

Freddy Homburger Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2008

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm90080633>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008010>

Prepared by Laura J. Kells

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Collection Summary

Title: Freddy Homburger Papers

Span Dates: 1926-1990

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1941-1989)

ID No.: MSS80633

Creator: Homburger, Freddy

Extent: 3,150 items

Extent: 8 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 4.5 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English, French, and German

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm90080633>

Summary: Physician, scientist, and artist. Correspondence, reports, speeches, writings, academic records, printed matter, and photographs documenting Homburger's career as a physician involved in cancer research, his interest in art as a collector and a painter, and his service as honorary Swiss consul in Boston, Mass.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Castle, William B. (William Bosworth), 1897- --Correspondence.

Cornell, Julien D., 1910- --Correspondence.

Dufy, Raoul, 1877-1953.

Homburger, Freddy.

Lasker, Mary--Correspondence.

Lipchitz, Jacques, 1891-1973.

Mahoney, Florence S. (Florence Stephenson)--Correspondence.

McCormack, John W., 1891-1980--Correspondence.

Minot, George Richards, 1885-1950--Correspondence.

Rhoads, Cornelius P. (Cornelius Packard), 1898-1959--Correspondence.

Organizations

Boston City Hospital.

F. Hoffmann-La Roche & Co.

Gesell Institute of Child Development.

Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research.

Thorndike Memorial Laboratory.

United States. Public Health Service.

Universität Wien--Students.

Warner-Hudnut, Inc.

Subjects

Art, American--20th century.

Art--Collectors and collecting.

Cancer--Research.

Consuls--Massachusetts--Boston.

Diplomatic and consular service, Swiss--United States.

Painters--United States.

Physicians--United States.

Provenance

The papers of Freddy Homburger, physician, scientist, and artist, were given to the Library of Congress by Homburger in 1990.

Processing History

The papers of Freddy Homburger were arranged and described in 1991. The finding aid was revised in 2008.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Freddy Homburger is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Freddy Homburger 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.

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1916, Feb. 8	Born, Saint Gall, Switzerland
1934	Entered medical section, University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland
1936-1937	Attended University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria
1939	Married Regina Thurlimann
1941	Received doctor of medicine degree, University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland Came to the United States
1941-1943	Research fellow, intern in pathology, Yale Medical School and New Haven Hospital, New Haven, Conn.
1943-1944	Served as neutral Swiss member of the Red Cross Mixed Medical Commission in the United States
1943-1945	Intern in medicine and research fellow in medicine, Harvard Medical School and Thorndike Memorial Laboratory, Boston City Hospital, Mass.
1945-1948	Fellow in medicine, Memorial Hospital, New York, N.Y.
1946-1948	Chief, Department of Clinical Investigation, Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research, and instructor of medicine, Cornell University Medical College, New York, N.Y.
1948-1957	Research professor of medicine, Department of Surgery, and director of Cancer Research and Control Unit, Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, Mass.
1952	Became naturalized American citizen
1953	Held first professional one-man art show, Carstairs Gallery, New York, N.Y.
1955	Published <i>Medical Care of the Aged and Chronically Ill</i> . Boston: Little, Brown & Co.
1957	Published <i>The Biologic Basis of Cancer Management</i> . New York: Hoeber-Harper
1957-1984	Founder and president, Bio-Research Institute, Inc., Cambridge, Mass.

1964-1986	Served as honorary consul of Switzerland in Boston, Mass.
1984-	Semiretired research professor in pathology, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, Mass. Toxicology consultant
2001, Sept. 25	Died, Cambridge, Mass.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Freddy Homburger (1916-2001) span the years 1926-1990, with the bulk of the papers ranging from 1941 through 1989. Born in Switzerland and educated there and in Austria, Homburger came to the United States in 1941 to continue his medical education. He remained in the United States and became a citizen in 1952. The papers document the wide range of activities in Homburger's multifaceted career as a physician who gained recognition for treating the crippling arthritis of French painter Raoul Dufy, as a scientist specializing in cancer research, as an honorary consul of Switzerland, and as an artist and art collector. The papers consist of three series, a [Subject File](#), a [Speeches and Writings File](#), and [Oversize](#).

The [Subject File](#), 1926-1987, documents activities and interests in Homburger's personal and professional life and contains correspondence, reports, certificates, brochures, and clippings. Three folders of academic records are valuable for tracing Homburger's medical education and his developing career as a physician and biomedical research scientist and contain correspondence with clinical investigators George R. Minot and William B. Castle of the Thorndike Memorial Laboratory at Boston City Hospital and Cornelius Packard Rhoads of the then new Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research. Other interesting items are Homburger's letters to his parents, written in French and German, during his time at the University of Vienna and a remembrance of that period written in response to an inquiry in 1983. There are also accounts of his medical treatment of artists Dufy and Jacques Lipchitz. A record of professional trips is contained in the "Travels" folder, which documents meetings with officials of the Gesell Institute of Child Development, United States Public Health Service, Warner-Hudnut Company, and Hoffmann-La Roche, Inc., and individuals such as Mary Lasker and Florence Mahoney regarding research projects and art shows. Museum and dealer catalogs also document Homburger's career as an artist.

The [Speeches and Writings File](#), 1944-1990, is divided into the following sections: book reviews, creative writing, editorials, letters to editors, memoirs, prepared statements, speeches, scientific publications, translations, and unpublished writings. Of autobiographical interest is Homburger's memoir, "Life is a Short Story," which is an account of his life from childhood into his seventies. Homburger's scientific work, which included the development of new inbred strains of hamsters, some of which are used throughout the world for experimental purposes in studying disease, and the demonstration that cigarette smoke inhaled by hamsters can cause invasive cancer of the larynx, is documented in the memoirs, scientific publications, speeches, unpublished writings, editorials, and letters to editors subseries. The speeches and book reviews subseries reflect Homburger's views about the United States and his native land of Switzerland during his service as honorary Swiss consul in Boston. Homburger's creative writings span the period 1946-1989 and consist of novels, short stories, poems, and lyrics.

Prominent correspondents not mentioned previously include Julien D. Cornell and John W. McCormack.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in three series:

- [Subject File, 1926-1987](#)
- [Speeches and Writings File, 1944-1990](#)
- [Oversize, 1934-1979](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-4	<p><u>Subject File, 1926-1987</u></p> <p>Correspondence, reports, certificates, brochures, clippings, and a few photographs relating to personal and professional activities</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by topic.</p>
BOX 5-8	<p><u>Speeches and Writings File, 1944-1990</u></p> <p>Memoirs, scientific publications, creative writing, unpublished writings, speeches, book reviews, prepared statements, letters to editors, editorials, and translations.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein alphabetically by title.</p>
BOX OV 1	<p><u>Oversize, 1934-1979</u></p> <p>Oversize certificates, drawing, illustration proofs, sheet music, and galley proofs.</p> <p>Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-4	Subject File, 1926-1987 Correspondence, reports, certificates, brochures, clippings, and a few photographs relating to personal and professional activities Arranged alphabetically by topic.
BOX 1	Academic records, 1934-1955 <i>See also Oversize</i> (3 folders)
BOX 1	Appointments and certificates, 1940-1980, undated <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 1	Art
BOX 1	General, 1953-1982
BOX 1	Professional painting, 1953-1979 (2 folders)
BOX 1	Biographical information, 1926-1962
BOX 1	<i>The Biologic Basis of Cancer Management</i> , 1955-1969
BOX 2	Children's Cancer Research Foundation, 1956-1957
BOX 2	Clinical cases, 1948-1969
BOX 2	Dedham, Mass., 1967, 1977
BOX 2	Dufy, Raoul, 1950-1980, undated (2 folders)
BOX 2	Environmental toxicology facility (proposed), 1963-1964, undated (2 folders)
BOX 2	Helvetron, 1939, 1967, undated <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 2	Hoffmann-La Roche, Inc., 1951-1957
BOX 2	Institute for Research in Growth and Reproduction (proposed), 1955-1956, undated
BOX 2	Lipchitz, Jacques, 1972
BOX 2	<i>The Medical Care of the Aged and Chronically Ill</i> , 1953-1955, undated <i>See also Oversize</i> (2 folders)
BOX 2	Medicinal plants in Maine, 1954-1955, undated
BOX 2	Miscellany, 1947-1987, undated
BOX 3	Munich cancer cure, 1954
BOX 3	Naturalization
BOX 3	Citizenship issues, 1942-1964
BOX 3	Selective service, 1941-1956, undated (5 folders)
BOX 3	Political activities
BOX 3	General, 1962-1978, undated
BOX 3	Stevenson, Adlai versus Eisenhower, Dwight D., 1956-1959, undated
BOX 3	"Progress in Experimental Tumor Research," 1959-1960
BOX 3	Public charitable institutions, 1950-1980
BOX 4	Red Cross Mixed Medical Commission
BOX 4	General, 1942-1946, undated (2 folders)

Subject File, 1926-1987

Container	Contents
BOX 4	Financial matters, 1943-1944
BOX 4	Scientific advisory meeting, June 1967, 1967 (2 folders)
BOX 4	Travel, 1950-1971
BOX 4	Trenton, Maine, 1969
BOX 4	Tufts University, Boston, Mass.
BOX 4	Cancer Research Unit, 1947-1957 (2 folders)
BOX 4	Litigation, 1956-1957
BOX 4	Veterans Administration, 1966
BOX 4	Vienna, Austria, 1936-1937, 1983-1984, undated (2 folders)
BOX 4	Warner-Hudnut Co., 1950-1952
BOX 4	Will and estate plans, 1968-1969
BOX 4	Unidentified fragments and photographs, undated
BOX 5-8	Speeches and Writings File, 1944-1990 Memoirs, scientific publications, creative writing, unpublished writings, speeches, book reviews, prepared statements, letters to editors, editorials, and translations. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein alphabetically by title.
BOX 5	Book reviews
BOX 5	"Das Bally - Lehrstück, Ein Insider Report" (The Bally Case, An Insider Report), undated
BOX 5	"Notizen aus der Westschweiz" (Notes from Western Switzerland), 1983
BOX 5	"Notizen eines Müssiggängers" (Notes of an Idler), 1983
BOX 5	"Die Sechste Schweiz" (The Sixth Switzerland), 1984
BOX 5	Creative writing
BOX 5	"The Adventure," undated
BOX 5	"And If They Rhymed and Rattled, All was Well," light verses, 1987
BOX 5	"Before Everything Was Fresh Frozen," 1979
BOX 5	"Give and Take, or Christian Lautenschlager's Requiem," 1987 (4 folders)
BOX 5	"Indian Summer," 1946
BOX 5	"It Happens in the Best of Families," undated
BOX 5	"Leona's Search," 1989 (2 folders)
BOX 5	Lyrics, undated <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 5	Poems, undated
BOX 5	"The Review," 1979
BOX 5	"Where Have All The Teddies Gone?," 1980
BOX 5	Unidentified, undated
BOX 6	Editorials on scientific topics, 1983-1985, undated
BOX 6	Letters to editors
BOX 6	Miscellaneous, 1944-1949, 1987
BOX 6	Scientific topics, 1963-1983
BOX 6	Memoirs
BOX 6	"A French Doctor's Story," 1982

Speeches and Writings File, 1944-1990

Container	Contents
BOX 6	"Life is a Short Story," 1988 (9 folders)
BOX 6	"A Lifetime of Quantum Leaps in Medicine: 1935 to 1989," 1990
BOX 6	"My Times and Life at the Old Thorndike," undated
BOX 6	Prepared statements
BOX 6	Statement at budget hearing of Boston city council, 13 Mar. 1973, 1973
BOX 7	Statement on chronic diseases of old age before Subcommittee on Labor and Social Security of the House Appropriations Committee, 6 Feb. 1950, 1950
BOX 7	Scientific publications
BOX 7	"Adequacy of Syrian Hamsters for Long-Term Animal Bioassays," undated
BOX 7	"Animal Tests for Carcinogenesis Risk Assessment: Problems and Opportunities (A Review)," 1986
BOX 7	Bibliography, undated
BOX 7	<i>The Biologic Basis of Cancer Management</i> , 1955, 1957 (8 folders)
BOX 8	"Carcinogenesis - Concepts," 1984
BOX 8	"Design and Logistics of Lifetime Carcinogenesis Bioassay Using Syrian Hamsters," 1983
BOX 8	"A Fibrinogen Increasing Factor Obtained from Sterile Abscesses in Dogs," undated
BOX 8	"Genetic Models in Biomedical Research," undated
BOX 8	"Hamsters and Gerbils - Advantages and Disadvantages as Models in Toxicity Testing," 1983
BOX 8	"The Necessity of Animal Studies in Routine Toxicology," incomplete, 1987
BOX 8	"Risk Assessment and Safety Evaluation by Extrapolation from Animal Experiments: A Risky Business," 1986
BOX 8	"Standardizing Syrian Hamsters for Toxicology," 1983
BOX 8	"The Treatment of Raoul Dufy's Arthritis," 1979 <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 8	Speeches
BOX 8	"American Bio-medical Research as Viewed by a Swiss Immigrant Physician," 1975
BOX 8	"Experimental Aspects of Cigarette Smoke Carcinogenesis," 1980
BOX 8	First of August (Swiss National Day), 1968
BOX 8	First of August (Swiss National Day), 1985
BOX 8	"Independence or Interdependence," 1971
BOX 8	Introductions and toasts, 1978, undated
BOX 8	Lecture on paintings, 1987
BOX 8	"On the Current Status of Cancer Research," undated
BOX 8	Quack speech, undated
BOX 8	"Recent Developments in the Swiss Colony of Boston," 1967
BOX 8	"Sufferings, Miracles, and Economics," 1951
BOX 8	"The Swiss Background and Swiss Language of Adolf Wölfli," 1978
BOX 8	"Switzerland as an Example of International Spirit," 1986
BOX 8	"Thoughts on My Days with Raoul Dufy," 1978
BOX 8	"The Value of Art," undated
BOX 8	"Why, What and How I Paint," undated
BOX 8	Translation, "Santa Cruz" by Max Frisch, undated
BOX 8	Unpublished writings
BOX 8	"Age, Sex and Strain Dependent Melanotic Pigmentation in Hamster Skin (<i>Mesocricetus Auratus</i> , Waterhouse)," 1983?

Speeches and Writings File, 1944-1990

Container	Contents
BOX 8	"The Business of Medical Research," 1952?
BOX 8	"Comments on a Paper by Schweizer et al. on the Promoting Activity of Benzoyl Peroxide in Syrian Golden Hamsters," 1987
BOX 8	"Comparative Pathology of Cancer of the Larynx in Man and Hamster," 1977
BOX 8	"Confusion," 1984?
BOX 8	"Crabbed Old Age?," 1950?
BOX 8	"Definition of a Cigarette Smoke-Induced Cancer of the Larynx in Susceptible Inbred Syrian Hamsters and its Relationship to Human Larynx and Lung Cancer," 1980
BOX 8	"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way from Boston to London," undated
BOX 8	"Life Does Not Change with Change of Life," undated
BOX 8	Miscellaneous writing projects, 1952-1983, undated
BOX 8	"Of Life and Years," undated
BOX 8	"Raoul Dufy, Kunst und Medizin," 1951
BOX 8	"The Silly Abuse of Acronyms," undated
BOX 8	"Testing of Saccharin and Cyclamate for Long-Term Toxicity or Carcinogenicity," 1978
BOX 8	"Utopia Come True: The Case for Independent Research Institutes," undated
BOX 8	"War on Disease or Search for Knowledge?," 1983
BOX OV 1	Oversize, 1934-1979 Oversize certificates, drawing, illustration proofs, sheet music, and galley proofs. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.
BOX OV 1	Subject file
BOX OV 1	Academic records, 1934 (Container 1)
BOX OV 1	Appointments and certificates, 1953 (Container 1)
BOX OV 1	Helvetron, undated (Container 2)
BOX OV 1	<i>The Medical Care of the Aged and Chronically Ill</i> , undated (Container 2)
BOX OV 1	Speeches and writings file
BOX OV 1	Creative writing
BOX OV 1	Lyrics, undated (Container 5)
BOX OV 1	Scientific publications
BOX OV 1	"The Treatment of Raoul Dufy's Arthritis," 1979 (Container 8)