ARCHIVAL COLLECTION OF HIGH-ALTITUDE MEDICINE AND PHYSIOLOGY IN THE MANDEVILLE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO

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While researching the recent book "High Life: A History of High-Altitude Physiology and Medicine," a number of interesting documents were collected and deposited in the UCSD Mandeville Special Collections Library. These include 5 unpublished, bound volumes containing all the publications of the senior Monge, several theses about high-altitude pulmonary edema from Lima, copies of three very early reports from the Fenn, Rahn and Otis group done during World War II, a bound copy of Barcroft's letters to his wife written during the 1921-1922 International High Altitude Expedition to Cerro de Pasco, and other material as well. In the course of talking to the archivists in our library, I found that they are interested in developing a collection devoted to high-altitude medicine and physiology for the use of future scholars working on these topics. As an example of what can be done, see the collection on History of Pain at the University of California Los Angeles at http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/biomed/his/pain.htm.

The Mandeville Special Collections Library comprises non-circulating manuscripts, correspondence, photographs, oral histories, films, videos, maps, rare books, sound recordings, and other material supporting UCSD's research and instructional programs. Materials are stored in temperature-and humidity-controlled rooms with a special security system. Scholars who want to read documents have these brought to them in a special reading room which is under surveillance by a librarian. For scholars who are unable to come to the collection, limited photocopying is possible. Donors who have contributed material to the collection can have this sent to them for their own use. All the arrangements are consistent with current practices of first class archival collections. The library is described on the Web at http://orpheus.ucsd.edu /speccoll/ and information about its holdings can be obtained by clicking on the appropriate boxes. Donors who contribute material to the MSCL can be assured that it will be cared for under the best possible conditions, and that it will be available to scholars for the foreseeable future. Lynda Corey Claassen is the present director of the MSCL, and Bradley D. Westbrook, Manuscripts Librarian/University Archivist will normally be the contact person for people interested donating material.

The archival collection in high-altitude medicine and physiology will consist of correspondence, manuscripts, experimental protocols, notebooks, photographs, maps, films, videos, and oral histories from people who have played important roles in the development of high-altitude medicine and physiology. The emphasis is on primary material, and other documents such as reprints and books will not be part of the collection because these are already available in other libraries. On the other hand, it is expected that the UCSD libraries' collection of high-altitude books will be expanded to complement the archival collection. The policy of the Mandeville Special
Collections Library is to keep all the material that comes from one person together,

but have it sorted and cataloged so that cross references can be made to topics in material belonging to other contributors. This will make it easier for future scholars who are doing research in the history of high-altitude medicine and physiology. We are not aware of any similar archival collection elsewhere.

Although the collection was only begun this year, we already have a good deal of interesting material. Invitational letters have been sent to many physiologists and physicians who have worked in high-altitude medicine and physiology inviting them to contribute. Generally the response has been very positive although some people need more time to sort through their records for appropriate material. Of course, some material from eminent high-altitude physiologists such as Joseph Barcroft and J.S. Haldane is already archived in existing collections. One of our aims is to provide a catalog showing where important material is already archived so that this can assist scholars. An area of concern is that in several instances, important primary material has been thrown away because scientists have retired, or moved to smaller offices on assuming emeritus status. If anyone knows of the likelihood of this happening, please alert us.

An area of particular interest concerns the various classical high-altitude physiology expeditions such as the 1911 Anglo-American Pikes Peak Expedition, the 1921-1922 International High Altitude Expedition to Cerro de Pasco, Peru, and the 1935 International High Altitude Expedition to Chile. Some readers of the Newsletter may know of the whereabouts of primary material from these expeditions, or be acquainted with descendants of members of the expeditions who might be able to provide additional information. We would like to hear from anybody on this point.

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