

LENDON SNEDEKER, M.D. (1904-1973)

Papers, 1869-1979 [bulk 1948-1969]

Manuscript Collection - MC 5

Boston Children's Hospital Archives

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ACQUISITION

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Lendon Snedeker, M.D. was born on October 10, 1904 in Brooklyn, New York. He was the son of Edwin L. and Louise S. (Atwater) Snedeker. Dr. Snedeker attended Harvard University where he received an A.B. degree in 1925, M.D. degree in 1929 and M.P.H. (Master's of Public Health) degree in 1934. After leaving Harvard University, Dr. Snedeker continued his training at the Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital where he served as a Medical House Officer from 1929 until 1930. In 1931, Dr. Snedeker came to Children's Hospital as a House Officer. He served in this role until 1933 when he became a Rockefeller Fellow at the Harvard School of Public Health.

After completing his training, Dr. Snedeker spent nine years in private practice as a pediatrician. Dr. Snedeker returned to Children's Hospital in 1948 as Assistant to the General Director, Guy Brugler, M.D. This followed service with the Allied Command in Italy during World War II and a post as Executive Secretary of the Massachusetts Study of Child Health Services. Dr. Snedeker served as Assistant to the General Director for twenty-one years until his retirement in 1969. During that time, Dr. Snedeker became the hospital's historian-in-residence and wrote One Hundred Years at Children's (Boston: Children's Hospital, 1969) in honor of the hospital's centennial.

In addition to his administrative duties, Dr. Snedeker was an Instructor in Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and an Associate in Medicine in the Child Health Division at Children's. Dr. Snedeker also served as Chairman of the Health Division of United Community Services and was a member of the Board of Directors of the Easter Seal Society. Dr. Snedeker innovated the Boston Poison Information Center and helped found the Council on Social Data Systems. Dr. Lendon Snedeker died in 1973.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection is divided into two series. The first series consists of administrative records pertaining to various activities of the hospital and its departments and programs. These records, which include correspondence, memoranda, photographs, and newspaper clippings, were collected in Dr. Snedeker's role as Assistant to the General Director. Of particular interest are the records pertaining to polio, the Harvard Infantile Paralysis Commission, the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis and the Mary MacArthur Respirator Unit. The second series consists of Dr. Snedeker's personal papers and historical research files. Dr. Snedeker collected these materials while writing One Hundred Years at Children's (Boston: Children's Hospital, 1969). The records include copies of scientific articles describing various illnesses as well as some of Dr. Snedeker's personal writings.

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