

Kresge-Hooker Science Library Associates Collection

Papers, 1881-1971
(Predominately 1943-1960)

2.5 Linear Feet
1 flat box

Accession Number 194

The records of the Kresge-Hooker Science Library Associates and the papers of Samuel Cox Hooker were placed in the University Archives by the Associate's Executive Secretary, Wendell Powers, in 1970 and 1972. In 1979 Janette Closurdo, Director of the Wayne State University Science Library placed several items in the Archives which had gone astray. These were a donor book, dedication and guest book, three printing plates and seven photographs.

The Kresge-Hooker Science Library Associates was the successor organization to the Friends of the Hooker Scientific Library first started by Dr. Neil E. Gordon at Central College, Fayette, Missouri about 1938. The Associates ceased operations in 1970. The Hooker Library was begun by Samuel Cox Hooker (1864-1935).

In 1942 Dr. Gordon accepted the chairmanship of Wayne's Chemistry Department. At the urging of Dr. Gordon, he and William Whitehouse, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, collaborated with a committee of scientists and industrial leaders to bring the Hooker Scientific Library to Wayne and to enlarge it. The local committee, sponsored by the Detroit Section of the American Chemical Society, was chaired by Dr. Harvey Milton Merker of Parke, Davis and Company. Local industry matched the \$100,000 grant of the Kresge Foundation and the Library was purchased from Central College. In June of 1944 it was transferred to Wayne. The Hooker Library was built upon the collection of Samuel Cox Hooker and according to Dean Whitehouse recognized "as one of the world's most complete collections of books and journals on chemistry". It was widely used by research scientists throughout the United States who utilized the reference and translation services supported by the Friends of the Hooker Scientific Library. Once at Wayne, the Library became known as the Kresge-Hooker Science Library; the Friends became known as the Friends of the Kresge-Hooker Science Library. In 1954 the Friends adopted the name of Kresge-Hooker Science Library Associates.

Neil E. Gordon was the first Director of the Friends and served until his death in 1949. Wendell Powers then became Acting Director for one year. George H. Coleman was appointed Director in 1950 and served until 1953 when Powers again became Acting Director. Powers was the Executive Secretary of the Associates from 1956 until the organization dissolved in 1970.

The Associates operated a scientific translation service, purchased items for the Library, helped to sponsor the Frontiers in Chemistry Lecture Series at Wayne and published the Record of Chemical Progress. The entire publishing costs for the Record, a quarterly chemical review journal, was borne by the society from 1939 to 1956. In 1956 the Wayne State University Press agreed to publish the journal and share costs. The agreement was modified in 1959 and terminated at the end of 1969. The Frontiers in Chemistry Lecture Series featured nationally and internationally known scientists.

The Hooker Library was begun by Samuel Cox Hooker (1864-1935) who was born in England, obtained his Ph.D. degree at Munich and immigrated to the United States in 1885. Hooker began his career as chief chemist with the Franklin Sugar Refining Company in Philadelphia in 1885. In 1909 he was appointed to the board of directors of the American Sugar Refining Company and retired in 1915. His research includes Philadelphia municipal water, lapachol and papachol. Hooker was responsible for many improvements in sugar technology and, because of his business ability, is often recognized as the individual responsible for the high level of efficiency in the American beet sugar industry.

After his retirement Hooker spent much time enlarging his library. His objective was to make it the most complete chemical library in the world. At his death in 1935 the collection comprised over 21,000 volumes, 18,820 of which were volumes of periodicals. In 1936 the library was acquired by Central College, Fayette, Missouri and three of Hooker's children presented to the college their father's private research laboratory and his study to also serve as a permanent memorial to Hooker.

The records of the Kresge-Hooker Science Library Associates reflect the major activities of the Associates and its predecessors, namely: acquiring; library materials, translating material, helping to sponsor the Frontiers in Chemistry Lecture Series and published the Record of Chemical Progress. The Samuel Cox Hooker material reflects Hooker's research interests and involvement with his library.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

Samuel Cox Hooker
Samuel Cox Hooker Scientific Library
Kresge-Hooker Scientific Library

Among the correspondents are: (an index to these will be found on the last page of the guide)

Gordon, Neil E.
Powers, Wendell

Contents

5 Manuscript boxes

1 flat box

Series I: Kresge-Hooker Science Library Associates and Predessors.
1928-1938, 1942-1971; Boxes 1-4, Box 5(folders 1-4)

Records relating to the major activities of the Associates and the Friends: acquiring library materials, translating material, helping to sponsor the Frontiers in Chemistry Lecture Series and publishing the Record of Chemical Progress. There is also an autograph book of the original donors to the Friends, 1928 through 1938.

Series II: Samuel Cox Hooker, 1881-1936; Box 5(folders 5-16), Box 6

This series includes articles and a manuscript by Hooker, miscellaneous articles, his correspondence relating to library acquisitions, two hand-written notebooks on experiments and scrapbook of clippings pertaining to the 1889-1890 Philadelphia typhoid epidemic.

Non-manuscript material

The following items have been removed from the collection and placed in the Audio-Visual Archives:

One sample box - organic chemicals
Two sample boxes - lapachol and its compounds
One printing plate - Hooker Scientific Library book plate
One half tone printing plate - portrait of Samuel Cox Hooker
One half tone printing plate - Neil Gordon in his office
Two portraits of Samuel Cox Hooker
One portrait of Mrs. Samuel Cox Hooker
One bust portrait of Mrs. Samuel Cox Hooker
Two portraits of Neil Gordon
One portrait of Stanley S. Kresge
Four exterior views of the Hooker home and laboratory/library
Fourteen interior views of the Hooker laboratory with camera angle diagrams
One group photograph of the Kresge-Hooker Science Associates, St. Louis, 1948
Three exterior views of the Kresge Science Library Building
Three interior views of the Kresge Science Library Building
One photograph of the Kresge Science Library Building Dedication plaque
Seven photographs of Neil E. Gordon and Friends of the Kresge-Hooker Scientific Library
One diploma of Neil E. Gordon

Series I: Kresge-Hooker Science Library Associates and Predecessors, 1928-1938, 1942-1971; Boxes 1-4, Box 5 folders(1-4)

Correspondence, minutes, reports and financial data documenting the activities of the Friends of the Kresge-Hooker Scientific Library and the Kresge-Hooker Science Library Associates. The series is divided into four sub-series: 1) minutes and reports, 2) correspondence, 3) Frontiers in Chemistry Lecture Series, 4) miscellaneous files.

Sub-series one is arranged chronologically and consists of agendas, minutes, some correspondence and translation, acquisition, interlibrary loan, committee, treasurer and annual reports. Some reports include constitutions and subsequent constitutional changes. Sub-series two is arranged chronologically. The Frontiers in Chemistry Lecture Series is arranged alphabetically by speaker and covers the period 1948 to 1967. Files generally include vitae, correspondence and occasionally a lecture since lectures were published in the Record of Chemical Progress with the permission of speakers. Files in sub-series four are basically arranged in alphabetical order which, in general, is also a chronological order.

Box 1

1-19. Minutes and Reports, 1943-1961

Box 2

1-9. Minutes and Reports, 1962-1971
10-23. Correspondence, 1943-1960

Box 3

1-4. Correspondence, 1961-1971
5. Adams, Roger, 1948, 1949
6. Audrieth, 1958, 1959
7. Bailor, Jr., John C, 1948
8. Bartlett, P.D., 1950
9. Barton, D.H.R., 1953, 1954, 1956, 1957
10. Bergstrom, Sune, 1954, 1955
11. Block, Konrad, 1953
12. Brode, Wallace R., 1951-1953
13. Brown, Herbert C, 1952, 1953
14. Buu-Hoi, Nguyen Phuc, 1951, 1952
15. Chance, Britton, 1954, 1955
16. Criegee, Rudolf, 1956, 1957
17. Debye, Peter, 1963
18. Djerassi, Carl, 1959
19. Emeleus, H.J., 1951, 1952
20. Eyring, Henry, 1949
21. Grosse, A.V., 1950-1952
22. Ingold, Sir Christopher K., 1963, 1964
23. Henry, David D., 1949
24. Jones, E.R.H., 1952, 1953, 1956, 1957

Box 3 Continued

25. Kamm, Oliver, 1950, 1951
26. Kolthoff, I.M., 1949, 1950
27. LaMer, Victor K., 1952
28. Mulliken, Robert S., 1951, 1952
29. Nyholm, Ronald S., 1956-1958
30. Pauling, Linus, 1950, 1951
31. Peters, Sir Rudolph A., 1967
32. Prelog, Vladimir, 1956, 1957
33. Reutov, O.A., 1960, 1961
34. Roberts, John D., 1954-1956

Box 4

1. Robinson, Sir Robert, 1950-1952
2. Sorm, Frantisek, 1958-1960
3. Topchiev, A.V., 1961
4. Urey, Harold C, 1953
5. Westheimer, F.H., 1948, 1949
6. Wilson, Cecil L., 1959
7. Wittig, George, 1966, 1967
8. Acquisition of Hooker Library - Harvey Merker's Records, 1942, 1943
9. -Kresge/Gordon Correspondence, 1943-1945
10. Detroit American Chemical Society - Final Report on the Library, 1943
11. Dedication of Kresge-Hooker Scientific Library, 1945, 1946
12. Dedication and Guest Book, 1946-1952
13. Dedication and Miscellaneous - Harvey Merker, 1943, 1945, 1946
14. Appointment of Director of the Friends of the Kresge-Hooker Scientific Library, 1949, 1950
15. Histories of the Kresge-Hooker Scientific Library
16. Kresge-Hooker National Fellowship Plan
17. Insurance Policies, 1948, 1950
18. Membership Lists, n.d.
19. Miscellaneous
20. Publicity - Clippings
21. Gordon, Neil-Retirement and Personal Papers, 1947-1949
22. Original Donors to the Friends - Autograph Book, 1928-1938

Box 5

1. Catalog of the Hooker Scientific Library - Central College, 1939
2. Miscellaneous - Central College
3. American Association for the Advancement of Science- Gibson Island Conferences Attendance Lists, 1945
4. - Initial Affiliation, 1946-1948

Series II: Samuel Cox Hooker, 1881-1936; Box 5 (folders 5-15), Box 6

This series includes articles and a manuscript by Hooker, miscellaneous articles, his correspondence relating to library acquisitions, two handwritten notebooks on experiments and a scrapbook of clippings pertaining to the

1889-1890 Philadelphia Typoid Epidemic.

Box 5 Continued

5. Franklin Sugar Refinery - Typed Manuscript, n.d.
- 6-7. Articles by Hooker, 1884-1894, 1896, 1928
8. -Duplicates
9. Articles - Miscellaneous, 1888-1914
10. Articles by Paterno, 1881, 1882
11. Hooker Correspondence Regarding Library Acquisition, 1922, 1931
12. Miscellaneous - Programs, 1885 Thesis Defense Program
13. Catalog of the Scientific Library of the late Samuel C. Hooker, 1936
14. Memorial Volume to Samuel C. Hooker, 1936
15. Clippings and Article from Scrapbook

Box 6

1. Scrapbook - Clippings Relating to 1889-1890 Philadelphia Typoid Epidemic
2. Hooker Notebook - Chemical Experiments, Handwritten, April-May 1883
3. Hooker Notebook - Chemical Experiments, Handwritten, n.d.

Index to Correspondence

Neil E. Gordon (4:8, 4:9, 4:21 and scattered throughout box 2)
Wendell Powers (Scattered throughout boxes 2 and 3)