

HERMAN B WELLS INTERVIEW, 1979

Collection #:
SC 2622

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Processed by
Chris Harter
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USER INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 folders

COLLECTION DATES: July 2, 1979

PROVENANCE: Evaline H. Rhodehamel, Indianapolis, IN, 20 May 1997

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

OTHER FINDING AIDS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: *Mr. Lilly to Dr. Wells, Dr. Wells to Mr. Lilly: Being Excerpts of Letters Between J.K. Lilly, Jr. and Herman B Wells...* (pam. Z675.A2 L55 1981)

ACCESSION NUMBERS: 1997.0511

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Herman B Wells (1902-) was born in Jamestown, Indiana (Boone Co.) to Joseph and Anna (Harting) Wells. He received degrees from Indiana University in 1924 and 1927. Wells was the recipient of honorary degrees from over 22 colleges and universities throughout his lifetime. Wells was dean of IU's School of Business Administration before serving as president of the university for 25 years (1937-1962). After leaving his position as president, he became the school's chancellor. Wells was considered one of the country's leading authorities in the fields of business administration and economics. He served in a number of advisory roles throughout the world, including positions in Germany and Thailand. Wells was also a delegate to the 15th General Assembly of the United Nations in 1957. He currently resides in Bloomington, Indiana (Monroe County).

Josiah Kirby Lilly, Sr. (1861-1948) was the only child of Col. Eli Lilly (1838-1898) and Emily (Lemon) Lilly. He became an apprentice at his father's pharmaceutical company, Eli Lilly and Company, before entering the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. After graduating in 1882, he returned to the company. "J.K." became president of Eli Lilly and Company upon his father's death in 1898. Under his leadership, the business expanded to cover the United States and the world market. He was active in many local civic organizations. He married Lilly Marie Ridgely in 1882 with whom he had two sons: Josiah K, Jr. and Eli. He remarried in 1935 to Lila Allison.

Eli Lilly (1885-1977) was born in Indianapolis, the son of Josiah Kirby Lilly, Sr. and Lilly Marie (Ridgely) Lilly. He graduated from Shortridge High School in 1904, and three years later earned a degree as Pharmaceutical Chemist from Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. In 1935 he received a Ph. M. degree from the same institution.

In 1907, he began work at Eli Lilly and Company. He served in a variety of positions, including vice president (1920-1932) and president (1932-1948). During his lifetime, and largely because of his efforts, the company grew to a billion-dollar-a-year business.

Mr. Lilly had several intense interests outside his business. One was philanthropy. In 1937, he initiated the establishment of Lilly Endowment, which became the third largest philanthropic foundation in the country. Dying without immediate family, he left generous bequests to many organizations, particularly religious and educational institutions in Indianapolis, which had a major effect on their outlook and operation.

He was also actively interested in archaeology and history, and became a respected participant in both fields. In cooperation with Glenn Black, he worked on the prehistory of Indiana, and produced two books, *Prehistoric Antiquities of Indiana* (1937) and *Walam Olum* (1954). A continuing interest in Greek archaeology resulted in *Schliemann in Indianapolis* (1961) (For Heinrich Schliemann, see also: M 378, Heinrich Schliemann Papers). A lifelong love of Lake Wawasee led him to write *Early Wawasee Days* (1960). Lilly also authored *Little Church on the Circle* (1957), which looked at the Christ Church Parish in Indianapolis.

The Civil War was also an area of interest to him, and he led the local chapter of the Loyal Legion, meeting in Foster Hall at the Lilly Orchard, to become a sort of Civil War round table. When he bought a large farm outside Noblesville in order to raise Percheron horses, he discovered that the farmhouse had belonged to pioneer William Conner, and worked to restore the building.

Josiah Kirby Lilly, Jr. (1893-1966) was the youngest son of J.K. Lilly Sr. He earned a pharmacy degree from the University of Michigan and entered the family business in 1914. He focused on personnel and marketing. Largely through his efforts, Eli Lilly and Company became known for its "personnel-friendly" policies, such as fair wages, benefits for employees, etc. In 1944, J.K., Jr. left the vice-presidency to head the Eli Lilly International Corporation. He became president of Eli Lilly and Company four years later.

He held a great interest in rare books and manuscripts, amassing a large collection of items. His collection was donated to Indiana University in 1956-1957 and became the core of the Lilly Library, the rare book and manuscript repository on the IU-Bloomington campus. Material was also donated to the Indiana Historical Society.

(For more information on the Lilly Family or individual members, see also: SC 2090, Lilly Family Correspondence; SC 972, Josiah K. Lilly, Sr. Letter; SC 973, Josiah K. Lilly, Jr. Papers; SC 971, Eli Lilly Letters; SC 2000, Eli Lilly Application for Marriage Licenses; M 184, Eli Lilly Papers)

Sources: Collection guides for SC 2617, Sallie E. Coleman Scrapbook and M 184, Eli Lilly Papers.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of a 91-page typescript for an interview (July 2, 1979) of Dr. Herman B Wells, then Chancellor of Indiana University, which took place in Well's office on the IU-Bloomington campus. The interview was conducted by an individual named McCormick. Although the full name of this person could not be determined, the interview was probably conducted by Gene E. McCormick, the historian for Eli Lilly and Company. The focus of the interview is Wells' association with Josiah K. Lilly, Sr. and his two sons, Josiah K., Jr. and Eli.

FOLDER LISTING

Folder

1 Interview, p. 1-46

2 Interview, p. 47-91

CATALOGUING INFORMATION

MAIN ENTRY: Wells, Herman B, interviewee

SUBJECT ENTRIES: Wells, Herman B

Lilly, Josiah Kirby, 1861-1948

Lilly, Josiah Kirby, 1893-1966

Lilly, Eli, 1885-

END