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A Guide to the
Richard Bunker Singer Papers
1920-2012 (bulk 1923-2010)

24.0 Cubic feet

UPT 50 S617R

Prepared by Joseph-James Ahern

June 2012

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PROVENANCE

The Richard Bunker Singer Papers were donated by Elizabeth S. M. Estey in three increments: May 2011, July 2011, January 2012, and June 2016 (Accession #2011: 025, 2012: 002, 2016: 034).

ARRANGEMENT

The Richard Bunker Singer Papers are organized into seven series: Correspondence, Personal, Professional, Research, Works By, Photographs, and Awards. The greater part of the Correspondence Series has been arranged chronologically, and the remainder arranged alphabetically. The other five series in the collection are arranged alphabetically.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Richard Bunker Singer was born on March 22, 1914 to Edgar Arthur Singer, Jr., Professor of Philosophy at the University of Pennsylvania, and Helen Bunker Singer. The Singers lived in West Philadelphia, and spent many summers at Cape May, NJ. Richard and his older brother, Edgar

A. Singer, III, were both educated at Philadelphia's Episcopal Academy. Richard graduated in 1930 (after advancing two grade levels). In the Fall of 1930, Singer attended a semester at l'Ecole Alsacienne in Paris, France, while his father was on sabbatical in Europe. Upon his return to the United States in the winter of 1931, Richard entered the University of Pennsylvania, where over the next eight and one half years he earned three degrees: the A.B. in 1934, an A.M. in Physics in 1935, and the M.D. in 1939. He followed his graduation from Medical School by serving a two-year rotating internship at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. In 1941 the National Research Council awarded Singer one of its prestigious fellowships. He used it to conduct research at Harvard University in acid-base balance in human blood. At Harvard, Singer worked under the direction of Dr. A. Baird Hastings. His research was eventually interrupted by World War II.

During World War II Singer served as a United States Navy flight surgeon in the Pacific Theater. At the end of the war he finished his service at National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD, where he met his future wife Dr. Margaret Henson. Singer continued in the Naval Reserve until 1972 when he retired with the rank of captain. In 1947 he completed his National Research Council Fellowship at Harvard University, and accepted a teaching position at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School. Singer opted for a career change in 1952 when he accepted a position in life insurance medical underwriting at New England Mutual Life Insurance Company in Boston, MA. He remained with the firm until his retirement in 1979. It was at New England Mutual Life that Singer began his studies on the analysis of excess mortality follow-up studies – which he would continue after his retirement.

Singer married Margaret Henson in 1947 and they had three children – Elizabeth, Permelia, and Richard. The Singers moved to Cohasset, MA, when Singer accepted the position at New England Life. They lived there until 1979, when they retired to York, Me. Richard Bunker Singer passed away on February 19, 2010. Margaret (Henson) Singer died eleven weeks after her husband, on May 11, 2010.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Richard Bunker Singer Papers document the family life and professional career of Dr. Singer. The collection has been organized into seven series: Correspondence, Personal, Professional, Research, Works By, Photographs, and Awards. The Correspondence Series predominantly

consists of letters sent to Dr. Singer throughout his life, with copies of outgoing correspondence starting around 1980. The folder titled World War II contains letters sent by Dr. Singer to his family. The bulk of letters are from family members, and covers such topics as summer camp in New England, trips to Cape May, NJ, service during World War II, and his career as a medical researcher. Letters from his brother Edgar A. Singer III, in which both brothers address each other as Sam, detail Edgar's service in the United States Marine Corps during World War II. Also of note are two letters from Dr. I. S. Ravdin in 1940 and 1941; and letters from his classmate John Joyce Sayen who served in the 20th General Hospital and later collaborated with him in medical research. The Personal Series documents Dr. Singers education, travels, affiliations, U.S. Navy service, and other aspects of his life not related to his career. Dr. Singer's career as an executive with the New England Mutual Life Insurance Company, his teaching material, and items related to his medical career are documented in the Professional Series. The Research Series contains material from Dr. Singer's various research projects through his career. Works By contains drafts and final versions of Dr. Singer's published works. The Photographs Series contains images of Dr. Singer, as well as a number of images taken by him during his trips to Europe and Cape May. The World War II files contain images of Naval Air Station Sangley PT near the Philippines where Singer was stationed in the Pacific, and the Admiralty Islands. Most photographs appear to have been taken by Singer and show images around the base – particularly the medical department. The images from Dr. Singer's 1937 Mediterranean trip were taken by him and focus mainly on images from the ship he sailed on and of his port visits. Among the ships identified in the pictures are two photographs of HMS Hood and HMS Barham. The Awards Series contain a number of plaques which Dr. Singer received throughout his career.

Of note for researchers interested in Cape May, NJ the collection has a number of images of the resort town from the 1930s through the 1940s. This includes scenes of the Baltimore Inn, the boardwalk (including a Mummers parade), the beach, sailing scenes, and images of the old NAS Cape May hanger. In the correspondence series there are also a number of post cards from Cape May – including ones from the World War II period. When the Singer family vacationed in Cape May they regularly stayed at the Baltimore Inn, as such the collection contains correspondence from the hotel.

Additional archival material related to Richard Bunker Singer is held at the Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Library Archives and Special Collections at St. John's University in New York, NY.

CONTROLLED ACCESS HEADINGS

Corporate Name(s)

- United States. Navy. -- General subdivision--Medical personnel.;

Geographic Name(s)

- Cape May (N.J.)

Personal Name(s)

- Ravdin, Isidore S., (Isidore Schwaner), 1894-
- Singer, Richard B.

Subject(s)

- Life insurance--History.--Massachusetts
- World War, 1939-1945--Hospitals---Pacific Area.

**Richard Bunker Singer Papers
1920-2012 (bulk 1923-2010)**

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INVENTORY

CORRESPONDENCE	Box	Folder
1920 June - July	1	1
1923 July	1	2
1923 August	1	3
1924 July - December	1	4
1925 June - August	1	5
1926 March - August	1	6
1927 June - August	1	7
1928 -1929	1	8
1930 June - August	1	9
1930 September - December	1	10
ca. 1928 - 1930	1	11
1931 January - July	1	12
1931 August - December	1	13
1932 January - July	1	14
1932 August - September	1	15

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1933 July - August	1	16
1934 March - July	1	17
1934 August - December	1	18
1935 February - July	1	19
1935 July - December	1	20
1936 January - March	1	21
1936 July - September	1	22
1937 July -December	1	23
1938 January - June	1	24
1938 July - December	1	25
1939 January - June	1	26
1939 July - December	1	27
1940 January - May	1	28
1940 June - December	1	29
1941 January - July	1	30
1941 August - September	1	31
1941 October - November	1	32
1941 December	1	33
1942 January	2	1
1942 February	2	2
1942 March	2	3
1942 April	2	4
1942 May	2	5
1942 June	2	6

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1942 July	2	7
1942 August	2	8
1942 September	2	9
1942 October	2	10
1942 November	2	11
1942 December	2	12
1943 January	2	13
1943 February	2	14
1943 March	2	15
1943 April	2	16
1943 May	2	17
1943 June	2	18
1943 July	2	19
1943 August	2	20
1943 September	2	21
1943 October	2	22
1943 November	2	23
1943 December	2	24
1944 January	3	1
1944 February	3	2
1944 March	3	3
1944 April	3	4
1944 May	3	5
1944 June	3	6

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1944 July	3	7
1944 August	3	8
1944 September - October	3	9
1944 November	3	10
1944 December	3	11
1945 January	3	12
1945 February	3	13
1945 March	3	14
1945 April	3	15
1945 May	3	16
1945 June - July	3	17
1945 August	3	18
1945 September	3	19
1945 October	3	20
1945 November - December	3	21
1946 January - April	4	1
1946 May - July	4	2
1946 August - October	4	3
1946 November - December	4	4
1947 January - March	4	5
1947 April - July	4	6
1947 August - December	4	7
1948 January - April	4	8
1948 May - December	4	9

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1949 January - May	4	10
1949 June - December	4	11
1950 January - July	4	12
1950 August - December	4	13
1951 January - June	4	14
1951 July - December	4	15
1952 January - July	4	16
1952 August - December	4	17
1953 January - June	4	18
1953 July - November	4	19
1954 January - July	4	20
1954 August - December	4	21
1955 January - May	4	22
1955 June - December	4	23
1956 January - December	4	24
1957 January - December	4	25
1958 January - December	4	26
1959 January - December	4	27
Letters Sent - Received Ledger 1946-1953	4	28
1960 January - July	5	1
1960 August - December	5	2
1961 January - December	5	3
1962 January - June	5	4
1962 July - December	5	5

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1963 January - December	5	6
1964 January - December	5	7
1965 January - December	5	8
1966 January - December	5	9
1967 January - August	5	10
1967 September - December	5	11
1968 January - December	5	12
1969 January - December	5	13
1970 January - June	5	14
1970 July - August	5	15
1971 January - December	5	16
1972 January - June	5	17
1972 July - December	5	18
1973 January - June	5	19
1973 July - December	5	20
1974 January - May	5	21
1974 June - December	5	22
1975 January - May	5	23
1975 July - December	5	24
1976 January - June	5	25
1976 July - December	5	26
1977 January - June	5	27
1977 July - December	5	28
1978 January - May	6	1

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1978 June - December	6	2
1979 January - June	6	3
1979 July - December	6	4
1980 January - May	6	5
1980 June - December	6	6
1981 January - December	6	7
1982 January - April	6	8
1982 May - December	6	9
1983 January - December	6	10
1984 January - March	6	11
1984 April - December	6	12
1985 January - February	6	13
1985 March - December	6	14
1986 January - April	6	15
1986 May - December	6	16
1987 January - March	6	17
1987 April - December	6	18
1988 January - February	6	19
1988 March - December	6	20
1989 January - March	6	21
1989 April - December	6	22
1990 January - June	6	23
1990 July - December	6	24
1991 January - April	7	1

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1991 May - December	7	2
1992 January - December	7	3
1993 January - July	7	4
1993 August - December	7	5
1994 January - July	7	6
1994 August - December	7	7
1995 January - December	7	8
1996 January - December	7	9
1997 July - August	7	10
1998 February - December	7	11
2000 January - December	7	12
2001-2007	7	13
2003 December - 2004 December	7	14
2005 January - March	7	15
2005 April - December	7	16
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2007 January - November	7	18
2008 January - December	7	19
2009 February - 2010 January	7	20
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Estey, Elizabeth S. M. 1986-1989	8	7
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Soils and Their Interpretations for Various Land Uses 1965	9	5
Cold Water Immersion Material, n.d.	9	6
Complete Catalog of Authors and Stories in Amazing Stories edited by R. B. Singer, n.d.	9	7
Continuing Medical Education 1976-1993	9	8
Daily Desk Calendar 1940	9	9
Diaries 1927-1934	9	10
Distinguished Physician's Award 1980-1981	9	11
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Episcopal Academy		
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Alumni Prize 1930	9	19
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Science Notebook 1929	9	23

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Graduate Physics 1934-1935	9	26
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania Intern 1939-1941	9	27
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Philosophy - Political Science 1933	9	29
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Alumni Material (1) 1969-1994	10	1
Alumni Material (2) 1969-1994	10	2
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Class of 1934 50th Reunion 1984	10	6
Correspondence 1928-1935	10	7
Course Schedules 1932-1935	10	8
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Medical Class of 1939 Alumni 1969-1979	10	10
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Publications Material 1969-2004	11	5
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Residence Havertown 1950-1952	11	9
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Singer, Margaret H. 2005-2008	11	12
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Singer, Richard B. Memorial Service 2010	11	14
Singer, Richard B. Obituary 2010	11	15
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Europe Travel Diary 1930	11	25
Grenadines, Windwards and Leewards Islands 1999-2000	11	26
Hawaii 1994	11	27
Mediterranean Trip Correspondence 1937	11	28
Mediterranean Trip Diary 1937	11	29
Mediterranean Trip Paintings 1937	OS 0	
New York City, Washington D. C. - Dr. Hezl 1922 1929	11	30
New Zealand 1995-1996	11	31
Norway 1997	11	32
SS Exhibitor to Mediterranean Travel Diary 1937	11	33
SS Exhibitor to Mediterranean Travel Documents 1937	11	34
Travel Papers - France 1930	11	35
Travel Seminars 2002	11	36
Trips 1980-1982	12	1
U. S. Navy		
1941-1946	12	2
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1950-1959	12	4
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Orders 1942-1946	12	7
Orders 1948-1967	12	8

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Vershire School 1975-1988	12	10
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World War II Medical Material 1942-1946	12	14
World War II Memorabilia 1944-1995	12	15
World War II Newsclippings 1946	12	16
York Harbor, Maine 1982-1990	12	17
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A. Baird Hastings Symposium 1965	12	18
Abstracts of Comparative Mortality 1975-1979	12	19
Acid-Base Correspondents 1956-1965	12	20
Acid-Base Material HUP Section (1) 1958-1963	12	21
Acid-Base Material HUP Section (2) 1958-1963	12	22
Acid-Base Miscellaneous Correspondence 1960-1968	12	23
Acid-Base Terminology Debate 1963-1965	12	24
Advanced Mortality Methodology Workshop 1991	12	25
Advanced Mortality Seminar #1 1989-1990	12	26
Advanced Mortality Seminar #3 1992-1996	12	27
Advanced Mortality Seminar #4 (1) 1993-1996	12	28
Advanced Mortality Seminar #4 (2) 1993-1996	12	29
ALIMDA and Medical Section Meeting Reports 1953-1966	12	30
ALIMDA and Medical Section Meeting Reports 1967-1973	12	31

ALIMDA and Medical Section Meeting Reports 1974-1978	12	32
ALIMDA Meeting		
1978	12	33
1979	12	34
1980	12	35
1981	12	36
1983	12	37
1984	12	38
1985	13	1
1987	13	2
1988	13	3
1989	13	4
1990	13	5
1991	13	6
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ALIMDA Research Center FU Articles (1) 1989	13	8
ALIMDA Research Center FU Articles (2) 1989	13	9
ALIMDA Research Center Inception 1987-1988	13	10
American Academy of Insurance Medicine Meeting 1992	13	11
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American Academy of Insurance Medicine Meeting 1994	13	13
American Academy of Insurance Medicine Meeting 1996	13	14
American Cancer Society Workshop on Cohort Studies 1983	13	15
American College of Chest Physicians Meeting 1980	13	16

American Council of Life Insurance Meeting 1987	13	17
American Heart Association Miami 1976	13	18
American Public Health Association Meeting 1978	13	19
Annals of Internal Medicine 1977-1990	13	20
Bar Harbor Medical Symposium 1983	13	21
Beck, Ivan T. 1997	13	22
Best's Reviews 1970-1976	13	23
Blackburn, Henry 1970	13	24
Blood Pressure Survey 1971-1977	13	25
Board of Life Insurance Medicine		
1976	13	26
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Course 1981	13	29
Course 1982	13	30
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Seminar (2) 1979	13	32
Seminar (3) 1979	13	33
Seminar (4) 1979	13	34
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Brackenridge Book Chapter Edits 1990-1991	13	36
Canadian Life Insurance Medical Officers Association Meeting 1987	13	37
Center for Evaluation of Clinical Procedures 1974	13	38
Charles C. Wolferth Committee 1991-1995	13	39

Colleges of Physicians of Philadelphia 1974-1989	13	40
Conference Acid-Base Terminology 1964	13	41
Conference Heart Disease in the Young 1977	14	1
Conference on Hypertension 1966	14	2
Consultant Work Insurance Tables 1983-1990	14	3
Course Small Computers for the MD 1982	14	4
Crosby v. U.S.A. 1998	14	5
Current Concepts of Acid-Base Measurement 1964	14	6
Directories and Ads Correspondence 1988-1998	14	7
Epilepsy Symposium 1966	14	8
Fifth Triennial Course in Life and Health Insurance Medicine		
(1) 1982	14	9
(2) 1982	14	10
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(4) 1982	14	12
Health Hazards Appraisal Meeting 1968	14	13
Heparin Studies 1994-1996	14	14
High Blood Pressure Pamphlet 1967	14	15
Hills, A. Gorman 1962-1963	14	16
Home Office Underwriters of New York 1974	14	17
Hypertension Conference Washington DC 1976	14	18
Hypertension Patient Compliance Symposium 1980	14	19
Hypertension Symposium Atlanta, GA 1973	14	20
Hypertension Symposium College of Physicians of Philadelphia 1979	14	21

Hypertension Treatment Program Mass Mutual 1979	14	22
Institute of Home Office Underwriters Meeting 1977	14	23
Institute of Home Office Underwriters Meeting (1) 1996	14	24
Institute of Home Office Underwriters Meeting (2) 1996	14	25
Insurance Medicine News and Reviews 1971-1981	14	26
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1982	14	27
1986	14	28
1989	14	29
1973	14	30
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Joint AAIM / ICLAM Meeting (1) 1995	14	32
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Journal of Chronic Diseases 1975-1981	14	34
Journal of Chronic Diseases Zejicek Article Review 1976	14	35
Life Table Methodology New Chapter Text (1) 1990-1998	15	1
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Life Tables: Methodology and Applications Lectures BLIM Course Litchfield Park, AZ 1982	15	4
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Medicolegal Services 1985-2006	15	11
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MMLC Meeting 2001	15	14
Mortality Compendium AIDS Articles 1991-1992	15	15
Mortality Compendium Marketing 1991-1994	15	16
Mortality Monograph Committee Meeting 1975	15	17
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1977-1988	15	18
#1 1990	15	19
#2 Abdominal Aneurysm 1991	15	20
#2 HIV 1990-1991	15	21
#2 Liver Transplant 1991	15	22
#2 Planning 1983-1991	15	23
#5 1996	15	24
#6 1980	15	25
Bob Wood Correspondence 1984-1986	15	26
Project (1) 1977-1982	15	27
Project (2) 1977-1982	15	28
Mortality Seminars Correspondence (1) 1986-1988	15	29
Mortality Seminars Correspondence (2) 1986-1988	15	30
Mortality Seminars Correspondence (3) 1986-1988	15	31
Mortality Tables Correspondence 1979-1990	15	32

Mudge, Gilbert H. 1980-1990	16	1
National Center for Health Statistics Conference 1991	16	2
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New England High Blood Pressure Council 1980	16	6
New England Life		
Blood Pressure Study 1981	16	7
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