

# Guide to the Gertrude Van Wagenen reprints

Pam Coll 32



Katherine Isham

2026

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Medical Historical Library, Cushing/Whitney Medical Library  
Yale University  
333 Cedar St.  
New Haven, CT 06520-8014  
203-737-1192  
203-785-5636  
historical.library@yale.edu  
<http://historical.medicine.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** Pam Coll 32

**CREATOR:** Van Wagenen, Gertrude, 1893-

**TITLE:** Gertrude Van Wagenen reprints

**DATES:** 1944-1958

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** .5 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The collection includes scientific articles authored by Gertrude Van Wagenen (1893-1978), a pioneer in primate research and a leading expert in reproductive endocrinology. Articles from the *Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine* are in complete issues.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.pam.0032>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.pam.0032>.

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

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Provenance of materials in the collection is unknown.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

## Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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## Preferred Citation

Gertrude Van Wagenen reprints. Historical Library, Harvey Cushing / John Hay Whitney Medical Library, Yale University.

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## Biographical / Historical

Gertrude Van Wagenen was born in Sioux City, Iowa in 1893. She majored in zoology at Iowa State University, and completed a doctorate degree at the University of Iowa in 1920.

Van Wagenen was a pioneer in primate research and a leading expert in reproductive endocrinology. At Yale, she worked (unsalaried) as a "Research Assistant, with the rank of Instructor" and later as a "Lecturer" (1960) in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the School of Medicine. But these titles understate her achievements. By the end of her largely self-funded career, Van had established an internationally renowned Rhesus macaque breeding colony, published 124 scientific papers, co-authored two books for Yale Press (*Embryology of the Ovary and Testis* in 1965 and *Postnatal Development of the Ovary* in 1973), and developed the first proof-of-concept for a "morning-after" contraception pill.

Van was an extraordinary collector, both professionally and personally. Inside the lab, she collected data from 1,261 monkeys across fifteen generations. Outside of the lab, her collecting was equally impressive. Friends describe how she acquired "books, pictures, old silver, China, and other objects of art" with particular attention to "the rare, the curious, and the beautiful." But Van was also a collector who ended her own collections. She terminated her primate colony in 1977 and her object collecting, by 1940.

Source: L. R. Phillips, September 12, 2025, Anatomy of a Collector: Gertrude van Wagenen (1893-1978). <https://library.medicine.yale.edu/news/anatomy-of-a-collector-gertrude-van-wagenen-1893-1978/>

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## Scope and Contents

The collection includes scientific articles authored by Gertrude Van Wagenen (1893-1978), a pioneer in primate research and a leading expert in reproductive endocrinology. Articles from the *Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine* are in complete issues.

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## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	Estrogen tolerance in pregnancy, G. Van Wagenen and Arthur H. Morse. <i>Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine</i> , Vol. 17 No. 1, page 301-309	October 1944
b. 1, f. 2	The monkey, Gertrude Van Wagenen. <i>Care and breeding of laboratory animals</i> , Farris	1950
b. 1, f. 3	Serum Vitamin A in normal and A-deficient monkeys ( <i>Macaca mulatta</i> ), B. Lionel Truscott and G. Van Wagenen. <i>Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine</i> , Vol. 25 No. 2, pages 139-146	November 1952
b. 1, f. 4	Electrical correlates of ovulation in the rhesus monkey, Vincent L. Gott and H. S. Burr. <i>Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine</i> , Vol. 25 No. 5, pages 408-417	April 1953
b. 1, f. 5	Absence of hepatic inactivation of estrogen in the monkey, G. Van Wagenen and W. U. Gardner. <i>Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine</i> , Vol. 25 No. 6, pages 477-483	June 1953
b. 1, f. 6	Androgen-induced female pseudohermaphroditism in the monkey ( <i>Macaca mulatta</i> ): anatomy of the reproductive organs, L. J. Wells and G. Van Wagenen. <i>Contributions to Embryology</i> , Vol. 35, pages 93-106, Carnegie Institution of Washington	1954
b. 1, f. 7	Emergence of permanent first molars in the monkey ( <i>Macaca mulatta</i> ). Association with other growth phenomena, V. O. Hurme and G. Van Wagenen. <i>Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine</i> , Vol. 28 No. 5, pages 538-567	April 1956
b. 1, f. 8	Induction of multiple ovulation in the rhesus monkey ( <i>Macaca mulatta</i> ), G. Van Wagenen and Miriam E. Simpson. <i>Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine</i> , Vol. 17 No. 3, pages 385-388	June 1958

## **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**

Endocrinology  
Medicine -- Research  
Primates as laboratory animals  
Primates -- Study and teaching  
Reproductive health

### **Corporate Body**

Yale University. School of Medicine