

Frank F. Wesbrook fonds

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University of British Columbia Archives



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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



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Fonds Description

Frank F. Wesbrook fonds. – 1881-1918, 1980.

3.26 m of textual records.

31 photographs.

Ephemera.

Biographical Sketch

Frank Fairchild Wesbrook, the first president of the University of British Columbia, was born in Brant County, Ontario on July 12, 1868. In 1887, he graduated from the University of Manitoba, and the following year received a master's degree from the same institution. Wesbrook received his M.D. from McGill University in 1890. Subsequently, he spent a year at the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin and in 1892, he was elected John Walker student in pathology at Cambridge. He was appointed Professor of Bacteriology at the University of Minnesota in 1895 and in 1906 he became the first full-time Dean of Medicine there. While at the University of Minnesota, his chief field of work was in bacteriology relating to public health.

In 1913, he accepted the post of President of the nascent UBC. He guided the University through the first difficult years, hiring a staff and striving to make the University successful. The boom that had lasted for a decade in B.C. collapsed with the outbreak of war in 1914. Work on the new campus – begun at Point Grey to replace the Fairview campus used by UBC's predecessor McGill University College of B.C. – was suspended for several years. As a consequence, when the University of British Columbia began operations in 1915 it had to do so in the less than adequate facilities at Fairview. As well as his University activities, President Wesbrook was commanding officer of the Officers' Training Corps at UBC. He helped establish the Vancouver Institute, toured the Province examining its resources, and was active in the Patriotic Fund Drive in the Autumn, 1915. Failing health forced him to take a long break in early 1918. He died on 20 October, 1918.

Custodial History

Reprints were formerly maintained in the Memorial Room of the Woodward Library. Those alphabetized by subject were transferred to the University Archives in November 2013. Additional reprints, science bulletins and lab reports followed from the Memorial Room of the Woodward Library in February 2014 and June 2025. Wesbrook's personal leather portfolio was owned by Ronald W. Klinck after Wesbrook's death, then turned over to William C. Gibson in February 1980 – Gibson passed it on to the Archives, with related documentation.

Scope and Content

The fonds consists of diaries, photographs, articles, speeches and reports, and miscellaneous material, all of which document Frank F. Westbrook's personal and professional activities. Also included are a collection of off-prints of scholarly articles relating to a variety of medical topics that Westbrook collected or in some cases wrote.

Notes

File list available.

Photographs are available as part of the digitized [Historical Photograph Collection](#) under the collection number [UBC 37.1](#).

Records relating to Westbrook's administrative activities at UBC can be found in the [President's Office fonds](#) (contact the University Archives for further information).

Records relating to Westbrook's tenure as Dean of Medicine at the University of Minnesota are held in the [Medical School Records](#) at the University of Minnesota Archives.

For additional biographical information see William C. Gibson, *Westbrook and His University* (1973), and J. Arthur Myers, *Masters of Medicine: An Historical Sketch of the College of Medical Sciences of the University of Minnesota, 1888-1966* (1968), pp. 77-93.

Series Descriptions

Diaries. – 1891, 1914-1918.

7 cm of textual records.

Series consists of diaries that provide information about Frank F. Wesbrook's activities in London in 1891, and his appointments as University President between April 1914 and February 1918.

Articles/Speeches/Reports. – 1914-1918.

1 cm of textual records.

Series consists of typescript speeches and reports and re-prints of published articles by Frank F. Wesbrook. The documents are arranged in chronological order.

Miscellaneous. – 1893-1917, 1980.

5 cm of textual records.

Ephemera.

Series consists of assorted textual items which document Frank F. Wesbrook's personal and professional activities. Also included is Wesbrook's personal leather portfolio, with supporting documentation.

Photographs. – 1890-1916.

31 photographs.

The series consists of photographs of Frank F. Wesbrook, family members, and other associates. They include both black and white prints and negatives, of various dimensions.

Photographs have been digitized and included in UBC Archives' [Historical Photograph Database](#) (UBC 37.1).

Reprints. – 1881-1918.

3.10 m of textual records.

Series consists of a set of published off-prints relating to a variety of medical topics that Frank Wesbrook collected or in some cases wrote.

Formerly maintained in the Memorial Room of the Woodward Library, part of the collection was transferred to the University Archives in November 2013, and again in 2014 and 2025, and added to the Frank Wesbrook fonds.

File List

BOX 1

DIARIES

- 1-1 1891 (Winnipeg) [actually London]
- 1-2 April - July 1914
- 1-3 August - November 1914
- 1-4 December 1914 - March 1915
- 1-5 April - July 1915
- 1-6 August - November 1915
- 1-7 December 1915 - April 1916
- 1-8 May - August 1916
- 1-9 September - December 1916
- 1-10 January - June 1917
- 1-11 March - August 1917
- 1-12 August - November 1917
- 1-13 December 1917 - February 1918

ARTICLES/SPEECHES/REPORTS BY FFW

- 1-14 "Pancreatitis" FFW (1904/05)
"Report to the Board of Regents" Health and Sanitary Committee" (1910)
"The Provincial University in Canadian Development" Science (February 20, 1914)
- 1-15 Farmers' Institute Convention speech (March 1916)
Preface for the first "Annual" (1916)
"The Physician of To-Morrow" Science (October 27, 1916)
"The Education of the Physician of Tomorrow" The Medical Sentinel (February 1918)

MISCELLANEOUS

- 1-16 Telegram from H.E. Young to Wesbrook offering UBC Presidency (23 January 1913) and Wesbrook's reply (23 February 1913)

- 1-17 Wesbrook's design for UBC crest and a list of possible mottos (n.d.)
- 1-18 Printed program - "To Meet Professor Virchow" (March 20, 1893) Cambridge
Correspondence re: Position at the University of Minnesota (1895)
Report - Campus Extension [Minnesota] (1908)
- 1-19 Certificate appointing Wesbrook to Minnesota State Board of Health (11
January 1896)
- 1-20 Statement of Appreciation to Wesbrook from the staff of the Minnesota Board
of Health Laboratories (1913?)
"Wesbrook Appointed Dean 1906 - Resigns in 1913" - Undated portion of
publication pertaining to FFW
- 1-21 Incoming correspondence re. tuberculin tests in animals (1917)
- 1-22 Wesbrook's Certificate of American Citizenship (November 6, 1902)
- 1-23 Wesbrook's certificate of readmission to British nationality (October 27, 1914)
- 1-24 Programme for Graduation Banquet (29 April 1917)
- 1-25 Wesbrook cartoon from Vancouver "World" (9 January 1917)
- 1-26 Bureau of Social Research Report - Gov'ts. of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and
Alberta (1916)
- 1-27 Correspondence – Dr. William Bennett Munro (1913, 1914)
- 1-28 Memo to Provincial Secretary from Surveyor-General re. revised subdivision
of Point Grey (24 October 1911)
Memo to Provincial Secretary from Surveyor-General re. lands reserved for
the University) (25 October 1912)
Letter to FFW from John Ridington re. Library rules and expenditures (28
September 1915)
Letter to FFW from John Ridington re. Library budget (5 January 1916)

- 1-29 Correspondence with landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted (1913)
[copies of originals sent to University Archives by Dr. Nancy Pollock-Ellwand
of the University of Guelph]

(continued)

REPRINTS

BOX 2

- 2-1 1-14 (1883-1904) Actinomycosis
- 2-2 15-27 (1885-1905) Actinomycosis - Acromegaly
- 2-3 28-35 (1897-1912) Adrenal - Anaemia
- 2-4 36-40 (1904-1913) Anaemia - Anatomy
- 2-5 41-43 (1904-1910) Anatomy
- 2-6 44-55 (1895-1905) Anesthetics - Appendicitis
- 2-7 56-62 (1900-1905) Appendicitis - Bacteria
- 2-8 63-78 (1886-1913) Bacteria
- 2-9 79-86 (1898-1913) Bacteriology
- 2-10 87-89 (1902-1903) Bacteriology – Beri Beri
- 2-11 90-99 (1899-1907) Beri-Beri - Biography
- 2-12 100-107 (1901-1908) Biography – Blood
- 2-13 108-113 (1903-1913) Blood
- 2-14 114-119 (1897-1906) Blood
- 2-15 120-129 (1897-1910) Blood - Brain

- 2-16 130-136 (1901-1909) Brain – Cancer
- 2-17 137-139 (1907-1911) Cancer
- 2-18 140-154 (1895-1913) Cancer – Conservation

BOX 3

- 3-1 155-165 (1908-1912) Conservation
- 3-2 166-168 (1910-1912) Conservation-Children
- 3-3 169 (1912) Children
- 3-4 170-175 (1867-1900) Children-Cholera
- 3-5 176-188 (1866-1905) Cholera
- 3-6 189-196 (1831-1884) Cholera
- 3-7 197-201 (1861-1888) Cholera
- 3-8 202-213 (1855-1892) Cholera
- 3-9 214-223 (1874-1895) Cholera
- 3-10 224-234 (1869-1912) Cholera
- 3-11 235-244 (1849-1894) Cholera
- 3-12 245-253 (1869-1904) Cholera
- 3-13 254-264 (1850-1905) Cholera – Culture Media
- 3-14 265-274 (1890-1910) Diagnosis – Diphtheria
- 3-15 275-286 (1898-1912) Diphtheria
- 3-16 287-297 (1896-1912) Diphtheria – Dysentery

3-17 298-302 (1898-1917) Dysentery – Education

3-18 303-310 (1893-1917) Education – Eye

3-19 311-317 (1901-1904) Eye-Ferment

BOX 4

4-1 318 (1907) Ferment

4-2 319-326 (1902-1911) Yellow Fever – Food

4-3 327-333 (1902-1911) Food-Glanders

4-4 334-343 (1904-1916) Glanders – Health Insurance

4-5 344-348 (1902-1912) Hematin – Heredity

4-6 349-354 (1891-1912) Hernia-Hookworm Disease

4-7 354a-355 (1911-1912) Hookworm Disease – Hospital

4-8 357-363 (1881-1913) Hygiene

4-9 364-366 (1899-1913) Hygiene – Ice

4-10 367-377 (1892-1904) Immunity

4-11 378a – 389b (1897-1904) Immunity – Infants

4-12 390-390a-6 (1889-1907) Infenzione – Internal Medicine

4-13 391-398 (1890-1911) Intestine – Kidney

4-14 399-406 (1895-1907) Kidney – Leucocyte

4-15 407-412 (1892-1912) Leucocyte – Liver

4-16 413-420 (1902-1912) Liver – Lymphatics

- 4-17 421 (1901) Malaria
- 4-18 422-426 (1900-1906) Malaria
- 4-19 427-431 (1901-1903) Malaria – Marconogram

BOX 5

- 5-1 432-437 (1905-1912) Medical Exams – Medicine
- 5-2 438-444a (1885-1918) Medicine – Meningitis
- 5-3 445-454 (1888-1913) Mental Hygiene – Misc.
- 5-4 455-460 (1892-1917) Misc.
- 5-5 461-465 (1894-1911) Misc. – Mosquitos
- 5-6 466-468b (1898-1912) Mould – Nerve
- 5-7 468c-468h (1898-1911) Nervous System – Neurology
- 5-8 468i-468k (1903-1904) Neurology
- 5-9 468l-468r (1899-1912) Neurology – Nursing
- 5-10 468s-476 (1901-1912) Nursing – Pancreas
- 5-11 477 (1912) Paralysis
- 5-12 480-486 (1901-1911) Parasite – Pathology
- 5-13 487-495 (1907-1912) Pathology – Pellagra
- 5-14 496-501 (1901-1910) Pericarditis – Pharmacology
- 5-15 502-504 (1909-1910) Pharmacology
- 5-16 505-511 (1899-1909) Pharmacology

5-17 512-518 (1899-1907) Pharmacology – Physiological

5-18 519-521 (1903-1915) Physiological

5-19 522-527 (1902-1908) Physiology – Piroplasma

BOX 6

6-1 528-533 (1890-1903) Plague

6-2 534-537 (1903-1905) Plague

6-3 538-541 (1896-1906) Plague – Plants

6-4 542-545 (1903-1912) Plasma-Poliomyelitis

6-5 546-553 (1893-1914) Poliomyelitis – Precipitin

6-6 554-559 (1891-1911) Pregnancy – Proteins

6-7 560-562 (1908-1909) Psychotherapy

6-8 562 (1909) Psychotherapy

6-9 562 (1909) Psychotherapy

6-10 562-563 (1908-1909) Psychotherapy

6-11 563-564 (1908) Psychotherapy

6-12 565-574 (1902-1913) Public Health – Rabies

6-13 575-577 (1905-1911) Rabies

6-14 578-582 (1896-1908) Rabies

6-15 583-589 (1900-1914) Rabies – Research

6-16 590-593 (1895-1911) Research – Respiration

- 6-17 594-599b (1893-1918) Respiration – Sanitation
- 6-18 599c – 602 (1894-1918) Sarcoma – Septicaemia Haemorrhagica

BOX 7

- 7-1 602a-615 (1901-1913) Septicaemia – Serum Therapy
- 7-2 616-621 (1904-1909) Sewage
- 7-3 622-626 (1902-1910) Sewage
- 7-4 626 (1908) Sewage
- 7-5 626-627 (1909-1913) Sewage
- 7-6 628-629 (1902-1912) Sewage
- 7-7 630-634 (1906-1911) Sewage - Sheep
- 7-8 635-642 (1893-1905) Sheep – Smallpox
- 7-9 643-654 (1901-1914) Smallpox – Snakes
- 7-10 655-662 (1898-1911) Social Work – Staphylococcus
- 7-11 663-670 (1898-1913) Stokes-Adams Disease – Surgery
- 7-12 671-681 (1891-1911) Surgery – Swine
- 7-13 682-688 (1899-1918) Swine – Teaching
- 7-14 689-703 (1898-1913) Teaching – Tetanus
- 7-15 704-707 (1905-1913) Texas Fever – Therapeutics
- 7-16 708-711a (1898-1912) Therapeutics – Thyroid
- 7-17 712-715 (1899-1912) Thyroid – Toxicological

7-18 716-722 (1904-1913) Toxin – Trypanosomiasis

BOX 8

8-1 723-724 (1902-1904) Trypanosomiasis

8-2 725 (1907) Trypanosomiasis

8-3 726 (1905) Trypanosomiasis

8-4 727-730 (1899-1907) Trypanosome – Tuberculosis

8-5 731-740 (1896-1908) Tuberculosis

8-6 741-742 (1909-1911) Tuberculosis

8-7 743 (1912) Tuberculosis

8-8 744 (1913) Tuberculosis

8-9 745-746 (1907-1908) Tuberculosis

8-10 747-757 (1899-1913) Tuberculosis

8-11 758-770 (1903-1912) Tuberculosis

8-12 771-773 (1908-1909) Tuberculosis

8-13 774-779 (1894-1913) Tuberculosis

8-14 780-788 (1902-1913) Tuberculosis

8-15 789-790 (1908-1909) Tuberculosis

8-16 791-796 (1903-1915) Tuberculosis

8-17 797-799 (1904-1914) Tuberculosis

8-18 800-809 (1908-1910) Tuberculosis

BOX 9

- 9-1 807-813 (1903-1912) Tuberculosis
- 9-2 814-819 (1904-1908) Tuberculosis
- 9-3 820-826 (1898-1911) Tuberculosis
- 9-4 827-830 (1900-1913) Tuberculosis
- 9-5 831-838 (1903-1912) Tumors
- 9-6 839-845 (1903-1912) Tumors
- 9-7 846-853 (1900-1908) Tumor – Typhoid
- 9-8 854-862 (1897-1907) Typhoid
- 9-9 863-867 (1898-1907) Typhoid
- 9-10 868-877 (1885-1911) Typhus – Uterus
- 9-11 878-882 (1904-1908) Uterus – Vaccinia
- 9-12 883-887 (1899-1911) Venereal – Vital Statistics
- 9-13 888-893 (1892-1912) Vital Statistics – Water
- 9-14 893-894 (1907-1908) Water
- 9-15 896, 899 [897, 898 missing] (1900, 1908) Water
- 9-16 900-902 (1900-1914) Water
- 9-17 903-905 (1903-1911) Water
- 9-18 906 (1899) Water

BOX 10

- 10-1 907-914 (1907-1914) Water
- 10-2 915-919 (1903-1908) Water
- 10-3 920-921 (1901-1915) Water
- 10-4 922-927 (1905-1909) Water
- 10-5 928-930 (1905-1910) Water
- 10-6 931-935 (1903-1910) Water
- 10-7 936-942 (1903-1904) Water
- 10-8 943-944 (1906-1907) Water – Yellow Fever
- 10-9 945 (1909) Yellow Fever
- 10-10 946-949 (1898-1901) Yellow Fever
- 10-11 951 (1915) Yellow Fever
- 10-12 951 (1915) Yellow Fever
- 10-13 951 (1916) Yellow Fever
- 10-14 952-954 (1901) Yellow Fever – Zola

BOX 11

- 11-1 Reprints in Italian and German, 1889-1901
- 11-2 Reprints in German, 1853-1900
- 11-3 Reprints in Swedish, German, 1895-1898
- 11-4 United States science bulletins, 1914-1915

11-5 United States science bulletins, 1913-1915

11-6 University of Liverpool report 1903

BOX 12

12-1 University of Liverpool report 1906

12-2 University of Liverpool report 1903-1905

12-3 "Mitteilungen aus der Medicinischen Facultat der Kaiserlich-Japanischen Universitat zu Tokio" 1904

12-4 The use of antitoxic serum in the treatment of diphtheria... 1896

12-5 A study of the pulse rate in man as modified by muscular work 1903

12-6 Publications of the United States Geological Survey January 1915, March 1915

12-7 Smithsonian Institution – Report of the International Exchange Service 1914

BOX 13

MISCELLANEOUS (cont.)

Leather portfolio originally belonging to President Westbrook – with documentation from February 1980

- later used by President Leonard Klinck's son, Ronald W. Klinck

- stored separately in UA/RBSC vault