



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Dr. Bruno Z. Kisch Papers

NMAH.AC.0835

Helen Wirka

2005

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

P.O. Box 37012

Suite 1100, MRC 601

Washington, D.C. 20013-7012

archivescenter@si.edu

<https://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Arrangement.....	3
Biographical/Historical note.....	2
Scope and Contents note.....	2
Names and Subjects	3
Container Listing	4
Series 1: Personal.....	4
Series 2: Correspondence, 1951-1957.....	5
Series 3: Notebooks, 1947-1949.....	6
Series 4: Photographs, Photomicrographs and Negatives, undated.....	10
Series 5: Publications, 1904-1968.....	11

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Dr. Bruno Z. Kisch Papers
Date:	1904-1968.
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0835
Source:	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Science, Medicine, and Society
Creator:	Kisch, Bruno Z., 1890-1966
Extent:	3.5 Cubic feet (11 boxes)
Language:	Collection is in English. Some materials in French, German, Norwegian, and Spanish.
Summary:	This collection consists of materials from the professional life of Dr. Bruno Z. Kisch.

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The collection was donated by Dr. Bruno Kisch's wife, Prof. Ruth Kisch, of Brooklyn, New York, in 1971.

Ownership and Custodial History

Collection transferred from the Division of Medicine and Science to the Archives Center, in 2003.

Related Materials

xMaterials at the National Museum of American History

Division of Medicine and Science

Other artifacts in the collection include sphygmomanometers, sphygmographs, stethoscopes, pacemakers, stents, and one of Claud Beck's defibrillators. The collection also has early examples of Bayer Aspirin.

Processing Information

Processed by Helen Wirka, intern, 2005.

Preferred Citation

Dr. Bruno Z. Kisch Papers, 1904-1968, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions on Access

Collection open for research on site by appointment. Unprotected photographs must be handled with gloves.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Biographical Note

Dr. Bruno Zacharias Kisch (1890-1966) was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia in 1890. He received his medical degree in 1913 at the Charles University of Prague and served in the Austrian army during World War I as a physician from 1914-1918. With the rise of Nazism, Kisch relocated to the United States in 1938 with his wife, Ruth, and their two children, Charlotte Rebecca and Arnold Emanuel. A colleague called him "one of the princely gifts that fell to America because of Adolph Hitler". In 1943, Kisch became a United States citizen.

Amongst his peers Kisch was credited as a "Da Vinci in a modern age" due to his wide range of interests. He was a founding member of the American College of Cardiology in 1949, and completed the first president's term upon his death in 1951. Kisch was elected as president in his own right at the end of the term and held the office of president from 1951-1953. From 1939 until 1966 Kisch had his own medical practice in New York City and was a researcher and consultant in cardiology. Kisch's major contribution to the field of cardiology was his experimentation with electron microscopes. He was the first scientist to use electron microscopes to perform cardiac research on warm-blooded animals. The microscope allowed researchers to study heart fibers more closely by magnifying cells by 30,000. Discoveries Kisch made through this research furthered the field of cardiology and led to the formation of the Electron Microscopic Institute in 1953.

The professorships he held at multiple schools, including Yeshiva University, in New York City, and Yale University, reflect his wide range of knowledge from physiology to the philosophy and history of science as does his consultation to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. on "the study of scales, weights, and measures", and his position as curator to the Edward Clark Streeter Collection of Weights and Measures at Yale University. Kisch's other interests can be found in the articles he wrote and the publications for which he served as founder/editor: "The Jewish Refugee and America"; "History of the Jewish Pharmacy (Judenapothek) in Prague"; "Scales and Weights – A Historical Outline"; "Shekel Metals and False Shekels"; *Cardiologia*; the *Journal of Experimental Medicine and Surgery*; and the *Transactions of the American College of Cardiology*. Dr. Bruno Z. Kisch passed away while visiting Germany in 1966. The Electron Microscopic Institute was dedicated in his memory in 1967.

Scope and Contents

Contains correspondence, most relating to Kisch's service as President of the American College of Cardiology; photomicrographs, of animal tissue specimens; writings and notes; notebooks on Dr. Kisch's experimentation and research, including many electrocardiograms; and printed material, such as medical journals containing articles by Dr. Kisch, and reprints of articles by Dr. Kisch.

The materials are useful to those with an interest in the American College of Cardiology during the 1950s, or those who have the ability to read and understand cardiological printouts.

Electrocardiograph: An instrument which records electrical currents produced by the heart.

Electrocardiography: A method of recording electrical currents traversing the heart muscle just previous to each heart beat. The study and interpretation of electrocardiographs.

Electrocardiogram: The graphic record of the heart's action currents obtained with the electrocardiograph.

Electrogram: Any record on paper or film made by an electrical event.

Tracing: Any graphic display of electrical or mechanical cardiovascular event.

Arrangement

Divided into 5 series:

Series 1, Personal materials

Series 2, Correspondence

Series 3, Notebooks

Series 4, Photographs, Micrographs and Negatives

Series 5, Publications

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Cardiology
- Electron microscopy
- Medical sciences
- Medicine -- Research
- Microscopy
- Physicians

Types of Materials:

- Correspondence -- 20th century
- Electron micrographs
- Laboratory notebooks
- Photographs -- Black-and-white negatives -- Glass -- 1890-1920
- Photomicrographs
- Reprints
- Technical literature

Names:

National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Science, Medicine, and Society

Container Listing

Series 1: Personal

Box 1, Folder 1	Inventory
Box 1, Folder 2	Miscellaneous
Box 1, Folder 3	Cibella Family Tree

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Correspondence, 1951-1957

Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence, American College of Cardiology, 1951
Box 1, Folder 5	Correspondence, American College of Cardiology, 1952
Box 1, Folder 6	Correspondence, American College of Cardiology, 1953
Box 1, Folder 7	Correspondence, American College of Cardiology, late Dec. 1953-1954
Box 1, Folder 8	Correspondence, American College of Cardiology, Sept. 1953-Feb. 1955 (Copies)
Box 1, Folder 8a	Correspondence, American College of Cardiology, Sept. 1953-Feb. 1955 (Originals)
Box 1, Folder 9	Correspondence, American College of Cardiology, 1955
Box 1, Folder 10	Constitution and Bylaws, American College of Cardiology
Box 1, Folder 11	Membership Roster, American College of Cardiology
Box 1, Folder 12	Bulletins, American College of Cardiology, Jan. 1951-Dec. 1955
Box 1, Folder 13	Bulletins, American College of Cardiology, Jan. 1956-Oct. 1957
Box 1, Folder 14	The Encyclopedia of Cardiology, Proposal and Budget
Box 1, Folder 15	Electron Microscope Definitions of Terms
Box 1, Folder 16	Electron Microscope Grant Correspondence and Applications
Box 1, Folder 17	The Electron Microscopic Research Institute, Miscellaneous
Box 1, Folder 18	American College of Cardiology, Meeting Outlines
Box 1, Folder 19	American College of Cardiology, Meeting Programs and Event Menus, 1951-1957
Box 2, Folder 1	American College of Cardiology, Meeting Information, 1952-1962

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Notebooks, 1947-1949

Box 2, Folder 2	Miscellaneous Notes, undated
Box 2, Folder 3	Notebook on Research and Experimentation, undated
Box 2, Folder 4	Notebook on Research and Experimentation, undated
Box 2, Folder 5	Notebook on Research and Experimentation, Fordham, 1947
Box 2, Folder 6	Notebook on Research and Experimentation, Fordham, 1947
Box 2, Folder 7	Notebook on Research and Experimentation, Fordham-B, 1947
Box 2, Folder 8	Notebook on Research and Experimentation, Fordham-B, 1947
Box 2, Folder 9	Notebook on Research and Experimentation, Fordham-B, 1947

Notebook on Research and Experimentation, 1947

Box 3, Folder 1

Box 3, Folder 2	Notebook on Research and Experimentation, 1947
Box 3, Folder 3	Notebook on Research and Experimentation, 1947
Box 3, Folder 4	Notebook on Research and Experimentation, 1947
Box 3, Folder 5	Notebook on Research and Experimentation, 1947
Box 4, Folder 1	Notebook on Research and Experimentation, 1947
Box 4, Folder 2	Notebook on Research and Experimentation, Cat Electrocardiograms
Box 4, Folder 3	Notebook on Research and Experimentation, 1948
Box 4, Folder 4	Notebook on Research and Experimentation, 1948
Box 4, Folder 5	Notebook on Research and Experimentation, 1949
Box 4, Folder 6	Notebook on Research and Experimentation, Heart sounds II, 1949
Box 4, Folder 7	Notebook on Research and Experimentation, Heart sounds II, 1949
Box 5, Folder 1	Notebook on Research and Experimentation, Fish and Birds, Woods Hole, 1949
Box 5, Folder 2	Notebook on Research and Experimentation, Fish and Birds, Woods Hole, 1949
Box 5, Folder 3	Notebook on Research and Experimentation, Fish and Birds, Woods Hole, 1949
Box 5, Folder 4	Notebook on Research and Experimentation, Heart sounds, 1949
Box 5, Folder 5	Notebook on Research and Experimentation, 1949
Box 5, Folder 6	Notebook on Research and Experimentation, 1949
Box 5, Folder 7	Notes from Lectures by Dr. William Guilford, 1949
Box 6, Folder 1	Fish Electrocardiograms, KLC. Tachyc., undated
Box 6, Folder 2	Fish Electrocardiograms, Past Extras Tachyc., undated
Box 6, Folder 3	Fish Electrocardiograms, Extras Recht./Rinck, undated

Box 6, Folder 4	Fish Electrocardiograms, Extra El. In F, undated
Box 6, Folder 5	Fish Electrocardiograms, Sims., undated
Box 6, Folder 6	Fish Electrocardiograms, Extras, undated
Box 6, Folder 7	Fish Electrocardiograms, Topogr. Ia., undated
Box 6, Folder 8	Fish Electrocardiograms, Topogr. II., undated
Box 6, Folder 9	Fish Electrocardiograms, A.V. Storg. Annich., undated
Box 6, Folder 10	Fish Electrocardiograms, Expel. Vane. JLJLE, undated
Box 6, Folder 11	Fish Electrocardiograms, Intraventr. S.G., undated
Box 6, Folder 12	Fish Electrocardiograms, Anricle, undated
Box 6, Folder 13	Fish Electrocardiograms, KCL., undated
Box 6, Folder 14	Fish Electrocardiograms, RL in ____ Vergleich Ee in Amr., undated
Box 6, Folder 15	Miscellaneous Electrocardiogram Envelopes, 1949
Box 6, Folder 16	Miscellaneous Electrocardiograms, 1949
Box 6, Folder 17	Miscellaneous Electrocardiograms, Woods Hole, 1947
Box 6, Folder 18	Miscellaneous Electrocardiograms, Topog. Calf, 1949?
Box 6, Folder 19	Miscellaneous Electrocardiograms, Topog. Rabbit, 1949?
Box 6, Folder 20	Miscellaneous Electrocardiograms, R.V./L.V. 1, undated
Box 6, Folder 21	Miscellaneous Electrocardiograms, Ventr. R. B. /Sp, 1947
Box 6, Folder 22	Miscellaneous Electrocardiograms, R.A. L.A. -RnLobr, 1947
Box 6, Folder 23	Miscellaneous Electrocardiograms, Curicle Tachys. R., undated
Box 6, Folder 24	Miscellaneous Electrocardiograms, Tone, undated
Box 6, Folder 25	Miscellaneous Electrocardiograms, Extrasyst. Arvic. Ventr., undated
Box 6, Folder 26	Miscellaneous Electrocardiograms, El. M. Herzen, undated
Box 6, Folder 27	Miscellaneous Electrocardiograms, V. Tli., 1947

Box 6, Folder 28	Miscellaneous Electrocardiograms, Amp. R. Ventr., 1947
Box 6, Folder 29	Miscellaneous Electrocardiograms, Dog, Cat, and Rabbit, 1947
Box 6, Folder 30	Miscellaneous Electrocardiograms, Ventr. Extras, undated
Box 6, Folder 31	Miscellaneous Electrocardiograms, Anvide, 1947
Box 6, Folder 32	Miscellaneous Electrocardiograms, A. Zacke Veranderh?/ Iwich Hetero Topine?, 1947
Box 6, Folder 33	Miscellaneous Electrocardiograms and Notes, 1949

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Photographs, Photomicrographs and Negatives, undated

Box 10, Folder 1	Photographs and Negatives, Insects, undated
Box 10, Folder 2	Photographs, Frog Droplets, undated
Box 10, Folder 3	Photographs, Lysosomes, undated
Box 10, Folder 4	Photomicrographs, Goldfish I. Aurule (44), undated
Box 10, Folder 5	Photomicrographs, Goldfish I. Ventricle (87), undated
Box 11, Folder 1	Photographs and Negatives, Miscellaneous, undated
Box 11, Folder 2	Photographs and Negatives, Miscellaneous, undated
Box 11, Folder 3	Photographs and Negatives, Miscellaneous, undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Publications, 1904-1968

Subseries 5.1: English, 1930-1968

Box 6, Folder 34	The Academy Bookman, 1950
Box 6, Folder 35	The American College of Cardiology, Membership Roster, 1957
Box 6, Folder 36	The American Heart Journal, 1945-1951
Box 6, Folder 37	The American Journal, 1958
Box 6, Folder 38	The American Journal of Diseases of Children, 1950
Box 6, Folder 39	The American Journal of Physiology, 1943-1950
Box 6, Folder 40	The Biochemical Journal, 1943
Box 6, Folder 41	The British Journal of Dermatology and Syphilis,, 1940
Box 6, Folder 42	Bulletin of the History of Medicine, 1963
Box 6, Folder 43	Bulletin of the Medical Library Association, 1945
Box 6, Folder 44	Cardiologia, 1950
Box 6, Folder 45	Cardiovascular Research Center Bulletin, 1968
Box 7, Folder 1	Experimental Medicine and Surgery, 1946-1948
Box 7, Folder 2	Experimental Medicine and Surgery, 1949-1955
Box 7, Folder 3	Experimental Medicine and Surger, 1956-1965
Box 7, Folder 4	Historia Judaica, 1941-1946
Box 7, Folder 5	Imprensa Medica, 1954
Box 7, Folder 6	Jewish House of Learning Lecture,, 1935
Box 7, Folder 7	Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences,, 1949-1959
Box 7, Folder 8	Journal of the Mount Sinai Hospital, 1952
Box 7, Folder 9	The Leo Jung Jubilee Volume, undated
Box 7, Folder 10	Medical Clinics of North America, 1940

Box 7, Folder 11	MORIAH, 1942
Box 7, Folder 12	Nature, 1957
Box 7, Folder 13	Numismatic Review, 1943
Box 8, Folder 1	Popular Research Narratives, 1930
Box 8, Folder 2	Proceedings of the European Reg. Conference on Electron Microscopy, 1960
Box 8, Folder 3	Proceedings of the Rudolf Virchow Medical Society in the City of New York, 1947
Box 8, Folder 4	Proceedings of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine, 1951
Box 8, Folder 5	Science, 1930-1943
Box 8, Folder 6	Transactions of the American College of Cardiology, 1951-1957
Box 8, Folder 7	Victor Robinson Memorial Volume: Essays on History of Medicine, 1948
Box 8, Folder 8	Yale Medical Library, 1962
Box 8, Folder 9	Works Projects Administration, 1942

Subseries 5.2: French, 1947

Box 8, Folder 10	The Canadian Review of Biology, 1947
------------------	--------------------------------------

Subseries 5.3: German, 1904-1964

Box 8, Folder 11	Archiv fur Dermatologie und Syphilis (Archive for Dermatology and Syphilis), 1931
Box 8, Folder 12	Archiv fur Kreislaussorschung (Archives of Research on the Circulatory System), 1963
Box 8, Folder 13	Cardiologia,, 1947
Box 8, Folder 14	Festvortrag: Physiologische Ergebnisse der Elektronenmikroskopie des Herzens, Kerckhoff-Institut,(Electron Mircroscope Conference...at Kerckhoff-Institut), undated
Box 8, Folder 15	Funfzig Jahre Bayer Arzneimittel, (50 Years of Bayer Drugs, 1888-1938), 1888-1938

Box 8, Folder 16	Die Geschichte der Organisation der Kreislaufforschung in Deutschland, (Essay for a Conference: The 21st Conference of the German Association for Research on the Circulatory System), 1955
Box 8, Folder 17	Gewichte und Waagemacher Im Alten Koln,(How Scales and Weights Were Made in Old Cologne), 1960
Box 8, Folder 18	Handbuch der Biochemie des Menschen und der Tiere,(Handbook for the Biochemistry of Animals and Humans), 1933
Box 8, Folder 19	Inkunabeln Deutscher Pressen: Alte Medizin Und Naturwissenschaften, (Auction guide for old medicine and natural science) Auktion 61, 1926
Box 8, Folder 20	Die Kleinwelt des Sufzwassers,(The Little World of Fresh Water Animals, Bacteria/ Microcosms), 1909
Box 8, Folder 21	Kolnischer Geschichtsverein e. V., Koln (Cologne Historical Society)
Box 9, Folder 1	Aus dem Koniglichen Physiologischen Institut, (The Royal Institute of Physiology), 1904
Box 9, Folder 2	Munchener medizinischen Wochenschrift,(Weekly Medical Publication from Munich), 1911
Box 9, Folder 3	Omega File: English and German publications, 1911-1942
Box 9, Folder 4	Pflugers Archiv fur die gesamte Physiologie des Menschen und der Tiere, (Pflugers Archive for the Whole Physiology of Human Beings and Animals, 1927-1935
Box 9, Folder 5	Probleme der allgemeinen Hormonforschung, (Problems of the general research on hormones), 1936
Box 9, Folder 6	Skandinavisches Archiv fur Physiologie, (The Scandinavian Archive for Physiology), 1929
Box 9, Folder 7	Sonderdruck aus Jahrbuch des Kolnischen Geschichtsvereins e., (Special Print Yearbook of the History Association of Cologne), 1959-1960
Box 9, Folder 8	Uber Rachtommen des hohen Rabbi Low von Prag,(On the Descendents of the High Rabbi Low of Prague), undated
Box 9, Folder 9	William G. Kerckhoff-Stiftung Institut fur Wissenschaftliche Forschung und Fortbildung Zu Bad-Nauheim, (William G. Kerckhoff-Stiftung Institute for Scientific Research and Classes, Bad-Nauheim booklet), 1929
Box 9, Folder 10	Wissenschaftliche Mitteilungen des Vereins fur Natur- und Heimatkunde in Koln a. Rh., (Scientific Newsletter of the Association for Nature and Home-region Knowledge/Study of Cologne on the River Rhine), 1949

Box 9, Folder 11 Sonderdruck aus "Zeitschrift für Kreislaussorschung", (Journal on Research of the Circulatory System), 1931-1964

Subseries 5.4: Norwegian, 1952

Box 9, Folder 12 Arkiv for Nordisk Filologi,(Archive for Nordic Philology), 1952

Subseries 5.5: Spanish, 1950

Box 9, Folder 13 Revista de la Sociedad Mexicana de Historia Natural, (Publication of the Society of Mexican Natural History), 1950

[Return to Table of Contents](#)