

# Alfred Zack Gilman papers, 1946-2010

## Collection Overview

**Title:** Alfred Zack Gilman papers, 1946-2010

**Dates:** 1946-2010

**Extent:** 1.67 linear feet (4 boxes)

**Creator/Collector:** Alfred Zack Gilman

**Source of acquisition:** This collection was donated by Alfred G. Gilman.

**Repository:** UT Southwestern Archives and Special Collections  
Health Sciences Digital Library and Learning Center  
UT Southwestern Medical Center  
5323 Harry Hines Blvd., Dallas, TX 75390

## Rights and Access

**Access Restrictions:** The Alfred Zack Gilman Papers are open and available for research use. The collection contains some restricted materials with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

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**Preferred Citation:** Alfred Zack Gilman papers, UT Southwestern Archives & Special Collections, Dallas, TX

**Related Materials:** The Louis S. Goodman papers and the Alfred Goodman Gilman papers contains materials related to Alfred Zack Gilman.

**Arrangement:** The collection is currently unprocessed.

**Biographical/Historical:** Alfred Zack Gilman (1908-1984) was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut on February 5, 1908. He graduated from Yale University in 1928 and continued his studies there to obtain his Ph.D. in biochemistry. Gilman became a postdoctoral fellow in the Yale Department of Biochemistry in 1931, then moved to the Department of Pharmacology where he met Louis

S. Goodman. Together, they began teaching pharmacology at Yale and discovered that there was a lack of thorough and up-to-date textbooks on pharmacology. Dr. Goodman and Dr. Gilman originally used their textbook with Yale students, but colleague John Fulton heard of their endeavor and connected them to the Macmillan Publishing Company. Though the publisher was initially concerned about the size of the manuscript and the subsequent price, the first edition in 1941, of what would be fondly known as the “Blue Bible” (due to the cover of the book), immediately became a bestseller.

The first and second editions of the book were written solely by Gilman and Goodman, but it became clear that the task of updating the book with all of the evolving research was too time consuming for two people. They created a schedule to update the book every five years and enlisted other coauthors who specialized in different parts of pharmacology. Gilman served as editor for the book through the sixth edition before his death. His son, Alfred Goodman Gilman, served as an editor for editions six through nine after his father’s death.

Dr. Gilman left Yale in 1942 to serve in the army as chief of the Pharmacology Section, where he studied nitrogen mustard. After the war, Gilman became a professor at Columbia’s College of Physicians and Surgeons, and then chaired the newly formed Department of Pharmacology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in 1956. During this time, Gilman’s area of study shifted to focus on diuretics and kidney function. In 1973, he returned to Yale as lecturer. Alfred Zack Gilman died on January 13, 1984.

**Scope and Contents:** This collection documents the creation of the third and fourth editions of *The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics*, edited by Louis S. Goodman and Alfred Zack Gilman. The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence between Gilman, Goodman, their publisher, and other *PBOT* authors about rewrites and edits for the chapters of the third and fourth editions. Most of the correspondence was generated during the 1960s.

As editors, Goodman and Gilman coordinated the editing and rewriting through letters and chapter annotations. Also among the correspondence are letters from readers with corrections and reviews. There are also newspaper clippings, reprints, articles that mention Dr. Gilman, and journals with reviews of the book. Lastly, there is a biographical memoir from the National Academy of Science from 1996 and photographs of Dr. Gilman from the 1960s and 1970s.