

**Collection #
M 1130**

AESCULAPIAN MEDICAL SOCIETY RECORDS, 1948-1983

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Processed by

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August 21, 2014

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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 box consisting of 1 Record book of minutes from 1948-1983 and 1 folder

COLLECTION DATES: 1948-1983

PROVENANCE: José Espada for the Aesculapian Medical Society, 2014

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2014.0057

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Aesculapian Medical Society was established in 1903 and is one of the oldest NMA chapters in the country. African American physicians, dentists, and pharmacists originally banded together in Indianapolis around the turn of the 20th century when the Marion County Medical Society refused admission to blacks. This loosely organized group was more firmly established in 1929 when Dr. Edwin Moten took over leadership of the group, named after the ancient god of medicine and healing.

Like its white counterparts, the society transmitted professional information and established group cohesion and recognition. In addition, it was committed to self-protection against discriminatory practices within the local medical community. Members pushed for the admittance African American doctors and patients into local hospitals, meeting success in 1953 when national forces converged with their efforts and city hospital (now Wishard Hospital) became integrated.

In the succeeding decades, the society supported the continued advancements of African American doctors into medical education and hospital administrative positions. The society has also pushed for better health care for African Americans through such organizations as the Metropolitan Health Council, and since the 1960s it has contributed funds for medical school scholarships for African American students. During the 1940s, the society's dentists and pharmacists left to form their own organizations.

The Aesculapian Medical Society celebrated their 100th year in 2003 in a grand gala. The organization meets the first Tuesday of the month September through June of every year. The meeting is an opportunity for the Indianapolis physician membership to discuss organizational business and have a sponsored presentation on a medical topic of interest. Many of the members are prominent members of the community in addition to being accomplished physicians in their medical field.

Sources:

<http://www.aesculapianmedicalsociety.org/>

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Aesculapian Medical Society collection consists of a record book of the handwritten recorded meeting notes dating from January 13, 1948 and ending October 4, 1983. There are a few pages in the back of the record book used to record dues collected for a short period of time.

The other part of the collection is a folder consisting of four Annual Bulletins of the Hoosier State Medical Association, receipts, typed letters, a ledger sheet for 1978-1980 for the Aesculapian Medical Society dues, a newspaper obituary and memorial program for Dr. John William Armstead, photographs, and newspaper clippings about the annual state medical convention from 1955.

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CONTENTS

Record book of minutes from Aesculapian Medical Society meetings from January 13, 1948 and ending October 4, 1983

Annual Bulletins of the Hoosier State Medical Assoc. Annual Session (1950, 1956, 1957, & 1961); 2 membership receipts; 4 letters; 1 unused stationery sheet of the Hoosier State Medical Assoc.; 1 ledger sheet of the Aesculapian Medical Society dues for 1978-1980; obituary clipping and memorial program for Dr. John William Armstead; Sumner A. Furniss "In Memoriam" clipping; Dr. William H. Mott Lake Co. coroner campaign flier; 3 photographs; several newspaper clippings about the Hoosier State Medical Assoc. meeting (1955, 1957); Amos Fortune bio sheet (n.d.)

CONTAINER

Box 1

Box 1, Folder 1

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 1130).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.