Antibiotics

Archive and manuscript sources in the Wellcome Library

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The archives and manuscripts collections cover a broad range of subjects dating from the Middle Ages to the 21st century. This is one of a series of thematic guides designed to assist users of the collections to identify material of particular relevance to their research. For more detailed subject searching, you can run keyword or subject searches in the Archives and Manuscripts on-line catalogue, [http://archives.wellcomelibrary.org](http://archives.wellcomelibrary.org), from which material can be ordered for consultation in the Rare Materials Room. Hard copy catalogues can be found in the Library’s Rare Materials Room or by request to archs+mss@wellcome.ac.uk.

**Antibiotics**

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<th>Personal Papers</th>
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<td><strong>Professor Sir Ernst Boris Chain (1906–1979):</strong> Lectures, notes, reports and correspondence relating to penicillin research, 1930s–40s; correspondence, press-cuttings and miscellaneous papers relating to his Nobel Prize, 1945, 1950s, 1975</td>
<td>PP/EBC</td>
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<td><strong>Leonard Colebrook (1883–1967):</strong> Publication on the use of penicillin in the treatment of burns, 1943 Journal articles relating to the use of sulphonamides and sulphanilamide, 1930s–1940s</td>
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<td><strong>Stuart Craddock (1903–1972):</strong> Craddock worked with Fleming at St Mary's 1928–31. Small group of papers includes his own research on penicillin and acne, a memoir of Fleming, and correspondence with Fleming, Lady Fleming, Ronald Hare, Norman Heatley, and Prof Bustinza of Madrid, 1920s–70s</td>
<td>MS.8441</td>
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<td><strong>Sir Alexander Fleming (1881–1955):</strong> Letters to Dr David Thomson, 1944–1953; photocopies of letters, 1945–1946</td>
<td>MS.7809</td>
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<td><strong>Charles Montague Fletcher (1911–1995):</strong> Articles and letters relating to Fletcher's involvement in the first clinical investigations of Penicillin and administering the first injection to a human patient, 1984–93</td>
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<td><strong>Professor Ronald Hare (1899–1986):</strong> In 1955 there was a possibility that Hare would be involved in a biography of Sir Alexander Fleming and although he was not, he continued his research. Correspondence, biographical material, notes, cuttings, articles and photographs relating to the discovery of penicillin and Alexander Fleming, 1940s–1970s also, Memorandum on investigations into low yields in penicillin production in the Spadina Division (Canada), c.1940s</td>
<td>PP/HAR/C.2–31</td>
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<td><strong>Philip D'Arcy Hart:</strong> material on trials of Streptomycin in tuberculosis, 1946–8</td>
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<td><strong>Norman George Heatley (b.1911):</strong> Laboratory notebooks, diagrams of apparatus and correspondence relating to research into and the development of penicillin, 1939–1944; subsequent materials on the story of penicillin, 1940s–2000s</td>
<td>PP/NHE</td>
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<td><strong>Thomas Cecil Hunt (1901–1980):</strong> Correspondence with Lord Florey, 1945–60, with articles, etc, on discovery of penicillin; correspondence with Stanley Clayton, 1966, includes 1935 letter from Colebrook about Prontosil</td>
<td>GC/46/C.1/1, 3</td>
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**Professor James Walter McLeod (d.c.1978):** Minute book of Central Penicillin Committee, Leeds, 1944–1945


**Brenda Morrison (b.1916):** Her memoir ‘Reminiscences of a woman doctor, 1933–1956’ contains descriptions of developments in contemporary medicine, including antibiotics

**Professor Frederick Murgatroyd (1902–1951):** Scripts of BBC radio broadcasts on tropical diseases, 1948–51, include impact of antibiotics

**Frederick Parkes Weber (1863–1962):** Notes, cuttings, reprints, correspondence etc. relating to penicillin, antibiotics and sulphonamides, 1910s–1950s

### Societies and Associations

**British Society of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (f.1971):** Minutes, including editorial board of the Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy; meetings programmes; newsletters; reports and discussion documents; records of international conferences attended, 1970s–1990s

### RAMC

**Royal Army Medical Corps Muniments Collection:** Ms notes relating to penicillin powder for brain injuries, 1944; pamphlets relating to penicillin, 2nd World War; text of talk relating to streptomycin, Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot, 1947; Major R R Hughes’s correspondence relating to post-penicillin jaundice, 1945–6; report from Penicillin Control Centre, ALFSEA, 1945; chapter on penicillin for Medical History of the War, 1947

### Wellcome Archives

**Wellcome Foundation:** Records of the pharmaceutical company contain a significant amount of material on the various antibiotics (human and veterinary) it produced, 1940s–90s.

– There are a few photographs of penicillin production, c. 1940s, among Dr Kellaway’s slides in Wellcome Archives: Photographs

### Other


See also the Moving Images and Sound Collection playlist of films on antibiotics: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXAu4-YhH76b_cJQgLzNKBu4K2RywAJ9d