

A Guide to the Harper-Hart Correspondence MS.26

Harper-Hart Correspondence collection

1956-1975



Title Statement

A Guide to the Harper-Hart Correspondence MS.26

Subtitle: MS-26

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Notes

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Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2026-03-05 18:00:32 +0000.

Language Usage: English

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS.26

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

/repositories/7/resources/126

Unit Date

1956-1975

Mixed Materials

1 (box)

Language

English

Extent

.5 Linear Feet

Extent

One Hollinger Box of processed materials1 arbitrary_unit

Repository

Claude Moore Health Sciences Library

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open to research.

Conditions Governing Use

There are no restrictions.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Mrs. Hart donated the collection

Preferred Citation

Harper-Hart Correspondence, MSs-26, Historical Collections, Claude Moore Health Sciences Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.

Biographical / Historical

The Harper-Hart collection is composed of letters between two doctors who shared a belief in the use of the theory of evolution in the treatment of disease. The collection starts with a letter of Dr. Andrew Hart at UVa Hospital to Dr. Richard Harper in England on September 11, 1956. In the letter, Hart expressed his deep interest in Harper's paper, "Allergy and Other Stress-Condition Illness" that had been published in 1953. This letter as a beginning, they started to exchange their ideas as well as books and articles across the Atlantic for twenty years.

Realizing the persistence of the evolutionary origins in all diseases, Dr. Hart and Dr. Harper believed that "evolution" should be used by the physicians as it is backed up by people outside medicine. They thought that the physicians should apply the theory of evolutionary genetics to the established disciplines of the management of disease to find out the cause of disease and cure the patients.

Dr. Andrew Hart and Dr. Richard Harper were influenced by the evolutionist thinkers in this period such as George Crile, Lang Stevenson, George Gaylord Simpson, Theodosius Dobzhansky, Loren Eisley, and Ernst Mayr. Dr. Hart and Dr. Harper have inherited the ideas of these famous thinkers by exchanging their books and articles. With the inspiration from the thinkers as well as the encouragement and advice from Hart, Richard Harper published *Evolution and Illness* in 1961 and *Evolutionary Origins of Disease* in 1975. The preface to Harper's book, *Evolutionary Origins of Disease* well summarizes the belief shared by Hart and Harper: "I express my hope that colleagues, each in his own field, will use the theory of evolution to clarify our all too scanty knowledge of the origins of disease, to the better understanding of why our patients become ill, and to the more speedy relief of human suffering."

In addition to scholarly exchange, the two shared friendship: Dr. and Mrs. Hart visited Dr. Harper in England in 1961, and when Peter Harper, son of Richard Harper was working for the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Dr. Harp took care of him.

Dr. Andrew Hart, whose widow donated the collection, was Professor of Clinical Medicine and Director of the Student Health Service at UVa. He organized and developed the student health department at the University of Virginia in 1938 and served as head until 1973. He is also remembered as a pioneer in studying psychosomatic medicine.

Scope and Contents

The collection contains 53 letters exchanged by Dr. Andrew Hart of UVa Hospital and Dr. Richard Harper in Devon, England from 1956 to 1975. In addition to the letters between Dr. Hart and Dr. Harper, the collection includes three journal articles, a letter to the journal editor, preface to Harper's book, *Evolutionary Origins of Disease*, summary of an unknown book, box list, glossary, and letters between Andrew Hart and Peter Harper, son of Richard Harper.

General

Arrangement

Files are arranged by chronological order.

Description of Subordinate Components

1. Letter from Andrew Hart to Richard Harper

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29834

Unit Date September 11, 1956

2. Letter from Richard Harper to Andrew Hart

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29835

Unit Date September 19, 1956

Letter from Richard Harper to Andrew Hart

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29836

Unit Date April 5, 1958

Letter from Andrew Hart to Richard Harper

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29837

Unit Date January 17, 1959

Letter from Richard Harper to Andrew Hart

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29838

Unit Date March 1, 1959

Letter from Andrew Hart to Richard Harper

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29839

Unit Date July 17, 1959

Letter from Richard Harper to Andrew Hart

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29840

Unit Date July 28, 1961

Letter from Richard Harper to Andrew Hart

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29841

Unit Date August 16, 1961

Letter from Richard Harper to Andrew Hart

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29842

Unit Date September 22, 1961

Letter from Andrew Hart to Richard Harper

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29843

Unit Date November 17, 1961

Letter from Richard Harper to Andrew Hart

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29844

Unit Date November 28, 1961

Letter from Richard Harper to Andrew Hart

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29845

Unit Date January 17, 1962

Letter from Andrew Hart to Richard Harper

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29846

Unit Date February 5, 1962

Letter from Richard Harper to Andrew Hart

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29847

Unit Date February 15, 1962

Letter from Richard Harper to Andrew Hart

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29848

Unit Date February 21, 1962

Letter from Richard Harper to Andrew Hart

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29849

Unit Date March 17, 1962

Letter from Andrew Hart to Richard Harper

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29850

Unit Date April 23, 1962

Letter from Richard Harper to Andrew Hart

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29851

Unit Date May 18, 1962

Letter from Richard Harper to Andrew Hart

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29852

Unit Date July 5, 1962

Letter from Richard Harper to Andrew Hart

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29853

Unit Date August 26, 1962

Letter from Richard Harper to Andrew Hart

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29854

Unit Date December 10, 1962

Letter from Andrew Hart to Richard Harper

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29855

Unit Date December 13, 1962

Letter from Richard Harper to Andrew Hart

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29856

Unit Date December 23, 1962

Letter from Richard Harper to Andrew Hart

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29857

Unit Date January 23, 1963

Letter from Richard Harper to Andrew Hart

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29858

Unit Date March 11, 1963

Letter from Richard Harper to Andrew Hart

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29859

Unit Date July 13, 1963

Letter from Richard Harper to Andrew Hart

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29860

Unit Date November 23, 1963

Letter from Andrew Hart to Richard Harper

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29861

Unit Date January 22, 1964

Letter from Richard Harper to Andrew Hart

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29862

Unit Date August 15, 1964

Letter from Andrew Hart to Richard Harper

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29863

Unit Date December 6, 1964

Letter from Richard Harper to Andrew Hart

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29864

Unit Date February 19, 1965

Letter from Andrew Hart to Richard Harper with a journal article by George Gaylord Simpson, "Organisms and Molecules in Evolution: Studies of Evolution at the Molecular Level Lead to Greater Understanding and a Balancing of Viewpoints," in Science, Vol.146, Number 3651, December 18, 1964.

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29865

Unit Date July 13, 1965

Letter from Richard Harper to Andrew Hart

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29866

Unit Date October 19, 1965

Letter from Andrew Hart to Richard Harper

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29867

Unit Date February 4, 1966

Letter from Richard Harper to Andrew Hart

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29868

Unit Date June 7, 1966

Letter from Richard Harper to Andrew Hart

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29869

Unit Date June 30, 1967

Letter from Andrew Hart to Richard Harper

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29870

Unit Date November 6, 1967

Letter from Andrew Hart to Richard Harper

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29871

Unit Date February 10, 1968

Letter from Richard Harper to Andrew Hart

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29872

Unit Date December 7, 1968

Letter from Andrew Hart to Richard Harper

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29873

Unit Date September 28, 1969

Letter from Richard Harper to Andrew Hart with a layout of a paper by Richard Harper, "An Essay on Evolutionary Paedomorphosis and Disease in Man."

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29874

Unit Date November 8, 1969

Letter from Richard Harper to Andrew Hart

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29875

Unit Date May 12, 1970

Letter from Andrew Hart to Richard Harper

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29876

Unit Date December 6, 1970

Letter from Richard Harper to Andrew Hart

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29877

Unit Date December 12, 1970

Letter from Richard Harper to Andrew Hart

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29878

Unit Date January 13, 1971

Letter from Andrew Hart to Richard Harper

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29879

Unit Date January 30, 1971

Letter from Andrew Hart to Richard Harper

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29880

Unit Date March 26, 1971

Letter from Andrew Hart to Richard Harper with a journal article by Ernst Mayr, "The Nature of the Darwinian Revolution," in Science, Vol.176, June 2, 1972

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29881

Unit Date January 30, 1973

Letter from Richard Harper to Andrew Hart

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29882

Unit Date February 28, 1973

Letter from Andrew Hart to Richard Harper

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29883

Unit Date January 15, 1975

Letter from Andrew Hart to Richard Harper

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29884

Unit Date May 17, 1975

Letter from Richard Harper to Andrew Hart

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29885

Unit Date May 25, 1975

Letter from Richard Harper to Andrew Hart

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29886

Unit Date December 3, 1975

A journal article by W. Proctor Harvey and Samuel A. Levine, "Paroxysmal Ventricular Tachycardia Due to Emotion: Possible Mechanism of Death from Fright," in The Journal of the American Medical Association, October 4, 1952.

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29887

Unit Date October 4, 1952

Letters between Dr. Andrew Hart and Peter Harper, from September 29, 1969 to February 5, 1971

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29888

Unit Date September 29, 1969 - February 5, 1971

Letters to the editor, "Primordial Elements in Man," in The American Journal of Psychiatry, 127-7, January, 1971.

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29889

Unit Date January, 1971

Preface to Richard Harper's book, Evolutionary Origins of Disease

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29890

Unit Date 1975

Summary of an unknown book

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29891

Unit Date unknown

Glossary of seven terminologies

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29892

Unit Date unknown

Box List: Threats to Home Support

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/7/archival_objects/29893

Unit Date unknown