

Guide to the Edward Staunton West Papers on the WWII 46th General Hospital 2007-005

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Oregon Health & Science University Historical Collections & Archives

2013/9/26

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Summary Information

Repository	Oregon Health & Science University Historical Collections & Archives
Title	Edward Staunton West Papers on the WWII 46th General Hospital
Date [inclusive]	1942-1944
Extent	0.25 linear feet 1 folder
Location	Archives, Room 440, Old Library, Marquam Hill Campus
Language	English
Abstract	Edward Staunton West, Ph.D., served as Chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Admissions Committee Chairman at the University of Oregon Medical School, co-fathered the Primate Center, and co-authored a reputable biochemistry textbook. During WWII, West was a consultant for the U.S. Army and Navy for premedical training programs and also served as Director of Research for the U.S. Quartermaster Corps. The collection contains one file of copies of documents pertaining to military training activities and participation at the University of Oregon Medical School's reserve unit, the 46th General Hospital, during World War II.

Citation Information

Edward Staunton West Papers, Accession no. 2007-005, Historical Collections & Archives, Oregon Health & Science University.

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Biographical Note

Edward Staunton West was born in Stuart, Virginia on September 9, 1896. He received his undergraduate degree from Randolph-Macon University in Virginia, an M.S. degree from Kansas State College, and a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of Chicago in 1923.

West became associated with the Department of Biochemistry at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. There he advanced to professor, achieving an enviable reputation for his research and teaching. In 1934 he accepted an offer to chair the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Oregon Medical School in Portland, Oregon. Shortly after his arrival at UOMS, he became Chairman of the Admissions Committee.

Dr. West fathered the Primate Center - the first in the nation - with Dr. Donald Pickering. He was named one of two principal investigators on the Public Health Service grant for the Primate Center. During WWII, Edward was a consultant to the Army and Navy for premedical training programs. He also served as Director of Research for the U.S. Quartermaster Corps.

Throughout West's career, he was an avid student of biochemistry and its application. Continuing his studies, West took basic courses in radioisotopes at the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies in 1948. He coauthored a biochemistry textbook with Dr. Wilbert Todd (also a faculty member of the Department of Biochemistry) that was considered to be the most outstanding textbook in the field.

He retired in 1966 at the age of 70, having spent 32 years at the UOMS. After retirement, he began working as an assistant to Primate Center Director, Dr. William Mantagna. West also continued to serve as senior advisor to the UOMS Admissions Committee.

Dr. West was a respected and popular figure among colleagues, staff, and students. As one of his favorite diversions, he initiated the noontime horseshoe tournaments at UOMS. He also loved fishing and hunting and was an avid collector of guns, making his own ammunition.

He was married to Ruth Hurd West (1894-1969) who preceded him in death. After Ruth passed, he married Ruth's 1st cousin, Muriel Jennings Schori, in 1969. Muriel passed way in 1985. Dr. West died several years later in 1988.

West's honors include: Henry W. Murray Medal for scholarship, Randolph-Macon College, 1917; delivered 1st Shaffer Lecture at Washington University School of Medicine; past President of Portland Academy of Medicine; LLD: Randolph-Macon College; visiting Professor at Tulane University; and Presented Doctor of Science degree by University of Portland.

West's memberships include: Biochemistry Test Committee of the National Board of Examiners; American Chemical Society; American Society of Biological Chemists; Society of Experimental Biology and Medicine; American Association for the Advancement of Science; American Association of University Professors; Phi Sigma; Chi Beta Phi; Sigma Xi; Phi Beta Kappa; and honorary member of Phi Beta Pi and North Pacific Society of Neurology and Psychiatry.

West's publications include:

Physical Chemistry for Students of Biochemistry and Medicine. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1942

Todd, Wilbert R. *Textbook of Biochemistry*. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1951; 1955; 1956; 1961; 1963; 1966.

Scope and Contents

The collection contains one file of copies of documents pertaining to military training activities and participation at the University of Oregon Medical School's reserve unit, the 46th General Hospital, during World War II. See detailed inventory for more information.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Oregon Health & Science University Historical Collections & Archives 2013/9/26

Conditions Governing Access

No restrictions on access. The collection is open to the public.

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Acquisition Information

No acquisition information known at the time of processing.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials

Historical Image Collection:

The Historical Image Collection contains images of participants and activities of the 46th General Hospital. To view images, see the OHSU Digital Commons:

46th General Hospital, Commissioned Officers, December 15, 1942

Military drill practice on the University of Oregon Medical School campus, circa 1940

Archival Collections:

Hills, Hilderbrant and Richards Papers, Accession no. 1998-007

Evart A. Tinker Photograph Albums, Accession no. 2000-005

Colonel Strohm's Nurse's Photograph Albums, Accession no. 2000-006

Charles F. Norris Photograph Albums, Accession no. 2000-007

46th General Hospital Papers, Accession no. 2001-001

Kathryn D. Hilderbrant Collection, Accession no. 2003-001

Otis B. Wight - Base Hospital 46 : Glass Plate Negative Collection, Accession no. 2006-012

Oregon State Medical Society, Accession No. 1997-003: This collection includes a Service Bulletin (1943-1946), subject files, physician correspondence files, and physician card files. These records document the military careers of Oregon physicians serving in World War II through correspondence, clippings, and records of rank and decorations. They also document various aspects of the war effort and its impact on the physicians who served, including racial issues, POW experiences, and various service units. Specific units mentioned include the U.S.S. Comfort, 41st Division, 46th General Hospital, 91st Evacuation Hospital, 101st Airborne Division, and 104th Infantry Division.

OHSU Oral History Project:

Cliff Morris

Donald Devlin

E. Murray Burns

Ruby Hills, Katherine Fisher Hildebrant, and Edith Moore Richards

PNW Archives:

Burns, Edgar Murray, Notes on the U.S. Medical Service 46th General Hospital in WWII: history of the Oregon Neuropsychiatric Society. [1945-1979?]

Diack, Arch W. 46th General Hospital: University of Oregon Medical School in World War II, 1942-45, a sketch journal. Published by Arch W. Diack, 1986

Hills, Ruby, Remembering Our Experiences in WWII: 1942-45, 1991.

World War II and the Greatest Generation [video recording]: the University of Oregon Medical School history. [Produced by] Linda Weimer, Joan Ash. Portland: Oregon Health & Science University, 2001.

Biographical Files:

See the biographical files for more information on the life and work of Edward Staunton West, Ph.D.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- University of Oregon Medical School.

Personal Name(s)

- West, Edward Staunton , Ph.D. , 1896-1988

Subject(s)

- Hospitals, Military
- Medicine and Health
- Military
- Oregon
- U.S. Navy

Other Finding Aids

The following institutions contain archival collections related to hospitals and World War II:

U.S. Army 20th General Hospital Collection, Penn University Archives & Records Center:

<http://www.archives.upenn.edu/faids/upc/upc15.html>

Sixty-Fifth General Hospital Collection, Duke University Medical Center Archives:

<http://archives.mc.duke.edu/mca65thgeneral.html>

Collection Inventory

File 1/1

Student deferment

Screening procedures in medicine and dentistry - selection of trainees

Conference of medical and dental school deans - minutes

Classification of students

Activities of the 46th General Hospital

Navy specialized training program - resume of information

Deferment of instructors participating in the Navy College Program

Navy V-12 pre-medical and pre-dental students in interim duty curriculum

Medical training of qualified civilians in contract classes in approved medical schools - applications

Commissioning of apprentice seamen, class V-12, in medical schools upon completion of their medical school education

Internships for medical students enrolled in the Navy V-12 medical program

Brief history of the 46th General Hospital