
Guide to the P. C. Remondino Papers MS 4

Finding aid prepared by Aimee Santos

Collection processed as part of grant project supported by the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) with generous funding from The Andrew Mellon Foundation.

San Diego History Center Document Collection

1649 El Prado, Suite 3

San Diego, CA, 92101

619-232-6203

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Title: P. C. Remondino Papers

Identifier/Call Number: MS 4

Contributing Institution: San Diego History Center Document Collection

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 3.25 Linear feet(7 boxes)

Date (inclusive): 1734-1924

Language of Materials: Collection materials are in English and Italian.

Abstract: This collection contains the papers and research of P.C. (Peter Charles) Remondino, San Diego physician.

creator: Remondino, Peter Charles, 1846-1926

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The San Diego History Center (SDHC) holds the copyright to any unpublished materials. SDHC Library regulations do apply.

Scope and Content

This collection contains papers of P.C. (Peter Charles) Remondino, including autobiographies, published works, manuscripts and drafts dated from 1891 to 1922. Published works include "History of Circumcision," "The Modern Climatic Treatment of Invalids with Pulmonary Consumption in Southern California," and "Medical Education," among others. An assortment of transcribed articles of Remondino's interests extend from 1734 to 1911. Also included in the collection are some of Remondino's personal papers, including military and pension documents, as well as poems and musical compositions written and/or collected by his daughter, Luisa Re Mondini.

Processing Information

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Preferred Citation

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Accession number 790607.

Biographical / Historical Notes

P.C. (Peter Charles) Remondino was born in Turin, Italy on February 10, 1846. After his mother passed away, he and his father immigrated to America in the spring of 1854. Remondino spent his first year in America attending a private school in New York City to learn the English language. His father then brought the small family to Wabasha, Minnesota where he opened up a general store. At the age of 16, Remondino accompanied Dr. Francis H. Milligan, the local doctor and former professor, on his rounds in Wabasha. His profound interest and predilection in medicine grew and not long after, with the encouragement of Dr. Milligan, he was studying at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. While a student, Remondino, along with other classmates, responded to the call for surgeons during the Civil War's Battle of the Wilderness in 1864. His service as a medical cadet in Virginia exposed him to the primitive battlefield medicine where petroleum was a typical medical treatment for many ills, from gunshot wounds to the amputation of a shattered limb. The winter session brought him back to Jefferson Medical College to resume his studies the same year. He graduated the following year in the spring of 1865.

Immediately after graduation, he returned to the army as an Acting Assistant Surgeon, serving at various hospitals, camps, and military prisons in Virginia. He also fell victim to malaria, which was prevalent in the area. He returned to Minnesota to start his own private practice until the declaration of war with Prussia by the Republic of France on September 4, 1870. He sought service as a Volunteer Surgeon with the French Army during the Franco-Prussian War and was one of two Americans to receive the French Military Medal for war service. During his tour of Europe, malaria plagued him again. As a result of the impairment of his health in both wars, he became interested in medical climatology and began his pursuit of a more suitable climate. After travelling by steamer and several weeks stay in San Francisco, he finally settled in San Diego in 1873. In January of 1874, he opened an office next door to an old classmate, Dr. Robert Gregg.

In 1875, Dr. Remondino was appointed City Physician and was the first President of the City Board of Health, a position he intermittently occupied until his death. He was the Surgeon of the Southern California Railroad Company and the Pacific Coast Steamship Company. For many years he was the Surgeon of the U.S. Marine Hospital Service.

Built by Dr. Remondino and Dr. Thomas C. Stockton, the first private hospital in San Diego opened its doors in 1881. The two-story, 24 bed structure was located on the corner of F and Columbia Streets. Dr. Remondino later sold his share of the hospital to Dr. Stockton in 1884. In 1886, Dr. Remondino temporarily retired from practicing medicine. In the same year he and his wife built the Saint James Hotel, located on the corner of 6th Avenue and E Street in Downtown, San Diego. Subsequently, he resumed full practice once again. On record, only eight physicians practiced in San Diego in the year of 1887. Dr. Remondino had 39 subscribers in 1881. His practice extended into Ensenada where he successfully operated on a number of cysts of the pancreas of parasitic origin from sheep.

Dr. Remondino's interest in the history of medicine generated a collection of literature which at one point became the largest medical library in the state of California. One of his travels to Europe brought back a diversity of 3,000 medical books in various languages. For a period of time, he held the Chair of History of Medicine at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Los Angeles, which is now the medical department of the University of Southern California. He urged the establishment of a Secretary of Health position in the United States President's Cabinet as early as 1892. This development did not occur until the creation of the Cabinet-level Department of Health, Education and Welfare under President Eisenhower in 1953. He occupied many distinguished positions including San Diego County Physician, Vice President of the California Medical State Society, President of the Southern California Medical Society, and President of the San Diego County Medical Society. He also served on the State Board of Health of California. He was associated with the American Public Health Association, the American Medical Association, and the New York Medico-Legal Society.

In 1877, Dr. Remondino married Sophia Ann Earle, a niece of the Bishop of Marlborough of London, the late Honorable Alfred Earle. In 1891, Dr. Remondino and his wife Sophia built one of the first houses on San Diego's Banker's Hill. They had four children, Caroline Katherine, Frederic Earle, Luisa, and Charles Earle. Daughter Luisa's last name is documented as "Re Mondini" in her published book "Fancy's Garden and Other Poems." Dr. Remondino died from cerebral thrombosis on December 10, 1926, leaving his autobiographical work unfinished.

Arrangement

Collection is arranged into seven series:

Series I: Autobiography and Memoirs

Series II: Manuscripts and Published Works

Series III: Research Notes

Series IV: Research Articles

Series V: Personal Papers

Series VI: Luisa Re Mondini Papers

Items in each series are arranged by subject.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

California State Board of Health.

Gregg, Robert

Jefferson Medical College.

Milligan, Francis H.

New York Medico-Legal Society.

Pacific Coast Steamship Company.

Re Mondini Stahel, Luisa

Remondino, Peter Charles, 1846-1926

St. James Hotel (San Diego, Calif.).

Stockton, Thomas Coates, 1837-1910

Air embolism

Alcohol intoxication

Animal psychology

Certificates of death

Circumcision

Climatology

Ethnology

Gunshot wounds

Hospital buildings
Impotence
Longevity
Malaria
Medical care
Medical climatology
Medical education
Medical examinations
Medical libraries
Medical treatment
Medicine
Medicine, Preventive
Military medicine
Physician
San Diego (Calif.)
Santa Fe Depot (San Diego, Calif.)
Stab wounds
Surgeons
Surgery
Transfusion medicine
Tuberculosis
Veterinary medicine
Wabasha (Minn.)
War -- Medical aspects
Wounds and injuries

Series I: **Autobiography and Memoirs**

Box-folder 1:1 **Autobiography (2 copies), undated**
Box-folder 1:2 **Autobiographical drafts (13 items), 1921 August 6-1922 January 7**
Box-folder 1:3 **Autobiographical drafts (13 items) undated**
Box-folder 1:4 **Autobiographical drafts (13 items), undated**
Box-folder 1:5 **"Some Reminiscences of Wabashaw from the Middle Fifties to 1873" (manuscript), undated**
Box-folder 1:6 **"Some Reminiscences of Wabashaw from the Middle Fifties to 1873" (draft), undated**
Box-folder 1:7 **"Some Reminiscences of Wabashaw from the Middle Fifties to 1873" (draft), undated**

Series II: **Manuscripts and Published Works**

Box-folder 1:8 **"Animal Psychology and Medicine" (Contents, Preface, Chapter 1), undated**
Box-folder 1:9 **"Animal Psychology and Medicine" (Chapter 2), undated**
Box-folder 1:10 **"Animal Psychology and Medicine" (Chapter 3), undated**
Box-folder 1:11 **"Animal Psychology and Medicine" (Chapter 4), undated**
Box-folder 1:12 **"Animal Psychology and Medicine" (drafts) (7 items), 1919 June 3-1922 October 23**
Box-folder 2:1 **"Animal Psychology and Medicine" (drafts) (13 items), undated**
Box-folder 2:2 **"Animal Psychology and Medicine" (drafts) (14 items), undated**
Box-folder 2:3 **"Animal Psychology and Medicine" (drafts) (11 items), undated**
Box-folder 2:4 **"Animal Psychology and Medicine" (drafts) (8 items), undated**
Box-folder 2:5 **"Animal Psychology and Medicine" (drafts) (17 items), undated**
Box-folder 2:6 **"Certificates of Death" (2 copies), 1893 April 7**
Box-folder 2:7 **"Circumcision" (book), 1891**
Box-folder 2:8 **"Circumcision" (Prolegomena, Contents), undated**

Box-folder 2:9	"Circumcision" (Introduction, Chapter 1, Chapter 2), undated
Box-folder 2:10	"Circumcision" (Chapters 3-7), undated
Box-folder 3:1	"Circumcision" (Chapters 8-10), undated
Box-folder 3:2	"Circumcision" (Chapters 11-13), undated
Box-folder 3:3	"Circumcision" (Chapters 14, 15), undated
Box-folder 3:4	"Circumcision" (Chapter 16), undated
Box-folder 3:5	"Circumcision" (Chapter 17), undated
Box-folder 3:6	"Circumcision" (Chapters 18, 19), undated
Box-folder 3:7	"Circumcision" (Chapters 20, 21), undated
Box-folder 3:8	"Circumcision" (Bibliography, Index), undated
Box-folder 3:9	"Medical Education" (book), 1908
Box-folder 4:1	"Medical Examinations and Other Essays" (book), 1908
Box-folder 4:2	"The Modern Climatic Treatment," 1893
Box-folder 4:3	"The Origins of the French Infantry," undated
Box-folder 4:4	"Some Observations on the History, Psychology and Therapeutics of Impotence," 1899 November
Box-folder 4:5	"Why France is Napoleonic," 1894
Box-folder 4:6	"Why France is Napoleonic" (draft) (1 item), undated
Box-folder 4:7	Correspondence, 1892 March 9-May 4

Series III: Research Notes

Box-folder 4:8	Alcohol intoxication (5 items), undated
Box-folder 4:9	Bacteriology (2 items), undated
Box-folder 4:10	Climate - influences on health (5 items), 1919 January 9-1921 July 20 and undated
Box-folder 4:11	Drug addiction (1 item), undated
Box-folder 4:12	Education (2 items), 1922 August 4 and undated
Box-folder 4:13	Ethnology (14 items), 1920 May 1-1921 May 7
Box-folder 4:14	Ethnology (15 items), 1921 May 7-December 24 and undated
Box-folder 4:15	Ethnology (18 items), undated
Box-folder 4:16	Human development (9 items), 1919 October 13-1922 July 26 and undated
Box-folder 4:17	Influenza (11 items), 1919 January 3-11 and undated
Box-folder 5:1	Language (15 items), 1920 January 20-1921 June 2
Box-folder 5:2	Language (8 items), undated
Box-folder 5:3	Longevity and civilization (1 item), 1917 September 12
Box-folder 5:4	Mental disease (1 item), 1921 May 7
Box-folder 5:5	Preventative Medicine (4 items), 1920 May 23-1921 October 7
Box-folder 5:6	Religion (16 items), 1920 May 27-1922 August 12 and undated
Box-folder 5:7	Transfusion and Infusion (8 items), undated
Box-folder 5:8	Transfusion and Infusion (4 items), undated
Box-folder 5:9	Transfusion and Infusion (5 items), undated

Series IV: Research Articles

Box-folder 5:10	A Medical Index - index reference book of articles, 1881 and undated
Box-folder 5:11	List of articles, undated
Box-folder 5:12	Animals - Psychology and Medicine (2 items), undated
Box-folder 5:13	Artificial pneumothorax - artificial air in pleura (1 item), 1830-1831
Box-folder 5:14	Cosmogony (1 item), undated
Box-folder 5:15	Dyspepsia (1 item), undated
Box-folder 5:16	Education, Moral (1 item), undated
Box-folder 5:17	Embolism, Air - Air in Veins (26 items), 1818-1862
Box-folder 6:1	Embolism, Air - Air in Veins (17 items), 1864-1889
Box-folder 6:2	Embolism, Air - Air in Veins (15 items), 1889-1911 and undated
Box-folder 6:3	Ethnology (7 items), undated
Box-folder 6:4	Injuries, Fall (1 item), 1906 September 22
Box-folder 6:5	Injuries, Gunshot Wounds (22 items), 1734-1867
Box-folder 6:6	Injuries, Gunshot Wounds (21 items), 1867-1906 and undated
Box-folder 6:7	Injuries, Incised and Stab Wounds (8 items), 1750-1882 and undated
Box-folder 6:8	Language (5 items), undated

Box-folder 6:9 **"Transfusion: Notes on the Technic of Transfusion of Blood" (pamphlet), 1910**
Box-folder 6:10 **Correspondence, 1892 March 8-1926 June 14**

Series V: **Personal Papers**

Box-folder 6:11 **Official documents, 1870 October 10 and 1901 June 27**

Includes:

Statement of Residency (Minnesota)
San Diego Academy: Certificate of completion
United States Passport, October 18, 1870 (in Oversize Collections D4)

Box-folder 6:12 **Military documents, 1870-1871 and undated**

Box-folder 6:13 **Pension documents, 1889-1890**

Box-folder 6:14 **Photographs, undated**

Box-folder 6:15 **Photographs, undated**

Box-folder 6:16 **Miscellanea, 1916 July 26-1926 June 1 and undated**

Includes:

Newsletter from Jefferson Medical College Alumni Association
Monthly Bulletin of the Department of Public Health, City of San Diego, California
Business cards
Empty Envelopes with decorative return address for Remondino

Box-folder 6:17 **Miscellanea, 1911 December 23 and undated**

Includes:

Letter addressed to Katherine Howard
Prayers
Blue (baby?) pins
Photo and award of Guiseppe Remondini, possibly P.C. Remondino's brother

Series VI: **Luisa Re Mondini Papers**

Box-folder 7:1 **"Fancy's Garden and Other Poems" (book), 1924**

Box-folder 7:2 **Poems, undated**

Box-folder 7:3 **Willie Wee stories, undated**

Box-folder 7:4 **Musical compositions,**

Box-folder 7:5 **Musical compositions, undated**

Box-folder 7:6 **Musical compositions, undated**

Box-folder 7:7 **Correspondence, 1917 December 31**