

# Ashley W. Oughterson collection

Ms Coll 51



Toby A. Appel

2014

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/>

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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:** Ms Coll 51

**CREATOR:** Oughterson, Ashley Webster, 1895-1956

**TITLE:** Ashley W. Oughterson collection

**DATES:** 1943-1959

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.5 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The collection includes a small amount of correspondence; a notebook including Oughterson's account of his travel to and first days in Japan in 1945; a form for examining those exposed to the atomic bomb; clippings and articles about Oughterson; obituaries including a lengthy memoir published separately by John F. Fulton and Eugene Davidson; photographs; and articles on military medicine and the atomic and H-bomb collected by Oughterson.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.ms.0051>

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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.ms.0051>.

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

The materials in the first folders 1-5 and 11-17 were found in a mezzanine office of the Historical Library that had been used by Oughterson's widow Dr. Marion Howard. Other materials were added in 2014 from the Library's Obituary Files.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Related Materials

Averill A. Liebow Collection (Ms Coll 28).

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## Biographical / Historical

Ashley Webster Oughterson, known as "Scotty," was born in Seneca, New York on September 28, 1895. A graduate of Harvard Medical School in 1924, after internships in Boston and New York, he served as an assistant resident under Harvey Cushing at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston. He came to Yale in 1928 as the William Harvey Cushing Memorial Fellow in the Department of Surgery, after which he was appointed to the faculty. In 1943, he became a clinical faculty member. Oughterson's wife, Dr. Marion Edith Howard, was a member of the Department of Internal Medicine. During World War II, Oughterson first served with the Yale 39th General Hospital in New Zealand, and was then appointed chief surgical consultant to the American forces in the Pacific under General MacArthur. In 1945 he became Chairman of the Joint Commission for the Investigation of the Effects of the Atomic Bomb in Japan. As a clinician and researcher, he focused on the diagnosis of cancer and surgical treatment. In 1946, Oughterson became executive vice-president of the American Cancer Society. After visiting South America in 1955, he persuaded the Rockefeller Foundation to establish a program to aid medical education in Colombia. He was made a consultant to the Rockefeller Foundation and moved with his wife to Cali, Colombia. While in the process of visiting medical centers in Colombia, he died in a plane crash on November 18, 1956. Oughterson co-edited with Shields Warren, *Medical Effects of the Atomic Bomb in Japan* (1956). An active member of the Associates of the Yale Medical Library, he collected materials on founding Yale surgeon Nathan Smith for a possible biography.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection contains: a small amount of correspondence; a notebook including Oughterson's account of his travel to and first days in Japan in 1945; forms for examining those exposed to the atomic bomb; clippings and articles about Oughterson; obituaries, including a biography published separately by John F. Fulton and Eugene Davidson; photographs; and articles on military medicine and the atomic and hydrogen bomb collected by Oughterson. Other photographs had previously been transferred to the Library's photograph collection.

## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	Correspondence Carbon copies of three letters: Oughterson to Robert Zollinger, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, 1946 February 1; James P. Cooney, Atomic Energy Commission, to Oughterson, 1950 March 31; George Baehr, Health Insurance Plan of Greater New York, to Oughterson, 1955 June 20. Oughterson supported prepaid medical insurance plans.	1946-1955
b. 1, f. 2	Notebook on travel to and arrival in Japan Lined notebook, 15.5 x 10 cm, with pages folded on the bottom that extend to 20.5 cm. The first pages contain a narrative that begins January 3, 1945 with Oughterson's departure from the United States and his arrival in Japan. He describes bombs and air raids. Other parts of the notebook, most of which is blank, contain miscellaneous notes. The folder also includes a separate sheet of paper containing references from 1942 to 1947, and a larger sheet on which Oughterson has written, "This is a bone fida gift from a member of the Armed Forces and entitled to free entry."	1945
b. 1, f. 3	Atomic Bomb Joint Commission Investigation form Four mimeographed copies of the form to record location, injuries, and symptoms for individuals who were affected by the atomic bomb.	ca. 1945
b. 1, f. 4	<i>Yale [Daily] News</i> issue with headline, "Army Air Corps Moves in as 500 Students Move Out" The entire issue is devoted to the war. On the last page is a photograph of the 39th General Hospital and the article "Yale Medical Unit and Nursing School Convert to War."	1943 February 4
b. 1, f. 5	<i>Yale [Daily] News</i> issue with an article on Oughterson Issue containing the article, "Col. Oughterson is Given New Post in South Pacific," on page 1.	1944 January 27
b. 1, f. 6	Newspaper clippings on Oughterson	1944-1959
b. 1, f. 7	Reviews of <i>Medical Effects of the Atomic Bomb</i>	1956-1957
b. 1, f. 8	Obituaries These include John F. Fulton and Eugene Davidson, <i>Ashley Webster Oughterson</i> [New Haven]: Sponsored by the Trustees of the Associates of Yale Medical Library, [no date], plus three other obituaries, and a poem, "Ashley Oughterson," by Eugene Davidson.	
b. 1, f. 9	Correspondence of John F. Fulton on Oughterson memoir See Folder 7 for obituaries and Fulton's memoir.	1956-1958
b. 1, f. 10	Photographs Two photographs. One unlabeled photograph appears to be the staff of the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston. The second photograph is labeled "Medical School and Hospital Staffs...Cali, Colombia."	

b. 1, f. 11	<p>Article by Kenneth W. Thomson, "Dermatomycosis, Ulceration, and Gangrene," with a paragraph inscription to Oughterson</p> <p>The full title is "Studies on the Relationship of Dermatomycosis to Ulceration and Gangrene of the Extremities," <i>Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine</i>, 16[6] (July 1944): 665-754. Thomson, a member of the Department of Surgery at Yale, writes "This is the legacy you left me," and wishes Oughterson good luck on going to Japan (see folder 2).</p>	1945 January 1
b. 1, f. 12	<p>Articles collected by Oughterson on field casualties</p> <p>13 items.</p>	1943-1944
b. 1, f. 13	<p>Articles collected by Oughterson on radiation</p> <p>Four items.</p>	1945-1950
b. 1, f. 14	<p><i>Nuclear Physics for the Medical Officer: Lectures Given to Army Medical Officers at the Army Medical Department Research &amp; Graduate School, Washington, D.C.</i>, prepared by R.E. Lapp</p> <p>Mimeographed set of lectures, various paginations.</p>	1947
b. 1, f. 15	<p><i>Bulletin of the U.S. Army Medical Department</i> issue with an article on the atomic bomb</p>	1948 July
b. 1, f. 16	<p><i>Scientific American</i> issue with articles on the H-Bomb</p>	1950 March
b. 1, f. 16	<p><i>Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists</i> issue with articles on the atomic bomb and H-bomb</p>	1950 April

## **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**

Atomic bomb -- Blast effect  
Medical education -- Colombia  
Medicine, Military  
Surgeons -- Connecticut  
World War, 1939-1945 -- Health aspects

### **Genres / Formats**

Diaries  
Photographs

### **Occupations**

Surgeons -- Connecticut

### **Names**

Davidson, Eugene, 1902-2002  
Fulton, John F. (John Farquhar), 1899-1960

### **Corporate Bodies**

Peter Bent Brigham Hospital  
Rockefeller Foundation  
United States. Joint Commission for the Investigation of the Effects of the Atomic Bomb in Japan  
Yale Medical Library. Historical Library  
Yale University. Department of Surgery