Raymund L. Zwemer Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2009
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LC Online Catalog record:
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Prepared by Joseph Sullivan with the assistance of Paul Colton

Collection Summary

Title: Raymund L. Zwemer Papers
Span Dates: 1903-1979
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1940-1965)
ID No.: MSS57117
Creator: Zwemer, Raymund L. (Raymund Lull), 1902-
Extent: 12,000 items ; 36 containers plus 1 classified ; 14 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: Biologist, educator, and scientific administrator. Correspondence, speeches and writings, professional and organizational files, appointment diaries, personnel records, printed matter, and other papers documenting Zwemer's career as a professor of anatomy and scientific administrator.

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.

People
Zwemer, Raymund L. (Raymund Lull), 1902-1981.

Organizations
American Association of Anatomists.
American Institute of Biological Sciences.
Columbia University--Faculty.
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology.
Library of Congress.
Unesco.
United States. Department of State.

Subjects
Adrenal glands.
Anatomy--Study and teaching.
Biology--Research.
Cortisone.
Potassium--Physiological effect.
Ultrasonics.

Occupations
Administrators.
Biologists.
Educators.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Raymund L. Zwemer, biologist, educator, and scientific administrator, were given to the Library of Congress by Zwemer in 1976 and 1980.

Processing History

The collection was processed in 1996. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Transfers

Sound recordings have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Raymund L. Zwemer in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The Zwemer Papers are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Security Classified Documents

Government regulations control the use of security classified items in this collection. Manuscript Division staff can furnish information concerning access to and use of classified material.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Raymund L. Zwemer Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	*Event*
1902, Mar. 30	Born, Bahrain, Persian Gulf
1923	B.A., Hope College, Holland, Mich.
1924-1956	Published nearly one hundred articles on the structure and function of the adrenal glands, biological effects of potassium, and focused ultrasound
1925-1926	Fellow, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
1926	Ph.D., Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
1926-1928	National Research Council Fellow, Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, N.Y.
1928-1944	Instructor and assistant professor of anatomy, Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, N.Y.
1929	Married Dorothy Ingebord Bornn
1941	United States delegate, Second Pan American Congress on Endocrinology, Montevideo, Chile
1941-1942	Lectured before learned societies and university groups in Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Brazil
1944-1947	Associate Chief, Division of Cultural Relations, State Department Chairman, Interdepartmental Committee on Cooperation with American Republics and Director of the Interdepartmental Committee on Scientific and Cultural Cooperation, State Department

1947-1950	Executive Secretary, National Academy of Sciences Executive Secretary, National Research Council
1950-1955	Chief, Science and Technology Division, Library of Congress
1955-1957	Chief, Division of International Cooperation for Scientific Research, Unesco, Paris, France Guest Scientist and Consultant in Physiology, Naval Medical Research Center, Bethesda, Md.
1958-1961	Assistant Science Advisor, International Organizations, State Department
1961	Associate editor, *American Journal of Physiology* and *Journal of Applied Physiology*
1961-1962	Director, Biological Information User Survey, *Biological Abstracts*, Philadelphia, Pa.
1962-1973	Director, Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology Translation Project, Washington, D.C.
1973	Retired
1981, Oct. 5	Died, Silver Spring, Md.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Raymund Lull Zwemer (1902-1981) span the years 1903-1979, with the bulk of the material from the period 1940-1965. Zwemer, a prolific researcher who published more than ninety journal articles, taught anatomy at Columbia University Medical School for fifteen years, beginning in 1929. Toward the end of World War II, he left teaching for a career as an administrator with governmental and scientific organizations. The papers feature his research and reflect his interest in exploring the adrenal glands, biological effects of potassium, and focused ultrasound. They also relate to his employment at the State Department, the Library of Congress, and various scientific foundations. The papers contain the following series: Appointment Diaries, General Correspondence, Professional File, Speeches and Writings, and Miscellany.

Appointment Diaries list Zwemer's meetings and trips from the time he became science advisor at the State Department. Noted are numerous contacts with Verner Clapp, the Associate Librarian of Congress, at the Cosmos Club in Washington, D.C., throughout the 1960s. Other meetings documented in these volumes were with members of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The General Correspondence file is concentrated in the period after Zwemer became an anatomy professor at Columbia University. Letters received prior to his appointment at Columbia include a brief recruitment letter from that institution in 1928 reporting a newly installed operating room for animal experimentation. From 1941 to 1942, Zwemer attended meetings, seminars, and lectures in the field of endocrinology in Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Chile. Letters from this period detail acquaintances and friendships formed during that time. Of interest is State Department correspondence relating to a possible appointment as cultural attache in the United States embassy in Argentina. The position Zwemer sought was denied him because of political unrest there in 1943. There is evidence from correspondence beginning from the late 1940s of his interest in securing a patent for the commercial production of corticone (cortisone) with a colleague at Columbia, Bertrain E. Lowenstein. Another commercial venture with Lowenstein is recorded in the correspondence of this period concerning the separation and production of juice concentrate from liquid. The General Correspondence file also includes letters regarding elements of Zwemer's work at the Library of Congress, the State Department, foundations, overseas employment in Paris, France, with UNESCO, and personal health issues, and other matters discussed with friends.

The Professional File, the largest series, reflects Zwemer's work with foundations and his membership in science associations, such as The American Institute of Biological Sciences, the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, and the American Association of Anatomists. Zwemer maintained an interest in information science, especially in

the biological field. While on the staff of the Library of Congress and the State Department, he maintained an active association with many foundations which is reflected in conference materials, reports, and abstracts. As an administrator and advisor to various groups, Zwemer was also interested in the type of data collected and sought to fund through grants the publication and translation of these data.

The Speeches and Writings series contains drafts, reprints of articles and bibliographic lists which serve as guides to the published works. With the drafts is correspondence with publishers, coauthors, and others regarding subject content. Drafts of speeches and two unpublished books along with various reference materials, mostly charts and notes, are also included in this file. The books and articles represent Zwemer's studies of the areas of greatest interest to him, the adrenal glands, predictive effects of potassium levels in the body, corticone (cortisone), and focused ultrasound as a tool for destroying diseased bodily tissue.

The Miscellany contains biographical material, personnel records from agencies in which he was employed, science reports, and printed matter. A small group of family papers includes Zwemer's correspondence with his father, Samuel, and his children.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in six series:

- Appointment Diaries, 1958-1977
- General Correspondence, 1923-1976
- Professional File, 1938-1979
- Speeches and Writings, 1922-1973
- Miscellany, 1903-1970
- Classified, 1955-1961

Description of Series

Container	*Series*
BOX 1-3	**Appointment Diaries, 1958-1977** Diaries containing day-to-day notations of meetings and events. Arranged by size, and chronologically therein.
BOX 3-5	**General Correspondence, 1923-1976** Letters received and copies of letters sent with attached related material. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 5-28	**Professional File, 1938-1979** Correspondence, memoranda, agendas, minutes of meetings, lists, reports, notes, messages, studies, surveys, newsletters, printed matter, and related material. Arranged alphabetically by name of organization, project, subject, or type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 28-34	**Speeches and Writings, 1922-1973** Drafts of articles, speeches, and books, reprints of articles, correspondence, a notebook, notes, reports, and tables. Arranged by type of material. The articles are arranged in two sets. Set I contains reprints of research articles listed by preassigned numbers, a bibliographic list, and drafts chronologically arranged thereunder by title. Set II contains reprints of articles of a more general nature listed by preassigned numbers, a bibliographic list, and drafts chronologically arranged and thereunder by title. Book drafts are arranged by title. Speeches are arranged chronologically. Reference material is arranged by relationship to speeches or articles and therein by type of material.
BOX 34-36	**Miscellany, 1903-1970** Family papers, correspondence, photographs, notes, biographical and personnel information, scientific reports and programs, business cards, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by type of material or subject and chronologically therein.
BOX CL 1	**Classified, 1955-1961** Correspondence. Arranged and described according to the series, boxes and folders from which it was removed.

Container List

Container	*Contents*
BOX 1-3	**Appointment Diaries, 1958-1977**
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	Arranged by size, and chronologically therein.
BOX 1	Book size
	1958-1965
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BOX 2	1966-1971
	(3 folders)
BOX 3	1972-1973
	Unbound and pocket size, 1961-1966, 1976-1977
BOX 3-5	**General Correspondence, 1923-1976**
	Letters received and copies of letters sent with attached related material.
	Arranged chronologically.
BOX 3	1923-1952
	(6 folders)
BOX 4	1953-1966
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BOX 5	1967-1976, undated
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BOX 5-28	**Professional File, 1938-1979**
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	Arranged alphabetically by name of organization, project, subject, or type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 5	American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1948, 1962, undated
	American Association of Anatomists
	Committee on Anatomical Nomenclature, neuroanatomical nomenclature related, 1973, undated
	Dinner for John S. Nicholas, 1962-1963, undated
	Erickson, G. E., history of organization, 1975
	General, 1970-1971
	Grants, 1967-1974, undated
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	Annual, 1965-1972
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	Wotton, Robert M., 1957-1959, 1975-1977, undated
	Young, M. Wharton, 1965-1978, undated
	American Association of Physical Anthropology, 1962-1967
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	Handbook of biological data, 1949, undated
	Meetings, 1960-1968
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BOX 8	Twenty-fifth anniversary
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	Candidates for director, 1963-1965, undated
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BOX 12	(1 folder)
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	Drafts of articles, speeches, and books, reprints of articles, correspondence, a notebook, notes, reports, and tables.
	Arranged by type of material. The articles are arranged in two sets. Set I contains reprints of research articles listed by preassigned numbers, a bibliographic list, and drafts chronologically arranged thereunder by title. Set II contains reprints of articles of a more general nature listed by preassigned numbers, a bibliographic list, and drafts chronologically arranged and thereunder by title. Book drafts are arranged by title. Speeches are arranged chronologically. Reference material is arranged by relationship to speeches or articles and therein by type of material.
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	"Studies on Direct and Visible Ingestion of Fat by Differentiated Body Cells of the Cat"
	"A Study of Corticoadrenal Cells"
	1939, "The Serum Potassium Level in `Trypanosoma Equiperdium' Infection in Rats..."
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	"The Action of Insulin on Blood Sugar After Certain Lesions of the Central Nervous System"
	"The Chemical Constitution of the Hormone of the Adrenal Cortex"
	"Cortin-like Effects of Steroid Glycosides on Potassium"
	"Effects of Steroid Glycosides and Cortin on Insulin Convulsions and Blood Sugar"
	"An Experimental Study of the Similarities Between Cortin and Some Cardiac Glycosides"
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	1942
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	1943
	"Fatal Loss of Plasma Volume after Lymph Heart Destruction in Toads"
	"Resistance of Rats to Potassium Poisoning..."

Container	*Contents*
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	1944
	"Fat Excretion in the Guinea Pig Kidney"
	"Studies on Experimental Bartonella Anemia in the Albino Rat"
	"Valoracion de las Funcionas Endocrinologicas Durante el Embarazo"
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	1950, "International Science Policy Survey"
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	1955, Book review
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	Arranged alphabetically by type of material or subject and chronologically therein.
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