Finding Aid to the Roberta F. Fenlon Papers, 1939-1986 (bulk 1968-1972)

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Collection Summary

Collection Title: Roberta F. Fenlon papers
Date (inclusive): 1939-1986
Date (bulk): 1968-1972
Collection Number: BANC MSS 89/149 c
Creator: Fenlon, Roberta, 1911-1987
Extent: 4 cartons, 2 oversize boxes6 linear feet
Repository: The Bancroft Library.
University of California, Berkeley
BANC MSS 89/149 c
Phone: (510) 642-6481
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Abstract: The Roberta Fenlon papers, 1939-1986, include records and correspondence relating to her professional activity in various medical and healthcare organizations, most notably her presidency of the California Medical Association (1970-1971), her presidency of the San Francisco Medical Society, and her tenure at University of California, San Francisco's School of Medicine.

Languages Represented: Collection materials are in English

Physical Location: Many of the Bancroft Library collections are stored offsite and advance notice may be required for use. For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library's online catalog.

Access
Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Roberta F. Fenlon Papers, BANC MSS 89/149 c, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley

Alternate Forms Available
There are no alternate forms of this collection.

Related Collections
Photographs from the Roberta F. Fenlon papers (graphic). BANC PIC 1989.057-PIC
Oral history interview with Roberta Fenlon : oral history transcript. BANC MSS 91/89 c

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog
California Medical Association
University of California, San Francisco
Women physicians--History

Acquisition Information
The Roberta F. Fenlon Papers were given to The Bancroft Library by Richard Carlson on January 30, 1989.

Accruals
No additions are expected.

Processing Information
Processed by Christina Mune in 2010.

Biographical Information
Roberta F. Fenlon was born in Clinton, Iowa on June 13, 1911. A prominent local San Francisco physician, she was active in many state and national medical associations and organizations. In the 1940s Fenlon began her residency at the University of California San Francisco Medical Center (known after 1970 as UCSF School of Medicine), where she continued teaching as a professor of clinical medicine until the early 1980s, while serving on numerous faculty committees. Fenlon was the first woman elected as president of the San Francisco Medical Society (SFMS) in 1960. In 1970 she became the first woman elected president to the California Medical Association (CMA). During her time as president and after, Fenlon contributed to the CMA’s response to state and federal legislation regarding the expansion of public services for health care and compensation for medical services. She died on August 31, 1987 in San Francisco.

Scope and Content of Collection
The Roberta F. Fenlon papers document her professional career as a prominent San Francisco physician and the first female president of the California Medical Association (CMA). The collection includes records and correspondence relating to her professional activity at the CMA, the San Francisco Medical Society (SFMS), UCSF and other medical and healthcare organizations. It also contains notes and transcripts of her speeches, especially during her tenure as CMA president. Some of Fenlon’s writings and notes on various medical conditions are also included in the collection. Personal correspondence for 1965-1985, letters of congratulations, and news clippings and press releases of her achievements are also present. While the collection spans 1939 to 1985, the majority of the material is from the 1960s-1970s with much of it concentrated on the period of her CMA presidency.

The collection has been divided into three series: Series 1. Professional Activities including subseries for CMA, UCSF and all other organizations and subject files; Series 2. Writings and Addresses; and Series 3. Personalia. Though arranged into these series, original folder titles and arrangement of items inside each folder has been maintained.
Series 1: Professional Activities. 1944-1986

Subseries 1.1: California Medical Association. 1967-1986

Physical Description: Cartons 1-2; Carton 3, folders 1-51

Arrangement
Arranged hierarchically. Divided into 3 subseries: 1.1 California Medical Association (CMA); 1.2 University of California, San Francisco; 1.3 Other Organizations/Committees and Subject Files.

Content/Description
Contains correspondence between Fenlon and organizational heads and members, notes, meeting minutes and agendas, and reports issued by various organizations, committees and panels. Subject files consist of collected literature, notes and correspondence regarding the particular healthcare or medical issue.

Subseries 1.1: California Medical Association. 1967-1986

Physical Description: Carton 1; Carton 2, folders 1-10

Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically.

Content/Description
Consists of correspondence, minutes, agendas, notes and reports regarding different committees and issues Fenlon was involved with during and after her tenure as president of the CMA. Of special note are the papers of the Committee on Evolving Trends in Society Affecting Life, which formed the CMA's guidelines on controversial topics such as the interview and examination of rape victims, scientific experimentation on prisoners, defining death for purposes of organ harvesting and hospice care.

carton 1, folder 1
Ad Hoc Committee on the Chancellorship of UCSF. 1972

carton 1, folder 2
Ad Hoc Committee to Review Medi-Cal. 1967-1974

Advisory Panel - Internal Medicine. 1971

Assembly Office Research. 1970

CHA Liaison Committee. 1970

Commission on State Legislature. 1975

Communications, Radio Station KDIA Speeches. 1970


Council Agenda (annotated). 1970 July

Council Agenda (annotated). 1970 September

Council Agenda (annotated). 1971 January


Drugs. 1971

Executive Committee. 1970

Executive Committee Miscellaneous. 1971-1972

Finance Committee. 1970-1974

Legislature. 1986

Liaison Committee to California Blue Shield. 1972

Medi-Cal. 1971-1983

Medi-Cal Lawsuit. 1971

Peer Review (PSRO). 1970-1973

Poll Committee. 1971

Therapeutic Abortion Litigation. 1971

Utilization Committee. 1970

Woman’s Auxiliary. 1971-1972

Western Union Telegrams. 1971-1972

CMA Correspondence Received by the Office of the Executive Director. 1971-1972
### Series 1: Professional Activities. 1944-1986

#### Subseries 1.1: California Medical Association. 1967-1986

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Folder Details</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>carton 2, folder 3-6</td>
<td>CMA Correspondence. 1971-1975</td>
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<tr>
<td>carton 2, folders 7-10</td>
<td>CMA Miscellaneous. 1971-1979</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Subseries 1.2: University of California, San Francisco. 1963-1978

- **Physical Description**: Carton 2, Folders 11-23
- **Arrangement**: Arranged alphabetically.
- **Content/Description**: Consists of notes, minutes, agendas, annotated reports and correspondence generated by various associations and committees that Fenlon served on during her tenure at UCSF (known as University of California San Francisco Medical Center until 1970). Also includes a file on admission procedures and reviews for the UCSF School of Medicine.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder Details</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<td>Advisory Committee for Pre-Retirement Planning. 1966-1968</td>
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<td>carton 2, folder 12</td>
<td>Alumni-Faculty Association. 1968-1973</td>
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<td>carton 1, folders 13-17</td>
<td>Clinical Faculty Association. 1971-1978</td>
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<td>carton 2, folder 18</td>
<td>Continuing Education and the Practicing Physician. 1963-1965</td>
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<tr>
<td>carton 2, folder 19</td>
<td>Long Range Development Plan. 1975</td>
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<tr>
<td>carton 2, folder 20</td>
<td>Medical Staff. 1966-1973</td>
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<td>carton 2, folder 21</td>
<td>Professional Liability Committee for Medical Staff. 1976</td>
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<tr>
<td>carton 2, folder 22</td>
<td>Teaching File. 1973-1975</td>
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<tr>
<td>carton 2, folder 23</td>
<td>Miscellaneous Correspondence, Reports and Memos. 1964-1975</td>
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#### Subseries 1.3: Other Organizations/Committees and Subject Files. 1944-1982

- **Physical Description**: Carton 2, folders 24-28; Carton 3, folders 1-51
- **Arrangement**: Arranged alphabetically.
- **Content/Description**: Consists of notes, minutes, agenda, annotated reports and correspondence regarding Fenlon's activity in various local and national organizations concerned with healthcare and medical issues. Also included are subject files on specific medical conditions and issues. Two folders of professional correspondence, keeping their original folder title of "Correspondence Washington" and "Correspondence Copies Washington" dating from Fenlon's time in Baltimore, Maryland are filed at the end of the subseries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder Details</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>carton 2, folder 24</td>
<td>Ad Hoc Committee for Suicide Prevention on the Golden Gate Bridge. 1973-1975</td>
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<tr>
<td>carton 2, folder 25</td>
<td>Advisory Panel on Internal Medicine. 1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carton 2, folder 26</td>
<td>Advisory Panel on National Health Insurance. 1975</td>
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<tr>
<td>carton 2, folder 27</td>
<td>Alliance for Healthcare. 1971-1973</td>
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<tr>
<td>carton 2, folder 28</td>
<td>American Cancer Society. 1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carton 3, folder 1</td>
<td>American College of Physicians. 1960-1975</td>
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<td>carton 3, folder 2</td>
<td>American Geriatrics Society. 1962-1964</td>
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<td>carton 3, folder 3</td>
<td>American Medical Association. 1971-1975</td>
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<td>carton 3, folder 4</td>
<td>American Medical Women's Association. 1956-1965</td>
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<td>carton 3, folder 5</td>
<td>American Public Health Association. 1966</td>
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<td>carton 3, folders 6-8</td>
<td>American Society of Internal Medicine. 1967-1971</td>
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<td>carton 3, folder 9</td>
<td>California Academy of Medicine. 1975</td>
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<td>carton 3, folder 10</td>
<td>California Association of Home Health Agencies. 1971</td>
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<td>carton 3, folder 11</td>
<td>California Council for Health Care Plan Alternatives. 1966-1969</td>
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<tr>
<td>carton 3, folder 12</td>
<td>California Medical Education and Research Foundation. 1972-1976</td>
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<tr>
<td>carton 3, folder 13</td>
<td>California Republicans. 1969</td>
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carton 3, folder 14  California Society of Internal Medicine. 1970
carton 3, folder 15  California State Board of Education, Health Advisory Committee. 1967-1968
carton 3, folder 16  California State Board of Medical Examiners. 1962
carton 3, folder 17  California Dental Association. 1972
carton 3, folder 18  CALPAC Board of Directors’ Meeting. 1970-1972
(carton 3, folder 19  Casey Bill -- Welfare. 1966
) carton 3, folder 20  China Trip. 1979
(carton 3, folder 21  Citizens Committee on Transportation for the Handicapped. 1967-1970
) carton 3, folder 22  City and County of San Francisco Department of Social Services. 1969
(carton 3, folder 23  Clinical Immunology. 1978
) carton 3, folder 24  Committee on Medical Services. 1970
(carton 3, folder 25  Corporate Governance and the Advancement of Women. 1981
) carton 3, folder 26  Diabetes Update. 1982
(carton 3, folder 27  Delphi Study. 1972
) carton 3, folder 28  Department of Healthcare Service Regulations (proposed). 1972
(carton 3, folder 29  Experimental Health Services Planning. 1971-1973
) carton 3, folder 30  Euthanasia. 1972
) carton 3, folder 33  Heart Sounds and Murmurs. 1973
) carton 3, folder 35  Home Care Conferences. 1967
(carton 3, folder 36  Home Medical Care Advisory Committee. 1962
) carton 3, folder 37  Home Services Committee. 1964
(carton 3, folder 38  Liaison Committee to Medical Schools. 1971
) carton 3, folder 39  Medical Foundations. 1971-1972
(carton 3, folder 40  National Health Insurance. 1975
(carton 3, folder 42  Saint Francis Memorial Hospital, Health Care Delivery Advisory Committee. 1973
) carton 3, folder 43  San Francisco School for Health Professionals. 1972
(carton 3, folder 44  Self-help for the Elderly Economic Opportunity Council. 1968
) carton 3, folder 45  Subacute Bacterial Endocarditis (patient name information redacted). 1944-1946
(carton 3, folder 46  University of California Liaison Committee. 1977-1978
) carton 3, folder 47  Western Podiatry Congress. 1971
(carton 3, folder 48  Westside Community Mental Health Center, Inc. 1972
) carton 3, folder 49  Women’s Medical Association. 1964-1965
(carton 3, folder 50-51  Correspondence Washington. 1965-1966
)

Series 2: Writings and Addresses. 1967-1986

Physical Description: Carton 3, folders 52-60; Carton 4, folders 1-5
Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically.
Content/Description

) carton 3, folder 53  Government in Medicine Panel Discussion. 1972
(carton 3, folder 54  Healthcare Costs Speech. 1967
) carton 3, folder 55  Medical Society Speeches (includes correspondence and arrangements). 1970-1971
(carton 3, folder 56  Medi-Care Speech. 1984
) carton 3, folder 57  Notes on Health Care Plans. 1967
(carton 3, folder 58  Notes (Miscellaneous). 1984-1986
)
Series 2: Writings and Addresses. 1967-1986

- **Penicillin Speech.** undated
- **Women and Medicine Addresses and Notes.** 1971
- **Speeches (Miscellaneous).** 1967-1973

Series 3: Personalia. 1939-1985

**Physical Description:** Carton 4, folders 6-19; Oversized boxes 1-2

**Arrangement**
Arranged alphabetically.

**Content/Description**
Contains news clippings, newsletters, announcements, and periodicals promoting Fenlon’s appointments to the San Francisco Medical Society and California Medical Association, as well as her speeches and appearances during her presidency 1970-1971, including three scrapbooks compiled by Fenlon. Also contains personal correspondence 1966-1985; degrees, awards and certificates spanning her entire education and career; student/alumni papers and a “biography” folder.

- **Announcements of CMA Presidential Appointment.** 1970
- **Biography (UCSF biographical forms and CVs).** 1959-1974
- **College Reunion.** 1986
- **Congratulations.** 1950-1970
- **Congratulations and Responses.** 1970
- **News Clippings and Press Releases.** 1928-1983
- **Pathology Reports (Student Paper).** 1939-1940
- **Personal Correspondence.** 1966-1967
- **Personal Correspondence.** 1971-1985
- **Degrees, Awards, and Certificates.** 1929-1983
- **Loose Clippings and CMA publications found in Scrapbook 1.** 1972
- **Clippings of CMA Presidential Election Announcement.** 1970-1971
- **Presidents’ Messages written by Fenlon in January-December 1960 editions of SFMA Bulletin.** 1960
- **Clippings 1960-1971, gifted to Fenlon from Isabel and Bill Lande.** 1960-1971
- **President’s Club of the University of Iowa plaque.** undated
- **Blue Shield of California plaque.** undated