

# Preliminary Guide to the Frank P. Underhill Papers

MS 514



compiled by Staff of Manuscripts and Archives

May 1983

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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**CALL NUMBER:** MS 514

**CREATOR:** Underhill, Frank Pell, 1887-1932

**TITLE:** Frank Pell Underhill papers

**DATES:** 1899-1932

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 4.75 linear feet (11 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Research material including data on poison gas collected during World War I by the Chemical Warfare Services and for his book: *The Lethal War Gases* (1919). Included also are experimental data on food and diet and correspondence relating to his teaching career at Yale University as well as on his publications.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0514>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0514>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

b.      box

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transferred to Manuscripts and Archives in 1952. The papers were given to the Yale Medical Library by the estate of Frank P. Underhill.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

Unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection are in the public domain. There are no restrictions on use. Copyright status for other 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

Frank Pell Underhill Papers. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Frank P. Underhill: pharmacologist; Ph.B., Yale, 1900, Ph.D., 1903; assistant in physiological chemistry, Yale, 1900-1903, instructor, 1903-1907, assistant professor, 1907-1912, professor of pathological chemistry, 1912-1918, professor of experimental medicine, 1918-1921, professor of pharmacology and toxicology, 1921-1932.

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## Scope and Contents

These papers of Dr. Frank Pell Underhill, 1877-1932, consist of correspondence, reports, memoranda, and other materials dealing with data on gas poisoning collected during World War I by the medical division of the Chemical Warfare Service, of which Underhill was a member, and appendices to chapters 2-3, 5-7, and 15 of his book, *The Lethal War Gases* (1919); and of reports, testimony, and so forth, for the Federal Trade Commission's investigation into the use of alum in foods, records of diet experiments with dogs, and other matters. There is a correspondence file of letters and other papers relating to the New Haven chapter of American Officers of the Great War, to courses in physiological chemistry given in Sheffield Scientific School and Yale Medical School, to publication of Underhill's books with Yale Press, to reports to coroners on chemical tests, and other matters.

The papers, which are unprocessed, have been very roughly sorted by subject, and all original folder headings have been retained. Many groups of papers arrived unfolded, and often papers on various topics are intermixed. A series of memoranda and reports of poison gas experiments were contained in numbered folders, many of them empty, and these have been arranged in numerical order after the empty folders had been discarded. The correspondence file has been put into Box 11; there is a good deal of other correspondence scattered through the collection. A correspondence case of papers concerned with the use of alum in foods now forms the contents of Box 10.

These papers were transferred to Manuscripts and Archives in 1952. They were given to the Yale Medical School Library by the estate of Frank P. Underhill.

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## Collection Contents

b. 1	Poison gas experiments
b. 2	Poison gas experiments
b. 3	Poison gas experiments
b. 4	Poison gas experiments
b. 5	Numbered folders, 2-106
b. 6	Numbered folders, 2-106
b. 7	Appendices to <i>The Lethal War Gases</i>
b. 9-10, 8	Federal Trade Commission investigation and experiments
b. 9	Federal Trade Commission investigation and experiments
b. 10	Federal Trade Commission investigation and experiments
b. 11	Correspondence, B-Z

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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  
Food -- Research  
Gases, Asphyxiating and poisonous -- War use  
Nutrition -- Research  
Science  
World War, 1914-1918 -- Gas warfare

### **Occupations**

Pharmacologists

### **Names**

Underhill, Frank Pell, 1887-1932

### **Corporate Bodies**

Yale University. School of Medicine. Dept. of  
Pharmacology  
Yale University -- Faculty