



University of Pittsburgh

Origins of the WHO Definition of Health: Pittsburgh Threads

Donald S. Burke, M.D.

Dean, Graduate School of Public Health

University of Pittsburgh

24 January 2017

C.F Reynolds Medical History Society





WHO definition of Health

Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

Preamble to the Constitution of the World Health Organization as adopted by the International Health Conference, New York, 19-22 June, 1946, chaired by Thomas Parran.

Talk Outline

Introduction of key leaders

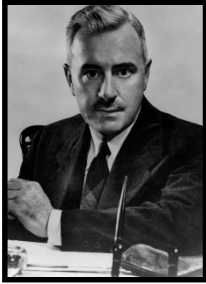
Creation of the World Health Organization

Crafting of the exact wording of the WHO definition of health

Conclusions

Some extra comments on the papers of Szeming Sze

Leaders in Creation of the World Health Organization



Thomas Parran / USA (Pittsburgh, USA)



Szeming Sze / China (Pittsburgh, USA)



Geraldo de Paula Souza / Brazil (Sao Paulo, Brazil)



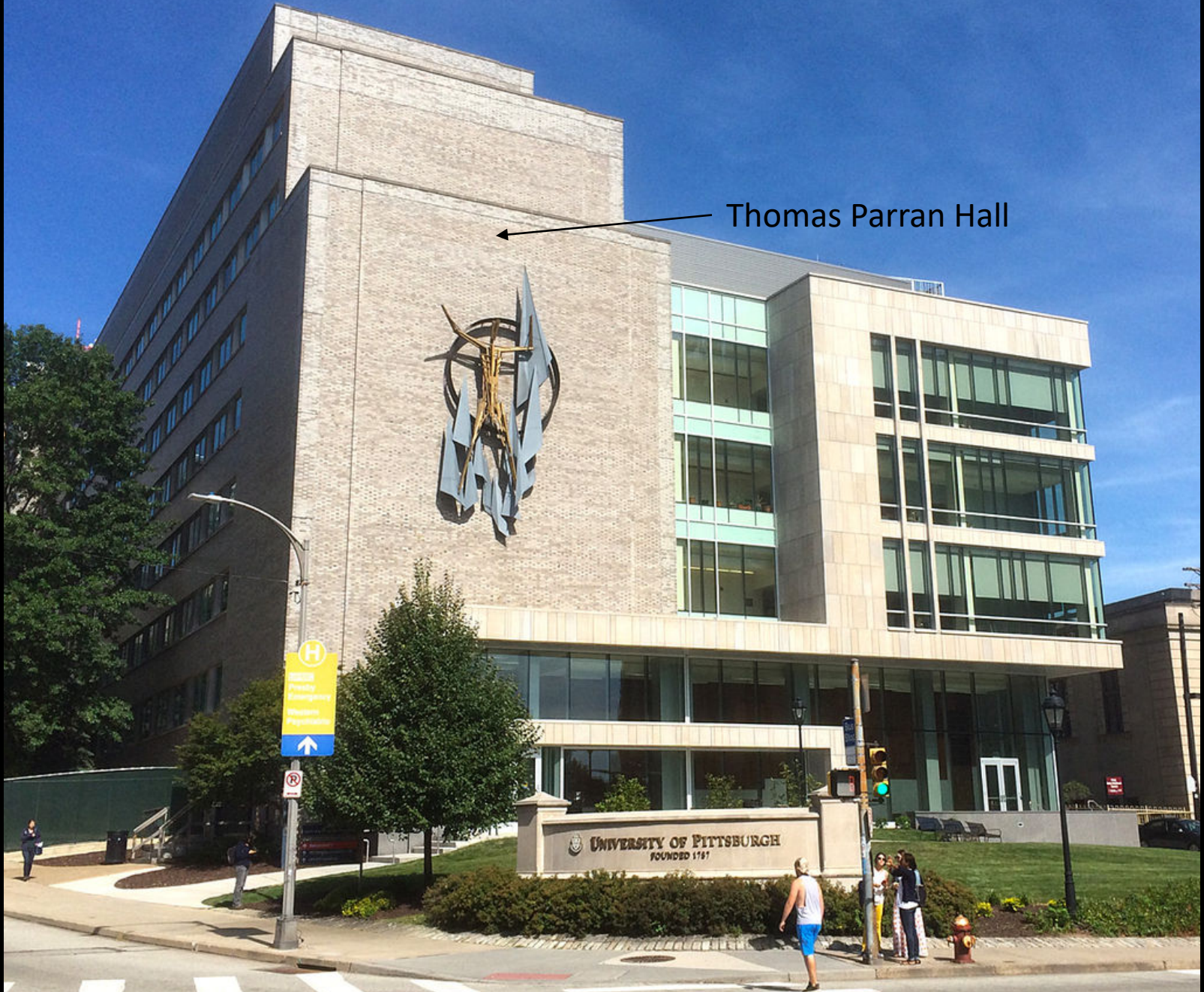
Andrija Stampar / Yugoslavia (Zagreb, Croatia)

Archives visited in preparation for this lecture



Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh

Thomas Parran Hall





October 26, 1936

Thomas Parran

US Surgeon General, 1936-48

Founding Dean, University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, 1948 – 1958

Thomas Parran Jr.

September 28, 1892 – February 16, 1968

- 1892 Born, St. Leonard, Maryland
- 1915 M.D. Georgetown
 - Volunteered with Joseph Kinyoun (NIH Dir)
- 1917 Commissioned in PHS
- 1926 Headed PHS Division of Venereal Diseases
 - Destigmatized Syphilis, Tuskegee
- 1930 NY State Health Commissioner under FDR
 - On committee that drafted Social Security Act
- 1936 Appointed US Surgeon General by FDR
- 1946 President of Constitutional Assembly establishing WHO (NYC)
- 1948 Became founding Dean, GSPH, University of Pittsburgh
- 1958 Retired, succeed by James Crabtree
- 1968 Died, buried in Arlington National Cemetery



Thomas Parran with President Roosevelt

60 DELEGATES SIGN HEALTH 'CHARTER'

AT U. N. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION MEETING

**Constitution for a New World
Organization Wins Wide
Acclaim at Assembly**

"A Magna Carta for health" is provided in the World Health Organization Constitution, signed yesterday here by sixty national delegates, Dr. Thomas Parran, president of the Constitutional Assembly, declared at the ceremony.

The United Kingdom and Chinese delegates affixed the only signatures to the Constitution that were tantamount to ratification, at the last meeting of the United Nations Health Assembly in the Henry Hudson Hotel.

Eighteen other delegates empowered to sign without reservation the new international health charter declined at the last moment to exercise their full powers. As a rule, their reservation was the result of domestic political considerations rather than any sudden loss of faith in the new health organization.

Stress on Psychiatry

Dr. Parran upheld the organization (to be created when twenty-six United Nations States have ratified the Constitution) as "a powerful instrument for peace," in which psychiatry would play its "urgent" part in removing the seeds of war. He said:



Dr. Thomas Parran of the United States addressing the session at the Henry Hudson Hotel yesterday. Also seen are Arkady M. Sobolev (left), acting Secretary General of the United Nations, and Henri Laugier, Assistant Secretary General for Social Affairs.

The New York Times

Announcement of a Special Lecture in Global Health at the Pitt School of Medicine January 2014

Szeming Sze Lecture in Global Health

Date	January 24, 2014
Time	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Speaker(s)	Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, FASTMH, FAAP Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine; Professor, Pediatric and Molecular & Virology and Microbiology; Head, Section of Pediatric Tropical Medicine; Baylor College of Medicine; Houston, TX
Location	LHAS Auditorium N734 MUH
Category	University of Pittsburgh - School of Medicine - Medicine - Division of General Internal Medicine
Contact	JoAnn Reed Senior Administrative Coordinator

412-692-4853
reedja3@upmc.edu

Description *Sponsored by the family of the Dr. Szeming Sze. Dr. Sze, the former Director of the United Nations Health Service, helped build the World Health Organization (WHO) into a specialized United Nations Agency. Dr. Sze was born in China. He received his Chemistry and Medical Degree at Winchester College and Christ's College Cambridge University and interned in Britain. His father was the Chinese Ambassador to Britain and later the Ambassador to the United States which helped Dr. Sze develop an early interest in international affairs. After World War II, Dr. Sze promoted establishing a single international health organization and wrote the declaration to set up an international conference to create WHO. He served as Chief of Specialized Agencies for the Economic and Social Council for the United Nations and later became a UN Medical Director in 1948, a position that he held for twenty years. Dr. Sze always had a global perspective in his work at the UN as he promoted the health and well-being of the entire international community.*

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE TECHNICAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

1. *The following members were present:*

- Dr. René SAND, Conseiller technique au Ministère de la Santé, Brussels, Belgium. *Chairman.*
- Dr. Manuel MARTINEZ BAEZ, former Chief Health Officer, Mexico City, Mexico, Representative of Mexico to UNESCO. *Vice-Chairman.*
- Dr. Brock CHISHOLM, Deputy Minister of National Health, Ottawa, Canada. *Rapporteur.*
- Dr. Gregorio BERMANN, former Professor, University of Córdoba, Argentina.
- Dr. Joseph CANČIK, Professor of Hygiene, University of Prague, Czechoslovakia.
- Dr. André CAVAILLON, Secrétaire général de la Santé au Ministère de la Santé publique et de la Population, Paris, France.
- Dr. Aly Tewfik CHOUCHA Pacha, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Public Health, Cairo, Egypt.
- Dr. Karl EVANG, Director General of Public Health, Oslo, Norway.
- Sir WILSON JAMESON, K.C.B., Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health, London, England.
- Dr. Martin KACPRZAK, President of the National Health Council, Warsaw, Poland.
- Dr. Phokion KOPANARIS, Director General, Ministry of Health, Athens, Greece.
- Major C. MANI, I.M.S. Deputy Public Health Commissioner, New Delhi, India.
- Surgeon-General Thomas PARRAN, United States Public Health Service, Washington, D.C., United States of America.
- Dr. Geraldo H. DE PAULA SOUZA, Professor, University of São Paulo, Brazil, Brazilian Embassy, Washington, D.C.
- Dr. Andrija STAMPAR, Professor, Rector of the University of Zagreb, Yugoslavia.
- Dr. Szeming SZE, Senior Technical Expert, National Health Administration of China, Chinese Embassy, Washington, D.C.

Szeming Sze

April 5, 1908 – October 27, 1998

1908 Born Tianjin, China

Father Dr. Soa-Ke Alfred Sze became Chinese ambassador to Britain and then to the USA

1925 M.D. Cambridge (England)

1934 Medical work in China

1941 Lend-lease for Chinese Government in US

1944 United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration

1954 UN Medical Director

1974 Retired to Florida

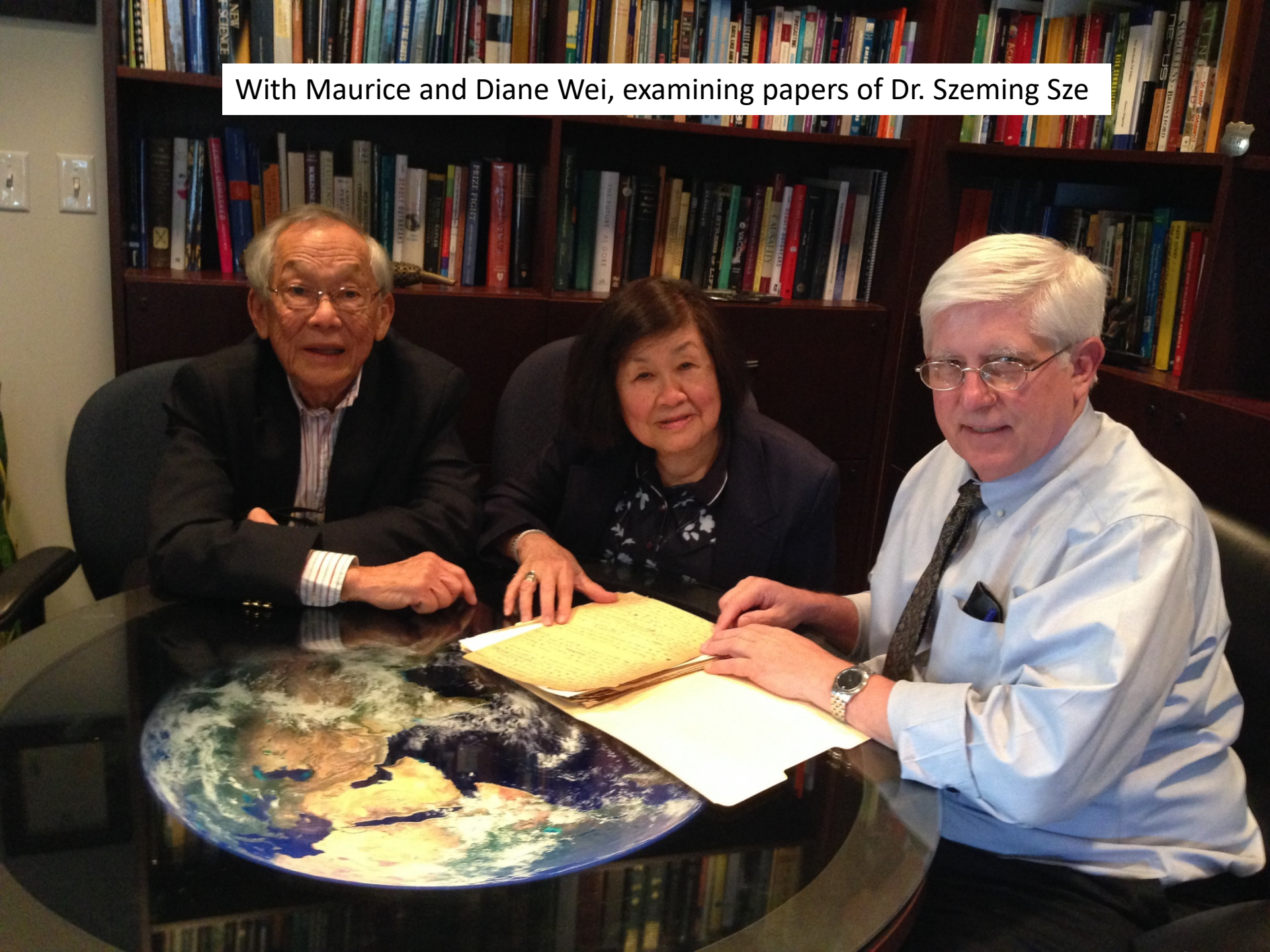
1993 Moved to Oakmont (Pittsburgh) to be near daughter & family

1998 Died in Pittsburgh



Sze family, 1941

With Maurice and Diane Wei, examining papers of Dr. Szeming Sze

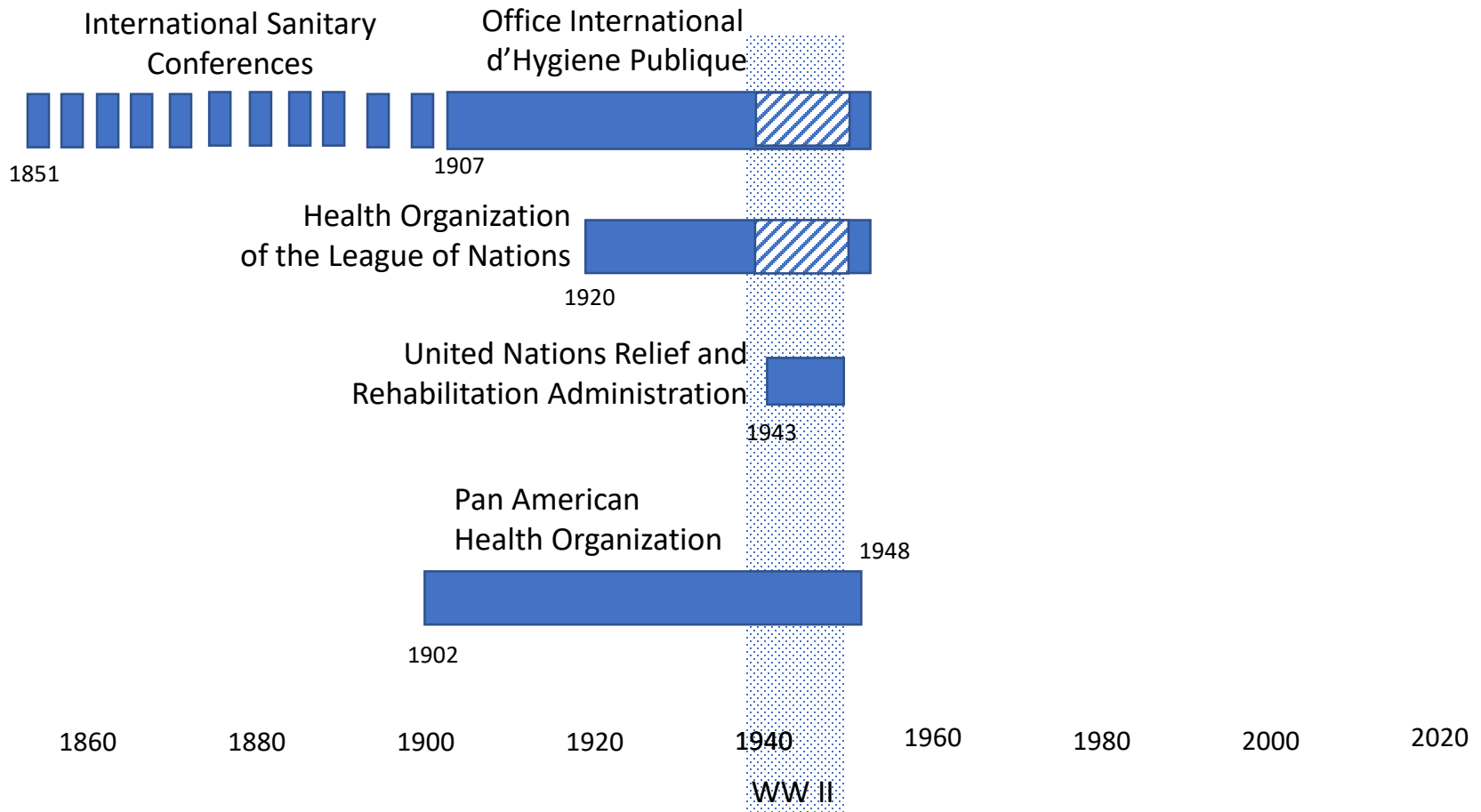




To Dr. Szeming Sze, with
warm regards and
much appreciation for
his friendship,
Thomas Parran

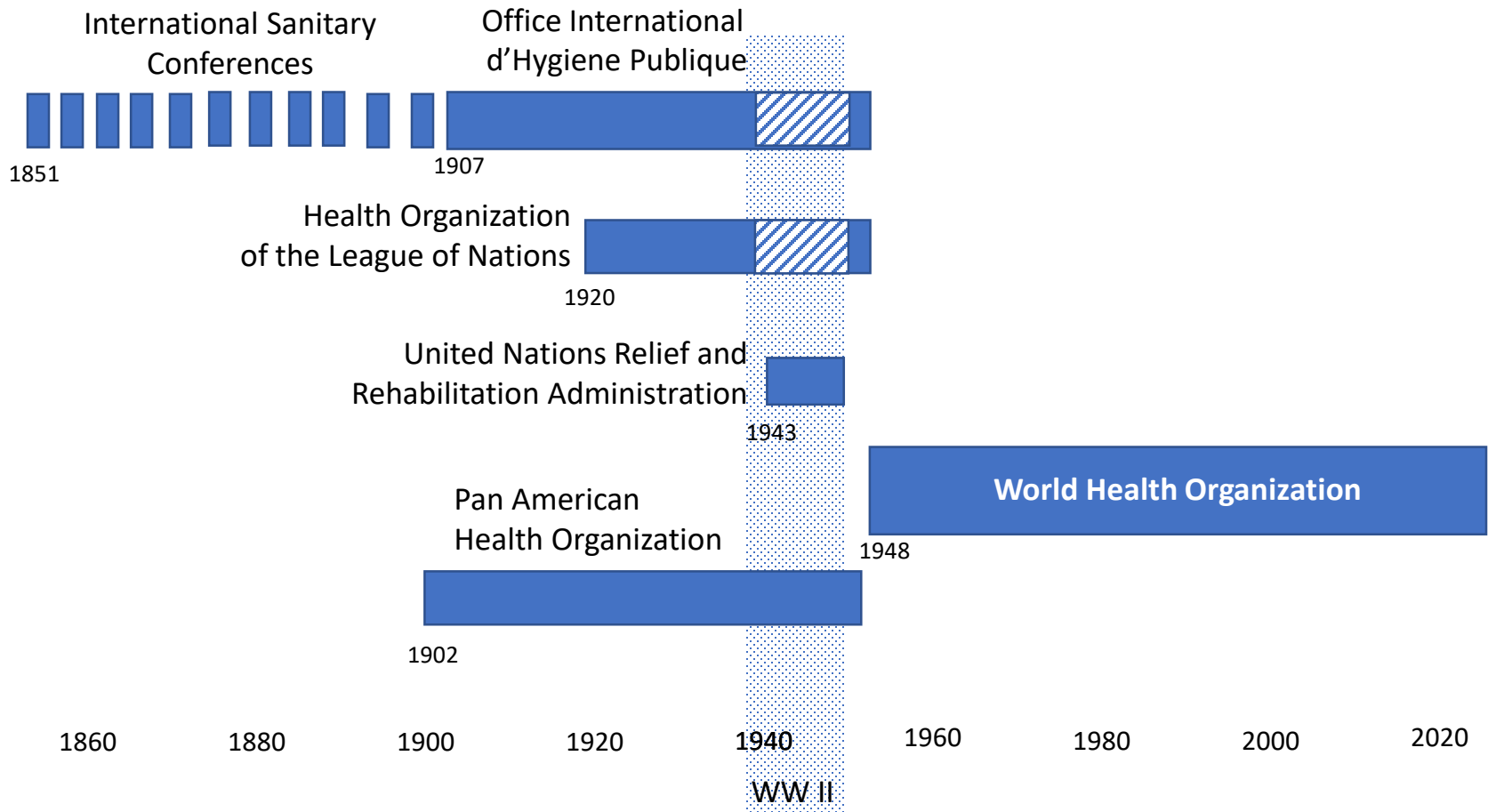
Creation of the World Health Organization

Timeline of Major International Health Organizations

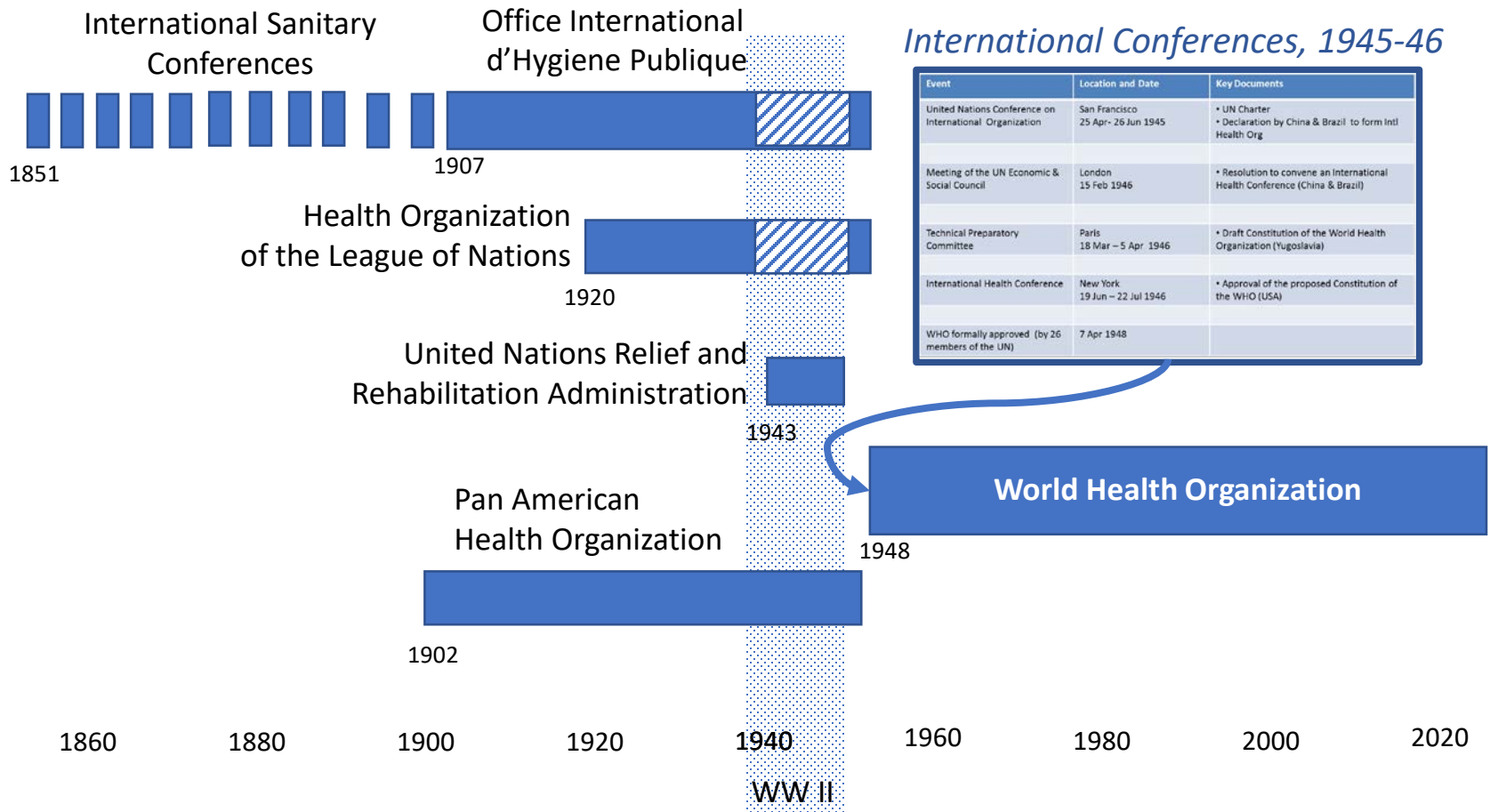


Timeline of Major International Health Organizations

[International Foundations: Rockefeller, Gates]



Timeline of Major International Health Organizations



International conferences leading to the creation of the World Health Organization at the end of World War II

Event	Location and Date	Key Documents
1. United Nations Conference on International Organization	San Francisco 25 Apr- 26 Jun 1945	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Charter established (Declaration by China & Brazil to form an International Health Org)
2. Meeting of the UN Economic & Social Council	London 15 Feb 1946	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution to convene an International Health Conference
3. Technical Preparatory Committee	Paris 18 Mar – 5 Apr 1946	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Constitution of the World Health Organization
4. International Health Conference	New York 19 Jun – 22 Jul 1946	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of the proposed Constitution of the WHO



Drs. Souza and Sze, at San Francisco

Geraldo Horácio de Paula Souza

July 5, 1889 – May 2, 1951

- 1889 Born, Itu, Sao Paulo, Brazil
- 1915 MD, Univ Sao Paulo
(visited medical institutes in Europe)
- 1920 DrPH, Johns Hopkins
- 1922 Faculty of Medicine, Univ Sao Paulo
- 1922 Created Sanitary Service of Sao Paulo
Director of State Public Health Service
- 1932 Founded School of Hygiene and Public Health,
Univ Sao Paulo
- 1947 President, Brazilian Society of Hygiene
- 1951 Died



Portrait of de Paula Souza,
Public Health Dean's Office,
Univ Sao Paulo

Chinese Delegation to the United Nations

CO 1946, 13A
49 PORTLAND PLACE
LONDON W 1

4th February, 1946

Dr. G. da Paula Souza,
Health Division of U.N.R.R.A.,
1523, New Hampshire Avenue N.W.,
Washington D.C.

rec'd - 11/2/1946

My dear Dr. Souza,

I am sending you a copy of our resolution which probably will be discussed next Tuesday. As we did in San Francisco, the necessary lobbying has been done and I am quite confident that it will be passed unanimously. Dr. Stampar of Yugoslavia will second the resolution, and after he has spoken Mr. Winant will formally state the readiness of the United States Government to act as the host for the conference. We will then propose a second resolution to the effect that the Economic and Social Council requests the United States Government to convene the conference. Dr. Stampar is not quite so happy about this second resolution, because he thinks that the Russians may not like it, so I have got the Cuban Delegate to second it.

We miss you very much at this conference. However, I am grateful to you for your introduction to Mr. de Freitas-Vallé, who put me in touch with Dr. Paulo Carneiro, who represents the Brazilian Delegation on Committee 3. Dr. Carneiro is a chemist at present doing some work at the Pasteur Institute in Paris and is also Assistant Director of the Brazilian Information Bureau in Paris. He has been very co-operative and has kindly undertaken to speak for us to the four Latin-American members of the Economic and Social Council.

Will you please give my regards to Dr. Bryan and other friends in the office. I have already seen Dr. Goodman here and am looking forward to seeing more of him and others in his office after my present work in connection with the Health Resolution has been completed.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Amishe

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Andrija Štampar

1 September 1, 1888 – 26 June 26, 1958

- 1888 Born, Brodski Drenovac, Croatia
- 1911 MD, University in Vienna
- 1913 District Health Officer in Yugoslavia
- 1919 Director of Yugoslav Health Service (in Belgrade)
Launched “Peasants University”
- 1931 Removed in political turmoil of 1931
 - “ Consultant on Intl Health to League of Nations
- 1939 Professor and Med School Dean at Zagreb University
- 1943 Held by Nazis in detention camp in Graz, Austria
- 1945 Freed by Red Army (May)
 - “ Dean School of Public Health -> Rector
- 1946 Chairman, Interim Commission of the WHO
- 1948 Presided over inaugural World Health Assembly
- 1958 Died, buried in Zagreb



Bust of Andrija Štampar
WHO, Geneva

“The bear of the Balkans”

February 21, 1946

Letter No. 8

Dr. P. Z. King
National Health Administration
Chungking, China

Dear Doctor King:

6. Dr. Stampar, whom you will remember as having been in China on a League of Nations mission, was the Yugoslav representative on Eco Soc, and at first we thought that he could help us to get Russian support. Unfortunately, we found later that he was not only of little help but, in fact, confused the situation; he is now quite advanced in age and undoubtedly suffered during the war, when he was kept by the Germans in a concentration camp, and I believe that these factors explain his confusion of thought. Dr. Stampar could have been of unusual assistance in that on Russian pressure he had been elected Vice President of Eco Soc, and he could have used the prestige of that position to facilitate our health proposals, but, unfortunately, he allowed himself to be guided purely by

political motives in bowing to Russian wishes on every occasion. Many of us are quite afraid of the consequences for the success of our enterprise if he should be chosen, by the weight of his prestige as Vice President of Eco Soc, to be the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee and later of the conference.

CO 1946.19 6

CONFIDENTIAL

Possibility of a Meeting of the Permanent
Committee of the Paris Office

After the departure of Dr. Stampar the drafting committee of ESC deleted from the text adopted at the meeting of February 8 the request to the Chairman of the Permanent Committee of the Office not to hold the meeting scheduled in April and any other meetings in the field of international health.

This move would mean that the Chairman of the Office committee is free to call the meeting in April.

That some such action is possible is confirmed by a recent visit of Dr. Cavaillon accompanied by Dr. Pierret to the Quai d'Orsay.

Mar. 13, 1946

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LEAGUE OF NATIONS
REGISTRY
RECEIVED
27 FEB 1946
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copy sent R. ...
Dear Professor Stampar,

You may remember that immediately after the meeting of the Economic and Social Council, Mr. J. D. Tomlinson, its Secretary, asked me to undertake the secretaryship of the forthcoming Health Preparatory Commission and of the Health Constituting Conference. He confirmed his request the next day, promising to see Mr. Lester to arrange for administrative League permission to undertake this U.N.O. work. I left hurriedly London the following day, Sunday 10th, in order to arrange as quickly as possible in Geneva the business of my Service - which had accumulated in my absence - and be able to return to London to take up these new U.N. duties in good time before the expected March meeting of the Health preparatory Commission. Much to my dismay, no word of document came from London until yesterday 25th, when I received a copy of the Journal of the Council and of its resolutions - which I had requested by telegram.

I append herewith a copy of the latest version of the health resolutions adopted. So far, in spite of an air-mail request to Mr. Tomlinson, sent on February 20th, for precisions as to my duties and status, I have had no reply.

This silence and the changes in the resolutions since the Council discussion of the 8th are disturbing.

The main changes in the resolutions are:

1. The omission of any reference to the suppression of the meeting of the Permanent Committee of the Paris Office and other health conferences before the Health Constituting Conference.
2. The enlargement in the list of experts and the omission of my name and of any Russians (even if not specified by name, their place should have been reserved and mentioned as such).
3. Representatives of the Panamerican Sanitary Bureau, the Office, Unrra and the League Health Organisation are placed on the same footing for consultative representation.
4. The meeting of the Preparatory Commission is to be held in Paris while originally planned in London.
5. The seat of the Constituting Conference has not yet been selected, but the French Government suggested it again should take place in Paris.

These various changes will facilitate the influence of the Office, or rather its Director, at all stages of the proceedings and probably indicate also the result of this influence. Not knowing yet my own position, it is difficult for me to act and make arrangements for the

- 2 -

defence of the plans that I have at heart. If I am U.N.O. Secretary of the Preparatory Commission, the Health Organisation might be represented by Professor Parisot, who, in Paris, would carry weight, with Dr. Gautier as alternate; on the other hand, if I am not Secretary, the choice between Dr. Gautier and myself as alternate is debatable. At any rate, both of us have been in recent years in a better position to study and discuss constitutions for health institutions than Prof. Parisot. In fact, from the wording of the resolutions, it seems more probable that the international administrations concerned should be represented by officials of their secretariat rather than heads of their directing committees. Our legal adviser shares this view.

Whatever the case may be, I can only hope that you will be present in the Preparatory Commission and make your influence felt there, so that part at least of the harm done behind your back in London after you left may be repaired.

As you are a member of the Economic and Social Council and as the proposals of the experts will have to be submitted to that body before they are submitted to the Health Conference, your word is bound to carry weight. I am, at any rate, putting correcting touches in the draft constitution that you have in your hands and shall have soon the introduction completed along the lines you suggested. I shall let you have them as soon as possible.

I should be grateful if you could let me know by telegram of your decision regarding your attending the session of the Preparatory Commission in Paris. You might perhaps stop one or two days here on your way.

Hoping to see you soon and to have a chance to work again with you for our common purpose, I am, dear Professor Stampar,

Yours very sincerely

Dr. Yves M. Biraud

16, rue de Candolle, Geneva;
Telephone Nos.: Office 2 80 00
Apartment 4 56 87

Professor Dr. Andreia Stampar,
Gvozđ 7,
ZAGREB.

MEMBERS OF PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

(a) Dr. Stampar may attempt to nominate persons for the Preparatory Committee provided for by the Resolution.

(b) It should be pointed out to him that this can most appropriately be done under the provisions of the resolution by the member nations themselves.

(c) He might, if the Chairman agreed, introduce into the record the names of the persons whom he would consider competent.

(d) The important point is to humor Dr. Stampar and not antagonize him.

Crafting of the WHO definition of health

OFFICIAL RECORDS
OF THE
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

No. 1

MINUTES
OF THE
TECHNICAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
FOR THE
INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

HELD IN PARIS FROM 18 MARCH TO 5 APRIL 1946

Reynald Erard

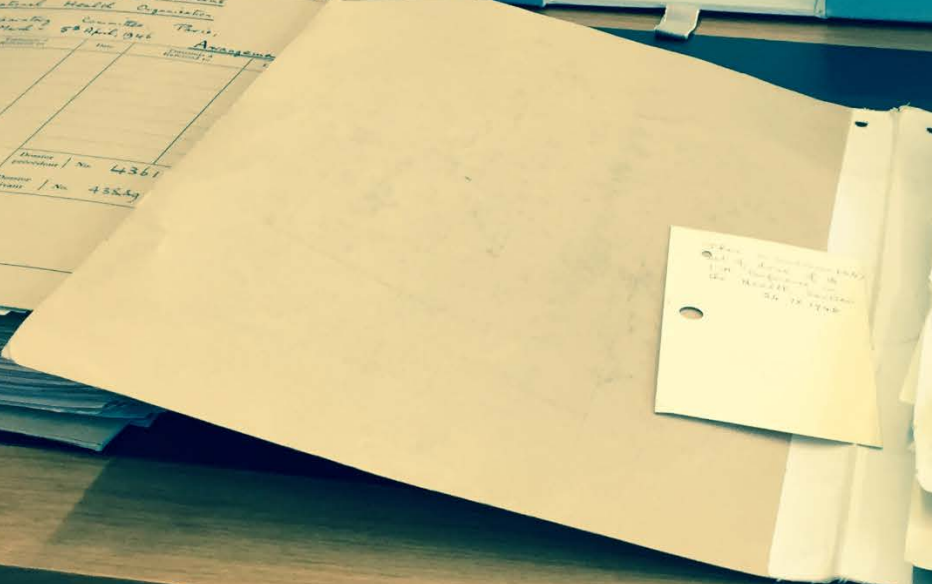
Archivist, WHO, Geneva



66150
LEAGUE OF NATIONS ARCHIVES
SERIES
UNITED NATIONS
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
FILES
1946

SOOCIETE DES NATIONS LEAGUE OF NATIONS
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
GENERAL
The No. (200-300) Tables
International Health Organization
Technical Training Centre
103 Rue de la Paix, Paris, France
Annex procedure No. 42361
Document No. 45247

Country	Name	Address	Telephone	Remarks
Belgium	Dr. Brand			
France	Dr. B. B. B.			
Italy	Dr. B. B. B.			
Spain	Dr. B. B. B.			
Switzerland	Dr. B. B. B.			
U.S.A.	Dr. B. B. B.			



80/13/2

...in the Council...
...the fact that the U.N.E.S.C.O. was placed there...

20. FEB
Dr. T...

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MEMBERS OF SUB-COMMITTEES

1. *Drafting Sub-Committee.*

Dr. Brock CHISHOLM, *Chairman.*

Dr. K. EVANG.

Dr. C. MANI.

Dr. S. SZE.

2. *Sub-Committee on the Preamble.*

Dr. S. SZE, *Chairman.*

Dr. G. BERMANN.

Dr. Brock CHISHOLM.

Dr. J. CANČIK.

3. *Sub-Committee on Aims and Objectives.*

Dr. R. SAND, *Chairman.*

Dr. A. CAVAILLON.

Dr. A. T. CHOUCOA Pacha.

Dr. K. EVANG.

Sir WILSON JAMESON.

Dr. M. KACPRZAK.

Dr. P. KOPANARIS.

Dr. C. MANI.

Dr. T. PARRAN.

Dr. G. H. DE PAULA SOUZA.

Dr. A. STAMPAR.

4. *Sub-Committee for the Executive Organ.*

Dr. M. MARTINEZ BAEZ, *Chairman.*

Dr. G. BERMANN.

Dr. A. CAVAILLON.

Dr. M. KACPRZAK.

Dr. T. PARRAN.

5. *Sub-Committee for the Governing Body.*

Dr. M. MACKENZIE, *Chairman.*

Dr. J. CANČIK.

Dr. A. T. CHOUCOA Pacha.

Dr. P. KOPANARIS.

Dr. G. H. DE PAULA SOUZA.

Dr. A. STAMPAR.

6. *Sub-Committee on Resolutions.*

Dr. M. KACPRZAK, *Chairman.*

Dr. G. BERMANN.

Dr. P. KOPANARIS.

Dr. M. MACKENZIE.

Dr. A. STAMPAR.

7. *Sub-Committee for the Study of the Agenda of the International Health Conference.*

Dr. G. H. DE PAULA SOUZA, *Chairman.*

Dr. J. CANČIK.

Dr. A. CAVAILLON.

Dr. A. T. CHOUCOA Pacha.

Dr. M. MARTINEZ BAEZ.

Dr. T. PARRAN.

8. *Sub-Committee for the Study of Relations between Existing Health Organizations and the Future World Health Organization.*

Dr. A. CAVAILLON, *Chairman.*

Dr. A. T. CHOUCOA Pacha.

Dr. M. MACKENZIE.

Dr. M. MARTINEZ BAEZ.

Dr. T. PARRAN.

Dr. A. STAMPAR.



de Paula Souza

Sze

Stampar

Parran

PARIS MEETING - MARCH 15 to APRIL 9, 1946

1. Plane Trip

The plane trip to Paris by TWA was uneventful, and except for a talk I had with Doull my chats with Parran, Souza, Hyde and Maylott were on general lines. I told Doull about my Rockefeller Foundation study, and he did not seem to be interested or to see its significance. However, when I showed him my "organization chart" and told him I was interested in the Far Eastern Regional Office position, he showed considerable interest, and while he was noncommittal, he revealed a tendency to encourage me to return to NHA work in China.

2. Facilities in Paris

The hospitality showed by the French Government was excellent, and the facilities were very satisfactory. Both delegates and secretariat were accommodated in the Hotel du Palais d'Orsay, and conference rooms and offices were located in the same hotel, so that it was very convenient for all concerned.

3. Preliminary Consultations

Before the meeting there were the usual preliminary consultations regarding chairmanship, in which Jameson and Parran took the leading part. The names of Stampar and Cavaillon were both possibles; Jameson, who is a personal friend of Stampar of many years standing, handled Stampar and secured his agreement to the appointment of Sand. Parran handled Cavaillon, and in order to save French face, agreed that he, Parran, would propose Cavaillon as Chairman, but that Cavaillon should decline, saying his ministry duties prevented his giving the amount of time which the chairmanship required. Yates confided to me that the object of their policy was to have an English-speaking Chairman, and for that Sand was suitable.

Four Proposals Submitted for Consideration for the Establishment of an International Health Organization

1. Sir Wilson Jameson, United Kingdom
2. Surgeon General Thomas Parran, USA
3. Dr. A. Cavaillon and Dr. X. Leclainche , France
4. Dr. Andrija Stampar, Yugoslavia

Unfortunately, he [Stampar] was delayed for some days in arriving in Paris from Yugoslavia, spending those days in a stalled railway coach en route, as communications in that part of Europe were still disrupted after World War II. He arrived in a foul temper, to find Dr. Rene Sand of Belgium already chosen as chairman, a post he had expected to fill himself.

“Memories of An International Life”
Autobiography 1908-1993
By Szeming Sze
ISBN 0-9611428-8X

Dr. Stampar submitted a memorandum containing his views on a draft constitution for the future organization which was not very helpful. Instead the committee accepted virtually the whole of the draft constitution prepared by Dr. Parran and his USPHS colleagues.

“Memories of An International Life”
Autobiography 1908-1993
By Szeming Sze
ISBN 0-9611428-8X

Crafting of the WHO Preamble / Definition of Health

1. Andrija Stampar submitted draft

Whereas health is not only the absence of infirmity and disease, but also a state of physical and mental well-being and fitness resulting from positive factors, such as adequate feeding, housing, and training;

Crafting of the WHO Preamble / Definition of Health

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Whereas health is not only the absence of infirmity and disease, but also a state of physical and mental well-being and fitness resulting from positive factors, such as adequate feeding, housing, and training;

2. Szeming Sze subcommittee version

Health is not only the absence of infirmity or disease, but also a state of physical fitness and mental and social well-being

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2. Szeming Sze subcommittee version

Health is not only the absence of infirmity or disease, but also a state of physical fitness and mental and social well-being

3. Final Technical Preparatory version

Health is a state of physical fitness and of mental and social well-being, not only the absence of infirmity and disease

Crafting of the WHO Preamble / Definition of Health

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Whereas health is not only the absence of infirmity and disease, but also a state of physical and mental well-being and fitness resulting from positive factors, such as adequate feeding, housing, and training;

2. Szeming Sze subcommittee version

Health is not only the absence of infirmity or disease, but also a state of physical fitness and mental and social well-being

3. Final Technical Preparatory version

Health is a state of physical fitness and of mental and social well-being, not only the absence of infirmity and disease

4. Final WHO Constitution (adopted at NYC Intl Health Conference chaired by Thomas Parran

Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity

ZDRAVLJE JE STANJE POTPUNOG FIZIČKOG,
PSIHIČKOG I SOCIJALNOG BLAGOSTANJA,
A NE TEK PUKO ODSUSTVO BOLESTI I IZNEMOGLISTI.

USTAV SVJETSKE ZDRAVSTVENE ORGANIZACIJE, 1948.

POVODOM 80. OBLJETNICE OTVORENJA ŠKOLE NARODNOG ZDRAVLJA, 3.X.2007.



Jadranka Bosikov, Dean, Stampar School of Public Health, Zagreb

Where did Stampar get the wording?

From Raymond Gautier and Yves
Biraud, at the League of Nations

Yves Marie Ange Gérard BIRAUD
Head, Epidemiology,
Health Organization, League of Nations

Birthdate: October 23, 1900
Birthplace: Poitiers, Poitou-
Charentes, France
Death: Died May 29, 1965
in Neuilly-sur-
Seine, Ile-de-
France, France



Raymond GAUTIER
Director, Health Organization,
League of Nations

Birthdate: January 7, 1885
Birthplace: Geneva,
Switzerland
Death: Died 1957 in
Geneva



(3) The Health Organisation of the United Nations and transfer to the latter of the League's Health functions.

8A/42169/41755 IX
X
In Washington, I was the object of requests for advice regarding the constitution of the future Health Organisation from officials of the U.S. Public Health Service detailed to the State Department to make plans for the future Health Organisation: Dr. James A. Doull and Dr. L. L. Williams, together with ~~four~~ other officials of the State Department, Messrs. Otis, Mulliken, Hyde, Colderwood, and officials of the U.S. Public Health Service, Surgeon-General Parran, Dr. Crabtree, etc. I was the guest of honour in a luncheon at the Cosmos Club, followed by a one and a half hour conference with Surgeon-General Parran and officials of the State Department and Public Health Service on December 20th.

I was asked also views and suggestions about international health statistics by the Chairman of the international nomenclature committee and by the staff of the vital statistics service, U.S. Census Bureau. I had private conversations on the subject of the health organisation of the future with Dr. Boudreau (Milbank Foundation), Prof. Winslow (Yale University), and Dr. Andrew Warren, Acting Director of the International Health Board (Rockefeller Foundation). The latter expressed the desire to see a strong single international health organisation set up and hinted at the possibility of the Foundation's support for it to assume field tasks now carried out by the Foundation, i.e., individual study fellowships, schools of hygiene, special malarial control schemes, etc.

In London, I had further conversations with Dr. Mackenzie, Dr. Doull and Dr. Sze, "experts" on international health organisation of the British, American and Chinese Governments.

Dr. Stampar, Yugoslav Delegate, Vice-Chairman of the Social and Economic Council, two days after my arrival in London (January 30th), asked me to help him during the session of the Council to deal with health matters. He had in hand the draft Constitution of the Health Organisation prepared by Dr. Gautier and myself which Dr. Gautier had given him. We had many conversations regarding the preliminary work to precede the constituting international Health Conference; he wanted me to act as Secretary to an expert group to be formed to prepare the Conference. Together we drafted resolutions, etc. At his request, I had contacts with the French delegation regarding the merger of the Office International d'Hygiène Publique in the new organisation (this was proposed by the French delegate at the Council).

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cannot be covered.

This self-supporting Health Organisation should not only be a clearing house for public health questions of international bearing, but also an organism, aware of the importance of the medico-social problems of the hour, which it should approach with one object in view; the promoting of health for all, which means something quite different than the mere absence of disease.

Raymond Gautier.

Washington
May 31, 1943.

Where did Gautier & Biraud get the wording?

From prior writings of socially conscious health officials

Prefiguring the WHO Definition of Health, 1916

Health is sometimes regarded as **merely the absence of disease**, but, as has been pointed out by George C. Whipple, Professor of Sanitary Engineering, Harvard University, in a memorandum submitted to the Commission, that is not a complete conception of health. “Health is more than the absence of disease. It is something positive, and involves physique and vitality and it is mental as well as physical.”

Canadian Public Health Association

“Our definition of health – a condition of well being,
not mere freedom from obvious disease”

Public Health Journal, 1925, volume 16, page 461

“Health is, therefore, not simply the absence of disease: it is something positive, a joyful attitude toward life, and a cheerful acceptance of the responsibilities that life puts upon the individual.”

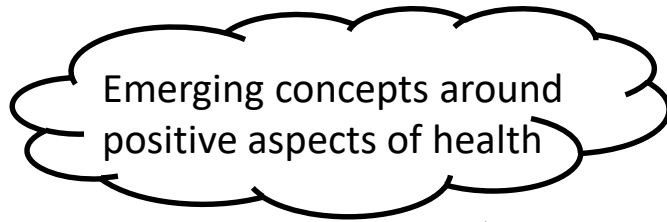
Henry E. Sigerist, M.D., D. Litt.

William Welch Professor of History of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University

Medicine and Human Welfare: Health

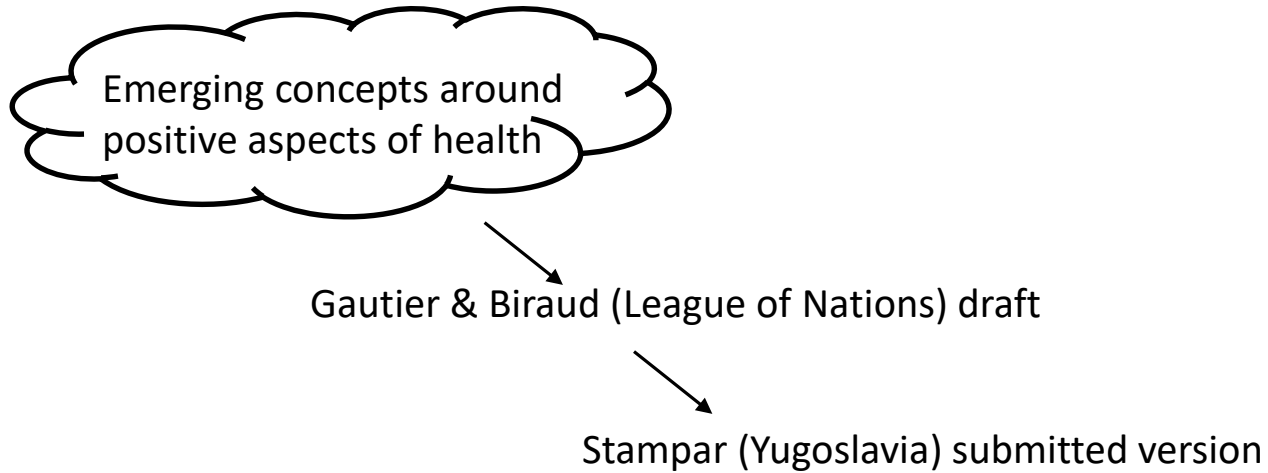
Terry Foundation Lectures on Religion in the Light of Science and Philosophy,
delivered at Yale University, 1940

Origins of the WHO Definition of Health

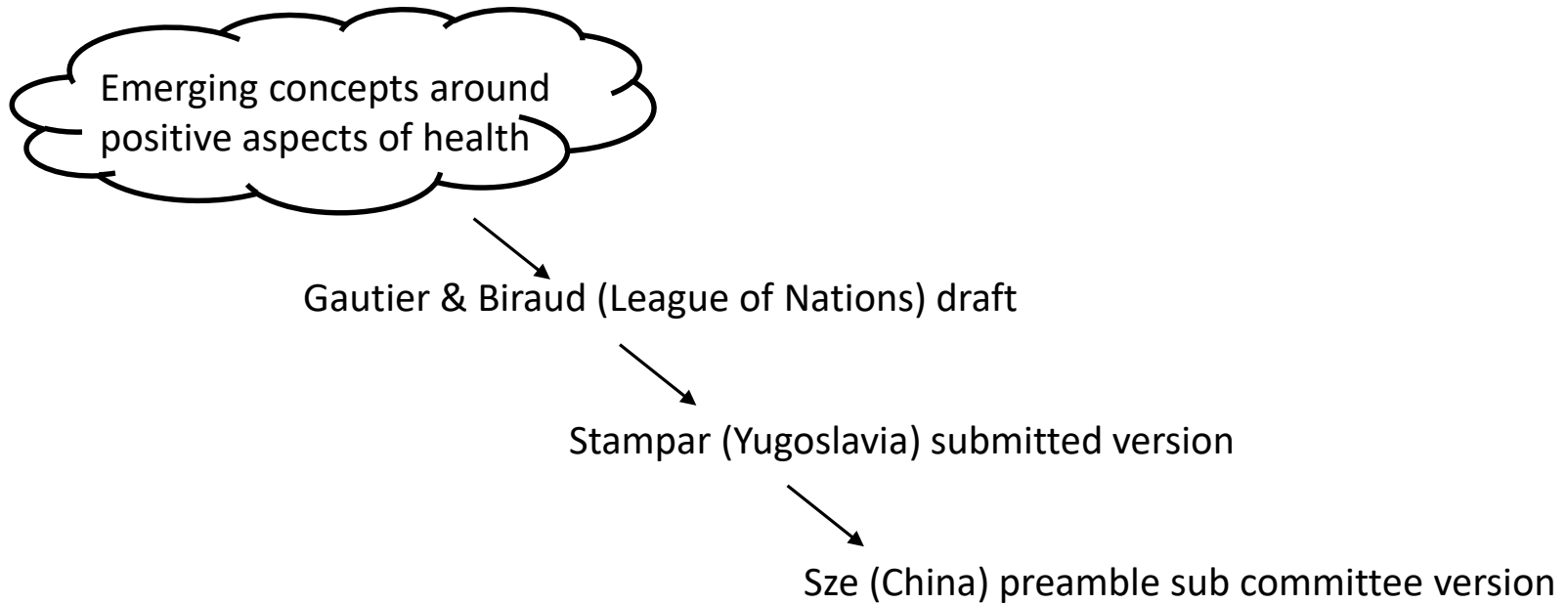


Gautier & Biraud (League of Nations) draft

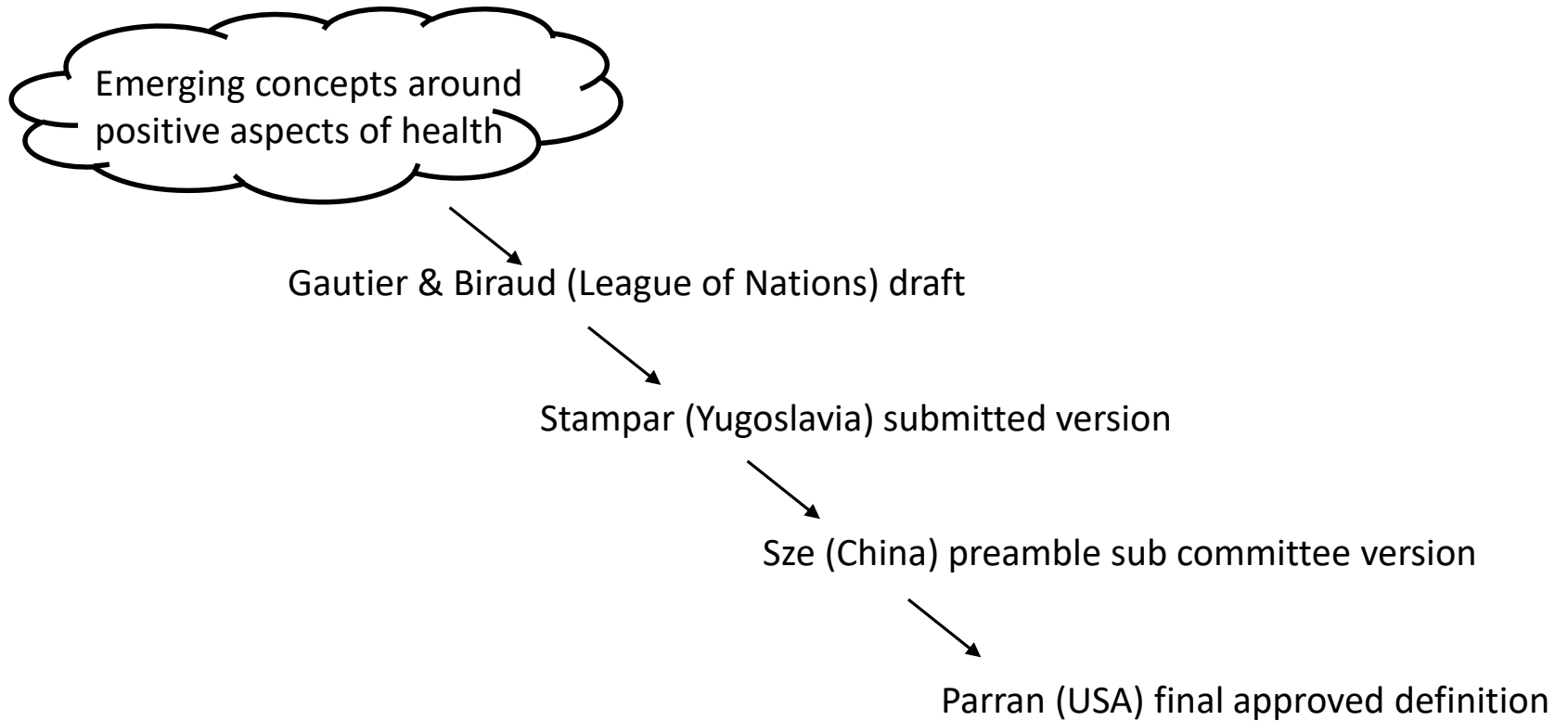
Origins of the WHO Definition of Health



Origins of the WHO Definition of Health



Origins of the WHO Definition of Health



Summary and Conclusions

The WHO definition of health, as put forward in 1946, was a broad and “modern” definition of health, with special emphasis on mental health and social determinants of health

This definition had its roots in a European, socially aware, positive concept of health, as put forward by the League of Nations and Andrija Stampar

The key international figures in the creation of the WHO were Parran of the USA, Sze of China, de Paula Souza of Brazil, and Stampar of Yugoslavia.

Remarkably, both Parran and Sze later moved to Pittsburgh, and both lived their final days here

The Sze papers and the Parran papers are in the Archives of the University Pittsburgh. Both are rich resources for understanding the emergence of the post-World War II organization of world health.

The Szeming Sze Papers

Archives and Manuscripts Collection, University of Pittsburgh Library System

Guides to Archives and Manuscript Collections at the University of Pittsburgh Library System

Home Search Bookbag Help

Your bookbag has 0 Items

Summary Information

Title: Szeming Sze Papers
Collection Number: UA.90.F14.1
Creator: Sze, Szeming

Collection Dates: Bulk, 1945-1947
Collection Dates: 1945-1988
Extent: 0.5 linear feet (plus 1 VHS tape)

Language: English

The bulk of the material in this collection is in English; however a few documents are written in Chinese characters.

Abstract:

Dr. Szeming Sze was a prominent Chinese medical expert who was instrumental in the creation of the World Health Organization (WHO). The collection consists of his notes, correspondence, and documents from the United Nations Conference in 1945 and the subsequent creation of the WHO. Digital reproductions of the collection are available online.

Publisher:

ULS Archives Service Center
University of Pittsburgh Library System
7500 Thomas Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA, 15260
[412-648-3232](tel:412-648-3232)
archives-ref@mail.pitt.edu

Date Published:

September 2014

Author:

Finding aid prepared by Kathleen Donahoe.

Biography

Dr. Szeming Sze (Chinese: 施思明, Pinyin: Siming Shi) was born in what is now Tianjin, China, on April 5, 1908. His father, Dr. Alfred Sao-ke Sze (施肇基, Zhaoji Shi), was China's ambassador to Great Britain at the time, and the younger Sze spent much of his childhood in London. Sze was educated at Cambridge, and began working at St. Thomas Hospital in London. His work at this location, in a less affluent area of the city, persuaded Sze to focus on medicine as a form of public service instead of a way to make money. Sze returned to China in 1934, though he traveled to the United States often.

Szeming Sze letter to his parents from the Paris Technical Preparatory Committee 25 March 1946

Hotel du Palais d'Orsay,
Quai d'Orsay,
Paris.

25 March 1946.

My dear Father & Mother,

It is just over a week since Lucinda in Paris. The plane trip was quite successful, although for the first part of the trip the heating went wrong and when we stopped at Gauder felt like a frozen icicle. Lily Pons, ^(the singer) was one of the passengers; she had lent me or her Chinese professor from Lou Yu-tang - He Szeik, some jet set flyers. Dr. Perron, Souza, Doll etc. was interesting travelling companions in that we had plenty of opportunities to discuss our subject together.

The French Government has made excellent arrangements for us in this hotel, which is next to the railway station, Quai d'Orsay. It is a few blocks from the Seine River, within a few yards of Moinai's 14th apartment in Rue de Lille. We each have a bedroom with bathroom, central heating and running hot water, with meals at special "subsidised" rates. For instance, breakfast costs us 50 francs, lunch or dinner 150 francs; the same meal for the public would be between 1,000 + 2,000 francs!! My room costs 350 francs a day, so my daily hotel bill is only about 700 francs.

The French Government has very considerably arranged for our meetings to be held in our hotel, thus solving to a great extent the question of transportation, which is a very acute one. We meet all morning + up till 4:30 in the afternoon, + as I have been put on the Drafting Sub-Committee, this means some extra work ^{as well} outside these hours.

P.S. Enclosed is a letter from Wilton, which is self-explanatory.

Social functions have fully taken up all other available hours. Besides occasional lunches & dinners, (including a supper lunch given by H. Bidault at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), we have meetings or cocktail parties practically every day between 5:30 + 7:30 p.m., and conducted night-long hours on Saturday afternoons + Sundays.

The Ambassador of China Tsien has been more than kind to me. After I had made my gift of a wallet (plus a few dozen fresh eggs bought on route in Ireland) he called formally at my hotel + invited me to dinner. Last night they took me to the theatre, a rather nice initiative he is giving a cocktail ^{party} at the end of this week in honor of the members of our conference. I have also been invited to dinner given by the Chinese Embassy Attaché + the Director of the Chinese News Service. The latter took me to a Chinese restaurant (P.S.), the proprietor of which is Chong Nam, who used to own Hong Tai Lee at Oxford Circus. He + his sister received me like a long lost relative + have a standing invitation to dinner ^{any time I can get away!}

Paris, as far as I can see, has not suffered at all by bombing, although I am told some military objectives in the outlying districts were hit. Ordinarily things seem fairly normal, + the people seem well dressed + well-nourished. But they are obviously disheartened + demoralised. One can see this readily in their lack of confidence in their currency, + in their expenses for U.S. + British currency. At the official rate U.S. \$1 = 116 francs; as black market rates it is 260 fr. but will rise in a few days. Love from Szeming.

Hotel du Palais-d'Orsay,
Quai d'Orsay,
Paris.

25 March 1946.

My dear Father & Mother,

It is just over a week since I arrived in Paris. The plane trip was quite uneventful, although for the first part of the trip the heating went wrong and when we stopped at Gander I felt like a frozen icicle. Lily Pons^(the singer) was one of the passengers; she had learnt one or two Chinese phrases from Lin Yu-tang & Hu Shih, & we got along fine. Drs. Parran, Souza, Doull etc. were interesting travelling companions in that we had plenty of opportunities to discuss our subject together.

Hotel du Palais d'Orsay
Quai d'Orsay
Paris
25 March 1946

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The French Government has very considerately arranged for our meetings to be held in our hotel, the solving to a great extent the question of transportation, which is a very acute one. We meet all morning and up until 430 in the afternoon and as I have been put on the Drafting Subcommittee, this means some extra work as well outside these hours.

PS Enclosed is a letter from Hilton, which is self-explanatory.

Social functions have been fully taken up all other available hours. Besides occasional lunches and dinners, (including a sumptuous lunch given by M. Bridault at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), we have receptions or cocktail parties practically every day between 5:30 and 7:30 PM, and conducted sightseeing tours on Saturday afternoons and Sundays.

The Ambassador and Madame Tsien have been more than kind to me. After I had made my gift of a wallet (and 2 dozen fresh eggs brought en route in Ireland!) he called formally at my hotel and invited me to dinner. Last night they took me to the theater, and on his own initiative he is giving a cocktail party at the end of this week in honor of the members of our conference. I have also been invited to dinner given by the Chinese Military Attaché and the Director of the Chinese News Service. The latter took me to a Chinese restaurant, the proprietor of which is Chang Nam, who used to own Hung Far Low at Oxford Circus ; he and his brother receive me like a long lost relative and I have a standing invitation to dinner there anytime I can get away!

Paris, as far as I can see, has not suffered at all by bombing, although I am told some military objectives in the outlying districts were hit. Outwardly things seem fairly normal, and the people seem well-dressed and well nourished. But they are obviously disheartened and demoralized. One can see this readily in their lack of confidence in their currency and in their eagerness for US and British currency. At the official rate of US one dollar fetches 116 francs; at black market rates it is 260 francs. Will write again in a few days.

Love from Szeming

VIDEOS

- DE PAULA SOUZA FAMILY, TO SZEMING SZE
- ANDRIJA STAMPAR AT THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

Acknowledgements

Country	Last Name	First Name	Position
USA	Fee	Elizabeth	Historian, NLM
	Wei	Diane	Donor of Sze papers
	Dabrishus	Michael	Archivist, Univ Pittsburgh
Switzerland	Erard	Reynald	Archivist, WHO, Geneva
	Obserson	Jacques	Archivist, League of Nations, Geneva
	Lin	Yi-Tang	Grad Student, Univ Lausanne
Germany	Borowy	Iris	Historian, Aachen Univ
France	Zylberman	Patrick	Historian, CNRS
Croatia	Bozиков	Jadranka	Dean and Professor, A Stampar SPH, Univ Zagreb
	Kovačić	Luka	Former Director, A Stampar SPH
	Dugac	Zeljko	Croatian Academy of Arts & Science
Brazil	Wunsch	Victor	Dean, Public Health, Univ Sao Paulo
	Vamos	Gabriel	History student, Univ Sao Paulo
	Vasconcellos	Maria	Director, Public Health Archives, Univ Sao Paulo
	Duarte	Alberto J.S.	Dir, Pathology, Faculty of Medicine, Univ Sao Paulo
	Campos	Cristina	Prof, Univ Campinas

END