Overview of the Collection

Creator  International Northwest Conference on Diseases of Nature Communicable to Man
Title    International Northwest Conference on Diseases of Nature Communicable to Man (INCDNCM) Records and Proceedings
Dates    1946-1986 (inclusive)
Quantity 8 containers., (3.5 linear feet of shelf space.)
Collection Number Cage 109
Summary Correspondence, business records, and draft proceedings chiefly concerning annual conferences of scientists, researchers and epidemiologists who study diseases transmitted by insects, rodents, and so on, such as Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. Correspondents include Cornelius B. Philip, Ralph R. Parker, and William Jellison.
Repository Washington State University Libraries, Manuscripts, Archives, and Special Collections.
Terrell Library Suite 12
Pullman WA
99164-5610
Telephone: 509-335-6691
mascref@wsu.edu
Access Restrictions This collection is open for research use.
Languages English
Sponsor Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Historical Note

The International Northwest Conference on Diseases in Nature Communicable to Man (INCDNCM) began, in 1946, as a child of the International Great Plains Entomological Conference (IGPEC). The two organizations held consecutive meetings in 1947, in Hamilton, Montana. From 1948, the INCDNCM has held an annual meeting, each summer to bring together scientists from the western United States and Canada to discuss informally current research in the field of diseases in nature communicable to man. Examples of topics include tularemia, tick-borne viruses, various fevers, and the plague.

Membership included researchers from U.S. Public Health Service installations, state or provincial public health agencies, and state or provincial colleges and universities. Officers of the INCDNCM
originally only numbered two, a president and a secretary. By 1951, after the organization showed so much growth in membership that a vice-presidential office was added. Traditionally, the secretary elected for the upcoming year was associated with the agency hosting the next year’s meeting.

The annual conference, according to the INCDNCM’s constitution, is held during the late summer. Because the organization includes members from north and south of the 49th parallel, every third year it meets in western Canada (Saskatchewan, or British Columbia).

A number of founders and early supporters of INCDNCM have been named honorary members. One of these, Ralph R. Parker, an energetic director of the Rocky Mountain Laboratory, a U.S. Public Health Service research facility in Hamilton, Montana, was a charter member of the organization. He died suddenly in 1949. Beginning at the 1951 meeting, the conference included the “R. R. Parker Memorial Address,” on a topic of general interest, for the members, in disease and to “perpetuate the memory of a leading worker in the field of interest of this organization.” (source: INCDNCM Constitution, Article VI)

Yearly, the organization issues proceedings of the annual meeting. These are made available to attendees and are for sale to research libraries. Typically a transcription of a participant’s paper, or a submitted written version, and a script of subsequent discussion of the the topic are part of the proceeding. In later years, only abstracts of of papers were included. Minutes of the annual business meeting, held sometime during each conference, and a printed version of the R. R. Parker Memorial Address were also part of each proceeding.

In the mid-1950s, requests for copies of INCDNCM proceedings from the previous half decade, prompted the organization to create the office of Custodian of the Proceedings, or Custodian of Back Issues. William L. Jellison, a Ph.D. parasitologist with the Rocky Mountain Laboratory from 1929 to 1960, took on this office and continued to serve loyally through the mid-1980s.

Doctor Jellison also assembled a collection of materials on tick fever research at the Rocky Mountain Laboratory, in Hamilton, Montana, from the early 1900s to the 1970s. This also includes a gallery of photographs of INCDNCM Honorary Members and accompanying award certificates. Jellison had housed his artifacts in the Ricketts Memorial Museum, a building three miles northwest of Hamilton, that originally served as the Canyon Creek Schoolhouse. Later, it housed a Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever research station, predecessor to the Rocky Mountain Laboratory. Jellison moved his tick fever research collections and INCDNCM memorabilia, in the late 1970s, to the Ravalli County Museum, located in the Old Courthouse, in Hamilton.

Use of the Collection

Preferred Citation


Administrative Information

Arrangement

The records of the INCDNCM, are arranged in three major series: correspondence files, miscellaneous files, and annual proceedings. The first series is subdivided each year by general correspondence and
that pertaining to orders for copies of the proceedings. Occasionally, an additional folder of letters or other documents pertaining to organizing a year’s meeting is included. If particular interest is the large number of lengthy letters by Cornelius B. Philip, Medical Epidemiologist, at RML, in Hamilton, R. R. Parker, Director of RML, and others; focusing on the initial push to create a solid organization for the INCDNCM. The correspondence pertaining to proceedings includes a number of letters by William L. Jellison, Custodian of Back Issues, about requests for copies of past proceedings. Also found there are order invoices, checking account records, and financial statements.

The second series, subject files and miscellaneous papers is loosely alphabetized. It includes abstracts or complete written versions of papers presented at annual meetings, press releases, obituaries, and meeting programs. The third series is an incomplete run of proceedings of the INCDNCM annual meetings. Volumes for some years are missing, but for others there are reprints. In two instances, the collection contains both original and reprinted of the annual proceedings.

**Acquisition Information**

Records of International Northwest Conference on Diseases of Nature Communicable to Man were transferred the Washington State University Libraries by the organization, through Charles Drake of Pullman, WA. The INCDNCM Papers have been assembled from two separate accessions, MS 85-42 and MS 86-39. The first included correspondence files and copies of the organization’s annual proceedings, from 1946 to 1986. The second included financial records from the INCDNCM’s annual meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia, in 1985.

**Processing Note**

Robert W. Hadlow processed the INCDNCM Papers in October and November 1992.

**Related Materials**


**Detailed Description of the Collection**

The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

**Series 1: Correspondence**

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**Series 3: Proceedings**

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<td>8</td>
<td>Subject Index, Proceedings of the INCDNCM, 11th to 18th, 1956-1963, by Thora Loftsgaard</td>
<td>1964</td>
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<td>8</td>
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**Personal Names:**
- Jellison, William L. (William Livingston), 1906-
- Parker, Ralph Robinson, 1888-
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**Corporate Names:**
- International Northwest Conference on Diseases in Nature Communicable to Man --Archives (creator)
- International Northwest Conference on Diseases in Nature Communicable to Man--Records and correspondence