

Thomas Jefferson University Archives and Special Collections

MS001

John H. Gibbon, Jr. Collection, 1946-1987 1 linear ft. (3 boxes)

Biographical Note

John Heysham Gibbon (1903-1973)

A 1927 graduate of Jefferson Medical College, Dr. Gibbon received his AB from Princeton University in 1923. As a member of the faculty at Jefferson Medical College, he held the positions of Professor of Surgery and Director of the Department of Surgery (1946-1956) and was the Samuel D. Gross Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery (1946-1967). Dr. Gibbon is best known for his development of the heart-lung machine, for the first open-heart operation (1953), and for initiating a new era in cardiovascular surgery.

Mary H. Gibbon Thompson (1906-1986)

Mary Gibbon attended Bryn Mawr College for two years when her interest in medicine brought her to the Harvard Medical School where she enrolled in summer laboratory courses. While working in the capacity of laboratory technician at the Massachusetts General Hospital, she became an assistant to Dr. John H. Gibbon. The two were married in 1931. For 20 years she participated actively in the development of the heart lung machine. After this work was completed, she returned to school and obtained her MS degree at the University of Pennsylvania in social work (1954). She entered private practice as a marriage counselor in 1955. Five years after Dr. Gibbon's death she married Lovell Thompson.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of materials by or about John H. Gibbon, Jr., MD and his family. Mainly pertaining to the heart-lung machine, types of materials include addresses, publications, correspondence, and blue print drawings of the machine. Some of the material is also associated with Dr. Gibbon's wife, Mary Hopkinson Gibbon.

Organization and Arrangement

I. Addresses (1946-1968)

Arranged in chronological order

II. Appointment Jefferson Medical College (1946-1956)

Arranged in chronological order

III. Awards (1959-1987)

Arranged in chronological order

IV. Correspondence (1946-1987)

Arranged in chronological order

V. Heart-Lung Machine

VI. Publications (1947-1977)

Arranged in chronological order

VII. Newsclippings (1946-1968)

Arranged in chronological order

VIII. Necrology (1973-1986)

Arranged in chronological order

IX. Blueprint Drawings (1950-1954)

Container List

I. Addresses

- 1.1 American Surgical Association - 1955 - Presidential address - "The education of a surgeon"
- 1.2 American Surgical Association - 1953 - Cancer of the lung : An analysis of 532 consecutive cases
- 1.3 American Surgical Association - 1951 - Recent advances in the development of a mechanical heart & lung apparatus
- 1.4 American Surgical Association - 1950 - A clinical study of respiratory exchange during prolonged operations with an open thorax
- 1.5 American Surgical Association - 1946 - Primary closure of decubitus ulcers
- 1.6 Lasker Clinical Research Award Lecture - 1968 - Development of the artificial heart & lung extra corporeal blood circuit
- 1.7 University of Minnesota Symposium on Recent Advances in Cardiovascular Physiology & Surgery - 1953 - Application of a mechanical heart & lung apparatus to cardiac surgery

II. Appointment

- 1.8 JMC - Dept. of Surgery - 1956 June 5 - Newspaper clipping re. appt. as S. D. Gross Prof. of Surgery and Head of Dept. of Surgery
- 1.9 JMC - Dept. of Surgery - 1956 May 31 - Contract with Dean Bennett re. appt. as S. D. Gross Prof. of Surgery and Head of Dept. of Surgery (original document)
- 1.10 JMC - Dept. of Surgery - 1956 Apr. 6 - Correspondence with Dean Bennett re. conditions of appointment
- 1.11 JMC - Dept. of Surgery - 1946 Feb. 7 - Professorship

III. Awards & Honors

- 1.12 1987 - JMC - John Gibbon Lecture
- 1.13 1970 - JMC - Alumni Achievement
- 1.14 1969 - JMC - Doctor of Laws
- 1.15 1968 - Lasker Award
- 1.16 1965 - American Heart Assn. Research Award
- 1.17 1964 - Philadelphia Award
- 1.18 1963 - Strittmater Award - "The gestation and birth of an idea [heart-lung machine]"
- 1.19 1962 - Modern Medicine Award
- 1.20 1959 - Royal College of Surgeons of England - Honorary Fellowship

IV. Correspondence

- 1.21 1980-1987 - Misc.
- 1.22 1983 June 1 - From : Bluemle, Lewis To : Engell, Hans C.
Re Engell's stewardship of the Gibbon heart-lung machine blueprints and their return to TJU.
- 1.23 c.1972 - From : Gibbon, Mary H. To : Leo (?)
Re. : List of Gibbon family members with M.D.s (1847-1966); award of the 1972 Dixon Prize (Pittsburgh University); and publication of an article by R. Litwak
Enc. : "The Growth of Cardiac Surgery" by Robert S. Litwak

- 1.24 1970 Nov. 5 - To : Leo (?)
Re. : Transmittal of registration books with signatures.
- 1.25 1969 May 12 - To : Leo (?)
Re. : Gibbon family history.
- 1.26 1969 April 23 - To : Britt, Edward Charles
Re. : Transmittal of research materials for Britt's article on "The Gross Chair."
- 1.27 1969 March 13 - To : Herbut, Peter A.
" 14 - From : "
Re. : Award of Honorary LL.D. from JMC
Enc. : Curriculum Vitae; biographical sketch; other citations (awards); and an article from the Pennsylvania Medical Journal (Oct. 1962) about Gibbon's forebears.
- 1.28 1968 Jan. 15 - From : Rusk, Howard A. To : Britt, Edward Charles
Re. : Failure to credit Dr. Gibbon in Britt's first newspaper article.
Enc. : Britt, Charles E., "Organ Transplants" : New York Times, Jan. 14, 1968.
- 1.29 1955 July 19 - To : Foerderer, Percival, Chairman, Board of Trustees, JMC
Re. : Disturbing trends and episodes at Jefferson.
- 1.30 1946 Nov. 13 - From : Bucher, C. J.
Re. : Pathology laboratory report for patient John Rizzio (left & right vagus nerves).

V. Heart Lung Machine

- 1.31 Anniversary (30th) - 1983 - JMC - Potter Lecture
- 1.32 Anniversary (25th) - 1979
- 1.33 Anniversary (20th) - 1973 - College of Physicians of Philadelphia - Symposium
- 1.34 Anniversary (10th) - 1963 - JMC - Portrait Presentation
- 1.35 Bavolek, Cecelia - First open heart surgical patient in 1953
- 1.36 Publicity - 1952
- 1.37 Replica - College of Physicians - 1980
Note : Original machine no longer exists. It was broken up and used for spare parts

VI. Publications

- 1.38 1977 - Gibbon, Mary Hopkinson - At first, only John Gibbon believed in the heart-lung machine
- 1.39 1972 - Medicine's living history (the development of the heart-lung machine)
- 1.40 1970 - Development of the heart-lung apparatus
- 1.41 1968 - Human heart transplantation
- 1.42 1965 - How near is the moon to your heart?
- 1.43 1947 - A trip to Europe in the autumn of 1947

VII. News Clippings

- 1.44 1962-1963, 1967-1968
- 1.45 1952-1954
- 1.46 1946-c.1952

VIII. Necrology

- 1.47 Obituary - John H. Gibbon - 1973
- 1.48 Obituary - Mary H. Gibbon Thompson - 1986

- 1.49 Memorial Service - College of Physicians of Philadelphia - 1973 Feb. 13
- 1.50 Memoir - JMC Executive Council Minutes - 1973 March 6
- 1.51 Memoirs - Contributors include Drs. Anthony R. C. Dobell; Thomas F. Nealon; Jonathan E. Rhodes; and Harris B. Shumacker, Jr.

IX. Blueprint Drawings

(Legal size storage)

- 2.1 Heart-Lung Machine - Pump test unit - Drawing list
- 2.2 Heart-Lung Machine - Pump test unit - Small drawings
- 2.3 Heart-Lung Machine - Pump test unit - Small drawings
- 2.4 Heart-Lung Machine - Pump test unit - Small drawings

Box 3

(Oversize drawings in flat box storage)