

The Henry Drysdale Dakin Collection

Collection Summary

Repository:	Adelphi University
Creator:	Henry Drysdale Dakin
Title:	The Henry Drysdale Dakin Collection
Inclusive Dates:	1913-1995
Quantity:	2.6 linear feet (6 boxes)
Abstract:	Consists of the personal papers, library and other archival material of the chemist Henry Drysdale Dakin; also includes correspondence and documentation related to the establishment of the Dakin Memorial Room and Dakin Lecture at Adelphi University.
Language:	Collection materials are in English; French; German

Biographical History

Henry Drysdale Dakin was born in London on March 12, 1880. As a boy he attended Merchant Taylors' School in London and, after moving with his family to Leeds, apprenticed for 4 years with the Leeds City Analyst. At 18, Dakin enrolled at Yorkshire College, now the University of Leeds, where he studied organic chemistry under the guidance of Julius B. Cohen. Nicknamed "Zyme" by Cohen owing to his interest in enzyme chemistry, Dakin graduated in 1901 with a BS in chemistry. In 1902 Dakin was awarded an 1851 Exhibition Prize, a fellowship that enabled him to undertake research at the Lister Institute of Preventative Medicine in London, at Heidelberg University, and at the Jenner Institute in Oxford. In Heidelberg, Dakin worked in the laboratory of Albrecht Kossel and contributed to the discovery of arginase.

In 1905 Dakin met Christian A. Herter who invited him to continue his research at Herter's private laboratory in New York City. Dakin accepted and moved to New York. Following the death of Herter in 1910, Dakin assumed directorship of the lab.

Following the outbreak of war in Europe, in 1914, Dakin returned to England to join the war effort. While at the time British authorities could not find appropriate duties to suit his skills, Dakin was subsequently invited by the Rockefeller Institute to work with the eminent French surgeon and biologist Alexi Carrel on research related to treating infected wounds—a problem rampant in the muddy battlefields and dirty field hospitals of W.W. I. With infections killing many soldiers and causing amputations on a massive scale, Dakin joined Carrel who was carrying out experimental work at a temporary hospital and lab not far from the front at Campéigne. It was at this time that Dakin helped develop the eponymous sterilizing solution for which he is best known. As part of the Carrel-Dakin method of antiseptic irrigation of wounds, Dakin's solution (buffered hypochlorite) significantly reduced loss of lives and limbs during the war.

Upon his return to the United States, Dakin married Susan (née Dows) Herter (1863-1951), Christian Herter's widow, and took a house at Scarborough-on-Hudson, New York. By all accounts a decidedly

private man, Dakin set up a laboratory in a separate building near his house and continued to work, study and publish, adding to his legacy of significant scientific contributions—particularly to the field of bio-chemistry—until his death in 1952.

Scope and Content of the Collection

Consists of the personal papers, library and other archival material of the chemist Henry Drysdale Dakin; also includes correspondence and documentation related to the establishment of the Dakin Memorial Room and Dakin Lecture at Adelphi University.

Administrative Information

Provenance

Material donated by Dakin's stepdaughters, Mrs. Christine Herter Kendall and Mrs. Mary D. Herter Norton Crena de Iongh, in 1952.

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Identification of specific items; Date (if known); The Henry Drysdale Dakin Collection; Box and folder number; Adelphi University Archives and Special Collections, Garden City, NY.

Processing Information

This collection was processed in Summer 2015 by Brian McDonald.

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

The Henry Drysdale Dakin Collection is open to research. Photocopies of fragile materials are provided for researchers in lieu of the originals.

Use Restrictions

Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. Permission to publish materials from the collection must be requested from Adelphi University Archives and Special Collections. Researchers are responsible for copyright compliance.

Subject and Genre Headings

People:

Cohen, Julius Berend, 1880-1952
Dakin, Henry Drysdale, 1880-1952
Garrod, Archibald Edward, Sir, 1857-1936
Harringham, Wilmot Parker, Sir, 1855-1936
Rockefeller, John Davison, Jr., 1874-1960

Watson, James Dewey, 1928 -

Organizations:

Adelphi University

Geographic Names:

Long Island (N.Y.)
Hempstead (N.Y.)
Japan
Philippines
Dutch East Indies

Topics:

Chemists
World War, 1914-1918

Arrangement of the Collection

Collection is organized into four series: Series I: Personal Papers, 1913-1952; Dakin Memorial Room and Lecture Series, 1952-1995; Photographs, Engravings and Prints; and Memorabilia and Artifacts.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series 1: Personal Papers, 1913-1952

This series contains Dakin's personal papers including notebooks, documents (including passports from the time of his WW I service), a copy of the specifications for the laboratory Dakin had built on his property in Scarborough-on-Hudson, correspondence, and copies of some of Dakin's publications. The correspondence includes letters to and from Dakin (and a single letter addressed to his wife); among the notable correspondents are Julius B. Cohen, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Sir Wilmot Harringham and Sir Archibald Garrod.

Box	Folder	Title
1	1	Clippings, Extracts and Obituaries
	2	Correspondence, 1914-1941
	3	Notebooks, undated
	4	Notebooks, undated
	5	Calendar, 1913
	6	Personal Documents, 1915-1916, undated
	7	Printed Matter, 1915-1922
	8	Publications, 1915-1929

Series 2: Dakin Memorial Room and Lecture Series, 1952-1995

This series contains extensive correspondence and other material related to Adelphi University's acquisition of the Dakin collection, the creation of the Dakin Memorial Fund and the establishment of the Dakin Memorial Room at Adelphi. It also includes correspondence, lecture programs and other material related to the history of the Dakin Memorial Lecture.

Subseries 2.1: Dakin Memorial Fund and Room, 1952-1958

- 1 10 Booklets and Printed Matter, 1952-1953
- 2 1 Correspondence, 1952-1958

Subseries 2.2: Dakin Lecture, 1952-1995

- 2 Correspondence, 1952-1973
- 3 Flyers and Invitations, 1955-1995
- 4 Printed Matter, 1912-1992
- 5 Programs, 1953-1993
- 6 Typescripts and Abstracts, 1953-1984

Subseries 2.3: Dakin Library, 1952-1959

- 7 Correspondence, 1952-1956
- 8 Miscellaneous, 1952-1959

Series 3: Photographs, Engravings and Prints

Arranged by subject/subject's name.

- 3 1 Robert Bunsen, undated
- 2 Henry Dakin Photographs, undated
- 5 1 Dakin in Academic Robes (group photograph), undated
- 3 3 Dakin Lecture Photographs, undated
- 4 Dakin Memorial Room Photographs, undated

5	2	Department of Biochemistry, University of Leeds, 1951
3	5	Paul Ehrlich, undated
	6	Michael Faraday and Sarah Barnard, undated
	7	Walter Morley Fletcher, undated
	8	Auguste Forel, undated
	9	Charles Friedel, undated
	10	Jacobus Henricus van't Hoff and Wilhelm Ostwald, undated
4	1	Edward Mellanby, undated
	2	Walter Walker Palmer, undated
	3	Miscellaneous, undated

Series 4: Memorabilia and Artifacts

This series contains items belonging to Dakin including his academic regalia from the University of Leeds and his Hans Horst Meyer Medal.

6	1	Academic Regalia
4	4	Book of Common Prayer
	5	Hans Horst Meyer Medal
	6	Picture Frames
	7	Picture Frames
	8	Picture Frames