
Guide to the Arequipa Sanatorium Records, 1911-1958

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Note

History --History, California --History, Bay Area Biological and Medical Sciences --Clinical Medicine --Pulmonary
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Language of Material: English

Contributing Institution: The Bancroft Library

Title: Arequipa Sanatorium Records,

Creator: Arequipa Sanatorium (Fairfax, Calif.)

Identifier/Call Number: BANC MSS 92/894 c

Physical Description: 4.5 linear feet 2 boxes, 3 cartons, and 1 oversize folder

Date (inclusive): 1911-1958

For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Abstract: Records span the years from its beginning in 1911 throughout the operation and closure of Arequipa Sanatorium in 1957/58. Contains a small amount of administrative, financial, and medical files, as well as the correspondence of Dr. Philip King Brown, and miscellaneous materials relating to The Arequipa Pottery. The bulk of the collection consists of individual patients' files, along with the sometimes poignant correspondence and other writings by patients, and various in-house publications.

Language of Material: English

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Arequipa Sanatorium Records, BANC MSS 92/894 c, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

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Acquisition Information

The Arequipa Sanatorium Records were given to The Bancroft Library by the San Francisco Bay Girl Scout Council, via Nancy Berg, Executive Director, on November 22, 1991.

Organizational History

The Arequipa Sanatorium was founded by San Francisco physician, Philip King Brown. In his work with patients in the City after the 1906 earthquake and fire, Dr. Brown discovered that the TB rate for women was twice that of men; appalled by this statistic, he made plans to build a sanatorium to treat women exclusively, and called on many of his influential Bay Area friends to help.

Henry Bothin, a Marin County philanthropist, donated land in Fairfax in western Marin County—a tract which had once belonged to Phoebe Apperson Hearst, a Brown family friend. The property adjoined Hill Farm, a home for convalescent women and children. Managed by the Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center and its founder Elizabeth Ashe, this land had also been donated by Bothin. John Bakewell, prominent San Francisco architect, donated his services and designed the graceful sanatorium, and Phoebe Apperson Hearst donated the money for a laundry. With the gift of \$10,000 by an anonymous donor, Dr. Brown was able to open Arequipa—a Peruvian word meaning Place of Rest—in 1911.

Conceived as a school where patients would learn how to cure themselves through fresh air and bed rest, the sanatorium featured large wards that were screened from floor to ceiling, even in winter. Whenever possible, locally grown food was served, and members of many Bay Area families donated money and goods. Arequipa eventually had three wards, a small library, living room, dining room, bathrooms, and examining rooms. Patients read, slept, wrote and published in-house magazines, and enjoyed the various entertainers who came to visit the sanatorium.

Dr. Brown believed that if the patients had something to occupy themselves, they would spend less time worrying about their disease and would heal more quickly. He began to experiment with various types of occupational therapy, and in 1911, decided to open a pottery. He secured the services of Frederick Rhead, a prominent English ceramist, to run Arequipa Pottery, which was in operation from 1911 to 1919. Patients made pottery that was sold in stores throughout the country; profits helped pay the cost of their treatment. In 1915, Arequipa had a booth at the Panama Pacific International Exposition, where discharged patients demonstrated pottery-making and sold examples of the product. There were three Pottery Directors before the operation closed at the end of World War I: Frederick Rhead, Albert Solon, and Fred Wilde, all of whom went on to even greater fame in the field of ceramics. Arequipa Pottery is a prized collectible today, and fine examples can be seen at The Oakland Museum and the Smithsonian Institution.

With the discovery of antibiotics in the 1940s and their use in the fight against TB in the 1950s, it became possible to treat patients at home, and admissions to the sanatorium dwindled. By the end of the decade it was apparent that Arequipa was no longer needed and it was closed in 1957. The property was leased to the Girl Scouts in 1960 for use as a camp.

When he was hired in 1982, the property's site manager, Mr. Happy Stanton, discovered that Arequipa's archive of historical records had been left behind throughout the former sanatorium building, as well as other structures on the property. He collected and cleaned the materials, placed them into boxes, and put them into safe storage on the property. In addition to preserving Arequipa's archive, Mr. Stanton was also instrumental in assisting the Girl Scouts of Northern California when the organization donated the collection to the Bancroft Library.

The sanatorium, damaged by the heavy rains of the early 1980s and seismically unstable, was torn down in 1984. The Girl Scouts of Northern California leases the property, as well as the adjoining tract which used to be Hill Farm. Both locations are administered as the Bothin Youth Center.

Biography

Philip King Brown was born in Napa, California in 1869. His mother was Dr. Charlotte Blake Brown, the founder of San Francisco's Children's Hospital and an outstanding physician and surgeon. He received his M.D. from Harvard in 1893 and, after studying in Germany, returned to the Bay Area to begin his practice. He was a co-founder of the San Francisco Boys Club, and was active in the Tuberculosis Polyclinic, designed to help people recognize the symptoms of tuberculosis and to cure themselves once they had contracted the disease.

In 1900, Brown married Helen Hillyer, and the couple had four children: Hillyer, Cabot, Phoebe, and Bruce. Many San Francisco notables were counted as friends of the Brown family, including Phoebe Apperson Hearst, Bruce Porter, and John Bakewell.

Although Dr. Brown considered himself a general practitioner, he was well-known for his work with the tuberculous at the Polyclinic. He was incensed by the attitude of most municipal authorities toward the treatment of tuberculosis; this led him to found the Arequipa Sanatorium in 1911, financed and built almost entirely by donations.

Except for a brief stint with the Red Cross in France during World War I, Dr. Brown continued as Medical Director of Arequipa until the early 1930s. Dr. Ethel Owen succeeded him in this position, followed by Dr. Brown's son, Cabot, as the final Medical Director.

Dr. Philip King Brown died in October of 1940, having remained active in many charities and worthy causes in the Bay Area.

Scope and Content

The records of Arequipa Sanatorium in Fairfax (Marin County), California, cover the years from its beginning in 1911 throughout its operation and closure in 1957/1958. They contain a small amount of administrative, financial, and medical files, as well as the correspondence and writings of Dr. Philip King Brown, and miscellaneous materials relating to The Arequipa Pottery. The bulk of the collection consists of patients' files, along with correspondence and various in-house publications and other writings by patients.

Topics of note include a dispute with a noisy local dog kennel, a handwritten history of The Arequipa Pottery by Dr. Brown's wife, design sketches used in The Pottery, and the sometimes poignant correspondence, writings, and medical files of individual patients.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Arequipa Sanatorium (Fairfax, Calif.)

Series 1: **Correspondence, 1911-1958.**

Physical Description: Box 1, Folders 1-6

Scope and Contents

Arranged alphabetically by correspondent, and then chronologically. A general correspondence file precedes those of individuals. Incoming and outgoing letters between the sanatorium and various local individuals and institutions.

box 1, Folder 1
box 1, Folder 2
box 1, Folder 3
box 1, Folder 4
box 1, Folder 5
box 1, Folder 6

General correspondence 1911-58

Bell's Dog Farm 1951-52

College of Marin 1956-57

Harnden, Nora 1912-17

Marin Country Day School 1957

Pacific Gas Electric Company 1954

Series 2: **Administrative Records, 1912-1956.**

Physical Description: Box 1, Folders 7-14

Scope and Contents

Includes Annual Reports, Board of Directors' minutes and correspondence, and reports to the County of Marin. Also includes contract and specifications for construction of a nurses' quarters in 1947, and the Sanatorium's rules and regulations.

box 1, Folder 7-8
box 1, Folder 9
box 1, Folder 10
box 1, Folder 11
box 1, Folder 12
box 1, Folder 13
box 1, Folder 14

Annual reports 1912-16, 1922

Board of Directors— Minutes and correspondence 1947-49

Contract and specifications for construction of nurses' quarters ca. 1947

Marin County Reports 1955-56

Monthly Reports 1921-35

Rules and Regulations Undated

Veterans' Administration regulations forms 1947-50

Series 3: **Philip King Brown, 1910-1931 & Undated**

Physical Description: Box 1, Folders 15-16

Scope and Contents

Correspondence and published writings.

box 1, Folder 15
box 1, Folder 16

Correspondence 1910-31

Writings Undated

Series 4: **The Arequipa Pottery, 1913-1914 & Undated**

Physical Description: Box 1, Folders 17-18; Oversize Folder 1

Scope and Contents

Miscellaneous materials related to The Arequipa Pottery, including a history of the Pottery, design sketches, certificates relating to incorporation and trademark, and other ephemera.

box 1, Folder 17
box 1, Folder 18
oversize-folder 1

Miscellaneous 1913-14

Designs sketches Undated

Certificates of incorporation trademark 1913

Series 5: **Patients Files, 1913-1954 & Undated**

Physical Description: Box 1, Folders 19-24; Carton 1; Carton 2, Folders 1-43

Scope and Contents

Divided into 3 sub-series: of individual patients. The bulk of the series consists of medical files of individual patients, arranged chronologically, and then by patient number. Includes one folder of letters to and from patients and various in-house publications and other writings by patients.

Subseries 5.1. **Correspondence, 1916-1954.**

box 1, Folder 19

Letters to and from patients 1916-54

Subseries 5.2. **Writings, 1921-1938**

box 1, Folder 20	Hi-Life 1921-22
box 1, Folder 21	Mountaineer 1931-32
box 1, Folder 22	Quipa Tab 1938, Undated
box 1, Folder 23	Poetry Undated
box 1, Folder 24	Ephemera Undated

Subseries 5.3. **Medical Files, 1913-1952**

carton 1, Folder 1-4	Patient Nos. 127-136, 754 1913, 1922
Carton 1, Folder 5-7	Patient Nos. 752, 755, 999 1924-25
Carton 1, Folder 8-23	Patient Nos. 1349-1399 1930
Carton 1, Folder 24-70	Patient Nos. 1401A-1464 1931
carton 2, Folder 1-6	Patient Nos. 1467-1472 no # 1931
Carton 2, Folder 7-32	Patient Nos. 1470-1499 no # 1932
Carton 2, Folder 33-35	Patient Nos. 1621, 1747, 1794 1934-36
Carton 2, Folder 36-37	Patient Nos. 2023-1407A 1940
Carton 2, Folder 38-40	Patient Nos. 2305A, 1628A, 2404 1946-48
Carton 2, Folder 41-42	Patient Nos. 2589, 2735 1950, 1952
Carton 2, Folder 43	Miscellaneous unidentified Undated

Series 6: **Medical Records, 1955-1957 & Undated**

Physical Description: Carton 2, Folders 44-47; Carton 3, Folder 1

Scope and Contents

Lists of types of medication given to patients and supplies purchased, as well as daily calendars of doctors' orders and a nursing administrator.

carton 2, Folder 44	Medications given Undated
Carton 2, Folder 45	Medical supplies Undated
Carton 2, Folder 46-47	Daily calendars of Doctors' orders 1955-57
carton 3, Folder 1	Daily calendar of [Nursing Administrator ?] 1956

Series 7: **Financial Records, 1916-1958.**

Physical Description: Carton 3, Folders 2-21

Scope and Contents

Incomplete sets of financial records, including monthly reports, daily journal and balance sheets, receipt books, a staff time log, and files relating to various funds. Of interest are the records pertaining to the Patients' Fund, on which patients could draw for short-term loans in order to pay for their treatment.

carton 3, Folder 2	Monthly financial reports Nov. 1923-1924
Carton 3, Folder 3	Monthly financial reports 1930
Carton 3, Folder 4	Monthly financial reports 1940-43

Carton 3, Folder 5-6	Monthly financial reports 1946-51
Carton 3, Folder 7	Monthly financial reports 1954-57
Carton 3, Folder 8	Daily journal ledger 1924
Carton 3, Folder 9	Balance sheets 1936-38
Carton 3, Folder 10	Disbursements 1951-57
Carton 3, Folder 11	Receipt book 1946-50
Carton 3, Folder 12-13	Receipt books 1954-57
Carton 3, Folder 14	Community Chest Allotment Applications 1924, 1946-47
Carton 3, Folder 15	Friends of Arequipa 1951-52
Carton 3, Folder 16-17	Patients' Fund 1916-24
Carton 3, Folder 18	Staff time book 1951-57
Carton 3, Folder 19-21	Miscellaneous financial 1943-58

Series 8: **Ephemera, 1930-1950s & Undated**

Physical Description: Box 2, Folders 1-7

Scope and Contents

Miscellaneous collection of ephemeral materials, including clippings and other printed materials, a guest book, and greeting cards sent to the patients in response to a 1950s radio program called The Sunshine Shower.

box 2, Folder 1	Printed ephemera Undated
box 2, Folder 2	Clippings Undated
box 2, Folder 3	Guest book 1930
box 2, Folder 4-7	Get well cards from The Sunshine Shower 1950s