

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

**Osler Library Archive Collections**

**P086**

**CECIL PERCY MARTIN FONDS  
FINDING AID AND INVENTORY LIST**

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McGill University.

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**P086**

**P086:** Cecil Percy Martin Fonds

**DATES:** 1938-77

**EXTENT:** 9cm of textual records – 3 scrapbooks

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH/ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY:**

Cecil Percy Martin (1892-1977) was born in Dublin, Ireland, the second youngest of nine children of Thomas Stanhope Martine and Eliza Martin (nee Mitchell). As a young man he won a scholarship to the Royal Irish Constabulary, and for a short time became District Inspector in County Limerick. After leaving the R.I.C, C. P. Martin served in the army as a Lieutenant for the Royal Irish Regiment during World War One. He was involved in guarding prisoners of the Easter Rebellion of 1916.

Around 1917, C. P. Martin married Kathleen Humphries, and shortly afterwards he was sent overseas to Mesopotamia with the expeditionary force of Sir Henry Maude. C. P. Martin sustained an injury to the back of his head in 1918 and was sent to England to recover. He suffered visual impairment and epilepsy as a result of his injuries and subsequently received a disability pension. C. P. Martin wore a patch and black headband thereafter, contributing to his distinctive appearance.

After the war, C. P. Martin resumed employment with the R.I.C. for a few years before deciding to pursue his medical degree. At Trinity College Dublin, C. P. Martin studied medicine and natural sciences, and graduated in 1928 with a degree in medicine (M.B.) and surgery (Ch.B.). Upon receiving his degree, C. P. Martin was appointed as Chief Demonstrator in Anatomy at Trinity College, while also teaching Embryology and Physical Anthropology. His own research at the time focused on anthropology and ethnology, which manifested into his book *Prehistoric Man in Ireland* published in 1935, for which he received a D.Sc. degree.

In 1936, C. P. Martin and his family moved to Canada and he began teaching at McGill's Faculty of Medicine as the Robert Reford Professor of Anatomy, a position he held until 1957. During this time C. P. Martin also served as Chair of Anatomy at McGill for twenty-one years. In 1962, he was named Emeritus Professor after twenty-six years at McGill.

C. P. Martin had four children (two girls, two boys) with his wife Kathleen, and upon his retirement from McGill spent much of the remaining years of his life living on their farm in Lachine, Quebec. C. P. Martin died in 1977 following a long illness, survived by his wife, four children, ten grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. C. P. Martin had a reputation for being a gifted speaker and preacher. A religious man his whole life, C. P. Martin is the author of *The Decline of Religion* published in 1940, and *A Man Named Jesus* published circa 1968. Other publications by C. P. Martin also include *Psychology, Evolution, and Sex* (1956), *A Workbook of Anatomy* (1956) among others.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:**

The fonds consists of three scrapbooks, and textual records that include obituaries and letters written in memory of C. P. Martin by McGill faculty and former students, index cards of C. P. Martin's religious reflections on the bible, typed and handwritten sermons, C. P. Martin's nature journal, a copy of Francis Shepherd Memorial Lectures 1953-1956, and some letter correspondence. The first scrapbook contains mostly British Medical Journal clippings (1942-1954). The other two scrapbooks document C. P. Martin's personal family life (including family trees depicting five generations, leisurely interests etc.) as well as his professional life, including many newspaper clippings about McGill University and faculty.

**CUSTODIAL HISTORY:**

Gift from Dr. John C. MacKimmie, Lachute, Quebec to the Osler Library in February, 1980. Old accession number 634.

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

**LANGUAGE:** The documents are in English.

**FINDING AIDS:** Inventory list is available.

**SERIES:**

1. Miscellaneous
2. Scrapbooks

**GENERAL NOTE:** n/a

**SUBJECTS:**

McGill University Doctors

Martin, Cecil Percy, 1892-1977

**Box List**

1. Folders 1-8
2. Scrapbook 1
3. Scrapbooks 2, 3 (oversized, stored in separate location)

**Series 1: Miscellaneous**

Folder 1: Obituaries and letters expressing condolences and fond memories of C. P. Martin

- Written by McGill Dean Cromin, various faculty/former colleagues and McGill graduates/former students.

Folder 2: Nature journal with observation notes and newspaper clippings, 1954-1965

Folder 3: The Francis Shepherd Memorial Lectures, 1953-1956

- Letter from Calgary Associate Clinic addressed to C. P. Martin attached to inside cover, 1958

Folder 4: Misc.

- British Medical Journal letter, February 22, 1947.
- Essay by Charles N. Swisher, McGill graduate 1965

Folder 5: Index cards for animals, fruit, flowers, etc. with various bible passage location

Folder 6: Index cards for animals, fruit, flowers, etc. with various bible passage location

Folder 7: Letters

- Letter from John J. De Valois, 1967
- Letter from his grandson David while at Harvard University and reply from C. P. Martin, n.d.

Folder 8: Typed and Handwritten sermons and reflections on the bible, circa 1960s.

- 2 Westfield Church, Harvard Business School papers, possibly written by his grandson David who was a student there at the time.

**Series 2: Scrapbooks**

- Scrapbook 1 (1942-1954)
  - Magazine and newspaper clippings. Predominantly British Medical Journal clippings.
  - Complete index at the back
- Scrapbook 2 (1955-1973)
  - Newspaper clippings, postcards, caricatures, family tree history, family photographs, clippings and articles about McGill University and faculty

- Scrapbook 3 (1938-circa 1953)
  - Newspaper clippings, photographs, poems, postcards, drawings, articles and letters to the editor by C. P. Martin, book reviews of *The Decline of Religion*, and many newspaper clippings in relation to McGill University and Faculty
  - Excellent portrait of C. P. Howard glued to last page