Manuscripts and Rare Books Department
Swem Library
The College of William and Mary in Virginia

Form of material and dates: Amos Ralph Koontz (1890-1965) was a graduate of the College of William and Mary. He studied medicine at Johns Hopkins University and served in medical units in both the First and Second World Wars. Following World War II, he achieved international prominence in the field of hernia surgery. Koontz also attained the rank of Brigadier General in the Maryland National Guard. He was politically active, particularly in his criticism of socialized medicine, had membership in a wide range of professional and social societies, and traveled extensively throughout the world.

The collection is divided into personal and professional papers. The personal collection, which dates from 1865-1986, includes the correspondence of Amos Ralph Koontz, his wife Besse (Stocking) Koontz, and their son James William Koontz II. Also numbered among the personal papers are travel diaries, documents pertaining to both the College of William and Mary and Johns Hopkins University, and materials relating to social clubs and societies.

The professional collection, which dates from 1915-1970, contains correspondence relating mostly to the medical practice of Amos Ralph Koontz, political material, documents pertaining to military service, memberships in professional organizations, and newspaper and magazine article reprints.

Acc. no.; Number of items; Date Received; Source
86-35; 8 cartons; 17 Sept. 1986; Gift of James W. Koontz, Palm Beach, FL 33486
86-40; 1 ms. vol.; 17 Oct. 1986; Gift of James W. Koontz, Palm Beach, FL 33486
87-54; 10 packages; 5 Dec. 1987; Gift of James W. Koontz, Palm Beach, FL 33486
88-48; scrapbooks; 21 Dec. 1988; Gift of James W. Koontz, Palm Beach, FL 33486
89-40; 100 items; 14 Sept. 1989; Gift of James W. Koontz, Palm Beach, FL 33486

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Microforms available:
Other remarks:
AMOS KOONTZ PAPERS

Personal Papers

Box I: Personal Correspondence, 1865-1986

Folder 1. Biographical material of the Craves, Koontz, and stocking families, including genealogy charts and family and individual histories.

Folder 2. Biographical material of the Craves, Koontz, and Stocking families, including genealogy charts and family and individual histories.

Folder 3. 1865, 1871-72,1889. Original and photocopies of correspondence from Koontz and Craves family members.

Folder 4. 1904. Personal letters of Amos R. Koontz to his grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. James William Koontz.

Folder 5. 1907-1911. Papers relating to Professor C.P. Estes of the Williamsburg Institute, including a tribute on the occasion of his death.

Folder 6. 1910-1919, 1933. Correspondence between Amos R. Koontz and his parents and grandparents.

Folder 7. 1911-1915. Letters to Besse Erving Stocking from her brother David, Amos Koontz, and various friends and relatives.

Folder 8. 1911-1915. Letters to Besse Erving Stocking from various friends and acquaintances.

Folder 9. 1911-1938. Letters to Amos Ralph Koontz and Besse Stocking Koontz, including their marriage certificate.

Folder 10. 1916-1921. Letters to Besse Erving Stocking from her parents and brother David.

Folder 11. 1917. Letters from Amos R. Koontz to Besse Erving Stocking during his service with the American Expeditionary Force in World War I, France.
Folder 12. 1917-1918. Typed collection of letters from Amos R. Koontz to Besse Erving Stocking before their marriage and during his service in World War I.

Folder 13. 1917-1919. Letters of Amos R. Koontz to his parents and sister Pearl during his service in World War I.

Folder 14. 1917-1919. Correspondence Amos R. Koontz and Besse Erving Stocking during his service in World War I.

Folder 15. 1918-1919. Correspondence between Amos R. Koontz and Besse E. Stocking during his service in World War I.


Folder 17. 1918-1920, 1939. Letters from David Stocking, Besse Stocking's brother, and his wife Ada to Besse Stocking and Amos R. Koontz.

Box II: Personal Correspondence, 1865-1986

Folder 1. 1919. Correspondence between Ruth Stocking and Besse Stocking and their mother.

Folder 2. 1919. Correspondence between Amos R. Koontz and Besse E. Stocking.

Folder 3. 1919. Letters to Besse E. Stocking from various friends and relatives, including her sister Ruth Stocking and Amos R. Koontz.

Folder 4. 1919. Miscellaneous letters to Amos R. Koontz from his sister Edith Koontz and Mary C. Davis.

Folder 5. 1919-1920. Letters to Amos R. Koontz from Besse Erving Stocking during his employment at Hebrew Hospital and Union Protestant Infirmary.

Folder 6. 1919-1920. Letters to Amos R. Koontz from Besse Erving Stocking during his employment at Hebrew Hospital and Union Protestant Infirmary.

Folder 7. Letters to Besse and Ruth Stocking from their father Charles H. Stocking. A minister at a Methodist -Episcopal church in Wickliffe, Ohio.

Folder 8. 1920-1928. Letters to and from Amos R. Koontz and Besse Stocking Koontz.

Folder 9. 1920. Letters to Amos R. Koontz from Edith Johnson DeFord, who served as a nurse with Amos in the Johns Hopkins unit during World War I.

Folder 11. 1929. Letters of congratulations to Amos and Besse Koontz on the occasion of the birth of James William Koontz II, including a sample of his hair at 1 1/2 years old.


Folder 14. 1937-1938. Letters from Besse S. Koontz to sisters-in-law Pearl and Edith Koontz and sister Ruth and mother, including one letter from brother David Stocking to Ruth and his mother.


Folder 17. 1934, 1937-1939. Postcards to James William Koontz II from father Amos R. Koontz and Aunt Ruth Stocking; and letters from James William Koontz to Aunts Pearl Koontz and Ruth Stocking.


Folder 20. 1936-1938. Letters to and from James William Koontz II while on Barbados, including drawings and handwriting exercises.


Folder 22. 1936-1938. Letters from Besse S. Koontz to her mother and her sister Ruth Stocking Lynch.


Folder 25. 1937-1938. Miscellaneous letters to Besse S. Koontz during her stay on Barbados.

Folder 26. 1937-1938. Correspondence to Amos R. Koontz from a woman named Marjorie of Williamsburg, Virginia. (Closed until 2022. Box XXIV)

Folder 27. 1937-1939. Typed letters from Besse S. Koontz to assorted friends and relatives, including her husband Amos R. Koontz while on Barbados.

Folder 28. 1937-1940. Correspondence between Besse S. Koontz and Amos R. Koontz and their son James William Koontz II.


Box III: Personal Correspondence, 1865-1986

Folder 1. 1939. Typed letters and diary accounts from Besse S. Koontz and son James William Koontz II from Singapore and the Far East.

Folder 2. 1940-1941. Letters from Besse S. Koontz to husband Amos R. Koontz, sister Ruth, and mother from Mexico, Arizona, California, and Oregon.

Folder 3. 1940. Letters from Besse S. Koontz to Amos R. Koontz during her travels through Mexico, Arizona, and Louisiana.

Folder 4. 1941-1942. Letters from James William Koontz II to his parents Amos and Besse Koontz; and correspondence from Cooperstown Academy to Besse Koontz.

Folder 5. 1942. Holiday cards to Besse S. Koontz from Susan Ricker Knox, artist.

Folder 6. 1942. Letters from Amos R. Koontz to Besse Koontz during his service in World War II.

Folder 7. 1942-1943. Letters from Amos R. Koontz to his friends and colleagues during World War II service.


Folder 9. 1942-1943, 1945. Letters from Colonel Thomas J. Shryock to Amos and Besse Koontz, including clippings of Colonel Shyrock's war-time service.

Folder 10. 1943. Letters from Amos R. Koontz to his wife Besse S. Koontz during his service in World War II.

Folder 11. Letters from Amos R. Koontz to his wife Besse S. Koontz during his service in World War II.

Folder 12. 1944. Letters from Amos R. Koontz to his wife Besse S. Koontz during his service in World War II.
Folder 13. 1945. Letters from Amos R. Koontz to his wife Besse S. Koontz during his service in World War II.


Folder 15. 1946. Correspondence and accounts relating to James William Koontz II's summer in Mexico and California.

Folder 16. 1946. Correspondence and accounts relating to James William Koontz II's summer in Mexico and California.

Folder 17. 1946-1947. Correspondence relating to the hospitalization of Besse S. Koontz for depression. (Closed until 2022. Box XXIV)

Folder 18. 1946-1947. Correspondence relating to the hospitalization of Besse S. Koontz for depression. (Closed until 2022. Box XXIV)


Box IV: Personal Correspondence, 1865-1986

Folder 1. 1950-1956. Letters to Ruth Stocking Lynch from Amos R. Koontz, Besse S. Koontz, and James W. Koontz II.

Folder 2. 1950-1956. Correspondence between Ruth Stocking Lynch and Amos R. Koontz, Besse S. Koontz, and James W. Koontz II.


Folder 4. 1951-1965. Letters to Besse S. Koontz from various friends and relatives, including husband Amos R. Koontz and son James William Koontz II.


Folder 11. 1957. Guest list for the bachelor party and wedding of James William Koontz II.


Folder 14. 1962-1965. Letters to Amos and Besse Koontz from friends and relatives, including letters from Miss Elizabeth Shortt, James William Koontz II's fiancee.


Folder 17. 1965. Notes of sympathy and condolence on the occasion of the deaths of Amos R. Koontz and Besse S. Koontz; also contains pamphlets on cemetery plots and obituaries.


Folder 22. Notes of sympathy and condolence on the occasion of the death of Amos R. Koontz.

Box V: Personal Correspondence, 1865-1986


Folder 2. Assorted maps, travel guides, brochures, and souvenirs.

Folder 3. Assorted pieces of poetry and humor.

Folder 4. Catalogs of the Garrison Forest School of Garrison, Maryland.

Folder 5. Assorted hotel and restaurant menus.

Social Clubs and Societies (membership lists, letters, programs, and menus)

Folder 6. Papers relating to Amos R. Koontz's membership in the Confederate Historical Society.

Folder 7. Papers relating to Amos R. Koontz's membership in the English-Speaking Union.

Folder 8. Papers relating to Amos R. Koontz membership in the Jamestowne Society.


Folder 12. Papers relating to Amos R. Koontz's membership in Phi Beta Kappa.

Folder 13. Papers relating to Amos R. Koontz's membership in the Saint George's Society.

Folder 15. Papers relating to Amos R. Koontz's membership in the Society of the Cincinnati.

Folder 16. Papers relating to Amos R. Koontz's membership in the Society of the War of 1812.

Folder 17. Papers relating to Amos R. and James W. Koontz's memberships in the Theta Delta Chi fraternity.

Folder 18. Papers relating to Amos R. Koontz's membership in the University Club.

Folder 19. Papers relating to Amos R. Koontz's membership in the Virginians of Maryland, Inc.

Folder 20. Miscellaneous papers relating to Amos R. Koontz's Association with various social clubs and organizations.
Box VI: William and Mary and Johns Hopkins (graduation programs, letters, and news clippings)

Folder 1. Catalogs, programs, and magazines relating to Amos and Besse Koontz's Association with Johns Hopkins University.

Folder 2. Catalogs, programs, and magazines relating to Amos and Besse Koontz's Association with John Hopkins University.

Folder 3. Catalogs, programs, and magazines relating to Amos R. Koontz's life-long association with the College of William and Mary.

Folder 4. Catalogs, programs, and magazines relating to Amos R. Koontz's life-long association with the College of William and Mary.

Folder 5. Miscellaneous papers and letters relating to Amos R. Koontz's life-long association with the College of William and Mary.

Folder 6. Miscellaneous papers and letters relating to Amos R. Koontz's life-long association with the College of William and Mary.

Folder 7. Miscellaneous papers and letters relating to Amos R. Koontz's life-long association with the College of William and Mary.

Folder 8. Papers relating to student-alumni relations at the College of William and Mary.

Folder 9. Papers relating to the Honor Code systems of the College of William and Mary and the University of Virginia.

Folder 10. Papers relating to the Society of the Alumni of the College of William and Mary.

Folder 11. Papers relating to the College of William and Mary Alumni Chapter of Baltimore, Maryland.

Folder 12. Papers relating to the University of Virginia, alma mater of James W. Koontz, II.

Folder 13. Programs and magazines relating to Goucher College, alma mater of Besse S. Koontz.
Box VII: Trips, 1938-1963 (travel logs and itineraries)

Folder 1. 1938. Notes of Amos R. Koontz's trip through the American Midwest and Far West.

Folder 2. 1940. Itinerary of Besse and James W. Koontz's trip to Mexico, Arizona, California, Washington, Alaska and Canada.

Folder 3. 1948. Notes and itineraries of Dr. Amos R. Koontz's trip to the Far East.

Folder 4. 1951. Notes and itinerary of Dr. Amos R. Koontz's trip to Europe and Egypt.

Folder 5. 1952. Notes and itinerary of Amos R. Koontz's trip to South America.


Folder 11. 1957. Notes and itinerary of Amos R. Koontz's trip to the West Indies and Central and South America.

Folder 12. 1958. Notes and itinerary of Amos R. Koontz's trip to Russia, Poland, Bohemia, Scandinavia and the British Isles.


Folder 17. 1963. Itinerary of Dr. and Mrs. Amos R. Koontz's trip to Hawaii and return cruise to San Francisco, California.
Professional Papers

Box VIII: Professional Correspondence, 1915-1972


Folder 2. 1917-1919. Documents and letters relating to Besse E. Stocking's employment with the federal government as a technician artist.


Folder 5. 1919-1972. Receipts, bank statements, and account books of Amos and Besse Koontz and son James William.


Folder 7. 1930-1964. Papers relating to the personal medical history of Amos R. Koontz, including x-rays and examination results.

Folder 8. 1939-1955. Records of employees of Dr. Amos R. Koontz, including social security and Maryland state unemployment forms.

Folder 9. 1941-1956. Documents and correspondence relating to Amos R. Koontz's service as Medical Director and Advisor to Maryland Selective Service.


Folder 11. 1943-1965. Letters to and from Besse S. Koontz, including letters from the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences of the University of Virginia.

Folder 13. 1948-1958. Assorted correspondence, biographical material, letters to the editor, and membership applications of James William Koontz II.


Folder 15. 1946-1964. Correspondence, memoranda, and documents relating to Amos R. Koontz's service as consultant to the Surgeon General of the United States Army.


Box IV: Professional Correspondence, 1915-1972

Folder 1. 1953-1962. Papers of Amos R. Koontz relating to his service on the Committee on Veterans' Medical Care.

Folder 2. 1953-1962. Papers of Amos R. Koontz relating to his service on the Committee on Veterans' Medical Care.

Folder 3. 1957. Documents of Amos R. Koontz relating to his testimony on Senate rule changes.


Folder 12. Various personal and professional letters to and from Besse S. Koontz.

Folder 13. Miscellaneous personal and professional papers, including notes on books, music and quotations.
Folder 14. Miscellaneous personal and professional papers, including writing drafts and journals.

Folder 15. Miscellaneous personal and professional papers, including magazines, programs, and correspondence.


Folder 17. Medical drawings by Besse S. Koontz.
Box X: Military Service (Memoranda, orders etc.)

Folder 1. Memoranda and letters relating to Amos R. Koontz’s military service in Base Hospital 18 during World War I.

Folder 2. Various orders and documents relating to Amos R. Koontz’s military service during World War II.

Folder 3. Various orders and documents relating to Amos R. Koontz’s military service during World War II.

Folder 4. Letters relating to Amos R. Koontz’s views on the organization of the Armed Forces medical establishment.

Folder 5. Papers relating to Amos R. Koontz’s military service with the 20th Station Hospital during World War II.

Folder 6. Memoranda and letters relating to Amos R. Koontz’s military service with the 110th Field Artillery Battalion during World War II.

Folder 7. Memoranda and letters relating to Amos R. Koontz’s military service in the 18th General Hospital during World War II.

Folder 8. Memoranda relating to Amos R. Koontz’s military service with the 39th General Hospital during World War II.

Folder 9. Memoranda relating to Amos R. Koontz’s military service in the Pacific during World War II.

Folder 10. Memoranda and letters relating to Amos R. Koontz’s military service in New Zealand and New Caledonia during World War II.

Folder 11. Memoranda and letters relating to Amos R. Koontz’s service in the Maryland National Guard.

Folder 12. Memoranda and letters relating to Amos R. Koontz’s service in the Reserve Officers Association of Maryland.

Box XI: Political Activity (clippings, speeches, letters to the editor)

Folder 1. Miscellaneous letters and publications relating to the political activity of Amos R. Koontz.

Folder 2. Miscellaneous letters and publications relating to the political activity of Amos R. Koontz.

Folder 3. Various articles, speeches, and letters relating to Amos R. Koontz's involvement in fight against socialized medicine.

Folder 4. Various articles, speeches, and letters relating to Amos R. Koontz's involvement in fight against socialized medicine.

Folder 5. Letters, articles, and speeches relating to Amos R. Koontz's interest in civil rights matters and black genetic and psychological studies.

Folder 6. Articles relating to Amos R. Koontz's interest in the quality of American education.

Folder 7. Papers and letters relating to Amos R. Koontz's work with the Maryland Medical Political Action Committee.

Folder 8. Letters to the editor of The Baltimore Evening Sun and various politicians from Amos R. Koontz.

Folder 9. Letters to the editor of The Baltimore Evening Sun and various politicians from Amos R. Koontz.

Folder 10. Letters to the editor of The Baltimore Evening Sun and various politicians from Amos R. Koontz.

Folder 11. Letters to the editor of The Baltimore Evening Sun and various politicians from Amos R. Koontz.

Folder 12. Letters to the editor of The Baltimore Evening Sun and various politicians from Amos R. Koontz.
Box XII: Professional Societies and Organizations

Folder 1. Papers relating to Amos R. Koontz's membership in the American College of Surgeons.

Folder 2. Papers relating to Amos R. Koontz's membership in the American Medical Association.

Folder 3. Papers relating to Amos R. Koontz's work with the American Medical Writers' Association.

Folder 4. Papers relating to Amos R. Koontz's membership in the American Surgical Association.

Folder 5. Papers relating to Amos R. Koontz's membership in the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States.

Folder 6. Papers relating to Amos R. Koontz's membership in the Baltimore City Medical Society.

Folder 7. Papers relating to Amos R. Koontz's membership in the Clinical Club.

Folder 8. Papers relating to Amos R. Koontz's editorship of the Current Medical Digest.


Folder 12. Papers relating to Amos R. Koontz's membership in the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of the State of Maryland.

Folder 13. Papers relating to his editorship of Military Medicine.

Folder 14. Papers relating to Amos R. Koontz's membership in the Military Order of Foreign Wars.
Folder 15. Papers relating to Amos R. Koontz's work with the People's Union.

Folder 16. Papers relating to Amos R. Koontz's work with the Society of Medical Consultants to the Armed Forces.

Folder 17. Papers relating to Amos R. Koontz's membership in the Southern Surgical Congress.


Folder 20. Miscellaneous papers relating to Amos R. Koontz's association with various professional societies.
Box XIII: Newspaper, magazine clippings, and article reprints.

Folder 1. Various newspaper clippings about Amos R. Koontz.

Folder 2. Newspaper clippings to the College of William and Mary and Johns Hopkins University.

Folder 3. Various newspaper clippings sent to James W. Koontz II from his aunt Ruth S. Lynch.

Folder 4. Letters to the editor of The Baltimore Evening Sun by and about Amos R. Koontz.

Folder 5. Newspaper clippings on various political matters, especially socialized medicine.

Folder 6. Newspaper clippings relating to Amos and Besse Koontz's interest in polo playing.

Folder 7. Newspaper clippings of events of World War I and World War II.

Folder 8. Newspaper clippings of various wedding announcements, death notices, and society happenings.


Folder 10. Miscellaneous newspaper clippings.

Folder 11. Reprints of letters to the editor on medical topics by Amos R. Koontz.

Folder 12. Reprints of articles written by Amos R. Koontz on medical topics, especially hernia surgery.

Folder 13. Reprints of articles written by Amos R. Koontz on medical topics, especially hernia surgery.

Folder 14. Reprints of articles written by Amos R. Koontz on medical topics, especially hernia surgery.
Folder 15. Reprints of articles written by Amos R. Koontz on medical topics, especially hernia surgery.

Folder 16. Reprints of articles written by Amos R. Koontz on medical topics, especially hernia surgery.
Photograph, and Newspaper Clippings, Scrapbooks (Boxes XIV-XVII)

Box XIV.

Scrapbook 1. 1911-1941. Newspaper clippings from Luray, Virginia, and of obituaries, promotions, weddings, and social events in both the military and medical fields.

Scrapbook 2. 1928-1941. Newspaper clippings relating to Amos R. Koontz's interest in polo playing.

Scrapbook 3. 1929-1938. Photographs of James William Koontz II as an infant and young child, including his stay with his mother on Barbados, British West Indies.

Scrapbook 4. 1938-1959. Newspaper clippings of Baltimore society happenings, including weddings, promotions, death notices, and Theta Delta Chi fraternity events.

Scrapbook 5. 1941-1942. Newspaper clippings and photos relating to the military draft of World War II.

Scrapbook 6. 1941-1955. Newspaper clippings relating to Dr. Amos R. Koontz's medical practice, the College of William and Mary, Theta Delta Chi fraternity, and obituaries and wedding announcements.


Scrapbook 8. World War II photographs and postcards.

Box XV


Scrapbook 11. Photographs of Amos R. Koontz's military service during World War II. Also photographs of James William Koontz at the University of Virginia.

Scrapbook 12. 1946-1951. Assorted photographs and postcards relating to the Koontz family's travels through Europe, Asia and Africa.


Scrapbook 14. 1948-1950. Newspaper clippings relating to Dr. Amos R. Koontz's association with the College of William and Mary and Johns Hopkins University.


Scrapbook 17. 1952-1958. Clippings, photographs, and programs relating to Amos R. Koontz's military service, social activities, college fraternity reunions, and professional medical work.

Box XVI


Box XVII


Scrapbook 29. 1964-1965. World War I - era photograph and last written correspondence of Amos R. Koontz. Also included is an unfinished draft of Amos R. Koontz's biography by Mae Link.


Scrapbook 31. Assorted poems and questions collected by Amos R. Koontz.


Black buttons, probably belonging to a tuxedo or dress uniform of Amos Koontz. (A1)

Military insignia belonging to Amos Koontz. (A2)
Box XVIII: Photographs

Folder 1. Photographs and xerox copies of photographs of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stocking, parents of Besse Stocking Koontz.

Folder 2. Photographs of professors who taught Amos R. Koontz at Johns Hopkins Medical School.

Folder 3. Photographs of Besse Stocking Koontz during her days at Goucher College.

Folder 4. 1917. Courtship photographs of Amos R. Koontz and Besse Pearl Stocking.

Folder 5. Various photographs of Dr. Amos R. Koontz, in formal and informal settings with friends, relatives and professional colleagues.


Folder 7. Photographs of Besse Stocking Koontz, informal and formal settings with friends and relatives.

Folder 8. Medical/Surgical photographs belonging to Dr. Amos R. Koontz and medical sketches belonging to Besse Koontz.


Folder 11. Postcards and photographs of the Maori population of New Zealand and the Grand Canyon.

Folder 12. Miscellaneous and unidentified photographs of relatives and friends of Dr. and Mrs. Amos R. Koontz.

Folder 13. Miscellaneous and unidentified photographs.
Diaries, address books, notebooks, magazines, medical journals, medical school files, audio-cassettes of medical lectures, and medical reprints. (Boxes XIX - XXIII)

Box XIX.
Box XX

Medical textbooks, notebooks, and journals; records of the Maryland Selective Service; and ancestry records of the Stocking family. 51 volumes.
Box XXI

Bound copies of article reprints, passports, notebooks, and telephone and address directories belonging to Amos R. Koontz. 41 volumes.
Box XXII

Medical school filing system of Amos R. Koontz.
Box XXIII

Alphabetical filing of medical article reprints belonging to Dr. Amos Koontz. Also includes an index by subject matter. Compiled by Dr. Koontz.
Box XXIV

(Closed until 2022)
Oversized Files

Portrait of William H. Welch, professor at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. In medium oversize file.

1918. Certificate of commissioning in the Medical Section of the Army Officers Reserve Corps belonging to Amos R. Koontz. In medium oversize file.