



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the K. K. Nygaard Papers

NMAH.AC.0378

Don Darroch

1990

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	K. K. Nygaard Papers
Date:	1921-1986
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0378
Creator:	Nygaard, Kaare K., 1903-1989 (Author)
Extent:	1 Cubic foot (2 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	The collection includes drafts of chapters and sections (some hand written) of Nygaard's book <i>Hemorrhagic Diseases</i> .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Collection donated by Gail Delgado Nygaard, May 1990.

Provenance

Collection transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Medical Sciences (now Division of Medicine and Science) on September 7, 1990.

Processing Information

Processed by Don Darroch, volunteer, 1990.

Preferred Citation

K. K. Nygaard Papers, 1921-1986, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Kaare K. Nygaard (1903-1989) was a native of Norway who received an M.D. from Royal Frederiks University, Oslo, in 1929. He immigrated to the United States, where he spent a 5 year residency at the Mayo Clinic as a surgeon and researcher on blood. During World War II he organized a wing of the White Plains (N.Y.) Hospital to care for sick and wounded Norwegian merchant seamen at minimal costs; he operated on 4,000 of them. He continued as a general surgeon at White Plains for 40 years, retiring in 1979.

Dr. Nygaard was the author of *Hemorrhagic Diseases; Photoelectric Study of Blood Coagulability* (published in 1941) and also of over 50 professional papers, mostly on his research on blood. While at the Mayo Clinic he invented and patented the first machine to use photoelectric principles in blood analysis.

Before his medical career began, Dr. Nygaard was a sculptor; he continued his art work throughout his life, with public exhibitions and sales of his work. The United Nations honored his sculpture with a commemorative stamp. He published an autobiography, *Knife, Life and Bronzes*, in 1986.

Scope and Contents

The collection includes drafts of chapters and sections (some hand written) of Nygaard's book *Hemorrhagic Diseases*. A twenty-two page typed draft represents a chapter of a book (title and date unknown) on "The photoelectric principle and its application to problems of medical interest." Also included are a large number of file cards recording Nygaard's handwritten notes on patient's cases and his research.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Blood coagulation disorders
- Emigration and immigration
- Medicine -- Research
- Surgery

Names:

- Mayo Clinic
- White Plains Hospital

Places:

- Norway
- White Plains (N.Y.)

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 2	Dahl. Guthe, Nygaard. The photoelectric principle and its application to the the problems of medical interests
Box 1, Folder 2	Nygaard. Methods of determining the coagulability of blood.
Box 1, Folder 3	Nygaard. Preface, for Hemorrhagic Diseases.
Box 1, Folder 4	Nygaard. The technic of reading the [coagelgram?]
Box 1, Folder 5	Nygaard. Optical Methods.
Box 1, Folder 6	Nygaard. Methods concerning coagulability of plasma.
Box 2	Card index (for patient's and research), undated