



Collection Name: Louis H. Roddis Papers
Collection #: MSS 757
Size: 2 cf
Dates: 1914–1973
Processed: October 2007/KJG
Restrictions: None

Biographical Note:

Louis Harry Roddis was born in Cherokee County, Iowa on 16 February 1886 to Henry Roddis and Clara Eva Roddis. He was educated in Osakis, Minnesota and later received both a Bachelor of Science and Medical Doctorate from the University of Minnesota. Upon completion of his medical degree, Roddis entered the United States Navy, in which he served for nearly 37 years and attained the rank of Captain. During his Naval career, Roddis distinguished himself as both a doctor and a naval historian. His military record includes: Mexican Campaign (1914); lecturer of naval medicine, Naval Medical School (1933–1937); Executive Officer of the U. S. Naval Hospital at Pearl Harbor (1937–1939); recipient of the Sir Henry Wellcome Prize for Military Medicine (1943); Senior Medical Officer, *USS Relief* (Letter of Commendation, 1944); and three-time Editor of *Naval Medical Bulletin*. Roddis was also a prolific author of both articles and books on subjects such as naval history, naval medicine, medical history, and poetry. Roddis died on 19 October 1969 and was survived by his wife, Winifred Emily Stiles Roddis, and two sons, Louis H. Roddis Jr. and Richard S. L. Roddis.

Scope and Content Note:

The Louis H. Roddis Papers, 1914–1973, consists of two cubic feet of materials documenting Capt. Roddis' career and writing interests. The collection is subdivided into two series: Personal and Topical. The Personal files contain information on Roddis' personal life and career, including autobiographical and biographical materials, correspondence, a catalogue of Roddis' personal library, military documents, and miscellaneous materials. The majority of the Personal files concern Roddis' military career and contain formal military orders, official and casual photographs, and information about the Wellcome Prize. Also included in the Personal series is a scrapbook containing newspaper clippings, postcards, notes, letters, and published materials. Original newspaper clippings from the scrapbook have been replaced with preservation photocopies. The Topical files are the most extensive series and consist chiefly of Roddis' published and unpublished writings on a variety of topics, along with research notes, drafts, and miscellaneous materials. The topics covered by these files are: botany, medical history, Native American history, Naval history, Naval medicine, poetry

and fiction. Specific areas of interest include: Surgeons General of the United States Navy; Edward Jenner and the development of the smallpox vaccination; Carolus Linneaus; physician signers of the Declaration of Independence; and William Pitts and the Little Brown Church in the Vale.

Citation Form: Louis H. Roddis Papers, MSS 757, Waring Historical Library, MUSC (Charleston).

Subject Headings:

Botany

History of Medicine

Linné, Carl von, 1707-1778

Jenner, Edward, 1749-1823

Pitts, W. S. (William Savage), 1830-1918

Roddis, Louis H. (Louis Harry), 1886-1969

Little Brown Church (Nashua, Iowa)

Military service, Voluntary -- United States -- Personal narratives.

Native Americans is not used; the LC subj headg is: Indians of North America; the MeSH counterpart is: Indians, North American

Naval History, Modern

Naval Medicine

Surgeons general (Military personnel)

United States. Navy—History

United States. Public Health Service. Office of the Surgeon General

Inventory:

Box 1

Personal

Folder 1: Autobiography and Biography

Folder 2: Autobiography and Biography, Publications

Folder 3: Correspondence

Folder 4: Library catalogue

Folder 5: Military career (1 of 2)

Folder 6: Military career (2 of 2)

Folder 7: Military career, Order book

Folder 8: Military career, Photographs

Folder 9: Military career, Photographs (USS Relief)

Folder 10: Military career, Wellcome Prize

Folder 11: Miscellaneous

Folder 12: Watercolor painting

Topical

Folder 13: Fiction, Proverbs of Sancho Panza

Folder 14: Fiction, Sword and Anchor

Folder 15: Poetry

Folder 16: Poetry, Notebook (1 of 2)

Folder 17: Poetry, Notebook (2 of 2)

Folder 18: Poetry, Poets

Box 2

- Folder 19: Bibliography
- Folder 20: Botany
- Folder 21: Botany, Linnaeus
- Folder 22: Botany, State flowers
- Folder 23: Medical history (1 of 3)
- Folder 24: Medical history (2 of 3)
- Folder 25: Medical history (3 of 3)
- Folder 26: Native American history
- Folder 27: Naval history
- Folder 28: Naval history, Tall Tales
- Folder 29: Naval medicine, Drafts
- Folder 30: Naval medicine, Publications
- Folder 31: Naval medicine, Surgeons General, Drafts (1 of 3)
- Folder 32: Naval medicine, Surgeons General, Drafts (2 of 3)
- Folder 33: Naval medicine, Surgeons General, Drafts (3 of 3)
- Folder 34: Naval medicine, Surgeons General, Appendices
- Folder 35: Naval medicine, Surgeons General, Illustrations (1 of 2)
- Folder 36: Naval medicine, Surgeons General, Illustrations (2 of 2)
- Folder 37: Naval medicine, Surgeons General, Photographs
- Folder 38: Naval medicine, Wellcome essay

Box 3

- Personal
- Scrapbook (phase box enclosure)