Preliminary Guide to the George Alfred Baitsell Papers

MS 902

compiled by Staff of Manuscripts and Archives

May 1979

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 902

CREATOR: Baitsell, George Alfred, 1885-1971

TITLE: George Alfred Baitsell papers

DATES: 1917–1927

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1 linear foot

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence, experimental records, and miscellaneous papers related to George Baitsell (1885-1971) and his professional activities. Nearly one third of the papers consists of research material including laboratory data, reports, and recommendations based on a study of poisonous gases conducted for the U.S. Army Chemical Warfare Service, 1917-1919. His research on tuberculosis, for which he received a grant in 1925 is also documented here.

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Requesting Instructions

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Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

George Alfred Baitsell Papers (MS 902). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical


[From Historical Register of Yale University, 1951-1968, p. 131.]

* * * * *

George A. Baitsell, 1885-1971

George A. Baitsell, Colgate professor emeritus of biology, died on Sept. 24 in Winter Park, Fla., at the age of 85.

He was co-founder in 1947 of the Scientific Research Society of America. From 1938 to 1940 he was president of Sigma Xi, the national science honor society. He served as the society’s executive secretary from 1940 to 1954 at its national headquarters at Yale. He was editor of the Sigma Xi Quarterly, later renamed American Scientist, from 1940-1954.

Mr. Baitsell founded the “Science in Progress” series for the Yale University Press while serving as its science advisor.

His teaching career at Yale, which ended in 1951, spanned 41 years. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Yale in 1909 and 1914 respectively.


Scope and Contents

The George A. Baitsell papers consist of one linear foot of correspondence, experimental records, and miscellaneous papers related to Baitsell’s professional activities between 1917 and 1927. General correspondence is organized alphabetically in three sequences in Boxes 1 and 2. Box 3 contains papers related to research projects supported by the U.S. Army Chemical Warfare Service (1917-1919) and the National Tuberculosis Association (1924-1925). The military research was to study the effect of poisonous gases on laboratory dogs. The research on tuberculosis was to study “the origin of scar tissue and their relation to cellular function and healing.”

The George A. Baitsell papers were transferred to Manuscripts and Archives from Kline Science Library between 1973 and 1977.
# Inventory

## Collection Contents

### Correspondence: A-Z

| b.1 | 1917-1922 |
| b.1 | 1923-1926 |
| b.2 | 1926-1927 |

### Miscellaneous papers

| b.2 | undated |

### Papers related to research for the U.S. Army Chemical Warfare Service

| b.3 | Correspondence | 1918 September 12–December 17 |
| b.3 | Department of the Interior: “Laws and Regulations Governing Leaves of Absence” | 1910 February 1 |

### Miscellaneous papers

| b.3 | 1917 Oct 6, n.d. |
| b.3 | 1917 Dec 3, n.d. |

### Handwritten observations

| b.3 | 1917 October–1918 March |

### List of dogs used in experiments, test results, disposition

| b.3 | 1918 August–November |

### Reports to Lt. Col. Frank P. Underhill

| b.3 | 1918 October 5–Nov1 |

### Resumé of toxicity and treatment of dogs gassed with chlorpicrin

| b.3 | 1918 |

### Treatments for gassing, test results, and data

| b.3 | [1918] |

### Test results and data

| b.3 | [1918] |

### Outline

| b.3 | 1919 January 28 |

### "A Study with Dark Field Illumination of the Plasma of Normal and of Chlorine-gassed Dogs"

| b.3 | undated |

### "Modified Treatment for Phosgene Poisoning in Dogs"

| b.3 | undated |

### "The Effect of Phosgene Poisoning upon the Pulse, Respiration and Temperature of Dogs"

| b.3 | undated |

### List of personnel [New Haven laboratory]

| b.3 | undated |

### Outlines of data

| b.3 | undated |

### Notes on test results

| b.3 | undated |
Papers related to research for the U.S. Army Chemical Warfare Se [...] (continued)

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<td>b. 3</td>
<td>Notes and graphs of test results</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 3</td>
<td>Chlorpicrin test data</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 3</td>
<td>Graphs of test results</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 3</td>
<td>Outline of plasma studies</td>
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Papers related to research grant awarded by the National Tuberculosis Association

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<td>b. 3</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1924–1925</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 3</td>
<td>Requests for payment from the National Tuberculosis Association research fund</td>
<td>1925–1927, undated</td>
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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.

Subjects
Chemical warfare
Educators
Gases, Asphyxiating and poisonous -- War use
Medicine, Military
Science
Tuberculosis -- Research
World War, 1914-1918

Occupations
Biologists

Names
Baitsell, George Alfred, 1885-1971

Corporate Bodies
United States. Army. Chemical Corps
Yale University -- Faculty
Yale University. Biology Department