

**D. Carleton (Daniel Carleton)
Gajdusek correspondence, 1934-1988
1934-1988
Mss.Ms.Coll.58**

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Summary Information

Repository	American Philosophical Society
Creator	Gajdusek, D. Carleton (Daniel Carleton), 1923-2008
Title	D. Carleton (Daniel Carleton) Gajdusek correspondence, 1934-1988
Date [inclusive]	1934-1988
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Extent	7.0 Linear feet Ca. 1500 items
Extent	Ca. 1500 items, 7 linear feet.
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Language	English
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Abstract	This collection is composed chiefly of professional correspondence with 117 individuals, and includes biographical information about scientists in the fields of epidemiology, public health, communicable diseases, and health science policy.

Background note

A pediatrician and virologist trained at the University of Rochester and Harvard Medical School, Carleton Gajdusek became interested in epidemiological issues in "exotic and isolated populations" early in the 1950s, and while working as a visiting investigator at the Walter and Eliza Institute of Medical Research in Melbourne he had his first introduction to a neurological disorder, kuru, that was endemic among the Neolithic Fore of New Guinea. In an exemplary study, Gajdusek determined that kuru was not hereditary, as previously supposed, but was an infectious disease transmitted through the ritualistic consumption of the brains of deceased relatives. He was recognized for his achievements with the 1976 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

American Philosophical Society

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Researchers must have written permission from D. Carleton Gajdusek to use this collection.

Provenance

Acquisition Information

Presented by D. Carleton Gajdusek and accessioned, 1988 (1988 540ms).

Related Materials

Related Material

Gajdusek's journals are noted separately at: [D. Carleton \(Daniel Carleton\) Gajdusek Journals \(B G13j\)](#).

Indexing Terms

Subject(s)

- Epidemiology.
- Medicine.
- Public health.