

Guide to the Kirby Smith Howlett, Jr. Papers

MS 1412



compiled by Diane E. Kaplan

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P.O. Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520-8240
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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1412

CREATOR: Howlett, Kirby Smith, 1904-1974

TITLE: Kirby Smith Howlett, Jr. papers

DATES: 1934-1965

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.5 linear feet (4 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist of correspondence and writings documenting Kirby Smith Howlett's research on and treatment of tuberculosis, particularly the testing of streptomycin. Also included are materials for Howlett's work with the American Trudeau Society and the *American Review of Tuberculosis*.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1412>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1412>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Joseph L. Howlett, 1985.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Kirby Smith Howlett, Jr. Papers (MS 1412). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Kirby Smith Howlett, Jr. was a physician and phthysiologist, a specialist in the treatment of tuberculosis. He spent his entire professional career at the Laurel Heights Hospital in Shelton, Connecticut.

Scope and Contents

The Kirby Smith Howlett, Jr. Papers are composed of correspondence, writings, and other papers from Howlett's professional files. The papers document that portion of Howlett's career as phthysiologist when breakthroughs in drug therapy portended the eradication of tuberculosis. Howlett, as assistant superintendent of the Laurel Heights Hospital in Shelton, Connecticut, was one of the first doctors to conduct a study of the effectiveness of streptomycin in treating this dreaded disease, and the papers primarily document this phase of tuberculosis research.

The papers are arranged by correspondent, organization, or topic and are listed alphabetically. The earliest papers date from the 1930s when Howlett studied the use of oleothorax in treating tuberculosis. Howlett authored a chapter on the therapy, copies of which are found in folders 43-46. See also the correspondence with John Alexander (folder 2) and the subject file on oleothorax therapy (folder 33).

Howlett conducted much of his research under the auspices of the American Trudeau Society. Serving on the committees on therapy and on chemotherapy, Howlett took part in the organization and implementation of clinical trials of streptomycin. See particularly the files for the American Trudeau Society (folders 7-19) and for committee chairmen H. Corwin Hinshaw (folders 22-25) and H. McLeod Riggins (folders 34-35) as well as the subject file on streptomycin (folder 39). Various writings by Howlett on streptomycin research will be found in folders 47-54.

Howlett served as president of the American Trudeau Society (1949-1950) and was active in the society in other ways. The files for the society document various projects and concerns through correspondence with office staff, minutes of meetings, and correspondence with committee and society members. Similar material exists in the files for the *American Review of Tuberculosis*. Howlett was a frequent contributor to that journal and served on its editorial board.

The Kirby Smith Howlett, Jr. Papers were given to the Yale University Library in 1985 by Howlett's son Joseph L. Howlett.

Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	Abbott Research Laboratories	1948
b. 1, f. 2	Alexander, John	1935-1955
b. 1, f. 3-6	1946-1952, undated	1946-1952, undated
b. 1, f. 7-16	American Trudeau Society	1943-1952
b. 2, f. 17-19	American Trudeau Society	1953-1959, undated
b. 2, f. 20	American Trudeau Society. Eastern Section	1951-1953, undated
	Barnwell, John B. See also: box 3, folder 41 See also: box 1, folders 7-16	
b. 2, f. 21	Connecticut State Tuberculosis Commission	1947-1954, undated
b. 2, f. 22-25	Hinshaw, H. Corwin	1943-1949, undated
b. 2, f. 26	Hoffman-LaRoche Inc.	1952-1953
b. 2, f. 27	International Union Against Tuberculosis	1950, undated
b. 2, f. 28	McDermott, Walsh See also: box 1, folders 3-6	1948-1952
b. 2, f. 29	Merck & Company, Inc.	1948-1950.
b. 2, f. 30	National Institute of Health See also: MS Common Folio 53	1946-1952, undated
b. 2, f. 31	National Tuberculosis Association	1944-1958
b. 2, f. 32	New York Tuberculosis and Health Association, Inc.	1954, undated
b. 2, f. 33	Oleothorax therapy	1934-1935
b. 3, f. 34-35	Riggins, H. McLeod See also: box 2, folder 32	1944-1950, undated
b. 3, f. 36	Rimifon and Marsilid treatment See also: box 2, folder 26 See also: box 2, folder 28	1952
b. 3, f. 37	Sadusk, Joseph F., Jr.	1946-1949

b. 3, f. 38	Steenken, William, Jr. See also: box 2, folders 22-25 box 2, folder 29 box 2, folder 31 box 3, folder 37 box 3, folder 38 box 3, folder 41	1947-1950
b. 3, f. 39	Streptomycin See also: box 2, folders 22-25 See also: box 2, folder 29 See also: box 2, folder 31 See also: box 3, folder 37 See also: box 3, folder 38 See also: box 3, folder 41	1946-1949, undated
b. 3, f. 40	Tuberculosis -- diagnostic standards, epidemiological aspects, testing	1941-1955
b. 3, f. 41	United States. Veterans Administration	1946-1962
b. 3, f. 42-48	Writings	1935-1947
b. 4, f. 49-54	Writings	1948-1965, undated
b. 4, f. 55	Fragments	undated
b. 5	Tuberculosis center photographs	

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Preferred Titles

American Review of Tuberculosis

Subjects

Drugs -- Testing
Medicine
Physicians
Streptomycin
Tuberculosis -- Chemotherapy
Tuberculosis -- Research

Names

Alexander, John, 1891-
Hinshaw, H. Corwin (Horton Corwin),
1902-2000
Howlett, Kirby Smith, 1904-1974
McDermott, Walsh, 1909-1981
Riggins, H. McLeod
Sadusk, Joseph F.

Corporate Bodies

American Trudeau Society
Laurel Heights Hospital (Shelton, Conn.)
National Tuberculosis Association