

**COBB, W. MONTAGUE (WILLIAM  
MONTAGUE), 1904-1990.**  
**W. Montague Cobb collection, 1897-1991**

Emory University  
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## **Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Cobb, W. Montague (William Montague), 1904-1990.  
**Title:** W. Montague Cobb collection, 1897-1991  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 1413  
**Extent:** 1 linear foot (2 boxes)  
**Abstract:** Collection of documents by and about African American physician and anthropologist W. Montague Cobb, including correspondence, photographs, printed material, and writings by Cobb.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

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## **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**

Cobb Collection, The W. Montague Cobb Research Laboratory (CRL) at Howard University

### **Related Materials in This Repository**

Robert Langmuir African American Photograph Collection

### **Source**

Purchased from Bookmark/Robert Langmuir, 2017.

### **Custodial History**

Forms part of the Robert Langmuir African American photograph collection. The Rose Library acquired this collection from Robert Langmuir in his capacity as a rare book and manuscript

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dealer but did not integrate it with the Langmuir collection because of its volume, cohesion, and assumed common provenance.

### **Citation**

[after identification of item(s)], W. Montague Cobb collection, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

### **Processing**

Arranged and described at the file level by Sarah Quigley, September 2017. Most of the material in the collection retains the description provided by Robert Langmuir; these folder titles are in quotation marks. Loose material that was not described by Langmuir is arranged and described by record type or title. Some files contain additional historical or biographical information about the topic, inserted into the files by Langmuir, and likely printed from Internet sources.

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## **Collection Description**

### **Biographical Note**

William Montague Cobb (1904-1990) was born in Washington, D.C., to Alexizine Montague Cobb and William Elmer Cobb, a printer. He attended Patterson Elementary School and Dunbar High School. In 1921, he enrolled in Amherst College (Amherst, Massachusetts) where he ran track and boxed. After completing his degree, Cobb worked as a researcher in embryology at the Woods Hole Marine Biology Laboratory. He then attended the Howard University College of Medicine (Washington, D.C.) and completed his internship at the Howard University Hospital, where he received his board certification. Cobb also attended Case Western University (Cleveland, Ohio), studied with Thomas Wingate Todd, and became the first African American to earn a Ph.D. in physical anthropology in 1932. He returned to Howard University in 1932 as an assistant professor in the medical school. He spent the rest of his career at Howard, eventually becoming Chair of the Department of Anatomy. Cobb's research focused primarily on debunking racist theories that African American physiology differed from the physiology of Caucasians. He also conducted research showing the correlation between experiences of racism and ill health.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists of documents by and about W. Montague Cobb from 1897-1991, including correspondence, writings, photographs, and printed material. Correspondence in the collection includes letters to Cobb from Charles Drew and Louia Vaughn Jones, as well as correspondence between Cobb and others relating to his leadership in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and his work with various hospitals. There are also letters to Cobb from his students at Howard University regarding their career plans and needs for instruction and a file of meeting invitations, letters, and membership lists for the Daniel Hale Williams Medical Reading Club. The collection contains numerous publications by Cobb, including medical research and biographies of other African American scientists. Manuscripts and typescripts by Cobb contain research notes as well as drafts of speeches. Photographs include images of Cobb and Cobb's family, as well as unidentified others.

### **Arrangement Note**

Arranged in alphabetical order.

**Finding Aid Note**

A complete inventory of publications by Cobb, as well as a partial inventory of other items in the collection, compiled by Robert Langmuir, is available in the repository.

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## Container List

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	Awards, circa 1984-1991
1	2	Calendar of African American authors, 1990
1	3	Cobb, William Montague, biography, undated
1	4	"Curriculum vitae and other inventories," undated
1	5	"Daniel Hale Williams, medical offprint, 1897"
1	6	"Daniel Hale Williams Medical Reading Club" (Washington, D.C.), 1939-1985
1	7	"Doctor Charles Drew file," 1933-1977
1	8	"Doctor Charles Drew," letter to Cobb, 1932 February 9
1	9	Empty envelopes, undated
1	10	"Freedman's Hospital," circa 1945
1	11	"Highland Beach" (Maryland), photographs, undated
1	12	"Howard medical correspondence," 1935-1936 [Letters from Cobb's students at Howard University.]
1	13	"Howard University" (Washington, D.C.), circa 1930-1976
1	14	Johnson, Donald C., "Ethiopia Yields First 'Family' of Early Man," <i>National Geographic</i> , 1976 December
1	15	"Kansas City General Hospital" (Kansas City, Missouri), correspondence, 1946-1947 [Letters are in reference to a report Cobb wrote about the effectiveness of the hospital.]
1	16	Letters, circa 1950 and 1991
1	17	"Louia Vaughn Jones," letters and programs, 1943-1947
1	18	"Manuscripts," circa 1927-1979
1	19	"Manuscripts," 1929 [Case reports for several of Cobb's patients.]
1	20	"Manuscripts," 1976 [Manuscript and typescript of Cobb's speech, "The Emergence of the Afro-American in Medical Research," as well as the program for the event where he gave the speech.]
1	21	Medico-Chirurgical Society of the District of Columbia, 1951-1954
2	1	"National Association for the Advancement of Colored People," 1953-1977
2	2	<i>National Medical Association News</i> , 1991 September-October
2	3	Photographs, circa 1922-1990 [One photograph, of an unidentified man, is by Scurlock.]
2	4	"Professional publication orders," 1938-1965
2	5	Publications about Cobb, 1975-1991
2	6	Publications by Cobb, 1929-1938
2	7	Publications by Cobb, 1940-1949 [1]
2	8	Publications by Cobb, 1940-1949 [2]
2	9	Publications by Cobb, 1959-1975

- 2 10 "Social and performances," 1937-1978 [Programs, invitations, and fliers for arts events and lectures.]
  - 2 11 "Typescripts," circa 1932-1945
  - 2 12 University of Witwatersrand (Johannesburg, South Africa), Department of Anatomy, "Guide to the Gallery of African Faces," 1974
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