No Less Than Life."

---

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:**

The papers in this collection touch upon every aspect of The New York Hospital bicentennial celebration and cover some phases of it in considerable detail. The best overall view of planning for the festivities can be found in the minutes of the Bicentennial Committee, 1967-1971 and in the general correspondence files, 1963-1972. There is

much in both the minutes and the correspondence not only about the actual planning but also about the kind of image the hospital wished to project and its aims and goals in celebrating its bicentennial in the way it did.

There is also considerable information on the colloquium, the Trinity Church observance, and the "America's Hospitals" postcard. There are folders on speeches given at various events, on publicity, and on publications relating to the bicentennial.

#### Non-Manuscript Material

Four plans for seating arrangements and tent set-up on the Rockefeller University "Esplanade" 1968 and 1969 have been transferred to the Map Case. A manila envelope of bicentennial buttons is also part of the collection and is located in the button folder.

---

#### **CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS:**

The collection is open to researchers.

---

#### **LANGUAGE OF MATERIAL:**

English.

---

#### **PROCESSING NOTE:**

Assistant Archivist, Lisa Hottin, did an earlier arrangement of this collection in 1978. Her folder listing is the basis of the box and content list. Steve Novak wrote a more detailed finding aid with history and scope of content note in 1988. Elizabeth Shepard added additional materials on the Bicentennial Committee to this initial collection and placed it in the formal finding aid template in 2015. Elizabeth also processed the materials more thoroughly discarding duplicated materials or materials that did not have historical value.

---

#### **PREFERRED CITATION:**

Item Name or Identification; Box #, Folder #; Records of the Bicentennial Committee, New York Hospital, 1960-1972 (Medical Center Archives of NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, New York, NY).

---

#### **BOX AND FOLDER LIST:**

##### **Box 1:**

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
----------------	---------------------

1	American Hospital Association: re their entry in Rose Bowl Parade, 01/01/1972
---	---

2	Anniversaries, Other Institutions, 1968-1970
3	Anniversary, New York University School of Medicine, 1960
4	Associated Press News Features, Correspondence re filming at New York Hospital, 1971
5	Audio-Visual, Subcommittee on, Correspondence, 1970-1971
6	Bard, Samuel, Correspondence, mainly reprint of "Discourse Upon the Duties of a Physician," 1970-1971
7	Bard Scenario (Reenactment of Bard's 1769 Speech at Bicentennial Celebration at Trinity Church), Correspondence mainly re hiring Hal Holbrook to play Bard; copy of script, 1971
8	Buildings and Arrangements, Subcommittee on, Correspondence, 1969-1971
9	Buttons, Correspondence, 1970-1971
10	Clippings, 1971
11	Colloquium, Correspondence, 1969-1971
12	Colloquium, Participants, 1969-1971

**Box 2:****Folder: Description:**

1	Colloquium, Participants, Biographies, 1971
2	Colloquium, Programs and Invitations, 1971
3	Colloquium, Proceedings and Publications, 1971
4	Colloquium, Sites, 1971
5	Committees, Members, 1970-1971
6-7	Committees, Minutes and Agendas, 1967-1971
8	Correspondence, 1963-1969

**Box 3:****Folder: Description:**

1	Correspondence, 1970-1972
2	Dinners, 1971
3	Dinners, May 16, 1971
4	Dinners, May 17, 1971
5	Employees Activities, Subcommittee on, 1970-1971
6	Finances, Budget, 1969-1971
7	Finances, Correspondence, 1970-1971
8	Gifts, Awards and Mementos, Subcommittee on, Correspondence, 1970-1971
9	Hospitality and Reception, Subcommittee on, Correspondence, Reports, Schedules, 1970-1971
10	Invitation List -Members, Society of the New York Hospital, 1970-1971

**Box 4:**

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
1	Ladies, Subcommittee on, 1970
2-5	Larrabee, Eric, Book, 1965-1972
6	Letters of Congratulations, 1971
7-8	Letters, Thank You, Incoming and Outgoing, 1971
9	Logistics, Subcommittee on, 1970-1971
10	Menus and Decorations, Subcommittee on, Cost Estimates, Correspondence, 1969-1971
11	Miller, Henry, Article for The Listener on the Colloquium, 1971
12	Miscellaneous, 1970-1971

**Box 5:**

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
1	"New York Times" Supplement, 1969-1971
2	"No Less Than Life," Film, NBC, 1969-1971
3-4	Operations Book, 1969-1971
5	Photography, 1971
6	Postcard, Cover and Information re Postcard Issued to Commemorate "America's Hospitals," 1971
7	Postcard, Guest list for First Day of Issue Ceremony, May 17, 1971
8	Postcard, Invitation and Program, First Day of Issue Ceremony, 1971
9	Postcard, Public Relations, 1971
10	Postcard, Speakers and Speeches, First Day of Issue Ceremony, 1971
11	Postcard, Thank you Letters, 1971
12	Press Releases, 1971
13	Printing, Correspondence, 1971
14	Printing, Samples, 1971
15	Proclamation, 1971

**Box 6:**

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
1	Proposals, 1968-1970
2	Publications, 1970-1971
3	Publicity, 1969-1971
4	Reception, India House, 1969-1970
5	Rockefeller University, 1969-1971
6	Security, 1970-1971
7	Speakers and Speeches, 1970-1971
8	Tally Sheets, 1971

9	Tele Tape Productions, Film on Trinity Church Ceremony, 1970
10	Transportation, Subcommittee on, 1970
11	Trinity Church, Subcommittee on, 1969-1971
12	Westchester Division, 1970