HURST, J. WILLIS (JOHN WILLIS), 1920-2011.
J. Willis Hurst papers, 1951-2009, undated

Emory University
Health Sciences Archives
Woodruff Health Sciences Center Library
1462 Clifton Road, NE
Atlanta, GA 30322
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Hurst, J. Willis (John Willis), 1920-2011.
Title: J. Willis Hurst papers, 1951-2009, undated
Call Number: Manuscript No. 002
Extent: 14.83 linear ft. (25 boxes + 4 oversize)
Abstract: Contains the professional and personal papers of J. Willis Hurst from 1951-2009.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction
All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

Related Materials in Other Repositories
J. Willis Hurst Papers, Emory University Archives, Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Related Materials in This Repository
Atlanta Medical College Records, Southern Medical College Records, Atlanta College of Physicians and Surgeons Records, Atlanta School of Medicine Records, Atlanta Medical College Records, Wesley Memorial Hospital Records, Emory University School of Medicine Records, Emory University Hospital Records, Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing Records.

Source
Transfer from Emory University Department of Medicine.

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Citation
[after identification of item(s)], J. Willis Hurst Papers, Health Sciences Archives, Woodruff Health Sciences Center Library, Emory University.

Processing
Processed by Nancy Hall Watkins, 2011.

Collection Description

Biographical Note
J. Willis Hurst, MD (1920-2011), cardiologist, professor of medicine, and writer. The only child of John and Verna Bell Hurst, John Willis Hurst was born in Cooper, Kentucky on October 21, 1920. When he was eleven months old, the family moved to Carroll County, Georgia where his father became principal of a small school. Hurst entered West Georgia College in Carrollton at age 16. After two years in the college, he transferred to the University of Georgia where he graduated with a B.Sc. in chemistry and zoology. He entered the Medical College of Georgia in 1941 and graduated first in his class in 1944.

In 1948, after internship and residency training in Augusta, Georgia and two years in the Army at Fitzsimmons General Hospital, Dr. Hurst became a cardiac fellow at Massachusetts General Hospital under Dr. Paul Dudley White. After completion of the fellowship, he first established a private practice in Atlanta, Georgia in 1949, then, in 1950, accepted an offer to join the faculty of Emory University. He was briefly recalled to military service in 1954 and assigned to the U. S. Naval Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland where he was appointed Chief of Cardiology. When Lyndon Johnson, then majority leader of the Senate, suffered a heart attack July 2, 1955, Dr. Hurst became his cardiologist and remained in that role until Johnson’s death in 1973.

After his discharge from military service in 1955, Hurst returned to Emory where he resumed teaching and practicing consultative cardiology. In 1957, at the age of 36, he was named Chairman of the Department of Medicine at Emory, a position he held until 1986. He continued to teach after stepping down from that position. In 1991, Dr. Hurst was named as a consultant to the Division of Cardiology, Department of Medicine, at Emory and continued in this role until 2007.

Over the span of his career, Hurst edited over 60 books and authored over 350 scientific articles. Of special note are the books The Heart, which he created and edited for seven editions; Medicine for the Practicing Physician, which he created and edited for four editions; and The Quest for Excellence: the history of the Department of Medicine at Emory University School of Medicine, 1834-1986 which he authored in 1997.

Dr. Hurst passed away on October 1, 2011 at the age of 90. He was preceded in death by Nelie Hurst, his wife of 61 years. He is survived by three sons, John, Steve and Phil, and their extended families.

Scope and Content Note
The collection consists of the professional and personal papers of J. Willis Hurst from circa 1954-2004. The collection documents Dr. Hurst’s career and personal relationships, beginning with his service at the U. S. Naval Hospital in Bethesda, MD and continuing through his
retirement from Emory University. The collection provides evidence of the many close relationships that Hurst formed with students, colleagues and patients, including the late Lyndon Baines Johnson, former President of the United States. The papers include correspondence (1951-2006); files related to writings (1965-2007); subject files; awards and biographical information (1954-2003); collected materials (1978-1999); files related to Lyndon Baines Johnson (1955-2007); and photographs.

**Arrangement Note**
Organized into six series: (1) Correspondence, (2) Writings, (3) Subject files, (4) Awards and biographical information, (5) Lyndon Baines Johnson files, (6) Photographs, and (7) Other Materials.
Description of Series

Series 1: Correspondence, 1951-2006
  Subseries 1.1: Personal Correspondence, 1987-2003
  Subseries 1.2: Professional Correspondence, 1951-2006
Series 2: Writings by Hurst, 1965-2000
  Subseries 2.2: Articles and Speeches, 1994-2007
  Subseries 2.3: Permissions and Copyright, 1970-2000
Series 3: Subject Files, 1978-1999, undated
Series 4: Awards and Biographical Information, 1943-2009
Series 7: Other Materials, 1951-2009
Series 1
Correspondence, 1951-2006
Boxes 1-6

Scope and Content Note
The correspondence series contains letters Hurst wrote and received from 1951-2006. The series includes cards and letters from family, friends, professional colleagues, patients and students. The correspondence ranges from greeting cards to in-depth discussion of medical issues with other physicians.

Personal correspondence (Subseries 1.1) includes letters to and from patients, students, friends and relatives that is generally social in nature.

Professional correspondence (Subseries 1.2) contains letters to and from Emory offices and other physicians.

Arrangement Note
Organized into two subseries: (1.1) Personal correspondence and (1.2) Professional correspondence.
Subseries 1.1
Personal Correspondence, 1987-2003
Boxes 1-2

Scope and Content Note
The personal correspondence subseries includes letters to and from patients, students, friends and relatives that is generally social in nature. Of particular interest are cards and letters between Dr. Hurst and numerous patients and former students with whom he maintained a close relationship in the years following their initial contact. Letters received from former students, often many years after their graduation from medical school, demonstrate Hurst’s commitment to students as individuals and the success of his teaching methods which emphasized treating the “whole patient” - not just the disease - and keeping accurate records of all patient contacts.

Arrangement Note
Arranged alphabetically by surname, then in chronological order.

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Subseries 1.2
Professional Correspondence, 1951-2006
Boxes 3-6

Scope and Content Note
Professional correspondence (Subseries 1.2) documents the close long-term relationships that Hurst formed with professional colleagues, including Paul B. Beeson, Richard J. Bing, Howard Burchell, W. Bruce Fye, Charles Hatcher, Bill Moyers, Dean Rusk, Richard B. Russell, Mark Silverman, Lawrence L. Weed, and Paul Dudley White and many others. Study of this correspondence will give the researcher insight into Dr. Hurst’s dedication to treating patients as individuals and the many contributions he made to the field of cardiology.

Arrangement Note
Arranged alphabetically by surname, then in chronological order.

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Series 2
Writings by Hurst, 1965-2000
Boxes 7-12, 22

Scope and Content Note
The writings series contains files related to some of the many books and articles written by Dr. Hurst, as well as manuscripts of speeches delivered to a variety of groups and organizations.

Information regarding books (Subseries 2.1) includes correspondence, research files and drafts related to Quest for excellence: the history of the Department of Medicine at Emory University School of Medicine, 1834-1986 (1997); Living with heart disease (unpublished); and Paul Dudley White: a portrait (1965).

Articles and speeches files (Subseries 2.2) contain the texts of numerous articles written for both professional and lay publications, forewords written for books authored by Dr. Hurst and others, and speeches delivered to groups as diverse as high school graduates and professional conferences.

Permissions and copyright files (Subseries 2.3) contain communications to and from Hurst requesting or granting permission to use information in publications, as well as copyright information related to some publications authored by Hurst.

Arrangement Note
Arranged alphabetically, except in the case of permissions and copyright files which are filed in chronological order.
Subseries 2.1  
Books, 1965-1992  
Boxes 7-10  

Scope and Content Note  
Information regarding books (Subseries 2.1) includes correspondence, research files and drafts related to three books written by Dr. Hurst. The first, *Quest for excellence: the history of the Department of Medicine at Emory University School of Medicine, 1834-1986* (1997) details the history of the Emory University Department of Medicine from the founding of Emory College in 1834 through the many challenges of the growth and development of the Emory University School of Medicine and the Department of Medicine.

The second, *Living with heart disease*, was never published. The files include drafts of three sample chapters that were submitted to the publisher.

*Paul Dudley White: a portrait* (1965) was written in memory and honor of Dr. Hurst’s longtime friend and mentor under whom he served as a fellow at Massachusetts General Hospital. It was published as the April 1965 issue of the *American Journal of Cardiology*.

Arrangement Note  
Arranged by title of work, then by record type.

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Typescript, draft chapter 5 – Crawford W. Long Hospital
Typescript, draft chapter 5 – Medical leaders

Living with Heart Disease
Correspondence, 1979-1981
Manuscript, chapter 1
Manuscript, chapter 5
Manuscript, chapter 6

Paul Dudley White
Paul Dudley White: A Portrait. From the American Journal of Cardiology, 1965 April

The Bench and Me
The Bench and Me: Teaching and Learning Medicine. IGAKU-SHOIN Medical Publishers, 1992

The Examination of the Heart
The Examination of the Heart: The Importance of Initial Screening. Disease-a-Month, 1990 May
Subseries 2.2  
Articles and Speeches, 1994-2007  
Boxes 11-12  

Scope and Content Note  
Articles and speeches files (Subseries 2.2) contain the texts of numerous articles written for both professional and lay publications, forewords written for books authored by Dr. Hurst and others, and speeches delivered to groups as diverse as high school graduates and professional conferences. The subject matter ranges from purely scientific/medical in nature to autobiographical, historical, and opinion pieces expressing Dr. Hurst’s concerns on the subjects of trends in medical practice and access to medical care.

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Arranged alphabetically by title.

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“Ill winds,” undated
“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times,” undated
“Itch to write (A personal account),” 2000
“James Edgar Paullin, internist to Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Osterian, and
forgotten leader of American Medicine,” 2000 – with Mark E. Silverman
“Leaves from Cos,” 1990 – Graduation address
“Lessons learned from error and omissions in a fictitious medical record,” 1995
Letters to the editor, 1994-2001
“Long-range influence of Paul Dudley White,” 1997
“Making the most of experience,” 1983
“Medical education and common sense,” 1996
“Memories of a patient with a giant left atrium,” 2001
“Memorizing the abnormal waves in an electrocardiogram...” 2004
“New terminology for describing left and right ventricular conduction
abnormalities,” undated
“Note to former house officers,” 1988
“On the unveiling of the sculpture of Bruce [Logue],” undated
“Profession at risk,” [2000]
“Reflections on the lives of Paul Dudley White and Andreas Gruentzig,” 1987
Review of Master of the Senate, undated
“Rise, fall, and rise again of the ECG as a diagnostic tool,” 1997
“Switched' precordial leads,” 2000
“Teaching as a method of learning,” 1983
“Thoughts about medical guidelines,” 1999
“Tribute to a heroine,” 1996
“Use of the New York Heart Association’s classification ...” 1999
“What I tell medical house staff about old hearts,” 2000
“What is a profession?” [2007]
“Why I attend medical grand rounds” 1995
Subseries 2.3
Permissions and Copyright, 1970-2000
Box 21

Scope and Content Note
Permissions and copyright files contain communications to and from Hurst requesting or granting permission to use information in publications, as well as copyright information related to some publications authored by Hurst.

Arrangement Note
Arranged chronologically.

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Series 3
Subject Files, 1978-1999, undated
Boxes 13-15

Scope and Content Note
The subject files series consists of files that include correspondence, printed material, and unpublished documents collected by Hurst on various subjects. Many contain information by and about close friends and medical colleagues, some who were faculty members at Emory University and others who were prominent in the field of cardiology.

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<td>White, Paul Dudley - Articles by Dr. White</td>
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Series 4  
Awards and Biographical Information, 1943-2009  
Boxes 16, OP1

Scope and Content Note  
The series consists of letters and certificates documenting awards given to Dr. Hurst; biographical and autobiographical essays; text of an interview containing primarily biographical information; curriculum vitae; and newspaper clippings pertaining to awards. Also included is correspondence to and from Dr. Hurst that documents his service at Bethesda Naval Hospital, 1954-1956.

Arrangement Note  
Arranged alphabetically by topic.
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<td>OP1</td>
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<td>Certificate of Appreciation, framed, 1970 June 23</td>
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Series 5
Lyndon B. Johnson Files, 1955-2007
Boxes 17-20, OP3

Scope and Content Note
The series contains correspondence, writings and collected materials related to Dr. Hurst’s relationship with former U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson. The bulk of the correspondence is between Dr. Hurst and Dr. James G. Cain, another of Johnson’s medical advisors and a close friend of Hurst, and members of the Johnson family, including L.B.J. and “Lady Bird.” Also included are several files of correspondence related to medical care provided to Johnson by Dr. Hurst from 1955 through 1973, as well as letters to and from various White House staffers.

Writings include a review of the book *L. B. J.: to know him better* and an article entitled “The Rock and the Flower out of Texas” describing the Lady Bird Johnson Park adjacent to Arlington National Cemetery and Fort Myer army base, and plans for the L.B.J. Grove to be created from a portion of the park. Collected materials of particular interest include Bill Moyers’ eulogy for Lady Bird, tributes to Lady Bird and L.B.J. and newspaper clippings.

Arrangement Note
Arranged according to record type.

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Johnson, Lyndon Baines, 1960-1962
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Valenti, Jack, 1965-2000

Writings
Reviews of L.B.J.: to know him better, 1996
“The Rock and the flower out of Texas,” undated

Collected Materials
Bill Moyers’ eulogy for Lady Bird Johnson, 2007
Commencement address to University of Texas Medical Branch, 1980 – Lady Bird Johnson
L.B.J. Library tribute to Lady Bird Johnson, 2007
Memorial tribute, 1973
President’s remarks at a ceremony commemorating the 20th anniversary of the National Heart Institute, 1968
President’s remarks at Civil Rights Symposium, undated
19 21  Clippings
Series 6
Photographs, 1965-1980, undated
Boxes 20-21, OP2

Scope and Content Note
The series consists primarily of prints of photographs that appear in the book *Quest for Excellence*. Also included are photographs of Hurst, Lyndon Baines Johnson, Paul Dudley White, Howard Dobbs, and Andreas Gruentzig.

Arrangement Note
Arranged by subject.

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21 12 White, Paul Dudley - framed photograph, signed
21 13 Photographs of others (1 of 3)
21 14 Photographs of others (2 of 3)
21 15 Photographs of others (3 of 3)
OP2 2 Group photograph of 14 Emory Department of Medicine physicians, undated
OP2 3 Emory School of Medicine Senior Class, framed photograph presented to Dr. Marion Hines, 1965
OP2 4 Group photograph, framed (1 of 3)
OP2 5 Group photograph, framed (2 of 3)
OP2 6 Group photograph, framed (3 of 3)
Series 7
Other Materials, 1951-2009
Boxes 22-25, OP3-OP4

Scope and Content Note
Consists of materials acquired after the initial processing of the collection in 2011, including books and other publications, teaching materials used by Hurst, and permissions Hurst gave other authors for citation purposes.

Arrangement Note
Arranged by material type and then alphabetically.

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Teaching Material
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Transparencies - "myocardial infarction"
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Transparencies - untitled (2 of 2)

Writings by Hurst
"Atlas of Spatial Vector Electrocardiography," co-authored with Grattan C. Woodson (1 of 3)
"Atlas of Spatial Vector Electrocardiography," co-authored with Grattan C. Woodson (2 of 3)
"Atlas of Spatial Vector Electrocardiography," co-authored with Grattan C. Woodson (3 of 3)
"Can We Stop This Epidemic on Digitalis Intoxication?" 1969
"I'm Not Through Yet' A Tribute to Paul Dudley White," 1973
LBJ, To Know Him Better, co-authored with James C. Cain, 1995
Reprints (1 of 2), 1961-1984
Reprints (2 of 2), 1961-1984
"The Turning Point," 1971-1972
"What to Teach in Clinical Medicine," undated

Miscellaneous
Journal of the Medical Association of Georgia, 2000 November
Thank you notes addressed to Hurst, written on Emory School of Medicine cards, 2009, undated
   Includes five cassette tapes and booklet, 1974
Lab coat worn by Hurst, undated