

TITLE: Benjamin Sacks Manuscript Collection

DATE RANGE: 1921-1971

CALL NUMBER: FM MSS #110

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 3.5 linear feet

PROVENANCE: Donated posthumously by Benjamin Sacks, 1971

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CREDIT LINE: Benjamin Sacks Manuscript Collection, MSS #110, Arizona Historical Foundation

PROCESSED BY: Linda A. Whitaker, July 2009

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Benjamin Sacks was born on August 14th, 1896. He graduated from high school in three years and entered college at Johns Hopkins University in Maryland, earning recognition as a Phi Beta Kappa for devotion to learning. Sacks advanced his education at Johns Hopkins in the School of Medicine. After he earned his M.D. in 1922, he began his career at Mount Sinai Hospital in Manhattan.

In 1923, Sacks, along with partner Dr. Emanuel Libman, discovered an uncommon heart ailment called the Libman-Sacks Syndrome reported in approximately 50% of fatal lupus cases. Sacks' work earned him respect and praise from the medical community. He was described by peers and supervisors as an extraordinarily able teacher and exceptionally well trained for investigative work.

Due to failing health and unable to continue the rigors of medicine in the 1950s, Dr. Sacks turned to the movie industry where he served as a technical advisor. Sacks worked with actors including Cary Grant, Bing Crosby, and Barry Fitzgerald. Known for his attention to detail, Sacks created film sets that were identical to a real hospital or doctor's office.

Over time, his interests shifted towards the study of history and genealogy of the American West. His correspondence with repositories and pioneering families eventually led him to Barry Goldwater. Sacks brought a scientific mind to his historical pursuits - a level of detail and intellectual inquiry more commonly found in a hospital laboratory. His research notes are a case in point. Sacks urged historians and repositories to take a more analytical approach to primary sources. He believed there were many more facts to be discovered about Territorial Arizona – a history partially obscured by myth and romance. [See Sacks Collection of the American West](#) .

In 1964, Sacks published *Be It Enacted: the Creation of the Territory of Arizona* described a masterpiece of historical investigation and exposition for which he received the Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History. In 1970, Sacks released his second book, *Arizona's Angry Man: United States Marshal Milton B. Duffield*. His abiding interest, however, was Herman Ehrenberg. Years of exhaustive research did not result in a book publication.

Dr. Benjamin Sacks died on May 2, 1971 with boxes of historical documents at his bedside – a researcher to the very end.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

Original order is unknown. This collection has been re-processed and weeded of non-manuscript materials, miscellaneous research notes, and other documents that are now embedded within the Sacks Collection of the American West. Folder titles largely reflect the originals. Where possible, documents are arranged chronologically within each folder.

Sacks' personal correspondence and writings span 50 years representing various phases of his professional life – physician, pathologist and medical researcher; screen consultant and script writer; historian. Very little biographical material remains. Background notes for Sacks' historical writings are extensive. The Bert Fireman correspondence is voluminous providing lengthy discussions of discoveries found on numerous research trips. [See the Bert Fireman Collection.](#)

ARRANGEMENT: Arranged in four series and alphabetically within: **I. Personal** – includes many photographs from the Hollywood years; **II. Correspondence** – organized by sender, topic; or repository; **III. Writings** – includes speeches as well as published and unpublished works; and **Publications** – organized by topic, includes many difficult to locate journal articles and documents.

CONTAINER LIST:

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
1	1	Personal , Biographical Materials (includes news clippings and Fireman's press release of Sacks' death)	1956-1971
	2	Personal , Photographs Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History	1964
	3	Personal , Photographs "Bluebeard's Eighth Wife" (movie set with Gary Cooper and Claudette Colbert)	1938
	4	Personal , Photographs Medical Colleagues and Classmates	1886-1910
	5	Personal , Photographs "Miss Susie Slagle's" (movie set with Sonny Tufts, Joan Caulfield, Lillian Gish, Veronica Lake, Renny	1944

		McEvoy, Lloyd Bridges, and others; movie released in 1946)	
	6	Personal , Photographs Movie Stars (various; some autographed)	1938-1940s
	7	Personal , Photographs “People Will Talk” (movie set with Gary Cooper and Jeanne Crain)	1947
	8	Personal , Photographs Various (includes unidentified photos)	1940s-1966
	9	Personal , Photographs “Welcome Stranger” (movie set with Joan Caulfield, Bing Crosby, Wanda Hendrix)	1947
	10	Correspondence , Abajian, James de T. (California Historical Society)	1953-1969
	11	Correspondence , Altshuler, Constance Wynn	1966-1967
	12	Correspondence , Arizona Pioneers Historical Society	1964-1968
	13	Correspondence , Barrick, Nona (see also Taylor, Mary)	1962-1966
	14	Correspondence , Brainard, Margaret	1966
	15	Correspondence , Brinckerhoff, Sidney B. (Arizona Pioneers Historical Society)	1964-1970
	16	Correspondence , Butler, Frank (motion picture industry)	1951-1956
	17	Correspondence , Casebier, Dennis (includes photo)	1969
	18	Correspondence , Casebier, Dennis	1970
	19	Correspondence , Casebier, Dennis	1971
	20	Correspondence , Cleveland, June	1954
2	1	Correspondence , Critiques of Dr. Sacks’ Lecture on Herman Ehrenberg	1967
	2	Correspondence , Davenport, Harbert	1955-1956
	3	Correspondence , Ehrenberg, Herman (Professor Günter Mönch)	1940-1956
	4	Correspondence , Ehrenberg, Herman	1952
	5	Correspondence , Ehrenberg, Herman	1953-1954
	6	Correspondence , Ehrenberg, Herman	1955
	7	Correspondence , Ehrenberg Project	1960s
	8	Correspondence , Finch, Boyd	1966-1968
	9	Correspondence , Fireman, Bert (Arizona Historical Foundation)	1954-1959
	10	Correspondence , Fireman, Bert (Arizona Historical Foundation)	1961
	11	Correspondence , Fireman, Bert (Arizona Historical Foundation)	1962
3	1	Correspondence , Fireman, Bert (Arizona Historical Foundation)	1963

	2	Correspondence , Fireman, Bert (Arizona Historical Foundation)	1964-1965
	3	Correspondence , Fireman, Bert (Arizona Historical Foundation)	1966
	4	Correspondence , Fireman, Bert (Arizona Historical Foundation)	1967
	5	Correspondence , Fireman, Bert (Arizona Historical Foundation)	1968-1971
	6	Correspondence , Fireman, Bert (Arizona Historical Foundation)	n.d.
	7	Correspondence , Goldwater, Barry M.	1955
	8	Correspondence , Goldwater, Barry M.	1956-1969
	9	Correspondence , Hall, Martin H.	1965-1971
	10	Correspondence , Harte, John Bret (Arizona Historical Foundation)	1967-1969
	11	Correspondence , Henson, Pauline	1963-1970
	12	Correspondence , Hinton, Harwood P.	1964
	13	Correspondence , Hoxie, Frances	1966
	14	Correspondence , Hufford, Kenneth	1966-1969
	15	Correspondence , Inscore, Ray P.	1969-1970
	16	Correspondence , Melendy, Howard B.	1953
4	1	Correspondence , Motion Picture Industry (includes news clippings and magazines)	1936-1954
	2	Correspondence , Murray, Richard Y.	1965-1971
	3	Correspondence , Shields, Mark A.	1963
	4	Correspondence , Southwest Museum	1952-1960
	5	Correspondence , Taylor, Mary	1962-1966
	6	Correspondence , Texas State Library Archives Division	1955-1956
	7	Correspondence , Wallace, Edward S.	1957-1961
	8	Correspondence , Yount, Florence B.	1967-1971
	9	Correspondence , B	1955-1970
	10	Correspondence , C	1965-1971
	11	Correspondence , D	1956-1962
	12	Correspondence , F	1962-1969
	13	Correspondence , G	1933, 1965
	14	Correspondence , H	1955-1971
	15	Correspondence , J-K	1955-1956
	16	Correspondence , L	1963-1967
	17	Correspondence , M	1956-1968
	18	Correspondence , N	1963-1969
	19	Correspondence , O-P	1966-1968
	20	Correspondence , R	1966
	21	Correspondence , S	1966-1968
	22	Correspondence , T	1955-1969

	23	Correspondence , V-W (includes unidentified correspondents)	1953-1970
	24	Writings , “A Hitherto Undescribed Form of Valvular and Mural Endocarditis (<i>Transactions of the Association of American Physicians</i>)	1923
	25	Writings , “A Standardized Procedure Suggested for Microscopic Studies of the Heart with Observations on Rheumatic Hearts” (<i>Archives of Pathology</i>)	December 1930
	26	Writings , “Atypical Verrucous Endocarditis” (<i>Proceedings of the New York Pathological Society</i>)	January-May 1923
	27	Writings , “Arizona Silver for a Tiffany Inkstand: Poston’s Gift to President Lincoln”	n.d.
	28	Writings , <i>Arizona’s Angry Man: U.S. Marshall Milton B. Duffield</i> (notes) 1 of 3	n.d.
	29	Writings , <i>Arizona’s Angry Man: U.S. Marshall Milton B. Duffield</i> (notes) 2 of 3	n.d.
5	1	Writings , <i>Arizona’s Angry Man: U.S. Marshall Milton B. Duffield</i> (notes) 3 of 3	n.d.
	2	Writings , <i>Be It Enacted: The Creation of the Territory of Arizona</i>	n.d.
	3	Writings , <i>Be It Enacted: The Creation of the Territory of Arizona</i> (Part II)	n.d.
	4	Writings , <i>Be It Enacted: The Creation of the Territory of Arizona</i> (references and footnotes)	n.d.
	5	Writings , <i>Be It Enacted: The Creation of the Territory of Arizona</i> (notes, memos) 1 of 3	n.d.
	6	Writings , <i>Be It Enacted: The Creation of the Territory of Arizona</i> (notes, memos) 2 of 3	n.d.
	7	Writings , <i>Be It Enacted: The Creation of the Territory of Arizona</i> (notes) 3 of 3	n.d.
	8	Writings , <i>Be It Enacted: The Creation of the Territory of Arizona</i> (reviews)	1963-1965
	9	Writings , “Be It Enacted: The Tale Behind the Book	n.d.
	10	Writings , “Charles DeBrille Poston Prince of Pioneers”	n.d.
	11	Writings , “Columbo the Magnificent” (plot proposal for movie film; includes correspondence with co-author John Fante)	1949-1964
	12	Writings , “Dr. Napoleon” (film script)	n.d.
	13	Writings , “Episcleritis – A New Method of Approach” (<i>Archives of Ophthalmology</i>)	1921
6	1	Writings , “Herman Ehrenberg 1816-1866”	n.d.
	2	Writings , Introduction for Fred Allen (spoof)	n.d.
	3	Writings , “Little Top” (plot proposal for movie film)	n.d.
	4	Writings , “Milton B. Duffield First U.S. Marshall of Arizona: Fanatical Censor of the Territorial	n.d.

		Government”	
5		Writings , On Dr. Stewart Halsted	n.d.
6		Writings , Poems	n.d.
7		Writings , “Proclamation in the Wilderness: The Salary Clause in the Territorial Act with a Note on Illegal Payments to Gov. Goodwin” (<i>The Journal of Arizona History</i>)	Fall 1964
8		Writings , Radio Script (spoof advertisement)	circa 1941
9		Writings , Sacks’ Review of <i>John Spring’s Arizona</i> by A.M. Gustafson	1966
10		Writings , Sack’s Review of <i>Early Arizona</i> by Jay Wagoner	1970
11		Writings , Speech on Pursuing Arizona History	n.d.
12		Writings , Speech on Territorial Law (notes, drafts) 1 of 4	1968
13		Writings , Speech on Territorial Law (notes, drafts) 2 of 4	1968
14		Writings , Speech on Territorial Law (notes, drafts) 3 of 4	1968
15		Writings , Speech on Territorial Law (notes, articles, drafts) 4 of 4	1968
16		Writings , “Sylvester Mowry: Artillery Man, Libertine, and Entrepreneur” (drafts)	n.d.
7	1	Writings , “The Case Illustrating the Leucocytosis of Progressive Myocardial Necrosis Following Coronary Artery Thrombosis” (<i>The American Heart Journal</i>)	February 1927
	2	Writings , “The Disturbances of the Cardiac Mechanism in Subacute Bacterial Endocarditis and Rheumatic Fever” (<i>The American Heart Journal</i>)	April 1927
	3	Writings , “The History of the Founding of Fort Buchanan” (drafts, notes)	n.d.
	4	Writings , “The History of the Founding of Fort Buchanan: The Facts and the Myth”	n.d.
	5	Writings , “The History of the Founding of Fort Buchanan in the Gadsden Purchase:	n.d.
	6	Writings , “The Long Nightmare” (plot proposal for movie film; John Fante co-author)	n.d.
	7	Writings , “The Occurrence of Glomerulonephritis in Association with Verrucous Endocarditis” (<i>Proceedings of the New York Pathological Society</i>)	January-May 1923
	8	Writings , “The Pathology of Rheumatic Fever. A Critical Review” (<i>The American Heart Journal</i>)	August 1926
	9	Writings , “The Reticulo-endothelial System” (<i>Pathological Reviews</i>)	July 1926
	10	Writings , “The Riddle of Herman Ehrenberg”	circa 1955

		(unpublished; drafts, citations, notes)	
11		Writings , “Under the Gun” (plot proposal for movie film)	1948
12		Writings , “Were Salaries Paid to Arizona’s First Officials Contrary to Law?”	n.d.
13		Writings , Westerners Speech	n.d.
14		Publications , Arizona History (various)	1868-1964
15		Publications , California History (various)	1889-1966
16		Publications , “Government in the Territories” (speech by Senator John A. Dix of New York)	1848
17		Publications , Massachusetts and the West (various)	1843-1966
18		Publications , Texas History (various)	1841-1939
19		Publications . “To Repeal the Fugitive Slave Bill: (speech by Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts)	1852