

**The Osler Library of the History of Medicine
McGill University, Montreal Canada**

Osler Library Archive Collections

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ROBERT PALMER HOWARD FONDS

FINDING AID AND INVENTORY LIST

This is a guide to one of the collections held by the [Osler Library of the History of Medicine](#),
McGill University.

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P200: Robert Palmer Howard Fonds, 1912-1990

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 11 cm of textual records. – 1 photo album (51 photographs). – 3 books.

DATES: 1875-1975

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:

Robert Palmer Howard (1912-1990) was the son of McGill graduate Dr. Campbell Palmer Howard (1877-1936) and Otilie Wright (1892-1976). He was the grandson and namesake of distinguished McGill professor and dean of the Faculty of Medicine from 1882-1889, Robert Palmer Howard (1823-1889) and Emily Severs Howard (1840-1892). Howard's father, Campbell Palmer Howard, was the godson of William Osler (1849-1919) and Howard himself was godson to Osler's son, Edward Revere Osler (1895-1917).

Howard received his medical degree from McGill University in 1932. Upon graduation, he worked at McGill and also at Montreal General Hospital. He spent most of his career as a physician and researcher at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, affiliated with the University of Oklahoma. Howard was always particularly interested in the history of medicine and later became the director of University of Oklahoma's History of Medicine Program. Upon retirement, he moved to Iowa City, IA to become Director of the History of Medicine Society at the University of Iowa.

Howard is the author of *The Chief: Doctor William Osler* published by Science History Publications in 1983. The bibliographical work provides a detailed account of the close relationships and correspondences between the Osler and Howard families. Howard married Muriel Howard and is the father of Caroline Howard Mast.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

Fonds consists of personal letters between Howard family members and close relations (C. P. Howard, William Osler, Grace Osler, the Wright family etc.). Subjects range from wedding engagement congratulations for C. P. Howard and Otilie Wright, personal introductions from Grace Osler, to professional appointment letters. There are original photographs (as well as a few copies) of candid Osler family moments, formal family portraits, hospital photos of Osler at work, as well as several professional portraits of William Osler by prominent Montreal photographers. The fonds also includes miscellaneous reprints, booklets, and various other publication materials such as R. P. Howard's valedictory addresses to several graduating classes, personal copies of medical case studies, Osler's handwritten medical notes from 1875-1878, as well as original caricature sketches by Edward Revere Osler. In addition, there is a small photo album (in its own presentation box) with John Hopkins Hospital staff portraits (names included) from 1902-1903. The photo album is stamped "C.P.H." on the front cover.

Included in the fonds are the following books: *The Holy Bible* (Oxford, 1912), *The Poems of Edgar Allan Poe* (Diamond Edition, New York, 1881), and Robert Bridges *The Spirit of Man* (Longmans Green and Co., London, 1916).

SOURCE OF SUPPLIED TITLE PROPER: Title based on content of fonds.

LANGUAGE: The documents are in English.

FINDING AIDS: Inventory list is available.

CUSTODIAL HISTORY: All materials accumulated by Robert Palmer Howard (1912-1990). Caroline Howard Mast, daughter of Robert Palmer Howard (1912-1990), donated to Osler Library July 2015.

SERIES:

1. Letters
2. Misc. Reprints and Publications
3. Photos of William Osler and Lady Osler and others
4. Photos of William Osler with Misc.
5. William Osler Portraits
6. Misc. Documents
7. Handwritten Medical Notes
8. Sketches
9. Photo Album
10. Books

GENERAL NOTE: n/a

SUBJECTS:

McGill University Doctors
Howard, Robert Palmer, 1823-1889
Osler, Sir William, Sir, 1849-1919
Osler, Sir William – Friends or Relations
Osler, Grace Revere
Howard, Campbell Palmer, 1877-1936
Howard, Otilie Wright, 1892-1976
Howard, Robert Palmer, 1912-1990

Series 1: Letters

Folder 1: Letters to Campbell P. Howard (1911-1912)

- Letter to C. P. H. c/o Sir William Osler from Muriel Howard dated 10 Aug. 1911.
- Letter from M. C. Howard (Margaret C. Howard 1854-1926, daughter of Lord Strathcona and Isabella, married to R. Jared B Howard who is R. P. H.'s son from first wife Mary Chipman) sent from Cavendish Square, London UK, 30 Nov. 1912.

Folder 2: Letters to Otilie Wright (1911 and n.d.)

- Letter from Muriel Howard, 10 Aug. 1911.
- Letter from brother Palmer, 15 Sept., mentions "Bill" going to school in Quebec.
- Letter from Aunt Grace unknown date.

Folder 3: Letters to Campbell P. Howard from Lewellys F. Barker, 1905-1906

- Letter mentioning William Osler recommending C.P.H.'s work, 8 April 1905.
- Letter to C.P.H. in Munich, staying with Prof. Muller, 24 March 1906.

Folder 4: Letter to C. P. Howard from Montreal General Hospital, 21 Nov. 1905.

- C.P.H. elected out-patient physician to M.G.H. at the Quarterly Meeting of Governors.

Folder 5: Letter to C. P. Howard from Dr. Francis John Shepherd, dated 2 Jan. 1911 (posted February 3, 1911).

- Mentions C.P.H.'s letter of resignation.

Folder 6: Letters to C. P. Howard, all letters of congratulations on wedding engagement, 1911.

- Letter from Harry P. Wright giving his blessing and congratulations, 10 Aug.
- Letter from Marion Wright, 10 Aug.
- Letter from Albert Davenport, 24 Sept., mentions Lady Osler.
- Letter from M. C. Howard (telegram from Island of Colonsay), 11 Aug.

Folder 7: Letters to C. P. Howard from Osler, Grace Revere, 1910-1911.

- All signed "Aunt Grace."
- Letters from 9 March 1910, Sept. 7, Oct. 2, Nov. 18, one date unknown
- Letter from 2 April 1911

Folder 8: Three letters from Reggie (last name unknown), dates unknown.

- Letters addressed to Otilie, Tess, O., all signed “Your loving Reggie”

Folder 9: Letters from Grace Revere Osler, introducing C. P. Howard to the Perkins, dates unknown.

- Letters to “Cousin Edith” Perkins and Charles Perkins of Burlington, Iowa.
- Letter to Campbell P. Howard introducing her cousins Edith and Charles Perkins, signed “Aunt Grace”, date unknown.

Folder 10: Letters to C.P.H. from W. Peterson, 4 Aug. and 14 Aug. 1910

- Mentions that William Osler told him C.P.H. was offered Chair of Medicine at the University of Ohio.

Series 2: Misc. Reprints and Publications

Folder 11: Misc. Reprints and Publications by William Osler, printed 1890s - 20th C.

- “An Address on Life of W.O.” by L.W. Brockington, 1949
- Reprint of W.O.’s “Remarks on Specialism”, 1892
- W.O.’s Autobiographical Notes edited by Edward H. Bensley and Donald G. Bates, 1976.
*signed by the editors “To Marion Wright with our compliments and best wishes, Edward Binsley Don Bates”

Folder 12: Misc. Publications by Robert Palmer Howard, printed 1877-1889.

- “A Case of Fibroid Disease of the Heart”, 1880 (personal copy with a few hand-written edits)
- “Cases of Pernicious Progressive Anemia” 1877 (personal copy)
- “Case of Bilateral Ophthalmoplegia Externa...” 1889 (personal copy)

Folder 13: R. Palmer Howard, “On Hepatic Cirrhosis in Children”, 1887.

- cover missing
- Published in American Journal of The Medical Sciences, October 1887
- Read at the meeting of The Association of American Physicians, Washington, 2 June 1887.

Folder 14: R. Palmer Howard, valedictory addresses to the graduating classes of 1869, 1881

- Reprints of R.P.H.’s address to graduates

Folder 15: Letters to R. Palmer Howard from W. W. Francis, Photograph of William Osler & group

- Letters addressed to “Palmer” inquiring about Revere Osler’s bookplate at the library
- Group photograph including W.O. and Lady O, plus unknowns, date unknown

Folder 16: Misc. Event Programs from 1910, 1911, 1929.

- Dinner in C.P.H.’s name by the University Club, 2 Sept. 1910
- Dinner held by Mount Royal Club to celebrate Campbell P. Howards’s marriage, 23 Dec. 1911.
- McGill University Faculty of Medicine Programme, Dedication of The Osler Library, 29 May 1929.

Series 3: Photos of W.O. and Lady O. and others

Folder 17: Osler family portrait, Oxford, 1905.

- W.O., Lady Osler, and child pictured. Unsigned. Photographed by C.K. Russell.

Folder 18: William Osler and Lady Osler portraits, 1909-1917.

- Photograph by Otilie, taken “on steps” in Oxford, 1909-1910
- Printed postcard (unused), copyrighted M. G. Wright, 1917.

Folder 19: Candid photographs of Grace Revere Osler and Lady Osler Candid, circa 1910.

- Lady Osler holding up her skirts, circa 1910
- Sue Chapin, Grace Revere Osler, Mrs. J Revat (last name unclear), 1909-1910

Folder 20: Grace Revere Osler with Captain W.W. Francis, 1915.

Folder 21: Family Portraits with accompanying letter

- Two family portraits of William and Lady Osler and child, 1 June 1905
- Letter addressed to Dr. N. C. Gilbert from Colin K. Russell, 2 March 1949.

Folder 22: Portrait of Grace Revere Osler

- Photo by C. Vandyk, 37 Buckingham Palace Rd/ 125 Gloucester Rd, London England

Series 4: Photos of W.O. with Misc.

Folder 23: Sir William Osler portrait, with G. Ross, F. Shepherd, 1877.

- Photo is an unpublished tintype – includes original tintype and copy.
- Business Card of Olivier Desmarais, Photographe, 187 Rue Wolfe, Montreal

Folder 24: Photo of Sir William Osler with Otilie Wright, Oxford, 1910.

Folder 25: Group Portraits of Sir William Osler and others, on house steps, 1910.

- W.O. standing, Grace Osler seated with Nona Gwyn and four other women
- Photo taken by Otilie Wright “after Nona arrived in Oxford.”

Folder 26: Grace Revere Osler with R. Palmer Howard and Muriel, 1920.

- Garden photograph. R.P.H. and sister are young children.

Folder 27: Sir William Osler with Revere’s French Governess, 1910.

Folder 28: Sir William Osler with others, Tuberculosis Congress, Paris, 31 Oct. 1905.

- Group photo taken in front of Famille Louie tomb at Mont Parnasse Cemetery in Paris
- From left to right: Klebs, Kayserling, Beyer, Whitman, McCarthy, Norton, W.O., Pearson, Magnin, Jacobs, Knopf, Evans, Lowman, Brennan, Pottenger.
- Copy of A.M.A journal article featuring the photo is included, printed 1906

Folder 29: Sir William Osler with Brother Edmund’s Party on S.S. Seti, Nile River, 1911.

- Includes separate photo of their sailboat.

Folder 30: Sir William Osler with Collis Sands and others, 1910-1911.

- W.O., Collis Sands with Nona Gwyn at 13 Norham Gardens, 1910.
- Group shot before Otilie Wright is presented at court, during the ceremonies preceding the coronation of King George V. Otilie was accompanied by Lady O. and Nona Gwyn, dated June 1913.

Folder 31: Edward Revere Osler, misc. photos, 1910.

- Revere and Furrell fishing at Fairfield
- W.O. et al. visiting Fish Hatchery, Gloucester, April 1910.

Folder 32: Sir William Osler in Norham Gardens, approximately 1909-1910.

- Portrait W.O. sitting in a chair in Norham Gardens
- W.O. with niece, Nona in lap.
- Group shot with W.O., Otilie Wright, and unknowns.

Folder 33: Exterior of 1 West Franklin Street, Baltimore, Sir William Osler's home, Dec. 1904

- Includes oversized photo, inscribed on reverse "Campbell Howard... Merry Christmas from Harvey Cushing," and "Zum Erinnerung an alten zeiten" (translates to "Remembering old times"). Gift from Dr. Harvey Cushing. *This oversized photo has been placed in Osler Photo Filing Cabinet

Series 5: W.O. Portraits

Folder 34: Sir William Osler Portraits, W. Notman & Son Photography, Montreal, 29 Oct. 1882

- Prints from C. P. Howard collection. Includes second portrait (on thick cardstock), unknown date.

Folder 35: Sir William Osler portraits, 1910.

- Fairford, Easter Sunday, 17 April 1910. (original & copy)
- Norham Gardens, standing, 1910. (original & 2 copies)

Folder 36: Sir William Osler portrait, reading in library, date unknown, slightly damaged.

Folder 37: Sir William Osler treating patients at John Hopkins, circa 1900-1910.

- Copies from textbook photos ("Contemplation", "Inspection", "Palpation", "Auscultation")
- Original

Folder 38: Sir William Osler, "The Saint" Sketch Portrait, 1896.

- Sketch by Max Brodel for John Hopkin's Hospital, W.O.'s head on angel's body.
- Original and 3 copies

Folder 39: Sir William Osler, Group Studio Portrait in London, 1878.

- Pictured: W.O., Dr. Henry Wright, Dr. Shepherd, Geo Ross, plus unknown
- Includes original.
- Photograph by Deane Hilton

Folder 40: Sir William Osler, "Affectionately Yours" Portrait, 1902.

- Includes signed original and signed photo negative.

Series 6: Misc. Documents

Folder 41: Sir William Osler, Autographed Bills and Requests, 1911.

- Receipt for medicine book bought in Leipzig, Germany, written in German.
- Textbook page signed to “Campbell, from W.O.”, found in C.P Howard’s signed copy of *Practice of Medicine*

Folder 42: R. P. Howard, Semi Centennial Celebration Address, McGill Medical Faculty, 1882.

- Original booklet. Includes sketch of life of Dr. G.W. Campbell and early history of faculty (R. P. Howard is Dean of Medicine).

Folder 43: Dr. Charles G. Roland, McGill University, “The Osler Library” booklet

- Booklet reprinted from The Journal of The American Medical Association, 5 June 1967
- Letter from Marian Wright (works in Osler Library, sister is Otilie Wright, brother-in-law is Philip Osler—grand nephew to W.O.) addressed to Dr. Roland requesting more copies of the JAMA article from 22 December

Folder 44: John P. McGovern, “Wilburt Cornell Davison, Some Introductory Remarks”, Aug. 1969.

- A reply letter to Marian Wright who had requested reprint of “The Basis of W.O.’s Influence on Medicine” by Wilburt C. Davison
- Both reprinted in *Annals of Allergy*.

Series 7: Handwritten Medical Notes

Folder 45: Sir William Osler, “Microscopical Animation” handwritten notes, circa 1875 or 1876.

- Refers to notes in two letters addressed to Dr. Howard, also included. Originals and signed by W.O.

Folder 46: Sir William Osler’s handwritten notes on F. Fede’s “Case of Progressive Pernicious Anemia” from 16 Oct. 1875.

Folder 47: Sir William Osler’s notes on P. Smith’s “Two Cases of Anemia Idiopathic Pernicious”, 27 Dec. 1876

- 10 pages of handwritten notes.

Folder 48: Sir William Osler, Medical Notes for “Harry”, April 1878.

- 9 pages, all handwritten originals.

Series 8: Sketches

Folder 49: Edward Revere Osler, Caricature Sketches, 21 Aug. 1911.

- Sketches: “German Tourist,” “Winchester College Man,” sketches of W.O. “Dad,” Grandma and Nona on reverse.
- W.O. enclosed sketches in a letter to Campbell Howard, not included.

Folder 50: Edward Revere Osler, “Bunkification of Boers” Caricatures, 1907 or 1908.

- All sketched on plank of wood – photo only.
- Sketches of W.O. and “Osler in a lake.”

Folder 51: Sir William Osler, Profile Portrait Sketch by Paul Michael, original, signed 1927.

Folder 52: Copy of W.O. Commemorative Plaque (with microscope).

- Includes inscription: “To Campbell Howard from Tom McKenzie, 1932”

Series 9: Photo Album (in presentation box)

- John Hopkins Hospital, Staff Portrait Photo Album, 1902-1903.
- Stamped “J.H.H.” and “C.P.H.” on cover
 - cover disintegrating
 - Doctors pictured: Henry M. Hurd, W.O., Dr. McCrae, Dr. Rufus Cole, Dr. J. R. Boggs, Dr. C.P. Howard, Dr. Mason, Dr. Justin, Dr. Auer, Dr. Halsted, Dr. Jenkin, Dr. Howard A. Kelly, Dr. Walsh, Dr. MacCallum, Dr. Marshall, Dr. Harris, Dr. J. William, Dr. Lynch, Dr. H.M. Little, plus others not labelled.

Series 10: Books (catalogued and added to rare book collection)

- Oxford University Press – Holy Bible – 1912.

Given as a Christmas present to R.P.H., inscribed “Robert-Palmer Howard, from his godfather E. Revere Osler.” Oxford leather binding, silk sewed, excellent condition.

- Poe, Edgar Allen. – The Poems of Edgar Allen Poe, Diamond Edition – 1881. Published by W.J. Widdleton, New York.

Inscribed “Campbell Howard, from his Aunt Grace... Baltimore, March 15th, 1892.

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- Bridges, Robert. – The Spirit of Man – 1916. Published by Longmans Green and Co., London.

Inscribed to “Marion Wright, from William Osler. Oxford. Jan 31st, 1916.” Has bookseller sticker inside front cover for B.H. Blackwell.